



DÍOSPÓIREACHTAÍ PARLAIMINTE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

DÁIL ÉIREANN

TUAIRISC OIFIGIÚIL—*Neamhcheartaithe*
(OFFICIAL REPORT—*Unrevised*)

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DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 20 Meán Fómhair 2011.
Tuesday, 20 September 2011.

Chuaigh an Ceann Comhairle i gceannas ar 2.00 p.m.

Paidir.

Prayer.

Ceisteanna — Questions

Priority Questions

Garda Strength

53. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on proposals prepared by the Garda Commissioner in relation to the potential retirement of 1,200 gardaí before February 2012; the discussions he has had with the Garda Commissioner in relation to redeployment of gardaí to stations that have been identified in this report as potentially losing currently serving gardaí; and if he will give assurances that no garda station will have to close as a result of these plans. [24996/11]

54. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of gardaí who have applied to take early retirement within the next six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24926/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 53 and 54 together.

The latest available figures show that Garda strength stands at just over 14,100, with approximately 2,000 civilian support staff. There are also 819 members of the Garda Reserve. As of Friday, 16 September 2011, some 380 members of An Garda Síochána had left or declared their intention to leave the force in 2011. As members intending to retire must give three months' notice, we will know the final figure for this year's retirements by the end of this month. Similarly, retirements to be taken before the end of February 2012 when pension entitlements will change, should be known by the end of November. Generally, members of the Garda who have reached 50 years of age and have at least 30 years of service are eligible to retire on a full pension. Some 1,200 members of the force currently fall into this category.

While we do not know yet how many Garda members will retire this year, and while no one expects every member who is eligible to retire to do so, it clearly makes sense for the Garda Commissioner to make contingency plans for the maintenance of policing services in the context of reduced Garda numbers. We have to remember that, under plans agreed by the previous

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Government as part of its compliance with the terms of the EU-IMF agreement, Garda numbers are due to be reduced to 13,000 by 2014 — they were expected to be reduced to 13,500 by the end of this year. As part of this process, the Commissioner will, of course, have to examine every option for increased efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services. An example of this is the work currently under way under the Croke Park agreement to agree new Garda rosters to better match Garda deployment with peak policing demands.

Clearly, an examination of the opening hours and in some cases the viability of Garda stations will form part of this. The issue of the closure of some Garda stations will be a question the Garda Commissioner will have to consider as an operational matter, and it is part of the process. He may also have to consider in appropriate cases whether a better policing service could be delivered to a local community by having gardaí out on patrol instead of in a station.

I look forward to receiving the Commissioner's proposals, which will be aimed at maximising the efficiency of the Garda Síochána, and prioritising the resources available to operational front-line policing services.

Deputy Dara Calleary: I thank the Minister for his reply. I accept that it was a decision of the previous Government to agree to the reduction of the targets but that was done on the basis of record investment in Garda numbers by that Government over a long number of years, and that was the reason there are 14,100 today. During the 1980s when the Minister for Finance, Deputy Noonan, was Minister for Justice, and during the 1990s when former Deputy Nora Owen was Minister, Garda stations were kept open with a force that was considerably lower than even 13,000, which is where we will end up at. I regret that the Minister cannot give us a guarantee that there will be no closures.

There were reports in yesterday's newspapers that in Donegal alone, 24 stations will close and Deputy McConalogue's constituents want to know what will happen to them. How can the Minister state that the closure of 24 stations in one county will make for more efficient policing? Is he expecting the gardaí in the 24 stations to spend all of their time on patrol? If they do, they will be running into each other often, not catching crime. The most important deterrent is, I agree, the availability of gardaí, but it is also the visibility of gardaí.

Has the Minister — I do not expect him to release the report because I understand that involves operational issues — met with the AGSI or the GRA on this proposal? Can he give us the broad outlines, without naming specific stations, on a county-by-county basis as to where these stations have been identified or will close? Does he intend to seek the input of, or some feedback from, the Oireachtas on the Commissioner's report?

Deputy Alan Shatter: It is extraordinarily difficult to take the Deputy's questions seriously as he was in this House supporting a Government which signed an agreement to reduce the then Garda numbers of 14,500 to 13,500.

Deputy Dara Calleary: The Minister should answer the questions. He is the one who said the criminals would celebrate.

Deputy Alan Shatter: It was also the Deputy's party which, in dealing with the Estimates and the finances for 2011, provided funding to the Department to pay the salaries of 13,500 gardaí as opposed to the 14,500 that were in place. It was the Deputy's party which entered into an agreement with the IMF and the EU to reduce dramatically by 1,000 the numbers of gardaí this year in circumstances in which they had no idea how they could achieve it, there was no scheme in place to facilitate that, and as a consequence, no planning of any nature took place.

What has happened under my watch is that the Garda Commissioner has conducted a comprehensive review of the manner in which funding is being applied, looking at the maximum efficiencies that can be put in place to guarantee front-line services and to meet community needs. No decisions, I emphasise, have yet been made on the closure of Garda stations or, indeed, the curtailing of hours. What the Garda Commissioner is wisely doing is looking at stations right across the country to ascertain whether there are efficiencies that could be put in place which will ensure that trained gardaí are used to the best possible advantage and whether there are savings that can be made, for example, in circumstances in which it may be appropriate that stations close at 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock at night instead of staying open all night, in circumstances where patrol cars would still be available and where, if there is an emergency, the gardaí would be accessible on a 999 call. The stations to which the Deputy is referring are part and parcel of the review. No decision has been made to close 24 stations in County Donegal. This is alarmist talk——

Deputy Dara Calleary: Criminals will celebrate.

Deputy Alan Shatter: ——from a party which was financially incapable of ordering its affairs in a manner which would have guaranteed even the moneys available this year to pay the membership of the Garda force the salaries to which they were entitled and which does not deserve credibility of any description.

Deputy Dara Calleary: The Minister is the king of alarmists.

Deputy Charlie McConalogue: Is this the best the Minister can do?

Deputy Dara Calleary: He is being alarmist. He wrote the book on it.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: It is a tough start to a tough week for the Minister. While we do not yet have a final figure for the number of proposed retirements from the Garda, we know it will include some chief superintendents and probably superintendents. I realise that earlier this year the Minister gave permission to the Garda Commissioner to run what are known as promotion competitions in all ranks within the force. As a result of these competitions, panels were to be established from which future promotions might be made. It is my understanding that to make any promotions the Minister needs permission to break the ban on promotions within the Garda. Has he held any conversations with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Deputy Brendan Howlin, on lifting the ban on promotions within the Garda and, if so, what was their outcome?

Deputy Alan Shatter: First, I will give the Deputy some statistics in which he might be interested. To date, 28 gardaí at the rank of superintendent or higher have retired or notified their intention to retire in 2011. The Government has made six appointments to superintendent or a higher level since it took office. Additional appointments at these levels will be considered when the situation becomes clearer during the coming weeks on where matters stand with regard to retirements. As I have noted, a member of the force who has completed 30 years service and is over the age of 50 years may retire. It is stated in the Garda code that a member must give the Commissioner three months' notice of his or her intention to retire. Therefore, it is not possible at this stage to know what the full picture will be as we move towards the end of this year or head into February.

With regard to the level of senior positions, after discussions with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, I obtained sanction for the filling of the six Garda posts mentioned. On 22 March the Government appointed one deputy Commissioner, one assistant Commissioner, one chief superintendent and three superintendents. While the moratorium on

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recruitment and promotions in the public service continues to apply to the Garda Síochána, the situation will be continuously kept under review by the Garda Commissioner and further derogations will only be sought when deemed necessary, but the Deputy can be absolutely assured that when we have a clear view of the numbers who will retire, there will be discussions between me and the Minister, Deputy Brendan Howlin, on the appropriate and necessary arrangements to ensure we will have in place an appropriate number of gardaí at senior level.

Deputy Dara Calleary: At the end of November the Minister will be in a position to know the full numbers of gardaí retiring by the end of February. When does he envisage the Commissioner will be in a position to advise on potential closures or the reorganisation of the force? Will it be in the new year or before then?

Deputy Alan Shatter: As I understand it, the review the Commissioner is undertaking should be complete within the coming weeks. I expect to be engaged in a conversation with him arising from that review. Of course, there will be operational decisions for the Commissioner to make. In the context of my involvement as Minister for Justice and Equality, it is my obligation to ensure we have at senior level the appropriate and necessary number of gardaí to fulfil fully the necessary tasks that fall on the shoulders of An Garda Síochána and I have every confidence we will be in a position to do so. I remind the Deputy that in 2009 under the previous Government more than 700 members of the force retired in one year. The gardaí have not been found in any way wanting in their capacity to undertake the work in which they have been engaged since.

Deputy Dara Calleary: No one said anything about their work.

Proposed Legislation

55. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he considers it necessary to amend the combined terms of section 19 and the Schedule to the Criminal Justice Act 2011 whereby all thefts, as opposed to those in the area of white collar crime, appear to be criminalised by section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001; his views that a change is necessary; the options available to make that change; the way he plans to proceed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24998/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: The main purpose of the Criminal Justice Act 2011, as I stated in the Dáil when the legislation was being enacted, is to facilitate the more effective investigation of white collar crime and to reduce associated delays. The Act is targeted at specified serious and complex offences attracting a penalty of at least five years imprisonment, including offences in the areas of banking and finance, company law, money laundering, fraud, corruption, competition, consumer protection and cyber-crime. These offences are listed in Schedule 1 to the Act. The Act also provides that further offences can be specified as relevant offences by ministerial order.

Section 19 of the Act provides for the offence of withholding information. The offence will apply to a person who has information which he or she knows or believes might be of material assistance in preventing the commission of a relevant offence or in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person for such an offence. A person who fails without reasonable excuse to disclose such information as soon as practicable to the Garda Síochána will be guilty of an offence. The offence is punishable by an unlimited fine and imprisonment for up to five years or both.

I accept that the offence of theft under section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001 can be very simple and its investigation may not need the usage of the

powers in the Criminal Justice Act 2011. I do not envisage that these powers will be required in simple cases prosecuted in the District Court.

Theft can also be complicated, however, and my advice from the Garda Síochána with regard to the offence of theft is that in some cases theft investigations can be very complex. There may be cases where prosecutions may involve multiple allegations of offences, which can include both theft and fraud. In those circumstances, it is appropriate that the powers under the Criminal Justice Act 2011 are available. It is in the public interest that they be available to the Garda so there is no artificial difficulty where the investigation involves multiple offences and where these powers are utilised. It was necessary to take an all-embracing approach to theft and fraud offences in the 2011 Act to ensure that the Act did not create an artificial barrier to an appropriate prosecution being taken on a future occasion.

Additional information not given on the floor of the House.

In regard to the section 19 offence, investigations and prosecutions under this section will be subject to the exercise of discretion in the usual way by the Garda Síochána as to the appropriateness of such investigation and prosecution. In addition, an important safeguard in regard to section 19 is that a direction by the Director of Public Prosecutions will be required before a prosecution under that section can proceed. This is the same situation as exists in regard to the similar offence of withholding information under section 9 of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act 1998 where the power to prosecute under that provision is cautiously used.

I have no proposals to amend the 2011 Act at this time, particularly when the Act is still at such an early stage of its operation. I will, of course, keep its operation under review.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: What prompted me to put down this question was an article written by the former Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr. Michael McDowell, who is not somebody I would normally quote. I am sure the Minister, Deputy Shatter, saw the article. Mr. McDowell made some very relevant points, in particular that the offence will clearly apply to all thefts, which, if it is the case, would be a very unintended consequence.

The Bill generally is one which most people, myself included, support. Did the Minister consider the particular aspect of a wider application of the reporting of theft than was in fact intended? What kind of advice did he get when he was putting together the legislation? If it is a question that it applies much more broadly, then, as Mr. McDowell stated in the article, we could end up with a lot of case law which will possibly have a different result than was intended.

Deputy Alan Shatter: I am aware of the article to which the Deputy refers. It is worth stating that in regard to the section 19 offence and the Act in general, investigations and prosecutions will be subject to the exercise of discretion in the usual way by the Garda Síochána as to the appropriateness of such investigation and prosecution. In addition, an important safeguard in regard to the usage of the Act in section 19 in particular is that a direction by the Director of Public Prosecutions will be required before a prosecution under that section can proceed. This is the same situation as exists in regard to the similar offence of withholding information under section 9 of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act 1998 where the power to prosecute under that provision is used only occasionally and where required.

I believe the manner in which we dealt with the provisions in this Act and the extensive application open to it in regard to serious offences is of considerable importance. In the context of dealing with illegal conduct of a criminal nature in the area of what may be either fraud or theft — there can be a crossover of the boundaries between the two — unnecessary difficulties

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could arise both in the conduct of an investigation and in gaining access to important documentation and information, had theft been excluded from the ambit of the Act. I am satisfied it was necessary to include it and it was the wish of the Garda Síochána that it be included.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: Were this provision to be used in a wider context than was intended, with what mechanism or how quickly would the Minister revisit it?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I do not expect it to be used in a wider context. I certainly do not expect it to be a section that will be utilised in the context of a simple theft case which gives rise to a possible prosecution in the District Court.

Legal Aid Service

56. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on discussions his officials have had with the Incorporated Law Society in relation to fees for the criminal legal aid system; the contingency plans in the events of withdrawal of services by participating barristers and solicitors in the scheme; if he will provide information on any other matter pertaining to this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24997/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: As the Deputy will be aware, the context for many of the difficult decisions — I am sorry I must again remind him of this — which have had to be taken is the obligation to meet the commitments in the National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 and to meet our obligations to contain public expenditure, as agreed with the IMF and the European Union and as agreed by the previous Government. Expenditure on criminal legal aid totalled €56 million in 2010 and the plan includes a specific commitment to reduce expenditure to yield savings of €5 million in 2011 and €10 million in a full year. These targets were agreed by the previous Government prior to the December 2010 budget announcement. This has meant some hard decisions and regrettably, to try to achieve the targeted reduction of €5 million in the current year, it has been necessary to introduce further reductions to the fees and rates paid under the criminal legal aid scheme. Therefore, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, I introduced an order with effect from 13 July 2011 imposing a reduction of 10% in the fees payable in the District Court. The fees payable in the Circuit and higher courts also will be decreased by 10% and the order necessary to effect the reduction is being drafted and will come into force within a number of weeks.

I am aware of the impact on the legal profession of these most recent reductions coming on top of previous cuts and have been concerned to ensure that legal representation can continue to be provided to those who require it. While I am aware of recent media reports, I can state categorically that no practitioner has contacted either me or my Department to threaten the withdrawal of services. I personally met representatives of the Law Society in July and more recently a meeting was arranged with officials. I understand that, while articulating the deep concern among practitioners regarding the level of the cuts and the financial implications for firms and their employees, the delegation did not suggest to my officials that they intended to withdraw their services. Indeed, they indicated they wish to consult more closely with my Department and to assist in the ongoing efforts to reduce costs by contributing to the work of the task force I have established which at present is examining the structures and systems of the courts with a view to achieving potential cost savings in the medium to long term. A further meeting was held earlier this week in this regard. I greatly appreciate this positive engagement and hope that in consequence, important cost saving reforms will follow.

Deputy Dara Calleary: I welcome the engagement that has been announced and note the Minister outlined the membership of that task force and when he expects a report. He some-

times reminds me of a disc jockey from the 1980s who continually plays the same record, thereby keeping happy the fan base. There have been reports from an organisation called the Criminal Law Practitioners Association, which appears to have a large representation of criminal lawyers, to the effect they intend to withdraw their services. The association has nothing to do with the Law Society and these reports have been circulated widely throughout the media. Has the Department engaged either with the Law Society or with the aforementioned association on an informal basis to ascertain what will happen in the event of the withdrawal of services by a large number of criminal law practitioners? What contingency services will be available to those who seek to avail of the service in the event of such a withdrawal of services, which no Member would support? In addition, does the Minister intend to introduce the criminal justice legal aid Bill prepared by the former Minister, Dermot Ahern, or has he carried out work in this regard?

Deputy Alan Shatter: It is amazing how many Bills were being prepared by the former Minister that never saw the light of day and on which I have discovered minimal work was done. There will be a Bill brought forward in regard to the area of legal aid. I do not anticipate that it will be published until the new year because of the other demands made on my Department.

The group that the Deputy makes reference to that received some publicity during the summer months, as far as I am aware, has not been in contact with my Department. There are two representative bodies of the legal profession, the Law Society and the Bar Council. We are always willing to engage with them on issues of concern when they arise. I do not anticipate that lawyers, as officers of the court, in the straitened financial circumstances in which the State finds itself will withdraw services. They will, I am sure, do their duty by their clients and will clearly acknowledge and accept that right across all sectors there have been reductions in income.

In this context, it is worth noting that the figures on the amount of expenditure incurred by the State, between counsel instructed by the DPP and counsel instructed in criminal legal aid matters, give rise to an interesting disparity. For example, in 2010 the DPP's fees to counsel came to a total of €14 million and the criminal aid fees paid to counsel were €18,000,369.

Whilst I said in the context of the EU and IMF agreement it was envisaged that there would be a reduction of €5 million in expenditure in the criminal legal aid area from €56 million to €51 million, for reasons that remain a considerable mystery to me the former Minister, Dermot Ahern, in the context of the justice Estimate and budget that went through in December 2010, only provided for €47 million funding in circumstances in which €56 million was the outturn for 2010. Effectively, there was a shortfall of €9 million left by the previous Government on the funding available this year for criminal legal aid.

Deputy Dara Calleary: The Minister keeps throwing out those little grenades. He had no difficulty in finding €30 million in his Department for the Garda overtime for the visits of the Queen and President Obama, and we have yet to see from where he found it. If he wants to look for money, he is able to find it.

Courts Service

57. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the timeline on the proposed upgrade of the ICT system for the courts as well as the appointment of approved persons as receivers in order to introduce the remaining sections of the Fines Act; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24927/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: As the Deputy has noted, the majority of the Fines Act 2010 has been commenced. It is important to note that section 14 of the Act, which has been commenced, places an obligation on the courts for the first time to take account of a person's financial circumstances before determining that a fine is to be imposed. This provision means that no person should be sent to prison for default solely because he or she cannot afford to pay a fine.

Implementation work is continuing on two key sections of Act. Section 15 provides for the payment of fines by instalment. There are a number of practical and technical issues required to commence this provision. As the Deputy will appreciate, the current system of payment allows only for a single payment in respect of each fine to be made within a specified period and this payment is recorded on the court's IT system, the criminal case tracking system or CCTS.

In order to allow for a fine to be paid by instalments over a year or in certain circumstances for a longer period, it is necessary for the CCTS to be substantially modified to allow for the payment of instalments and to ensure that such instalments are accurately recorded and tracked. In that regard, I met with the Courts Service management and informed it of this Government's commitment to ensuring that payment by instalments is introduced as speedily as possible.

Arriving from that meeting, the Courts Service has put in place a structure to oversee the implementation of the necessary modifications. Unfortunately no such structure was put in place by the former Government. I am informed that, assuming the necessary funding is available, it will take approximately 12 months to complete the administrative and technical modifications required. I expect to receive a report, including implementation proposals, from the service by the end of next month.

Section 16 of the 2010 Act will require a judge, consequent on determining the fines be imposed, to make an order appointing an approved person, commonly referred to as a receiver, to recover the fine in the event of default. The Courts Service has engaged in some preliminary discussions with the Revenue sheriffs, who have relevant experience through their work in the recovery of outstanding tax liabilities on behalf of the State, with a view to sheriffs being nominated as approved persons and I understand this dialogue will resume in the near future. Some IT enhancements will be necessary in order to allow for the electronic transfer of recovery orders and data exchange with the receivers. I am informed this work will take approximately six months to complete. It will be done concurrently with that mentioned.

It seems likely that some minor amendments will be required to the 2010 Act to address some practical implementation issues, including the need to provide for some form of retainer payment for work undertaken in circumstances where a fine cannot be recovered. These are the timescales available to me. The Government is subject to these caveats and committed to implementing the remaining provisions of the Fines Act 2010 as speedily as possible.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: The Minister referred to section 14 in saying people who were unable to pay fines should not be going to prison, but, unfortunately, he knows as well as I do that that is not the case. It is unfortunate that implementation will take so long. What is the cost of introducing this system? Section 14 requires judges to take people's financial circumstances into account. As the Minister said, nobody who is unable to pay a fine should be sent to prison. That should be the message sent.

Deputy Alan Shatter: A considerable number of outstanding fines precede the coming into force of the Act. In those circumstances fines would have been imposed, with the alternative of imprisonment if they were not paid. That creates a particular difficulty because it is important to ensure people pay the fines handed down by the courts and that the integrity of the justice system is not undermined. In the context of current circumstances where court

orders have been made without fines having been paid and there is no other means of recovery, unfortunately, prison remains an option for the time being. Of course, it is an option none of us wants to see used in unnecessary circumstances. I am very anxious, therefore, that this new system be put in place. It is regrettable that during the period when the Fines Bill was before the House, prior to its enactment, it seems the former Minister made no preparations of any description to put in place the necessary IT systems or programmes and that there was no forward planning to implement its provisions. That is where I found myself when we were elected to government and there was no funding available to me.

I will answer directly the question the Deputy asked me. It is estimated that it will cost approximately €400,000 to make the IT changes required. I hope to be able to secure this funding in 2012 during Government discussions on the Estimates for the new year.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: I accept what the Minister said about undermining the justice system, but it also undermines this House when we pass legislation and fail to put in place the finance to implement it. That is regrettable and should not happen again.

Deputy Alan Shatter: I share the Deputy's view. Better forward planning would have ensured, as the legislation was going through the House, the arrangements were made to identify the appropriate IT changes required. It is unfathomable that the Bill was passed in 2010 and no financial allocation was made in 2011 to facilitate this occurring.

Other Questions

Legal Aid Service

58. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of interns recruited by the Legal Aid Board under the job bridge scheme; the location of same; and the delays in accessing a civil lawyer via the legal aid board [24677/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: The Legal Aid Board is a statutory, independent body in accordance with the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995. The matters raised by the Deputy are ones for the board. However, in order to be helpful to him, I have had inquiries made with the board. I had a meeting with its chairman following the announcement of the JobBridge programme to encourage use by the board of the internship scheme in order that many of the qualified solicitors currently unemployed would have an opportunity to gain job and work experience.

The new FÁS JobBridge scheme is an important element of the Government's jobs initiative designed to facilitate the provision of work experience and training opportunities for the unemployed. I very much welcome the active participation of the Legal Aid Board in the scheme. I am advised the board will be offering internships to qualified solicitors in order that they can gain practical experience in the areas of civil law in which the organisation provides services. I have every confidence that solicitors obtaining internships with the board will receive valuable experience and training that will help them on the road towards paid employment, notwithstanding the current difficult labour market conditions for legal practitioners. I also anticipate that the interns will make an important contribution to the work of the board during their time with it and that they will be of assistance in tackling the increasing demand it is experiencing for its services.

The locations in which the board initially offered internships had regard to both the current work demands of the organisation and the capacity of the law centres involved to provide the necessary support and development to interns during their placements. The locations initially

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advertised under the scheme were Newbridge, Ennis, Cavan, Cork, where there were two placements, and Nenagh, plus six internships in various locations in Dublin.

Since advertising with FÁS the board has received 28 applications from eligible candidates and all these candidates have since been offered interviews. The board has already placed an intern in Tallaght law centre and is in the process of offering further placements in the locations I detailed. To date, six additional applicants have been offered and have accepted internships and will be commencing in the coming weeks. The board also intends to offer some additional placements in the coming days and has recently asked FÁS to extend the scheme to all its law centres. This will ensure the board has the maximum flexibility in offering further internships and is a measure that I very much welcome.

Additional information not given on the floor of the House.

The past three or four years has seen a considerable increase in demand to the board for legal services and this coincides with the downturn in the economy. In 2007, just over 10,164 persons sought legal services from the board in regard to general civil non-asylum matters. This figure increased to 17,175 in 2010 and I am informed that the number of applicants in the first six months of this year was almost the same as the total number of applicants in 2007. Inevitably, this has created huge pressures for the board's law centres and its capacity to deliver legal services within a reasonable period of time. As of 1 September 2011, the waiting time in 17 of the board's 29 law centres was greater than four months, and in six of those centres the waiting time was greater than six months. As of 1 September 2011, there were just under 4,500 persons waiting for a first appointment with a solicitor. This compares with 3,153 on 1 January 2011, 2,335 on 1 January 2010 and 1,681 on 1 January 2009.

The board is committed to ensuring applicants for legal services receive a substantive appointment with a solicitor within a maximum period of four months. This is consistent with the view expressed by the High Court in the O'Donoghue case. This has been difficult to achieve in a number of the board's law centres recently. Certain types of case are deemed by their nature to merit the provision of an immediate or near immediate service. Priority cases include those where there are allegations of violence, child custody matters and where statutory deadlines are fast approaching when clients make their first contact with law centres. These comprise 15% of all applications to law centres. A considerable number of other applications are referred quickly to private practitioners. Thus, up to 40% of all cases receive a very quick service. In addition, because the refugee legal service operates to strict statutory deadlines, every asylum case processed by the board is a priority case by reference to the speed of response from the organisation.

Civil legal aid in Ireland is delivered through the board's 29 law centres and a small number of specialist units. The service is complemented through the extensive use of private practitioners. Such use has had to be constrained, however, as a consequence of the increased demand and the extent of the board's financial resources to meet this. The board's grant-in-aid, which accounts for the majority of its funding, other than in regard to asylum, has fallen from almost €27 million in 2008 to just over €24 million this year.

Like all public service organisations, the board has also been subject to the public service recruitment embargo and the employee control framework. While the board had a full staff sanction of 384, the current staffing is in the region of 350. The board has sought to maintain its front line staffing to the greatest extent possible.

The board has taken a range of measures with a view to addressing the increasing demand for services in a resource constrained environment. These include increasing the number of cases referred to private solicitors for the purpose of providing a service; an advice-only service

which facilitates an earlier brief meeting with a solicitor where applicants are likely to have to wait in excess of four months for a substantive appointment; an integration of the delivery of all services with a view to ensuring the most effective deployment of resources; the recent introduction of a pilot integrated mediation initiative in Dublin involving the board co-locating and co-operating with the Family Mediation Service and the Courts Service, the purpose of which is to offer applicants for legal services alternatives to litigation in the courts as a better and, from the State's point of view, more cost-effective means of resolving family law disputes; the creation of specialist units for medical negligence and child care services; and the current development of a new legal case management system that is likely to improve the efficiency of service delivery, the management of risk in the organisation and provide for online applications. The board has also made use of a very limited exemption from the moratorium in regard to a small number of temporary front-line service delivery positions.

Deputy Dara Calleary: I thank the Minister for that information. This is purely a follow up question to a discussion we had on this matter prior to the summer recess. There was agreement among everyone concerned that this scheme would be used. Am I to take it that an intern from JobBridge will be placed in every centre throughout the country at the end of this process? Will the board consider the making of multiple appointments to centres given that there seems to be a low take-up of the scheme for whatever reason? Is that something the Minister could discuss with the board or with the Minister for Social Protection, Deputy Burton? Can the Minister outline the average delay, as opposed to the delay in various law centres, in getting an appointment to obtain advice on a civil law case?

Deputy Alan Shatter: As I said, the board is independent but I want to encourage it to use the scheme in order that the many young solicitors, in particular, who are currently unemployed will have an opportunity to get work experience and, in doing so, will do a public service by assisting the law centres that are under enormous pressure. There has been a huge increase in numbers seeking legal help from law centres throughout the country as a consequence of the economic difficulties we are experiencing.

To give the Deputy an indication of the figures involved, in 2007, just over 10,164 persons sought legal services from the board in regard to what I describe as general civil law matters excluding the asylum area. The figure increased to 17,175 in 2010 and I am advised that the number of applicants in the first six months of this year was almost the same as the total number for 2007.

I hope and expect and it may well be the case that JobBridge work experience can be provided in each of the law centres under the aegis of the Legal Aid Board. I hope that where there are facilities in law centres to do so, that some of the law centres will be able to take on more than one intern. It is important that the interns get proper job experience and proper supervision in the work they undertake. The capacity of individual law centres to take on interns will depend on the numbers working within the centre and availability of space.

Prison Inspection Reports

59. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the recommendations and demands made by Judge Michael Reilly, the Inspector of Prisons in his report on the 30 May 2011 in relation to prison conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24741/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: I welcome the inspector's report which I published on 30 May last. It is a particularly valuable and comprehensive report. In it, the inspector stated that the Irish Prison Service and local management should be aware by now of what he regards as best

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practice and that he expects by 1 July that all prisons will comply with this. However, he also appreciated that prisons will not be able to comply in certain areas in the short term. In terms of progress, I have been informed by the Irish Prison Service that a number of the inspector's recommendations have been implemented or are being implemented. Improvements are being made even though this is subject to the availability of resources.

Areas mentioned by the inspector include the use of special cells, prisoners' complaints and the procedure to be followed following deaths of persons in custody. New procedures have been adopted and will be supported by changes to the prison rules which have been drafted and are being finalised in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General. I hope those rules will be finalised very shortly.

The inspector also referred to minimum standards for prison accommodation and the regimes and services that should be provided. The Government is committed to the elimination of slopping out in prisons. The upgrade of more than 100 cells at Mountjoy Prison, including the installation of in-cell sanitation, will be completed by the end of October. The Irish Prison Service will then consider the feasibility of installing in-cell sanitation in the remaining cells of Mountjoy and to other facilities elsewhere. The completion of the Midlands Prison extension and the provision of 70 extra dormitory style spaces in the Dóchas Centre will mean that 80% of the prisons estate will have in-cell sanitation by mid-2012.

Unfortunately, the numbers in prison at the moment do not allow all of the inspector's standards to be met in the short term. The problem of prison overcrowding remains a challenging issue. As of 15 September 2011, there were 4,269 prisoners in custody. In 2000, that figure stood at 2,919 and 400 additional prisoner places will come on stream by mid-2012.

Having considered the report of the Thornton Hall review group, the Government has decided in principle to proceed with the construction of new prison facilities at Thornton Hall and at Kilworth, County Cork, but on a smaller scale and design from that previously envisaged. The timeframe for these projects will be discussed soon in the context of discussions on capital spending priorities for 2012.

Additional information not given on the floor of the House.

The Deputy can be assured that I am pursuing alternatives to custody. The recently enacted Criminal Justice (Community Service)(Amendment) Act 2011 requires the sentencing judge to consider the imposition of community service where a custodial sentence of 12 months or less is being considered. Work has also commenced on the development of a pilot scheme under which offenders may be offered earned earlier release in return for community service. In addition, I intend to give new guidelines to the Parole Board of Ireland for the application of a similar scheme to long-term prisoners and will make a further announcement on this in due course.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: I welcome the fact that work has started on the procedures and rules relating to investigating deaths in custody. If the Minister has further information on that work I would appreciate his giving it to the House. For example, when can we expect those procedures and rules to be implemented?

One of Judge Reilly's recommendations was that prison governors would, by the end of June last, remedy simple matters such as broken windows, broken and leaking equipment and unpainted areas. Can I take it from the Minister's answer that these have been remedied?

Deputy Alan Shatter: It is my hope that they have been. I expect to get a full report shortly on the extent to which those aspects of the recommendations of the Inspector of Prisons and Places of Detention have been implemented. I am anxious to implement all of his recom-

mendations. Judge Reilly has done an extraordinary job. He is a man of great insight and is now an invaluable part of what I describe as the oversight architecture of the Prison Service. I have a clear intent to do my level best to ensure we implement recommendations that come from him, put in place proper procedures and introduce an additional important element to investigations where complaints are made. When the draft prison rules have been finalised by the Attorney General, our intentions in that regard will be made clear to Members of the House.

Deputy Dara Calleary: I endorse the Minister's remarks about Judge Reilly. Has the Minister performed a similar exercise with the Prison Service, as is under way with the Garda Commissioner, with regard to impending retirements? What will be the likely impact of those retirements on the service or on the Minister's plans for it?

Deputy Alan Shatter: The Department is engaged in an overall review of all aspects of the workings of the Department. The Prison Service is a separate service but is dependent on funding from the Department. It is not yet clear what the position will be with regard to retirements from the Prison Service or whether there will be a major difference this year from previous years. I expect to have a clear view in the coming weeks of where matters stand. It may not be fully clear until the end of November. The Deputy can be assured that any new arrangements that may need to be put in place arising out of retirements will be put in place and that we will ensure we have all necessary staff to guarantee the proper running of our prisons.

Crime Prevention

60. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to ensure a more focused multi agency approach to tackling mid level drug dealers at a localised level throughout the State involving the Gardaí, the Criminal Assets Bureau, local authorities, all relevant State agencies and with community input; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24744/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: Tackling serious crime, including drug trafficking, remains a key priority both for the Government and for the Garda Síochána. These priorities are clearly reflected in the Garda policing plan for 2011. A key action in the plan is the proactive targeting by the Garda Síochána of drug trafficking, including low level drug dealing.

Under the direction of the Assistant Commissioner at An Garda Síochána's national support services, the Garda national drugs unit and the Criminal Assets Bureau are pursuing their respective remits. A strategic partnership has been established between the Garda national drugs unit and the Criminal Assets Bureau in identifying common targets who are then pursued through intelligence-led investigations, in order to maximise the response of law enforcement to organised crime gangs. In tandem with this, the asset profilers programme has now been rolled out nationwide, with asset profilers based in every Garda division. These profilers play a key role in tackling those involved in mid-level drug dealing. The Criminal Assets Bureau utilises the local knowledge supplied by the profilers to target the assets of well known drug dealers in local communities.

The National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016 puts in place a co-ordinated approach across the many Departments and agencies that hold a remit in this area, working with the community and voluntary sectors. Under our institutional arrangements, the implementation of the strategy is monitored by the oversight forum on drugs. This forum, which is chaired by the Minister of State at the Department of Health, is made up of representatives of both State and non-governmental bodies, reflecting the ongoing multi-agency and multi-sectoral approach in tackling this issue.

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At local level, local and regional drug task forces also bring together representatives from these bodies, including the local authorities, to work with local community and public representatives and so help deliver a better co-ordinated response to the problem as it is experienced in local areas. In addition, the joint policing committee initiative brings together members of the Oireachtas, elected members and officials of local authorities, officers of An Garda Síochána and representatives of the community and voluntary sectors. This further enables a collaborative approach to be taken in tackling the problem of drug misuse at local authority level. Related to this, work is also continuing on the roll out of local policing fora to all local drug task force areas.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: With the proposed reduction in numbers, this brings into focus the role of the community in tackling drug addiction, drug abuse and drug dealing. The Minister touched on it when he spoke about the role of the joint policing committees and the local policing forums. They certainly have the capacity to contribute to a solution, but I think we need to look at their current role and maybe give them some additional powers, tweaking the way they operate. From my experience at these committees and forums in my own area, there is certainly room for improvement in order to ensure that there is a greater community participation in those structures. Has the Minister any proposals to look at their role and will he give them additional powers?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I will certainly give consideration to what the Deputy is saying. The Garda Síochána has been very successful in targeting drug gangs and drug criminals in recent months, and in intercepting very substantial amounts of drugs. As I have the opportunity to do so, I would like to congratulate the Garda on a haul of cannabis yesterday evening with an approximate value of €1.7 million. It is very important that the Garda targets those at the highest level who are engaged in drug dealing and who are preying on young people. They would have my absolute support in doing that, as long as we can enhance co-operation between local communities and the Garda, or enhance the interaction at local authority level between councils on the ground and members of the Garda.

From feedback I have received, some policing committees are working better than others, depending on the local authority. Some more work needs to be done on that, and I will give it until the end of the year. At that stage I intend to communicate with local authorities to get some overall national feedback on the number of times per year committees are meeting, and the nature of the engagement that is taking place to ensure that it is constructive and beneficial to the community and to the Garda. The committees must also be responsive in the sense that when local representatives are able to focus on a particular problem in their area, there is an appropriate response, where possible, to address it.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: I welcome the commitment given by the Minister. It is important to review how the committees are working because, as the Minister stated, in some areas they are working better than in others. Will the Minister give a commitment that the so-called dial to stop drug dealing hotline will be funded throughout next year?

Deputy Dara Calleary: I agree with the Minister on the Garda drug find. Considerable work is being done in this regard at local level. I welcome, in particular, the use of asset profiling. Is the Minister satisfied that legislation to assist the Garda in following up on this type of work is sufficiently strong and favours the Garda rather than those who are being profiled?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I will quickly answer both questions. While I regard the hotline to which Deputy O'Brien refers as very important, I have great difficulty at the moment commit-

ting funding for anything for next year because were I to do so and having agreed to make a commitment on this issue, the next question I would be asked would be why I would not agree to commit to something else. Deputy O'Brien can be assured that I am very conscious of the hotline's importance.

On Deputy Calleary's question, I have previously stated that we are reviewing the legislation on the Criminal Assets Bureau to see if there is some tweaking or are some changes that could usefully be made to it that would assist generally in the work that is done and would be of particular relevance to the activity of drug trading and the criminal gangs engaged in it. If we bring forward amending legislation, I do not expect we will be in a position to do so until early next year. I am certainly conscious of this area.

Commercial Rents

61. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the issue of upward only rent reviews on existing commercial leases; when we can expect a proposal from him; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24669/11]

388. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the proposed abolition of upward only rent reviews for existing leases. [24779/11]

397. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to introduce legislation to end upward only rent reviews in this Dáil term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24893/11]

398. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to legislate for a ban on upward only rent reviews on existing leases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24897/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: I propose to take Questions Nos. 61, 388, 397 and 398 together.

The programme for Government indicates that legislation will be introduced to end upward only rent reviews for existing business leases. Following on from an initial consultation process with the Attorney General, I have forwarded outline proposals to her for further examination and development. Those proposals have been the subject of preliminary discussion by Government. The recently published legislative programme indicates the relevant legislation will be published during the current Dáil session.

It is also my intention to secure the swift enactment of the Property Services (Regulation) Bill 2009 which is awaiting Committee Stage in Dáil Éireann. Among the Committee Stage amendments which I will propose to the Bill is a series of amendments relating to the establishment of a public database containing relevant details of letting arrangements and rent reviews in the commercial property market. It has long been acknowledged that the absence of such a database has contributed to the undoubted information deficit which exists in this area. When established, the information contained in the database will introduce a welcome degree of transparency into the workings of the commercial property market. Accurate information about rent levels is a critical element in ensuring a true market rent emerges from the rent review process and I am acutely conscious that the perceived absence of such information has led to a lack of confidence in the current rent review system.

Deputy Dara Calleary: Will the Minister provide a flavour of the outline proposals? I understand they have been discussed informally with some representative organisations of business, yet the Oireachtas has not had sight of them. Are the Minister and Attorney General singing from the same hymn sheet on this issue or are there differences of opinion between them,

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significant or otherwise? The question was tabled before the legislative schedule was published. When does the Minister expect the proposed changes to hit the street, as it were? In other words, when will traders who are suffering at present see the results on their bottom line?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I confirm that I have met different organisations to obtain their views on different approaches that may be taken in the development of the legislation. I do not normally sing hymns but I assure the Deputy that the Attorney General and I are co-operating very closely in the development of the legislation. This is a difficult and complicated area to address. There are various rights issues of which we must be conscious in the manner in which we approach this. We have yet to bring what I describe as the final form of the Bill to Cabinet. There has been, however, a preliminary discussion by the Government on the approach we are taking. While we hope to publish the legislation before the end of this term, I am not in a position to give the Deputy a specific time. As we continue to develop the Bill and progress through October and into early November, I hope to have a clearer perspective of the exact time. The legislation is part of the programme for Government and is in the A list of Bills to be published during this session. I am anxious we meet that commitment.

Deputy Dara Calleary: While the Minister may not sing hymns, he has some good broken records in his collection. Will he be required to consult the troika on the provisions of the Bill?

Deputy Alan Shatter: That is an interesting question to which I am not sure of the answer. The legislation is a commitment in the programme for Government in the context of it addressing a very important issue which is impacting on our economy and the viability of otherwise viable businesses. On the other side of the equation, in the context of its relevance to the operation and functioning of the National Asset Management Agency and the disposal of properties, there are a broad range of issues to be addressed, all of which we are conscious of. I envisage that we will bring forward a carefully balanced Bill which I hope will meet the needs in this area in a practical and usable manner and will try to ensure the needs of businesses that would otherwise be viable, save for the fact that they may be tied to rental levels that reflect what I describe as the super-rents that seemed to emerge during the boom years, may be addressed. A number of technical issues need to be addressed in the context of the legislation. I do not want to pre-empt the final decisions that will be made and hope to bring forward the necessary legislation as soon as possible.

Garda Operations

62. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the average response times for callouts by the gardaí in each district within the Cork City division; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24736/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: I am informed by the Garda authorities that statistics relating to Garda response times for call-outs in Cork city are not readily available as incidents referred to the Garda control room for Cork city are manually recorded. I have been advised by the Garda authorities that the highest importance is given to emergency calls in Cork city and that they are responded to on a priority basis. The Garda authorities have also informed me that the system for dealing with emergency calls in Cork city is kept under ongoing review and they are satisfied the current service is effective in delivering efficient arrangements to the community.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: The Minister's response raises two questions. Given the unavailability of response times, how can one judge whether they are sufficiently quick? If one does not record response times, how does one determine whether they are improving?

Last night, I attended a successful meeting of my local policing forum attended by approximately 180 people. I was struck by a comment by the superintendent of the Mayfield district of Cork, in which Cork Prison is located, that a considerable number of Garda resources in the district are used for the transport of prisoners to the courts. Is the Minister examining the transportation of prisoners with a view to freeing up Garda resources, especially given that Garda numbers are declining? Is the proposed civilianisation of aspects of policing an option for addressing this issue?

Deputy Alan Shatter: Since my appointment as Minister for Justice and Equality no one has drawn my attention to there being major difficulties with regard to call-out times in Cork. In circumstances in which a manual system is still operating, there is a difficulty in accessing the information the Deputy is seeking. If such information were electronically maintained, it would and should be readily available.

The transport of prisoners is a major security issue. We cannot have untrained civilians driving prisoners to and from courts. On a regular basis prisoners coming from the prisons to the courts may be constrained in a particular way and there are particular difficulties. It is not unusual that the Garda is involved in the transport of prisoners. However, in the context of using members of the Garda Síochána to the best advantage to the benefit of the public and utilising the expert training they have received, I know the Garda Commissioner is examining all the various functions gardaí perform to see to what extent they may be civilian-based.

I certainly do not envisage untrained civilians driving prisoners to the courts or using handcuffs. That would be not only inappropriate but dangerous and it is not a policy I would favour.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: That is not what I was suggesting. I am suggesting that, when considering the roll-out of the civilianisation process, we give special attention to those Garda districts which contain prisons. We should consider freeing up as many gardaí as possible in order that we do not compromise either on the transport of prisoners or the service provided for communities in terms of response times. Can we focus on putting as many people as possible in administrative roles within the districts containing prisons?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I generally support the idea of civilianising basic administrative functions, some of which are currently undertaken by members of An Garda Síochána, and the issue forms part of the review. As Minister for Justice and Equality, I have an obligation to reduce expenditure. We must be careful that as garda numbers decrease in line with our EU-IMF commitment, we do not spend almost as much recruiting large numbers of civilians to undertake administrative tasks. There is a balance to be maintained and operational decisions must be made by the Garda Commissioner. The Deputy can assume it is my view and that of the Government that gardaí should be placed as frequently as possible in positions in which they can utilise their training and provide the front-line policing services required. We should not have members of the Garda force unnecessarily working on administrative tasks in a back office if such tasks could well be undertaken by civilians.

Garda Vetting Service

63. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to increase the efficiency of the garda vetting unit in preparation for a greater workload and remit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24743/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: The Garda central vetting unit, GCVU, provides employment vetting for a large number of organisations that employ or engage in a voluntary capacity persons to work with children or vulnerable adults. There are more than 18,000 organisations registered

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with the GCVU. In the period 2007 to 2010 the number of vetting applications increased from 187,864 to 291,938. That is, by any standards, a huge increase in demand. I am conscious of the need to keep the time required to obtain vetting to the minimum possible. Since I was appointed Minister, I have taken a number of initiatives to reduce this timeframe. However, it is only right that I praise those employed in the vetting unit who do a substantial amount of work under increasing pressure in terms of the number of applications for vetting.

A number of steps have been taken to improve the position. The sanction of the Department of Finance was obtained to retain the services of ten temporary employees. Further sanction was obtained to engage an additional ten temporary employees who have recently commenced work in the GCVU. Other measures aimed at improving turnaround times are also under consideration. All of this should have a positive impact on processing times. I am informed by the Garda authorities that the average processing time for vetting applications received at the GCVU is approximately ten weeks.

Responsibility for the deployment of Garda personnel is an operational matter for the Garda Commissioner, taking into account all the various demands and requirements. I am informed by the Garda authorities that there is a total of five gardaí, 76 full-time Garda civilian personnel and 20 temporary civilian personnel assigned to the GCVU. This represents a significant increase in the number of personnel assigned to the unit which stood at only 13 before the current process of development of Garda vetting began in 2005.

The Deputy will be aware that the Government has approved the draft scheme of a national vetting bureau Bill. The Bill which will establish a statutory basis underpinning vetting procedures for persons who are to work with children and vulnerable adults will be published in accordance with the Government's legislative programme. The establishment of a national vetting bureau which will take over the work of the GCVU will have resource implications which I will be pursuing with my colleague, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: The Minister mentioned other measures were being considered to improve waiting times. Can he give us more information on what these are?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I hope it will be possible to provide, under the new internship scheme, some internship experience for persons currently unemployed. I had a conversation with the Garda Commissioner when the new JobBridge scheme was announced and it is my understanding the Garda has taken the initial steps necessary to recruit interns to the vetting unit. Working at the unit will give them important job experience while contributing to a reduction in waiting times for vetting.

I do not regard ten weeks as an appropriate time for the completion of vetting applications. I have talked to the Commissioner about this and believe it is a necessary objective to get the timeframe down to an average of about four weeks, save where there are unusual circumstances — for example, in cases in which information must be sought from abroad. When we entered government, the waiting time was 14 weeks. This has been reduced to ten weeks and I hope further progress will be made as we continue through this year and into next year.

Deputy Jonathan O'Brien: Is there a facility for people who have urgent requests for vetting? I know of one case in which a guy needed Garda clearance to get a visa. Can we consider urgent applications on a case-by-case basis?

Deputy Alan Shatter: I raised with the Garda Commissioner the need for what I described as a fast-track system for special circumstances in which job offers were available for only a short period of time and vetting had to be undertaken with some speed. The difficulty, of

course, is that if everyone sought to use this system, it would undermine its effectiveness. It has not yet proved possible, because of the number of applications being received, to establish a regular fast-track system. I am aware that there have been occasions on which there has been genuine, readily identifiable urgency with vetting applications; in such cases those in charge of the facility in Tipperary have co-operated and engaged in vetting with some speed when they had the information necessary to ensure the process was completed properly.

Garda Deployment

64. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if the Garda Commissioner is required to produce service level agreements; if so, the role population figures, existing crime rates and so on play in determining the resource allocation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24605/11]

Deputy Alan Shatter: The levels of service to be provided by the Garda Síochána are set out each year in the annual policing plan which is laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas. The annual plan sets out the policing priorities for that year, the key actions to be taken in respect of each priority and the performance indicators by which the outcomes can be measured. The allocation of Garda personnel is determined by Garda management using a distribution model which takes into account a number of factors, including population, crime trends and the policing needs of each Garda division.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: If that was the case, I certainly would not be asking this question. I have no confidence whatsoever in the equitable sharing of resources, particularly in view of the blunt instrument that is the public sector recruitment embargo. Areas that have a disproportionately low number of gardaí relative to their populations do worse in such an environment. Commuter belt areas that have grown rapidly in recent years are a case in point. Does the Minister think it fair that a county such as Kildare, with a population of 209,000, has 328 gardaí, while the combined area of Sligo-Leitrim, with a population of less than 100,000, has three gardaí more? No matter how one looks at it, counties Meath, Kildare, Wicklow or Wexford are the kinds of places which are not getting a fair share. I believe criminals themselves are reading the numbers because there have been some high profile happenings in recent years that virtually invite the committing of crimes in places known to have a low ratio of gardaí. One cannot police without adequate numbers.

Deputy Alan Shatter: I reiterate that these are operational decisions made by the Garda Commissioner. In that context it is worth bringing to the Deputy's attention that the detailed allocation of Garda resources, including equipment, and the allocation of personnel to various units are a matter for the Garda Commissioner to decide upon on the basis of his identified operational requirements. These vary from location to location. The deployment of Garda personnel throughout the country, together with overall policing arrangements and operation of strategy, is continually monitored and reviewed. Such monitoring ensures optimum use is made of Garda resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public.

The Deputy may not be aware that Garda management is aided by what is known as the Garda establishment re-distribution model. The Commissioner advises that this model indicates the most effective means to distribute Garda personnel and acts as a guide to Garda management decision making. It takes into account many different policing variables, including socio-economic factors, census information, crime trends and the minimum establishment required for each district. The allocation of Garda personnel is determined by these factors which also take account of the policing requirements of each division. This very much influences the approach taken by the Garda Commissioner.

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As Minister for Justice and Equality, it is not my role to direct the Commissioner as to how many gardaí to allocate to individual districts or Garda stations. The needs in these areas can vary from time to time, depending on crime levels, instances that occur or special events that may give rise to concern.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: I have made the point, as have other Deputies in my area, of meeting very senior gardaí, up to the rank of assistant commissioner. They do not disagree with us. It appears to be that what one has one holds. In the context of an embargo, there is no commitment to redeploying people.

I have been listening to this for years. I now have an opportunity to ask the question or put the point whereas for many of those years I did not. I do not accept that the model is working. It certainly does not work in developing areas.

Deputy Alan Shatter: The review taking place throughout the Garda Síochána, and the feedback sought by the Garda Commissioner from his senior officers last June to a document produced to them, give senior officers in every area an opportunity to feed into the process. In so far as any senior officer is of the belief that his or her station and the needs of the community he or she serves are not being adequately considered, or in so far as he or she believes there should be a redistribution of the resources of the force in the context of manpower, womanpower or patrol cars, those senior officers have a unique opportunity to feed into that process. Even without it, if senior officers have a complaint to make or a concern to express, they have a direct line to the Garda Commissioner. I reiterate that it is an operational matter for the Garda Commissioner.

I refer to an earlier question. The police committees that involve co-operation between senior members of the Garda and members and officials of local authorities provide a very useful forum for local communities to focus on their concerns, or for a senior member of the Garda to raise concerns openly about differences being experienced in any particular station, thereby engaging with local elected representatives. All of this can feed into ensuring we have a better, more responsive and community-oriented police service. That was the initial purpose of providing these committees, to encourage that type of interaction between members of the Garda locally, local communities and elected representatives.

Leaders' Questions

Deputy Micheál Martin: Based on the figures in the four year plan produced last year, the Taoiseach made a number of very clear and specific promises to the people. Before, during and after the general election, he stated there would be no further cuts to welfare rates and pensions and no increases in income tax. The programme for Government states: "The new Government will...maintain the current rates of income tax together with bands and credits." However, the Minister for Finance, Deputy Michael Noonan, stated in early June: "I am not going to rule out any tax initiative or any tax increase or any tax reduction". Seven days later, marking the Government's 100th day in office, the Taoiseach categorically ruled this out by stating there would not be any income tax increase in the budget. The Tánaiste, Deputy Eamon Gilmore, went further and stated the Government would maintain social welfare rates. The Minister for Finance now says the public finances are "better than on track". No more money is available than there was when the Taoiseach specifically promised there would be no more cuts in welfare rates or increases in income tax. When the Taoiseach launched his programme for Government he made a commitment to be open and truthful with the people as we tackle these challenges in the coming years. Is the Taoiseach in a position today to give a clear

commitment that there will be no cuts in the rates of social welfare or pensions, and no increases in income tax next year?

The Taoiseach: Deputy Martin was not very full in his contribution. In his remarks about what the Minister for Finance said, the Deputy conveniently forgot to say that in the same sentence the Minister also referred to what is stated very clearly in the programme for Government, namely, that it is the intention of the Government to implement the programme.

The Deputy's Government committed via the memorandum of understanding, MOU, to an extra €215 million in income tax for each of the coming three years. This must be renegotiated with the troika by the Ministers for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform in the same way as a number of other matters have already been renegotiated to the advantage of taxpayers and the people in general.

This is the programme for Government. The Minister for Finance referred Deputy Martin to the programme for Government in the contribution to which the latter alluded. It is our intention to implement the programme in full. From that point of view and in the context of income tax, this matter must be renegotiated with the troika as a result of the commitment to come up with €250 million for each of the next three years. The Minister for Social Protection has, on a number of occasions, referred to the Government's interest in keeping headline rates for social welfare intact. She has also made it perfectly clear that in cases where recipients of social welfare payments who refuse adequate and appropriate offers of retraining, upskilling or employment, their rates of payment can be reduced. The latter has already occurred and everyone who is unfortunate enough to be unemployed is aware of the position in this regard.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach was well aware of the four year plan relating to the EU-IMF agreement when he made his specific commitment. That has nothing to do with it. The EU and the IMF are fundamentally concerned about the global or bottom-line figures. Since he entered office, the Taoiseach has been trumpeting his capacity to make choices and change certain aspects of the agreement. His response is noteworthy by the lack of clarity and by the absence of a commitment in respect of the specific points I raised.

Deputy Simon Harris: That is like Fianna Fáil's strategy for the presidential election.

Deputy Michael Noonan: What we are doing is as plain as a pikestaff.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Is the Taoiseach going to maintain the commitment to the effect that the Government will not cut social welfare rates? Is the Taoiseach holding to the very specific commitment he made that the Government will not increase income tax? These are commitments the Taoiseach made.

A Deputy: Where has Deputy Ó Cuív gone?

Deputy Micheál Martin: It was he and no one else who gave those solemn commitments in full knowledge of all the facts. He also gave commitments in respect of third level fees, special needs education, child benefit, pensions and a range of other issues in full knowledge of what was expected under the four year plan and the agreement with the EU and the IMF. The Minister for Social Protection, Deputy Burton, did not give the commitments the Taoiseach outlined in any of the statements she has made.

The Taoiseach: Obviously, Deputy Martin was not too clued in when he and his colleagues signed on for a number of things while in power. I refer to the guarantee relating to the banks and the previous Government signing on to commit the Irish taxpayer to a further €250 million in income tax payments every year for the next three years.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Hear, hear.

The Taoiseach: The previous Government also signed on with regard to a matter in respect of which the Ministers for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform and I, as Head of Government, have been involved in trying to renegotiate. As a result of what we have done, it is clear that there will be a saving of significant proportion to the Irish people of the order of €900 million per year.

Deputy Micheál Martin: That has nothing to do with this matter. What is the Government going to do——

The Taoiseach: That for which the previous Government, in its panic and desperation, signed on——

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach should answer the question I asked.

Deputy Simon Harris: We are cleaning up the mess the Deputy and his party left behind.

The Taoiseach: ——now forms part of our work in the context of the matters in respect of which we must renegotiate. One aspect of what we are doing is renegotiating the element relating to income tax to which the Deputy's party signed up when in government.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach knew about that before he entered office. He should answer the question I asked.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Deputy Martin should answer the question. How did the commitment in question come into existence?

The Taoiseach: The Fine Gael and Labour parties have a programme for Government and it is our intention to implement it in full.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Hear, hear.

Deputy Micheál Martin: A further lack of clarity from the Taoiseach. Another broken promise.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: There is no clarity from those on the Fianna Fáil benches, that is for sure. It was they who got us into this position.

(Interruptions).

Deputy Micheál Martin: Deputy Buttimer should continue to canvass on behalf of Mr. Pat Cox.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: *Una duce, una voce.* Bring back Charlie.

An Ceann Comhairle: I thank Deputy Buttimer. The usual suspects are making noise again.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: If we could have *una voce* that would be helpful.

Deputy Finian McGrath: Where is the Government, Deputy Buttimer?

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Where is Deputy Finian McGrath's part of the Opposition?

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I wish to ask the Taoiseach about reports which emerged this morning regarding the entitlement of county managers of local authorities to payments of

€74,000 on retirement. I understand these payments come from the same severance under which the Government gifted €713,000 to Mr. Dermot McCarthy. I do not need to inform the Taoiseach that the people are suffering real hardship, not just in respect of the outworking of the policies of the previous Administration but also at the hands of his Government. I want him to give a guarantee to the people and this House that he will end the practice of making these outrageous payments. I also want him to explain to the House how it is that an outgoing Secretary General has walked away with such a bonanza and how it might be that, on his watch, managers in local authorities are set to do likewise.

The Taoiseach is aware of the position with regard to the unemployment figures. He is also aware that certain children have returned to school without being able to secure the services of special needs assistants and that there are people on hospital trolleys. However, his Administration, which was supposed to be about change and a new beginning, is standing over the outrage to which I refer. Will the Taoiseach explain how it is that Mr. McCarthy walked away with that cash and how it is that he proposes to reward the managers of local authorities in a similar fashion under the same scheme?

The Taoiseach: The terms of reference for the appointment of and the severance package relating to the person to whom the Deputy refers, namely, the former Secretary General at the Department of the Taoiseach who was also Secretary General to the Government, were set by the previous Administration. My term of office began this year. We have made a number of very significant changes already. The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is committed to reviewing the terms of appointments for persons appointed to senior positions within the public service. I give the Deputy a commitment in that regard. As already stated, the Government has honoured the package put in place for the former Secretary General at my Department which was put in place by the previous Administration. As the Deputy is aware, the Government is also committed to the introduction of a single pension facility. Information relating to that matter will be published shortly and that information will contain further details of very significant reforms in this area.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: There the Taoiseach goes again. It happens on his watch but he is not accountable for it. He knows as well as I that under the pensions legislation it is at the discretion of Government to sign off on added years of service. He knows full well that had he wished to stop that payment to the outgoing Secretary General, he could have done so. The position is the same with regard to the outrageous payments to county and city managers to which I refer. The only conclusion at which we can arrive is that despite the rhetoric from him and his colleagues in Fine Gael and the Labour Party with regard to reform and change, they are, in fact, not serious about these matters. They will hammer clerical officers and ordinary working people. However, like their predecessors, they are unable and unwilling to go after those in the upper echelons of the public and civil service. They have made that abundantly clear. Shame on the Taoiseach and the Government — particularly as they are cooking up massive cutbacks that will hurt ordinary people — for being so coy and duplicitous in respect of the those in the upper echelons of the public and civil service. The Taoiseach should make a commitment to the House that no county or city manager will walk away with a payment of €74,000. He should not sell us that it is Fianna Fáil's fault. The Taoiseach is in charge now.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: Hear, hear.

Deputy Michael Noonan: The Deputy still does not recognise the court.

The Taoiseach: It appears the Deputy is still being affected by the comfort she enjoyed during her party's recent meetings in the Shelbourne Hotel. She conveniently forgot to state that the

[The Taoiseach.]

Government changed the terms of reference in respect of the minimum wage and that, even with the constraints of the financial conditions imposed upon it——

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Taoiseach should answer the question I asked in respect of pensions.

The Taoiseach: ——it reduced the level of PRSI relating to employers in order that they might retain their employees. She seems to forget that the Government reduced the level of VAT which applies to the hospitality sector and thereby provided a direct stimulus which had a positive effect for so many people on the lower end of the salary scale.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: The Government paid Mr. Dermot McCarthy over €700,000.

The Taoiseach: The Deputy and her party colleges conveniently forgot all of those matters when, during their recent meetings, they looked out upon the sublimity of St. Stephen's Green.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: What about private pensions?

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: The Taoiseach conveniently forgot about the working class when he was signing cheques for €700,000.

(Interruptions).

The Taoiseach: I can confirm that the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will review the structures and conditions——

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: It is too late.

The Taoiseach: ——that apply to the types of appointments that have been mentioned.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: It is pointless.

The Taoiseach: I repeat that the conditions that apply to the person who has been mentioned were put in place by the previous Government. Commitments were given to that person upon his appointment for that purpose.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: Commitments were given to lots of people, not least by the Taoiseach and his party. He can renege on them.

The Taoiseach: I reject completely the assertion that members of the Government suddenly no longer have the interests of the lower paid, the unemployed or those who are struggling at heart. We very much have those interests at heart. We will prove that as we continue to make changes to the disastrous situation into which this country was led by previous Governments.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: The Government will not do that until it has looked after the rich.

The Taoiseach: That fact will not go away, no more than the facts relating to Deputy Ó Snodaigh's party in many other areas will go away.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: That is all the Taoiseach has got.

Deputy Simon Harris: It is enough.

Deputy Finian McGrath: Mr. Squeaky Clean.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: It is not much. What about the Taoiseach's partners in government?

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Take it easy now, lads.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: God help the people on the North if they were counting on you guys.

An Ceann Comhairle: I call Deputy Higgins.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: The united Ireland party abandoned them.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Joe has to make an announcement.

Deputy Alan Shatter: Tell us what happened on your watch.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: What happened on your own watch?

Deputy Alan Shatter: How many banks were robbed on your watch?

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: The Minister should have a look at the people sitting next to him and their records.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: What about Michael Collins's record?

An Ceann Comhairle: I ask the Deputies to allow Deputy Higgins to speak.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: We are being encouraged by the Minister.

An Ceann Comhairle: You do not need any encouragement.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: They are getting used to being parliamentarians, a Cheann Comhairle.

Deputy Joe Higgins: I want to raise a decision of the Government for which the Taoiseach cannot blame Fianna Fáil, despite that party's responsibility for the origins of this crisis. Last Saturday, the Government abjectly capitulated to the European Central Bank when the Minister for Finance indicated in Poland that the full €3.5 billion that was gambled in Anglo Irish Bank by the holders of unsecured bonds would now be paid. Just three months ago, the same Minister made world headlines when he said in Washington that the Government would burn the bondholders. He said "we don't think the Irish taxpayer should redeem what has become speculative investment". Six weeks from tomorrow, the first €1 billion will be paid to speculators in Anglo Irish Bank. Will he explain why this breathtaking betrayal of the Irish people is taking place when sharks in the financial markets are being protected and rewarded? Why is the Government prepared to continue the disastrous policy of austerity that is affecting our people? It is preparing to savage the incomes of low and middle income workers, introduce a new household tax, withdraw the current provision of special needs assistants and cut fuel and electricity allowances from pensioners and the poorest people. While it has no compunction in hitting ordinary people, it is bottling it when it comes to tackling banking speculators. What is responsible for this change in policy? Why did the Government make the promises that it is now failing to live up to? Why did it raise people's expectations in this way before letting them

[Deputy Joe Higgins.]

down? I will compare the Government's actions in sporting terms to the actions of the heroic Stephen Cluxton last Sunday.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: What team was the Deputy shouting for?

Deputy Joe Higgins: It is as if, rather than kicking his county into history after a brave run forward, he suddenly turned and booted the ball into the faces of his team mates and into his own goal. Rather than going to speculators, this €3.5 billion of the funds of our people should be going into investment and services. I ask the Taoiseach to explain why that is not happening.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: What about the budget deficit?

The Taoiseach: If Stephen Cluxton were able to kick the ball 160 m, he would be an even better person than——

Deputy Micheál Martin: Than yourself.

The Taoiseach: ——Deputy Higgins gives him credit for. Fair play to the Dubs for what they did. The Government committed to making this situation more tolerable for the Irish people and the Irish taxpayer. The discussions between the Government and its counterparts about how it can be made more tolerable, particularly at finance ministry level, have brought about final decisions in regard to a number of matters. Deputy Higgins is aware — he does not want to recognise it — that savings of approximately €9 billion will be made over the average period of seven and a half years that was originally envisaged for these loans. As the Deputy knows, that is the equivalent of approximately 5.7% of the current forecasted level of GDP for 2011. The saving comprises €4.9 billion on the EFSM funding, €3.5 billion on the EFSF funding and €0.57 billion on the UK bilateral loans. This is a significant saving. The Minister for Finance spoke directly to Mr. Trichet, the Commissioners and all his colleagues. They regard the decisions taken by Ireland, and the position to which Ireland is moving, as very significant in light of the difficulties being experienced by the eurozone countries. The real situation, which the Minister said he would reflect on, is that when burden-sharing of the kind mentioned by Deputy Higgins was referenced in the Greek case, contagion began to spread immediately to other countries. The Minister for Finance said he would reflect on his discussions with Mr. Trichet. He made it clear that another argument would be followed in respect of the promissory note. When the previous Government signed up to that note, it committed to pay some €30 billion over the next ten years, or €3 billion per year. It is obvious that if maturities and interest rates were to be applied in that context, further significant savings could be made by the Irish taxpayer and the Irish people. The Minister for Finance has said he will reflect on this following his discussions with Mr. Trichet and others. These are matters to be negotiated and agreed.

Deputy Joe Higgins: The Taoiseach did not answer the question. The Minister for Finance was very vocal in Washington. He said he would burn the Anglo gamblers. According to the schedule I have, some €3.5 billion is to be paid to them over the next seven or eight months. A total of €21.5 billion is to be paid to all the other holders of unsecured and unguaranteed bonds, for which the Irish people have no responsibility. The Taoiseach needs to deal with that issue, rather than using figures to show that disastrously high interest rates, which should never have been imposed by our so-called partners, are being brought down. The incredible explanation given by the Minister and the ECB was that what he had said about burning the bondholders — those are my words, but that was the idea — was not the way forward if we were to try to encourage the markets. When the Taoiseach refers to “contagion”, he means that the sharks in the market would go to Italy and Spain and raise their interest rates. The Government

and the ECB are running in front of these unelected and unaccounted players in the financial markets. They are sacrificing the livelihoods, jobs and welfare of our people. I ask the Taoiseach to have some bottle. There is no responsibility on an Irish Government to repay these tens of billions of euro. He should stop it now. The money should be invested in public infrastructure and used to create the tens of thousands of jobs needed by our people.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: What about the budget deficit?

Deputy Joe Higgins: This disastrous policy of austerity should be ended.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: The Deputy should get real.

The Taoiseach: The updated NTMA estimates, which reflect last week's announcements and decisions by the Minister for Finance, refer to a reduction of approximately 2.6% in the EFSF rate and a reduction of just under 3% — 2.925%, in fact — in the EFSM rate. Therefore, the annual interest saving under the EFSF will be €450 million and the savings under the EFSM will be €650 million. There will also be a saving of approximately €100 million in respect of the bilateral loans. If the entire €45 billion is drawn down, approximately €1.2 billion will be saved each year, for as long as the amount remains outstanding, as a result of these changes. In addition, the cost of the IMF loans will reduce as a result of recent and forthcoming increases in Ireland's IMF quota. The NTMA has calculated that the overall benefit of this interest rate reduction will be some €1.9 billion, of which some €30 million will arise in 2012 and is included in the overall estimate of €900 million in interest savings next year which even Deputy Joe Higgins will admit are very substantial. Based on the estimates for the changes to the EU and IMF elements of the loans, the overall savings, based on the initial lifespan of the programme, which will be extended, would be over €10 billion. For 2012, the changes to the EU and bilateral loans, combined with the impact of the IMF quota changes, amount to some €900 million. The average maturity date of the loans will be extended. This will have the effect, as pointed out by Commissioner Rehn on Friday, of improving our debt sustainability and also the liquidity for Ireland.

The Minister for Finance, Deputy Noonan, has pointed out that Ireland will have a pre-paid margin of €600 million in the EFSF returned in 2016. While it is important to note that this return will be factored into the interest savings figures once the funding under the programme is drawn down, it gives rise to an upfront capital receipt of €600 million capital in 2016 directly to the Exchequer.

Deputy Joan Collins: The Taoiseach should answer the question.

Ceisteanna — Questions (Resumed)

Departmental Appointments

1. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if he has, following the appointment of the Second Secretary to his Department, given instructions relating to amending his Department's role in European Affairs. [21083/11]

2. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if he will detail which members of Government carry authority to issue formal instructions to the Second Secretary in his Department; [21086/11]

3. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the number of staff that will be transferring to his Department from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. [21418/11]

4. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if he still plans to half the size of his Department in view of the setting up of a new Office of the Tánaiste and the transfer of responsibility for EU coordination to his Department. [21419/11]

5. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Taoiseach if he will report on the filling of the position of Secretary General of his Department. [24421/11]

6. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the administrative changes which have been made to the coordination by him of EU policy within Government. [24705/11]

7. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach which, if any, funding and other programmes have been or will be transferred to his Department following his reorganisation of its work. [24710/11]

8. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if he will outline all costs relating to the establishment and future running of the Office of the Tánaiste including the numbers of personnel to be assigned to the Office, the physical and support facilities to be made available to the Tánaiste from the Vote of the Department of An Taoiseach and the identity of the accounting officer for the office. [24711/11]

9. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the exact numbers of civil service personnel who will have been transferred to and from his Department as of the end of this year as a result of reorganisation. [24714/11]

10. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the number of staff working in his Department at the end of 2008, 2009, 2010 and the projected number for the end of 2011. [24715/11]

11. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the number of staff working in his Department who are on secondment from other Departments and the numbers of staff of his Department on secondment to other Departments. [24716/11]

12. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if any member of the staff of his Department reports primarily to another member of Government; and if so, if he will detail such cases. [24729/11]

13. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if he will detail the specific process employed in receiving and considering applications for the posts of Secretaries General in his Department; and if he is satisfied with the process. [24732/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 1 to 13, inclusive, together.

Deputy Micheál Martin: That is an awful lot of questions being taken together.

The Taoiseach: Most of them are in the name of the Deputy and they all are related.

The programme for Government states, “We will reduce the size of the Department of the Taoiseach, transforming it into the equivalent of a Cabinet Office that oversees the delivery of a new Programme for Government”. Since taking office as Taoiseach and in keeping with that commitment, I have instituted a series of radical reforms to the operation of the Department of the Taoiseach.

Responsibility for public service modernisation and related industrial relations issues has been assigned to the new Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. As a consequence, 27 staff have transferred to that Department.

A new integrated European affairs division is being established within the Department of the Taoiseach. This will involve the transfer of approximately 19 staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who will work alongside existing staff from my Department in the new integrated EU division. The new division will support me in my membership of the European Council, as well as supporting the Tánaiste in his responsibility for overall co-ordination of European policy, together with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European affairs and including the Tánaiste's membership of the General Affairs Council. It will secure more effective strategic direction and co-ordination across the whole of government in all matters related to the European Union. I anticipate that the incoming staff will be in place by 3 October and that the new arrangements will be fully operational from that date.

The Government has also agreed to establish an office of the Tánaiste within the Department of the Taoiseach. This office will have a small number of support staff and avail of physical and support facilities which will be provided by my Department. Both the staff and the support costs for the office will be provided at no additional cost from within the existing resources of my Department. The office will be fully operational in the coming weeks.

In parallel with the major restructuring of my Department, the Government has also made significant new management appointments. As I previously informed the House, it has appointed Ms Geraldine Byrne Nason as Second Secretary General in my Department. She will have responsibility for the management of an integrated EU co-ordination function, engaging with other Departments, as appropriate, reporting to me and the Tánaiste, as appropriate, in respect of our particular responsibilities at European level, and working with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European affairs, Deputy Creighton, in respect of her duties; managing support for the Government Economic Management Council which is chaired by me and reporting to the Tánaiste on matters relating to the council; and also managing the office of the Tánaiste within the Department of the Taoiseach, with responsibility for co-ordinating support for the Tánaiste in his whole-of-government responsibilities.

On my nomination, the Government appointed Mr. Martin Fraser as the new Secretary General to the Government and Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach with effect from 1 August. Mr. Fraser is the Accounting Officer for the Department of the Taoiseach. Both the Secretary General and the Second Secretary General are members of the staff of my Department. They will work with and, as appropriate, report to me and the Tánaiste, as I have explained. As Deputies will know from their own experience, this model has worked very successfully in the past, notably in respect of the Northern Ireland peace process and Ireland's last EU Presidency.

As I outlined to the House previously, the filling of the post of Secretary General to my Department, in accordance with established practice, was a matter for the Government and does not come within the remit of the Top Level Appointments Commission. Expressions of interest for the post were invited from civil servants and all suitable officers, whether they submitted an expression of interest, were considered before the Government made the appointments.

Although the details are not yet finalised, there are likely to be two new appointments to vacancies at assistant secretary level in my Department shortly. These posts will be fully open and advertised in the national newspapers. The selection will be conducted by the Top Level Appointments Commission which the Government has reformed to include an independent chairperson and a majority of members from outside the Civil Service.

[The Taoiseach.]

The changes I have made, alongside the establishment of the new Government Economic Management Council, serve to strongly reinforce the strategic centre of government. I expect that the new management team in the Department will implement a number of further administrative changes in the coming months which will serve to supplement the strategic restructuring I have implemented and ensure the Department is modernised to meet the enormous challenges that the Government faces. These changes will focus on ensuring modern and effective mechanisms for implementing the programme for Government, the Cabinet Office model, and prioritising work on national priorities. They will draw on lessons learned from the recent past and international best practice. Tackling the economic crisis, with a particular focus on unemployment and jobs, will be of paramount importance. The new approach will be further elaborated on in the Department's new strategy statement and action plan under the organisational review programme. Both will be published before the end of the year. Apart from the changes I have outlined, it is not proposed to transfer any funding or other programmes to my Department.

There are six staff working in my Department who are on secondment from other Departments, while nine staff are on secondment from the Department of the Taoiseach to other public sector bodies. A number of staff in diplomatic grades in the new EU division will be seconded from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, while the general service staff will formally transfer to my Department.

The number of whole-time equivalent staff in my Department at the end of 2008 was 212. At the end of 2009 it was 198, and at the end of 2010 it was 191. Even following the transfer of significant numbers of staff to the new EU division, I expect that this figure will fall to approximately 187 by the end of the year.

The Department of the Taoiseach will fully comply with its obligations to make savings under the Croke Park agreement and also play its part in further reducing costs in the context of the decisions to be made by the Government against the background of the comprehensive review of expenditure which is under way and being conducted by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. Following completion of the radical changes under way, the Department will be able to fulfil its many important roles more effectively but with a smaller staff complement and budget than in recent years.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Of this group of 13 questions, 12 are in my name. Under Standing Orders, if they were to be asked separately, I would be entitled to speak for approximately 72 minutes. Obviously, I do not expect this to happen.

An Ceann Comhairle: I do not know where the Deputy got that idea from because he is not correct.

Deputy Micheál Martin: There are approximately four areas covered by the 12 questions in my name: the Taoiseach's promise concerning the staffing of the Department of the Taoiseach, the new office of the Tánaiste, the new arrangements for co-ordinating EU policy and the procedures for filling the post of Secretary General. I want to be able to deal with each of these and have enough of time to do so.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy need not worry, I will give him time.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Thank you, a Cheann Comhairle. You are in good form because of Sunday's developments.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: The Deputy is in better form than last week.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Actually, I am in very good form. Deputy Rabbitte has good experience of that kind of thing himself. The last time we discussed the structure and staffing of the Taoiseach's Department, the Taoiseach failed to inform the House that he would be moving an entire section from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under his control. In the Taoiseach's pre-election speeches, in the Fine Gael manifesto and in the programme for Government the Taoiseach stated he would dramatically cut the Department of the Taoiseach in size. In interviews earlier this year the Taoiseach described himself as a straight talker. Will the Taoiseach now formally confirm that he is abandoning the promise to dramatically slim down the Department of An Taoiseach?

The Taoiseach: Is Deputy Martin finished?

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: We thought there was a hard question coming.

The Taoiseach: The answer to the question is "no". Question No. 4 is from Deputy Micheál Martin. It is to ask the Taoiseach if he is still plans to halve the size of his Department. If Deputy Martin listened to what I said he would have heard the first sentence of my reply, that is, the programme for Government states we will reduce the size of the Department of the Taoiseach. Deputy Martin's question relates to something he seems to have heard somewhere to the effect that the Taoiseach still plans to halve the size of his Department.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach should go back over his manifesto.

Deputy Barry Cowen: What about the 25,000 civil servants?

The Taoiseach: My job is to implement the programme for Government and that is what we intend to do. The programme for Government is clear. It states that we will reduce the size of the Department of the Taoiseach. Deputy Martin referred to "dramatically cutting" and his question refers to a reduction in the Department of 50%. I have not abandoned anything and I do not know what Deputy Martin is blathering on about.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Let us consider the facts that the Taoiseach has just read out. There were 191 staff at the end of 2010 and now there are 187. That is a change of four people. It is about time we had some straight, honest talking here. We should stop the waffle, fudge and spin. If the Taoiseach will not be straight or clear about something he has announced himself through the figures, then when will he be clear about anything?

The Taoiseach: I have been clear.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach is not clear. He made all manner of ridiculous commitments during the election and before the election and he has abandoned them. The Taoiseach should acknowledge that he has abandoned them. That is all. There are no specifics in terms of the size of the office of an Tánaiste and how many staff are there and so on. I would appreciate if the Taoiseach could give us some real figures behind that office. The Taoiseach used the term "a small number of staff". Will he provide the actual number of staff who will be supporting the Tánaiste in that role?

In terms of the EU co-ordination the decision to transfer the entire European Union section of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to the Taoiseach's control is rather surprising given that co-ordination between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Taoiseach was and always has been excellent. Indeed the 2004 EU Presidency was a model Presidency of the council and was described as such by all throughout Europe. The Taoiseach should explain why he has changed this successful formula. It seems to be a solution

[Deputy Micheál Martin.]

in search of a problem. I am keen to get the rationale behind the Taoiseach's decision because the EU section has a broader, wider and deeper integration throughout the entire operation of the diplomatic service. In practice our entire diplomatic service is focused on European matters and the sections in daily contact with our embassies in EU countries remain in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The integration and co-ordination pertaining to Europe within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be significantly undermined by the Taoiseach's decision to take the specific section dealing with EU matters out of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and land it in splendid isolation in the Department of the Taoiseach. I do not believe the Taoiseach has given a proper rationale for why he has decided to do that.

An Ceann Comhairle: I remind the Deputy that this is Question Time.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I am asking the Taoiseach to give a clear rationale for that decision. For some reason, the last time we discussed this even though it was under way then he did not alert the House to such a fundamental and substantial change in respect of that decision. The Taoiseach will create an extra barrier to an integrated EU approach from Government.

The Taoiseach: The answer to Deputy Martin's question is that the Office of the Tánaiste will be supported by a small secretariat of approximately two staff from within the current staff numbers. I will give Deputy Martin the rationale behind the other change. Perhaps his view is as someone who was in the Department of Foreign Affairs and did an extensive tour of duty. The problem is that the matter of the co-ordination in respect of European integration is better handled from the Department of the Taoiseach in the sense of being able to draw the requirements from every Department to ensure that happens. It is not a taking over of responsibilities from the Tánaiste or from the Minister of State with responsibility for European affairs. It is merely the co-ordination of the European process which, as Deputy Martin correctly points out, now goes across every Department. This is why the appointment of the Second Secretary General to the Department of the Taoiseach will manage it from the Department of the Taoiseach in an effective way, working to the Tánaiste in respect of his responsibilities, to the Minister of State in respect of her responsibilities and to me as Head of Government in respect of my responsibilities. I see this as improving a position which, as Deputy Martin pointed out, during various EU Presidencies did well under challenging circumstances. I am keen to make it even better. For this reason we moved the general staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade into the section in the Department of the Taoiseach dealing with the co-ordination of European matters. That is the rationale behind it and I believe it will work effectively.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Given the transfer of the EU section to his control, why is the Taoiseach still transferring EU questions to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?

The Taoiseach: The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister of State with responsibility for European affairs will have responsibility for answering questions in respect of European issues. I am not suggesting taking over responsibility for all European matters but for the co-ordination of the way we proceed to deal with European issues. I find it to be more effective coming from the Department of the Taoiseach as distinct from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in attempting to draw from all Departments the requirements needed. To put even greater emphasis on this approach the Government agreed to the appointment of a Second Secretary General in the Department of the Taoiseach with specific responsibility for managing that co-ordination and for dealing with the matters of the economic manage-

ment council, reporting to the Tánaiste where appropriate and to me in respect of my responsibilities.

An Ceann Comhairle: I wish to allow Deputy Higgins in for one moment. He has a question on the filling of the position of Secretary General.

Deputy Joe Higgins: This looks suspiciously like a Fine Gael coup with regard to the management of EU affairs by the Government. Is this the case? Has the Taoiseach elbowed the Tánaiste out to deal with far flung areas such as North Korea and so on while in essence corralling the critical policy and EU matters among himself as a Fine Gael Taoiseach and a Fine Gael Minister for Finance aided and abetted by a Fine Gael Minister of State for European affairs? I will repeat the question which the Taoiseach did not really answer. How are the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to co-ordinate intervention in critical EU matters? Will the Taoiseach explain this in greater detail and more clearly?

How many staff in the Taoiseach's Department and on the public payroll are doing constituency queries or like work? With regard to the secretary generalship of the Taoiseach's Department, what is the salary level of the new chief of the Department? In view of how outraged the public has been by the extent of the obscene payments to the predecessor, how does the Taoiseach justify continuing payment of such vast amounts to the tops of the public service when low and middle-income public sector workers are on the one hand struggling but on the other hand being tarred as if they were in the top echelons by the likes of Independent Newspapers and the rest?

An Ceann Comhairle: Can we have a question?

The Taoiseach: The co-ordination section within the Department of the Taoiseach is not focused just on the Department of Foreign Affairs as the Tánaiste and the Minister of State with responsibility for European affairs retain their responsibilities and this could involve the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. All of these are now concerned directly with decisions that are being taken in Europe and by Europe in respect of directives and regulations and political issues.

The co-ordination of all of this is, in my view, more effective coming from the Department of the Taoiseach within the responsibilities I have in that regard, rather than having it situated in a specific Department. It is not a conspiracy, a coup or a takeover but merely a more effective co-ordination of the management of the affairs of Government across all Departments. That management can be more effective coming from the Department of the Taoiseach while the Ministers retain their responsibilities in so far as European affairs are concerned, in particular matters relevant to their portfolios and their Departments. The co-ordination of all of that is the reason I made this change.

The Deputy asked about the numbers doing constituency office work and their salaries. That matter is down for written answer today in response to a question from Deputy Ross, or perhaps another Deputy, which will be available to Deputy Higgins. The Deputy will be glad to know it has reduced from previous times and that, for higher public servants, these salaries have been capped at €200,000, in many cases having being reduced from €285,000, including a further voluntary contribution from €214,000 to €200,000. Of course, these are now being further reduced with the pension changes being brought in by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Deputy Joe Higgins: It is still five times the average industrial wage.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach was being somewhat disingenuous in saying it is just a co-ordination issue. Fundamentally, he has taken the entire EU section, which is not just a number of people doing co-ordinating work but is actually the core unit that led for the Department of Foreign Affairs on EU matters and which has now gone to the Department of the Taoiseach. This has fundamental implications for how the Department of Foreign Affairs works in regard to other international bodies such as the United Nations, the OSCE and a range of other international bodies which have a daily interaction with the EU section.

The Taoiseach has not explained how the diplomatic service will fit into this new operation. It may explain the disquiet from some of his Cabinet colleagues in terms of how quiet the Tánaiste has become at the Cabinet table. It may be due to the rationale that he is getting less and less to do if various units and sections are being taken from him.

An Ceann Comhairle: That has nothing to do with the question.

Deputy Micheál Martin: It has everything to do with it.

The Taoiseach: Cad faoi Labhrás?

Deputy Micheál Martin: There is a fundamental issue in terms of how that is playing out within——

The Taoiseach: Cá bhfuil Eamon? Tá sé an-chiúin, nach bhfuil?

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach had considerable experience in June last year and he came out of it with flying colours. We all take lessons from time to time.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: They were not talking about founding another party.

Deputy Micheál Martin: With regard to the Secretary General, the Taoiseach said earlier there were previous terms and conditions. Will he confirm that the terms and conditions of the new Secretary General reflect those of his predecessor?

An Ceann Comhairle: While I do not want to interfere with Question Time, many of these matters relate to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

The Taoiseach: They do. The appointments have been made under the arrangements of TLAC, the Top Level Appointments Committee, which have been in place since 1987. The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is reviewing the nature of the structure of these appointments.

Deputy Barry Cowen: He said something different half an hour ago.

Deputy Micheál Martin: He said something different earlier. This is the incredible spin the Taoiseach goes on with all the time.

An Ceann Comhairle: Will the Deputy cool down and let the Taoiseach answer?

Deputy Charlie McConalogue: The Taoiseach is six months in Government.

The Taoiseach: I find Deputy Martin's comments about the Tánaiste completely off the wall.

Deputy Micheál Martin: They are not my comments. They were made by the Taoiseach's colleagues.

The Taoiseach: He is actually in New York speaking at the United Nations in respect of matters pertaining to the world outside and Ireland's situation in it. We will continue to do so in regard to other international issues. What I am talking about here is the more effective co-ordination of issues relating to the EU across all Departments. Obviously, all Ministers retain their responsibilities but the co-ordination of this will be managed by a Second Secretary General in the Department of the Taoiseach. I find that to be more effective.

An Ceann Comhairle: I would like to move on.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I asked a specific supplementary question on the terms and conditions. Can I have a specific answer?

An Ceann Comhairle: These are questions for the Minister.

The Taoiseach: The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform took written questions on that issue today.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: From Deputy McDonald.

An Ceann Comhairle: We have a Minister to deal with this.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Question No. 5 is "To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the filling of the position of Secretary General of his Department." That is the context in which I am asking.

An Ceann Comhairle: That question was asked by Deputy Joe Higgins.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Yes, but I am entitled to ask a supplementary question in regard to the Taoiseach's reply.

An Ceann Comhairle: He has already answered.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I am entitled to ask a supplementary question in regard to the Taoiseach's reply.

The Taoiseach: I never thought Deputy Martin would be looking for assistance from the leader of the Socialist Party. I answered the question from Deputy Higgins in regard to the appointment of the Secretary General and the Second Secretary General.

Deputy Micheál Martin: No, the Taoiseach did not.

The Taoiseach: The Minister, Deputy Howlin, answered questions in written form today.

An Ceann Comhairle: I call Deputy McDonald.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: For the record, what salary is the Second Secretary General on? Will the Taoiseach clarify that for us?

The Taoiseach: I cannot answer that question for the Deputy but I will have the details provided to her.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: I answered a written question on that matter today.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I want it from the Taoiseach. This is Questions to the Taoiseach.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Taoiseach does not have to answer for every Minister.

Deputy Barry Cowen: He answered half an hour ago.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Sorry, a Cheann Comhairle——

An Ceann Comhairle: We have to be reasonable.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach answered on this half an hour ago and made a specific comment. The hypocrisy of his response has been found out.

An Ceann Comhairle: Will the Deputy cool down? Deputy McDonald is asking a question. I am just giving——

Deputy Charlie McConalogue: We are just asking the Taoiseach to answer for his Department.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Taoiseach cannot answer for every single Minister. If there are detailed questions on matters of pay and so on——

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: With all due respect, I believe the Taoiseach can give a full answer to a very clear question.

An Ceann Comhairle: With all due respect to the Deputy, it is my job to try to share the proceedings fairly on both sides. I want to ensure Deputies get proper answers. If they are asking a question and not getting a full answer, I suggest they put down a question to the appropriate Minister. That is my function. If the Taoiseach has the information and wants to give it to the Deputy, by all means he may do so.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: Yes, he does.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: It is our function to question the Taoiseach in this section.

An Ceann Comhairle: I have no problem with that.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I find it strange, therefore, and wonder does the Taoiseach not know the answer to this question. If he does, he might share it with us.

The Taoiseach: I have already said these are capped at €200,000 and the specific answer to Deputy McDonald's question is in written form because she asked a specific question of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The Deputy will have it in the pigeon hole when she leaves the Chamber.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Therefore, it is the same as the one of which the Taoiseach washed his hands earlier. That is the point.

The Taoiseach: Do not talk to me about washing hands.

An Ceann Comhairle: Order, please.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Economic Management Council will report to the Tánaiste. What is the mechanism for keeping the Dáil informed of the work of this group, or is there one?

The Taoiseach: The Economic Management Council reports to me, as Taoiseach, and to the Tánaiste in the context of determining the issues with which the council has to deal. Decisions made at the Economic Management Council will go before Cabinet and, obviously, Cabinet matters and decisions are confidential. Of course, when Government makes decisions, they become public and Ministers answer for the decisions that are made and will continue to do so. It is not a case of outlining for the House what is the agenda for any Economic Management Council meeting or any other Cabinet committee. Once the Government receives reports, proposals or recommendations from any of those meetings or committees and makes decisions on them, they become public and are answerable to this House and to the people by Ministers and the Government as a whole.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: Therefore, there is no mechanism.

Freedom of Information

14. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the number of Freedom of Information requests he has received from members of the Houses of the Oireachtas; and if he has examined these in terms of policy or administrative implications for his Department. [21087/11]

15. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if he has reviewed by the policy and administrative implications of freedom of information cases handled by his Department since 21 July 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24721/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 14 and 15 together.

One request from a Member of the Oireachtas was received in my Department from 9 March 2011 to 31 August. The answer was issued within the freedom of information timeframe and was part-granted. The functions relating to freedom of information are carried out in the Department by statutorily designated officials, as envisaged in the Acts, and these officials follow the guidelines set out in the Department of Finance's decision makers manual. This statutory framework is constructed in such a way as to keep the decision-making process at arm's length from the political head of the Department. Accordingly, I have no role in respect of the processing of freedom of information requests. Moreover, there are no plans to change this process.

Deputy Micheál Martin: First, during our last Question Time, the Taoiseach told the House he took no role in seeking the disallowance of questions. I subsequently made a freedom of information request and discovered the Taoiseach had written to the Ceann Comhairle's office 69 times in six weeks directly asking for Members' questions to be disallowed. In the same period, he transferred 98 questions to other Ministers in order that he would not be obliged to answer them. While the final decision was not the Taoiseach's, he followed a clear strategy of reducing the areas on which he is obliged to answer questions. I ask him to withdraw the statement he made in the previous Dáil session that he plays no role in seeking the large-scale disallowance and transfer of questions from Deputies. He should withdraw formally the statement he put on the record of the House on the previous occasion.

In addition, although the Taoiseach has been praising himself for six months for saying "No" to President Van Rompuy's text on corporation tax from the Council meeting last March, he has been refusing to show that text to anyone. In response to a freedom of information request made in August, the Taoiseach again refused to release the Van Rompuy text from the European Council meeting, claiming the rules of the European Council would not allow this. The problem for the Taoiseach is I also contacted the European Council, which stated it could not supply the text directly but would encourage the national Government to release it. In this

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context, will the Taoiseach release the Van Rompuy text? Will he desist from relying inordinately on freedom of information legislation to avoid putting relevant information before this House on foot of genuine requests from Members?

The Taoiseach: I have no intention——

An Ceann Comhairle: Before the Taoiseach answers that question, in case anyone gets the impression from Deputy Martin's statement that the Taoiseach wrote to me 68 times, or whatever it was, and in case anyone thinks I am influenced by anyone writing to me, I wish to make it quite clear and to put on record that all Departments regularly, one would hope through the Minister, seek to have questions disallowed. It goes through a procedure and, in most cases, where possible, we ignore that request. Consequently, it is wrong to suggest or let the public feel that people lobby me in some way to disallow questions. This is not true and I do not wish there to be any misunderstanding in this regard. The only way in which a question is disallowed is if it is not in accordance with Standing Orders.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: This practice has been going on for 90 years.

Deputy Micheál Martin: A Cheann Comhairle——

An Ceann Comhairle: That is the procedure and I want that on the record. The Taoiseach should resume.

Deputy Micheál Martin: May I just——

The Taoiseach: I want——

Deputy Micheál Martin: What the Ceann Comhairle has just done is unfair.

An Ceann Comhairle: No, the Taoiseach is replying. I have made my statement. I thank the Deputy.

Deputy Micheál Martin: No suggestion was made and there was no need for the Ceann Comhairle to say that.

An Ceann Comhairle: I have every intention of saying it.

The Taoiseach: I thank the Ceann Comhairle for his clarification.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The point is, if the Ceann Comhairle listened to what I said——

An Ceann Comhairle: Deputy Martin, you made a statement that the Taoiseach had written to me 68 times.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Yes, and he did.

An Ceann Comhairle: That gives the impression——

Deputy Micheál Martin: It does not give that impression.

An Ceann Comhairle: —— that lobbying was carried out on me.

Deputy Micheál Martin: No, that is just the Ceann Comhairle's assessment of it.

An Ceann Comhairle: I do not want that on the record of this House and I am quite entitled——

Deputy Micheál Martin: How does it give that impression?

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy should resume his seat.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I seek an opportunity to respond.

An Ceann Comhairle: I am quite entitled, as independent Chairman of this House, to put on record the facts. This is what I have done. I ask the Taoiseach to answer the question.

Deputy Micheál Martin: What the Ceann Comhairle is doing is not acceptable. He is taking sides on such issues and it is not good enough.

The Taoiseach: I thank the Ceann Comhairle for clarifying a process that has been *in situ* for a great number of decades.

An Ceann Comhairle: I thank the Taoiseach.

The Taoiseach: It is Deputy Martin who should withdraw his ludicrous charge. If his questions are placed more accurately in respect of the responsibilities of the Department of the Taoiseach, they will be answered.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I said no such thing as the Ceann Comhairle inferred. However, the Taoiseach did say something the last time.

The Taoiseach: The clear impression Deputy Martin gave is the Taoiseach was attempting to influence the Ceann Comhairle to transfer questions to other Departments. The system, as has been outlined by the Ceann Comhairle to the Deputy, has been *in situ* for a long time, as his own record proves.

I am unsure what is biting him regarding the secret of Fatima——

Deputy Micheál Martin: May I explain to the Taoiseach——

The Taoiseach: —— in so far as the Van Rompuy text is concerned. He should at least recognise the interest rate reductions that have been brought about under the EFSF and EFSM are of significant proportions to the Irish people and taxpayers. While President Van Rompuy made a suggestion regarding a compromise in a difficult situation, it was not in a text that was circulated generally and I have no intention of commenting further on it. The result has been achieved and is highly significant for the Irish taxpayers and people. The Deputy should give up from trying to resurrect something that is now of no consequence.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Hear, hear.

Deputy Micheál Martin: In the first instance, the fact I read into the record of the House that on foot of a freedom of request, it was revealed the Taoiseach had written 69 times to the Ceann Comhairle should give no one any impression about anything other than this, namely, the reason——

An Ceann Comhairle: What was the purpose of the statement?

Deputy Micheál Martin: I will explain the purpose if the Ceann Comhairle would listen to me. As I already stated, during the last Question Time, the Taoiseach told the House specifically that he took no role in seeking the disallowance of questions. This was untrue.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: That is not untrue. Deputy Martin is aware the Taoiseach never even sees them.

Deputy Micheál Martin: He should have stated then——

An Ceann Comhairle: This happens every day of the week.

Deputy Micheál Martin: —— that he had written 69 letters. That is the only point I was making.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: It is an administrative procedure.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I made no inference about influence, lobbying or anything else. The point is the last time the Taoiseach was in the House, he made a big song and dance to the effect he made no attempt to so do.

An Ceann Comhairle: It happens every single day of the week that questions are disallowed.

Deputy Micheál Martin: He was oblivious to any attempts, giving the impression he is open to answer to any question, but he is not. Since he came to office, the Taoiseach's full track record has been to keep avoiding the answering of questions. Questions are transferred and he always tries to avoid answering them. The same is true in respect of freedom of information requests.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Taoiseach does not transfer questions.

Deputy Micheál Martin: He has been trying to.

An Ceann Comhairle: Let me repeat——

Deputy Micheál Martin: Equally, may I state that in terms of——

An Ceann Comhairle: No, the Deputy cannot. I ask him to resume his seat because he again has implied——

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Ceann Comhairle is interfering all the time.

An Ceann Comhairle: —— something that is totally and utterly inaccurate. Every day of the week, I receive a number of requests either to disallow or transfer a question. This is done strictly in accordance with Standing Orders. On numerous occasions, questions are being asked of the wrong Minister or of the Taoiseach. Sometimes, questions are not in accordance with Standing Orders. This is the only time a question may be disallowed. One should not allow people to think that questions somehow are being disallowed because people do not wish to answer them. Every effort is made by me and by my office to ensure a Deputy who asks a question in this House will get an answer. On many occasions, I request that the Deputy be contacted and a suggestion made to him or her that he or she should transfer the question to someone else in order that he or she may receive a proper answer.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Deputy Martin is on a steep learning curve.

An Ceann Comhairle: Let us be fair about this. This has nothing to do with freedom of information or anything else and I wish to make that quite clear.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I also was in government and when I was asked questions as a Minister, I made it my business to answer them.

Deputy Paul Kehoe: The Deputy made a bad job of it.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I did not seek to write to the Ceann Comhairle or anyone else to get them disallowed. My point merely is the Taoiseach made a statement in the House that he took no role——

An Ceann Comhairle: There is a misunderstanding here.

Deputy Micheál Martin: —— in seeking a disallowance. He wrote 69 times and these are the facts.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: The Deputy is well aware the Taoiseach does not. It is an administrative procedure.

Deputy Micheál Martin: He wrote 69 times.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Why does Deputy Martin not ask Deputy Ó Snodaigh, who is well used to what the Deputy is learning for the first time?

Deputy Brendan Howlin: The system is as it always was.

Deputy Micheál Martin: As for the Van Rompuy text, the Taoiseach should be aware that I will not give up.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: Deputy Martin should go on a FÁS course.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Deputy Ó Snodaigh will give the Deputy a FÁS course.

Deputy Barry Cowen: Would the terms and conditions be the same?

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach has gone to extraordinary lengths to hide the Von Rompuy text——

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Deputy Martin's colleagues spent their entire lives hiding information. They had 15 years of practice.

Deputy Micheál Martin: —— and to prevent it from coming out into the open. He will not even respond to a freedom of information request. This is a trend——

An Ceann Comhairle: Deputy Martin, this is Question Time. Will you please ask a question?

Deputy Micheál Martin: A Cheann Comhairle, I am asking a question.

An Ceann Comhairle: You are not; you are making statements.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I am responding——

An Ceann Comhairle: This is Question Time.

Deputy Micheál Martin: A Cheann Comhairle, this interference is not acceptable.

An Ceann Comhairle: I am here to control——

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach responded to me by simply stating I should give up on asking the question. I again ask him the reason he will not put the aforementioned text before the House. Why will he not do so?

An Ceann Comhairle: I ask the Taoiseach to reply as to the reason he will not put the text before the House.

The Taoiseach: Deputy Martin has been talking about questions being transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach to other Departments. Questions Nos. 14 and 15, which are in his name, pertain to freedom of information requests. I have answered that directly. A single request was received from the Deputy at my Department between 9 March and 31 August. It was nothing to do with the transfer of questions. I have already answered the question on President Van Rompuy who wanted to put forward a view in a difficult situation which was not generally circulated and is now completely and utterly irrelevant in that the matter——

Deputy Micheál Martin: Let us know. Publish it and let us see if it is irrelevant.

The Taoiseach: The public also knows that there are very significant interest rate reductions, something to which the Deputy referred many times during his supplementary question.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Is it not the case that the Taoiseach is afraid to publish it because it might reveal something about which he was not telling the truth?

The Taoiseach: Those interest rate reductions have achieved a saving of €1 billion every year. The Deputy will not recognise that.

Deputy Micheál Martin: It was nothing to do with the Taoiseach. Why will he not publish it?

Departmental Expenditure

16. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Taoiseach the amount he spent on the visits here of Queen Elizabeth II of England and the President of the United States of America visit; the amount of that spent on food and beverages; if he will provide a detailed breakdown of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [21136/11]

The Taoiseach: To date the total expenditure by my Department on the visit by President Obama is €125,838. Of this total spent on catering was €14,483. The projected cost of the visit of President Obama is approximately €600,000. The main area of expenditure was the organisation of the large-scale public event in College Green. To date the total expenditure by my Department on the visit by Queen Elizabeth II is €25,709. The bulk of this expenditure relates to the catering and transport arrangements for the wreath laying ceremony in the War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge. More than 570 guests attended the ceremony. The total expenditure on catering was €19,709. These costs must be seen in the context of the historic nature of the visits and the opportunities they presented not only for trade, investment and tourism, but also in enhancing Ireland's international reputation and profile at a critical juncture.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: What was the total cost? Members of the Government have referred in previous questions to the overall cost of the visits being in excess of €20 million or €23 million. The Taoiseach might remind me of the full cost of the two visits. How much of the total expenditure was spent on food, beverages, entertainment for the various guests and

so on? Does the Taoiseach think it is appropriate that a significant sums of taxpayers' money is being spent on wine, alcohol, food and big glitzy—

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy is straying from the question.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: —occasions with celebrities and personalities quaffing fine wine and eating fine food—

An Ceann Comhairle: Does the Deputy have supplementary question?

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: —at the same time as brutal austerity is being imposed on people who are struggling to put food on the table or pay their bills? It is an aspect of the visit that some of us who were opposed to it are concerned about. Is it appropriate, given the suffering so many people in the country are going through?

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: I had to feed the meter at the time which cost me €4.

The Taoiseach: I cannot believe the Deputy is serious. The Minister for Justice and Equality indicated the overall cost of the Garda operation arising from the State visits of President Obama and Queen Elizabeth II to be in the region of €36 million. As the Deputy is well aware, some very unruly characters and dangerous organisations threatened to inflict their agendas on the Irish people.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: The Taoiseach is not associating me with them.

The Taoiseach: No, in fairness the Deputy told his people to be very peaceful. I want him to understand that if he wants specific answers with the details of that nature, I am quite sure the Minister for Justice and Equality will answer them in some detail. The Deputy's question concerned the expenditure by the Department of the Taoiseach and I have outlined the figure to the euro.

At least €300 million in respect of beneficial coverage for the country was generated. It emanated from the many thousands of articles and media items given about our people and nation during the course of the two visits, and it will last for many years to come in terms of benefit to the hospitality and tourism sectors, not to mention business and a range of other areas.

In respect of the cost of the visit to the Department, flowers and wreaths cost €1,182.38; the gift to the Queen of a book on the horseracing industry with particular reference to English racing was €200; coach hire was €2,900; catering was €19,709.44 — for the rashers, I suppose; printing was €298; and equipment hire was €1,419. The coaches had to be hired from the evening before the ceremony in order to be security checked which added to the cost. For security reasons, there was no parking at Islandbridge so guests were transported by coach from the Royal Hospital Kilmainham.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Did the Deputy want to ask them to bring their own sandwiches?

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: The Taoiseach did not answer one part of my question.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy got a comprehensive answer.

A Deputy: Was there red wine or white wine?

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: I asked about the appropriateness of such expenditure when austerity is being imposed on the people.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I wanted to raise something on the previous question.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: Glitzy occasions and spending money on fine food for select invitees——

An Ceann Comhairle: I call on the Taoiseach to answer Question No. 17.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I had a question about Question No. 16.

An Ceann Comhairle: It was straightforward question asking about the particulars of cost. We are not discussing the overall visit.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: My question related specifically to costs and the visits in question.

An Ceann Comhairle: I ask the Deputy to stick to the question.

A Deputy: Is the Deputy sorry she did not take any of the sandwiches?

Deputy Micheál Martin: There were no sandwiches. There was much better fare.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I will raise an issue that is more important than sandwiches. I wish to refer to the €36 million cost——

An Ceann Comhairle: That is a different question. Question No. 16 relates to the cost——

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: This is Question Time and the Taoiseach has raised the issue of the €30 million cost. What is the implication for the Garda Síochána and the budget? The much bigger concern is not sandwiches or cocktail sausages but that substantial public moneys were spent.

An Ceann Comhairle: That is a separate question entirely.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: It came out of the Garda budget——

An Ceann Comhairle: The question asked was the amount spent on food and beverages.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Taoiseach raised this matter and brought the figure into the discussion.

An Ceann Comhairle: I do not care what he raised but the question was the amount that was spent on food and beverages. It was answered.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Taoiseach and Government should consider the €36 million spent, particularly as it might affect the Garda Síochána and the service on our streets.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy should table a separate question.

The Taoiseach: The State and taxpayer have paid hundreds of millions of euro because of security requirements arising from the activities of illegal organisations in this country over the years.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: That is a very cryptic answer.

Programme for Government

17. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Taoiseach if he plans to publish a revised Programme for Government. [21195/11]

18. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Taoiseach if he will provide a progress report on the Programme for Government as a new Dáil Éireann session commences [24420/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 17 and 18 together.

There are no plans to publish a revised programme for Government and it is not intended to provide a progress report at the start of each new Dáil session.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I thought the Taoiseach might give that answer.

The Taoiseach: Good.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Then there was no point in asking the question.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I am surprised he would not consider publishing a revised programme for Government, given the fact that he has had several U-turns since the original programme was put in place. It is a fair point. The transparent thing to do is to set it down on paper. In the revised programme the Taoiseach might make clear his plans in respect of semi-State companies, such as the ESB and others. The Labour Party might help him set out what he regards to be strategic assets.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: I helped the Deputy and she was very ungracious. She never acknowledged it.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: Deputy——

An Ceann Comhairle: Through the Chair, please.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: ——I wager I will never require help from your good self. In respect of the programme for Government, who pulls the string? The Taoiseach comes into the Chamber day after day and tells us about the constraints of the EU and IMF or decisions made by the previous Administration. It seems to be the Taoiseach's catch-all cover on every issue. Why not have a revised programme for Government? As the Government has now been *in situ* for six or seven months and it is very clear that its agenda is essentially that of the previous Administration, why not set this down in clear and transparent terms? The Taoiseach said he would level with the people. Would that not be part of the levelling process?

The Taoiseach: I thought the Deputy might give that answer.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: Did you?

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: It was a question, not an answer.

The Taoiseach: I do not want to give out about the IMF or the European Union, or the actions of the previous Government. The Deputy should know of some of the things the Government has done: it provided for a reversal of the cut in the minimum wage from 1 July; the lower rate of employers' PRSI was halved from 1 July; the VAT rate on tourism-related services was cut by one third from 1 July; the new national internship scheme with 5,000 places commenced in July; there is an extra 15,900 places in further education and training programmes; there is the new national employment and entitlements service to replace FÁS; there

[The Taoiseach.]

is an extra €75 million for shovel-ready transport projects to create 1,000 jobs; there is an extra €40 million for the 2011 summer works scheme for 453 schools to create 2,400 jobs; extra funding has been committed for an applied research centre in cloud computing and also a new energy research centre; there is a new support programme for home energy retrofitting to create an estimated 2,000 jobs; there is a visa waiver programme for certain short stay visitors; substantial work has been completed on the implementation of the NewEra investment plan; there is a new memorandum of understanding between China and Ireland on sharing expertise in food safety, laboratory controls, veterinary systems, animal husbandry and the seafood sector which will foster stronger trade links; the national procurement service website for buyers and suppliers was launched; there has been a comprehensive restructuring and recapitalisation plan for the banking system to release at least €30 billion in new domestic lending in the period 2011 to 2013; there has been the merger of AIB and the EBS; there is to be the commencement of tendering for a temporary partial credit guarantee scheme for SMEs, to be introduced in the autumn, with direct implications for small business; there have been significant advances in burden-sharing with bondholders; there has been ongoing replacement of pre-September 2008 bank directors; legislation has been published to tackle white collar crime; in respect of the public finances, a comprehensive review of expenditure has commenced and is practically completed; a review of the capital programme has commenced; borrowing targets are on track; there has been the enactment of the Finance (No. 2) Bill — the jobs initiative; there has been the publication of the Finance (No. 3) Bill dealing with civil partnership; we have delivered targeted payroll reductions under the Croke Park agreement; there has been successful completion of the first and second quarterly programme review mission with the European Commission, the ECB and the IMF; we have renegotiated the programme of support to accommodate the jobs initiative; we have secured the support of the troika for an interest rate reduction; we have secured troika support for a managed and orderly downsizing of the banking system to avoid excessive fire sale losses and limit taxpayer support; ambassadors have been recalled to Dublin for a summit on Ireland's response to the crisis; an extensive programme of bilateral meetings aimed at repairing Ireland's international reputation and re-engaging with key EU and international partners is under way; there have been pay cuts for the Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and Ministers; there has been a halving of the cost of ministerial transport; there has been new legislation for the effective banning of corporate donations, to cut the number of Deputies at the next general election, and on other political reforms, including increasing female participation in politics, new six-month time limits for by-elections and lower spending limits for presidential elections; there has been measures to increase the number of Dáil sitting days by more than 33% by cutting the length of Dáil holidays——

Deputy Barry Cowen: What about senior civil servants' pay?

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Taoiseach has one minute left.

The Taoiseach: ——we have cut the number of Dáil committees; there has been the replacement of the board of the HSE, ahead of the introduction of legislation to abolish it; there have been reforms in respect of the Top Level Appointments Committee; additional staff have been allocated to the Garda vetting unit to tackle the backlog; in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food consultants have been engaged on a *pro bono* basis to assist both in the comprehensive spending review and the State assets review; agreement to pay a dividend to the State in 2011 has been secured from Coillte, while the local office reorganisation has been completed, saving €30 million annually; we have initiated the design of a new agency for child protection and the provision of family support; the new special delivery unit to tackle

unacceptable hospital waiting lists has been implemented; there has been Cabinet approval for the establishment of a universal health insurance implementation group——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——some €5 million has been allocated to alleviate difficulties in unfinished housing estates; there is a new national co-ordination committee to tackle the problem of ghost estates——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——we have established a forum on patronage and pluralism in schools——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——the “Write to Read” pilot scheme has been extended——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——the Ryan implementation oversight group is now chaired by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——there is a new dialogue with NAMA——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——on the use of some empty buildings for cultural purposes; there is agreement with stakeholders that turf-cutting should cease on designated special area of conservation bogs, a new compensation scheme and a peatlands council——

Deputy Barry Cowen: Quango.

The Taoiseach: ——we approved the deployment of approximately 440 Army personnel to Lebanon at the end of June; there is a competition under way for the appointment of doctors to the Defence Forces medical corps——

Deputy Micheál Martin: This is a great endorsement of the efforts of the previous Government; the Taoiseach should keep reading.

The Taoiseach: ——and we introduced mandatory breath testing at the scene of accidents resulting in injury.

Deputy Micheál Martin: They are all our policies.

Deputy Barry Cowen: How many quangos is that?

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: And Ireland beat Australia.

(Interruptions).

The Taoiseach: These are some of the decisions taken by the Government in the past 20 weeks.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: It is an amazing amount for six months.

The Taoiseach: Deputy McDonald will also be aware of the long list of items of legislation that must now be published which has been time-lined as a requirement of the memorandum of understanding with the troika. She will be a very busy young Deputy between now and Christmas, contributing to all of this legislation. I am sure she will study this partial list of achievements arising from decisions made by the Government as opposed to giving out about anybody else.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Did the Deputy anticipate that reply?

An Ceann Comhairle: Perhaps Deputy Durkan might take another little break.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: I apologise, a Cheann Comhairle.

Deputy Joe Higgins: The Taoiseach says he has no plans to publish a revised programme for Government as the new Dáil session begins. Why does he have no such plans when it is clear that the programme he borrowed from Fianna Fáil based on austerity is spectacularly failing the people? There are record numbers on the live register and record numbers of long-term unemployed. A policy of austerity has been widely discredited by bodies as diverse as UNCTAD, as well as by right-wing economists. Even defenders of capitalism now realise that austerity has been a disaster, cutting the market and creating massive unemployment by depressing the market.

An Ceann Comhairle: Does the Deputy have a question?

Deputy Joe Higgins: Rather than continuing with these discredited and failed policies, should the Government not introduce a new programme for Government to reverse entirely these disastrous neoliberal policies of slash and burn to pay bondholders? The Government should take a different course.

The Taoiseach: I forgot to mention the retrofit programme under the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources——

Deputy Micheál Martin: The former Minister, Eamon Ryan, introduced it.

The Taoiseach: —— which has the potential to create 6,000 new jobs.

I do not intend to publish a new programme for Government. Even Deputy Higgins will have heard some of the soundings from international commentators and some at home who said a few weeks ago the country was going over the edge. They now see us in a different place from many other countries in Europe. For the first time there is a growing sense of confidence and our reputation is being restored because Ireland is making progress.

Deputy Joe Higgins: It is all about reputation in the markets and satisfying them, the sharks.

The Taoiseach: I agree with the Deputy that having 300,000 on the live register who are unemployed is not satisfactory. I need his help on this and I am sure he will give it. I am sure those in his constituency will be interested in the legislation dealing with the partial loan guarantee scheme which is to be introduced in coming weeks, the micro-finance system we will introduce, and our efforts to cut red tape, reduce administration, increase competitiveness and employ more people. While having to deal with the requirements signed off on in terms of numbers, our focus is on getting as many people back to work in the shortest possible time. This also affects the Deputy's constituency. As I said, I have no intention of publishing a new programme for Government. The programme for Government we have in place will restore the country's fortunes and the people's prosperity.

An Ceann Comhairle: Does Deputy McDonald have a supplementary question?

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I thought the Chair was not going to return to me.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: How could he forget the Deputy?

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Deputy McDonald should not be like that.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy has a question.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Taoiseach could have added to his list——

An Ceann Comhairle: A supplementary question, please, Deputy.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: She should ask a question as these are questions to the Taoiseach.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: She should propose a question for answer by the Taoiseach.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I will move to use the interrogative case — the Taoiseach could have outlined that his comprehensive spending review is like a sword of Damocles hanging over the population headed up by the cutback Minister, Deputy Howlin.

An Ceann Comhairle: Can I have a question from the Deputy?

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Taoiseach could also concede, as others have suggested, that his strategy is failing in respect of people who are on the dole but he said he will not produce a revised programme for Government. I presume from that we will just have to put it together line by line, chapter by chapter, as he comes in here, fails the people——

An Ceann Comhairle: Can I have a question from the Deputy?

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: ——and then points across the Chamber at Fianna Fáil.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: This is a political speech.

An Ceann Comhairle: Can I have a question from the Deputy?

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: There is a question in there somewhere.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: When will the Taoiseach give us concrete information on his plans for the commercial semi-States?

An Ceann Comhairle: I will take a final supplementary from Deputy Martin.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Taoiseach has a long list of questions to deal with.

Deputy Michael Noonan: Micheál will deal with those.

(Interruptions).

An Ceann Comhairle: Has Deputy Martin a quick supplementary?

Deputy Micheál Martin: I have a quick one. In regard to the progress report, surely there is a justification for it on the basis the Government now has about €1.5 billion to €2 billion more available per annum than was predicted because of the Greek crisis and all that has ensued from it.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: In fairness, Fianna Fáil did not cause that.

Deputy Micheál Martin: You did not either. I put it to the Taoiseach that there probably is a need to review the programme. There are all sorts of commitments coming out about abandoning the Government's commitment to student fees. In terms of special needs education

An Ceann Comhairle: A question, please, Deputy.

Deputy Micheál Martin: —there is no need for what is going on there. A very small amount is needed to sort out that provision. What is required is a pragmatic response and so on. Can the Taoiseach indicate whether the comprehensive spending review, in line with the programme for Government, will be published in early October? There is a need to review it.

The Taoiseach: On the issue of the semi-State bodies, the programme for Government is clear that the requirement is to realise €2 billion over the lifetime of the programme for the appropriate sale of non-strategic State assets at a time that the Government considers opportune. A debate on that during Private Members' time will take place this evening and tomorrow. Deputy McDonald will have all the information that is relevant and on which she can comment during the course of that debate.

The question Deputy Martin asked does not change my view. We have a programme for Government; it is a very new and challenging one and we intend to implement it. The situation in so far as the eurozone is concerned is of very great interest to us and it is being monitored very closely by the Minister for Finance and by the Government in general. As we prepare for the next visit of the troika, the publication of a fiscal plan for the next three years and the preparation of the Estimates leading to the budget in early December, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform will provide opportunities for the House to debate and discuss the decisions we have to take and consider.

Written Answers follow Adjournment.

Order of Business

The Taoiseach: It is proposed to take No. 14, Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011 — Committee and Remaining Stages; No. a11, motion re statement for information of voters in relation to the Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011, on the Supplementary Order Paper; and No. 4 — European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011- Order for Second Stage and Second Stage. It is proposed, notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders, that: the Dáil shall sit later than 9 p.m. tonight and shall adjourn not later than 10 p.m.; the proceedings on the Committee and Remaining Stages of No. 14, shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion after one hour by one question which shall be put from the Chair and which shall, in relation to amendments, include only those set down or accepted by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform; No. a11 shall be taken immediately upon the conclusion of No. 14 and shall be decided without debate; the Second Stage of No. 4 shall be taken today and the proceedings thereon shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion at 6.30 p.m. tomorrow and the following arrangements shall apply: the opening speech of a Minister or Minister of State and of the main spokespersons for Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin and the Technical Group, who shall be called upon in that order, shall not exceed 15 minutes in each case; the speech of each other Member called upon shall not exceed ten minutes in each case; Members may share time; a Minister or Minister of State shall be called upon to make a speech in reply which shall not exceed five

minutes. Private Members' Business shall be No. 23, motion re the ESB and the disposal of State assets.

An Ceann Comhairle: There are four proposals to be put to the House. Is the proposal that the Dáil shall sit later than 9 p.m. tonight agreed to? Agreed. Is the proposal for dealing with No. 14 agreed to?

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: It is not agreed. The implications of this proposed constitutional amendment are very serious. Very serious concerns have been raised in the course of debate inside and outside this House in respect of natural justice, due process and so on. The Minister is aware of those concerns and we have put down an amendment in respect of that. I am concerned that this matter is being rushed. I understand the wish to put the question to the people on the same day as the Presidential election and the other referenda for efficiency purposes but such is the importance and implications of this measure that the House requires more time to consider this. An hour to conclude this business is grossly insufficient.

Deputy Joe Higgins: I support that view. This is an issue that should be given as much time as the Members want to deliberate. Deputy Catherine Murphy has a far-reaching and serious amendment tabled which needs to be discussed and the implications of this also need to be discussed. Therefore, it is wrong that the Government is starting the second term in the way it carried on in the first with guillotines virtually on a daily basis despite it ranting and raving against Fianna Fáil guillotines for all the years it was in opposition.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I wish to put on record that it is disappointing the degree to which the preparations for this have been so rushed given that it does relate to the amendment to the Constitution. It is not satisfactory and it flies in the face of all of the rhetoric about Dáil reform and better procedures. A good deal of time was lost before the summer recess. We have come back now on a tight time schedule. I pointed that out in May and June repeatedly. I seek clarification on when the amendments will be tabled. It is unsatisfactory that such fundamental issues are being rushed so much.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: The Deputy rushed the meeting today.

The Taoiseach: The Minister for Public Expenditure wrote to all of the Opposition parties in advance of this and in setting out the position asked for their observations. This brings to a conclusion the work which was conducted by the then Chairman, for former Deputy Seán Ardagh, in respect of an all-party Oireachtas committee dealing with this very matter.

Three amendments have been tabled: one from Deputy McDonald and two from the Minister. The first one from the Minister is for a more exact translation of the word "inquiry" to change it from *fiosrú* to *inscuidiú*, which is accurate and should not cause a problem for anybody. The second amendment from the Minister deals with the amendment which is in the Deputy's own name, while it is implicit in the Government's proposal that there would be adherence to fair procedure in respect of natural justice, what the Minister's amendment does is to make that explicit, it makes it absolutely crystal clear that what is involved is adherence to fair procedure so there should be no reason for any difficulty with any of the three amendments tabled — two in the Minister's name and his second one deals with the Deputy's own amendment.

Question, "That the proposal for dealing with No. 14 be agreed to," put and declared carried.

Question, "That the proposal for dealing with No. a11, without debate, be agreed to," put and declared carried.

An Ceann Comhairle: Is the proposal for dealing with No. 4 agreed to?

Deputy Micheál Martin: Can the House receive clarification from the Taoiseach because we are concerned about the guillotining of the debate on Second Stage of the Bill at 6.30 p.m.?

An Ceann Comhairle: Tomorrow.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Subsequent to this, the debate on Committee and Remaining Stages is to be guillotined at 10 p.m. That allows for approximately two hours to deal with Committee and Remaining Stages. This seems to be an incredibly short time, given the fundamental importance of the Bill. I ask the Taoiseach to outline how the Government intends to take Committee and Remaining Stages. Will it receive or bring forward amendments? The Fianna Fáil Whip's office received an indication that no amendments would be allowed. I do not know if other Whips received the same indication. It would be incredible if that were to be the case. Before we agree to this proposal, we need to know whether amendments to the European Financial Stability and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011 are to be accepted. The Bill deals with fundamental issues across the eurozone. What signal will it send if the House agrees to guillotine the debate on the Bill after two or three hours tomorrow evening?

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: This is unbelievable.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Will amendments be allowed? Will the Government bring forward amendments? Will the Opposition be allowed to bring forward amendments?

An Ceann Comhairle: It is my understanding that only the debate on Second Stage will be guillotined.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The debate on Committee and Remaining Stages is to be guillotined at 10 p.m. tomorrow.

Deputy Michael McGrath: Yes, that is ordered for tomorrow.

Deputy Billy Kelleher: The other Stages are important.

The Taoiseach: There are only three sections in the Bill. The House is to sit late tonight and again tomorrow. It is very important that this legislation be dealt with and that the decision made by the Houses. The Government has agreed with other Governments to give approval in so far as the decision of 21 July is concerned. It is very straightforward.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Will amendments be allowed?

An Ceann Comhairle: I think there is a misunderstanding. Am I correct in saying Second Stage shall conclude at 6.30 p.m. tomorrow?

The Taoiseach: Correct. The Dáil is to sit late tonight.

An Ceann Comhairle: We are not talking about Committee Stage.

Deputy Micheál Martin: To be fair to all concerned, it is important to be clear.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Right across Europe people are waiting for these amendments to be made.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: Does Deputy Martin not have Deputy Ó Cuív to advise him?

Deputy Micheál Martin: Deputy Buttimer——

An Ceann Comhairle: Do not mind Deputy Buttimer.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I accept that, a Cheann Comhairle. I will not mind him.

(Interruptions).

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Is it any wonder we are in the mess we are in?

Deputy Micheál Martin: I ask that the Whips meet to discuss the matter.

An Ceann Comhairle: Second Stage will be taken tomorrow. Will the Taoiseach confirm that only Second Stage will be taken tomorrow?

The Taoiseach: This proposal is only in respect of Second Stage. All 27 member states must agree to this and it is important that we move on.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Yes, right across Europe they are waiting for the Fianna Fáil amendments.

Deputy Micheál Martin: When he was on this side of the House, the Minister, Deputy Rabbitte, was the most vociferous about guillotining debates on Bills and foreshortening debate.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: I hear Labhrás is moving them in the Seanad.

Deputy Micheál Martin: I am trying to be constructive. Will the Opposition be allowed to table amendments and does the Government intend to bring forward amendments?

An Ceann Comhairle: I thank Deputies for their co-operation.

(Interruptions).

Deputy Micheál Martin: Government Deputies are becoming very arrogant.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: We need clarification on this matter. The debate on Second Stage is to be guillotined, which is unacceptable. May we have clarification with regard to Committee, Report and Final Stages which have been timetabled for tomorrow at 9 p.m? Is the debate on these Stages to be guillotined and will Opposition amendments be accepted? Earlier today it was suggested to me we could not submit amendments because the EU-IMF would not tolerate the House making amendments and that we simply had to accept the whole lot.

Deputy Jerry Buttimer: These questions are from the honours paper. This is the pass paper.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: We need clarification about the process to be followed.

An Ceann Comhairle: It is my understanding Second Stage will conclude tomorrow at 6.30 p.m. On tomorrow's Order of Business it will be in order for Deputies to raise issues relating to Committee and Remaining Stages. I will put the question.

Question, "That the proposal for dealing with No. 4, Order for Second Stage and Second Stage of the European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011, be agreed to," put and declared carried.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Last June the Minister for Finance, Deputy Michael Noonan, announced that the Government had a plan which he would bring before the House to impose substantial losses on senior bondholders in Anglo Irish Bank and the Irish Nationwide Building Society. He added that he did not think the taxpayer should have to redeem what had become speculative investment. Will the Taoiseach confirm whether that plan is to be brought before the House or has it been abandoned because European authorities are dead set against it, as the Minister for Finance said on Friday? Will the plan be brought before the House?

The Taoiseach: Where did the Minister for Finance indicate his intention with regard to this plan?

Deputy Micheál Martin: In a statement on 15 June.

The Taoiseach: What did he say?

Deputy Micheál Martin: He announced that the Government had a plan to impose substantial losses. Is the Taoiseach saying the Minister did not announce that plan?

The Taoiseach: No, I am just asking——

Deputy Micheál Martin: He announced that he had a plan to impose substantial losses on senior bondholders in Anglo Irish Bank and the Irish Nationwide Building Society. He said at the time, “We do not think the Irish taxpayer should have to redeem what has become speculative investment.” I hope the Taoiseach is not about to rewrite this.

An Ceann Comhairle: We are not dealing with that issue now.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Is legislation required?

The Taoiseach: I have dealt with this matter. What the Deputy quoted does not refer to a plan. Obviously, the Minister had discussions last week with his colleagues in Europe and Jean-Claude Trichet. He said he would reflect on the outcome of those discussions.

Deputy Micheál Martin: The Minister said he had a plan.

Deputy Billy Kelleher: Jean-Claude Trichet is only a civil servant.

The Taoiseach: The savings brought about by the interest rate reductions are very significant for the people.

Deputy Joe Higgins: He was making a big man of himself in Washington, promising to do the devil and all and cut the bondholders off at the ankles. That is what we want an explanation for. What changed?

(Interruptions).

An Ceann Comhairle: I will give Deputies in the back row an opportunity to speak.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The Comptroller and Auditor General’s 2010 report on the public service requires that time be set aside for a debate in the House. Clearly, the contents are serious. The report outlines the effects of the vicious austerity policy pursued by Fianna Fáil and the consequent unemployment, fall in tax revenue and so on. I am sure the Taoiseach is aware of its contents. I ask that time be set aside for a debate on it. It raises matters of concern to public policy issues.

An Ceann Comhairle: Has a debate been promised?

The Taoiseach: Since 1923, these matters have been referred to the Committee of Public Accounts which goes through the report on each occasion, line by line and word for word. That is where it will be debated.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: The difficulty is that the Committee of Public Accounts is one year behind. Tomorrow it will examine the accounts for 2009. This is more current and requires debate.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy should ask her Whip to make arrangements for such a debate.

The Taoiseach: Deputy McGuinness will rectify the matter.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Deputy McGuinness is into efficiency and everything else.

Deputy Joe Higgins: Does the Taoiseach agree that there will be no legislation with regard to what the Minister for Finance promised in Washington, that he would cut the speculators off at the legs on behalf of the people?

An Ceann Comhairle: There is no need to expand. Has legislation been promised?

The Taoiseach: No legislation has been promised.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: Late night television is very violent.

Deputy Joe Higgins: The Minister for Finance was like a schoolboy smoking behind the shed and talking big against the teacher in Washington. When he got to Frankfurt, it was a different tune.

An Ceann Comhairle: Does the Deputy have another question.

Deputy Joe Higgins: Will the Taoiseach indicate precisely when the Local Government Charges Bill will be published?

The Taoiseach: It will be published this session.

Deputy Emmet Stagg: That is all the Deputy gets now.

Deputy Joe Higgins: I know it will be published this session. I am asking for the date on which it will be published.

The Taoiseach: I cannot give the date or the exact time, but I can confirm that it is being drafted and will be published during this session.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: The legislative programme indicates that the housing Bill is expected in early 2012. Why is it being taken in 2012, when new housing policy guidelines are already being implemented—

An Ceann Comhairle: We cannot have a debate on it.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: I am asking about the timing of it.

An Ceann Comhairle: We will find out for the Deputy.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: I have to ask the question in order to——

An Ceann Comhairle: No, you just have to ask when it is being published.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: I am asking a question about the reasoning for the timing.

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy cannot do that on the Order of Business.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: Is that not what the Order of Business is about?

An Ceann Comhairle: No, it is not about that at all. When is the Bill due?

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government has effectively thrown 20,000 to 30,000 thousand people off council housing lists.

An Ceann Comhairle: If the Deputy tables a question on that, we will get him an answer.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: This has been implemented by local authorities throughout the country——

An Ceann Comhairle: Please resume your seat, thank you.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: —— and we have not had a chance to debate that. This is a move that will essentially be another bailout for developers and speculators who caused the economic crisis.

An Ceann Comhairle: Do not mind the speculators for the moment. Has the Taoiseach a time for the legislation?

The Taoiseach: Much of the legislation in this session is on a timeline owing to requirements of the memorandum of understanding with the troika. Some of these Bills are very comprehensive and quite complex. I did not want the usual situation where a long list of legislation would be put forward which in reality would not be published. If there are elements of this that are of concern to Deputies, there are other ways of raising it. The time-scale for what we have to do between now and Christmas is very challenging. I have said to Ministers that Bills on the A list are those we must get through either owing to the memorandum of understanding or because they are crucial Bills that will be published and can be dealt with. We cannot deal with the entire list. That is why the housing Bill is listed for 2012.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: Why are we imposing the policy before we have the chance to debate the legislation? It has very far-reaching consequences, even in terms of the public finances.

Deputy Micheál Martin: Will the Taoiseach confirm, in line with earlier commitments by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, that the comprehensive spending review will be published in early October?

The Taoiseach: The Minister will report when he has concluded his deliberations on the comprehensive expenditure review. The Minister for Finance will be in contact with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform about his proposals to publish his fiscal programme for the next number of years.

Deputy John O'Mahony: The Minister for Justice and Equality has said that the legal services Bill will be published in this session. Can the Taoiseach give a more specific date? Will the Bill include the establishment of a judicial council, or is there a separate Bill for that?

An Ceann Comhairle: That is out of order. When is the Bill being published?

The Taoiseach: The matter of a judicial council is for a separate Bill. I can confirm that the legal services Bill is at a very advanced stage.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: The treaty to establish the European stability mechanism was agreed in July, and two Bills will be put through this House in the autumn to ratify that. The Taoiseach knows the concerns that exist about the mechanism and the potential impact in terms of the further erosion of our economic sovereignty. In the next few days, 25 Members of the Oireachtas will publish a letter in the national media, calling for a referendum.

An Ceann Comhairle: Does the Deputy have a question?

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: If the Government does not agree to hold a referendum, will it publish the Attorney General's advice as to why this very important issue is not being put to the people, which is their constitutional right.

An Ceann Comhairle: Is legislation necessary?

The Taoiseach: No.

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn: Will the Taoiseach publish the Attorney General's advice?

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy cannot debate that on the Order of Business. It is not in order.

Deputy Michael McGrath: Can I ask the Taoiseach about the Government's plans to introduce a new 2% levy on insurance policies? The Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2011 passed through the Seanad last week. When will it be brought before this House?

The Taoiseach: That will be in the House next week.

Deputy Barry Cowen: It is proposed in the local government Bill to allow the appointment of a single manager to two counties. Will the Government publish a list of the counties to be amalgamated and will this be in train for the next local elections? Will we have combined local authorities, similar to the VECs?

An Ceann Comhairle: That is a matter for a parliamentary question.

Deputy Robert Dowds: When will the noise nuisance Bill be published? I realise that there is not an actual date on it, but I urge the Taoiseach to bring it forward as soon as possible owing to the problems some people are facing with neighbours.

The Taoiseach: It is an important Bill, but noise and nuisance are part and parcel of public life.

Deputy Robert Dowds: Maybe we need some more in this Chamber.

The Taoiseach: I do not have a date for its publication. It is proceeding slowly.

Deputy Billy Kelleher: Given that HIQA has announced that it is unable to inspect hospitals for cleanliness and hygiene owing to the embargo on public service recruitment and the lack of resources, when will the Bill be published to establish a patient safety authority and amalgamate it with HIQA? This is quite urgent, given that HIQA is quite incapable of guaranteeing patient safety owing to the fact that it cannot investigate hygiene standards at hospitals.

The Taoiseach: I will get the Minister for Health to respond directly to the Deputy's question. I do not have the answer to his question right now. I understand that the Department of Health is in the process of responding to a query on the issue.

Deputy Billy Kelleher: This is very urgent.

The Taoiseach: I agree. He will respond as soon as possible.

Deputy Charlie McConalogue: When can we expect the Government's legislation on mandatory reporting coming before the House? Will the Taoiseach request that there be a resource assessment on the implications of the legislation and how the Government will deal with it?

The Taoiseach: That is on the A list and is a priority for the Government. Work is proceeding on it and it will be published in this session.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: In view of the likelihood of public servants being redeployed to assist with excessive workloads in areas such as the Department of Social Protection, would it be possible to bring forward No. 118 of the proposed legislative programme, namely, the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 (amendment) Bill? The purpose of this, according to the programme, is "To remove barriers to mobility and redeployment from statutory recruitment and appointment procedures for posts in the Civil and Public Service and to address other issues that arise on changing employer". To what extent is this Bill being discussed in the Cabinet? Is it likely to be a prerequisite to other changes that may take place? I am aware that quite a number of civil and public servants require redeployment and they are anxious that the legislation be passed?

An Ceann Comhairle: When is this legislation due?

The Taoiseach: That Bill will not be published in this session, but it will be published in 2012.

Deputy Robert Troy: Can I ask the Taoiseach if the Minister for Defence will be making a statement to the House on the future of a number of Army barracks throughout the country? I understand there is an imminent proposal to close some barracks. When will the Minister make a statement to this House?

An Ceann Comhairle: The Deputy cannot ask for statements. I suggest he table a parliamentary question.

Deputy Robert Troy: It is causing great uncertainty.

An Ceann Comhairle: If the Deputy tables a parliamentary question, I will see to it that it is answered. Last but not least, I call on Deputy Ellis.

Deputy Dessie Ellis: Are there any plans to bring in legislation on so-called leafleting? People are going around leafleting in the early hours of the morning. Different companies are doing it.

(Interruptions).

An Ceann Comhairle: I will ask the Taoiseach if it is on the A list.

The Taoiseach: I will have to tell Labhrás to call back his forces.

Topical Issue Matters

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: I wish to advise the House of the following matters in respect of which notice has been given under Standing Order 27A and the name of the Member in each case: (1) Deputy Tony McLoughlin — the need to stimulate job creation measures in the Carrick-on-Shannon area in view of the imminent shedding of jobs at Bank of America; (2) Deputy Joe McHugh — the closure this autumn of the *Irish Post* newspaper, which has maintained a link between this island and its 19,000 Irish readers in Britain and between the various Irish groups in Britain; (3) Deputy Robert Troy — to ask the Minister for Health to outline clearly his future proposals for the existing services at the Midland Regional Hospital, Mullingar; (4) Deputy Michael Lowry — the decision to close 22 beds in the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, and six beds in the Dean Maxwell community nursing unit, Roscrea; (5) Deputy Michael McCarthy — the need to discuss ambulance service cover in the west Cork area, in particular the intention to reduce ambulance services in Skibbereen, the second busiest and occasionally the busiest 999 ambulance station in west Cork, second only to Clonakilty, by withdrawing the ambulance from Skibbereen to Castletownbere from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. and replacing it with a response car which has no patient carrying capability and will be manned by only one paramedic, which would have severe implications and consequences for the west Cork area and which has many local people genuinely fearing that lives will be put at risk; (6) Deputy Mattie McGrath — the proposed closure of St. Michael's unit; (7) Deputy Patrick O'Donovan — the need for the HSE to re-examine the decision to close respite beds in St. Ita's Community Hospital, Newcastle West, and St. Camillus's Hospital, Limerick; (8) Deputy Tom Hayes — the need for the Minister for Health to outline the impact the closure of St. Michael's psychiatric unit in Clonmel will have on south Tipperary and the health service as a whole in the constituency; (9) Deputy Michael Healy-Rae — to seek from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, with regard to the closing down of Meitheal Forbaithe na Gaeltachta, an assurance that he will ensure that local development companies will administer grants at a local level where Meitheal Forbaithe na Gaeltachta left off, given that the most important part of local development is the word "local" and while the demise of Meitheal Forbaithe na Gaeltachta is regrettable, it is not the title "Meitheal Forbaithe na Gaeltachta" that made it local but the workforce on the ground delivering the programmes and the services that make it a success, and given also that the most important issue is to maintain the local input to the delivery of both the programmes, whether they are Leader or social inclusion programmes; (10) Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn — to discuss the impact on community safety of the proposed closure of more than 200 Garda stations, particularly in smaller rural communities such as County Donegal which may lose up to 24 Garda stations according to media reports; (11) Deputy Michelle Mulherin — the impact of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011 and whether compensation will be paid to farmers; (12) Deputy Thomas P. Broughan — the need to secure the safety of residents at Priory Hall, Clongriffin, Dublin 13; (13) Deputy Dessie Ellis — the pyrite problems facing many home owners and renters; (14) Deputy Catherine Murphy — the level of qualifications of those teaching mathematics and science; (15) Deputy Michael McNamara — health care issues in County Clare, in particular, Raheen Hospital; (16) Deputy Dan Neville — the increase by 4% to 11,966 presentations to hospital due to deliberate self-harm nationally; (17) Deputy Jerry Buttimer — the roll-out of real time passenger information for bus users outside Dublin; (18) Deputies Aodhán Ó Ríordáin and Mick Wallace — the need to deal with

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leakages in the water system, particularly in view of the proposed imposition of water charges; and (19) Deputy Timmy Dooley — the matter of respite beds in Raheen community hospital.

The matters raised by Deputies Catherine Murphy, Mulherin, Ó Ríordáin and Wallace, and Broughan have been selected for discussion.

Topical Issue Debate

School Curriculum

Deputy Catherine Murphy: It often comes as a big surprise to parents to discover how the education system works and the manner in which it is structured. While the Department pays teachers' salaries, the latter are not employees of the Department and while the curriculum is decided at national level, responsibility for hiring people competent to deliver it resides with boards of management. Another issue which arises from the structure of the education system is the absence of common enrolment policies. The issue I raise is serious because competence in mathematics and science is at question. Those who have a degree or strong foundation in mathematics or science are most qualified to teach these subjects. They are, however, the very people who are most likely to find work in industry. This explains the reason such a high number of such individuals have been enticed from teaching these subjects. There is not an easy solution to the problem. We should not learn the lessons that can be learned from countries such as Finland where teachers are held in high respect and recruitment is not a problem across the curriculum.

The introduction of project maths could attract a significant number of teachers and students to return to the subject of mathematics. While the project has shown early promise, teachers have expressed concerns that it is being rolled out in a piecemeal manner and that large parts of the syllabus do not fit easily in the curriculum.

It is highly unsatisfactory that we cannot establish with any degree of certainty the level of competence among science and mathematics teachers. A survey of only one third of second level schools found that three in every ten teachers did not appear to have attained the standard required to teach mathematics, especially at higher level. I recall my son telling me about his first day on his engineering course when his lecturer asked half of the students present in the lecture theatre to stand up. The group was then told that this was the number who would move into second year of the course. If students do not have a proper foundation in mathematics and science when they start university courses such as engineering, the country loses the potential to bring them through education and into industry. This loss has serious ramifications for the country.

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Sean Sherlock): I thank Deputy Catherine Murphy for raising this issue, which provides me with an opportunity to outline some of the ongoing developments in mathematics and science that are most pertinent to the matter she has put forward for debate. Providing for high quality teaching and learning of mathematics and science is of strategic importance to the State and I welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue in the House.

As part of the Government's overall strategy to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics in schools, a number of initiatives have been introduced in recent years. Deputy Murphy referred to the project maths initiative, the aim of which is to change how mathematics is taught and learned in post-primary schools. Its purpose is to show how mathematics connects

with real life problems and how skills developed in the subject can be used in other subjects, the workplace and at home. It also aims to change attitudes to mathematics and encourage more students to take the subject at higher level in their examinations and study mathematics and mathematics related subjects in college.

The Government is committed to the full roll-out of project maths, which is supported by industry, colleges and universities. The roll-out of the programme is supported by a comprehensive programme of professional development for all teachers of mathematics. By the end of 2012, teachers will have been offered six workshops, and a range of supplementary evening courses and teaching resources has been made available. A bonus points system for mathematics for third level entry has also been introduced on a trial basis.

The Teaching Council, about which questions have been raised in certain quarters, is an independent body which operates at arm's length to the Department. The council sets standards for teacher qualifications across the curriculum. It was established on a statutory basis in March 2006 to promote the professional development of teachers and regulate standards in the profession.

Under section 38 of the Teaching Council Act 2001, the council shall "review the standards of education and training appropriate to a person entering a programme of teacher education and training" and "review the standards of knowledge, skill and competence required for the practice of teaching and shall advise the Minister". To be registered as a teacher of mathematics with the Teaching Council, a person is required to have a recognised teaching qualification and degree in which mathematics represents at least 30% of the course over at least three years and which qualifies him or her to teach the syllabus to the highest level. As part of its ongoing remit, the Teaching Council is reviewing the registration criteria for teaching subjects on the post-primary curriculum, including mathematics and science, and will publish its decisions in this regard as soon as they are finalised. The appointment and deployment of teachers is a matter for individual schools. Schools have been directed by my Department, as far as practicable, to appoint only appropriately qualified and registered teachers.

The Teaching Council recently carried out the survey of post-primary schools to which the Deputy referred to ascertain the qualifications of mathematics teachers. I acknowledge the rate of response highlighted by the Deputy. Preliminary results show 68% of teachers teaching mathematics in 258 schools are fully qualified to do so, 29% have undergone some studies in mathematics and only 2% do not have any third level qualifications or studies in mathematics. The survey findings will help us obtain a clearer picture of what is happening in schools and allow us to plan to meet training needs. The schools have until 26 September to respond.

The Department is keen to arrive at a position in which all teachers of mathematics have a qualification in the subject. It is making arrangements for the provision of a new training programme for mathematics teachers which will provide unqualified mathematics teachers with the opportunity to upskill their knowledge of the subject and study the strategies best suited to the new project maths syllabuses. Tenders will be invited shortly.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: Will the public service recruitment embargo be an impediment if new recruits are required to address deficiencies in the education system? Will the embargo be set aside to ensure the level of competency is regularised across the system?

If one set out to design an education system, one would not design one as fragmented as that which is in place. We have a disconnect between those who pay teachers and those who employ them. How did we arrive at a position in which it was considered satisfactory to employ people who did not have the required skill sets? What strategic changes will be made to the system to ensure this problem does not recur? While it is fine to have the Teaching Council

[Deputy Catherine Murphy.]

decide on levels of competence, the boards of management of schools cannot be compelled to employ anyone as they have the freedom to employ whom they wish. What action will the Department take to address this major difficulty? This problem could arise again if the disconnect to which I alluded is not addressed.

Deputy Sean Sherlock: We can overcome the challenges facing us notwithstanding the recruitment embargo. The national centre of excellence in the University of Limerick is doing a great deal of work in the area of continuing professional development to enable teachers to attain the required standard. In addition, there are conversion courses that can be done. In this way we can ensure we have a coterie of teachers with the right skill sets to help us to achieve our aims.

The question of how we got to this point is one that would have to be teased out over a longer time period than the two minutes I have. However, if we are open to the challenge, which we are, we must find out where we need to go.

Deputy Murphy raised valid issues about fragmentation, with which I agree. We must ensure there is standardisation across the board and that the Teaching Council and the individual boards of management are singing from the same hymn sheet in terms of what we need to achieve. However, I am confident that the Project Maths initiative, in spite of whatever hiccups it may have along the way, will ensure we can help the students currently achieving E, F and NG grades to move up the scale. I am less concerned about those currently achieving A, B and C grades. The introduction of bonus points for maths will facilitate those students who choose not to do honours maths because it is time consuming. They can devote more time to ordinary level maths and still get a reasonable number of points.

There will be a tender process for training and continuing professional development. We are engaging with industry and academia in this regard, but there are challenges. We will not turn the ship around within the next 12 months. However, we are engaging with the issue in a deeper fashion than heretofore. Based on the soundings I have taken outside of the usual advisory groups — I have delved into academia and sought the views of individual teachers — there is a sense that if we stay on track with Project Maths, we can tackle the qualitative and quantitative issues involved in getting grades up.

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: I will have to call the Minister of State to a halt as we must move on to deal with other issues.

Deputy Sean Sherlock: I apologise for not giving Deputy Murphy a more comprehensive answer, but I will be happy to engage further with her on an individual basis.

EU Directives

Deputy Michelle Mulherin: First, what is the position on the fines ordered against Ireland by the European Court of Justice in November 2008 and what are the legal costs associated with the case and the subsequent proceedings by the European Commission?

I have sought clarification on the definition of “wetlands” pursuant to the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations. The constituency I am from is the largest, geographically, in the country, with large areas of waterways, lakes, rivers and designated land. The definition of “wetlands” has a significant impact on counties such as Mayo. I acknowledge the great work of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Deputy Coveney, and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Deputy Hogan, in negotiating with the Commission to allow ordinary reclamation and drainage work on non-designated wetland areas to go ahead, despite the restrictions applied it.

I am asking that the definition of “wetlands” be kept as restricted as possible because farmers on marginal lands will be affected by this. We should bear in mind that we are trying to achieve targets under Food Harvest 2020 which would see primary food production increase by over one third, and farmers must be allowed to farm. It is difficult for anybody not involved in farming or, to qualify it even further, anybody who does not know about marginal land to understand the restrictions on farmers living in designated areas such as SACs, NHAs, Natura 2000 scheme lands and now wetlands. They cannot build homes or wind farms on their holdings, among other things. Now, the only thing they were allowed to do — farming — has also been restricted.

In recent years the National Parks and Wildlife Service has placed restrictions on hill farmers on designated lands to avoid overgrazing by sheep. Now we find that this was totally the wrong tack, as evidenced by the fires that occurred in counties Donegal and Mayo throughout the summer. The grasslands in question had grown so thickly that they burned easily, and this did more damage than any sheep would ever do on highlands and hills. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has suggested more sheep be put on the hills that they were taken off before, but this is not an easy thing to do, as they have never been so expensive.

I suggest the Minister, Deputy Coveney, talk to farmers rather than the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Farmers and their families before them have farmed hills and mountains for centuries. They know how to farm them and the appropriate numbers of sheep to graze on them, while those from the National Parks and Wildlife Service have spent their lives in carpet up to their noses. Farmers know how to get the best from the land in terms of productivity and are not out to do damage to the landscape. In addition, now that the grass has grown so tough, the sheep cannot even eat it; therefore, we could have starving sheep on the sides of mountains.

The situation at which we have arrived is ridiculous and shows the disconnect between practical farmers and those who sit in offices. Farmers are not being listened to and are highly frustrated as a result. It is appropriate that those who are carrying the burden of making sure our environment, ecology and natural heritage remain intact be compensated. Where they are being restricted in their farming while trying to eke out a living, they should also be appropriately compensated. This may be a joint effort between the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, but there must be recognition of what farmers are doing. It is said bureaucracy is ridiculous; this is a case in point. As politicians, we must listen to those with practical experience and proceed from there.

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Fergus O’Dowd): As the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Deputy Hogan, is on official business and not in the Dáil today, I have been asked to take this important matter on his behalf. I thank the Deputy for raising it.

In its judgment in case C-66/06, delivered in November 2010, the European Court of Justice found that Ireland’s system of environmental impact assessment screening for certain categories of agriculture related projects was over-reliant on size thresholds and did not take into account other relevant criteria such as cumulative impacts of development and location relative to sensitive sites. The case has now been referred back to the court to seek fines for continued non-compliance.

The provisions of the EIA directive were transposed into Irish legislation by the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. Schedule 5 of the 2001 regulations specifies relevant development for the purposes of Part X of the Act which deals with EIAs. The activities affected by the judgment are the restructuring of rural land holdings, the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture, and water management projects for agriculture, including irrigation and land drainage.

[Deputy Fergus O'Dowd.]

The European Court of Justice decision necessitated a major reduction in the thresholds for mandatory EIAs and for EIA screening for projects under the mandatory thresholds. The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have worked together, in consultation with the European Commission, to fully address the court's findings and ensure Ireland's legislative system and procedures are fully compliant with the directive. It was agreed that it was more efficient and appropriate to transfer responsibility for most of the activities covered by the judgment such as the restructuring of fields and removal of hedgerows and boundaries, the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture and normal field drainage works to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as part of its wider management responsibilities for overseeing agricultural activities and integrating environmental considerations into relevant schemes. It was agreed that it is more efficient and appropriate to transfer responsibility for most of the activities covered by the judgment, such as the re-structuring of fields and removal of hedgerows and boundaries, the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture and normal field drainage works to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as part of its wider management responsibilities for overseeing agricultural activities and integrating environmental considerations into relevant schemes. The only element of the judgment retained within the planning system is on-farm development activity that impacts on the drainage or reclamation of wetlands, which are regarded as highly environmentally sensitive areas.

Following approval by the Oireachtas of the draft regulations, on 8 September 2011 the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government signed the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011, which introduce a number of amendments to address the ECJ findings in this case.

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food also signed, on 8 September, new European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011 which provide for a new system of screening for environmental impact above certain thresholds for different types of agricultural activity, and the requirement for the Minister's consent to be sought and mandatory environmental impact assessment, EIA, to be carried out on such projects at a higher threshold level.

Deputy Michelle Mulherin: I see a supplementary statement. Does the Minister of State have it?

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: Yes.

Deputy Michelle Mulherin: The answer appears to be that the definition of wetlands is being considered. I shall await that, therefore, and hope it will be restrictive. I made some other points, too, about fines that the Minister of State might relay to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. I will look forward to his response.

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: I assure the Deputy I will bring her comments to the attention of both Ministers and will obtain an answer to her questions on fines and costs.

Deputy Michelle Mulherin: Sheep, too.

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: Yes, sheep, too.

Water Charges

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin: I thank the Leas-Cheann Comhairle for affording me the opportunity to discuss the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on water leakage. I am sharing time with Deputy Mick Wallace.

I do not intend to spend much time on this. In effect, the report suggested that in regard to water leakage, Ireland appears to have twice the OECD average of unaccounted-for water. It stated that overall the average percentage of unaccounted-for water was approximately 41.48% in 2009, a marginal increase on the 2008 figure of 41.2%.

I am a great believer in the levering of local charges and believe that local authorities should have the authority so to do. I am a tax and spend kind of guy. If one believes in public services, as I do, someone has to pay for them. I have no issue with the water charge *per se*. However, it would be very difficult for us as Deputies working in local areas or as national politicians to convince the public that a water levy or charge or water metering can be justified when the Comptroller and Auditor General's report indicates such a level of unaccounted-for water.

Various regions have issues with their water supply. We are well aware, as will be the Leas-Cheann Comhairle, about the issues in Galway city. Deputy Michael McNamara assures me that issues relating to the water supply in Ennis are as bad as they ever were. In my constituency there have been ongoing water pressure issues in the Killester-Donnycarney area.

It is imperative for us to convince those who will be charged this levy that finances accrued from it will be put back into the water system in order that they may have confidence in it. I do not find it reasonable that anyone should expect we can front-load that investment before such a levy is in place, but we must ensure the public sees the connection between the charge and the improvement in the service. If one lives in an area where, as has happened in recent years, there have been annual major water shortages because of the poor water infrastructure in the city, or if one lives in an area where cryptosporidium dances through one's tap on a regular basis, or there is discoloration or whatever, it is very difficult for a public representative to make that connection, especially when people see figures such as these. We must convince the public that we can ring-fence these moneys for the improvement of the water service.

Deputy Mick Wallace: The notion that 40% of the water supply is leaking into the ground is damning and the notion of bringing water from the River Shannon, at a cost of €450 million, only to have almost half of it leaking into the ground in Dublin and places like it, is outrageous. From building on the streets of Dublin over the years, I know that a great number of the pipes which are old and made of corroded steel must be replaced. When we were paving the streets, we came across many such pipes but were not allowed to replace them because that was not on the schedule at the time. At times we could actually see water coming up through the ground. Even though it would have been part of our work as civil engineering contractors, we were not allowed to change the pipes. It was a terrible waste.

If the Government is to do anything about water, surely controlling the level of waste must be a top priority. I agree with the Government tackling different elements of waste in the system throughout society, but I also believe there must be a greater emphasis on investment in the water infrastructure, tackling the problem of leakage and, at the same time, creating major employment. Replacing these pipes will be a very labour intensive project, with at least 80% of the cost going for labour and 20% for materials. It would be a very good move by the Government to get involved in this.

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: I thank the Deputies for their comments. As the report yesterday by the Comptroller and Auditor General shows, there is a real problem in Ireland with unaccounted-for water, with losses in 2009 ranging from in excess of 21% to in excess of 58% across counties, a slight increase on the position reported for 2008. I agree with both Deputies that these levels of leakage are far too high and that progress in addressing the problem has been far too slow. Tackling this problem was one of the key motivations behind the Government's decision to establish Irish Water.

[Deputy Fergus O'Dowd.]

A significant proportion of unaccounted-for water is due to leaks in the water supply system. Such leaks can occur in both the mains distribution network and on the customer side of the connections. Water conservation has been identified as a key priority under the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's water services investment programme 2010 to 2012. The programme provides for the commencement of water conservation contracts to the value of €321 million over the programme period, subject to the overall budgetary position.

The primary objective of water conservation is to reduce water loss and leakage in the distribution networks to an economic level and to address high levels of unaccounted-for water. Reducing leakage to zero would be extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive. The aim is to achieve an economic level of leakage whereby it costs more to make further reductions in water loss than to produce additional water.

In the past ten years, €168 million was invested in water conservation. Most of the effort to date has been focused on putting in water management systems to allow for active leakage control and better planning of mains rehabilitation. At this stage, most local authorities have prepared water mains rehabilitation strategies which have allowed a significant acceleration in the approval of mains rehabilitation contracts and works this year.

Ireland is unique among OECD countries in not charging households for water. The programme for Government provides for the introduction of water charges based on a new and fair funding model and this is also a requirement of the agreement between Ireland and the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. The programme for Government proposes that water meters will be installed in households connected to public water supplies and that a new charging system will be introduced with water charges based on usage.

Experience from the metering of the non-domestic sector and from metering of some group water supplies would suggest that customer side leakage levels are a significant factor in overall unaccounted-for water. Installing water meters encourages households to reduce consumption, use water efficiently and fix leaks where these are identified. Metered charges are also the fairest way to charge for water. The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is preparing a strategy to implement the new charging regime.

Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin: I will comment only briefly because I took up so much of Deputy Wallace's time. I thank the Minister of State for his reply but I still maintain that a large-scale engagement with the public is needed to make the connection between the charge and the investment necessary for solving the displacement problem.

Deputy Mick Wallace: In the current economic climate, given the effect of austerity measures on the ordinary people of this country and given that any money raised from water metering is unlikely to come back into the system and help to improve it, we should concentrate on fixing the pipes, introducing more cost-effective measures and more environmentally friendly ways of providing water supplies for households. The latter would also help to create a great deal of employment.

Today's edition of *The Irish Times* contains an article by Paul Krugman in which he discusses austerity measures and emphasises the need for growth-oriented policies. I am of the view that a major investment on the part of the Government in dealing with water wastage would represent money well spent in both the short and long term. Everyone states that it will cost too much to deal with this problem. Everything costs too much now but, in the long term, an investment of the nature I have outlined would be money well spent.

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: I agree with what the Deputies have said. In my capacity as Minister of State, I visited the counties with the highest levels of unaccounted for water. I have already visited areas in Roscommon, south Tipperary, Kilkenny and Galway and I intend to travel to other counties.

It is essential that this matter be addressed. I agree that if we can attract buy-in from the public in respect of this process, it must be based on a programme of significant and planned reductions in the levels of unaccounted for water over a period of years. I have discussed this matter with a number of local authorities and I have been informed that it may take more than a couple of years to bring about such reductions. This is due to the fact that when one water main is repaired, another will burst and so on. The Deputies are correct that a better and more progressive system which is fairer and efficient must be put in place.

I wish to point out to Deputy Wallace that I have been informed that much of the infrastructure relating to newer builds is quite bad. I know the Deputy, in the context of any construction projects with which he is or was involved, is not culpable in this regard. However, many of the materials used by certain builders have proven to be substandard and this will give rise to significant problems when we begin to introduce water metering. When the Government receives and discusses the report it commissioned in respect of Irish Water, the relevant committee will engage in a full debate on it in order that any and all issues of concern to Members might be listened to and, if possible, acted upon.

Planning Issues

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan: I wish to share time with Deputy Seán Kenny.

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: That is agreed.

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan: I attended a packed meeting of very anxious and upset Priory Hall residents in the Hilton Airport Hotel on the Malahide Road on Thursday night last. Priory Hall is a relatively new residential apartment complex of 187 units — it was built by the Coalport Building Company Limited — in the huge new North Fringe district in the constituency of Dublin North East and included among its residents are owner-occupiers, private tenants, Dublin City Council and RAS tenants and citizens who bought their homes through affordable housing schemes. Within months of the first residents moving in, serious complaints were made about defects and safety issues at Priory Hall. The Dublin city fire safety chief described the north and south blocks of the complex as “potentially dangerous” and stated that remedial works were urgently required to address the appalling safety deficit that exists.

In December 2009, Dublin City Council moved its tenants and clients out of Priory Hall on safety grounds and commissioned a report by Hayes Higgins Partnership on the alleged serious fire safety defects in the residential units in the complex, which Dublin City Council owns. On 27 July last, the city council’s housing and planning departments made a presentation on the Hayes Higgins report to me, Deputy Seán Kenny, Councillor Brian McDowell and other local representatives. To say that we left the meeting profoundly shocked and stunned would be an understatement. We all undertook to have residents immediately informed of the appalling litany of structural, electrical and gas safety defects in the Dublin City Council units of the complex and we urged the council to immediately inform private owners and renters of the position and, if necessary, to evacuate the buildings.

At the meeting I attended on Thursday last, senior housing officials from Dublin City Council, including housing and assistant city manager, Mr. Dick Brady, outlined key findings of the report. Residents asked that the report be published immediately. A number of residents who were present at the meeting inquired directly of the council’s officials whether it was safe

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for them and their families to spend one more night in the complex. I wish to direct the same question to the Minister of State on their behalf. The residents also want to be informed about the action being taken in respect of the architects that worked on the project, the entire self-certification process and the people who allegedly signed off on safety standards in the complex. This is an urgent and profoundly serious matter and I hope the Minister of State will be able to provide us with some support in respect of it.

Deputy Seán Kenny: I call for the immediate release of the report commissioned by Dublin City Council from Hayes Higgins Partnership — Consultant Engineers, to all apartment owners in Priory Hall. To date, Dublin City Council has refused to provide this based on legal advice it received. I request that the Minister of State, Deputy Penrose, and Dublin City Council, advise owners and, in particular, owner occupiers who are obliged to honour monthly mortgage commitments whether suitable alternative accommodation will be provided for them if further defects are identified when the final report is received. It must be borne in mind that residents who may be obliged, on foot of the findings in the final report, to vacate their homes in the event of an emergency will require immediate accommodation. Taking a place on the housing list will really not be an option for them.

I call on Dublin City Council to take a civil action against the Coalport Building Company Limited., and-or the architect who certified the development in accordance with the building regulations. This action should be taken solely with a view to protecting the council's interests. From a cost point of view, it would make better sense if homeowners who, due to their current circumstances, are not in a position to obtain legal advice could join the city council in taking the action to which I refer. Who, if anyone, will undertake the repairs necessary to the buildings in the complex — if they are deemed to be repairable — in a scenario where the Coalport Building Company Limited has not and, it appears, will not attend to those repairs?

The residents of Priory Hall are at crisis point and the dilemma in which they find themselves is whether to default on their mortgages — thereby rendering themselves unable to obtain credit in respect of crucial items, such as another family home, for the remainder of their lives — or to continue to live in buildings which are unsafe as a result of non-compliance with fire safety regulations, faulty gas and electric installations and defective construction. Many of the owner-occupiers are struggling financially and are unable to obtain comprehensive legal advice. While some residents have received preliminary legal advice, most of them cannot afford to instruct a solicitor. Some solicitors who have been approached are unwilling to take a case against the Coalport Building Company Limited, and-or Thomas McFeely because in previous litigations Mr. McFeely has not paid compensation to plaintiffs and has a number of judgments against him personally, most notably one relating to the ACC Bank for the sum of €6.2million.

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: I am taking this matter on behalf of the Minister of State with responsibility for housing and planning, Deputy Penrose, who is currently in the Seanad. I thank Deputies Broughan and Seán Kenny for their contributions. I will bring to the attention of the Minister of State their deep concerns and those of their constituents.

As the Deputies will be aware, Dublin City Council has initiated legal proceedings regarding compliance with planning permission and fire safety regulations in respect of the development at Priory Hall. The enforcement proceedings are still before the courts. The building regulations set out the legal requirements for the design and construction of new buildings, including houses, extensions and material alterations and certain changes of use of existing buildings. The related technical guidance documents provide guidance on how to comply with the regulations. Compliance with the regulations is the responsibility of the owner or builder of a building. Enforcement of the regulations is the responsibility of the 37 local building control authorities.

In the case of Priory Hall, responsibility rests with Dublin City Council which is empowered to carry out inspections and to initiate enforcement proceedings where it is considered necessary. It is understood that Dublin City Council is continuing to actively investigate possible non-compliance with the requirements of the Building Control Acts in respect of this development. Where building defects occur, their remediation is a matter for the parties concerned — namely, the building owner, the relevant developer and the builder's insurers — in line with any contractual arrangements agreed between the parties.

Dublin City Council, as a property owner in Priory Hall, commissioned a building survey in conjunction with a number of other property owners in the complex who agreed to participate in the survey on a fee-paying basis. The report has been recently submitted to the council and copies have been forwarded to those owners who participated in the survey. The question of further publication or dissemination of the report does not, therefore, arise. Any further action in respect of the issues which have arisen in regard to this development would be a matter for Dublin City Council to deal with, as appropriate, in line with the standard arrangements in place for the discharge of its statutory functions. The Minister of State has no specific function with regard to the investigation or prosecution of offences under the Building Control Acts.

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan: The residents and the 200 families in question feel deeply let down by the regulatory, planning, building control and fire safety systems, which allowed people to self-certify buildings that were grossly badly constructed and may be dangerous, frankly. We need to reassure them. I will come back to the original question I posed. Is the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government concerned that people in these buildings could be in danger tonight and from now on? Can necessary actions be taken as a matter of urgency? Can buildings that are unfit for purpose be condemned? I commend the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on the establishment of a working group on buildings infected by pyrites. It was a good move. It was the start of something for which I have been calling since the crisis started five or six years ago. Could something similar be done in the case of Priory Hall? I suggest that the Department could assist Dublin City Council to lead a set of actions that would make the building safe, reassure these citizens and rehouse them if necessary.

Deputy Seán Kenny: The Priory Hall case demonstrates that certain aspects of the building control regulations, particularly the self-certification process, are clearly not working. This became clear during the building boom when light touch regulation was favoured. We are now seeing the effects of the failure to comply with basic safety regulations. I refer, for example, to the requirement that an isolation handle, which allows one to switch off the gas in the event of a fire, be provided when a gas connection is being installed. Similarly, many electrical installations were not earthed in the manner that is required. That could have serious consequences in the event of a fire. All of the building control regulations should be put on a statutory basis, as provided for in the legislation that established them. It is clear that self-certification, which was initially provided after difficulties arose, does not work. We have seen that in other fields. We should consider putting the regulations on a proper statutory basis.

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd: I assure Deputies Broughan and Kenny that I take what they have said very seriously. I will bring their remarks to the attention of the Minister of State, Deputy Penrose. He will be deeply concerned about the manner in which things have been done in this estate. As I indicated earlier, the remediation of defects of this kind is a matter to be dealt with by the parties concerned — the owner of the building in question, the relevant developer and the builder's insurer — in line with any contractual arrangements. It is appropriate that Dublin City Council be allowed to deal with the prosecution of alleged non-compliance with

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planning permission, fire safety regulations and building regulations in line with the standard arrangements for the discharge of its statutory functions. Since he took up office, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government has clearly signalled that consumer protection in the area of quality construction of new dwellings is a priority matter. He has taken a number of steps to strengthen the situation. Mandatory certificates of compliance for builders and designers of buildings, demonstrating that the statutory requirements of the building regulations have been met, have been introduced. Provision has been made for more efficient pooling of building control staff and resources across the local authority sector to ensure more effective and meaningful oversight of building activity. Standardised approaches and common protocols have been put in place to ensure nationwide consistency in the administration of building control functions. There also have been measures relating to the support and further development of building control functions nationwide. The Minister is determined to strengthen the building control system to ensure problems like those that have arisen at Priory Hall do not visit home owners again.

**An Bille um an Tríochadú Leasú ar an mBunreacht (Fiosruithe Thithe an Oireachtais) 2011:
Céim an Choiste agus na Céimeanna a bheidh Fágtha**

**Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011:
Committee and Remaining Stages**

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: Before Committee Stage commences, I would like to deal with a procedural matter relating to Bills to amend the Constitution. The substance of the debate on Committee Stage relates to the wording of the proposed constitutional amendment, which is contained in the Schedule to the Bill. The sections of the Bill are merely technical. Therefore, in accordance with long-standing practice, consideration of the sections is postponed until consideration of the Schedule has been completed. Is that agreed? Agreed.

AN SCEIDEAL
SCHEDULE

Tairgeadh an cheist: “Gurb é an Sceideal an Sceideal a ghabann leis an mBille.”

Question proposed: “That the Schedule be the Schedule to the Bill.”

Deputy Catherine Murphy: Tairgim leasú Uimh. 1:

I leathanach 7, roimh an Sceideal, an Sceideal nua seo a leanas a chur isteach:

“CUID 1

2° Faoi réir chomhaontú an Tí sin nó na dTithe sin, arna chinneadh le tromlach nach lú ná 90 faoin gcéad de chomhaltaí an Tí nó na dTithe iomchuí, beidh an chumhacht ag gach Teach fiosrú aonair nó comhfiosrú a stiúradh faoi aon ní nó nithe a bhaineann leis an maitheas phoiblí, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí.

3° I gcúrsa aon fhiosraithe den sórt sin, féadfar imscrúdú a dhéanamh faoi iompraíocht aon duine (cibé acu is comhalta de cheachtar Teach an duine nó nach ea), ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, ag féachaint d’fhorálacha an Bhunreacht seo.

4° I gcúrsa aon fhiosraithe den sórt sin, féadfaidh an Teach sin nó na Tithe sin fionnachtana a dhéanamh, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, ach ní ceadmhach don Teach sin nó do na Tithe sin smachtbhannaí coiriúla a fhorchur ar aon duine nó daoine is ábhar d'fhiosrú. Déanfar na fionnachtana sin ag féachaint d'fhorálacha an Bhunreachta seo.

5° Beidh an ceart ag duine nó daoine is ábhar d'fhiosrú den sórt sin achomharc a dhéanamh, go heisiach nó i gcomhpháirt, chun na gCúirteanna, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, in aghaidh an mhodha fiosraithe agus fhionnachtana an Tí nó na dTithe, ag féachaint do na forálacha iomchuí den Bhunreacht seo.

CUID 2

2° Subject to the agreement of the House or Houses concerned, as determined by a majority of not less than 90 per cent of the members of the relevant House or Houses, each House shall have the power to conduct an individual or joint inquiry into any matter or matters which relate to the common good, in a manner provided for by law.

3° In the course of any such inquiry the conduct of any person (whether a member of either House or not) may be investigated, in a manner provided for by law, having regard to the provisions of this Constitution.

4° In the course of such inquiry the House or Houses concerned may make findings, in a manner provided for by law, but may not impose criminal sanctions on any person or persons subject to inquiry. Such findings shall be made having regard to the provisions of this Constitution.

5° A person or persons subject to such inquiry shall have the right to appeal the method of inquiry and the findings of the House or Houses, either exclusively or jointly, to the Courts, in a manner provided for by law, having regard to the relevant provisions of this Constitution.”.

I move amendment No. 1:

In page 6, before the Schedule, to insert the following new Schedule:

“PART 1

2° Faoi réir chomhaontú an Tí sin nó na dTithe sin, arna chinneadh le tromlach nach lú ná 90 faoin gcéad de chomhaltaí an Tí nó na dTithe iomchuí, beidh an chumhacht ag gach Teach fiosrú aonair nó comhfiosrú a stiúradh faoi aon ní nó nithe a bhaineann leis an maitheas phoiblí, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí.

3° I gcúrsa aon fhiosraithe den sórt sin, féadfar imscrúdú a dhéanamh faoi iompraíocht aon duine (cibé acu is comhalta de cheachtar Teach an duine nó nach ea), ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, ag féachaint d'fhorálacha an Bhunreachta seo.

4° I gcúrsa aon fhiosraithe den sórt sin, féadfaidh an Teach sin nó na Tithe sin fionnachtana a dhéanamh, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, ach ní ceadmhach don

Teach sin nó do na Tithe sin smachtbhannaí coiriúla a fhorchur ar aon duine nó daoine is ábhar d'fhiosrú. Déanfar na fionnachtana sin ag féachaint d'fhorálacha an Bhunreachta seo.

5° Beidh an ceart ag duine nó daoine is ábhar d'fhiosrú den sórt sin achomharc a dhéanamh, go heisiach nó i gcomhpháirt, chun na gCúirteanna, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, in aghaidh an mhodha fiosraithe agus fhionnachtana an Tí nó na dTithe, ag féachaint do na forálacha iomchuí den Bhunrecht seo.

PART 2

2° Subject to the agreement of the House or Houses concerned, as determined by a majority of not less than 90 per cent of the members of the relevant House or Houses, each House shall have the power to conduct an individual or joint inquiry into any matter or matters which relate to the common good, in a manner provided for by law.

3° In the course of any such inquiry the conduct of any person (whether a member of either House or not) may be investigated, in a manner provided for by law, having regard to the provisions of this Constitution.

4° In the course of such inquiry the House or Houses concerned may make findings, in a manner provided for by law, but may not impose criminal sanctions on any person or persons subject to inquiry. Such findings shall be made having regard to the provisions of this Constitution.

5° A person or persons subject to such inquiry shall have the right to appeal the method of inquiry and the findings of the House or Houses, either exclusively or jointly, to the Courts, in a manner provided for by law, having regard to the relevant provisions of this Constitution law.”.

This is quite a long amendment.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: Tá sé as Gaeilge agus as Béarla.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: Yes. I am not a great believer in putting a whole lot of things into the Constitution. Having said that, if we are going to have these things in the Constitution, safeguards have to be in place. If primary legislation were to be used to describe and set the rules in this regard, it could be changed. I have concerns about some of the things we are doing in this respect. I am attempting to address some of those concerns in this amendment. The phrase “having regard to the provisions of this Constitution” is a key one in this amendment. In the absence of such a wording, there is no safeguard to ensure that any use of Oireachtas inquiries must have due “regard” to other rights enshrined in the Constitution as a whole. I have real concerns about that.

We need to give clear directions to the Judiciary. Our job is to make legislation and the job of the Judiciary is to interpret it. We have to provide clear instructions. The ability of the Houses of the Oireachtas to conduct inquiries does not over-ride any provision in the Constitution. We need a wording that ensures the protection of the Constitution can be invoked if any portion of the new powers being bestowed on the Oireachtas is applied in a manner that is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution.

It is important to make it clear that we respect the constitutional rights of the citizens of this country. We are not in dispute about the fact that this is being done in the common good — we are considering what the Bill actually says. When this amendment to the Constitution is put before the people and passed by them, 20 years might pass before the need to use it arises. It will not necessarily be used by this Government, which has a large majority. That is part of the reason I am proposing that any inquiry be approved by 90% of Members. Any reference to the Oireachtas should mean precisely that — it should not mean that the Executive more or less decides the terms of reference of an inquiry.

I will give an example. There were terrible abuses in the planning system some years ago. Material contraventions would be passed by one part of a county and all that kind of stuff. It was essentially decided that two thirds of councillors had to vote in favour of a material contravention. I think that has worked very well. It has got broad agreement. That is really what we should be trying to achieve.

There should not be a presumption that the Opposition will oppose something that may be in the national interest. The inquiry system should not be used frivolously. It should be used occasionally and in a thought-out manner. If it is over-used, its value may well be reduced. That is why I have provided for a number. I was trying to achieve a degree of inclusiveness within the Houses of the Oireachtas.

I have referred to the key line, “having regard to the provisions of this Constitution”. A number of sections of the Constitution, including Articles 43.1, 43.2, 34 and 39, need to be read side by side with this. However, it is not at all clear that is what is intended. I am not satisfied the legislation is sufficient, separate from the Constitution, from that point of view.

On the intention not to impose criminal sanctions, it should be explicitly stated that there is a limit to the consequences of the findings that any inquiry can make. It is important that we make it clear that we do not cross the line between civil and criminal sanctions. That is something that could be open to interpretation and I also have concerns about that.

It is vital that the right to appeal, even a judicial review of something, is enshrined in the Constitution. What was intended, if I recall the briefing correctly, is that the only matter on which the courts could adjudicate was the issue of natural justice. I accept that in the briefing we were told it was intended this would have to be an issue of serious importance.

6 o'clock It is about ensuring that there is trust among the citizens of this country and certainty about the laws we pass, particularly when they relate to matters we ask the people to put in the Constitution. We must then provide the laws around which to make the rules. The people must have certainty. After all, the Constitution is the cornerstone of the legal system. We have an obligation to put safeguards into the wording, if it is to give the kind of certainty the citizens of this country deserve.

That, more or less, is a broad brush stroke of what I intended in framing this amendment. I have difficulty with the Bill outside of that and I have made that clear throughout the debate.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: I thank Deputy Catherine Murphy for the amendment and for the clear exposition of her position.

I regret that I did not have a chance to respond to Second Stage, the way it fell last week. I want to say a few words about the genesis of this proposal. Anybody who knows me over time will be aware that I am interested in the development of Parliament and the re-balancing of the powers of Parliament and of the Executive. The Executive has dominated Parliament for too long in this country.

One of the roles of this Parliament, both Houses, is to hold the Executive to account. It seems that in the past, parties in Opposition have always wanted to strengthen the hand of

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Parliament and to weaken the relative power of the Executive and as soon as they get into power they abandon that principle. It is to hold true to that principle that this proposal and many more come from this side of the House.

The genesis of this is that I believe in the right of Parliament to make inquiries. I was involved in several inquiries in this House. I was also involved in the Abbeylara committee that was struck down. One can have views on whether it was appropriate to have an inquiry into that instance, but the Oireachtas said, “Yes”, and we set it up. What happened as a result is that the very power of the Oireachtas to hold any inquiries, basically, the intrinsic inherent power of Parliament to hold inquiries, was questioned by the courts and, in fact, found to be wanting because there was no implicit power in the Constitution to hold inquiries. That made it virtually unique among parliaments.

All parliaments have to hold Ministers to account and have to hold inquiries into matters of public importance, and we need to restore that. The crafting, the “how” of that, was subject to a year’s debate within the previous Dáil on the Joint Committee on the Constitution chaired by former Deputy Ardagh. That involved a thoughtful process, with all parties involved and bringing in legal experts.

We did not want to replicate a tribunal system in the House which would take years, that could be frustrated and that needed a re-balancing of the public interest against the private interest of individuals who, if they had access to enough lawyers, could frustrate for ever the culmination of an inquiry. That is a careful balance to strike because one does not want to have an oppressive system. The words that we crafted carefully, I believe, achieve that balance.

Later we will deal with Deputy McDonald’s thoughtful amendment, about which I have been thinking since I read the Second Stage contributions and much of the learned opinion about it, and I want to set out my case in that regard.

To deal with the amendment before us directly, I commend Deputy Murphy on a fine attempt. It is not an easy matter to craft a constitutional amendment. I have the help of the Attorney General and the legal officers of the State in my efforts to do it. Honestly, I do not believe what she has produced will do anything to allow us to hold inquiries. For a start, I understand what she means when she states that it should not be a simple majority of the House that would determine it, but the notion that one needs 90%, in other words, a blocking minority of one tenth of the membership, means that one would never have an inquiry. A blocking minority could be directly involved in the inquiry.

Parliament would not work on that basis. We elect the Taoiseach by simple majority. The highest hurdle in the Constitution currently is the process to impeach the President. It requires only a two-thirds majority to impeach a President, which is an overthrowing of the vote of all of the people of the country. That is the highest hurdle by far. We can dismiss judges of the superior courts with a simple majority. That is the way parliament works in virtually every jurisdiction — there are exceptions in some jurisdiction for good reason. To do as Deputy Murphy suggests would frustrate any form of inquiry.

Deputy Murphy made a number of specific points. On the point that it should not impose criminal sanction, it is out of the question for any committee of this House or this House to impose criminal sanctions. The separation of powers is crystal clear in the Constitution and that would not arise in any event.

Clause 5° of her proposal, on having the right of appeal, is implicit in the Constitution. She was correct to mention other articles of the Constitution which enumerate all citizens’ rights, many of which have been the subject of very careful analysis by the courts over decades. They will not be dislodged in any iota by the proposals we are inserting. The fundamental principle

of constitutional justice is that this new section must be read, to use not a legal term but the term lawyer's use, harmoniously with other enactments. For example, the well established clear rights to due process and fair procedures given under the Constitution in Article 40.3 are implicit in this process, are not dislodged in any way by it. Anybody can go — not at the end of the process but at any time in the process, beginning, middle or end — to have his or her good name vindicated in the courts, to have it checked.

We have sought to have in that mix, when that adjudication is taking place, that the public interest be weighed into the balance as opposed to the exclusive notion of the rights of an individual — sometimes the rights of the individual might run counter to the public interest — only in this narrow way to ensure effective inquiry. It is a very limited re-balancing of procedural rights that would flow from our proposals.

This constitutional amendment, in its totality, does a few simple things. It gives explicit right to the Houses of the Oireachtas, either individually or collectively, to hold an inquiry into a matter of stated public importance. It addresses the issue of specific authority and objective bias. It allows individuals to be investigated in such a matter or their conduct to be investigated in such inquiries, and it allows conclusions to be drawn. All of that, in terms of the rights of individuals, is subject to their inalienable rights, not only under the Constitution but under international law to which we are subject as well. In fairness, on the argument that this pushes too much the way of the Oireachtas, my fear is that at the end of the day it will not be far enough in the way of the Oireachtas. It is an important start to allow for proper inquiries here such as those which take place in virtually every other jurisdiction.

The Deputy made several other points, including one on procedures. This matter was raised on a television programme last night with regard to the terms of reference. The Government — we are collectively agreed on this — is keen to strengthen the arm and the hand of Parliament. Contrary to what was said by some people externally, the terms of reference of any inquiry will not be determined by the Government. I understand my officials will brief the oversight committee tomorrow on the process and procedures to be followed. I have gone before it and explained the draft heads of the Bill.

Let me explain the process. A committee of the House, whether of an individual House or both Houses, will determine that a matter is of such public importance that it must be investigated. For example, it could be an issue to do with the health service or something else and the relevant health committee would make its case to the oversight committee. Then it would be exclusively a matter for the oversight committee to determine whether the case had been validly made and whether the issue merited an inquiry. I agree fundamentally with the Deputy. This would not be a regular occurrence. The oversight committee would set the terms of reference. The committee is chaired by a member of the Deputy McDonald's party. I indicated last week that it should not operate a Whip on the basis of this important work. There would be no veto or inputs from the Government; it would be a matter for the Houses to determine the matter. That committee would set the parameters in respect of expenditure, lawyers and costs in terms of what could be paid to lawyers and so on. Eventually the matter would be presented to the House which would make a final determination. In a case where the oversight committee said "No", that would be the end of the matter and there would be no appeal beyond this, as I explained last week. The process is very much in the domain of the Houses for the first time and it will work out well.

The heads of the Bill are carefully crafted in all its steps to achieve this end. The words in the Schedule under debate are to the effect that each House shall have the power to conduct an inquiry or an inquiry with the other House in the manner provided for by law into any matter stated by the House or Houses concerned to be of general public importance and that

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in the course of any such inquiry the conduct of any person, whether a Member of the House, may be investigated. These are the issues which arose during the *Abbeylara* judgment, as well as whether the authority was explicit to inquire into people who were not Members of either House. We are putting the matter beyond doubt. This may be investigated and the Houses concerned may make findings in respect of the conduct of the person concerned concerning the matter to which the inquiry relates. The only issues it may examine or the only findings it may make relate to the conduct related to the issues under investigation.

The final area I propose to amend for the avoidance of doubt outlines that it is implicit in due process that fair procedures must be applied. All legal advice I have suggests as much. However to be explicit I will recommend to the House that we include it in the Constitution. The words are to the effect that it will be for the House or Houses concerned to determine the appropriate balance between the rights of the person and the public interest for the purpose of ensuring an effective inquiry into the matter to which subsection (2) applies. The balancing between individual rights and the public interest carried out by the House relates only to ensuring there is an effective inquiry into the matter. It is a narrow balancing that must be carried out. It will be an important advance for the Houses of the Oireachtas.

I am keen to allow sufficient time to deal with the other amendments because they are important and I have no wish for there to be any confusion in the public domain after this debate. For reasons I will explain I do not propose to accept Deputy Murphy's amendment. I do not believe objectively it meets the requirement to have a robust inquiry system. It would ensure simply that the system would not work.

This new avenue of inquiry which, please God, will be available should the House in the first instance and the people in the second instance vote for it will be only one means of public inquiry. There could still be a formal tribunal or an investigation under the 2004 Commissions of Investigation Act which was used for the *Murphy* tribunal or it could be this model. It will be a matter for the Houses to decide which is the best vehicle to serve the public need for inquiry.

By way of completeness, the process will involve a private investigation of facts and fact-finding in the first instance. It will be analogous to what happened during the *DIRT* inquiry when the Comptroller and Auditor General gathered the information objectively and in private and that was the basis for the inquiry. It would be up to the oversight committee to appoint or recommend the appointment to the House of an investigator which could be the Comptroller and Auditor General or the Ombudsman, who may have something to say about several matters, as we have seen. Her conclusions could be the basis for an investigation. It could be one of her routine reports. I have held discussions with the Ombudsman on this matter. Depending on the area involved, it could be a medical or legal expert who would carry out the fact-finding and that could be the basis for objectively presenting the evidence that would form the core briefing document or the body of evidence that could be the basis of the inquiry. This should be a reasonable and fair process. It is carefully balanced and I hope the Deputy will be convinced not to pursue her amendment and that the merits of the amendment I have asked the House to support are clear.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: While I accept the Minister has made strong arguments in defence of the position to which he has come after long deliberations and a great deal of advice, I continue to hold serious concerns and do not believe my concerns are addressed.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: What specifically are they?

Deputy Catherine Murphy: The point about the 90% figure and the process to which the Minister referred is helpful. I recall being at a Whips meeting some weeks ago at which I argued against something. I was told this was the way it was going to be, that the Government had the numbers and that that was the way it worked. The problem is that it is a numbers game.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: I have specifically designed this in order that it cannot be a numbers game. However, we cannot have the tyranny of the minority either. The tyranny of the majority is one thing, but the notion that a 10% minority could overrule a 90% majority is worse because it would be a negation of fundamental democracy.

The construct of this inquiry system is taking away from the Government. I remember trying to craft the terms of reference of the Morris tribunal which, remarkably, examined my conduct as a Member and that of the then Deputy Jim Higgins but which excluded the conduct of the then Minister for Justice. It is to get away from such occurrences that I propose that it should not be the Executive that would make the decision but a committee of the House in a public forum.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: I wish to make one final point on the explicit use of the term “having regard to the other provisions of the Constitution”. I am concerned that in the absence of stating as much an interpretation is possible that it is exclusive to this rather than looking at the totality. This is a serious concern for me.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: Let me deal with that issue front-up because it is a simple matter. It is an absolute established convention that all articles of the Constitution must be read harmoniously. It is the same in law with the Interpretation Act. This determines how law is interpreted across potentially conflicting statutes. The Constitution must be read harmoniously. There is no doubt that the established rights under Article 43 of the Constitution on fair procedures must be vindicated. Equally, there is no doubt that every citizen has the right of access to the courts to have the point tested. I am proposing an amendment which I am legally advised is unnecessary but which I propose to make for the sake of absolute clarity and to address an issue fairly made by Deputy McDonald. The amendment will write the clause on fair procedures into the constitutional amendment itself.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: While I will not press the amendment, I cannot agree with what has been put forward. I will reserve my position on opposing the legislation.

Tarraingíodh siar an leasú faoi chead.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: Tairgim leasú Uimh. 2:

I gCuid 1, leathanach 7, líne 7, “fiosrú a dhéanamh” a scriosadh agus “imscrúdú a dhéanamh” a chur ina ionad.

I move amendment No. 2:

In Part 1, page 6, line 7, to delete “fiosrú a dheanamh” and substitute “imscrúdú a dhéanamh”.

This is a technical amendment which relates to the Irish translation of subsection 3° of the Schedule. In this subsection, the term “fiosrú” is used to translate the word “investigate”. This is likely to cause confusion as “fiosrú” is also the Irish term used to translate the word “inquiry” in the same subsection. To avoid any such confusion, it is now proposed by the translation

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

service, and I propose it here, that the Irish word “imscrúdú” be inserted for the word “investigation” in subsection 3°. I am advised the term “imscrúdú” is the official Irish term for “investigation”. The use of the clearly defined legal term “imscrúdú”, namely, the word for “investigation”, would greatly enhance the resilience of the amendment in regard to possible legal challenges. On these technical grounds, I propose the amendment be made.

Aontaíodh an leasú.

Amendment agreed to.

An Ceann Comhairle: Amendments Nos. 2a and 3 are related and may be discussed together.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: Tairgim leasú a 2a:

I gCuid 1, leathanach 7, líne 13, “, ag féachaint go cuí do na prionsabail a ghabhann le nósanna imeachta córa,” a chur isteach i ndiaidh “a chinneadh”,

agus

I gCuid 2, leathanach 7, líne 26, “, with due regard to the principles of fair procedures,” a chur isteach i ndiaidh “determine”.

I move amendment No. 2a:

In Part 1, page 6, line 13, after “a chinneadh” to insert “, ag féachaint go cuí do na prionsabail a ghabhann le nósanna imeachta córa,”,

and

In Part 2, page 6, line 26, after “determine” to insert “, with due regard to the principles of fair procedures,”.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to make explicit that the balancing rights between the persons and the public interest in full parliamentary inquiries must be consistent with the constitutional principles of fair procedures. As I said, I was advised strongly that this was implicit in the proposed wording of the referendum Bill that was disseminated because they are rights that are guaranteed under Article 40.3 of the Constitution. By explicitly stating that the House is determining the appropriate balance and will in that determination have due regard to the principles of fair procedures, we are ensuring there is no question mark or doubt over the fact that fair procedures and the rules of natural justice must be respected in any form of inquiry that puts good name or reputation at risk or in the balance in any shape or form.

This amendment also highlights the basis on which any judicial review on the balancing exercise would rest and, in so doing, addresses the first question, given that some people were of the view that somehow that subsection ousted the courts from their overview. My very strong advice from the Attorney General and all legal advice is that this could not be the case. However, to insert this wording gives a clear, explicit basis for such oversight, although it is implicit in any event. It was never the intention nor could it ever have been the result of the original wording to exclude any role for the courts in that process.

I have stated on many occasions that it has always been our intention that the manner in which the Oireachtas strikes the balance between the rights of the person and the public interest is reviewable by the courts. It will be a difficult process, as I said to the chair of the oversight committee when I appeared before it. I told him that, in all likelihood, in the years to come

the chair of that committee would be making the odd trip down to the Four Courts to justify the balancing exercises or determinations that are required.

Clearly, it was never the objective to create what might be called an exclusion zone for the courts, nor could it be. However, it is to put into the weighing scales, so to speak, the public interest argument so that in determining the balance in the first instance, the matter must be given to the committee. This is why the notion the courts would somehow make real-time decisions on a daily basis when there are matters like this to be determined is incorrect. As the tribunals operate, it must be for the committee, which has devolved power from this House, the other House or both Houses, to make that real-time decision. Where that is in question, it will be a matter for the courts to ensure it is done in a constitutional fashion. That is where we are coming from.

I am very aware of the points raised by Deputy McDonald and many of her colleagues during the Second Stage debate in regard to the balance between the rights of the person and the public interest contained in the published constitutional amendment. This is why I have reflected on what she has said and on what has been written subsequently. Some legal purists say one should not do what is unnecessary, and if it is implicit, one should not make it explicit. As the Ceann Comhairle knows too well, constitutional lawyers weigh words in the Constitution like precious metals, and if one was to insert extra words, one would have to make a convincing argument for them because every word has a value. I believe that to give comfort to the electorate, what is being done here is to preserve absolutely the full constitutional rights of individuals and to ensure clear procedures will be an intrinsic form of the balancing act that will fall to the Oireachtas in determining the balance between individual rights and the common good in so far as the narrow issue of conducting an inquiry in an effective manner arises.

It is appropriate this issue is dealt with by the amendment I suggest. I have asked the legal service to look particularly at Deputy McDonald's amendment and the legal service very strongly advised me that the wording I now suggest is the correct and constitutionally better way of achieving what I believe is the desired objective of Deputy McDonald.

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: We are entirely supportive of the Government's effort to ensure the Oireachtas can conduct investigations and inquiries in a timely and productive fashion. There is no question that the Abbeylara judgment had to be addressed and I believe the Government is doing the right thing in seeking to address it. None the less, I share many of Deputy Catherine Murphy's concerns that there would be any attempt to create something that could be described as a Star Chamber or that would trample on the rights of individuals to fair procedures and natural justice.

We are discussing the content of a constitutional amendment and, for the purposes of our discussion, it is important we stay on that terrain. Obviously, the legislation as proposed will have to be gone through with a fine-tooth comb to address the types of issues the Deputy has raised in terms of the internal process and the inclusion of Members of the Oireachtas and so on. I very much welcome the fact the Minister, in a very upfront way, indicates a balance will be struck and that there will be inclusion in that regard.

The Minister is aware that my concern from the get-go has been that in circumstances where the Oireachtas takes to itself a power to balance the public interest and the private interest, this must not just be stated implicitly. I accept the arguments around Articles 34 and 40, and I understand equally there was never an attempt to sideline the judicial process. None the less, it is essential it is stated explicitly in the Constitution that in carrying out this balancing exercise, the Oireachtas is constitutionally obliged to have to the foremost the provisions around fair procedure. It is welcome that the Minister has listened to Members' concerns and tabled this amendment. Were I to be egocentric about it, I might argue the point and state my wording is

[Deputy Mary Lou McDonald.]

better than that of the Minister. However, I accept he has available to him the advice of the Attorney General and other expertise. The critical point is that the matter of fair procedure is addressed. This goes to the heart of many concerns the public will have in this regard. While Members wish to see the public interest well served and seek an Oireachtas that has teeth and powers, that can compel witnesses and make findings, equally the public needs an absolute reassurance the rights of individuals will be upheld and vindicated and that there will be a brake on the new Oireachtas power to engage in that balancing exercise. I am satisfied the Minister has achieved this aim in his proposed amendment.

I will conclude by noting a point raised both during the Order of Business and in previous debates on this issue on how careful one must be when amending the Constitution and how it should not be a rushed matter. Even as Members debate this issue on this Stage, I still consider it to have been rushed. I accept it has had a long history, but in this current phase and for new Members such as me, I consider the process to have been rushed. For as long as the rights of the individual are vindicated, implicitly understood and explicitly stated, I welcome and support the Government proposal to put this matter to the people who I hope will support it.

An Ceann Comhairle: May I take it the Deputy does not intend to move her amendment?

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald: I do not.

Deputy Sean Fleming: I also welcome the opportunity to make a few brief comments on this matter because Members discussed it well on Second Stage and it is a relatively short amendment. The essence of what has been proposed is the inclusion of the phrase, “with due regard to the principles of fair procedures”. The amendment is all about fair procedures and I take on board fully the observation made by Deputy McDonald that Members are not debating the enabling Bill’s contents. However, I note there will be no opportunity to debate that Bill’s contents prior to polling. While I understand the Minister intends to publish the enabling legislation, it cannot be enacted before polling day. It will be in the public arena in order that the public will have an opportunity to examine it and after the referendum which I hope will be passed, the aforementioned legislation will come before the House for detailed discussion. However, one should be clear it will be extremely difficult to change its contents after it has been in the public arena, having formed the basis on which people were reassured as to how they might vote. The issue is it will not be like normal legislation when it returns to the House. Members may wish to table amendments on Committee and Remaining Stages and in normal circumstances, the Minister might be inclined to accept them. However, at that point he will be obliged to be mindful that the legislation has been in the public arena. The people will have been given an opportunity to read, study and digest it to understand how the constitutional amendment would be given effect. Consequently, it will be extremely difficult at that point to unravel legislation which had been placed in the public arena. While normal procedures will be followed in this House for Committee and Report Stage amendments, my impression is an additional barrier will be placed against the Government’s ability to accept amendments on those Stages. I wish to make clear that point.

The Minister should deal with a couple of aspects of the subject of fair procedure that Members may not have had a full opportunity to explore on Second Stage. I refer specifically to the precise wording under discussion in the Minister’s proposed amendment. I can understand the reason he employed the phrase “observe fair procedure” because that phraseology is included in the proposed legislation. I can discern consistency between the proposed legislation the Minister intends to publish — he might provide Members with a publication date at the conclusion of this debate on the amendment — and the wording in the constitutional

amendment. The Minister should elaborate on what are the fair procedures. It is important that the people should know this, because if the amendment is passed, it is proposed that the investigator or the inquiry committee will define the powers to establish fair procedures relating to evidence and submission. There will be no requirement in what has been proposed on the Minister to publish these to enable those who are the subject of such an inquiry or investigation to know what are the guidelines for what is being conducted. If one is dealing with the Revenue Commissioners, one is entitled to know what are the procedures being followed in the interests of the public and hidden procedures are not permitted. My point is that a hidden procedure is not a fair procedure.

As for fair procedures with regard to individuals or their conduct being examined or inquired into, there is a wide raft of exemptions pertaining to Government meetings and matters that could be prejudicial to proceedings before the court or in respect of international relations. I note exemptions may be signed in this regard by the Secretary General to the Government. Consequently, a committee might be carrying out an investigation into an issue, only half of which could be examined by way of evidence regarding the conduct of an individual. However, this evidence could be fundamental to what happened at a Government meeting and yet can be exempted. I understand the concept of Cabinet confidentiality, but fair procedure must apply to everyone. A person's fair procedures might be compromised were someone else simply able to send a letter of exemption to the effect the matter was not covered by the inquiry.

Another point concerns the relationship between fair procedures and a person's good name. This is all about the good name and character of those who are being inquired into and I acknowledge it will be an offence to disclose the contents of any reports or drafts thereof before their publication. However, in the interests of fair procedures for those who are being inquired into, it should be an offence to publish any of these documents. In previous tribunals, leaks were provided for the media which published them. I note *The Irish Times* published such leaks and then shredded the evidence. While I forget the details, no offence had taken place and that newspaper got off the hook, even though it had published the leaked information. It is somewhat akin to it being an offence to sell alcohol to those who are under 18 years but not an offence for them to buy it. My point is that both sides of the equation must be covered and fair procedures must apply if someone is divulging information. However, the person who chooses to publish it also should be covered because he or she can damage a person's character and good name. I ask for fair procedures in this regard. The Minister should expound on the question of leaks which are a feature of life. While they should not take place, they occur and people's names become damaged after which it is difficult for them to clear their names.

I will conclude by stating Fianna Fáil welcomes this proposal. I note the Minister is adopting a belt-and-braces approach in respect of making this explicit. The next time a constitutional amendment is proposed and the point is made that something is implied in the Constitution, the response will be that as matters were made explicit the last time, it must be done again. Be that as it may, it will be a problem for someone else to deal with later, but the Minister is being highly specific. If for no other reason, this may take some heat out of the public argument because people can get caught up in such issues during a debate. The Minister's move to include the issue of fair procedures will give comfort to the public and the many people who have been making this argument. Overall, I support the Minister's amendments.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: I thank the Members opposite for their thoughtful contributions and addressing this issue. It is an important advance for the Oireachtas to deal with these matters. I will deal with Deputy McDonald's points and thank her for the amendment she tabled. She can claim ownership because her amendment certainly formed part of the persuas-

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

ive argument to make explicit what I considered to be implicit. There is no harm in so doing, even if, as Deputy Fleming has observed, it has consequences for the future.

There has been a great deal of talk about the balancing of rights, but the problem for the past 20 years has been that the public interest was never really included in the balance and lost out in the balancing of rights. It has taken decades to get to the truth of matters. I note that had people appeared before a committee or inquiry and simply told the truth — this is such an amazing thing to ask — we would not have had years of tribunals at phenomenal cost to the State. Moreover, such tribunals often had findings which were beyond relevance by the time they came to conclusions and people had forgotten what they had been asked to do in the first instance. We must have a system that is more robust than that and that is what we are aiming to do.

We can talk ourselves into protecting the rights of the individual to such an extent that we cannot have an inquiry into anything. Someone who does something fundamentally wrong should have his or her good name tarnished in terms of adducing convincing evidence objectively as long as fair procedures are applied. A person should be furnished with a full copy of the evidence which could reflect on his or her good name. He or she should be allowed to cross-examine any witnesses that give evidence. He or she should be allowed to rebut any evidence given and permitted to address any inquiry in any way he or she wants. These are understandable rights that would flow from Deputy Fleming's question on what constitutes fair procedure.

We published very detailed heads of the Bill, which are much more detailed than is normally the case at this stage of the discussion. Deputy Fleming is correct in that they will form the backdrop in terms of reassurance for people about what processes will be involved. I would not be quite as sanguine as he is in terms of his comments that the Bill cannot be amended. It will be, as long as the principles are understood.

I would welcome any suggestions from the other side of the House in advance of finalising the Bill, as I said last week to the oversight committee. If there are any significant ideas to amend the heads I published, I would welcome them in order that when the Bill is published for the guidance of the electorate in advance of the referendum, it encompasses, as far as possible, the views of the Opposition.

When we come to do a detailed scrutiny of the Bill, assuming the electorate supports it, I have an open mind to get this right. As I said to the committee, I do not think this will be the end of the matter. We will come across practical difficulties when we start the process and should be open to making further amendments when we learn about them. I do not have a date for publication but it will be in advance of the referendum.

In terms of exclusions, there cannot be an investigation into matters that are subject to criminal investigation or a breaking of the constitutional prohibition on the collective deliberations of Cabinet. Other constitutional provisions allow the State to function and all the recitals in the draft heads simply cover things that are normal.

In regard to leaks, in which Deputy Fleming is interested, draft head No. 34 of the Bill states:

A person who receives a draft report from a relevant body under *section (31)* shall not disclose its contents or divulge in any way that the draft report has been sent to that person except ... with the prior consent in writing of the body [and] to the extent necessary for the purposes of an application to the Court [for any legal proceedings].

The heads state a person who contravenes that subsection shall be guilty of an offence. It will be an offence to leak information, unless it is in accordance with the normal procedures——

Deputy Sean Fleming: What about publication?

Deputy Brendan Howlin: We will consider that. It is a fair point. As the Deputy knows, there is extensive constitutional and human rights legislation on the freedom of the press and I cannot make any commitment in this forum to trample on that because freedom of the press has been carefully protected in cases in the European Court of Human Rights. I hear the point Deputy is making.

Cuireadh an leasú agus faisnéiseadh go rabhthas tar éis glacadh leis.

Amendment put and declared carried.

Níor tairgeadh leasú Uimh. 3.

Amendment No. 3 not moved.

Aontaíodh an Sceideal mar a leasaíodh.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Aontaíodh ailt 1 agus 2.

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

Aontaíodh an Réamhrá.

Preamble agreed to.

Aontaíodh an Teideal.

Title agreed to.

Tuairiscíodh an Bille le leasuithe chun an breithniú deiridh a dhéanamh air.

Bill reported with amendment and received for final consideration.

Cuireadh an cheist: “Go rithfear an Bille anois.”

Question put: “That the Bill do now pass.”

Rinne an Dáil vótáil: Tá, 102; Níl, 10.

Question put: “That the Bill do now pass.”

The Dáil divided: Tá, 102; Níl, 10.

Tá

Bannon, James.
Barry, Tom.
Broughan, Thomas P.
Browne, John.
Burton, Joan.
Butler, Ray.
Buttimer, Jerry.
Byrne, Catherine.
Byrne, Eric.
Cannon, Ciarán.
Collins, Áine.
Collins, Niall.

Conaghan, Michael.
Conlan, Seán.
Connaughton, Paul J.
Conway, Ciara.
Coonan, Noel.
Corcoran Kennedy, Marcella.
Cowen, Barry.
Creed, Michael.
Creighton, Lucinda.
Daly, Jim.
Deasy, John.
Deenihan, Jimmy.

Tá—*continued*

Deering, Pat.
 Doherty, Pearse.
 Dooley, Timmy.
 Dowds, Robert.
 Doyle, Andrew.
 Durkan, Bernard J.
 Ellis, Dessie.
 English, Damien.
 Feighan, Frank.
 Ferris, Anne.
 Ferris, Martin.
 Fitzpatrick, Peter.
 Flanagan, Charles.
 Fleming, Sean.
 Griffin, Brendan.
 Hannigan, Dominic.
 Harrington, Noel.
 Harris, Simon.
 Hayes, Brian.
 Hayes, Tom.
 Howlin, Brendan.
 Humphreys, Heather.
 Humphreys, Kevin.
 Keaveney, Colm.
 Kehoe, Paul.
 Kelleher, Billy.
 Kelly, Alan.
 Kirk, Seamus.
 Kitt, Michael P.
 Kyne, Seán.
 Lawlor, Anthony.
 Lynch, Kathleen.
 Lyons, John.
 Mac Lochlainn, Pádraig.
 McCarthy, Michael.
 McConalogue, Charlie.
 McDonald, Mary Lou.
 McFadden, Nicky.
 McGinley, Dinny.

McGrath, Michael.
 McLellan, Sandra.
 McLoughlin, Tony.
 McNamara, Michael.
 Maloney, Eamonn.
 Mathews, Peter.
 Mitchell, Olivia.
 Mitchell O'Connor, Mary.
 Mulherin, Michelle.
 Murphy, Eoghan.
 Nash, Gerald.
 Naughten, Denis.
 Neville, Dan.
 Nolan, Derek.
 Ó Caoláin, Caoimhghín.
 Ó Cuív, Éamon.
 Ó Fearghail, Seán.
 Ó Ríordáin, Aodhán.
 Ó Snodaigh, Aengus.
 O'Brien, Jonathan.
 O'Donnell, Kieran.
 O'Donovan, Patrick.
 O'Mahony, John.
 Phelan, Ann.
 Phelan, John Paul.
 Quinn, Ruairí.
 Ryan, Brendan.
 Shatter, Alan.
 Sherlock, Sean.
 Shortall, Róisín.
 Smith, Brendan.
 Spring, Arthur.
 Stagg, Emmet.
 Stanton, David.
 Timmins, Billy.
 Tóibín, Peadar.
 Troy, Robert.
 Tuffy, Joanna.
 Walsh, Brian.

Níl

Daly, Clare.
 Donnelly, Stephen.
 Flanagan, Luke 'Ming'.
 Healy-Rae, Michael.
 Higgins, Joe.

McGrath, Finian.
 Murphy, Catherine.
 O'Sullivan, Maureen.
 Ross, Shane.
 Wallace, Mick.

Tellers: Tá, Deputies Emmet Stagg and Paul Kehoe; Níl, Deputies Catherine Murphy and Shane Ross.

Question declared carried.

Faisnéiseadh go rabhthas tar éis glacadh leis an gceist.

Question declared carried.

Statement for Information of Voters in relation to the Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011: Motion

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): Tairgim:

“GO ndéanfar an ráiteas a leagtar amach sa Sceideal a ghabhann leis an Rún seo a fhorordú mar fhaisnéis do vótálaithe de bhun alt 23 d’Acht an Reifrinn, 1994 (Uimh. 12 de 1994), i ndáil leis an togra chun Airteagal 15.10 den Bhunreacht a leasú, ar togra é atá sa Bhille um an Tríochadú Leasú ar an mBunreacht (Fiosruithe Thithe an Oireachtais), 2011 agus atá ina ábhar do reifreann bunreachta.

An Sceideal

Reifreann a bhaineann le Fiosruithe
ag Tithean Oireachtais

Is é atá beartaithe leis an mBille um an Tríochadú Leasú ar an mBunreacht (Fiosruithe Thithe an Oireachtais), 2011 leasú a dhéanamh ar na forálacha den Bhunreacht a bhaineann le cumhachtaí Thithe an Oireachtais fiosrú a stiúradh faoi aon ní a luafaidh an Teach nó na Tithe lena mbaineann ina thaobh go bhfuil tábhacht phoiblí ghinearálta ann. Leis an leasú beartaithe, chuirfí na fo-ailt seo a leanas le hAirteagal 15.10:

2° Beidh an chumhacht ag gach Teach fiosrú a stiúradh, nó fiosrú a stiúradh i dteannta an Tí eile, ar mhodh a ndéantar socrú ina chomhair le dlí, faoi aon ní a luafaidh an Teach sin nó na Tithe sin ina thaobh go bhfuil tábhacht phoiblí ghinearálta ann.

3° I gcúrsa aon fhiosraithe den sórt sin, féadfar imscrúdú a dhéanamh faoi iompraíocht aon duine (cibé acu is comhalta de cheachtar Teach an duine nó nach ea) agus féadfaidh an Teach sin nó na Tithe sin fionnachtana a dhéanamh maidir le hiompraíocht an duine sin i dtaca leis an ní lena mbaineann an fiosrú.

4° Is faoin Teach sin nó faoi na Tithe sin a bheidh sé an chóimheá chúid idir cearta daoine agus an leas poiblí a chinneadh, ag féachaint go cuí do na prionsabail a ghabhann le nós-anna imeachta córa, chun a chur in áirithe go ndéanfar fiosrú éifeachtach faoi aon ní lena mbaineann fo-alt 2°.’.

MÁ THOILÍONN TÚ leis an togra, cuir X os coinne an fhocail TÁ ar an bpáipéar ballóide.

MURA dTOILÍONN TÚ leis an togra, cuir X os coinne an fhocail NÍL ar an bpáipéar ballóide.

Is féidir cóip den Bhille a iniúchadh nó a fháil saor in aisce in aon Phost-Oifig.

I move:

THAT the statement set out in the Schedule to this Resolution be prescribed for the information of voters pursuant to section 23 of the Referendum Act 1994 (No. 12 of 1994), in relation to the proposal to amend Article 15.10 of the Constitution which is contained in

the Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011 and is the subject of a constitutional referendum.

Schedule

Referendum relating to Inquiries by the Houses of the Oireachtas

The Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas Inquiries) Bill 2011 proposes to amend the provisions of the Constitution relating to the powers of the Houses of the Oireachtas to conduct an inquiry into any matter stated by the House or Houses concerned to be of general public importance. The proposed amendment would add the following subsections to Article 15.10:

2° Each House shall have the power to conduct an inquiry, or an inquiry with the other House, in a manner provided for by law, into any matter stated by the House or Houses concerned to be of general public importance.

3° In the course of any such inquiry the conduct of any person (whether or not a member of either House) may be investigated and the House or Houses concerned may make findings in respect of the conduct of that person concerning the matter to which the inquiry relates.

4° It shall be for the House or Houses concerned to determine, with due regard to the principles of fair procedures, the appropriate balance between the rights of persons and the public interest for the purposes of ensuring an effective inquiry into any matter to which subsection 2° applies.’.

IF YOU APPROVE of the proposal, mark X opposite the word YES on the ballot paper.

IF YOU DO NOT APPROVE of the proposal, mark X opposite the word NO on the ballot paper.

A copy of the Bill can be inspected or obtained free of charge at any Post Office.”

Cuireadh agus aontaíodh an cheist.

Question put and agreed to.

European Financial Stability Facility and the Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011: Order for Second Stage

Bill entitled an Act to further facilitate, in the public interest, the financial stability of the European Union and the safeguarding of the financial stability of the Euro Area as a whole and for those purposes—

(a) having regard to the participation by the State in the European Financial Stability Facility, to enable effect to be given to the Amendment to the EFSF Framework Agreement

entered into by certain Member States of the European Union on the one part and the European Financial Stability Facility on the other part,

(b) to enable effect to be given, in so far as it relates to the State, to the Amendment to the EUR 80 000 000 000 Loan Facility Agreement done in Brussels on 14 June 2011 and in Athens on 10 June 2011,

(c) to amend the Euro Area Loan Facility Act 2010 and the European Financial Stability Facility Act 2010, and

(d) to provide for related matters.

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I move: “That Second Stage be taken now.”

Question put and agreed to.

European Financial Stability Facility and the Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011: Second Stage

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I move: “That the Bill be now read a Second Time.”

I thank the House for agreeing to discuss the European Financial Stability Facility and the Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011 today at short notice. The Bill is needed urgently to allow Ireland ratify the changes to the European Financial Stability Facility and Greek Loan Facility as agreed by the Heads of State or Government on 21 July 2011. It is essential for ensuring financial stability within the euro area.

As Deputies will be aware, euro area member states agreed in May 2010 to create a European Financial Stability Facility, EFSF, in order to safeguard the financial stability of the euro area and to financially support euro area member states which are in difficulties caused by exceptional circumstances beyond their control. The EFSF was incorporated on 7 June 2010 for the purpose of providing stability support to euro area member states in the form of guaranteed loans of up to €440 billion within a limited period of time.

In order to ensure a triple A rating, which provides access to low cost funds, the EFSF adopted complex structures — involving over guarantee of bonds issued and credit enhancement measures such as cash buffers and prepaid margins on loans. These measures reduced its effective lending capacity to some €250 billion, and increased the effective cost of borrowing for borrowers.

Under the EU-IMF financial support programme agreed on 28 November 2010, Ireland accessed one loan of €4.2 billion from the EFSF maturing in July 2016. The total amount available to Ireland from the EFSF under the programme is €17.7 billion.

On 30 June 2011, euro area Ministers for Finance signed an amendment to the European Financial Stability Facility Framework Agreement, subject to the completion of national parliamentary procedures. The main purpose of the June 2011 amendment agreement is to increase the effective lending capacity of the EFSF back up to its headline volume of €440 billion by increasing the over-guarantee percentage to 165% of the amount raised by the facility. The amendments include specification of the margin applying to loans to future programme countries, changes to the pricing structure including the introduction of a new advance margin, a specific reference to Ireland becoming a stepping out guarantor, which occurred on entering the EU-IMF programme, and the potential transfer of EFSF rights, obligations and/or liabilities to the ESM.

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

On 21 July 2011, the Heads of State or Government announced further measures to ensure the financial stability of the euro area and to stem risk of contagion. These measures include a new programme of assistance for Greece and increasing the flexibility of the EFSF and the ESM by allowing them to act on the basis of a precautionary programme, to finance recapitalisation of financial institutions through loans to governments and to intervene in primary and secondary sovereign bond markets on the basis of ECB analysis. The Heads of State or Government agreed to reduce the interest rate on EFSF loans to Ireland, Greece and Portugal to lending rates equivalent to those of the balance of payments facility, close to, without going below, the EFSF funding cost as well as lengthening the loan maturities.

We discussed this further in Poland this week. The proposals from the European Commission on the EFSM have yet to be decided by ECOFIN and are likely to be decided on 4 October. Some details of the EFSF also need to be finalised.

It is now calculated that the overall savings from the reductions in the margins applying to the EU related programme funding is about €9 billion over the average life of seven and a half years as originally envisaged for the loans. This saving of about €9 billion represents 5.7% of the current forecasted level of GDP in 2011. In terms of 2012 the NTMA now calculate that the savings on the EU funds will be about €900 million.

Legislation is required to enable Ireland ratify both the June amendments to the EFSF framework agreement and those arising from the decision of 21 July 2011 in the form of amendments to the European Financial Stability Facility Act 2010. As the June amendments had not yet been ratified by most countries, a consolidated set of amendments was agreed and these are set out in Schedule 1 to the Bill before us today.

As Deputies will be aware, the delay in implementing the 21 July Head of State or Government decisions in relation to the EFSF is adding to market uncertainty. Also Ireland, Portugal and Greece cannot benefit from the reduced interest rate and increased flexibility until the revised EFSF is implemented. It is for these reasons that ratification of the EFSF and the revised Greek LFA are now an urgent priority. At the informal eurogroup meeting in Poland last weekend all euro area countries confirmed they would work to ratify the amendments to the EFSF as quickly as possible. Many countries have already provided confirmation that they have ratified it. Ireland, as a recipient of assistance from the EFSF, should not delay the ratification of the amendments to the EFSF.

Ireland's EFSF loan facility agreement will be revised to give effect to the cost reductions from the reduced interest rate and longer maturities agreed by the Heads of State and Government. This will require the unanimous agreement of the loan guarantors.

The decision of the euro area Heads of State and Government on 21 July also has consequences for the ESM treaty in that the treaty signed by euro area Finance Ministers in July, subject to the necessary parliamentary procedures, will now require amendment. Discussions are continuing at a technical level on the text of the amendments. The revised ESM treaty, incorporating the amendments, will be dealt with in separate legislation later this year or early next year. The ESM is due to come into force and take over from the EFSF during 2013, subject to ratification by all euro area member states.

Arising from the serious budgetary and economic problems affecting Greece and its inability to secure international funding at sustainable rates and in the context of safeguarding the financial stability of the European Union and the euro area, it was agreed on foot of an inter-governmental agreement in May 2010 to provide bilateral loans totalling €80 billion for Greece from the euro area member states in conjunction with IMF assistance of €30 billion over a three year period to mid-2013.

In June Finance Ministers agreed at eurogroup level to revise the Greek loan facility to allow for the extension of the grace period between draw-down and the commencement of repayment from three to 4.5 years, the extension of the maturity period for loans from five to ten years and a change in the calculation of the margin relating to loans to Greece to give it a lower interest rate. The Commission signed the loan facility agreement for Greece on behalf of euro area member states on 14 June, pending ratification by the individual euro area member states. In Ireland's case, this means the Euro Area Loan Facility Act 2010 requires amendment. The Bill provides for the ratification of these amendments to the Greek loan facility agreement.

In line with the Heads of State and Government decision of 21 July on a new programme of assistance for Greece, a second amendment to the Greek loan facility is being finalised to allow for a longer grace period and a lengthening of the loan maturity to 15 years. Once finalised, the Commission will sign the second amendment on behalf of the euro area member states.

The European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011, as brought before the House today, does not provide for the second amendment to the Greek loan facility as the second amendment had not been signed in time. As soon as it is signed, we will have to bring forward separate legislation to ratify it. Given the importance of the amendment to the EFSF framework agreement to Ireland in securing an interest rate reduction and the pressure being put on euro area member states to ratify the amendments to the EFSF and the first amendment to the Greek loan facility, we cannot delay the Bill any longer waiting for the second amendment to the Greek loan facility to be agreed and signed.

Turning to the Bill, as I have mentioned, it provides for amendments to the European Financial Stability Facility Act 2010 and the Euro Area Loan Facility Act 2010. The Bill has three sections, with the amendment to the EFSF framework agreement set out in Schedule 1 and the amendment to the Greek loan facility agreement of 14 June set out in Schedule 2.

The first section of the Bill provides that the references to the EFSF framework agreement in the European Financial Stability Facility Act 2010 shall include the amendment to the EFSF framework agreement. It also increases the amount that may be paid from the Central Fund to €12.5 billion from €7.5 billion in line with the increase in the notional guarantee ceiling for Ireland as set out in Annex 1 to the amendment. It is notional because the amendment agreement specifically notes that Ireland and Portugal have become stepping out guarantors. Despite this point, the figure is being amended for reasons of consistency.

Section 2 provides that the references to the loan facility agreement in the Euro Area Loan Facility Act 2010 shall include the amendment to it of 14 June. Section 3 sets out the Short Title.

The EFSF amendment agreement is set out in Schedule 1. The main changes to the EFSF framework agreement are set out in the amendments to the preamble in the framework agreement. These are: Article 1.(1) provides for Estonia to become a party to the framework agreement — this was a requirement of it joining the euro at the start of 2011; Article 1.(4) sets out the changes arising from the decision of the Heads of State and Government in July to expand the financial assistance that the EFSF can provide in the future beyond the loan facilities it is limited to by the framework agreement.

The changes include: (1) the provision of loans, precautionary facilities and loans for governments of euro area member states, including non-programme member states, to finance the recapitalisation of banks; (2) the purchase of bonds in the secondary bond markets on the basis of an ECB analysis recognising the existence of exceptional financial circumstances and risks to financial stability; (3) the purchase of euro area bonds in the primary market; (4) increasing the effective capacity of the EFSF to its headline €440 billion figure by increasing the level of over-guarantee from €440 billion, 120%, to €780 billion, 165%; (5) amending the pricing structure to cost of funds plus a margin of 200 basis points for the first three years for each financial

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

assistance and 300 basis points thereafter — however, in line with the 21 July decision, the preamble will also be amended to note that Greece is to receive loans at lending rates equivalent to those of the balance of payments without going below the cost of funds and that these lending rates will also be applied for Ireland and Portugal; (6) providing that the maturities for Greece are to be a minimum of 15 years and up to 30 years and these should also apply for Ireland and Portugal.

The remaining paragraphs of Article 1, from paragraph (9) to paragraph (60), amend the articles of the framework agreement to provide for the changes listed above. Many of the amendments are technical or text changes such as changing “Loan Facility Agreement” in a number of articles to read “Financial Assistance Facility Agreement”.

Annex 1, containing the guarantee commitments for each euro area member state, has been amended because of the increase in the level of total guarantees to €780 billion. Ireland’s figure is increasing from just over €7 billion to just under €12.4 billion. However, the annex has also been amended to make it clear that Ireland, Greece and Portugal have become stepping-out guarantors, thereby bringing the effect level of total guarantees down to €726 billion, which is 165% of €440 billion.

Annex 2 which sets out the contribution key based on the ECB capital subscription has also been amended because of Estonia joining the euro and the EFSF. Ireland’s contribution decreases from 1.5915% to 1.5874%.

Schedule 2 to the Bill sets out the amendment agreement to the Greek loan facility agreement. The changes are: the grace period at the start of each loan during which principal is not payable is increased to 4.5 years from three years; the maximum term of a loan is increased to ten years from five, and the margin applicable to loans from this facility is to be reduced by 100 basis points. The amount available to Greece under this facility is unchanged because future loans will come from the EFSF.

I look forward to a constructive debate on the Bill. Now is a time for unity among euro area countries to ensure financial stability within the euro area. The revised EFSF forms part of the measures to ensure that stability and Ireland must play its part, as it is in the interests of this country and the eurozone to do so. Therefore, I urge Deputies to agree to ratify the changes to the EFSF and the Greek loan facility. I commend the Bill to the House.

Deputy Michael McGrath: I thank the Minister for bringing forward this Bill and his Second Stage contribution. I welcome the publication of the European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill which, essentially, gives effect to the decisions taken in June at the euro area Ministers for Finance meeting and at the July meeting of the eurozone Heads of State and Government. It is indicative of the extent to which the crisis in the eurozone dominated events over the summer that it was necessary to revisit the decisions taken in June just a few weeks later, with further measures aimed at reassuring markets as to the sustainability of public finances across the eurozone. It underlines the inability of the European Union to get ahead of the ongoing debt crisis. The European institutions and political leadership have singularly failed to get to grips with the crisis which rumbles on before our eyes, with the downgrade today of the rating for Italy by Standard & Poor’s.

The collective failure of the European political leadership was underlined by the decision to go on holidays after the 21 July summit. The effect was to immediately create a vacuum. While the decisions were made in principle by the leaders, there was no definitive date as to when they were to be implemented and the procedure for their implementation was somewhat open to question. The decision not to follow through immediately and recall parliaments across the European Union, especially across the eurozone, created a vacuum which was subsequently

filled by market turbulence. The fear and uncertainty led to huge turbulence, with billions of euro being written off stock markets. It has crystallised in a sharp way the incapacity of the institutions and the political leadership in Europe to deal with the crisis in a comprehensive way.

In recent days the European Commission published its proposals on eurobonds, but within days the head of the most powerful member state in the eurozone publicly dismissed the idea. It all creates a sense of a European Union that is not acting as a unit, that is not cohesive and that does not have unity of purpose as to how it will set out to resolve the issues involved.

As I said at the time of the eurozone summit in July, I welcome the decision of our EU partners to reduce the interest rate charged to Ireland in respect of the EFSF assistance programme. This is a clear recognition that an essential precondition for Ireland returning to the bond markets is demonstrating that the public finances are on a sustainable path. The saving from the interest rate reduction helps us to achieve this goal. This has been assisted further by the recent announcement of a reduction in the interest rate charged to Ireland on funds drawn down from the separate EFSM. It is particularly welcome that these rate reductions apply to the funds already drawn down from both funds, despite the initial indications to the contrary.

The question that people at home will want to have answered is how will they feel the difference and how will Ireland make the best possible use of the very significant saving achieved. The Minister has confirmed that the saving in 2012 will be €900 million, which provides significant scope in the preparation of budget 2012. The bottom line is that we must achieve a deficit figure of 8.6%. This additional €900 million saving which was not expected a few months ago gives the Government scope to make political choices. Perhaps the Minister might refer to the particular primary balance targets we must achieve, excluding the interest payments we must make next year. While we are committed to achieving the 8.6% target, are we committed to achieving a particular primary balance also, which does not take account of the saving on the interest rate? The Minister has gone on record recently as saying the budget will be about two thirds as difficult as last year's. With the €900 million saving, it need only be less than half as difficult as last year's.

Deputy Michael Noonan: There are some downsides that we have not yet seen.

Deputy Michael McGrath: I am sure there are. I fully acknowledge that the major risk the economy faces is related to the issue of growth and the global economic picture. We received the updated outlook from the IMF today which was quite pessimistic, and that certainly is a downside that will feed into the Government's pre-budget outlook and new multi-year plan which we look forward to seeing next month.

We would like to receive further information on other issues related to the 21 July eurozone summit decisions such as the purchase of debt on secondary markets by the EFSF, following the *imprimatur* of the ECB. Will Ireland be in a position to avail of this? Will it be availing of the extension of the maturities? There was a reference in the *communiqué* to a commitment to provide ongoing funding for programme countries that continued to meet the commitments into which they had entered. When Mr. John Corrigan appeared before the Oireachtas finance committee recently, he was of the view that if Ireland was not in a position to get back into the markets in the second half of 2013, we would be looking at drawing down funds from the new ESM fund which comes into being in the middle of that year. We would welcome the Minister's comments in that regard.

Given the seriousness of the situation, it is somewhat frustrating that the Bill at this stage is only able to deal with the first of the two amendments agreed to on the Greek loan facility. I note the Minister's comment that this issue may have to be revisited in separate legislation.

[Deputy Michael McGrath.]

The uncertainty over a second bailout for Greece needs to be brought to an end as soon as possible, as it is giving rise to fears of a domino effect across the European banking system.

The high profile pan-European stress test of bank balance sheets notably failed to allay investor fears about their ability to withstand a Greek default, the reasons for which are all too apparent. Many eurozone banks, particularly French banks, hold large amounts of Greek Government debt and are significantly exposed as a result. The fear of an imminent Greek default is causing investors to sell shares in such banks. The leading French banks, BNP Paribas and Société Générale, have seen their share prices tumble in recent times. In turn, this increases the cost of capital for such banks, making them more vulnerable. The contagion effect is clearly seen when other banks, which see falling bank share prices and widening credit-default spreads, react by refusing to provide the vulnerable banks with interbank liquidity. There is a sense of *déjà vu* from 2008 when the liquidity markets seized up. This breakdown in the interbank market leads to a breakdown of the credit circuit which can have very damaging implications for the eurozone economy, including the Irish economy.

The economist Daniel Gros recently warned that a failure to avert a breakdown of the normal functioning of the credit markets would lead to a repeat of the “immediate recession” experienced after the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy. The consequences for Ireland of such a scenario would be to choke off recovery in the economy. The central point is that our interest in the negotiations at European level to deal with the crisis did not end with the securing of a reduction in our bailout interest rate. We must be active participants in the design and implementation of measures to deal comprehensively with the related problems of sovereign finances and bank liquidity and solvency.

The creation of the EFSF and its successor, the European Stability Mechanism which will be launched in mid-2013 was designed to prevent such a disastrous chain of events from taking place. Unfortunately, the EU authorities have not always acted quickly enough to take measures to stabilise the situation. How often have we heard the phrase that the euro is back from the brink? The decisions taken during the summer certainly brought a temporary improvement to the situation in relaxing the terms of the current bailout arrangements for Greece, Portugal and Ireland and providing for private sector involvement in the proposed second bailout for Greece. This is not being extended to Portugal and Ireland — nor was it sought, as the Minister indicated previously. However, even at this short remove, there are considerable concerns that there will sooner or later be a need to revisit the operation and size of the EFSF. That is a fundamental issue at the heart of the uncertainty in the financial markets. There is a lack of credibility to the fund which clearly is not big enough to bail out large economies such as Italy and Spain.

Debate adjourned.

Private Members' Business

ESB and Disposal of State Assets: Motion

Deputy Pearse Doherty: I move:

That Dáil Éireann:

- recognises that the ESB is self-financing, has paid €1.2 billion in dividends over the last nine years and contributed €2.2 billion to the Irish economy through purchases from Irish suppliers, taxes, rates, wages and dividends in 2010;

- further recognises that the ESB is of long-term strategic importance to the State's energy supply, in providing skilled employment, training opportunities and a variety of energy and telecommunications services and could play an extended role in the area of telecommunications by using its existing networks to address the State's broadband deficit;
- acknowledges that throughout the current economic and financial crisis the ESB's investment in infrastructure has remained high, unlike Eircom, which continues to be dogged by a decade of under-investment following privatisation resulting in the State remaining below the EU15 and OECD average of broadband penetration *per capita*;
- notes that Ireland is lagging at least three to five years behind competitor countries in terms of rolling out infrastructure capable of high speed next generation broadband;
- welcomes the Government's decision to accept the recommendations of the Cahill-Frontier report, entitled Transmission Asset Analysis, against unbundling the ESB's transmission and distribution assets;
- asserts that the programme for Government commitment to target up to €2 billion in sales of so-called "non-strategic" State assets drawing from the recommendations of the McCarthy Review Group is an unnecessary and damaging fiscal measure driven by a privatisation agenda;
- believes that commercial semi-State companies should not be privatised in part or in whole;
- asserts that semi-State companies can play a vital role in delivering employment activation measures and training;
- affirms that, as a small open economy, State control of strategic State assets and service provision, including but not exclusive to public transport, aviation, ports, forestry, water supply, broadcasting, postal services, energy supply, telecommunications, is central to the future security, prosperity of the economy and society, and environmental protection of the island;
- rejects the Government's decision to sell off a minority stake in the ESB;
- mandates the Government to inform the EU-IMF-ECB that it will rescind its commitment to a programme of State asset disposals; and
- calls for dividends paid to the State by commercial semi-State companies to be reinvested into job creation and retention measures.

Beidh mé ag roinnt mo chuid ama le mo chomhghleacaithe, Deputies Ó Caoláin, Ellis, Ó Snodaigh agus Ferris. Molaim an rún atá os comhair na Dála anocht i dtaobh an Bord Soláthar Leictreachas atá thíos in ainm Teachtaí Dála Shinn Féin.

Last week the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Deputy Pat Rabbitte, announced the Government's plan to part privatise the ESB. Despite decades of rhetorical support for this valuable State asset and pre-election pledges to keep the company in public ownership, the Minister came forth to announce a key plank in the Fine Gael Party's pre-election proposals. The discomfort among Labour Party backbench Deputies must have been considerable.

There was something deeply dishonest in the way the Government justified the decision to sell off a portion of one of the most successful semi-State companies in the history of the State. We are told that selling a minority stake does not represent a significant loss to the State and that proceeds from the sale of this share will be invested in economic recovery. As all of us know, both claims are untrue. The part privatisation of the ESB will be disaster in the long

[Deputy Pearse Doherty.]

term and bad for consumers and ESB workers. There is no rationale for the decision other than that the Government is being pressurised by the International Monetary Fund and the European Union to sell off State assets to service the debt. Clearly, this pressure is too great for the Labour Party to resist. None of this should come as a surprise because Fine Gael made it crystal clear during the election campaign that it wanted to part privatise the ESB. The programme for Government more than hinted that the party had got its way when it promised to “target up to €2 billion in sales of non-strategic state assets drawing from the recommendations of the McCarthy Review Group on State Assets when available.” What is surprising, however, is the speed with which the Labour Party capitulated to Fine Gael’s demand, backed by pressure from the European Union and the IMF.

We need to remind ourselves of what the Labour Party stated only a few short months ago. Its election manifesto stated the party was committed to the “concept of public enterprise, and is determined to ensure that semi-state companies play a full role in the recovery of the Irish economy”. It also stated clearly that “Labour is opposed to short-termist privatisation of key state assets, such as Coillte or the energy networks”. Within a matter of months, however, it has made a U-turn of massive proportions and announced what is undoubtedly the thin end of the privatisation wedge. This decision could well result in the eventual break-up of the ESB and loss of control by the State and the taxpayer. Unfortunately, this is just the latest in the growing list of broken promises and U-turns by the Labour Party since taking office in March. On social welfare, protecting the low-paid, local hospital services, natural resources and jobs, the gap between what the party promised the electorate and what it is delivering is growing by the day.

The arguments against the part privatisation of the ESB are compelling. The company is self-financing and has paid €1.2 billion to the State in dividends in the past nine years. In 2010 alone it contributed €2.2 billion to the State through purchases from Irish suppliers, taxes, rates, wages and dividends. The company is not only of long-term strategic importance to the State’s energy supply, it is also a driver of substantial economic investment and employment.

Unfortunately, the Government is not being driven by long-term or strategic considerations but by an EU-IMF austerity programme that insists on selling off valuable State assets to service toxic private banking debt. It is also being driven by a right-wing Fine Gael agenda which is anti-public sector and intent on dismantling semi-State companies. The Government will argue that it has no choice and its hands are tied. It will claim that under the terms of the EU-IMF austerity deal, it must raise at least €2 billion through the sale of State assets. As all of us know, in politics there are always choices, if one wishes to explore them. The Government has other options available to it to raise this revenue. For example, it could introduce a wealth tax on individual liquid assets with a value of more than €1 million, raising an additional €1 billion per annum for the Exchequer. Alternatively, it could negotiate a loss-sharing agreement with the ECB on the Anglo Irish Bank promissory note, saving the Exchequer billions of euro, or refuse to pay the €703 million senior, unguaranteed, unsecured bond due to mature in Anglo Irish Bank on 2 November.

What is clear is that if a portion of the ESB is sold, it will be gone for good and, with it, the many benefits that accrue to the taxpayer. If the Government needs confirmation that this is the case, it need only consider the privatisation of Eircom in the mid to late 1990s. The legacy of that sale can be clearly seen in the significant decline of Eircom landline penetration from 82% to 69% and the lack of adequate broadband coverage across the State.

What is most galling and truly remarkable is that a Labour Party Minister is fronting this right-wing rip-off, although given the Minister’s history of ideological transformation, this is perhaps not surprising. The question many of us are asking is what Labour Party backbench

Deputies will do when faced with a clear choice between their pre-election promises and the right-wing policies of the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and Fine Gael. To the Labour Party Deputies who may be listening to this debate in their offices and members of the party who are genuine social democrats concerned with the interests of taxpayers and public sector workers, I want to make a direct appeal. Do not let the party sell off this vital State asset to pay down the debts foisted on the State by a failed Fianna Fáil Government. Do not let the party undermine decades of hard work and investment by exposing the vital strategic asset we have to the uncertainties of the private market. Do not let the party trade what is meant to be one of its core principles — public ownership — to bail out banks and bondholders. For its part, Sinn Féin is steadfastly opposed to the sale of any part of the ESB because to do so would be bad energy policy and bad economic policy and detrimental to Irish consumers, taxpayers and workers.

Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin: This is one of the most important motions to be put before the Dáil in recent years. The decision to sell off a stake in the ESB is totally wrong and I warrant that the Minister knows that this is the case. It is the first step towards privatisation of this and other key strategic State assets at the diktat of the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank. The disastrous IMF-ECB deal so cravenly accepted by Fianna Fáil and the Green Party is now the equivalent of the old British regime at Dublin Castle, warping the economy and impoverishing the people for the benefit of outside interests.

It cannot be said often enough that the most recent general election saw one of the greatest frauds ever perpetrated against the people who rejected the Fianna Fáil-Green Party wreckers of the economy and gave a strong mandate to Fine Gael and the Labour Party, both of which had been highly critical of the IMF-ECB deal. That deal was clearly rejected by the people and armed with that mandate the new Fine Gael-Labour Party Government should have gone back to the IMF and the ECB and told them we could not and would not pay, the austerity regime was not working and we had to invest in job creation and growth instead of paying off bank bondholders. Instead, Fine Gael and the Party Labour bowed the knee to the IMF and the ECB, took up the axe left down by Fianna Fáil and the Green Party, and continued with those savage cuts. Tá na pairtithe sa Rialtas seo tar éis dallamullóg a chur ar an bpobal. Vótáil siad ar son pholasaí amháin ach tá polasaí eile ar fad á chur i bhfeidhm anois.

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Deputy Deenihan, has proposed to take over the Bank of Ireland building in College Green, which was the old Irish Parliament building. This is ironic, given the fact that the members of that Ascendancy Parliament sold it out in return for bribes from the British Government, just as the political establishment in this State sold what was left of our economic sovereignty to the IMF and the ECB, surely the greatest sell-out since the Act of Union itself. Now State companies are up for grabs, with large chunks to be sold off. It is the worst kind of short-sighted policy and will come back to haunt our society and our economy in the years ahead.

I wonder what joker came up with the name “NewERA” for the body to be set up to act as an agent for the sale of State assets. It started as a Fine Gael policy document in November 2009 which promised that 105,000 new jobs would be created. What has happened to that promise? At least Fine Gael stated clearly in that plan its intention to sell off State assets. It was otherwise with the Labour Party, which before the general election said it was committed to State enterprises and pledged that it would use commercial State companies as a key part of economic recovery. It said, and has said continually over the years, that it was opposed to privatisation. Now this Fine Gael and Labour Party Government is to set up NewERA as a non-statutory body within the NTMA which will take responsibility for the management and disposal of commercial semi-states from Departments. NewERA will also decide on dividends

[Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin.]

paid out to the State, pay levels and pension fund policies. The Government claims any moneys raised will be used for investment and job creation, but we know very well that the EU and IMF want the moneys to be used to pay down the debt.

As our motion states, the ESB is self-financing, has paid €1.2 billion in dividends in the past nine years and, in 2010 alone, contributed €2.2 billion to the economy through purchases from Irish suppliers, taxes, rates, wages and dividends. The company is of long-term strategic importance in providing the State's energy supply, skilled employment, training opportunities and a variety of energy and telecommunications services. In addition, it could play an extended role in the area of telecommunications by using its existing networks to address the State's broadband deficit.

We reject the Government's decision to sell off a stake in the company to private interests. Let it not be forgotten that the ESB, like other strategic State companies, was built up when wealthy private interests were unwilling to invest in the building and development of infrastructure in the State. They preferred to invest their money abroad, just as the Government is now sending billions of euro out of the country to pay the gambling debts of bank bondholders.

After the achievement of self-government for 26 of the 32 counties, successive Governments built up strong State-owned companies. That must be acknowledged, and the parties responsible merit praise for their initiative. The ESB, Aer Lingus, our telecommunications infrastructure, Bord na Móna and others were strategic pillars of the economy. Of course, these companies must be equipped to adapt to change, but what is not acceptable is the ideology which dictates that the people of this state, through the Government, cannot retain any of these in public ownership and cannot even assist them out of public funds.

The sound investment made when the ESB was established and developed has paid off handsomely over the decades. Throughout the current economic and financial crisis the ESB's investment in infrastructure has remained high, unlike that of Eircom, which continues to be dogged by under-investment following its privatisation. We know who benefited from the fiasco that was the Eircom privatisation: the likes of Tony O'Reilly and other privateers who creamed off profits and dividends. We are still paying that cost. The State, which should be a world leader in communications infrastructure, now lags behind other EU and OECD states in terms of broadband availability *per capita*.

The Fine Gael-Labour Party programme for Government is committed to obtaining up to €2 billion from sales of so-called non-strategic State assets, drawing from the recommendations of the McCarthy review group. This is not based on any sound economic strategy. On the contrary, it represents another step in the downgrading of the economy and a further limiting of the potential of the State to help create jobs and bring about economic growth and recovery. These semi-State companies should not be privatised in part or in whole because they can play a vital role in delivering employment activation measures and training.

In the past ten years the ESB and Bord Gáis alone have paid out nearly €2 billion in dividends. It is economic madness to start selling off these vital national assets in whole or in part. The Government defends this by asserting that it is only a partial sale of a stake in the ESB, but once the rot begins where will it end? We have ample evidence of what happens.

Molaim an rún seo, a cuireadh síos ag Pairtí Shinn Féin, do na Teachtaí uile sa Dáil. Iarraimid ar an Rialtas gan dul ar aghaidh leis an díol seo agus an Bord Soláthair Leictreachais a choinneáil go hiomlán i seilbh mhuintir na hÉireann.

Deputy Dessie Ellis: No one is under any illusion. Regardless of our political perspective, we all accept that at this moment the numbers do not add up. The State is not taking in enough

to pay its way, much less pay the debt it has completely and illogically taken on at the behest of the European banking system. We are now borrowing at high rates and most of that money is doing little or nothing to change the situation. Government policy is simply deflating the economy and taking money out of the pockets of struggling people who spend every penny of their income in the local economy.

With this in mind, we accept that revenue must be generated and new sources of funding tapped. What we completely and utterly reject is the short-sighted, ideologically driven strategy of selling off the family silver, represented by bodies such as the ESB, CIE and Aer Lingus. A move such as this flies in the face of a strategy to encourage growth and job creation. These are bodies and companies that offer essential services to the people, the State and their mutual interests. They are not inherently wasteful, inefficient or poor quality service providers.

It is certain that savings could be made by many of these bodies, which are almost wholly under State control. One possible step, which I ask Ministers to consider as an option for themselves also, is to cut the wages of the top earners in these bodies and establish measures to ensure the obscene pensions that have been awarded to such people are consigned to history. This might not yield the billions required, but it would certainly be a gesture to indicate the Government is serious about getting value for money. There are choices. Blind belief in the market or the orders of the troika is not good enough.

Until recently, the Labour Party was opposed to the current Government direction of privatising State enterprises for short-term superficial gain. It was right to take this position. It was right in believing that it was the responsibility of the State to provide many of these services to citizens and that breaking up these companies would not be beneficial to anyone other than narrow private interests. Unfortunately, the Labour Party seems to have, in deed if not in word, become completely subservient to the senior Government party. I ask Labour Party backbenchers to think about their core constituency, the ordinary working families who depend on these services. They should consider how these families will be affected by privatisation and how little this policy will really do to ease their weekly struggle to make ends meet. It is all the more worrying that these plans, cooked up by Fine Gael in its NewERA programme and accepted by the Labour Party in the programme for Government, are following almost to the letter the recommendations of Mr. Colm McCarthy. This is the man who drew up the plan to destroy the entire State, devastate communities and treat tens of thousands of people as if they were simply numbers in an accountancy exercise. He did all this for a rather tidy sum, given the useless product of his questionable effort.

One of the companies in which the State is considering selling its stake is Aer Lingus. This company saw large State investment of time, work and money in order to ensure its commercial viability into this century. It has been allowed to slip partly into the hands of Ryanair which is set on creating a monopoly situation in Irish air travel. If the remaining shares in State control are sold, Aer Lingus is as good as finished and a brand which has always been looked on positively throughout the world as our national carrier will become another low fare airline. Merging of services will cause job losses and, most likely, protracted industrial action. One would think Aer Lingus was failing. The Government would have us believe that Aer Lingus is costing us great amounts of money but this is simply not true. According to the airline's spokespeople, last month was a continuation of the "positive trend" in the company's figures and August saw profits before tax rise 124% on the previous year's figures. Short-sightedness must be becoming contagious because it is rampant across this Chamber.

The Government also seeks to sell off part of the ESB. Given the experience of struggling families in recent years in regard to disconnections and inability to keep up with bills, how can the Government fail to see this is a recipe for disaster? The private industry has no potential

[Deputy Dessie Ellis.]

for tolerating the difficulties faced by people in this economic basketcase. People and representatives had to fight to end the practice of shutting electricity off from those people who fell behind on their bills. If the ESB is lost to private hands, disconnections will be a massive problem and we will once again face the real possibility of people being without power and heat in their homes. Neither the electorate nor any person who is honest with himself or herself would say that in this day and age electricity should be a luxury. This move has the potential to create that situation, which is very worrying. The policy also disregards the fact that the ESB is self-financing and has been a good thing for the people both socially and economically since its foundation.

The ESB, Aer Lingus and other bodies are not millstones around the necks of the people but are very real assets. If they were not, who would be willing to buy them? The Government must abandon this grubby plan of privatisation. Its conviction that the market should rule all failed us in the past 15 years. The people learned that but obviously the political class has not. If Fine Gael succeeds in this plan, it will bring more hardship, worse service and job losses to this State as well as decreases its year-on-year revenue intake. It is blatantly wrong and I ask all Members to support this opposing motion.

Acting Chairman (Deputy Michael McCarthy): Deputy Ó Snodaigh has five minutes.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: Beidh mé ag glacadh beagánín níos mó ama. I will take more time.

I dtús báire ba mhaith liom an rún seo a mholadh. Rún simplí é agus ní chóir go mbéimís gafa ins an stad go bhfuilimid ag cur a leithéid de rún chun cinn. Is é ról na Dála cosaint a dhéanamh ar an bpobal, agus ar an infrastruchtúr straitéiseach atá bunaithe againn thar na blianta ach go háirithe, chun iarracht a dhéanamh cosaint a thabhairt dár bhflaitheas eacnamaíochta agus do thodhchaí eacnamaíochta na tíre agus chun postanna a chur ar fáil do Éireannaigh in Éirinn seachas thar lear mar atá ag tarlú faoi láthair.

Public control of strategic assets is about much more than our economic recovery in the short term. It is about the very survival of an island nation into the future. As the European financial crisis deepens, the European Union is becoming an increasingly hostile and merciless place for small outlying member states. The larger members obviously seek to protect their own interests first and foremost and we will suffer the consequence. Already we are witnessing unilateral moves by the likes of France and Germany at our expense. These continental players are acting to protect their own banks which recklessly lent to Irish ones during boom times. That is not to say Irish banks were not also guilty. Likewise, Finland's insistence that Greece honour its debt to Finland over and above its debt to Ireland or to other member states is another example of larger states making unilateral moves at the expense of the small outlying nations or nations like us that are struggling.

As an island nation, Ireland is different from other European nations. We have no international land borders and therefore have no choice but to be more self-reliant than others. We must now protect and bolster our capacity to be self-reliant in case the need arises.

Ag tús an 20ú chéad dob é polasaí Shinn Féin — cé nach raibh an páirtí féin bunaithe ag an am — pobal na hÉireann a chur chun tosaigh. Bhíomar ag féachaint i ndiaidh phobal na hÉireann i dtús báire agus ina dhiaidh sin ag féachaint go mbeimís ag trádáil agus ag déanamh conarthaí le tíortha eile. Sa chéad dul síos bhíomar ag déanamh cinnte de go mbéadh flaitheas éigin againn agus go mbeimís in ann tairgeadh a dhéanamh ar son mhuintir na hÉireann.

We are losing foreign direct investment not only to India and other countries, but to our European neighbours. We have seen a haemorrhage of jobs in recent years. During such times

of crisis, economic or otherwise, our sea, air, rail and road transport and our communications and energy infrastructure are the last line of defence for the economy. Their privatisation, whether in part or in whole, would expose us to attack in an increasingly competitive and cut-throat global environment and undermine our ability to protect our industries, infrastructure and jobs. We need only think of State jobs in State companies that have been partly or wholly privatised.

Acting Chairman (Deputy Michael McCarthy): The Deputy has one minute remaining. However, as some of his colleagues did not use all of their time, if he wants more time, I will allow it.

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh: I will speak until 8.05 pm, if that is all right with the Acting Chairman.

We need only look at ST Technics, previously Team Aer Lingus. Where is it now? The same applies to B & I, Eircom, Siúcra Éireann and Irish Steel, which was sold for £1. We should have these companies in State ownership now and with them we would have been able to resurrect the economy, protect jobs and help plan for the future of Ireland. They are not there, however, and we have no control over them. Some of them have gone in total — it is not only that the jobs are gone but the actual companies have disappeared, in some cases because of the property bubble.

Free market competitors can be savage and merciless in their actions. We must defend and hold what we have in terms of strategic assets. Anybody who recklessly disposes of our strategic infrastructure is acting treacherously and against the interests of the Irish people, North and South.

In terms of energy, Bord na Móna, Bord Gáis and the ESB are profitable and are also of undeniable strategic importance. Even a partial sale would be the first step towards full privatisation — that is the way it has happened in the past. In many instances, the privatisation of critical infrastructure, in Ireland and abroad, has been an unmitigated disaster for the public. In Britain, for example, the Royal Mail had to be bought back by the state such was the scale of the disaster and the experience of that privatisation. The privatisation of British Rail also came at enormous cost and because it was done so poorly, in some cases, it literally cost lives. There was no proper consequent maintenance of the railway lines. Companies came in to asset strip, not to invest. The same is true of what happened in Eircom. There was no investment, only continuous asset stripping.

These were assets which were formerly Irish-owned and for which we never obtained full value. We will not obtain full value for anything sold in the current climate.

Critical infrastructure, when in public hands, can be deployed strategically in order to grow the economy. Owing to the fact that under a public owner, profit is not necessarily the bottom line, it can also be used to serve a diversity of public interests. As Sinn Féin's spokesperson on social protection, I actively opposed the Government's recent decision to cut pensioners' fuel and energy allowances. It made a decision to achieve savings by cutting fuel allowances under the household benefits package rather than by securing a bulk purchaser discount from energy providers. In many cases, the latter are State energy providers, which makes what is happening even more ridiculous. We must start insisting that our public services serve the public. We need to cut waste and the outrageous pay and conditions at the top in both public and private companies. We must also extract the very best for the public. The assets to which I refer are only non-strategic if, as is the case with the Government, there is a failure to use them strategically. It is not good enough to sit back and do nothing.

8 o'clock

[Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh.]

Caithfimid smacht a fháil arís ar na modhanna tairgeadh. B'fhéidir go dtuigeann Pairtí an Lucht Oibre é sin mar sin a dúirt Marx agus Engels. Muna bhfuil smacht againn ar na modhanna tairgeadh tá sé an-dheacair smacht a bheith againn ar an eacnamaíocht. Ceacht é sin a tugadh dúinn tamall de bhlianta ó shin ach ceacht atá fíor sa lá atá inniu ann. Muna bhfuil an smacht sin againn beidh cumhacht ag fórsaí seachtracha ar an náisiún seo, agus ar an eacnamaíocht ach go háirithe. Cheana féin, tá cumhacht agus smacht ag na fórsaí sin ar chúrsaí airgeadais agus ar a lán eile. Caithfimid a bheith cinnte de nach mbeidh smacht acu ar a leithéidí Bhord Soláthair an Leictreachais nó ar aon cheann des na comhlachtaí móra Stáit atá ag teastáil uainn chun déanamh cinnte de go bhfuilimid in ann ath-thógaint a dhéanamh ar eacnamaíochta na tíre.

Caithfimid díriú isteach ar rudaí atá tábhachtach seachas ar na pingíní beaga a bhéadh á fháil againn. Caithfimid cuimhneamh gur minic nach bhfuil pingíní chomh tábhachtach is atá postanna nó an féin mheas a fhaigheann daoine as sin, gan trácht ar an mbuntáiste a fhaigheann an Stát go leanúnach as a leithéidí Bhord Soláthair an Leictreachais. Ní díbhinn airgeadais amháin a shaothraíonn sé ach díbhinn ó thaobh postanna agus cúrsaí sóisialta.

Molaim an rún agus tá súil agam go dtiocfaidh athrú poirt ar Phairtí an Lucht Oibre sa chás seo.

Deputy Martin Ferris: I wish to share time with Deputy Healy-Rae.

Acting Chairman (Deputy Michael McCarthy): That is fine.

Deputy Martin Ferris: When the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Deputy Rabbitte, announced in a reply to me last week that the Government had been obliged to make a decision to sell an as yet unknown stake in the ESB, I had no doubt he was genuine in stating that this was not something he would have chosen to do. I am certain that is the case. I am also certain that there are many of his colleagues for whom this is an extremely painful and embarrassing departure from the principles on which the Labour Party claims to stand. The Minister has said — it will be repeated many times during this debate — that the Government has no choice in the matter. We will be told that this sale and the sale of other State assets is necessary in order to pay off some of the massive debt taken up as a consequence of the bank bailout and the virtual surrender of economic sovereignty to the European Union and the IMF. It is correct to say there is no choice in that context. That is why my party and others are opposed to what is happening and why we are arguing that the State should pull out of the EU-IMF programme before we are forced further down the road of debt slavery, austerity and the destruction of vast areas of public and social provision.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: Then what?

Deputy Martin Ferris: Not only does the programme to which I refer narrow the options available, it also means that, in effect, the IMF and the European Union can call the shots on key areas of Government policy — which they are doing — including the vital issue of the sale of State assets. The Government has already abandoned its promise not to sell off strategic assets. However, the scale of the sale is in question. The programme for Government states €2 billion worth of State assets will be sold off. Is that still the case? What is proposed would be bad enough, but I wonder whether the Government has succumbed to pressure to sell off even more assets. The IMF has publicly demanded that €5 billion worth of State assets be sold. The proceeds from such a sale would be spent not, as promised in the programme for Government, on job creation but on servicing the debt.

Similar pressure has been exerted on the Greek Government. Is the Minister or any of his colleagues willing to state publicly in this House that they will not bow to such pressure? Will he

or any of his colleagues state that whatever proceeds accrue — as stated, we are opposed to any such sale — they will be invested in job creation programmes? I suspect they are not in a position to provide such a guarantee. We await with interest to discover the actual scale of the sell-off. It will also be interesting to see how the Government deals with the pressure from the European Union and the IMF.

Sinn Féin does not accept that there is any logic in selling parts of or shares in State companies and then reinvesting the proceeds through new public programmes or a new State company, as has been proposed in the context of the NewERA project. We believe, as the motion states, that the existing public companies and their dividends must be used more proactively in order to stimulate growth and employment. That would be a far more sensible and productive use of the State sector, rather than a once-off sale which would lead to diminishing services, job losses and higher costs. I appeal to Labour Party Deputies, in particular, to consider what we are proposing as an alternative to what the Government is planning to do.

In recent years we witnessed the sale of Irish Sugar by Greencore and the consequences this had for the agricultural community and beet producers in the south east and Munster. We were informed at the time — the Acting Chairman will be able to verify this — that the golden share would protect the interests of both the workers and the producers. What actually happened was that an industry that had been in State ownership for a long period was given away to Greencore which gained massively as a result. I encourage everyone present in the Chamber to vote with his or her conscience in order to protect the State assets that have served us well in the past.

Deputy Michael Healy-Rae: I thank my colleagues in Sinn Féin for sharing time. I acknowledge what the Minister stated last week and fully appreciate the difficulties he faces and the difficult position in which he finds himself.

It is vitally important that we maintain the security of the supply of energy on this island. The ESB is a net contributor to the Exchequer. It is a world renowned company which could be the catalyst for further development in this country. State assets and the potential earnings which might accrue to them must remain in the hands of the people. I ask the Minister to compare the ESB, as it is now, to Eircom and the position it occupied in the past. It is only 11 short years since our telecommunications network was in an excellent condition. Massive improvements had been made to it, particularly the part of it located in rural areas. People were provided with a great service. After 11 years of profiteering, asset stripping and plundering, however, Eircom is now €3.7 billion in debt and the network is crumbling. If one travels through rural areas, one will see telephone poles leaning over. The service is almost non-existent, which is ridiculous. All of this occurred as a result of privatisation. It is good to make a comparison between the ESB and Eircom.

I am extremely uncomfortable with regard to what has been termed a “fire sale”. I am becoming very nervous. Should we not just inform the European Union and the IMF that we cannot pay back the money we have been loaned? If we do not retain our indigenous assets, we will no longer be the masters of our own country. Ireland will become a country ripped up and stripped apart by the European Union. We will be left with nothing.

State companies were established because private companies would not venture outside towns and cities where business was highly lucrative. We all know how private companies dealt with the roll-out of broadband. The country’s communications and energy infrastructure — namely, roads, the rail network, fibre-optic and copper networks, electricity and gas networks, etc. — should remain in State ownership. The current suggestion that 25% of the ESB be sold is all wrong. It would open the door to a future sale of the whole company, including its networks. I remind the Minister of what would have happened if a company like the ESB had been in private ownership in the past. Does he really think a proper electricity supply would have been provided to places like Lambs Head, Valentia Island and the Black Valley? It would have been completely cost-

[Deputy Michael Healy-Rae.]

prohibitive for families to set up an electricity supply when building their homes and keeping rural Ireland alive and vibrant. They would not have had any electricity because they could not have afforded to connect their houses to the network. We have seen the good the ESB and its workers have done in the past. I compliment the ESB's excellent workers and acknowledge the great work they have done in bad weather and the worst of conditions.

We have to learn from the mistakes of the past. We know what the closure of our sugar beet factories, which has already been mentioned, meant to the people. We closed vital parts of our rail network over the years. If such infrastructure were still in place, it would be invaluable. We have to realise that there is a time to sell and there is a time not to sell. Now is not the time to strip down the ESB or any of our other State companies. We should hold on to what we have and what took so much hard work to build. If privatisation takes place, customers and consumers who rely on a quality service at an affordable price will lose out. I ask the Minister to take all of this into account. I appreciate and readily acknowledge the terribly difficult position the Minister and all his Cabinet colleagues are in. I want to work with the Government to ensure the right decisions are taken. I ask the Minister not to throw the baby out with the bath water. That is all I am asking.

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): I would like to share time with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Deputy Howlin.

Acting Chairman (Deputy Michael McCarthy): Is that agreed? Agreed.

Deputy Pat Rabbitte: I move amendment No. 1:

To delete all words after “Dáil Éireann” and substitute the following:

“commends the Government for:

- its commitment to delivering on energy policy priorities, including ongoing investment in energy infrastructure, ambitious targets for renewable energy, a substantive increase in energy efficiency, and the continued opening up of gas and electricity markets to competition, with resultant benefits to business and domestic consumers;
- its commitment to the major investments in critical transmission and distribution infrastructure being undertaken or planned by the ESB in electricity networks, in both this jurisdiction and Northern Ireland, by EirGrid in electricity interconnection and the roll-out of vital transmission infrastructure through Grid 25, and by Bord Gáis Energy (BGE) in gas transportation networks, all of which are designed to ensure security of energy supply, enhance the delivery of renewable energy and underpin economic growth; and
- its decision to retain the ESB as a strong, integrated utility in order to underpin and expedite the least-cost delivery of this critical energy infrastructure, while ensuring the ring-fencing of ESB businesses as necessary to continue to contribute towards increasing competition and efficiency in the all-island electricity market and in line with EU law and requirements;

notes the improved broadband landscape where commercial operators have been investing over €400 million per annum in rolling out critical communications infrastructure in Ireland over the last number of years and that the State continues to intervene where market failure has been identified;

acknowledges that as a result of these investments Ireland will meet the EU target of a basic broadband service available everywhere by 2013, and that speeds of 100 mbps are already available to approximately 500,000 homes, and that private sector investment in high speed broadband services is continuing across a range of platforms;

looks forward to the outcome of the Next Generation Broadband Taskforce, which is chaired by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and which seeks to accelerate the roll-out of high speed broadband across Ireland, through industry and public sector collaboration, in line with the objectives of the NewERA proposals in the Programme for Government;

further notes that:

- under the EU/IMF Agreement with Ireland substantial funding is being provided to Ireland to meet the provision of public services and restore the banking system;
- this Agreement places binding obligations on Ireland to reduce its deficit to sustainable levels and that this requires implementation of necessary measures on both expenditure and revenue; and
- the sale of State assets, as provided for in the Programme for Government, provides a potential source of funding for both debt reduction and for sustainable investment notably in the areas referred to under the NewERA heading of the Programme for Government;

and, in this context, supports the Government decision to sell a minority stake in the ESB on the basis that:

- the ESB will remain an integrated commercial energy company with strong majority State shareholding;
- a group has been established to report to Government by end of November next on the best way to approach this transaction, including size of stake for sale, timing of sale and implications for wider energy policy; and
- the group will be co-chaired by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.”

Certain elements of the Private Members’ motion before the House have some resonance with my own thinking, and I will come back to them later in these remarks. My fundamental position, however, is that the motion is misguided and based on a completely false premise. It indicates an unwillingness to face reality. When I listened to Deputy Doherty, in particular, it became clear that making mischief was a large part of the impulse behind this motion. In effect, the motion asks the House to reject any sale of State assets, which is totally unrealistic given where we find ourselves, and in particular to reject last week’s Government decision to sell a minority stake in the ESB. I cannot accept this motion, clearly, and, accordingly, I propose the amendment before the House.

I will leave the ESB issue aside for the moment because it is important that the parameters of this debate be set out. The simple fact of the matter is that, at present, Ireland depends totally on the funding arrangements that were put in place under the EU-IMF deal to pay for public services and to restore the banking system. This year, we will borrow billions of euro to help to fund social welfare payments, the health and education sectors, and public service pay and pensions. All of these borrowed funds are being provided by the European Union and the IMF. Ireland has no other borrowing avenues available to it. The central point is that Ireland is wholly dependent on

[Deputy Pat Rabbitte.]

the EU-IMF deal to fund the services to which I referred and to which I assume the Deputies opposite attach some importance.

The paymasters are not making these funds available unconditionally. They rightly want to ensure Ireland has a credible programme in place to ensure financial sustainability. The conditionality is set out in a memorandum of understanding between Ireland, as a sovereign state, and the European Union, the IMF and ECB troika. The revised memorandum commits the State, at the insistence of the troika, to an ambitious programme of asset disposal. We cannot unilaterally discard this as the motion would have us do. Sinn Féin pretends to believe the Government can walk away from the memorandum without devastating consequences. In terms of value, the obligation imposed on us by the memorandum has inevitably led to a particular focus on the State energy companies, especially the ESB. My colleague, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, will address the broader issues concerning the memorandum of understanding with the troika, the fiscal backdrop and the Government's tempered and graduated approach to the consideration of any sale of State assets.

I would like to focus my contribution on energy matters, with particular reference to the importance of the State energy companies in the context of contributions made by Deputies on the other side of the House. I accept the tenor of the motion with regard to the major contribution the ESB, as a State-owned energy company, has made to economic and social development. It is equally correct to record that the ESB has been a commercial success over the years, particularly in the increasingly competitive generation and supply environment of recent years, which I welcome.

It is important to place the achievements and contributions of the ESB on record. It has contributed close to €400 million in dividends to the Exchequer in the past four years. This included a special dividend of €176 million on foot of its profit on divestment of some of its generation assets. A customer rebate of €300 million was provided by the ESB to keep costs down for all customers. The ESB pays a substantial element of the carbon windfall levy. This levy was put in place by statute of this House in 2010 to last until the end of 2012. The special dividend and levy proceeds have been used to mitigate the electricity costs of large energy users that are crucial to employment and exports.

The ESB has provided for capital investment of approximately €10 billion in the past decade or so. The vast bulk of this has been in the transmission and distribution network, particularly the latter. This follows earlier years of neglect of capital investment. This investment, which was funded by the company in partnership with EirGrid as transmission system operator, has delivered a hugely improved network infrastructure. It has been pivotal to the excellent security of electricity supply Ireland has enjoyed in recent years, which has already been mentioned by Deputies on all sides.

The ESB recently commissioned a modern gas-fired generation plant in Aghada in Cork. I note that Bord Gáis has commissioned a similar plant in nearby Whitegate. The cumulative impact is that almost 1,000 MW of additional modern generating plant has been put in place by profitable State companies at no cost to the taxpayer. The ESB has been to the fore in investing in renewable energy and smart technologies. It holds a strong portfolio of wind generating assets and is involved in research in wave and tidal energy. The company is in the process of putting in place an extensive network to underpin the use of electric vehicles. This continues the hallmark of the ESB, which has been evident since the initial Ardnacrusha investment of the 1920s, as being to the forefront of innovation and effective delivery.

It is important to record the distinctive contribution the ESB has made to our telecommunications infrastructure. Through its subsidiary, ESB Telecoms, the company has put in place an extensive fibre-based backhaul broadband investment. This has provided important competition to Eircom and has facilitated the roll-out of faster broadband to more places. The ESB is investigating

the feasibility of using its extensive distribution network to facilitate a deeper penetration of fibre-based broadband throughout the country. The delivery of key energy infrastructure — gas and electricity — is critical to enable us to tackle our reliance on a single source of gas supply and limited electricity interconnection. Energy projects of national importance are absolutely vital to ensure secure supplies of energy.

The importance of the electricity and gas infrastructure and supply chain to economic and social development cannot be emphasised strongly enough. It is encapsulated in the oft quoted expression, “keeping the lights on”. Electricity and gas are the lifeblood of economic production, whether in the high-tech ICT sector, the employment intensive services sector or indigenous sectors such as farming. They are also fundamental to key social services.

Because Ireland has such a reliable and modern electricity and gas infrastructure, we almost take it for granted. However, we must always remember that the creation of modern and reliable energy network systems did not happen by accident. It arose from extensive and well executed investment by State-owned companies, notably the ESB and Bord Gáis, and now, more recently, by EirGrid.

The Government fully endorses the strategic national importance of investing in Ireland’s electricity transmission infrastructure. EirGrid’s national grid development strategy, GRID 25, is of key importance. Development of the high-voltage electricity grid is critical to economic recovery, security of supply, competitiveness and the realisation of our renewable electricity targets, as well as regional balance in our recovery.

No doubt EirGrid’s strong professional independent management and operation of the transmission network, as well as good regulation, has further contributed to our excellent networks infrastructure and its reliability. It has also assisted in the introduction of strong competition in the generation and supply business. In turn, strong competition in generation, underpinned by the single electricity market, SEM, exerts downward pressure on wholesale prices, which is good for competitiveness.

Another key project, EirGrid’s east-west electricity interconnector between Ireland and the UK will be completed by the end of next year.

It has been argued elsewhere that the severe step down in economic activity ought to result in the reining in of investment in this area. It is true that the contraction of the economy has been dramatic but energy investment is for the long term. Therefore, the current economic downturn does not in any way diminish the need to complete the Grid 25 strategy and other necessary investments whilst extracting best value in the new environment.

I reject the assertion in the motion that Ireland is three to five years behind competitor countries in terms of rolling out high speed broadband. International comparisons of retail broadband services are conducted periodically. The ComReg statistical report for end 2010 noted the latest OECD broadband data ranked Ireland 13th of 19 EU states surveyed for fixed-line broadband penetration per 100 inhabitants. Indeed, Ireland ranked third of 18 EU states surveyed for wireless broadband penetration per 100 inhabitants. Our leadership position on wireless and mobile broadband is an example of how the market has responded to demand for broadband from people in sparsely populated rural areas.

A wider report on broadband services in 72 countries, published in 2010 by the University of Oxford and the University of Oviedo, Spain, concluded that the broadband services currently available in Ireland are capable of meeting the requirements of today’s broadband applications and overall, in terms of broadband quality and penetration, ranks Ireland 13th of the 72 countries studied.

The fact is that Ireland has made significant progress on broadband penetration, speeds and competition. Commercial operators have been investing steadily in rolling out critical communi-

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cations infrastructure in Ireland over the last number of years. That investment has been of the order of €400 million to €500 million per annum.

In terms of next generation broadband, speeds of up to 100 mbps are already available to 500,000 households and industry investment is set to continue in the upgrading of services available. The Government is fully committed to supporting and driving the accelerated roll-out of high speed broadband. Under the NewERA proposals in the programme for Government, there is a commitment to co-invest with the private sector and commercial semi-State sector to accelerate the roll-out of high speed broadband. This means higher speeds, to more places, quicker. Last week, I convened the latest meeting of the next generation broadband, NGB, task force. Its purpose is to report on the optimal policy framework and to identify a roadmap for the speedy delivery of high speed broadband availability throughout Ireland. The NGB taskforce, which I chair, will report by year end and it is my intention to quickly proceed to implementation.

The State has also invested, where the commercial sector has not delivered. Initiatives such as the metropolitan area networks, the national broadband scheme and major international interconnectivity projects are delivering important infrastructure and services to areas of Ireland which could not be served commercially. As a result of the combined efforts of Government and the private sector, a basic broadband service will be available to all citizens across Ireland well ahead of the EU target date of 2013.

Reverting to energy issues, one of the fundamental objectives of energy policy is competitiveness of energy supply for the economy and society.

Irish electricity prices were for many years above the EU average. This was primarily due to our high dependence on imported fossil fuels, particularly gas.

The Government remains firmly committed to increasing competition as the best means of exerting ongoing downward pressure on gas and electricity prices. Moving to greater use of renewables will also reduce the impact of sudden surges in international gas prices on Irish prices. While other measures to mitigate the cost of energy have been put in place in recent years, the drive for more, and better, competition in electricity and gas markets has had significant effects. Customers are availing of the benefits of value and choice by shopping around for alternative suppliers.

Analysis by the SEAI of official EUROSTAT electricity and gas prices show continued convergence in Irish electricity and gas prices towards the EU average in the two years to end 2010. This is a welcome development.

However, in recent months, global wholesale gas prices have been trending significantly upwards. This has implications for both our electricity and gas prices in view of our high dependence on gas for power generation. This reinforces the arguments for continued investment in the electricity transmission infrastructure to achieve greater security and energy diversity, in particular, through renewables.

I must emphasise that the days of an ESB monopoly in the power generation and electricity supply sectors are long gone. There is strong competition in the power generation, due to the all-island single electricity market, underpinned by effective regulation and the independent transmission system operators, North and South. There is ever more vigorous competition in the electricity supply sector. This is to be welcomed. Greater competition is good for the consumer.

Of course, I accept that the ESB must be constantly vigilant in the promotion of cost efficiency in everything it does. I acknowledge the fact that the ESB has achieved what it has in the past decade while implementing a significant reduction in numbers employed. I also very much welcome the recent and groundbreaking deal agreed between the company and the unions on pensions. This will have major long-term benefits for the company. However, the focus on cost containment must

continue. Therefore, I welcome the current negotiations between the company and the unions which are aimed at securing the delivery of the performance improvement programme of €280 million per annum by 2015.

The networks remain in ESB ownership and this was recently confirmed by a Government decision taken in the context of the transposition of the EU third directive on energy liberalisation. Under this arrangement, EirGrid continues to be the transmission system operator as an independent State company. In this sense, the ESB remains a vertically integrated energy utility, but with a strong and independent transmission system operator, and it is in this format that a minority stake in the company will be offered. The inclusion of these regulated network assets, North and South, in the minority offering should increase the attractiveness of the stake.

The importance of the electricity and gas sectors to economic and social development places the sectors in a unique position in the context of public policy and the national interest. It is my view, given the importance of the sector to the very economic and social functioning of the State, that we must continue to have a strong and direct presence in generation, networks and supply. This must be done in a way that protects overall economic competitiveness and does not deter private sector involvement in generation and supply. However, I have no wish to see a scenario in which Ireland would be unduly dependent on foreign-owned energy companies in a situation where it would be a small component of a larger European market. This approach does not preclude extracting value from the strong and profitable State companies we have built. The process of extracting such value and the implementation of any other structural change within the State energy sector must meet, however, the simple test that they are in the public interest in the widest sense.

I am strongly of the view that the sale of a minority stake in the ESB can be structured in a way that passes this test. As Deputies are aware, a group co-chaired by my Department and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been mandated by the Government to report back by the end of November on the best approach to the proposed sale of a minority stake. Subject to a positive decision by the Government after consideration of the report of this group, I envisage the specific transaction being progressed throughout 2012.

It is incorrect to assert that the decision to sell a minority stake will inevitably lead to the State losing its majority ownership. I have already stated and the amendment emphasises that the State will continue to have a strong majority shareholding in the ESB. This will ensure the company, while continuing to have a strong commercial focus and remaining profit-making, will retain the key role that it has in the electricity market. It will be the task of the group to which I referred to assess the level of stake that might be offered, taking account of energy policy parameters, including regulation, and the objective of maximising yield. The overall objective is a transaction that produces a compatible minority partner for the ESB.

I have no wish to be in the position where outside forces are dictating macro fiscal policy. I would much prefer to have been in government when the country was awash with money. However, Ireland is on the way back. Sinn Féin economic policy would send Ireland the way of Greece. We have a strong underlying economy worth protecting. We are keen to grow that economy within the constraints on us. We can find a compatible investor that will not diminish the role played by the ESB. We are not dependent on a golden share, as has been stated. We are retaining majority control. This is not a first step towards privatisation. We must raise funds under the terms of the memorandum of understanding, at least some of which can be used for re-investment purposes. The Government did not drive the economy onto the rocks, but we are determined to refloat it and regain sovereignty over our own affairs. I, therefore, commend the amendment to the House.

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): My colleague, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, has addressed energy policy and related

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issues associated with the Government's decision to sell a minority stake in the ESB. I will explain the broader policy context in which it has taken that decision.

Like my ministerial colleague, Deputy Rabbitte, I acknowledge the important role State agencies and the ESB, in particular, have played in the economic development of the country through the provision of key infrastructure such as energy and transport infrastructure and the commercialisation of resource-based industries, including agriculture. However, as we are aware, the country is in a desperate fiscal position, notwithstanding the fact that the public finances have stabilised. We are dependent on the financial assistance provided under the EU-IMF programme for the continued day-to-day operation of the State. That is an inescapable fact; one cannot wish it away. The overwhelming public need is to bring sustainability to the public finances and foster economic growth. That is what we are about.

The point has been made by Deputies opposite that the sale of State assets is not a traditional policy of the Labour Party and it is one I accept. In normal times we would probably not be proposing the sale of State assets, but these are not normal times. The Labour Party remains a key advocate of State involvement in the economy. For example, the programme for Government contains a commitment to the establishment of a public water company. The case for State involvement in areas of market failure remains as strong as ever. We could have had a more speedy and successful broadband roll-out in the initial stages had it been State driven, but the whole purpose of State supported economic activity is to support national development and it is entirely appropriate that the fate of any State company is subservient to this overall national goal. To suggest anything else amounts to ideological blindness.

To put the matter in context, this year the gap between the revenues and spending of the Exchequer will be of the order of €15 billion, excluding the costs associated with repairing the banking system.

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan: Does that include interest payments?

Deputy Brendan Howlin: It does.

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív: It also includes the figure of €4 billion for recapitalisation.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: It is a fact completely denied by the Deputies opposite who maintain that we can walk away from the EU-IMF deal and somehow restore the lost resource by magic. The truth is that if we walk away from the deal and instruct the only funder available to the State to take a hike, as some of the Deputies opposite suggest, we would have to find that €15 billion immediately or shut down services. We would not be discussing minor cuts then, rather we would be discussing wholesale closures and sackings. It is not a sustainable position and it is clear that the gap between the revenues and expenditure of the State must be closed.

Deputy Martin Ferris: It is not sustainable to throw money at Anglo Irish Bank.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: No. We had no wish to throw money at Anglo Irish Bank.

Deputy Martin Ferris: The Government has done it.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: It was done by the previous Government. Money was committed solemnly by the State. Sometimes the Deputies opposite pay regard to the institutions of the State, but a solemn agreement was entered into by an elected Government and voted on by the Parliament. That is not something from which one can walk away without consequences.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: Is that the case, even if it is economic treason?

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: I am sorry. We are talking about the disposal of State assets.

Deputy Brendan Howlin: No. It would collapse the economy. I realise there is an anarchic trend in some of the Deputies opposite which would welcome this, but let us tell the people the truth. The programme for Government includes a commitment to release value from the State's portfolio of assets, with the intention of using the proceeds to fund investment in the productive capacity of the economy. The programme specifies a target of up to €2 billion in asset sales, drawing from the recommendations of the review group on State assets and liabilities, the so-called McCarthy group. As the House is aware, the review group reported in April and I have been consulting my ministerial colleagues on its findings and other related matters since. The report stresses how economic recovery must be the central concern of economic policy, including, in particular, the generation of sufficient economic growth to expand employment as a key driver of economic sustainability. It points out that the realisation of proceeds from State assets can assist in the fiscal adjustment and the generation of capacity to invest in future job creation. However, the group cautions against a rushed sale process because this would inhibit the attainment of proper and fair value and, in many cases, it would not be prudent or even possible, given the requirement for revised regulatory procedures and complex legislation.

None of this will be done speedily. In this regard, I have stated an informed view must be taken of what is strategic and essential to the national interest. It can be argued that the ownership and control of electricity, gas and other utility transmission networks such as water are strategic. However, it cannot be argued that outright 100% State ownership must be retained in all cases. The policy choice is to determine which assets to sell and in what circumstances. Any decision on State assets must also have regard to the agreement we have made with our funding partners. The latest EU-IMF memorandum of understanding includes a commitment to asset disposal as an essential contribution to the adjustment process in which we are engaged.

The Government believes releasing value from State assets can provide funds for reinvestment in the economy, as well as reducing the State's debt burden. Funds released for reinvestment in this way also have the potential to help leverage further private sector investment to grow what the original State companies did and create the next generation of State jobs since there is no private money to leverage them now. In this way, the proceeds from the sale of State assets offer the potential to create new employment and to generate additional economic activity. This is the policy objective we are setting about. To this end, the Government has mandated the Minister for Finance and me to engage with our counterparts in the European Union, the European Commission, the ECB and the IMF during the forthcoming October mission to discuss a potential programme of asset disposals and, in particular, how those disposals should be applied as between retiring debt and funding productive investment in the economy to help stimulate jobs and growth.

We have already broken new ground in the last two tranches of negotiations with the EU-IMF-ECB troika to indicate that we want to break away from the commitment given by the previous Government that any sale of assets would be used to retire debt. We want to use it for job creation and growth. In order to progress these objectives, a group co-chaired by my Department and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources has been established to consider the best approach in achieving such a sale, including, as the Minister, Deputy Rabbitte, said, energy policy and regulatory, legal, financial and economic considerations. All of those will be carefully balanced before we come to a final conclusion.

The policy of releasing value from State assets for productive investment in the economy and for debt reduction is an appropriate response to the horrendous fiscal and economic challenges faced by the economy, the people and the Government which we inherited from our predecessors. It will contribute to bringing sustainability to the public finances and, most of all, to fostering economic growth and job creation. This is the task we have set about. Objectively, in the first six

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months of office we have come a long distance from teetering on the abyss of economic disaster to giving ourselves some space as we move away and give hope to people that there is an economic future for investment in this country.

On that basis, I cannot accept or support the motion tabled by the Deputies opposite. I strongly recommend the Government amendment to the House.

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív: Ba mhaith liom moladh a thabhairt do Shinn Féin as ucht an rún seo a chur síos. Tacaím go mór leis an rún. B'fhéidir nach ndéanaim sin ar son na cúiseanna a bhfuil Sinn Féin á chur ar aghaidh, ach tacaím go mór leis go bunúsach.

I commend the Government for having the courage to do a total about-turn and to implement the policies the previous Government was implementing to ensure the fiscal stability of the State and to ensure services to our people would continue.

I have already expressed my opposition to the proposal that has been put before us in regard to the ESB. Our position is based on both experience and an analysis of the issues that are at stake. I do not have a principled objection to the State selling assets. I have always believed, as the Minister, Deputy Rabbitte, knows, that where Údarás na Gaeltachta owned factories and achieved value for those in order to build another factory, which would tie the factory owner to the location as he had then made a big investment and it was not easy to move, it was a gain-gain situation. Each case has to be examined on its merits. However, I believe the approach in this case is utterly flawed and wrong.

We must analyse the issue carefully. We had made a decision in government that we would not sell either the high voltage lines, which are the transmission lines, or the low voltage lines, which are the network of lines connecting to all houses, because they were a fundamental strategic national asset. To sell them to private interests would shift something that had been fundamental to the development of the State right back to at least the time when Fianna Fáil came into power in the 1930s. It is very interesting that one of the constant aims of Fianna Fáil was to promote the dispersal of energy so that industries could be developed throughout the country.

The Government owns a company in which the State interest is the only interest because 95.5% of the shares are owned by the State and the other shares are owned by the workers, who are working for the State. If there is a sale of a minority stake of anything up to 49%, the board immediately changes, and in that boardroom for the first time ever there will be people whose only interest is financial return. The long-term strategic interest of the State will be to them secondary and, as they are obliged under law, return for the shareholder will be the primary interest. What happens in that boardroom when there is a conflict between the return to the State in the national interest and the return to the shareholder in terms of a quick buck and dividend for the investor? It will create a chaotic incompatibility and will also lead to the danger of under-investment in the grid.

There is a tremendous investment programme taking place at present, and the EirGrid electricity investment project, Grid 25, is of vital importance. Let us spell out what we are talking about. The first thing we need this for is to reach our target of 40% of renewables by 2020. Unless we keep investing in the grid to bring it to where the wind is, it will not be possible to reach that target.

I am not suggesting that investment will give a direct repayment back to the ESB, which might make more short-term profit by not making that investment. However, on many strategic fronts, the State would lose because we would not reach our Kyoto targets and the more ambitious targets we have set. It would lose because we would be over-dependent on oil and what might happen in the event of any oil or gas shortage or crisis, or simply rising prices due to peak oil. It would lose because we would be exporting money from the country to buy oil when we could keep that money

in the country for other purposes by having our own, indigenous energy sources. In other words, wind energy would become to Ireland what the bogs and turf energy were in previous decades in terms of our not having to export money to buy the raw materials for energy generation.

The second issue that will arise at board level is the reversal of a policy adopted immediately after the war by Fianna Fáil, namely, that of ensuring everybody living in the State would have access to electricity at a fair price. I do not know how much the Government knows about how the ESB prices lines into a domestic dwelling. The reality is that we have had a social and economic development policy which stated that electricity is the right of every citizen and focused, for example, on keeping the small schools of Ireland open. What will the shareholder whose only interest is the return on his capital want except the charging of the full economic price? They are a bit sore in Kerry this week, which was a hard week for them, but I will use the county as an example. If an electricity line to the back end of a Kerry has to be upgraded, the person concerned with economic return will say: "If there are new industries in west Kerry, let them pay for the upgrade of the line because I want a return on my shares".

It is interesting that we still face huge challenges in regard to investment. I am advised that Dublin is the only place in the country with a sufficiently robust electricity supply to host major data centres. While this may not be important to the financial investor in the ESB, it is incredibly important for balanced regional development in which we continue to invest in order that the location of such major industries must not necessarily be centralised in a single place. In other words, my point is that the minute one brings in a private shareholder, the decisions of the board, which heretofore had been determined ultimately by the national interest, will henceforth be determined by a significant part of that board, who will have an absolute obligation to their shareholders to try to maximise the return in respect of pure profit. I have been a great believer in the semi-State sector when I saw what it could do. I acknowledge semi-State companies do things which perhaps they should not be doing but in respect of things the private sector would not do, where it would not invest sufficiently or where there is a strategic national interest, one should not allow in the private sector.

The motion before Members refers to broadband and I note the Minister has a limited vision with regard to broadband. He thinks people like me who believe fibre should be available throughout this tiny island are living in a dream world. However, for as long as the Government owns the ESB, it is terribly easy technically to wrap fibre around the ESB lines. As there is an ESB line into every house in the country, by owning those lines outright the State can take a decision to use the ESB to be both the electricity and fibre carrier. Moreover, the associated technology is becoming increasingly cheap and increasingly easy to implement. As one literally uses existing lines, one is not obliged to erect poles or anything else but simply wraps the fibre along the lines. Ultimately, by selling off a part-share in the lines that extend to each house in the country, the Government potentially is both doing huge damage to investment policy in this basic infrastructure and is closing down a new avenue that has opened up to resolve the issue of broadband in Ireland.

There has been talk of the agreement with the EU-IMF and I have heard many contradictions from the Ministers opposite. As the latter are so careful to point out to Members, the European Union and the IMF really are only concerned about the bottom line. They have made this clear both to the Government and to my party as long as the targets are achieved. Moreover, these targets are absolutely necessary anyway and even in the absence of the EU-IMF deal, we would be obliged to reduce the deficit as one cannot continue borrowing money for the current account forever. Even if there was no EU-IMF agreement and even if the money was available, it would be imprudent for this country to continue with the type of deficit we have. However, within that, there is room for manoeuvre. I was fascinated to hear the Minister, Deputy Howlin, state a few minutes ago that there is no problem with the EU-IMF because while they wanted the proceeds to be put into debt retirement, the Government intends to put it into new investment. Conse-

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quently, the idea that the spectre of the EU-IMF is driving the Government to this crazy proposal is absolutely belied by the Government's own words. If it intends to put this money into new infrastructure, and I concur new infrastructure should be built, it should not do so by this particular route. The really crucial infrastructure required here is physical infrastructure such as roads, broadband, electricity and gas. The aim should be to hold on to the basic networks for all these things. Although the electricity network could be the network for both broadband and electricity, the Government intends to sell a stake in order to be able to do what it could do much more easily by holding onto that stake. Therefore, it is a complete contradiction in terms.

I am aware the Fine Gael Party contains those who have never been believers in State companies. They could never recognise the fantastic achievements of Bord na Móna and never realised the State companies have created profitable industries where no one in the private sector ever would. Such people have an illogical hang-up about the disposal of State assets, which poses a huge challenge for the Labour Party. On the other hand, I am disappointed by the reaction of some unions. The threat of strike only feeds the paranoia of those right-wing people who believe the solution to all problems is to privatise everything and in the god of competition. I ask the unions to fight this bizarre decision by the Government and have no difficulty with them so doing in the national interest, although they should do so in a mature and reasonable manner.

I believe that holding the country to ransom in the manner proposed would only add steel and some validity to the argument that somehow there is a problem with State monopolies. I have never believed that those who work in State monopolies should be allowed to use muscle for their own personal gain. I believed those assets truly exist for the good of the nation and that people in such entities were entitled to good terms of employment. However, they were not entitled to either bad work practices or terms of employment that were far in excess of anything in comparative industries. I believe they should be efficient and should be models of good practice. I hope the vast majority of workers in the State companies, who share my view of what a State company should be, will not follow a leadership who will be completely destructive of the national interest in this case by making the case for the privateers who wish to begin disposing of these assets.

If the Government sells a 30% or 40% stake, it will set up a board on which two wings exist from the outset. There will be a wing that considers the national interest in investment decisions and another that considers the shareholder interest and the profit interest while making decisions.

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: The Deputy must conclude his remarks.

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív: These interests are incompatible and I believe in such circumstances, slowly but surely, step by step, the argument then would be put forward to privatise the entire entity. Consequently, one will wake up some day to find that when electricity is needed or wires to connect to important natural resources in wind and wave energy are needed, or wires to facilitate industrial policies or wires to bring basic services to households throughout the State are needed, we will be told their provision does not stack up on a profit and loss basis and the national interest cannot be served as it is now purely a private company.

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: I call Deputy Catherine Murphy, who I understand is sharing time with Deputy Boyd Barrett. They have five minutes between them.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: One has been told constantly that Governments cannot create jobs. However, past Governments did create jobs in companies such as Bord na Móna, the ESB, Aer Lingus, Bord Gáis and Eircom, all of which contributed handsomely to the State. Moreover, such employment was of a high quality. If one compares the fate of Eircom with the ESB in the past

ten to 15 years after the former was sold off, it is evident how Eircom was stripped of its assets and the only dominant concern was how much the shareholders would make. At the same time, the lack of investment meant the country went backwards because it did not have this key infrastructure. It demonstrates how important a strategic asset really is. Members have been told a decision has been made to sell a minority share but they have no idea what that means as it could be 5% or 49%.

We are going to have a dual interest in the boardroom of the ESB in the future which will comprise public and private interests. Private interest is about protecting shareholders. There could be all kinds of conflicts in that regard.

The ESB is being eyed up as it is a very valuable asset which has enormous potential into the future because energy will be a huge issue. Wind and wave energy will become more important when no more holes can be bored to get oil and gas. It is the asset in which we need to invest, rather than sell off. I have no doubt that people will be queuing up for it because of its potential. It could deliver a dividend in the future which would help to pay our way out of some of our current problems. I have serious concerns about interfering with the ESB in this way.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: It is shameful that any Government, particularly one which includes the Labour Party, would consider selling any part of a vital strategic public asset like the ESB, Bord na Móna or Coillte. It is even more shameful that it is being done under the diktat of the European Union and the IMF to pay off the private debts of bondholders, speculators and vultures of the financial market.

It is extraordinary that because of the greed of people in the private banking system who crashed the European economy, the response demanded by the European Union and the IMF, and implemented by the Government, is to take another vital area of the economy and hand it over to the same privateers and profit and greed driven people who crashed the financial system. It beggars belief.

It is the definition of betrayal, sell-out and economic treason that any Government would consider giving away even a part of something as important as the ESB. It is a slippery slope to begin privatising the ESB. The State was transformed from being a Third World country to a modern state primarily as a result of a public enterprise, the ESB, assisted by other publicly owned enterprises such as Bord na Móna.

Now, when the vultures of the private market have failed us, is the time we need such enterprises most. We need to invest in them to put people back to work and put our economy on a rational and sound footing. We need to invest in the things our society needs. We should aim for energy security, infrastructure and the provision of jobs for the people. I challenge the Government to tell me if it or the European Union and the IMF can put forward any justification why in a so-called rescue package it is a good idea for us to sell our vital state assets. How does that help economic recovery?

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: I ask the Deputy to move the adjournment of the debate.

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett: How can one define that as anything other than asset stripping?

I totally disagree with advice of Deputy Ó Cuív to the unions. I hope Sinn Féin Deputies agree that we need a massive mobilisation of working people in this country on the streets on 8 October when the European Union and the IMF come here to show them that we are not allowing the Government to sell our vital strategic assets. We need to maintain that mobilisation to stop vultures

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asset stripping the country and the people who are sitting opposite from selling the country out and doing away with any of the assets we need if we are to have any chance of economic recovery.

Debate adjourned.

European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011: Second Stage (Resumed)

Question again proposed: “That the Bill be now read a Second Time.”

Deputy Michael McGrath: Prior to the adjournment of the debate I spoke about the size of the EFSF. One issue which is causing concern among the markets is credibility. The size of the fund does not have the capacity to deal with the functions that have now been assigned to it.

In recent weeks as the issue of contagion has begun to affect larger economies such as Italy and Spain, the issue of credibility crystallised all the more. It is important, especially in the context of the potential, through the EFSF, of recapitalising Europe’s banks. The head of the IMF, Christine Lagarde, speaking at the August annual meeting of central bankers in Wyoming in the US suggested there was a need for the urgent recapitalisation of Europe’s weakest lenders and shoring up the banking system was the key to cutting the chain of contagion across the Continent.

In its global economic outlook, the IMF today reiterated the point that many of Europe’s banks need additional capital. While the cost of recapitalising the Irish banks has been horrendous, we are further down the road than many of our European counterparts at getting to the bottom of the black hole in our banking system. While the measures agreed give governments the opportunity to borrow from the EFSF to recapitalise their banks, Christine Lagarde was, in essence, suggesting it could be used to recapitalise banks by force.

The results of last July’s stress tests revealed that nine of the 91 banks tested failed, with a core tier 1 capital ratio of less than 5%. While national regulators are due to report in October on progress made on forcing recapitalisation of banks that failed or nearly failed the stress tests, the question arises as to how long this process will take. Decisive action by policy makers to accelerate the rollout of the EFSF and cover the write-down of Greek exposures by the banks is urgently needed.

In addition to stabilising Italy and Spain, the euro area should make it clear that it will do whatever it takes to quell what is increasingly becoming a self fulfilling debt crisis. Put simply, the EFSF may not have enough funds to undertake the massive bond purchases that may ultimately be required to stabilise the market.

The Minister and his eurozone colleagues should give consideration to it obtaining a line of credit from the ECB in addition to the funds it can raise to the issuing of bonds. A scheme of this sort could give it at least €2,000 billion euro in firepower, perhaps significantly more. The US Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner, is reported as having alluded to this possibility during recent discussions in Poland and it is something that needs to be given serious consideration.

In addition to addressing the size of the fund, the potential for it to be used for imaginative solutions to assist member states needs to be examined. I note the Minister is currently giving consideration to changes in the operation of the promissory notes provided as part of the recapitalisation work done in Anglo Irish Bank. The suggestion from Karl Whelan of involving the EFSF in this regard is worthy of close consideration because we would all welcome a restructuring of the arrangement and whether a reduction in the overall bill could be achieved.

Under that proposal, the EFSF would provide a 30 year loan to Anglo Irish Bank to pay off the emergency funding from the ECB for which it currently uses the promissory note as collateral. The note could then be restructured as a 30 year bond to be repaid in full at the end of the period.

I find it very difficult to understand the attitude of the ECB to the efforts of the Government to secure some burden sharing among the remaining unsecured unguaranteed bond holders at Anglo Irish Bank and the Irish Nationwide Building Society. These institutions are being wound down, their deposits have been transferred and they no longer issue any new loans. They are in a completely different scenario to AIB and Bank of Ireland, the two pillar banks.

In concluding this debate, the Minister should give us the bottom line from the ECB in terms of what it is saying to us, its objection and what it would do if the Government decided to proceed with imposing losses on the bondholders. It is important that we know this. I welcome the Bill, which we will be supporting. I look forward to continuing this debate with the Minister on Committee Stage.

Deputy Pearse Doherty: With every day that passes the euro crisis gets deeper. Last night Italy was again in the spotlight as Standard & Poor's cut its credit rating by one notch from A+ to A. Meanwhile the world's financial media is camped out in Athens waiting for what many people believe is the inevitable Greek default. All the while the financial markets circle the eurozone like a wake of vultures, drooling over the prospect of yet another currency carcass to devour.

In response to this escalating crisis, the Governments of Germany, France and Greece hold endless emergency conference calls, followed by resolute words but very little action. On the sidelines, the rest of Europe's governments sit passively, watching on and hoping that somebody else does something about the crisis which they were partly responsible for creating.

In truth the actions and inactions of leaders across Europe are making the crisis worse. Endless EU summitry, ambiguous summit conclusions and the inevitable post-summit disagreements are wasting valuable time and energy. All the while the ordinary people of Greece, Ireland and Portugal are paying a very real human price as endless rounds of austerity push hundreds of thousands if not millions of families further into poverty and financial hardship.

At the core of this failure of political leadership across Europe is the simple fact that our governments do not understand the causes of the crisis in the eurozone. This is not a debt crisis. This is not a crisis of overspending or bad economic management in the periphery of the eurozone. This is not a crisis that can be solved by forcing countries to bleed their economies and societies dry in return for meeting EU and IMF-imposed deficit reduction targets. The crisis of the eurozone is first and foremost a banking crisis. Years of reckless lending and borrowing within the European banking system created a financial bubble of enormous proportions. When that bubble burst the result was a drought of investment and a slowdown of consumer spending. In turn unemployment rose, tax revenues fell and borrowing increased.

Some countries, such as Ireland, added fuel to the recessionary fire. A reliance on property-based tax reliefs and other fair weather taxes hollowed out the tax base. When the bubble burst they went even further by excessively guaranteeing the toxic debts of bad banks such as Anglo Irish Bank and underwriting loans from the ECB to repay these debts. Is it any wonder that the deficit spiralled out of control? The end result was an ever-growing mountain of sovereign debt bloated with extra toxic banking debt coupled with spiralling unemployment. Under this dual strain of debt and unemployment the euro started to crack. Inherent design flaws and clear mismanagement exposed the fact that the single currency was not designed to handle a crisis on this scale.

Unfortunately, European political leaders appear even less equipped to handle this social and economic strain. Rather than dealing directly with the growing levels of debt and the drought of investment, the EU institutions, supported willingly by member state governments, tried to treat the symptoms of the crisis rather than the cause. Their response was to deal with a banking crisis by bailing out the banks and to impose the cost of these bailouts on ordinary working people through crippling EU-IMF austerity programmes. Somehow this magic formula was supposed to

[Deputy Pearse Doherty.]

reduce the governments' deficits and reassure the markets to lend to the indebted states at lower interest rates.

The European Financial Stability Facility was a key element of this policy. Using guarantees from all EU member states it borrowed money from the financial markets to lend back to member states that were blocked out of the international markets. This money was and is being loaned to Ireland, Portugal and Greece, on condition that the EU-IMF policies of bank bailouts and crippling austerity were adhered to. The proposition was as simple as it was illogical. Seeking to resolve a debt mountain by heaping more debt on member states is absurd. It is not possible to stimulate economic recovery by wrenching billions of euro from the domestic economy and from the pockets of those who spend in the local economy.

More than 18 months has passed since the EU agreed the first austerity programme with Greece. Has the policy prescription meted out by the European Union and the IMF cured the Greek patient? Clearly it has not. If anything it has made the Greek economy weaker and the suffering of the Greek people greater. It gives me no pleasure at all to say that former Deputy, Arthur Morgan, predicted this when he opposed the original Euro Area Loan Facility Bill in May 2010. He said then that the EU facility and the loans it would provide to Greece were not an act of solidarity to assist a beleaguered fellow member state. He told this House that it was a massive bailout for toxic banks the cost of which would be paid by taxpayers across Europe. Unfortunately the recent news from Greece confirms beyond any doubt that Arthur Morgan's and Sinn Féin's analysis at that time was right. Greece is probably soon to receive its second bailout. Its government bond yields have hit historical highs of 23% and almost every economist and commentator in the world believes that it is only a matter of time before Greece defaults.

Clearly aware of the fact that their dual approach of bank bailout and crippling austerity was not working EU leaders gathered in June and July this year in Brussels. We were told that these summits would be different. We were told that our governments finally understood the scale of the crisis and decisive action would follow, yet when the dust had settled after the summits, a very different picture emerged. While some form of burden sharing on toxic private banking debt was to be allowed for Greece, albeit of a voluntary nature, all other member states, including ours, agreed to "solemnly reaffirm their inflexible determination to honour fully their own individual sovereign signature". This is Euro-speak for a cast iron commitment to bailing out toxic banks irrespective of the cost to the taxpayer. However, worse was to come. The summit conclusions also included a guarantee from each government to meet "commitments to sustainable fiscal conditions and structural reforms". In Ireland's case this is a commitment to fully implement the EU-IMF austerity programme agreed by Fianna Fáil in 2010.

Greece, weighed down by bank bailouts and crippling austerity, was brought to the brink of financial collapse, a collapse that contained the potential to destroy the euro. In response the governments of the eurozone, including this Fine Gael and Labour Party Government, signed a commitment to follow exactly the same policies, and to blindly follow in Greece's footsteps, led ably by the IMF and the European Union.

The summit also agreed to further centralisation of fiscal and macroeconomic decision making at an EU level, further undermining the ability of individual member states to respond with the flexibility required to meet each state's individual economic and social needs. The stupidity of all of this is truly breathtaking. Even more breathtaking was the spin placed on this agreement by the Fine Gael and Labour Party Government when its delegation returned from Brussels. We were told this was a major achievement in that the Government secured an interest rate reduction and in addition the State would have an option of extending the maturities on that debt from 7.5 years to 15 years at a minimum. There were other changes of which the State could avail at a later stage,

including accessing EFSF moneys to further recapitalise the banks and facilitating the ECB to buy back government bonds on the secondary market at a potentially reduced rate.

Sinn Féin's response to these measures was very clear at the time. Of course, we welcomed any reduction in the interest rate — we called for it — and any other measure which would assist in making the State's sovereign debt more sustainable. However, crucially the package of measures outlined in the 21 July eurozone summit conclusions completely ignored the central problems facing the peripheral eurozone economies and the eurozone as a whole. It completely failed to address the overall level of debt held by those eurozone countries most at risk from default, including Ireland. It did nothing to address the urgent need for investment in job creation and economic and social recovery. The so-called positives at the 21 July summit are nothing more than a sideshow when compared to the tsunami of debt currently engulfing the State. The much lauded July deal was nothing more than a sticking plaster on a wound so great that only amputation would halt the loss of blood and keep the patient alive.

Two months have passed since the leaders of the eurozone economies agreed to this package of measures. Have the markets calmed since? Have the Government bond yields of Greece, Portugal and Ireland fallen sufficiently? Has the prospect of a Greek default receded? The answer to each of these questions is "No". Once again European leaders, including Fine Gael and the Labour Party, are failing. They are failing their own citizens, the citizens of their neighbouring countries and the eurozone.

On this basis Sinn Féin is not in a position to support this Bill. While it contains some elements that without doubt are positive, particularly the interest rate reduction, it cannot be presented as anything close to the kind of comprehensive solution to the crisis gripping the eurozone. Worse still, it introduces, in the most underhand way, the permanent European Stability Mechanism which contains greater risk to Ireland and the European Union as a whole. Sinn Féin is already on record calling for a referendum on the ESM, and for the Government to introduce this measure under the cover of the EFSF legislation is downright dishonest.

Stabilising the euro will only be achieved when the policies of bank bailout and crippling austerity are abandoned. In their place the Government and its eurozone counterparts need to force significant burden-sharing on toxic debt from the European Central Bank such as the infamous Anglo Irish Bank promissory note. As the overall toxic debt burden is lifted, governments across Europe must start to invest in social and economic recovery. Anything short of this will drive the eurozone, and the economy, deeper into crisis.

Sinn Féin is against bank bailouts, austerity and making ordinary working people and those on low incomes pay for the reckless behaviour of banks and governments. Sinn Féin is for banks shouldering their fair share of the burden of the crisis and investment in jobs, services, communities and people. We are for a new deal for Europe that puts economic recovery first. On that basis we will oppose this Bill and continue to argue for a more comprehensive and sustainable solution to the crisis across the eurozone.

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: I call Deputy Catherine Murphy and I note she is sharing her time with Deputy Finian McGrath.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: We are aware that while we can table any number of amendments to this legislation, the one thing that is certain is that none of them will be accepted. That seems to be the message, and that is deeply troubling. Most Members would be unhappy with that kind of arrangement.

A question that keeps going through my head is what will happen in 2013. We are supposed to return to the markets by then, yet we will have to come up with our share of this new fund. There are many questions in my mind about that.

[Deputy Catherine Murphy.]

We are buying into something at a time when there is deep political uncertainty. There is a lack of leadership at European level. It is not that long ago that Chancellor Merkel reminded us that she wanted to be the Chancellor of Germany. Nor is it that long ago since President Sarkozy used the argument of his concerns about our corporate tax rate for his own purposes for internal consumption within France. That lack of solidarity is a backdrop to this legislation and this mechanism. It is not clear from where the required leadership will come but the one thing that is certain is that it is required.

We saw today the downgrading of the credit rating of Italy, a country we are told is too big to bail out, yet the provisions in this legislation allow for a stepping-out of guarantors and a sharing of the amount that must be contributed to the fund. What happens if a very large country steps out? That would put incredible pressure on the other countries.

I was no fan of the Maastricht treaty. I knocked on doors during the campaign for it because I thought it was being sold as a measure under which we would get €6 billion or €8 billion. It was not fairly sold on the merits of what was being proposed. If something was going to go belly-up, the people who would pay the price if we could not meet the criteria would be poor people and our public services. It did not take much to figure that out. We were sold the treaty on the basis that we would get €6 billion or €8 billion and we are paying an awful price for the hoodwinking of the electorate. We saw the convincing that needed to be done in regard to the Lisbon and Nice treaties as a consequence of this.

What will be the governance arrangements around this mechanism? Are we moving towards a federal Europe? In the same way as we were mis-sold the Maastricht treaty, are we being mis-sold this measure in that we are moving towards a federal model? If we are, we should know about it. We should decide we will do it if we think it is good for us or decide we will not do it if we think it is bad for us. This is not benign.

The Minister said, as was stated in some of the background material to this measure, that it will give us access to a triple A rating. The agencies that decided our credit rating, Moody's and Standard & Poor's, are the ones that decided to assign a triple A rating to Anglo Irish Bank, AIB and Bank of Ireland. I do not place a great deal of confidence on their credit rating being some sort of a guarantee for the future when they got it so wrong in the past, and it is not that long ago since they assigned those ratings.

I wish to quote a few extracts from a discussion paper prepared by TASC on the debt and banking crisis. The paper states:

The design of the Euro zone's permanent loan facility, the European Stabilisation Mechanism (ESM), is flawed for a number of reasons. The reasons are as follows:

First of all, the interest rates charged under the ESM will be ... unsustainable high levels. Second, the preferred creditor status taken by the official lenders is a disincentive for investors to purchase member state bonds. This exacerbates the difficulty for member states wishing to access the bond market at sustainable rates. Third, the proposed collective action clauses (the creditor bail-ins) on bonds issued after 2013 will increase the difficulty for member states trying to access the bond markets at sustainable interest rates in the future. Finally, the conditionality of extreme austerity imposed on members states wishing to obtain access to the EFSF and/or the ESM reduces the ability of the members state to grow out its crisis.

Our domestic economy is very depressed. The austerity measures particularly hit that part of the economy that accounts for 60% of it. In all the discussion on this prior to the general election it was stated that we would not be able to cut or tax our way out of this but that we would have to have some element of growing our way out of it. Essentially, we have moved on from that now. It

is a question of us being able to reduce the amount we owe if we are going to be able to solve our problems.

The TASC discussion document describes Ireland as an emerging economy. It states that in the case of emerging economies, an 80% to 90% debt to GDP ratio is the danger zone, yet Ireland's debt to GDP level will be approximately 120% by 2013. In this document they themselves say there is no silver bullet, and I accept this. However, we should consider issues other than the simple ability to borrow from a lender of last resort. Governance issues are not being stated. We are moving blindly towards something instead of confronting the possibility that we are opting into a federal Europe.

Deputy Finian McGrath: I thank the Leas-Cheann Comhairle for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important legislation, the European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011. It deeply saddens me to see where the country is. Our economic sovereignty is gone and we all want it back. Politicians, bankers and developers have brought us to where we are and it is depressing to see some of them, such as Michael McDowell on television last night, sticking their heads up again and talking about our Constitution and our Presidency while they were the ones, with their free market housing and mad stamp duty policies, who wrecked the country.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Supported by some Independent Deputies.

Deputy Finian McGrath: I am not afraid to say I look forward to the day when we get out of this mess. In doing so, we should never penalise the unemployed, the old, the sick or the disabled. Sadly, that is what the Government is doing. Punishing people for the sins of others should never be an option. There is another way and I would like to outline it in this debate. We all have a duty to work together on this huge financial matter. All members of the Oireachtas have a duty to come up with ideas to resolve this crisis. During the past five or six months, Members from the Independent group have put forward relevant proposals to resolve the crisis. I commend my colleagues in the Independent-Technical group on some of their positive and constructive proposals.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: That is the group that supported the previous Government.

Deputy Catherine Murphy: We were not here.

Deputy Finian McGrath: Many of them were not Members of the previous Dáil.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: We are not responsible now, are we not?

Deputy Finian McGrath: I stood up to the previous Government, as Deputy Durkan knows well. I was one of the few people who stood up to the Government and for the people.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Deputy McGrath was there.

Deputy Finian McGrath: In May 2010 the euro area members states agreed to create a European Financial Stability Facility, EFSF, to financially support the euro area member states that were in difficulties caused by the exceptional circumstances beyond their control. The EFSF was incorporated on 7 June 2010 for the purpose of providing stability and support to the euro area member states in the form of guaranteed loans of up to €440 billion within a limited period of time. To ensure a AAA rating, which provides access to low cost funds, the EFSF adopted complex structures involving over-guarantee of lending and credit enhancement measures such as cash buffers and prepaid margins on loans. These measures reduced its effective lending capacity to some €250 billion and also increased the effective cost of borrowing for borrowers.

Under the EU-IMF financial assistance programme agreed on 28 November 2010, Ireland has accessed a loan from the EFSF of €4.2 billion, maturing in July 2016. The amount available to

[Deputy Finian McGrath.]

Ireland from the EFSF under the programme is €17.7 billion. That is what is at the heart of the legislation. This is what we are talking about.

We also need to change our mindset in the House and in the country with regard to dealing with proposals for solving our economic crisis. It is important we do not dismiss those who say we should look at the taxation issue. We should not walk away from the T word as we debate ways of getting out of our current situation.

I wonder if the Minister and other Deputies are following the debate in the United States where a multi-billionaire, Warren Buffett, says the mega-rich should pay more tax. This idea should be taken up in Ireland. This wealthy billionaire is advocating a policy of taxing the rich rather than lower and middle income people. Ever since the Thatcher and Reagan era of the 1980s, there has been a steady transfer of wealth to the very rich, which has accelerated in recent years as hard-working people have taken the cuts in income to bail out super wealthy bankers. Not only is this socially unjust, it is also economic insanity. Those on low and middle incomes reinvest practically all their money in their local economies, keeping more people in work. On the other hand, the mega-rich hoard much of their wealth, buy gold and silver and high end luxury imports or speculate on money markets, which is causing so much turmoil in the European Union. All of this generates fewer jobs. If money is given to lower and middle income people, they will spend it in their localities and employment will be created.

I say to Deputy Durkan and the Minister that it is time the Government stopped implementing the failed policies of the past ten years——

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Will Deputy McGrath accept his share of the responsibility for the problem?

Deputy Finian McGrath: ——and adopted the sensible suggestion of Warren Buffett, which has led to economic and social progress in many small countries all over the world.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Independents supported the previous Government, the Administration that scuppered the country.

Deputy Finian McGrath: That is my first proposal.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Do not tell me there is another one.

Deputy Finian McGrath: My second proposal is that the Minister should look at another taxation system which has been floating around Europe during the summer. This would see 0.5% of every euro spent on business related financial transactions, or merely 50 cent in every €1,000, levied on those involved in the transaction. This is not a tax on banks, which are prone to making losses, but on the transactions themselves, such as financial speculation and other purchases. Globally, it is estimated that this mechanism could raise €500 billion a year, money that could be used to tackle poverty and climate change issues at home and abroad and lessen the cuts to the poor, the disabled and special needs assistants.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Who pays for a tax on transactions? It is the consumer who pays.

Deputy Finian McGrath: There are two sensible proposals.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: I hope Deputy McGrath will apologise for supporting the previous Administration.

Deputy Finian McGrath: A Leas-Cheann Comhairle, I ask you to protect me from Deputy Durkan.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: After supporting the previous Administration, he needs protection.

Deputy Finian McGrath: I am sure Deputy Durkan will be interested in my third point.

An Leas-Cheann Comhairle: Please, Deputy Durkan.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: I apologise, a Leas-Cheann Comhairle.

Deputy Finian McGrath: I accept Deputy Durkan's apology. I would like the Minister to consider another proposal as he prepares the budget. It relates to the cigarette industry. Extra Government revenue of €758 million is possible. The Government will earn €10.4 billion from tobacco excise duty in the next ten years assuming there is no change in the excise structure, no excise increases and no industry price increase, and assuming a decline in duty due to lower consumption and the growth of the value sector at the expense of the premium sector. Tobacco is not politically correct, but I am interested in raising money for the Government. The tobacco industry contributes €1.6 billion in excise or 24% of total excise receipts. Changing the excise structure protects Government revenue and discourages price wars. Moderate and predictable increases maximise Government revenues. Sharp increases in excise threaten Government revenues and strengthen the illicit cigarette trade.

I have put forward three sensible solutions to raise a few bob for the State. I welcome the debate and I hope some of my ideas and proposals on the economy will help us get out of this very difficult situation.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: Fair play to Deputy McGrath.

Deputy Peter Mathews: I will start from the point where I hope to finish, that is to say, I will be supporting the European Financial Stability Facility and the Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011. However, this debate requires some serious consideration of important aspects, many of which have already been made.

Italy's credit grading has been reduced. Europe's banks and the European economies are on the most fragile ground ever since the European project got under way. The yield on Greek one year bonds — forget about ten year bonds — was at 147% the other day. That means they have been written down by 50%, certainly. That is the mathematical expression, yet the meeting on 21 July looked at a write down of only 21%-22%. Deutsche Bank, which represents about 60% of the entire German economy, with €1.6 trillion on its balance sheet, has leverage of 52 : 1. Crédit Agricole in France has leverage of 74:1. These are just expressions of how fragile is the banking system. When it entered the troika agreement in November 2010, Ireland was stretched to its limit. It remains stretched to its limit, notwithstanding the reliefs of the cups of water in interest rate reductions in recent months. The actual size of the debts in our banking system, together with national debt, are crushing the economy. One of the most important aspects of the Wyoming meeting of central bankers at the end of August looked at the whole question of debt as a proportion of GDP in 18 of the OECD countries. I am currently trying to get the figures that would apply to Ireland if it had been included in that table. Japan led that table and we know that growth in the Japanese economy has been pretty well smothered for the past few years.

This was alluded to by Deputy Doherty and I want to be fair to all the contributors in the House, because the expressions are honest expressions of homework well done and proposals well made. This Parliament, as a member of the eurozone, in passing the Bill before us, can send a very strong caution and message to Europe, which is that the debt burden on the country should be reviewed. There are ways of doing this, such as re-examining the promissory notes in Anglo Irish Bank, which arose as a result of the failure to write down the amounts owing to bondholders.

I would like to remind the larger countries in the eurozone, particularly Germany, as they debate and dither on what kind of firm action is needed, that they should remember the 1953 London Debt Agreement, where large levels of loans were written down, following which the German

[Deputy Peter Mathews.]

economy began to grow and recover. That proposal on revisiting the pro-note liability has been put forward by Karl Whelan. I have had conversations with him on that subject going back nearly a year, and I would commend it on the consideration and support of this House.

The crisis is severe and Europe's leaders have not stepped up to their responsibilities. I encourage the Minister for Finance to keep explaining to the people of Europe and to the ECB the provenance of our indebtedness to the ECB. It was a result of us redeeming bondholders in full, when the previous Government did not acknowledge the level of losses in the banks. It behoves us to get that message across and it behoves the Europeans to pay attention to it. They must recognise the truth of the situation and recognise it tangibly.

I want to respond to a couple of points made by Deputy Finian McGrath. We all have to come together to work through this crisis. My country is dear to me. That is why I put my name forward to become a public representative. There are people who should consider their positions, such as very wealthy non-resident and high earning citizens of this country. There is a crisis and they should consider Warren Buffet's suggestion that they can contribute by way of taxation. They can also consider the justification for a special levy for four years on incomes above, say, €200,000 per annum. Just because they live abroad does not mean they do not benefit from their families remaining here. If they have a fire in their homes in Dublin, it is not the Monte Carlo or Swiss fire brigade that will put out that fire. They should remember this.

In every meeting with the European Commission or the ECB, we should remind them that we have justification in persisting to seek a loan write down to relieve the overall burden of debt in this economy, in order that it can be passed and transferred back to businesses and households that need it. We spoke two weeks ago about mortgage debt write down, which was called forgiveness. It is actually about writing down to collectable amounts.

I call on the political leaders of Europe to commit and to cease the words, words and words. There has been an interminable amount of words and a lack of action and commitment. About €75 billion needs to be written down in our banking system. In Portugal, it is about €65 billion. In Greece, it is at least €175-200 billion, and not the €50 billion that was discussed on 21 July. Italy and Spain need write downs equivalent to about €200 billion. If we tot it all up and make a cushion provision, we are approaching €2 trillion. That needs to be done sooner rather than later. A limp along and unsynchronised progression of legislation in the 17 eurozone countries is a dangerous cocktail. We need to keep getting that message across and not detract from it for one moment.

Deputy Sean Fleming: I appreciate the opportunity to speak this evening on the European Financial Stability Facility and Euro Area Loan Facility (Amendment) Bill 2011. That title is a bit of a mouthful. This Bill will essentially implement the decision agreed by the EU member states on 21 July 2011. The Bill will increase the effective lending capacity of the EFSF to €440 billion, and will increase the flexibility of the EFSF and ESM by allowing them to act on the basis of a precautionary programme.

The euro member states agreed in May to create a European financial stability facility to support financially eurozone member states that are in difficulties caused by exceptional circumstances beyond their control. This is part of the essence of why we are all here today. We are going to be here next year and the following year, because I do not believe that some of what we are dealing with is beyond the control of the respective member states. It is essentially as a result of decisions by governments and states, and perhaps the population of Europe at large, to run a deficit and to spend money we do not have. We have a financial problem and not a political problem.

Ireland was the first beneficiary from this and Portugal followed shortly afterwards. On 30 June 2011, the euro area Ministers of Finance signed the European financial stability facility framework agreement, subject to the completion of national parliamentary procedures. The purpose of this discussion is to allow the Oireachtas to complete this procedure. Ireland, Portugal and Greece cannot benefit from reduced interest rates, an issue to which I will return, and increased flexibility

until the agreement is fully implemented. Hence, legislation on the agreement must pass through all relevant national parliaments, including that of Greece.

The cost of bailing out bankrupt banks has been a particular problem in Ireland. However, the cost of the budget deficit is a much larger problem in Ireland and at European level generally. Most European countries, including France and Germany, are running deficits, as is the United States. A few years ago, one used figures of thousands. We subsequently spoke of millions and later billions. The word “trillions” now hangs in the air and the US debt of between €16 trillion and €17 trillion is beginning to give us an indication of where we are. Japan has been running a deficit for some time and has some of the highest borrowing levels in the world. I concur with Deputy Mathews that its growth rates have been muted. How could they be other than muted when the country has such a large debt? As with any household, one cannot spend and invest when one has a large overhang of debt.

Where is all this leading? China is essentially financing the overspending of western democracies, which used to borrow for capital investment programmes and repay the borrowing over a period. How many western countries are running current deficits with the result that their citizens have lifestyles that are not based on the income they are generating? This cost must be paid and essentially people are asking future generations to pay for their lifestyle. That may sound a little harsh but it goes to the heart of this debate.

The agreement refers to reduced interest rates and increasing the flexibility of and extending the repayment schedule. I have a simple view on this matter. While a person with a bank loan or mortgage who extends the loan will succeed in having his or her monthly payment reduced, he or she will pay more interest in the long term because the life of the loan is being extended. For this reason, I ask responsible journalists to give a complete picture when they are reporting on these matters. I noticed a headline in a reputable paper the other day stating that the changes to our loan facility will deliver savings of €10 billion. This reminds me of a person who, having bought an item in a sale which has been marked down from €100 to €90, returns home and when asked how the Saturday shopping trip went, says he or she saved €10. This is a nonsensical concept and I am surprised that a responsible journalist would put such a headline on an article. The person returning from the shop does not tell us how much he or she spent in the first place. In fact, he or she may not have saved anything because we do not know whether the item in question ever cost €100 as it may have been marked up before being marked down. The same applies to the extension of the loan period for our loan.

When representatives of the National Treasury Management Agency appeared before the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Service and Reform recently, they could not pin down the actual savings being made on our loan. I would like to know what will be the savings over the original agreement based on the interest rate we paid. The NTMA should be able to compute a figure on the actual accumulated interest Ireland will pay based on a matrix of using the loan facility to its maximum and rescheduling repayments at the reduced interest rate. The overall interest payment will increase. To put the matter in simple English, the country is living on hire purchase which it is repeatedly extending.

This returns me to my basic position. The crisis at European level is not political but financial. I have been saying for months, although I am not sure if anyone has been listening, that the problem will persist because it is one to which there is no political solution. It is a financial problem for which a financial solution must be found. People give out about the reaction of the markets and ratings agencies such as Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s. The markets react in a logical fashion when they see a band aid of an agreement. While I support the legislation, it is only a band aid or patch up job to get us over the next few months, at which point another band aid will be applied. We will be back at this point *ad infinitum* or until western countries are in a position to get their debt under control. By continuing to borrow more money that one does not have, one passes on the debt to one’s children. This is unfair. In Japan and some other countries, people have two generation mortgages. Ireland will have a two or three generational national debt unless we start

[Deputy Sean Fleming.]

getting it under control. The Minister will argue that my party added to the problem. I will not engage in party politics and will admit that we did so, but the problem is continuing and must be addressed.

Eurobonds are the latest trick proposed by some people. If I was a German, I would tell those proposing eurobonds to take a hike because the concept is essentially one of asking Germany to open up its bank accounts and allow all other countries to be joint signatories to them. This is daft and Germany and France are correct to tell the rest of Europe to take a hike. The current problem stems from the failure to introduce a proper infrastructure to back up the euro when it was introduced. We had money in our pocket and the euro worked well within a few days of the changeover. While we did the public relations, front-of-house job, we did not establish the infrastructure or back office facilities to back up the euro. There should be one central bank in Europe managing one currency. The concept of having a Mickey Mouse central bank in each of the 27 countries printing its own little currency with its own little pictures on it is a nonsense. While I am not praising or criticising Germany and France, it is utterly financially logical that they would not have anything to do with a eurobond when they do not have any control over how other countries are spending money.

The IMF, in the growth projections it published today, stated that financial sovereignty is needed in Europe. We will rear up to this proposal and it will not be realised because it would require a referendum in this country and there is no chance that Irish people would pass a referendum in the foreseeable future to give Europe more powers over our financial affairs. People resent the level of intrusion into our affairs at present and would not go further down that road. We will have to address this issue.

Seven or eight years ago I used to ask that the debt of some of the heavily indebted sub-Saharan countries be written off. Ireland has come full circle and become a heavily indebted country. Until western democracies start to live within their means, we will continue to borrow and wonder every so often why the financial markets have a problem with political solutions to what are essentially financial problems.

While I welcome the legislation, it is a sticking plaster and we will, unfortunately, be back discussing this issue again.

Deputy Bernard J. Durkan: This will not be the longest speech I have ever made. I congratulate the Minister and the Government on their efforts. I do not wish to apportion political blame but they have found themselves in a very difficult position and have stuck to their task valiantly. They have nudged away successfully to the point where gains have been made and every little gain is welcome. Much more needs to be done and I have no doubt the Government is committed to doing much more.

I concur with many of the views expressed by Deputy Fleming on the need for the country to live within its means. Annual growth rates of 10% or 11% are not necessary to believe the country is one of the most powerful in the world. In fact, it is a very dangerous position to be in, as we now know.

Debate adjourned.

The Dáil adjourned at 10 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 21 September 2011.

Written Answers.

The following are questions tabled by Members for written response and the ministerial replies as received on the day from the Departments [unrevised].

Questions Nos. 1 to 18, inclusive, answered orally.

Questions Nos. 19 to 52, inclusive, resubmitted.

Questions Nos. 53 to 64, inclusive, answered orally.

Charitable Organisations

65. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the requirement to register as a charity; the checks and balances in place to ensure that no fraud takes place by charities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24615/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Irish charities may take a number of legal forms. For example, some charities are companies limited by guarantee while other charities are trusts. They are, therefore, governed by the relevant legislative or other provisions governing such entities. Incorporated charities, for example, are subject to the provisions of company law and are generally required to provide information to the Companies Registration Office under the Companies Acts, which can be accessed by the public. Such charities would also be subject to scrutiny by the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement. Charities that take the form of a trust are subject to the provisions of trust law. And, of course, any business entity is subject to general criminal and fraud legislation.

In addition, many Irish charities, approximately 8,000, have been approved by the Revenue Commissioners for charitable tax exemptions under the Taxes Consolidation Act(s). A list of these “Approved Bodies” is available to the public on www.revenue.ie. The Revenue Commissioners have a wide range of powers, and these are mainly contained in sections 899 to 912 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, including powers to request information and to carry out inspections in relation to any tax matter.

The Deputy may be aware that the Charities Act 2009 provides for an integrated system of mandatory registration and proportionate regulation and supervision of the charities sector in Ireland. The various sections of the Charities Act are subject to implementation through commencement orders. A number of sections of the Act have already been commenced. Those sections providing for mandatory registration have not yet been commenced.

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

The Deputy may also be aware that responsibility for the Charities Act transferred to my Department in May 2011. Full implementation of the Act on a statutory basis, which would require the establishment of a new regulatory authority, would of course have new cost implications for the Exchequer. This is a matter which I am considering in the context of the review of expenditure currently being undertaken in my Department and, indeed, in all Government Departments and Agencies.

Anti-Social Behaviour

66. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to the growing and on-going public concern arising from increasing levels of anti-social behaviour in many areas throughout the country culminating in some instances of families being forced to leave their homes; if action can be taken to curtail this menace which is of increasing concern to older persons and parents of young children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24749/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am very aware of the distress that anti-social behaviour and low level crime can cause to communities.

There are strong legislative provisions in place to combat anti-social behaviour in communities. These include provisions to deal with alcohol abuse, its effect on public order and late night street violence.

In its Policing Plan for 2011, An Garda Síochána has prioritised actions to achieve the maximum levels of safety for local communities and to provide a community policing service which meets the demands of the public. The Plan identifies a range of strategies which may be deployed to counter anti-social activities, including targeted operations; high visibility patrols; deployment of appropriate resources to identified public order hotspots in respect of alcohol and drug related behaviour and youth crime; and the full utilisation of existing legislation.

Any instances of families being forced to leave their homes would be taken extremely seriously by An Garda Síochána, and such serious criminal behaviour will be tackled resolutely.

The Programme for Government includes a commitment to attach a higher priority to community policing and that, within available resources, there is a higher Garda visibility in the local neighbourhoods worst affected. An Garda Síochána operates a new model of Community Policing which aims at building upon and enhancing good community policing practice. Clear objectives are set, such as high visibility in the community, ease of contact by members of the public and enhanced support for crime prevention strategies such as Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert.

One of the key actions in the Garda Policing Plan is an improved understanding of and responsiveness to community needs. Gardaí play an essential role in the operation of Joint Policing Committees and other local fora, which provide important channels for engagement between the An Garda Síochána, local authorities and community representatives. In this way there is clearer communication about local concerns and Garda strategies employed to address them. This Government is committed to building on such existing partnerships and fora, and my Department has commenced work, with An Garda Síochána and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, on bringing this about.

Sexual Offences

67. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 587 of 12 January 2011, the progress to date on the provision of information to parents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24437/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Deputy's question concerns the disclosure, to parents, of information relating to persons on the sex offenders' register.

In exceptional circumstances, the provision of appropriate information to the public is already possible. This includes the disclosure of such information to parents. Currently, this is done on an administrative basis but, subject to Government approval, I intend to put these arrangements on a statutory footing.

Our primary objective has to be to minimise the risk posed to the public. The High Level Group which produced and published a discussion document on sex offenders was of the view that, if the Gardaí have reason to believe a particular high risk convicted sex offender poses a real and immediate danger, they should be free to tell individuals who need to know. Disclosure in such circumstances is perfectly reasonable.

However, giving the general public unrestricted access to names and addresses on the sex offenders' register would be likely to be counter-productive. That kind of access would drive offenders underground and make it more difficult to monitor and supervise them. This was the universal view of those who responded to the discussion document and participated in the public forum on the management of sex offenders.

General access to the register would also raise issues concerning the rights of persons who have completed their sentences and pose no future threat to society.

My Department has been conducting a wide-ranging examination of the law on sexual offences. Arising from this review, legislative proposals, including amendments to the Sex Offenders Act 2001 to provide a statutory basis for necessary disclosure, are at an advanced stage of preparation. The review is close to completion and I expect to bring legislative proposals to Government in the coming months.

Magdalene Laundries

68. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the progress of the group assessing the State's responsibilities regarding the victims of the Magdalene laundries; when he expects receipt of the interim report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24739/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I can advise the Deputy that the inter-departmental committee is charged with establishing the facts of the State's involvement, clarifying any State interaction with the Magdalen Laundries, and with producing a narrative detailing such interaction.

As the working arrangements of the committee are a matter for its chairperson, Senator Martin McAleese, and he is independent in this matter, I am not in a position to report on what progress is being made. I am aware however that they have held meetings with the religious congregations, representative groups of the women who resided there, and other interested parties. I understand that an interim report will be provided before the end of October.

Cash for Gold Trade

69. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on the progress and a timeline for the report of the group within his Department that are looking into the cash for gold industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24738/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): My Department is currently finalising a report on the "Cash for Gold" trade and I can inform the Deputy that this report will be

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submitted to me shortly for consideration. Following consideration of the report I will make an assessment as to what, if any, action, legislative or otherwise, may be required. I will, in due course, make known the report's findings and any proposals which may arise.

My Department, in compiling the report, has been in close contact with the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána with a view to monitoring the position. I can inform the Deputy that the Commissioner has reported that all "Cash for Gold" premises in the State have been visited by An Garda Síochána and the operators of such premises have been made aware of their responsibilities and obligations with regard to purchasing gold and jewellery. In addition, I have been informed that contact information has been provided to "Cash for Gold" operators by An Garda Síochána which will facilitate the reporting of any suspicious activity. The Commissioner has also indicated that any new "Cash for Gold" premises that may be identified will be visited by An Garda Síochána.

Community Restorative Projects

70. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to expand the number of community restorative projects in the State and to incorporate these into the justice system as is the situation in the Six Counties. [24745/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The system of restorative justice in this jurisdiction is already part and parcel of the justice system. In the case of juveniles, restorative justice was introduced on a statutory basis for the first time in the Children Act 2001. There are two restorative justice initiatives provided for in the Act: A restorative conference or restorative caution included in the Garda Diversion Programme and a court-ordered restorative justice family conference delivered through the Probation Service.

The Programme for Government gives a commitment to tackle youth crime on a number of different fronts including giving a special emphasis to alternative programmes for young offenders through extensions to the Juvenile Liaison Officer Scheme and the Diversion Programme and the extended use of Restorative Justice. I wish to inform the Deputy that I will continue to maintain responsibility for the diversion and community aspects of the work of the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), while my colleague the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs will take responsibility for the rest of IYJS, including the Children Detention Schools in Oberstown. I will be consulting closely with my Ministerial colleague and with the Garda Commissioner in the continuing development of programmes to tackle youth crime.

As regards adult offenders, the Probation Service has introduced a pilot scheme to test a range of restorative interventions based on the recommendations contained in the report of the National Commission on Restorative Justice. This will enable my Department to evaluate what role such interventions as recommended in the report might play having regard to overall effectiveness, potential and value for money considerations. The scheme involves an expansion of the two existing adult projects which operate in Tallaght and Nenagh. The Probation Service will monitor the implementation of the scheme and provide a report on its effectiveness after a 12 month operational period. I look forward to reviewing their report in due course.

Garda Civilian Support Staff

71. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on the proposed civilianisation policy being discussed between himself and the Garda Commissioner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24737/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): There are currently around 2,100 full-time-equivalent civilian support staff in the Garda Síochána.

These staff provide vital support services in a wide range of areas, such as human resources, training & development, IT and telecommunications, finance and procurement, internal audit, research and analysis, accommodation and fleet management, scene-of-crime support and medical services.

However, while the current number of civilian support staff is an increase on previous years, more needs to be done. The fact is that the level of civilian support staff in the Garda Síochána is still significantly lower than in many comparable police forces.

That is why the Programme for Government commits to ensuring that administrative duties are carried out by civilian staff in order to free up highly trained Gardaí for preventing and detecting crime. It makes no sense to have highly — and expensively — trained Gardaí engaged in administrative work. The Government's objective is supported by the findings and recommendations of the 2009 Garda Inspectorate report on Resource Allocation, which called for the numbers of Gardaí available for operational duty to be maximised through a structured programme of civilianisation.

It is also worth saying that the Garda Commissioner and Garda management very much recognise the contribution made by civilian support staff both in releasing Gardaí for operational duties and in bringing skills and expertise into the Force. Of course, in seeking to increase the number of civilian support staff, we must face the reality of the need to reduce overall numbers in the public service. The answer may lie in the more effective use of resources across the public service, including in particular more flexibility in redeployment of staff to priority areas. Indeed, the Garda reform agenda under the Croke Park Agreement contains a specific commitment, agreed by Garda management and the Garda Associations, to augment civilian support staff in the Force through appropriate redeployment of staff from elsewhere in the public service.

I will remain in ongoing consultation with my colleague the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on the implementation of this Government commitment.

Garda Resources

72. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the extent to which the full requirements of backup facilities are available to the Garda to combat the drug problem; if the Minister is satisfied that such requirements are adequately met; if he proposes any enhancement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24750/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I understand the Deputy's question to relate to the Garda resources that are made available to the combatting of drug misuse.

The Garda Síochána Policing Plan, 2011 sets out the commitment of An Garda Síochána to pro-actively target groups and individuals engaged in organised criminal activities including drug trafficking.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that a multi-agency approach has been, and continues to be used, whereby National Units from National Support Service work together to combat serious crime, including those involved in the trafficking, importation, sale and supply of illegal drugs.

These Units such as the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Criminal Assets Bureau, the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation and the Garda Technical Bureau are also supported by the Security and Intelligence Section who assist with intelligence briefings and timely information.

In addition, An Garda Síochána continue to develop and implement operations and strategies aimed at targeting, dismantling and disrupting criminal networks.

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This integrated approach adopts best practice in implementing a co-ordinated use of Garda resources as well as using all available criminal legislation to its fullest extent. Operations in this area continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure their effectiveness.

The allocation of resources is monitored by Local Garda Management in the context of crime trends, policing needs and other operational strategies in place at District, Divisional and Regional level, to ensure optimum use is made of Garda resources.

I am informed that Senior Garda Management is satisfied that a full and comprehensive policing service continues to be delivered and that current structures in place meet the requirement to deliver an effective and efficient policing service to the community.

It is also worth noting that the National Drug Strategy, of which the work of An Garda Síochána is a key element, provides an overarching national response to the drug problem. The National Drug Strategy, to which significant resources continue to be allocated, puts in place a co-ordinated and integrated approach tackling the issue under pillar headings of drugs supply reduction, education and prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research.

I can assure the Deputy that the allocation of resources in tackling drug misuse is kept under ongoing review having regard to the priority that has been afforded to the problem through the National Drug Strategy and the policing priorities of An Garda Síochána.

Judicial Staff

73. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of Judges who have been appointed to regions of more than 20 kilometres from their homes; the cost of their travel, subsistence, their allowances and expenses in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24436/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I refer the Deputy to my reply to Question No. 386 on 28 June, 2011 and for his convenience I have again set out below the information requested. As the Deputy will appreciate court districts and circuits have more than one court venue and judges are required to travel between venues. During 2010, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 17 District judges and 13 Circuit Court judges assigned to districts or circuits the border of which is more than 20 km from their home. Details of payments made are set out overleaf.

Table 1 District Court 2010

Judge	Home Travel & Subsistence	Judicial Attire & Expenses
1.	€3,100	—
2.	€4,340.41	€1,326
3.	€19,439.66	—
4.	€7,181.92	—
5.	€34,270.84	—
6.	€3,309.83	—
7.	€32,294.82	—
8.	€18,678.69	—
9.	€20,256.16	—
10.	€19,063.08	€450
11.	€11,689.49	€700
12.	€9,613.69	—
13.	0	—

Judge	Home Travel & Subsistence	Judicial Attire & Expenses
14.	€37,046.85	—
15.	€25,869.98	€1,114.50
16.		—
17.	€4,203.43	€532.90
Total	€250,359	4123.40

Table 2 Circuit Court 2010

Judge	Travel and Subsistence	Judicial Attire & Expenses
1.	€2,610.12	—
2.	€28,949.77	—
3.	€20,997.32	—
4.	€28,342.33	—
5.	€24,803.35	€1,279.00
6.	€29,367.50	€606.20
7.	€17,718.10	€982.00
8.	€24,805.71	€982.00
9.	€10,792.59	€1,279.00
10.	€30,872.62	—
11.	€7,932.64	—
12.	€22,821.24	€889.00
13.	€9,912.56	—
Total	€259,925.85	6017.2

Judges also receive an annual expense allowance to cover the provision of a study and suitable library facilities when required to work at home, e.g. dealing with urgent applications in the case of the District Court or in the Higher Courts for the research and formulation of judgments. Unlike the allowances above, the annual expense allowance is paid from central funds directly through judges' remuneration. The current rates payable are:

President of the Circuit Court	— €9,057.96
President of the District Court	— €9,057.96
Circuit Court Judge	— €2,730.02
District Court Judge	— €1,365.01

I should add there is a commitment in the Programme for Government to provide a modern reformed framework for judicial expenses. My Department will be undertaking the necessary detailed work in this regard in conjunction with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Victims of Crime

74. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to ensure the rollout across the State of the undertakings in relation to the interaction between members of An Garda Síochána and victims of crime contained in the Victims Charter and guide to the Criminal Justice System, which was launched in July 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24740/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Shortly after I was appointed Minister I told the Victims of Crime Consultative Forum that I wanted to see the Victims Charter implemented in full by all bodies contributing to the charter. The current edition of the Charter, which was published in July 2010, has been certified as being written in plain English to increase its accessibility. It is available online in Irish and six other languages. In the Charter, An Garda Síochána commits itself to the provision of information and a range of other supports to victims of crime.

In determining policing priorities for An Garda Síochána, the then Minister included support, protection and information for victims of crime as one of seven priorities for 2011.

An Garda Síochána has shown its commitment to implementing the Charter in a number of ways. I understand that Members of An Garda Síochána are trained to be courteous, helpful, respectful and professional. In circumstances where a victim is upset about a crime or other traumatic incident, members will respond in a caring and sensitive manner. When a victim reports a crime, An Garda Síochána is tasked with investigating the circumstances and gathering all of the evidence surrounding the incident in a fair, honest and impartial manner to bring those responsible to justice.

An Garda Síochána is of that view that the welfare and support of victims are central to the partnership between An Garda Síochána and community groups, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations.

I understand that in recognition of the special relationship that exists between victims of crime and An Garda Síochána, the Garda Victims Liaison Office was established to liaise with government funded victim support organisations, to formulate Garda policy and to support the implementation of the Garda Síochána Victims Charter.

I have been informed that in furtherance of the partnership with victims organisations, An Garda Síochána has hosted three National Victims Support Fora at Garda Headquarters at which the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime and victims organisations were advised of the initiatives and improvements in Garda services to victims of crime. The latest of these meetings took place earlier this month, with earlier meetings in March and November, 2010.

I understand An Garda Síochána was also represented at senior level at the meeting of the Victims of Crime Consultative Forum, to discuss implementation of the Victims Charter with victims group. That meeting of the Consultative Forum, which took place in September, 2010, had a single theme: “Making the Victims Charter Work”. It was organised by the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime, an independent group operating under the aegis of my Department.

I understand that as part of the response capability of An Garda Síochána to deal with victims of serious crime, members of An Garda Síochána have been selected to undergo training as specialist interviewers of victims of sexual crime, crimes of violence or trafficking, who are under 14 years of age and persons with intellectual disabilities who are victims of those crimes. A number of dedicated interview suites designed to provide appropriate facilities for interviewing these victims are in operation at strategic locations throughout the country. The interview suites have the capacity to video-record witness statements in line with the provisions of section 16(1)(b) of the Criminal Evidence Act, 1992. This video evidence may be submitted to court when a trial occurs.

I am informed that posters and booklets of the Garda Síochána Victims Charter were designed, published and distributed to Garda Stations. This increased the awareness amongst members of the force of the Victims Charter and Garda responsibilities contained therein.

I understand that a working group was established at Garda Headquarters to oversee the standardising of the provision of relevant, timely information to Victims of Crime.

I am informed that the PULSE Garda computer system provides information letters for issue to victims of crime. In addition, PULSE now generates management reports on the number of automated PULSE generated letters. This has assisted local Garda managers identify gaps and has led to significant improvement in the number of PULSE letters issued to victims of crime.

I understand that specialised training, including for Family and Ethnic Liaison Officers, ensures vulnerable witnesses and victims of crime continue to receive a professional, empathetic response from An Garda Síochána.

Garda Investigations

75. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to the controversy surrounding the death of a person (details supplied) in County Offaly; if he will set up an inquiry into this person's deal and the Garda handling of the case and their conduct in dealing with the family of the deceased; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24434/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am aware that family members of the deceased person referred to by the Deputy have made a number of complaints regarding the Garda investigation of that person's death.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that the original Garda investigation in 2002 concluded that foul play was not suspected and the jury at the inquest held in 2004 found in accordance with the medical evidence.

I am further informed that following contacts with the family a Superintendent from outside the District where the death took place was appointed in 2006 to re-examine the investigation into the incident. An investigation file was submitted to the Law Officers who directed no action against any third party. During the course of the examination, certain shortcomings were identified and, while they did not affect the outcome of the original investigation, steps were taken to rectify these issues and ensure adherence to best practice in the future.

In the circumstances I have not been made aware of any grounds which would warrant further action on my part.

Legal Aid Service

76. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if the free legal aid board are availing of the national internship scheme; if so are experienced solicitors rather than newly qualified persons being recruited; the role they will play; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24616/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Legal Aid Board is a statutory, independent body in accordance with the Civil Legal Aid Act, 1995. The matters raised by the Deputy are a matter for the Board. However, in order to be helpful to the Deputy I have had enquiries made with the Board.

The new FÁS "Jobbridge" scheme is an important element of the Government's jobs initiative that is designed to facilitate the provision of work experience and training opportunities for the unemployed. I can confirm that the Legal Aid Board is actively participating in the scheme and this is a development that I very much welcome. The Board will be offering internships to qualified solicitors so that they can gain practical experience in the areas of civil law in which the organisation provides services. I have every confidence that solicitors obtaining

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internships with the Board will receive very valuable work experience and training that will help them on the road towards paid employment, notwithstanding the difficult labour market conditions for legal practitioners that currently prevail. I also anticipate that the interns will make an important contribution to the work of the Board during their time with the organisation.

The locations in which the Board initially offered internships had regard to both the current work demands of the organisation and the capacity of the law centres involved to provide the necessary support and development to Interns during their placements. The locations initially advertised under the scheme were, Newbridge, Ennis, Cavan, Cork (2 placements), Nenagh plus 6 internships in various locations in Dublin.

Since advertising with FÁS the Board has received 28 applications from eligible candidates and all of these candidates have since been offered interviews. The Board has already placed an Intern in Tallaght Law Centre and is currently in the process of offering further placements in the locations above. To date 6 additional applicants have been offered and have accepted Internships and will be commencing in the coming weeks. The Board also intends to offer some additional placements in the next few days and has recently asked FÁS to extend the scheme to all of its law centres. This will ensure that the Board has the maximum flexibility in offering further Internships.

I have been advised by the Board that the applicants, to date, have a mix of experience and not all are newly qualified solicitors. However, most of the applicants have limited experience of family law which is the Board's main area of work. For this reason, the Board is currently putting in place arrangements to ensure that interns are supported and trained in family law and other civil law areas. I have every confidence in the Board's capacity to manage this process well and to ensure that each intern gets a meaningful role within the organisation which is both challenging and stimulating. I am also convinced that the valuable experience gained by the interns will stand to them in their future careers as legal practitioners and will, in the short-term, improve their employability in what is currently a very difficult labour market.

Joint Policing Committees

77. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on the review of Joint Policing Committees; his plans to expand the functions and powers of these committees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24735/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The functions and powers of Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) are set out in the Garda Síochána Act 2005, which provides for a Committee in each local authority area. They provide the framework for a partnership process involving An Garda Síochána and elected members and officials of the local authority, which are the two organisations which make the most significant contribution to preventing crime in an area, with the participation of members of the Oireachtas and of the community and voluntary sector. The Act provides that JPCs operate under guidelines issued by the Minister for Justice and Equality after consultation with the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. The Garda Commissioner has appointed Garda representatives to each of the JPCs in accordance with the guidelines.

Members of the public and community representatives and groups can interact with their JPC by communicating with the Committee directly or by communicating with any member of the Committee, including the appointed Garda representatives. All JPC meetings are as a rule open to the public, and all documents are available. Any person may submit questions in writing in advance of each JPC meeting. Each Committee is also required to hold regular public

meetings, at which those attending have the right to make their views known and ask questions in accordance with the guidelines. These committees can also establish fora in areas to bring about greater focus on finding solutions to specific issues thus facilitating greater community interaction and participation with the Gardaí and other committee members. Such fora are being established in the 14 Local Drugs Task Force areas.

The Programme for Government makes a commitment to build on existing community policing partnerships and forums to enhance trust between local communities and their Gardaí. Accordingly, my Department has commenced a review of how the Committees have operated since their establishment, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the local authorities. The review is taking place in the context of the commitments in the Programme for Government to reform local government, work on which is being led by my colleague the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

In addition, my Department has been engaged in a major consultative exercise leading to the production of a White Paper on crime. One of the issues addressed in this exercise has been the role of the JPCs. The White Paper will set out a policy framework for future strategies to combat and prevent crime. The intention is that this process will lead ultimately to a national anti-crime strategy, in which the JPCs will have a role to play.

Garda Vetting of Personnel

78. **Deputy David Stanton** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of vetting applications received by the Garda Central Vetting Unit in each month of 2010 and to date in 2011; the number which were processed each month and the average time taken for an application to be processed; the number of complaints received from persons vetted who dispute the contents of the vetting report; the procedure which is followed once such a complaint is received; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24748/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The information the Deputy seeks has been provided by the Garda authorities and is set out in the table below.

Month	2010		2011 (to 18 September 2011)	
	Received	Processed	Received	Processed
January	16,370	17,026	22,098	23,204
February	22,803	17,475	30,768	26,699
March	27,656	18,436	26,494	25,305
April	23,053	20,507	23,360	21,719
May	25,507	19,965	25,265	24,187
June	27,170	23,764	28,919	27,320
July	27,764	25,515	24,774	28,205
August	19,452	24,039	22,148	26,645
September	26,150	24,125	17,635	14,525
October	30,997	27,826		
November	26,122	35,950		
December	18,894	24,887		
Total	291,938	279,515	221,461	217,809

I am informed by the Garda Authorities that the average processing time for vetting applications received at the Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU) is approximately 10 weeks.

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I should mention that, in processing an individual vetting application, additional time may be required in cases where clarification is needed as to the details provided or where other enquiries need to be made, for example, when the person in question has lived and worked abroad. It should be understood that while the Gardaí make every effort to reduce the time to the minimum possible consistent with carrying out what are very necessary checks, there will always be a reasonably significant period required to process a vetting application and registered organisations have been advised to take account of this in their recruitment and selection processes.

In addition, the average processing time for vetting applications also fluctuates in line with periods of increased demand.

I am informed by the Garda Authorities that there is a dispute resolution procedure established with each organisation registered by the GCVU to facilitate any vetting subject who may wish to dispute the details contained in a Garda vetting disclosure issued in respect of them. Within this procedure, there were 335 dispute complaints received in 2010 and, to date, in 2011, there have been 283 such complaints.

Garda Training

79. **Deputy David Stanton** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of Garda Síochána who have completed the competency based driving assessments at each level respectively to date; the way in which restrictions applying to competency based driving level 1 impacts on the use of emergency lights, sirens and speed limits whilst on patrol; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24747/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): An Garda Síochána has implemented a comprehensive review of its driver training programmes. This has resulted in a five (5) level suite of Competency Based Driving (CBD) courses, with each level specifically catering for the required knowledge base, skills set and the operational requirements of members undergoing the relevant training. In reverse order, the courses and course content are as follows:

CBD Level	Course	Competencies
CBD 5	Garda Driving Instructors	All competencies necessary to deliver driving instruction in all aspects of operational driving requirements, to members of An Garda Síochána.
CBD 4	Advanced Driving Course	Establishment of highest level of knowledge of Roadcraft and practical driving instruction in all competencies necessary to drive high power cars, to the highest standards, including emergency response, vehicle stopping using full driver commentary.
CBD 3	Specialist Unit Driving Course(R.S.U, E.R.U, Ministerial Pool, Traffic Unit etc)	Reinforcement of knowledge of Roadcraft and practical driving instruction in competencies necessary to drive vehicles and carry out all driving tasks, including emergency response and vehicle stopping, relevant to the roles of specific and specialist units.

CBD Level	Course	Competencies
CBD 2	Standard Response Course	Delivered to the vast majority of front line Gardaí, enabling them to drive the majority of patrol cars and patrol/public order vans available to them. It establishes an underpinning knowledge of Roadcraft, and practical instruction in vehicle handling, defensive driving, emergency response driving, and vehicle stopping.
CBD 1	Assessment	Driving assessment delivered primarily to non front line members of the Force, and to members not yet selected to undergo full training at CBD 2.

- Not to Exceed Speed Limits whilst on patrol
- Not to contravene traffic regulations
- Not to use emergency lights or sirens whilst the vehicle is in motion (Use of emergency lights, not sirens, is permitted when stationary for safety reasons)
- Limitation to drive official cars with a power to weight ratio of up to and including 80kW/tonne.

Prior to the introduction of this new system, Standard and Advanced driving courses were provided to significant numbers of Gardaí throughout the country. Since its introduction in 2008, Competency Based Driver training has been delivered as follows,

- CBD5 — 23 trained
- CBD4 — 28 trained
- CBD3 — 169 trained
- CBD2 — 399 trained
- CBD1 — 243 assessed

Garda Investigations

80. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if there have been arrests, criminal charges or convictions against employees of a company (details supplied) or security personnel employed by the company during the protest actions in the north Mayo area connected with Corrib gas project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24742/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda Authorities that twenty six complaints were made since the commencement of works in 2005 to An Garda Síochána in relation to personnel employed by the company referred to by the Deputy or employees of companies contracted by that company. These complaints relate to alleged assaults and alleged breaches of the Road Traffic Acts and the Private Security Services Act. To date, there have been no arrests made against such persons.

Every complaint to the Gardaí is the subject of a thorough investigation. Investigations against employees of the company or employees of its contractors have resulted in files for directions being submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions in six cases. In one of these cases the DPP directed a prosecution. The case was subsequently dismissed by the District Court. Files are being prepared in relation to three cases at present and investigations are still ongoing in two further cases.

Departments Bodies

81. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to widen the consultation process concerning the merger of the Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission, beyond the current boards of both bodies to allow wider civil society stakeholder groups to contribute their views to this process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24734/11]

403. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the way the new entity that emerges as a result of the merging of the Equality Authority and the Irish Human Rights Commission will be funded; if decisions have been made on the level of funding; if not, when this decision will be taken; the timeline for the completion of the merger; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24966/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 81 and 403 together.

Following the decision in principle by Government to merge the Human Rights Commission and the Equality Authority into a new Human Rights and Equality Commission in order to enhance the protection of human rights and the promotion of equality, I intend to appoint a small working group to advise me on how best the decision can be implemented.

The working group will be drawn from members of the Commission, the Authority and my Department's staff.

The process will also be informed by recent studies of the equality and human rights bodies commissioned by my Department, in which a broad range of stakeholder groups were consulted.

I intend that the necessary legislation for the new Commission will be in place by February 2012.

Sale of Alcohol

82. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to introduce the ban on below cost selling of alcohol; the estimated financial loss to the Exchequer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24438/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Below-cost selling of alcohol was one of the areas examined by the Government Alcohol Advisory Group (GAAG) in 2008. Due to the complexity of the pricing structures and incentives in operation in this area, the Group was unable within the time available to it to establish any standard costs for the purpose of prohibiting below-cost sales of alcohol products. However, I understand that a Steering Group, which is currently operating under the aegis of the Department of Health, is developing proposals on alcohol for inclusion in the National Substance Misuse Strategy. The Group has been examining a range of issues relating to alcohol availability and pricing and is due to submit its Report, which will include policy recommendations, to Government later this year.

Garda Investigations

83. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality in view of Simon Carswell's investigation into the actions of Anglo Irish Bank and its directors, his views on whether it warrants a criminal investigation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24746/11]

408. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the extent that will be expected that prosecutions can or will take against banking executives who have refused to cooperate with the Director of Corporate Enforcement in relation to their failure to apply good governance, due diligence and generally proper banking practice which has resulted in massive damage to the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25020/11]

409. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the action taken or likely to be taken against former banking executives who have failed to cooperate with the Director of Corporate Enforcement and who may have placed themselves outside this jurisdiction; if extradition will be considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25021/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 83, 408 and 409 together.

I attach the highest priority to the full investigation of white collar crime and bringing the perpetrators of such crime to justice to the greatest extent possible. I have expressed, both before and since my appointment as Minister, my unhappiness with the protracted nature of the investigations. I do not intend this as any criticism of investigators and prosecutors, who face tough challenges as a result of the complexities of the matters being investigated. At the same time, I am concerned to ensure that I do not say anything that could prejudice any possible prosecutions or any court hearing. It is imperative that such investigations are conducted in a thorough, methodical and comprehensive manner, so as to ensure that account is taken of all pertinent matters. If this is not done, there is a risk that any prosecutions that may proceed would be jeopardised.

It was in the light of my concerns that I gave priority to the passage through the Oireachtas of the Criminal Justice Act 2011, which was enacted on 2 August and most of which was commenced on 9 August. This new legislation is intended to speed up investigations and prosecutions in relation to white collar crimes, both future investigations and those currently underway, by improving a number of important procedural matters and strengthening Garda investigative powers. It also provides for offences committed by persons who are unwilling or reluctant to assist with an investigation.

On becoming Minister, I sought and received assurances that there were sufficient resources available to the investigations. I can assure the Deputy that this Government will continue to provide sustained support for the investigation in terms of resources, as well as the necessary legislative and administrative supports, and that if those involved in the investigations believe at any stage that additional resources are required that will be responded to.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that, following the submission by the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation of two substantial investigation files relating to matters in Anglo Irish Bank to the Director of Public Prosecutions last December, a supplementary investigation file was submitted in May. The files remain under consideration by the DPP, and his directions are awaited.

The investigation by An Garda Síochána and the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement is ongoing in respect of both these investigations and of other complaints. I understand that it is intended to submit further files to the DPP in the near future.

The decision to seek the extradition of a person charged with a criminal offence rests with the DPP and only arises where the Director has decided that a person should be prosecuted in the first instance. As the Deputy will appreciate, the Director is independent in the exercise of

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

his functions and, as Minister, I have no function in deciding whether a person should be charged with an offence or whether a person's extradition should be sought.

The Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement is responsible for compliance with and enforcement of the Companies Acts and is under the aegis of my colleague the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

Constitutional Referenda

84. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the consultants he has held with political parties and non-governmental organisation regarding proposals for forthcoming referenda on constitutional amendments. [24417/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): As the Deputy will be aware, the proposal to hold a Constitutional Referendum on judicial remuneration is a commitment in the Programme for Government. In keeping with that undertaking, the Government approved the Twenty-Ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Judges' Remuneration) Bill 2011 and it was published on 4 August 2011. Its publication well ahead of the scheduled debates was with a view to providing adequate opportunity for persons to consider the amendment in advance of its process through the Oireachtas.

On 5 September 2011 I wrote to all members of the Oireachtas briefing them on the objectives of the Bill. I also included a copy of the draft Implementation Bill outlining the legislative provisions which would be introduced by the Government if the proposed Referendum is approved by the People, together with an information sheet setting out the financial ramifications of the proposed amendments. Finally, all members of the Oireachtas were invited to make contact with my office if they had any queries in relation to the Bill. I should add that following publication of the Bill, my office contacted the Opposition spokespersons directly to advise that a briefing on the Bill would be arranged should they wish to avail of it. This initial contact was followed up by telephone by my officials. However, in the event this offer was not taken up.

Departmental Transport

85. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the amount of money that was spent on taxis by his Department in the past year; the amount of money that has been provided for in the next year for taxi services for his Department; the times that taxis can be used by staff members; the terms under which staff members can use taxis; the amount that was used by staff members; the amount that was used by outsiders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22731/11]

98. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the amount his Department has spent on taxis for staff and for others in each of the past four years. [23304/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 85 and 98 together.

The table below details expenditure by my Department on taxis in the past four years:

Year	Amount spend on taxis
2008	€76,173
2009	€53,102
2010	€42,859
2011 (Jan — Aug)	€29,331

Staff members are permitted to use taxis for official purposes where there are no other practical or suitable alternative modes of transport available. As regards travel between home and work, taxis are permitted where an officer is required to be at work before 7.30 am or is departing from work for home after 9.00pm in the winter (1st October — 31st March) and 10.00pm in the summer (1st April — 30th September). When using taxis, staff normally use one of the taxi companies with which my Department has an account. The budget allocation for 2012 in respect of taxis will be in the region of €40,000,

Taxis are allowed in rare and exceptional cases for non-staff members for example, as a courtesy to visitors on official business in the Department.

Departmental Funding

86. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the sum of any public funds and their purpose which have been awarded by his Department either directly or indirectly to the Irish Business and Employers Confederation in the past decade. [22270/11]

The Taoiseach: The following table details the amount paid to the Irish Business and Employers Confederation by my Department in the past decade.

Year	Amount paid to IBEC	Purpose of payment
2003	€1,400	VDU Risk Assessment Training
2004	€8,012	VDU Assessments
	€487	Attendance at IBEC/EU Presidency Conference
	€3,801	Attendance at IBEC Conference on EU-US Perspective on Regulation
2005	€1,122	Safety Statement Audit and Risk Assessment Review
	€284	Attendance at Transport Conference
	€250	Purchase of HRM Survey 2004
2006	€98	Attendance at conference
2009	€279	Attendance at Conference on Sustainable Transport Future

Ministerial Appointments

87. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach if he will provide details of all appointments made by him since he came to office and include internal departmental and appointments to semi-States. [22330/11]

The Taoiseach: The information requested by the Deputy relating to the political staff appointed by me to my Department is detailed in the table beneath.

Name	Title
Mark Kennelly	Special Adviser
Andrew McDowell	Special Adviser
Paul O'Brien	Special Adviser
Angela Flanagan	Special Adviser
Pauline Coughlan	Personal Assistant
Sarah Moran	Personal Assistant
Gerard Deere	Personal Assistant
Teresa Diskin	Personal Assistant

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Name	Title
Miriam O'Callaghan	Personal Assistant
John Lohan	Personal Secretary
AnneMarie Durcan	Personal Secretary
Eoghan O'Neachtain*	Government Press Secretary
Feargal Purcell	Government Press Secretary
Cathy Madden	Deputy Government Press Secretary and Head of Government Information Service
Joanne Lonergan	Assistant Government Press Secretary
Mark O'Doherty	Special Adviser to the Government Chief Whip
Colum Coomey	Personal Assistant to the Government Chief Whip
Claire Urquhart	Personal Secretary to the Government Chief Whip
John Cummins**	Civilian Driver to the Leader of the Seanad
Derek Grubb	Civilian Driver to the Leader of the Seanad

*Appointment terminated with effect from 30/6/2011

**Resigned with effect from 06/08/2011

The only other appointments I have made have been in relation to the National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO), which is the only body under the aegis of my Department. Martin Fraser, Secretary General to my Department was appointed as Chair of NESDO and the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) with effect from 1 August 2011. I also appointed 8 people to the NESC as follows:

Name	Organisation	Date
Prof Egdar Morgenroth	ESRI	15 June 2011
Prof John McHale	NUIG	15 June 2011
Prof Mary Daly	Queen's University Belfast	15 June 2011
Prof Anna Davis	Trinity College	15 June 2011
Prof Seán Ó Riain	NUI Maynooth	15 June 2011
Dr. Michael O'Sullivan	Credit Suisse — London	15 June 2011
Ms Mary Walsh	Chartered Accountant	16 June 2011
Dr. Michelle Morris	UCD	12 July 2011

Members do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles on the Board/Council.

Departmental Funding

88. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the amount of money he has paid out individually to a company (details supplied) in the past decade; and if he will provide details of the tasks performed. [22331/11]

The Taoiseach: The table below provides details of payments made by my Department to the said companies from 2002 to the end of August 2011 and details of the tasks performed by them:

KPMG (as part of KPMG/Bearing Point)

Year	Total Payments	Details of tasks performed
2002	€78,221	Implementation of HRMS Peoplesoft
2003	€96,351	Implementation of HRMS Peoplesoft and provision of training

Price Waterhouse Coopers

Year	Total Payments	Details of tasks performed
2002	€35,367	Consultancy e-Cabinet

89. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the amount of money that has been paid directly or indirectly from him to the ICTU and individual trades unions in the past decade; the reasons for the payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22332/11]

95. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the amount of State funding directly or indirectly that has been paid to fund trade unions, related bodies or trader union interests or causes in the past decade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22619/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 89 and 95 together.

The table below details the amount of money paid by my Department to ICTU and individual trade unions in the past decade:

Payments made to ICTU

Year	Amount paid	Details
2004	€423	Refund of flight costs
2004	€20,000	ICTU launch of Information Campaign during the Irish Presidency 2004
2006	€640	Expenses refunded re Riga/Ministerial Conference
2007	€10,000	Payment to ICTU of Commemoration Grant: Production of a play based around the events of the 1907 dockers and Carters Strike in Belfast
2008	€300	Attendance at ICTU conference by two officials

Payments made to Individual Trade Unions

Year	Amount Paid	Details
2005	€20,000	Payment to SIPTU of Commemoration Grant: Production and publication of two Volumes regarding James Connolly.
2007	€50,000	Payment to SIPTU of Commemoration Grant: Production of a book on James Connolly: Letters and Correspondence 1889 - 1916
2009	€19,000	Payment to SIPTU of Commemoration Grant: Political Writings of James Connolly — Commemoration Grant

National Lottery Funding

90. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Taoiseach the amount of national lottery funding his Department received in 2009 and 2010; if he will provide a list of the way in which this money was spent in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22349/11]

The Taoiseach: My Department received no National Lottery funding in 2009 or 2010.

Departmental Equipment

91. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Taoiseach the number of computer servers that are

[Deputy Dara Calleary.]

owned or leased by his Department and each State agency under the aegis of his Department; and the capacity of each server. [22495/11]

The Taoiseach: Dept of Taoiseach Servers

The servers owned by Department of the Taoiseach and their capacity are summarised in the following table

Server Type	Total Storage Capacity	RAM
Dell Power Edge 2850	140GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	140GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	68GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	140GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	140GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	140GB	4GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	140GB	4GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	560GB	4GB
Dell Power Edge 1950	70GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 1950	75GB	1GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	135GB	4GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	480GB	4GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	200GB	4GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	200GB	4GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	200GB	4GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	200GB	4GB
HP Proliant DL380	70GB	1GB
HP DL380 g7	770GB	34GB
HP DL 380 g7	290GB	34GB
Dell Poweredge 2650	170GB	2GB
Dell Power Edge 2850	73GB	4GB
Dell Power Edge 2950	73GB	4GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	145GB	4GB
HP DL380 g6	75GB	60GB
HP DL 380 g6	75GB	60GB
HP DL380 g6	75GB	60GB
HP DL 380 g6	75GB	60GB
HP DL 380 g6	75GB	60GB

NESDO Servers

The National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO) is the only agency under the aegis of my Department. The computers servers owned by NESDO and their capacity are summarised in the following table:

Server Type	Total Storage Capacity	RAM
Dell PowerEdge 860	73 GB	2GB
Dell PowerEdge 860	146 GB	2GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	146 GB	2GB

Server Type	Total Storage Capacity	RAM
Dell PowerEdge 2650	219 GB	2GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	600 GB	32 GB
Dell PowerEdge 2950	600 GB	32 GB

Departmental Agencies

92. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Taoiseach the number of quangos, agencies and authorities that were established by his Department in each of the years 1997 to January 2011; the number of staff employed by his Department in 1997; the number of staff employed by his Department in January 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22587/11]

The Taoiseach: The National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO), is the only agency under my Department's aegis. It was established on a non statutory basis in 2002 and was put on a statutory basis in 2006.

There were 164 whole time equivalent (wte) staff employed in my Department in 1997. At the end of January 2011 there were 189.01 wte employed.

Consultancy Reports

93. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Taoiseach if he will provide a report of the number consultancy reports commissioned by his Department between 1997 and January 2011; the cost of commissioning each report; if he will provide information on the implementation of recommendations set out in each report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22604/11]

The Taoiseach: The following table details consultancy reports commissioned by my Department from 2000 to end August 2011.

Many of the recommendations in these reports have been acted upon and others continue to be under active consideration by the relevant Minister or Department. If any particular recommendation is of interest to the Deputy I will have the up to date position clarified for him.

Department

January 2011 — end August 2011		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
QTS Limited	Health and Safety Consultancy H&S Safety Statement 2011	€ 1,270.50
2010		
Nil		
2009		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
QTS Limited	Health and Safety Consultancy H&S Safety Statement 2009	€1,701.00
QTS Limited	Health & Safety Consultancy H&S Safety Statement 2010.	€1,275.75

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January 2011 — end August 2011

2008		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
QTS Limited	Annual Risk Assessment — health and safety	€1,694.00
Ipsos Mori	Phase 2 of 2007 Quality Customer Service Survey	€9,952.25
Raymond Burke Consulting	Consultancy Fee for Value for money review of NESDO	€3,375.90
2007		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
QTS Limited	Safety Statement and Risk Assessment	€2,541.00
2006		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Watson Wyatt	Employee Opinion Survey — 1st and 2nd Tranche	€26,505.00
2005		
Nil		
2004		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Watson Wyatt	Employee Opinion Survey 2003	€20,201
2003		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Watson Wyatt	Employee Opinion Survey 2003	€21,300
2002		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
HOSCA Management Consultants	Employee Opinion Survey	€12,077
2001		
Nil		
2000		
Nil		

Organisational Review Programme

2010		
Mercer (Ireland) Ltd	Staff surveys for the Organisational Review Programme	€23,595.00
2009		
IPSOS MORI	Organisational Review Programme Reports Covering 4 Organisations — on Deployment of Initial Survey	€34,626.29
2008		
Hudson Talent Management	Survey, deployment, analysis and reporting for the Organisational Review Programme	€45,552.34
Industrial Relations		
2008		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Grant Thornton	Forensic accounting services in respect of issues pertaining to an industrial relations dispute at Aer Lingus (the services were commissioned by the National Implementation Body to assist in resolving industrial relations issues at Aer Lingus).	€75,119.82
2007		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Indecon	A Review of the Irish Annuities Market (The Review was undertaken under the auspices of the Partnership Pensions Review Group which was established under the terms of Towards 2016).	€133,165.60
2006		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Fitzpatrick Associates	Study on Progressing the Special Initiatives under Sustaining Progress	€18,604.00
2005		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Fitzpatrick Associates	Research project on the Special Initiatives under Sustaining Progress	€18,604
Grant Thornton	Report of the National Implementation Board re cost and implications of Proposed Amendments to Labour Court recommendations on An Post (in the context of an industrial relations dispute at the company)	€60,000
2000		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
ESRI	Phase II Basic Income Study	€16,789
Rory O'Donnell & Paul Teague	Evaluation of Partnership	€50,790

[The Taoiseach.]

Public Service Modernisation funded through the Change Management Fund, Department of Finance

2009		
O'Neill Amarach Consultants LTD	Business Customer Satisfaction Survey	€23,752.02
IPSOS MORI	Survey of Civil Service Customers	€68,185.80
Fitzpatrick Associates	Garda Boundaries Realignment Project	€46,413.00
Economist Intelligence Unit	To conduct an independent Review of the Economic Regulatory Environment to compare the performance of Irish sectoral regulators against their international counterparts	€25,632.71
2008		
IPSOS MORI	Compiling and presentation of Civil Service Customer Satisfaction survey	€6,9817
OECD	OECD system level review of Irish Civil Service	€60,000.75
Economist Intelligence Unit	To conduct an independent Review of the Economic Regulatory Environment to compare the performance of Irish sectoral regulators against their international counterparts	€382,866.76
Isolde Goggins and Gillian Lauder	Review of the Operation of Regulatory Impact analysis (RIA). In line with the terms of Towards 2016, an independent review of the operation of RIA was commissioned to assess the effectiveness of the current RIA model across Departments.	€85,305.00
2007		
OECD	OECD system level review of Irish Civil Service	€300,010.00
Fitzpatrick Associates	Research project to evaluate the impact of the introduction of the Customer Charter process in the Irish Civil Service	€13,552.00
Ipsos Mori	Survey of Civil Service customers (general public) to determine attitudes towards and experiences of dealing with Civil Service Organisations.	€9,952.25
Isolde Goggin and Gillian Lauder	Review of the Operation of Regulatory Impact Analysis	€23,595.00
R.A. Consulting	Employee Opinion Survey 2007	€18,081.00
2006		
Economic and Social Research Institute	Business Attitudes Survey	€80,000.00
Fitzpatrick Associates	Customer Charter Evaluation	€40,656
Institute of Public Administration	Project to map regulatory framework in Ireland	€13,068
Ipsos Mori Ireland	Surveys of general public and business customers	€17,847
2005		
Institute of Public Administration	Regulatory Mapping project	€37,466
Ipsos Mori Ireland	Market research on Customer Satisfaction	€16,486
2004		
McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors	Research and preparation of report — Redress for Civil Service Customers	€76,895
2003		
Lansdowne Market Research Ltd	Irish Civil Service Customer Satisfaction Survey Report	€21,447

2002		
NGM Market Research Ltd	Communicating Change and Modernisation in the Civil Service — Report	€25,181
Lansdowne Market Research Ltd	Irish Civil Service — Customer Satisfaction Survey Report	€35,804
2001		
Name of Consultant	Details of engagement	€
Dr. Jane Pillinger	Consultancy SMI	€38,823
PA Consulting Group	Evaluation of SMI	€349,306

Departmental Expenditure

94. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Taoiseach the annual Departmental spend for his Department per annum since 1997; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22610/11]

The Taoiseach: The following table details the annual spend by my Department, in respect of Administration and Programme subheads, from 1997 to end of August 2011:

Year	Annual spend by Department €m
1997	€16.185
1998	€21.120
1999	€25.264
2000	€72.817
2001	€29.910
2002	€28.403
2003	€24.655
2004	€28.824
2005	€29.484
2006	€32.585
2007	€35.167
2008	€32.897
2009	€24.235
2010	€20.300
2011 (Jan — Aug 2011)	€11.383

Question No. 95 answered with Question No. 89.

National Census

96. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Taoiseach if he will provide the proportion of adults aged over 60 years in the 2006 census in a selection of district electoral divisions (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [22636/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Deputy Paul Kehoe): The following table details the proportion of adults aged over 60 years in the 2006 census in relation to all the district electoral divisions requested by the Deputy.

[Deputy Paul Kehoe.]

Persons, males and females aged 60 years and over present in the State on census night, classified by selected Electoral Divisions and the percentage against the entire population, 2006

Geographic Area	Age Group	Gender		
		Persons	Males	Females
Ballinteer-Broadford	Total population	3,152	1,539	1,613
	Of which 60 years and over	343	163	180
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	10.9%	10.6%	11.2%
Ballinteer-Ludford	Total population	2,118	1,025	1,093
	Of which 60 years and over	634	300	334
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	29.9%	29.3%	30.6%
Ballinteer-Marley	Total population	2,443	1,187	1,256
	Of which 60 years and over	309	151	158
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	12.6%	12.7%	12.6%
Ballinteer-Meadowbroads	Total population	1,587	768	819
	Of which 60 years and over	494	237	257
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	31.1%	30.9%	31.4%
Ballinteer-Meadowmount	Total population	1,984	955	1,029
	Of which 60 years and over	437	194	243
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	22.0%	20.3%	23.6%
Ballinteer-Woodpark	Total population	4,305	2,106	2,199
	Of which 60 years and over	674	344	330
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	15.7%	16.3%	15.0%
Cabinteely-Loughlinstown	Total population	2,546	1,278	1,268
	Of which 60 years and over	183	87	96
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	7.2%	6.8%	7.6%
Churchtown-Castle	Total population	1,244	587	657
	Of which 60 years and over	323	117	206
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	26.0%	19.9%	31.4%
Churchtown-Landscape	Total population	1,198	567	631
	Of which 60 years and over	318	129	189
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	26.5%	22.8%	30.0%

Geographic Area	Age Group	Gender		
		Persons	Males	Females
Churchtown-Nutgrove	Total population	3,100	1,523	1,577
	Of which 60 years and over	671	281	390
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	21.6%	18.5%	24.7%
Churchtown-Orwell	Total population	1,871	856	1,015
	Of which 60 years and over	553	216	337
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	29.6%	25.2%	33.2%
Churchtown-Woodlawn	Total population	1,323	626	697
	Of which 60 years and over	286	117	169
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	21.6%	18.7%	24.2%
Clonskeagh-Belfield	Total population	2,442	1,025	1,417
	Of which 60 years and over	206	73	133
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	8.4%	7.1%	9.4%
Clonskeagh-Farranboley	Total population	1,483	698	785
	Of which 60 years and over	329	126	203
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	22.2%	18.1%	25.9%
Clonskeagh-Milltown	Total population	1,915	931	984
	Of which 60 years and over	259	107	152
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	13.5%	11.5%	15.4%
Clonskeagh-Roebuck	Total population	2,037	980	1,057
	Of which 60 years and over	409	180	229
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	20.1%	18.4%	21.7%
Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour	Total population	2,510	1,200	1,310
	Of which 60 years and over	494	169	325
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	19.7%	14.1%	24.8%
Dundrum-Balally	Total population	4,894	2,419	2,475
	Of which 60 years and over	839	387	452
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	17.1%	16.0%	18.3%
Dundrum-Kilmacud	Total population	2,981	1,456	1,525
	Of which 60 years and over	443	184	259
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	14.9%	12.6%	17.0%

[Deputy Paul Kehoe.]

Geographic Area	Age Group	Gender		
		Persons	Males	Females
Dundrum-Sandyford	Total population	5,844	2,851	2,993
	Of which 60 years and over	706	346	360
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	12.1%	12.1%	12.0%
Dundrum-Sweetmount	Total population	1,890	916	974
	Of which 60 years and over	518	215	303
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	27.4%	23.5%	31.1%
Dundrum-Taney	Total population	2,583	1,206	1,377
	Of which 60 years and over	516	214	302
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	20.0%	17.7%	21.9%
Foxrock-Carrickmines	Total population	5,982	2,929	3,053
	Of which 60 years and over	945	433	512
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	15.8%	14.8%	16.8%
Foxrock-Torquay	Total population	1,379	664	715
	Of which 60 years and over	238	116	122
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	17.3%	17.5%	17.1%
Glencullen	Total population	13,925	7,023	6,902
	Of which 60 years and over	1,020	454	566
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	7.3%	6.5%	8.2%
Stillorgan-Deerpark	Total population	2,828	1,297	1,531
	Of which 60 years and over	679	249	430
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	24.0%	19.2%	28.1%
Stillorgan-Kilmacud	Total population	3,842	1,838	2,004
	Of which 60 years and over	944	397	547
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	24.6%	21.6%	27.3%
Stillorgan-Leopardstown	Total population	2,067	977	1,090
	Of which 60 years and over	437	202	235
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	21.1%	20.7%	21.6%
Stillorgan-Merville	Total population	2,859	1,351	1,508
	Of which 60 years and over	544	232	312
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	19.0%	17.2%	20.7%

Geographic Area	Age Group	Gender		
		Persons	Males	Females
Stillorgan-Mount Merrion	Total population	2,386	1,119	1,267
	Of which 60 years and over	489	199	290
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	20.5%	17.8%	22.9%
Tibradden	Total population	827	400	427
	Of which 60 years and over	62	30	32
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%
Ballyboden	Total population	5,200	2,556	2,644
	Of which 60 years and over	569	272	297
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	10.9%	10.6%	11.2%
Edmondstown	Total population	5,656	2,787	2,869
	Of which 60 years and over	529	234	295
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	9.4%	8.4%	10.3%
Firhouse-Ballycullen	Total population	6,610	3,341	3,269
	Of which 60 years and over	280	131	149
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	4.2%	3.9%	4.6%
Firhouse-Knocklyon	Total population	4,014	2,010	2,004
	Of which 60 years and over	528	273	255
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	13.2%	13.6%	12.7%
Rathfarnham-Ballyroan	Total population	2,494	1,186	1,308
	Of which 60 years and over	776	321	455
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	31.1%	27.1%	34.8%
Rathfarnham-Butterfield	Total population	3,286	1,591	1,695
	Of which 60 years and over	890	384	506
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	27.1%	24.1%	29.9%
Rathfarnham-Hermitage	Total population	4,610	2,202	2,408
	Of which 60 years and over	502	209	293
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	10.9%	9.5%	12.2%
Rathfarnham-St. Enda's	Total population	3,924	1,875	2,049
	Of which 60 years and over	714	309	405
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	18.2%	16.5%	19.8%

[Deputy Paul Kehoe.]

Geographic Area	Age Group	Gender		
		Persons	Males	Females
Rathfarnham Village	Total population	3,038	1,407	1,631
	Of which 60 years and over	586	238	348
	Number of 60 years and over as a percentage of the total population	19.3%	16.9%	21.3%

Departmental Agencies

97. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Taoiseach the money saved if all State agency board member payments in his Department were reduced by €10,000 when their current annual payment is in excess of €50,000. [22743/11]

The Taoiseach: The National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO) is the only state agency under the aegis of my Department.

The membership of the Board of the NESDO comprises the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC). There are 33 members on the NESC. Members do not receive any remuneration in relation to their roles on the Board/Council so the question of savings does not arise.

Question No. 98 answered with Question No. 85.

Departmental Expenditure

99. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Taoiseach the details of spending, using Departmental credit cards held by Department staff over the past four years; the numbers of persons in his Department who hold credit cards; the credit limits of said cards; and the amount that was specifically spent by his Department on entertainment provided using said credit card. [23319/11]

The Taoiseach: The following table details the total spend on Departmental credit cards over the past four years, and the amount that relates to entertainment expenditure:

Year	Total Spend	Total Spend on Entertainment	No. of Cards
2008	€79,410.24	€22,460.89	29
2009	€28,809.55	€7,328.97	25
2010	€15,351.14	€2,982.48	19
2011 (Jan — Aug)	€15,549.12	€2,370.98	8

There are eight Departmental credit cards in operation at present, two of which have a credit limit of €4,000 and the remaining six have a limit of €2,500.00. The cards are held by the following officials:

Head of Information Technology Unit

Head of Library Services/Archives

Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Private Secretary to Government Chief Whip

Private Secretary to the Minister of State for European Affairs

Assistant Secretary, European and International Affairs

Head of Management Services Unit

Finance Officer

Departmental credit cards are used for official purposes only. They are allocated to officials where the facility will be of practical use in meeting the requirements of official business, for example, to facilitate meeting of travel expenses and official entertainment while away from the office, the procurement of goods and services such as on-line conference bookings, air travel, purchase of IT equipment and library supplies.

The use of official credit cards is closely monitored by the Department's Finance Unit. Expenditure must generally be supported by receipts submitted by card holders each month as part of the approval process for the associated expenditure. The allocation and use of official credit cards are reviewed on an ongoing basis, with a view to minimising the number of cards allocated, and credit limits are assigned in line with requirements for official use on a case by case basis.

Ministerial Staff

100. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Taoiseach the number of persons employed in each of the private offices and the constituency offices of his Ministers of State; the annual amount paid in respect of salaries to each office for 2009, 2010 and to date in 2011 in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23349/11]

101. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Taoiseach the number of special advisers and programme managers in his Department; the annual amount paid in respect of salaries in regard to each such office for each of the years 2009, 2010 and to date in 2011, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23364/11]

102. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Taoiseach the number of persons employed in his private offices and constituency offices; the annual amount paid in respect of salaries in regard to each such office for 2009, 2010 and to date in 2011 in tabular format; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23379/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 100 to 102, inclusive, together.

Details of the number and annual salaries of the Special Advisers and of those employed in the Private Offices and Constituency Offices of my Department are set out in the table beneath.

	2009 (as at 1/1/2009)	2009 (as at 1/1/2009)	2010 (as at 1/1/2011)	2010 (as at 1/1/2011)	2011 (as at 1/1/2011)	2011 (as at 1/1/2011)
	Number of Staff	Annual Salary	Number of Staff	Annual Salary	Number of Staff	Annual Salary
Taoiseach's Private Office	12	€ 627,473	10	€ 484,561	11	€ 574,261
Taoiseach's Constituency Office	7	337,197	6	296,497	5	280,882

[The Taoiseach.]

	2009 (as at 1/1/2009)	2009 (as at 1/1/2009)	2010 (as at 1/1/2011)	2010 (as at 1/1/2011)	2011 (as at 1/1/2011)	2011 (as at 1/1/2011)
	Number of Staff	Annual Salary	Number of Staff	Annual Salary	Number of Staff	Annual Salary
Government Chief Whip's Private Office	4	202,099	4	195,587	4	201,215
Government Chief Whip Constituency Office	4	162,473	3	130,614	3	135,818
Minister of State for European Affairs Private Office	3	132,405	3	127,840	2	103,324
Special Advisers	7	1,063,350	7	974,496.00	5	576,153
Totals	37	2,524,997	33	2,209,595	30	1,871,653

Departmental Expenditure

103. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Taoiseach the budget available to his Department for IT expenditure in 2010 and 2011; the provisions within his Department for the purchasing of IT equipment; the efforts that are being undertaken to ensure value for money and cost reductions in this regard; if there are budgets and procedures in place for the purchasing of IT equipment for each State agency under his remit for 2010 and 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23452/11]

The Taoiseach: My Department is acutely aware of the need to obtain value for money at all times and is fully committed to effective and efficient resource allocation and service provision. There is a continuing focus on achieving more efficiencies in IT spend and contracts coming up for renewal are reviewed with a view to consolidation wherever possible. Centrally negotiated framework agreements are also utilised wherever possible.

The National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO) is the only agency under the aegis of my Department. NESDO receive a grant-in-aid allocation from my Department. They provided for €10,000 from their budget in 2010 and €12,870 from their budget in 2011 for the purchasing of IT equipment.

Procurement of IT equipment by my Department and by NESDO is carried out under procedures recommended by the National Public Procurement Policy Unit in the Department of Finance which is responsible for procurement policy, national procurement guidelines and the application of EU directives.

These procedures are designed to ensure that appropriate competitive processes are in place to select the providers of goods and services which represent best value to the Department, taking account of a number of important criteria including cost and suitability for purpose.

Departmental Correspondence

104. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Taoiseach if he will publish the details of his Depart-

ment's submission and all correspondence to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for consideration as part of the comprehensive spending review. [23479/11]

The Taoiseach: Departmental submissions to the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure (CRE) are a central part of the overall pre-budget deliberations of the Government. As such, release of these documents could not be considered in advance of Government decisions on the forthcoming Budget. I would envisage that the reports submitted as part of the CRE process can be made available publicly following the completion of the budgetary and Estimates process.

Live Register

105. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Taoiseach if he will give details of the most recent unemployment figures at a social welfare office (details supplied) in Dublin 24; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23879/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Deputy Paul Kehoe): The Live Register series gives a monthly breakdown of the number of people claiming Jobseekers Benefit, Jobseekers Allowance and other registrants as registered with the Department of Social Protection. Figures are published for each county and local social welfare office.

The most recent Live Register figures available are for August 2011. The table below contains the numbers signing on in Tallaght local office on the last Friday of August 2011.

It should be noted that the Live Register is not a definitive measure of unemployment as it includes part-time workers, and seasonal and casual workers entitled to Jobseekers Benefit or Allowance.

	Live Register	
Males	Under 25 years	1,651
	25 years and over	6,551
Total males		8,202
Females	Under 25 years	1,004
	25 years and over	2,974
Total females		3,978
All persons	Under 25 years	2,655
	25 years and over	9,525
Total persons		12,180

Source: CSO Live Register

Professional Fees

106. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Taoiseach the potential savings to the Exchequer by reducing professional fees paid by the State by 25%. [24288/11]

The Taoiseach: The total amount of professional fees paid by my Department from January to end August 2011 was €1,011,530.30. This includes spend of €1,270 under my Department's

[The Taoiseach.]

administrative budget, the remainder relates to the Moriarty Tribunal. A reduction of 25% would have equalled €252,882.58.

It should be noted that following completion of its Second Report, the Tribunal's legal team was reduced and it now consists of just a Junior Counsel and a Solicitor to assist in the completion of the Tribunal's remaining tasks.

Constitutional Convention

107. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Taoiseach the progress that has been made in establishing the constitutional convention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24432/11]

The Taoiseach: Work has commenced on the preparation of proposals for the establishment of the Constitutional Convention and, when ready, these will be considered by the Government.

The proposals, which will address matters such as the structure, composition and working methods of the Convention, will be announced after they have been agreed by the Government.

Commemorative Events

108. **Deputy Eric Byrne** asked the Taoiseach if he will confirm the names of those who will comprise the Oireachtas consultation group in relation to the plans for the 1916 rising centenary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24433/11]

The Taoiseach: Membership of the Oireachtas Consultation Group on Centenary Commemorations comprises Mr. Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Deputies Aengus Ó Snodaigh, Catherine Murphy and Maureen O'Sullivan and Senators Mary White and Mark Daly.

Departmental Expenditure

109. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Taoiseach if he will deal with a matter (details supplied) regarding expenses claimed by a former Taoiseach; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23695/11]

110. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Taoiseach if he will deal with a matter regarding expenditure of public money (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23798/11]

111. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Taoiseach the measures he will take to reduce the phone allowances and secretarial allowances of retired Taoisigh; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23999/11]

The Taoiseach: I propose to take Questions Nos. 109 to 111, inclusive, together.

Under the terms of an initiative introduced by the Department of Finance in August 2001, my Department pays the salary of secretarial assistants employed by former Taoisigh.

A former Taoiseach may employ two secretarial assistants for a period not exceeding five years. After the five year period has elapsed one secretarial assistant may be employed. The initiative also includes provision for purchase of computer equipment necessary for this type of service.

My Department also pays for the telephone expenses incurred by former Taoisigh.

These arrangements are being reviewed as part of the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure which is currently underway.

112. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Taoiseach the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25411/11]

The Taoiseach: The following payments were made in 2010 in respect of the production of reports by the Department of the Taoiseach:

(A) Corporate Affairs

Name of Report	Type of Cost	Cost
Annual Report 2007 (English and Irish)*	Printing	€825
Strategy Statement 2008-2010 (English and Irish)*	Printing	€306
Annual Report 2008 (English and Irish)*	Design	€1,815
Annual Report 2008 (English and Irish)*	Translation	€3,840.54
Total Cost		€6,786.54

*Invoices received and paid in 2010 in respect of reports published in previous years.

(B) Organisational Review Programme

The ORP, which was based in the Department of the Taoiseach in 2010, has since transferred to the Department of Public Expenditure.

Name of Report	Type of Cost	Cost
The Second Report of the Organisational Review Programme (English and Irish)	Translation	€10,810.79
The Second Report of the Organisational Review Programme (English and Irish)	Printing	€7,928
Total Cost		€18,738.79

The total costs for 2010 therefore are € 25,525.33.

Passport Applications

113. **Deputy Alex White** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the reason a passport has not been issued in respect of a person (details supplied). [24594/11]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): An application for a passport for the child in question was made in March, 2011. This was done under the provisions of the Passports Act, 2008, which provides, that this Department must be satisfied that an applicant is an Irish citizen before issuing him/her a passport. In this particular case the child was born in England. Her mother was born in South Africa and even though she is an Irish passport holder since 2004, this does not confer automatic Irish citizenship entitlement to any children that she may have that were born abroad.

Accordingly the applicant's entitlement to Irish citizenship is based on an Irish-born maternal grandparent. In such cases, a person must apply for Irish citizenship through the Foreign Births Registration process to the Consular Section in my Department. Successful applicants are issued with certificates of registration which are required for the purposes of passport applications.

[Deputy Eamon Gilmore.]

No such certificate or any other acceptable evidence of the child's entitlement to Irish citizenship was presented with the passport application and accordingly, the application could not be approved. The Passport Service wrote to the applicant's parents on 14 April, 2011 to advise of the position and requested specific additional documentary evidence to demonstrate the child's entitlement to Irish citizenship. While no reply has been received in the interim the application remains open.

In order to finalise the application to passport issue, the child in question must first be registered in the Foreign Births Register. Once this is done, the parents must submit the certificate of registration to the Passport Service where it will be associated with the current application form.

The Consular Division of the Department received an application for Foreign Births registration on 19th May 2011 and has been in contact with the applicant in relation to outstanding documentation as recently as 6th September last. When this documentation is received the application for Foreign Birth Registration can be fully considered.

Diplomatic Representation

114. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if a decision has been reached in relation to retaining an Irish embassy in the Vatican. [24771/11]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): I am currently reviewing our network of diplomatic and consular missions in the context of the Government's comprehensive review of expenditure. It would be inappropriate and discourteous for me to speculate on the outcome of that review as regards individual missions.

Arms Trade

115. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade in view of Ireland's commitment to international arms control, in particular nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and in view of Ireland's chairmanship of the OSCE, which we will take up in 2012, if he will inform Dáil Éireann when he intends to implement Ireland's accession to the Antarctic treaty. [24783/11]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): The question of Ireland's possible accession to the Antarctic Treaty System is under consideration in those Government Departments which have responsibility for the areas covered by the Antarctic Treaties. A Government decision of 9 June 2010 authorised the then Minister for Foreign Affairs and the other relevant Ministers to conduct preparatory work on this issue. A process of inter-departmental consultation, chaired by my Department, is continuing. This includes an assessment of the legislative implications of accession; it is apparent that these could be significant.

Appointments to State Agencies

116. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24959/11]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): There are no State boards operating under the responsibility of my Department. However, there are currently four bodies which operate under its aegis. The four bodies in question consist of

- one Education Commission: The Ireland — United States Commission for Educational Exchange, also known as the Fulbright Commission; and
- three Advisory Committees, namely (a) the Government Emigrant Services Advisory Committee; (b) the Development Education Advisory Committee and (c) the Irish Aid Expert Advisory Group.

The Ireland — United States (Fulbright) Commission for Educational Exchange, while not a State body, was established on a statutory basis in 1991. I have certain specific statutory responsibilities in respect of the Commission, including the appointment of four of eight members to its Board for a two-year period. In October 2010, my predecessor appointed three members to the Board. The fourth board member's term has expired.

The Government's Emigrant Services Advisory Committee (previously known as the Díon Committee) was set up in 1984 to advise the Government on the welfare of the Irish community in Britain. The Committee's primary role is to advise on the distribution of Government support to voluntary agencies providing front line services and community care to Irish people in Britain. The Committee currently has a membership of thirteen persons. The Chair and Secretary are both officers of the Embassy in London, while other Committee members serve in a voluntary capacity.

Following the expiration of the term of the previous Committee on 31 December 2010, I appointed eleven voluntary members to the Committee on 11 April 2011, in consultation with Embassy London and the Irish Abroad Unit in my Department. The Development Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) was established by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2003 following the recommendations of the Ireland Aid Review Committee. It has ten members, eight of whom I appoint directly and two who are appointed on the nomination of the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). Its purpose is to advise on policy regarding development education. The current committee was appointed by my predecessor in April 2010 for a two-year term. Membership is drawn from the voluntary sector and relevant educational institutions. The Department of Education and Skills and the NCCA nominees serve in a representative capacity while all other committee members serve in an individual capacity.

The Irish Aid Expert Advisory Group (IAEAG) was established in 2010 acting on a recommendation contained in the Irish Aid Management Review adopted by the Government in 2009. The Group consists of seven members, six of whom I appoint directly and one on the nomination of the Department of Finance. The role of the Group is to offer independent expert advice on the strategic direction of the aid programme. Members of the Advisory Group were appointed by my predecessor in June 2010 for a three year term.

Departmental Expenditure

117. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25412/11]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): In 2010, my Department translated two reports into Irish: the 2009 Report of the Department's Audit

[Deputy Eamon Gilmore.]

Committee and the 2009 Annual Report of Irish Aid. The total amount spent on translating these reports was €4,343.

Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

118. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the extent of tobacco smuggling here at present; the extent of seizures of illegal tobacco over the past year; and his plans to tackle this crime. [24659/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners, who are responsible for the collection of tobacco products tax, and for tackling the illicit trade in cigarettes and tobacco products, that there is no internationally recognised method for precisely determining the amount of tax lost as a result of the illicit trade in cigarettes. However, on the basis of a 2009 & 2010 survey carried out independently on behalf of Revenue and the Office of Tobacco Control, Revenue estimates that approximately 20% of cigarettes consumed in the State had not been taxed in this jurisdiction. It is important to emphasise that this estimate includes both illicit cigarettes and legal cross-border purchases brought into the State for personal consumption. Revenue would further tentatively estimate that this figure of 20% comprises 14% illicit product and 6% legal cross-border purchases. In 2010 Revenue's strategy resulted in the seizure of a total of 178m cigarettes with a retail value of approximately €75m and 3,342kgs of tobacco with a retail value of approximately €1.2m. For the period January to August 2011, a total of 77.9m cigarettes with a retail value of approximately €32.8m and 6,683 kgs of tobacco with a retail value of approximately €2.4m have been seized.

The Revenue Commissioners regard the tackling of the illicit trade in cigarettes and tobacco products to be a high priority area. They have established a high level internal group, chaired at Commissioner level, to examine the risks related to tobacco products tax and to oversee and optimise the detection of counterfeit and contraband tobacco products. This group has promoted a number of initiatives aimed at counteracting the illicit trade in tobacco. These include adoption of a comprehensive tobacco strategy and action plan.

This strategy employed by Revenue to tackle this illicit trade is multi-faceted. It includes ongoing analysis of the nature and extent of the problem, developing and sharing intelligence on a national, EU and international basis, ongoing review of operational policies, development of analytics and deployment of detection technologies, optimum deployment of resources at point of importation and internally to intercept the contraband product and to prosecute those involved.

Interception at the point of importation is achieved through a combination of risk analysis, profiling, intelligence, and the screening of cargo, vehicles, baggage and postal packages. Revenue enforcement officers also target this illicit trade at the post-importation level by carrying out intelligence-based operations and random checks at retail outlets, markets and private and commercial premises. Revenue also carries out regular multi-agency operations, particularly in relation to large maritime importations and in checks at inland markets.

In July 2010, Revenue launched a series of nationwide tobacco 'blitz' type operations, which concentrated additional Revenue resources at ports, airports and at various inland retail points, including markets for the purpose of identifying illicit tobacco products. To date, Revenue has conducted seven tobacco blitz operations that have resulted in the seizure of in excess of 33.2m cigarettes. Another two large-scale nationwide operations are scheduled to take place during the last quarter of 2011.

Mortgage Lenders

119. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance his view on obliging banks who forced customers out of tracker mortgages and onto fixed mortgages or flexi-rates; and his further views on whether there would be any cost incurred to the State as a result of this policy. [24404/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The Central Bank's Consumer Protection Code requires entities regulated by the Central Bank to act honestly, fairly and professionally in the best interests of their customers. Regulated entities must not recklessly, negligently or deliberately mislead a customer as to the real or perceived advantages or disadvantages of any particular product or service. In accordance with common rule 12 of the Code, regulated entities have to ensure that all relevant information, and in particular, key information is provided to a consumer in a clear manner. The operation of any agreement between a regulated entity and a consumer must be in accordance with the terms and conditions applying to that agreement. In August 2010, the Central Bank published the findings of an examination of switching practices related to tracker mortgages by lenders and relevant customer communications in relation to products. A number of concerns were identified during the examination about the level of disclosure and transparency when consumers moved from tracker rate mortgages to other forms of mortgages.

As a result of this finding, mortgage lenders were requested to disclose fully, with immediate effect, the impact of any switch from a tracker mortgage rate in all customer communications. Customers must be notified that switching from a tracker rate may mean they will lose the ability to avail of a tracker rate mortgage in the future, where this is the case.

Mortgage lenders have been advised to include new information in all customer communications regarding switching from tracker rate mortgages, for any reason, with immediate effect. This information should include:

- indicative comparisons of the cost of monthly repayments of the customer's current tracker rate mortgage and the rates being offered,
- details of the advantages and disadvantages of the tracker mortgage rate compared to the other rates being offered.

The examination did not find evidence that customers were being offered incentives to move off tracker rate mortgages. Mortgage lenders have been instructed, by the Central Bank, to give careful consideration before offering any incentives to customers to move from tracker rate mortgages and to notify the Central Bank in advance of any such proposals.

I have been informed by the Central Bank that, where banks and other lending agencies made errors in removing persons from tracker rate mortgages, the Bank expects that such customers have been or will be compensated by the agency in question. The Central Bank will not comment on press reports that certain amounts of compensation have been paid by certain lending agencies.

Tax Code

120. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Finance his plans to reverse the implementation of the universal social charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24411/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The Universal Social Charge (USC) was introduced in Budget 2011 to replace the Income Levy and Health Levy. The USC is a more sustainable charge than the Income Levy and Health Levy. It is applied at a low rate on a wide

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base. The USC is designed to apply across income levels in a smoother progression and to address the irregularities caused by ‘step effects’ in the previous system of levies. There is a commitment in the Programme for Government to carry out a review of the USC. This review has commenced.

The Terms of Reference of the review are broad and wide-ranging and include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Low paid income earners;
- Persons over 65;
- Medical Card Holders;
- Widows/Widowers;
- Self-employed;
- Public Service Pensioners;
- Employer contributions to PRSAs; and
- Any other issues (including any operational issues that have arisen in the administration of the charge).

When the review is completed and the findings are presented to me, I will make any necessary decisions in the context of Budget 2012.

Motor Vehicle Registration

121. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Finance the number of vehicles registered under the category C classification up to 31 August 2011 and for each of the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; the cost to his Department of processing these applications; the amount of revenue collected by his Department from processing these applications; the amount of revenue collected by his Department from these applications to date in 2011 and in each of the past four years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24459/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the number of vehicles that were registered under the category C classification together with the amount of revenue collected for the requested periods, are shown in the table. The cost of processing these registrations is not available.

Vehicles Registered under Category C

		Gross	Receipts
		Registrations Category C	€
2007	New	52,843	2,640,400
	Used	22,511	1,114,950
	Total	75,354	3,755,350
2008	New	36,523	1,824,950
	Used	21,530	1,068,000
	Total	58,053	2,892,950
2009	New	12,388	617,550
	Used	20,702	1,030,100
	Total	33,090	1,647,650

		Gross	Receipts
		Registrations Category C	€
2010	New	12,555	713,513
	Used	13,410	672,617
	Total	25,965	1,386,130
2011 (8 Mths)	New	11,382	1,199,905
	Used	6,848	764,300
	Total	18,230	1,964,205

Please note that the receipts shown for 2011 are provisional.

Tax Code

122. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance the current point of entry to the PAYE tax net; and if he plans to lower same. [24485/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The entry point to taxation for PAYE income earners is determined by a number of factors such as the age of an individual, marital status and dependent children. On that basis, the entry point to income tax for the most common categories of PAYE income earners are set out in the following tables:

Aged under 65

Category	Entry Point to PAYE Taxation
Single Individual	€16,500
Married one-earner couple with no children	€24,750
Married one-earner couple with children	€28,800

Aged 65 and over (Age Exemption Limits)

Category	Entry Point to PAYE Taxation
Single Individual	€18,000
Married one-earner couple (no children)	€36,000

As the Deputy is aware, the Government has initiated a Comprehensive Review of Expenditure to provide the Government with a set of decision options to meet the overall fiscal consolidation objectives and re-align spending with the Programme for Government priorities.

When this review is complete, the Government will examine the findings and, based on these findings and consultation with the Troika, will introduce fiscally neutral changes to the detail of the EU/IMF Programme of Financial Support for Ireland while maintaining the overall commitment to fiscal consolidation.

123. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance his view on refundable tax credits; and if he will give an annual estimated cost to the Exchequer of providing refundable tax credits to those in receipt of wages less than €17,500 per annum. [24486/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that based on annual incomes below €17,500 per annum on Revenue income tax records, as returned by or on behalf of income earners for the income tax year 2009, the latest year for which the necessary detailed data is available, the cost to the Exchequer of making the main personal and PAYE tax credits refundable when they are unused by these income earners is estimated to be of the order of €1.4 billion per annum. This estimate relates only to the cost of extending refundable tax credits to all those on the Revenue's tax files. If a refundable tax credit system were to be introduced, one would have to consider those who are not on the tax files, for example, those who are of employable age but not working, including those on social welfare. If such categories were eligible this would increase the cost significantly.

The estimate of cost takes into account all income earners, both employees and self-employed, whose total gross income from all sources is below €17,500 per annum. This is composed of income from employment and self-employment as well as all other sources of tax liable income such as pensions, benefits, dividends and investments.

In addition to the issue of cost, there would be a range of other policy and practical issues arising in introducing such a system.

124. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Finance his views on whether members of the Craft Council of Ireland will avail of the reduction in the VAT rate for their labour intensive crafts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24513/11]

140. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Finance his plans to reduce the VAT applied on labour-intensive products produced by crafts-persons which would recognise the importance of such an indigenous, often rural based industry. [24977/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 124 and 140 together.

The VAT rating of goods and services is subject to the requirements of EU VAT law with which Irish VAT law must comply. Under the VAT Directive Member States may only apply the reduced VAT rate to those goods and services which are listed under Annex III of the VAT Directive. I understand that the major sectors within the Irish craft industry are pottery, glass, jewellery, textiles and furniture. Annex III does not provide for a reduced rate of VAT to be applied to these goods, which are consequentially subject to the standard VAT rate of 21%.

125. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Finance if he will guarantee that the Revenue Commissioner in all districts will return all Relevant Contract Tax Deductions, RCTD 35% on application for entitlements in the respective year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24634/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that Relevant Contracts Tax (RCT) is a withholding tax mechanism for contractors carrying out relevant operations in the construction, forestry and meat processing sectors. The governing legislation obliges a person (the principal contractor) to retain 35% of the amount payable to subcontractors in the absence of a Revenue authorisation (C2) and a related Payments Card. Where tax is deducted, the principal contractor gives the subcontractor a Form RCTDC, which the subcontractor uses to claim credit for, or repayment of, the tax withheld. A subcontractor makes a claim for repayment of RCT by submitting one or more Form(s) RCTDC in respect of an income tax month or any number of income tax months. As a withholding tax, the tax deducted by the principal contractor is available for offset against the subcontractor's tax liab-

ility, primarily Income Tax and Corporation Tax, but also against other taxes such as Value Added Tax and employers' PAYE/PRSI. Once these liabilities have been satisfied, any balance of tax in credit may be refunded to the subcontractor.

Mortgage Arrears

126. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance his approach towards assisting families coping with stressed mortgages; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

[24655/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): There are a number of measures in place to assist people who are having genuine difficulties in meeting their mortgage repayments. The Central Bank's revised Code of Conduct for Mortgage Arrears (the Code) applies to mortgage lending activities with consumers in respect of their principal private residence in the State. Compliance with the Code is mandatory on all mortgage lenders registered with the Central Bank. The Code came into effect on 1 January 2011. With effect from 30 June 2011, lenders must have in place the required systems and trained staff necessary to support the implementation of the Code. The Code sets out the framework that lenders must use when dealing with borrowers who are in arrears or are in pre-arrears. For the purposes of the Code a "pre-arrears" case arises when the borrower contacts the lender stating that he or she is in danger of getting into financial difficulties and/or is concerned about getting into mortgage arrears. The Code can be accessed at www.centralbank.ie.

The main provisions of the code are as set out as follows:

(1) Lenders must establish a Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process know as "MARP" and use this framework when dealing with consumers who are in arrears or in pre-arrears situations.

(2) The lender must not apply to the courts to commence legal action for repossession of the borrower's primary residence until every reasonable effort has been made to agree an alternative arrangement with the borrower or his/her nominated representative.

(3) Where a borrower co-operates with the lender, the lender must wait at least 12 months from the date the borrower is classified as a MARP case (i.e. 31 days from the date the arrears first arose) before applying to the courts to commence legal action for repossession of a borrower's primary residence.

(4) Where a borrower is in mortgage arrears, a lender may commence legal action for repossession of the property without the 12 month period applying, only in the following circumstances:-

- where a borrower does not co-operate with the lender,
- in the case of fraud perpetrated on the lender by the borrower, or
- in the case of a breach of contract by the borrower other than the existence of arrears.

(5) A lender must not require a borrower to change from an existing tracker mortgage to another mortgage type as part of an alternative arrangement offered to the borrower in arrears or in pre-arrears.

(6) Lenders must establish an Appeals Support Unit which must be adequately staffed, to manage cases under the MARP.

(7) Borrowers can make an appeal in relation to the decision of the Arrears Support Unit and the lender's treatment of the borrowers under the MARP, to an internal Appeals Board which lenders are required to establish. The Central Bank has produced, with input from the National Consumer Agency, a consumer guide to assist consumers in understanding the new

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process under the revised Code that they should expect from lenders. The guide together, with a number of questions and answers, are available on the Central Bank's website www.centralbank.ie.

Financial assistance is available to eligible claimants under the Department of Social Protection's Mortgage Interest Supplement Scheme.

People in debt or in danger of getting into debt can avail of the services of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service. This is a national, free, confidential, and independent service.

The Deputy may wish to note that a Working Group has been established under the Economic Management Council to consider the state of implementation of the main recommendations in the report of the Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt Group. This Group has also been asked to consider and develop further necessary actions to alleviate the increasing mortgage over-indebtedness problem. I expect that the Group will complete its work in the very near future.

127. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance if he has given directions to the banks and other lending agencies on the way they are to deal with persons unable to cope with mortgages which they are unable to pay either in part or full; if so, if these banks and lending agencies are carrying out his direction; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
[24656/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I have not issued directions to the banks and to other lending agencies on the manner in which they are to deal with their customers. However, I would like to inform the Deputy that, following the publication of the report of the Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt Group in November 2010, the Central Bank revised its Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears (CCMA). The revisions were to reflect many of the recommendations in the report, including the key recommendations relating to the introduction by all lenders, regulated by the Central Bank, of a standardised Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP).

The revised CCMA came into effect on 1 January 2011 and can be assessed at www.centralbank.ie. Lenders are legally required to comply with the CCMA. With effect from 30 June 2011, lenders must have in place the requisite systems and trained staff necessary to support the implementation of the MARP.

- lenders are prohibited from moving borrowers in arrears from existing tracker mortgages,
- penalty interest charges may not be imposed on borrowers in arrears who co-operate with the MARP,
- harassment of borrowers through unsolicited communication is outlawed,
- borrowers in financial difficulties, but not in arrears, are allowed to come under the MARP,
- when determining the 12 month period that the lender must wait before applying to the courts to commence legal action, the lender must exclude any time period during which the borrower is complying with the terms of an alternative repayment arrangement, making an appeal to the internal appeals board or making a complaint to the Financial Services Ombudsman.

Departmental Expenditure

128. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [24657/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Following clarification with the Deputy's office I understand that the information being sought is the total expenditure by my Department on translations from English into Irish for 2010. The total expenditure by my Department on translation costs from English into Irish in 2010 was €8,747.36.

Departmental Reports

129. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance if he will consider putting the following into practice, to print Government reports and documents in English, rather than bilingually, to have available all such reports in the Irish language for all those who want to read them as gaeilge; and if so, the amount of money that would be saved by the State. [24658/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Every effort should be made to ensure that material is translated into Irish in-house. Many publications, translated into Irish, should be stored electronically and printed in-house as required.

130. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the position regarding a report on the expert group reviewing the house mortgage situation. [24663/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I assume that the Deputy is referring to the report of the Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt Group (Cooney Report) which was published in November 2010. One of the recommendations of the Group was that lenders should offer a Deferred Interest Scheme (DIS) to borrowers. Under this Scheme, subject to certain criteria being satisfied, borrowers are allowed to pay at least 66% of their mortgage interest but less than 100%. Payment of the balance may be deferred for up to 5 years. Lenders representing the majority of the market have already implemented (or indicated their willingness to implement) the Group's proposals for a DIS or a variation of it. While the Scheme is voluntary for all lenders, those who have signed up in support of the Scheme will be monitored by the Central Bank to ensure compliance.

Since the publication of the Group's Report, the Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears (CCMA) has been revised by the Central Bank to reflect many of the Group's recommendations, including key recommendations relating to the introduction by all lenders regulated by the Central Bank of a standardised Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP). The most significant changes in the revised CCMA include

- penalty interest charges may not be imposed on borrowers in arrears who co-operate with the MARP,
- harassment of borrowers through unsolicited communication is outlawed,
- borrowers in financial difficulties, but not in arrears, are allowed to come under the MARP,
- when determining the 12 month period the lender must wait before applying to the courts to commence legal action, the lender must exclude any time period during which the borrower is complying with the terms of an alternative repayment arrangement, making an appeal to the internal appeals board or making a complaint to the Financial Services Ombudsman.

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The revised CCMA came into effect on 1 January 2011 and can be accessed at *www.centralbank.ie*. Lenders are required to comply with the CCMA as a matter of law. With effect from 30 June 2011, lenders must have in place the requisite systems and trained staff necessary to support the implementation of the MARP.

A new Working Group has been established under the Economic Management Council. Its remit is to consider the state of implementation of the main recommendations of the Cooney Report and to develop further necessary actions to alleviate the mortgage over indebtedness problem. The Government will consider what further action is warranted once the Group has concluded its deliberations and reported to the Economic Management Council. I expect that the Group will complete its work in the very near future.

Oil Prices

131. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Finance if, with reference to the confirmation of the Chief Economist of the International Energy Agency in April 2011 that global crude oil production peaked in 2006 and that oil prices internationally are likely to inflate significantly over the long term and having regard to Ireland's dependence on imported fossil fuels, he has undertaken any detailed economic risk modelling of the potential impact on the economy here of permanently higher or volatile oil prices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24763/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): As the Deputy is aware, Ireland is an oil-importer. Thus, any rise in the price of oil reduces domestic disposable income levels, meaning that less income is available to spend on domestically produced good and services. All other things being equal, this will have a negative impact on GDP growth. In terms of quantifying the potential impact, model simulations suggest that each 10 euro per barrel increase in the price of oil reduces the GDP growth rate by around $\frac{1}{4}$ — $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in a full year. A number of caveats apply to this estimate however, as the transmission of higher oil prices to the real economy depends on a number of factors. These include the nature of the oil price shock (whether it is a demand or supply-side shock), the perception of households and firms as to the duration of the price increase and the policy response.

It is also important to note that structural changes in the economy in recent decades mean that Ireland is now much less dependent on oil as an input to the production process than in the past. For example, there has been a sectoral shift from manufacturing to services, with the latter (on average) being less energy-intensive. In addition, there has been an intra-sectoral shift from heavy manufacturing to knowledge-intensive manufacturing. This has reduced the exposure of the manufacturing sector (on average) to oil price developments.

Moreover, I would point out that while the price of oil has been on an upward trend over the past year — primarily reflecting supply-side issues, particularly the geo-political crisis in the Middle East — futures markets are currently pricing in lower oil prices for 2012 and 2013.

Retirement Funds

132. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Finance the amount of money that accrues to his Department for the Exchequer as a result of the raising of the limit of approved retirement funds from €12,700 to €18,000 in budget 2011; the number of persons who had planned to purchase an ARF on retirement will no longer be eligible to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24880/11]

133. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Finance the outcome of the residual pension fund of deceased pensioners, following the raising limit for the purchase of approved retirement funds in Budget 2011, who have qualified for an ARF before the changes and which could have been left to their next of kin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24881/11]

134. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Finance if, following the raising of the guaranteed income limit for life for the purchase of an approved retirement fund in Budget 2011, there is a mechanism or provision, other than an approved minimum retirement fund, whereby non qualifying pensioners get the many advantages of an ARF that wealthier pensioners will enjoy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24884/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 132 to 134, inclusive, together.

These questions relate to the flexible options on retirement first introduced in Finance Act 1999. Prior to that Act, any person taking a pension under a defined contribution (DC) scheme or a Retirement Annuity Contract was required to purchase an annuity with their remaining pension pot after drawing down the appropriate tax-free lump sum. Finance Act 1999 introduced significant changes which gave a considerable degree of control, flexibility and personal choice to certain categories of individuals in relation to the drawing down of benefits from their pension plans. These choices include the options to purchase an annuity, to receive the balance of the pension fund in cash (subject to tax, as appropriate), to invest in an approved retirement fund (ARF) or an Approved Minimum Retirement Fund (AMRF), subject to certain conditions.

Access to these flexible options was extended to all main benefits from retirement benefit schemes (other than Defined Benefit arrangements) in Finance Act 2011. The changes made in Finance Act 2011 have particular relevance for ordinary members of occupational DC pension schemes in respect of the main benefits from such schemes, as up to the passing of the Act, the only option available to them in respect of those benefits had been the purchase of a retirement annuity after taking the tax-free lump sum. These individuals now have the choices referred to above depending on their particular circumstances. It should be borne in mind, however, that the option to invest in an ARF or AMRF as opposed to purchasing an annuity may not be appropriate for everyone.

Under the regime the options to

- invest in an ARF, or
- receive the balance of the pension fund in cash (subject to tax, as appropriate) are subject to conditions. The conditions include the requirements that the individual be over 75 years of age or, if younger, that the individual has a guaranteed level of pension income (specified income) actually in payment for life at the time the option to effect the ARF or cash option is exercised. Finance Act 2011 increased the guaranteed level of pension income required from the previous fixed amount of €12,700 introduced in 1999, to a variable amount equal to 1.5 times the maximum annual rate of the State Pension (Contributory) bringing the “specified income” limit to €18,000 per annum at present.

The purpose of the specified income limit is to ensure, before an individual has unfettered access to their remaining retirement funds via an ARF for example, that they have the security of an adequate guaranteed income throughout their retirement. It is not the purpose of the limit, or the increase in the limit, to secure additional revenues for the Exchequer. The change

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to the specified income limit introduced in Finance Act 2011 was strongly signalled in the National Pensions Framework published in March 2010.

Where the minimum specified income test is not met, and an individual does not wish to purchase an annuity, then an AMRF must be chosen into which a “set aside” amount must be invested from the pension fund equal to 10 times the maximum annual rate of State Pension (Contributory) — €119,800 at present — or the remainder of the pension fund, after taking the tax-free lump sum, if less. Prior to Finance Act 2011, the “set aside” amount was fixed at the first €63,500 of the pension fund or the remainder of the fund after the tax-free lump sum, if less than that amount. The purpose of an AMRF is to ensure a capital or income “safety net” for individuals with pension income below the specified income limit throughout the period of their retirement. The funds in an AMRF can be used by the owner at any time to purchase an annuity. On death of the AMRF owner, the AMRF automatically becomes an ARF and any remaining funds may be passed on in a tax efficient way to a surviving spouse and/or children.

Prior to Finance Act 2011, if the minimum specified income test was not met at the time the option to effect the ARF or cash option was exercised and the individual placed a “set aside” amount in an AMRF, that capital sum was effectively “locked in” and could not be accessed by the individual, other than to purchase an annuity, until he or she reached 75 years of age (at which point the AMRF automatically becomes an ARF) though any income generated by the fund could be drawn down subject to tax. This was the position even if the minimum specified income test was met after retirement. Finance Act 2011 changed this rule so that where the minimum specified income test is met at any time after retirement and before age 75, the AMRF automatically becomes an ARF with full access to the funds.

As a transitional measure, Finance Act 2011 allows the previous lower guaranteed income requirement of €12,700 per annum to continue to apply for a period of 3 years from the date that Act was signed into law (6 February 2011)—

- for individuals who had retired before that date and who already had an AMRF, and
- for individuals who availed of the deferred annuity purchase option*, had exercised the ARF (or cash) option within one month of the date of passing of Finance Act 2011 and who in exercising that option had transferred the requisite amount to an AMRF within that one month period.

This means that if such individuals satisfy the guaranteed income requirement of €12,700 within that three-year period their AMRF becomes an ARF. After this three-year period expires, the new higher guaranteed income test will have to be satisfied before the AMRF can become an ARF. The amount of guaranteed income required to meet the test will change in line with any future change in the maximum annual rate of State Pension (Contributory).

I have no information on the number of individuals who would have been in a position to avail of the ARF option if the rules relating to the minimum income test, in particular, had not been changed. However, I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that there have been very few representations made to them in that regard. Where individuals do not meet the new specified income test and choose not to take the AMRF option, they can of course purchase an annuity. Depending on the particular scheme rules, the annuity can be designed to include features that best suit the individual’s particular needs, in terms of how long the annuity payments may be guaranteed after death, whether they revert to a dependant after death and whether they remain at the same level or increase during payment.

The Budget and Finance Act 2011 changes seek to ensure that those in pension arrangements to whom the flexible ARF options on retirement have been extended will have choices which

best suit their particular circumstances. In making the changes, however, there was also a concern to ensure that the parameters and rules governing the extension are set in a way that avoids an increase in the risk of income poverty in old age.

- The deferred annuity purchase option was introduced with effect from 4 December 2008 for members of defined contribution occupational pension schemes and allowed them to defer the purchase of an annuity for an initial period of 2 years, in light of the fact that pension funds had been adversely affected by the falls in equity markets and the more general falls in assets values. The deferral option was operated administratively by the Revenue Commissioners. The period of deferral was subsequently extended to 6 March 2011 i.e. one month beyond the passing into law of the Finance Act 2011.

National Asset Management Agency

135. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the delays in the assessment of business plans by the National Asset Management Agency which is resulting in deposits being returned to house purchasers and cases in which house owners are unable to take possession of their homes resulting in financial hardship; if, in view of the current market conditions, he will ensure that the assessment deadlines given by NAMA are met by it to prevent further losses in cases in which house purchases still exist; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24892/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): With regard to the Deputy's contention that there are delays in the business plan review process, I understand from NAMA that significant progress has been made over recent months and that, as of end-August 2011, NAMA had completed its review of the plans of 113 of the 180 debtors whose loans it is managing directly. These 113 debtors account for some 75% of the total nominal value of debts outstanding to NAMA. In addition to the reviews conducted directly by NAMA, reviews have also been completed of the plans of another 60 debtors whose debts are being managed by the participating institutions under delegated authority from NAMA. NAMA has also observed that, in any event, the ongoing review of debtor business plans does not hold up credit decisions. In fact, some 400 credit decisions, including sales approvals, are currently being processed every month. I understand that, generally speaking, once a credit application comes into NAMA, a decision is made within one week. If the Deputy has details of specific cases of delay, such information should be sent to the CEO of NAMA who will investigate the matter and revert to him directly.

It should also be pointed out that not all offers made by potential purchasers will match what NAMA considers to be an acceptable price for the property concerned.

Tax Collection

136. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for Finance the amount lost to the Exchequer due to tax evasion on a yearly basis over the past five years; his plans to minimise this amount as a means of increasing tax revenue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24901/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that they do not measure the amount of tax lost to the Exchequer due to tax evasion. There is no one internationally recognised and agreed measure. The results from the many different measures must be treated with a great deal of caution. The international response by other tax authorities to tax evasion is to focus on deterrence while at the same time facilitating compliance. This is precisely the approach adopted by the Revenue Commissioners. The main focus of Revenue continues to be on selecting cases for intervention based on the presence of various risk indicators and other information available. This is the type of targeted intervention that

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gets best results and that is most likely to change the behaviour of the taxpayer into the future. The targeted approach is greatly enhanced by the computerised Risk Evaluation Analysis and Profiling System (REAP) developed by Revenue. Cases may also be selected on the basis of external/further information provided to Revenue.

Revenue fully recognises the need to tackle tax evasion in all its forms, and consequently has an increased focus on sectors which have the potential to operate using cash.

Last year auditors carried out 11,008 audits resulting in a yield of €434.7 million. A total of 454,796 assurance checks, a less intrusive form of intervention, produced a yield of €58 million.

Tax Clearance Certificates

137. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners will explain the reason a person (details supplied) in County Kerry is being forced to make repayment to them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24923/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by Revenue that an unfortunate mistake was made in this case. Revenue has now taken steps to rectify the matter and to apologise to the taxpayer. In May 2011 the taxpayer informed them that she was in receipt of widow's pension from the Department of Social Protection since 2006. As a result, an adjustment of her tax credits was needed, to remove the married person's tax credit to which she was no longer entitled, and to replace it with credits appropriate to her new status.

Unfortunately, only the first part of this process was carried out, and the result was an apparent underpayment of tax for the years 2007 to 2010. A statement of underpayment was issued in early August. Revenue has now however corrected the situation by adding the credits to which she is entitled, and the result is that no additional tax is due.

Revenue deeply regret the distress caused to the taxpayer by the erroneous assessment of her tax liability, and have written directly to apologise.

International Agreements

138. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Finance if any of the money has been drawn down from the bilateral loan agreements with the UK, Sweden and Denmark; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24929/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): To date, there have been no draw downs from the bilateral loans available under the EU/IMF Programme of Financial Support for Ireland. Arrangements are well underway for the first drawdown under the Loan Agreement reached with the UK. The first drawdown of £403 million or approximately €463 million, using the exchange rate on 19 September 2011, is expected to be completed shortly.

Loan agreements with Sweden and Denmark are still being finalized. The first draw downs from Sweden and Denmark are expected to take place in the first quarter of 2012.

Appointments to State Boards

139. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Finance the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24958/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The following are the State Boards whose membership are determined by the Department of Finance; the membership of each Board; the date each member was appointed to the Board and the date each membership of the Board will cease.

Members of National Treasury Management Agency Advisory Committee

	First appointed	End of appointment
David Byrne (Chairman)	1 Jan 2008	31 Dec 2012
Tytti Noras	1 Aug 2005	31 July 2015
Donald C Roth	13 Sep 1990	31 Dec 2013
Hugh Cooney	1 Jan 2008	31 Dec 2012
Kevin Cardiff (Secretary General, Department of Finance)	1 Feb 2010	End of term as Secretary General
Brendan McDonagh	1 Sep 2010	31 Aug 2015

There is currently one vacancy on the NTMA Advisory Committee

National Pensions Reserve Fund Commission

	First appointed	End of appointment
Mr Maurice Keane	5 Feb 2007	4 Feb 2012
Dr Brian Hillery	1 July 2004	30 June 2014
Dr Frances Ruane	1 July 2009	30 June 2014
Mr Knut N. Kjaer	2 April 2010	1 April 2015
Mr John A. Canning Jr	2 April 2005	1 April 2015
Mr Paul Carty (Chairman)	1 Aug 2005	31 July 2015
Mr John Corrigan	4 Dec 2009	Ex-officio

National Asset Management Agency

	First appointed	Duration of Appointment
Frank Daly	22 Dec 2009	5 years
Eilish Finan	22 Dec 2009	4 years
Michael Connolly	22 Dec 2009	5 years
Peter Stewart	22 Dec 2009	3 years
Brian McEnery	22 Dec 2009	4 years
Willie Soffe	22 Dec 2009	4 years
Mr John Corrigan	22 Dec 2009	Ex-officio
Mr Brendan McDonagh	22 Dec 2009	Ex-officio
Stephen Seelig	26 May 2010	3 years

National Development Finance Agency

	First appointed	Duration of Appointment
John C. Corrigan — Chairman	4 Dec 2009	Ex-officio
Brian Murphy — Chief Executive Officer	12 January 2009	4 Years

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	First appointed	Duration of Appointment
Fred Barry	2 May 2007	5 years
Liam Berney	2 May 2007	5 years
Ann Fitzgerald	1 January 2008	5 years
Stewart Harrington	2 May 2007	5 years
Tony Jones	1 January 2008	5 years
Peter McManamon	1 January 2008	5 years

State Claims Agency Policy Committee

	First appointed	End of appointment
Dr. Noel Whelan (Chairman)	17 April 2002	17 April 2012
Ms Deirdre Hanlon	3 May 2007	2 May 2012
Mr. Tony Delaney	22 February 2010	21 February 2015
Brigadier General Christopher Moore (Retired)	22 February 2010	21 February 2015
Ms Niamh Moran	10 March 2010	9 March 2015
Mr. Chris Fitzgerald	20 October 2010	19 October 2015

Central Bank

The Minister for Finance appoints six members of the Central Bank Commission. One of these appointments will expire on 1 October 2013, two on 1 October 2014, one on 8 March 2015 and two on 1 October 2015.

Question No. 140 answered with Question No. 124.

Personal Debt

141. **Deputy Mattie McGrath** asked the Minister for Finance his plans to introduce a debt forgiveness scheme for those in mortgage arrears; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24988/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): As I stated to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform on 1 September 2011, the issue of mortgage indebtedness is a complex one and it is clear that there is no magic solution to solve all problems. There have been many contributions to the debate, including suggestions for the granting of debt forgiveness. As the Deputy will appreciate, this is simply not a realistic option. Solutions must be found on a case by case basis through open and meaningful engagement between the borrower and the lender. The planned reform of the bankruptcy and debt settlement arrangements by my colleague, the Minister for Justice and Equality and Defence, are also key elements in any consideration of potential policy options.

However, a new Working Group has been established under the Economic Management Council. Its remit is to consider the state of implementation of the main recommendations of the Expert Group on Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt (which reported in November 2010) and to consider and develop further necessary actions to alleviate the mortgage over indebtedness problem. The Government will consider what further action is warranted once the Group has concluded its deliberations and reported to the Economic Management Council. I expect that the Group will complete its work in the very near future.

142. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Finance his plans to introduce new initiatives, in addition to the existing measures which are in place, to support homeowners who are struggling to meet their mortgage repayments each month; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24991/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The Deputy might wish to note that, in addition to the existing measures which resulted from the report of the Expert Group on Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt (published in November 2010), a new Working Group has been established under the Economic Management Council. Its remit is to consider the state of implementation of the main recommendations of the Expert Group and to consider and develop further necessary actions to alleviate the mortgage over indebtedness problem. I expect that the Group will complete its work in the very near future.

Currency Printing

143. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance when the Irish Central Bank last printed Irish punts currency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25042/11]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Irish Pound bank notes were last produced in 2001. Euro notes and coins came into circulation on 1 January 2002. Irish Pound bank notes ceased to be legal tender on 9 February 2002.

Vocational Education Committees

144. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding a course in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24925/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Officials in my Department have been in contact with Co. Clare VEC in relation to the matter referred to by the Deputy. I understand that the VEC is currently involved in discussions with the individual to enable the successful resolution of this issue in a manner that is satisfactory to both parties.

Special Educational Needs

145. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a resolution of the special needs assistant issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Meath can be found as quickly as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25181/11]

162. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding a special needs assistant and educational opportunities in respect of a person (details supplied). [24569/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I propose to take Questions Nos. 145 and 162 together.

The Deputy will be aware that the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is responsible, through its network of local Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) for allocating resource teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) to schools to support children with special educational needs. The NCSE operates within my Department's criteria in allocating such support. This now includes a requirement for the NCSE to have regard to an overall cap on the number of SNA posts.

I understand that officials from the NCSE and from my Department have recently been in contact with the school concerned, in relation to the child referred to by the Deputy, regarding his requirements for care support and Irish Sign Language provision for the current school

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year. I understand that appropriate arrangements have now been agreed with the school authorities in this regard for this child.

Redundancy Payments

146. **Deputy Noel Coonan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the reason he failed to inform a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary of his or her rights to apply for partial redundancy knowing the person was entitled to same; the reason the person's application for partial redundancy was subsequently refused; the reason the person has no right of appeal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24400/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): An application for compensation for loss of hours (partial redundancy) was received on 28th June 2011 by my Department from the person referred to by the Deputy.

My Department's circular on redundancy arrangements for Special Needs Assistants was posted to all schools in 2006 and also published on my Department's website. As the SNA's employer, the Board of Management is responsible for following correct procedure in recruitment and any other matters regarding that person's contract.

Under the terms of the circular, this person is not entitled to a partial redundancy payment as the time limit for submitting an application (52 weeks after the date on which the hours were lost) had expired. My Department wrote directly to the person referred to by the Deputy on 28th June 2011 (and again on 12th July following further correspondence) informing the person of the position.

State Examinations

147. **Deputy Noel Coonan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding a leaving certificate recheck application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; if he will provide a timeframe for a decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24401/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The State Examinations Commission has statutory responsibility for operational matters relating to the certificate examinations including organising the holding of examinations, supervising the examinations, making arrangements for the marking of work presented for examination and determining procedure to enable the review and appeal of results of examinations at the request of candidates.

In view of this I have forwarded your query to the State Examinations Commission for direct reply to you.

Departmental Expenditure

148. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the cost of centrally buying books for use by all primary and secondary schools and distributing them. [24405/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The information sought by the Deputy is not readily available to my Department, however one estimate from publishers' sources suggests that the Irish school book market is worth approximately €60 million per annum. At present, my Department contributes approximately €15 million of the total spend in this market through the provision of the school book grant to schools. Given the scale of the overall challenge facing the public finances, it is regrettable that increased spending in this area cannot be considered at this point.

Nevertheless, I share the concern expressed by many parents and organisations in relation to the high cost of school textbooks and the frequent rate of revisions made by book publishers.

I have adopted a number of approaches to this issue. As the Deputy will be aware, I recently met with educational book publishers, representatives of parents' organisations and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul regarding the cost of school textbooks. Subsequently, the publishers devised a voluntary Code of Practice and, while I welcome the Code as a significant step in the right direction, I believe that more should be done to reduce the price of textbooks.

Accordingly, I have proposed to the representatives of the textbook publishers: that the cover price of the most popular textbooks should be reduced; that a significant discount should be given to schools which purchase textbooks in bulk, in line with the discounts given to retailers of textbooks; that the practice of combining a conventional textbook and workbook in a single volume should be ended to allow students to re-use a textbook; and that support materials should be provided to teachers online, to minimise ancillary printing costs.

I am also keen to examine if there are ways to encourage schools, via the book grant scheme, to establish or maintain book rental schemes as I believe this to be one of the most effective ways of lowering the burden of the cost of school books. I have invited the National Parents Councils at primary and post-primary levels to provide me with examples of good practice of book rental schemes. Drawing on these and other examples, I intend to publish advice to schools on how best to establish and maintain textbook rental schemes in schools well in advance of the beginning of the next school year.

School Staffing

149. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will consider looking at equity for job opportunities that may arise in post-primary schools for those who have been in substitution positions for a number of years by introducing a similar panel system as is in place for primary schools. [24407/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I have no plans to introduce a panel system at post-primary level nor do I think it would be appropriate to do so.

There are fundamental differences in the operation of the staffing arrangements between primary and post-primary levels. The range of individual subjects is a significant additional complicating factor at post- primary level.

Teaching Qualifications

150. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will consider reviewing the higher diploma in education enforcement in all post primary schools including vocational education committees in view of the fact that there are concerns that across the board contracts of indefinite duration have been granted to teachers without higher diplomas. [24408/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): It is the policy of my Department that only a teacher registered with the Teaching Council, and who has qualifications appropriate to the sector and suitable to the post for which he or she is proposed, should be employed in a school.

The Teaching Council considers applications to be registered as Post Primary school teachers under Regulation 4 of the Teaching Council Registration Regulations, which were approved in November 2009. For the purpose of registration under regulation 4 up to 1 April 2013, the Council requires that an applicant have a primary degree or equivalent which is considered suitable and a suitable qualification in post primary teacher education. Teachers employed in the vocational education sector are not required, at this time, to have a H.Dip qualification in order to be considered qualified. The provision related to a post-primary teacher qualification does not generally apply to a person applying to register as a teacher in a VEC school until

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after 1 April 2013. Regulation 4 also provides for the acceptance of qualifications, which in the opinion of the Council are of an equivalent standard to the above and sufficient for registration.

School Staffing

151. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the way he will ensure that his request to schools to employ younger teachers is being implemented in view of the fact that concerns continue that retired teachers are still being employed in some schools and that younger qualified teachers are losing out. [24409/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Any decision to employ a retired teacher is a local decision made by the school authorities and not my Department. Circular 0031/2011 is aimed at ensuring that boards of management and principals only resort to employing a retired teacher in very limited circumstances. It requires a school principal to keep a record as to why a retired teacher had to be employed to cover a short-term absence. The principal must also report to the school's board of management on the instances where this arises.

Abatement of pension is applied to retired teachers where the amount of pay together with the pension being received is greater than the pay on which the pension is based. The effect of this is to reduce or sometimes stop pension where a retiree returns to teaching. In addition, from 1 January 2011, teachers who are in receipt of an occupational pension and who return to teach are remunerated at the first point of the reduced salary scales instead of their pre-retirement personal rate of pay. These provide significant disincentives to teachers on pension from returning to teach after their retirement.

Schools Building Projects

152. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will give consideration to an application by a school (details supplied) in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24416/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The school referred to by the Deputy has recently submitted an application for additional funding in relation to a building project ongoing at the school.

The application is currently being examined by officials in the Planning and Building Unit of my Department who will be liaising with the school authorities with a view to obtaining more detailed information in this regard. On receipt of this information, a decision will be made and the school authorities notified accordingly.

153. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if emergency and additional funds can be sought by schools that encounter unforeseen difficulties in their building projects. [24463/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): School authorities are responsible for managing the delivery of their devolved building projects and ensuring that the project is delivered within the approved budget. To assist schools in this process, my Department provides Technical Guidance documents which are available on my Department's website at www.education.ie.

There can be occasions where a school's building project, while remaining within the scope of works approved by my Department, encounters unforeseen difficulties. In cases where these difficulties cannot be addressed from the approved budget request for additional funding will be considered on its own merits.

Where the scope of the projects has been increased above what has been approved by my Department all additional costs associated with this increase must be funded by the school authority.

Job Protection

154. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to apply to the European Globalisation Fund and European Social Fund for assistance in respect of TalkTalk workers; the levels of support that he will give to assist redundant workers in TalkTalk Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24492/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon): European Globalisation Fund: My Department is currently investigating whether all the relevant criteria have been met in conformity with EGF Regulations 1927/2006 and 546/2009 to enable the Irish authorities to make a sustainable application to the European Commission for EGF co-financing of active labour market measures in support of workers being made redundant at the TalkTalk company in Co. Waterford.

In particular, an understanding and explanation of the precise reasons for the proposed redundancies and the total number of persons being made redundant, including any transfers to related employment elsewhere in the EU, are required in the context of the rules governing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund. All relevant avenues of information are being pursued by officials in my Department in this regard.

European Social Fund:

I understand that whilst FÁS may provide tailored training programmes (which may be part-funded by the European Social Fund) in respect of particular groups of redundant workers, the European Social Fund itself is not designed to make specific interventions such as may be envisaged in the case of the TalkTalk workforce.

Assistance to be supplied by FÁS:

FÁS has made the following services available to TalkTalk employees:—

- Top level agreement with the company on responsibilities and actions. (Meeting with the Company took place on Friday, 9th September.)
- Presentations to all redundant workers on FÁS services, interventions and supports
- Preparation of a ‘Skills Analysis Report’ by FÁS based on identified workers’ needs and local opportunities.
- Referral by FÁS of redundant workers to jobs, training courses or other options.
- Establishment by FÁS of special or customised courses where necessary.
- On-going support and action to keep redundant workers ‘in touch with the labour market’.

Following the internal company consultation process, which will commence immediately, FÁS Employment Services staff will meet with TalkTalk management and staff representatives, and formulate a plan of action to deliver FÁS services and supports to all staff being made redundant in Autumn 2011. Such services and supports will include:—

- On-site presentations to all staff on FÁS services and supports.
- Advice on setting up a resource centre, in-house, (to facilitate staff in the career guidance needs and job search activities).
- Provision of a range of pre-redundancy and where necessary post-redundancy training courses to assist all staff in achieving relevant skills updating, which in turn will enable them to competitively compete in the labour market.

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Assistance to be supplied by Skillnets:

Skillnets Ltd, through 2 of its networks has, since 9th September being engaging with TalkTalk in Waterford. The 2 networks are Waterford Chamber Skillnet, who are a mixed sector regional network based in the Waterford area and the Contact Centre Management Association Skillnet, which covers the Contact and Call Centre sector in Ireland.

The initial objective of this engagement is for these networks to identify the training needs of the workforce in order to devise a plan of action that can assist them in their search for new employment. This might involve upskilling their current contact centre skills and/or providing training opportunities to enable them to apply for jobs in other sectors.

This action plan will form the basis of an application for funding to Skillnets ltd. It is expected that a decision on this funding will be made by the end of September.

Contact Centre Management Association Skillnet, along with its member companies held a Jobfair on Wednesday 14th September to advertise c. 150 job vacancies to TalkTalk staff. Skillnets Ltd is liaising with FÁS to ensure a joint approach to the significant challenges facing the TalkTalk workforce. Joint briefing sessions have been organised for TalkTalk staff on October 20th-22nd. Assistance to be supplied by the Further Education Sector: Waterford City and Waterford County VEC are involved in a City Council Forum that is exploring all possibilities in relation to the TalkTalk issue and will be playing a role in whatever is required for TalkTalk employees through that Forum. I understand that the Forum is meeting this week to discuss these issues.

Third Level Fees

155. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the procedure to be followed in respect of college fees in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24499/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The position is that under my Department's Free Fees Scheme, students who have previously pursued but have not completed a course of third level study and subsequently resume third level studies are not eligible for free fees for the equivalent period of time spent on the first course of study where the third level course concerned attracted exchequer funding. In such cases exchequer funding includes fees, maintenance, tax relief, subsidy towards course cost etc.

As the student referred to by the Deputy was entitled to avail of tax relief on the fees paid in respect of their first course of study, they are not eligible under the Scheme for a second period of study for the equivalent period of time spent on that first course of study.

Where undergraduate students do not meet the eligibility criteria of the Free Fees initiative such students must pay the appropriate tuition fee as determined by the relevant third level institution.

Section 473A, Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, as amended by Section 11 of the Finance Act 2011, provides for tax relief, at the standard rate of tax, for tuition fees paid in respect of approved courses at approved colleges of higher education including certain approved undergraduate and postgraduate courses in E.U. Member States and in non EU countries. Details are available on the Revenue Commissioners' website at www.revenue.ie.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

156. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he foresees an increase in the student-teacher ratio here; the measures he will put in place to reduce class sizes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24534/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): At this point I do not propose to give any specific commitment on the allocation of teachers to schools for the 2012/13 school year.

The number of teaching posts that we can afford to fund in schools is a matter that I will have to consider with my colleagues in Cabinet in the context of the next budget and meeting our obligations under the EU/IMF Programme.

The Government will endeavour to protect frontline education services as best as possible. However, this must be done within the context of bringing our overall public expenditure into line with what we can afford as a country. All areas of Government will have to manage on a reduced level of resources. The challenge will be to ensure that the resources that can be provided are used to maximum effect to achieve the best possible outcome for pupils.

157. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of classrooms in primary schools here that have more than 30 children and the number of classrooms in secondary schools that have more than 30 children. [24535/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Detailed class size data at primary level is available in the Statistics area of my Department's website at the following link: <http://www.education.ie/home/home.jsp?pcategory=17216&ecategory=47122&language=EN>.

Class size data at second level are not available.

Schools Building Projects

158. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide details of all renovation works carried out on primary and secondary schools here in 2010 and to date in 2011; and the amount each renovation works costs. [24536/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The total amount expended in the primary sector on renovation (large scale refurbishments, emergency works, summer works schemes) amounted to €120.7m in 2010 and to date in 2011 amounts to €39.2m (inclusive of jobs initiative).

In the post-primary sector the total amount expended on renovation (large scale refurbishments, emergency works, summer works schemes and the jobs initiative) amounted to €92.7m in 2010 and to date in 2011 amounts to €32.3m.

Details are provided in the attachments (nine) of the schools that:

- (a) incurred expenditure on large scale refurbishment projects in 2010 and to date in 2011;
- (b) incurred expenditure on emergency works approved in 2010 and approved to date in 2011;
- (c) incurred expenditure on the summer works scheme approved in 2010 and the summer works scheme and jobs initiative scheme approved in 2011.

The attachments do not include details of the schools that incurred expenditure in 2010 or to date in 2011 in respect of emergency works or the summer works schemes approved prior to 2010. However, the actual expenditure incurred in 2010 or to date in 2011 on pre-2010 approved schemes is included in the total amounts given above.

I draw the Deputy's attention to the Grant Scheme for Minor Works to National School Properties that issued in November 2010 to all primary schools with full recognition. This grant is spent primarily on the physical infrastructure of schools and cost €28.2m.

The information has been forwarded separately to the Deputy.

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Post-Primary Emergency 2010 Scheme

		€
CARLOW		
ST LEOS COLLEGE	Window Replacement	410,473.00
COLAISTE EOIN HACKETSTOWN	Dry Rot	27,907.49
COLAISTE MHUIRE CARLOW, KNOCKBEG		362,428.00
TOTAL CARLOW		800,808.49
CAVAN		
LORETO COLLEGE, CAVAN	Boiler Replacement	119,410.70
ROYAL SCHOOL CAVAN	Replace ceilings	21,180.00
ST BRICKINS BELTURBET	Provide Off Street Bus Parking Area Security System Professional Fees & Expenses	82,847.33
CAVAN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, COOTEHILL RD, CAVAN	Ejector Station & Public Lighting, Refurb Sotres Building & Replace Oil Tank, Replace Water Storage Tanks & Refurb of Central Heating System	84,160.04
ST AIDANS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, COOTEHILL	Refurbish Toilets & Sports Changing Rooms Tarmac Car Park & Student Walkways	585,405.20
BAWNBOY C C, BELTURBET	Replace windows	91,685.26
TOTAL CAVAN		984,688.53
CLARE		
CBS ENNISTYMON	Replacement of ceiling & roof	31,451.66
COLAISTE MHUIRE, ENNIS	Provision of safe access/egress to & from the school building & provision of washing/toilet facility for student with physical disability	23,315.01
MARY IMMACULATE S S LISDOONVARNA	Work to Address Subsidence of part of School Site Replace oil burner & boiler Car parking	86,810.92
ST JOSEPHS, TULLA	Alterations to Entrance of New Fence Fire detection system for prefabs to be connected to main building	33,349.89
ENNISTYMON VS	Refurb Home Economics Room, Woodwork Store, Science Lab & Replace Hand Raid & Fill Pot Holes	156,158.61
ST PATRICKS SHANNON	replace 2 existing oil boilers & associated works	95,914.04
TOTAL CLARE		427,000.13
CORK		
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	replace boiler & piping	16,279.29
COLAISTE CHROI NAOFA	removal of asbestos	38,061.80
ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE	Replace Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting	94,374.60
NAGLE RICE	Fire Safety Works	177,892.98
ST COLMANS COLLEGE	Repair Portion of Roof Roof Repairs Leaks in the gas supply line Roof repairs	26,177.33
PATRICIAN ACADEMY	Upgrade of Science labs	19,000.00
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL CORK, MITCHELSTOWN	Upgrade ESB	26,815.00
MOUNT ST MICHAEL, ROSSCARBERY	Disabled Access Toilet	14,780.96
ST FACHTNAS DE LA SALLE, SKIBBEREEN	Disabled toilet	18,466.95

		€
NORTH MONASTERY CBS	Replacement External Steps	42,115.76
NORTH PRESENTATION, FARRANREE	Replace Mortar in blocks	21,980.00
ST ALOYSIUS	Replace Gym Ceiling	12,257.50
ST ANGELAS COLLEGE		9,000.00
CHRIST THE KING, SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD	Fire Safety Works	497,833.82
ST BROGANS COLLEGE, BANDON	Roof Works	106,795.00
SCOIL MHUIRE BALLINGEARY	upgrade electrical services	48,837.89
COLAISTE TREASA, KANTURK	replace 2 boilers	54,199.20
ST AIDENS BALLYVOLANE, BALLINCOLLY	Repairs to roof of PE Hall	75,663.54
ST JOHNS CENTRAL COLLEGE, SAWMILL STREET	Repairs to Spalling Plasterwork	61,867.66
ASHTON SCHOOL, BLACKROCK	Upgrade Electrical Installation	54,189.17
BOHERBUE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	repairs to flat roof	16,279.29
MILLSTREET COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Wall Repairs	16,931.26
DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	replace water storage tank	19,523.28
BISHOPSTOWN C S	Replace Footpath at Main Entrance replace single glazed windows	31,280.13
MAYFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	replace roof & gutters to sports hall	143,619.68
YOUGHAL C S	Disabled Access	0.00
TOTAL CORK		1,644,222.09
DONEGAL		
GORTAHORK ADULT TRAINING	Disabled Toilet	31,875.00
MILFORD ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE AND TRAINING CENTRE	Structural Repair Works Electrical Works	184,666.76
ST COLUMBAS COLLEGE, LIFFORD	Upgrade Electrical Access for all improvements	365,000.00
CRANA COLLEGE	upgrade Home Economics Room	104,703.00
CARRICK VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, CARRICK	Roof Works	491,552.00
ST CATHERINES VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILLYBEGS	disabled access	99,638.87
ROYAL & PRIOR SCHOOL, RAPHOE	Roof Works Replacement of Boiler	224,132.76
POBALSCOIL CHLOICH CHEANNFHAOLA	Replace Floor Covering	31,736.44
GWEEDORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Replacement of Space Heating & Domestic Water Replace water pipework Replacment of floor covering	597,538.43
BALLYSHANNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Replace Boiler & Pump	7,274.22

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DONEGAL VEC, LETTERKENNY		89,500.00
TOTAL DONEGAL		2,227,617.48
DUBLIN		
ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALDOYLE	Ceiling Replacement Repair leaks to gutters Replace oil storage tank	34,562.52
CLONKEEN COLLEGE, BLACKROCK	Disabled Access	101,407.00
LORETO ABBEY, DALKEY	Repair spalling concrete Replace cold water storage tanks	85,282.14
HOLY CHILD KILLINEY, MILITARY ROAD KILLINEY	structural repairs to library bay window	23,805.28
ST BENILDUS COLLEGE, UPPER KILMACUD RD, BLACKROCK	Repairs to Gable Wall Suffering From Water Ingress	3,112.50
ST LAURENCES COLLEGE, LOUGHLINSTOWN, DUBLIN 18	Replacement of oil burner	51,911.00
COLAISTE PHADRAIG CBS, ROSELAWN	Water Supply to Science Rooms	1,650.00
THE KINGS HOSPITAL, PALMERSTOWN	Security cameras	9,670.00
ST FINTANS HIGH SCHOOL, SUTTON	Lift & Ramps	17,000.00
MANOR HOUSE RAHENY, WATERMILL ROAD, RAHENY	Upgrade Heating System	127,210.25
ST DOMINICS HIGH SCHOOL, GREENFIELD, DUBLIN 13	conversion of gas & removal of oil tanks	104,694.34
ST PAULS CBS, NORTH BURNSWICK STREET	Repairs to heating system	9,716.60
O'CONNELL CBS, NORTH RICHMOND STREET	Refurb Toilets Roof Works	303,766.45
CBS SYNGE STREET	Provison of Specialist Teaching Rooms	198,246.00
MEANSCOIL IOGNAID RIS, WALKINSTOWN	Re-surfacing of Tarmac Footpaths	39,079.25
ST JOHNS COLLEGE DE LA SALLE BALLYFERMOT	Refurb 3 Science Rooms	470,898.69
CHANEL COLLEGE COOLOCK	Repairs to Leaking Heating Mains & Incoming Fire Main	14,434.31
ST KEVINS COLLEGE, EAST FINGLAS	Replace of Gas line in science Labs	10,673.79
ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE CABRA	Drainage	28,500.00
ST MARY'S, KILLESTER	Upgrade Electrical & Installation of Emergency Evacuation System Replace water storage tank	389,504.26
PRESENTATION CONVENT WARRENMOUNT	Drainage & Resurfacing of Ball Courts	64,113.29
MARYFIELD COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA	Roof Repairs	53,721.67
ROSARY COLLEGE, CRUMLIN	Repair of Gym Floor	3,405.00
OUR LADY OF MERCY DRIMNAGH	Sports Hall Floor	36,889.74

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WESLEY COLLEGE, BALLINTEER	replace leaking water services pipes in science block	49,272.00
STRATFORD COLLEGE, RATHGAR	Roof Works	27,233.95
BALBRIGGAN C C	Replacement of Gas Boiler, Replacement of LPG Bottle Gas System for Science Rooms	321,551.27
GRANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DONAGHAMEDE	Electrical upgrade	778,670.99
DEANSRATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	Replace Floor Covering Removal of Trees	101,936.86
ST KEVINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	Disabled Toilet	26,310.00
DUN LAOGHAIRE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	Roof Works	17,245.00
DUNDRUM COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	Upgrade Electrical, Refurb Toilets	389,846.60
LUCAN V S	Disabled Toilet / Access	16,555.96
FINGAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Ramp / Disabled Access Ramp/Disabled Access to Computer Room	20,000.00
FIRHOUSE COMMUNITY COLLEGE		305,504.98
ST KEVINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CRUMLIN		7,126.88
COLAISTE EOIN, FINGLAS	Roof Works	160,145.45
SKERRIES COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Roof Works	0.00
PRESENTATION COLLEGE TERENURE	Asbestos Removal & Replacement Flooring	192,034.63
COLAISTE DHULAIGH	Roof Works	542,640.16
NEWPARK COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, BLACKROCK	Disabled Access	14,522.41
MOUNT TEMPLE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	Reinstatement of grass pitches & Basketball area Cleanup reinstatement works — diesel spillage	357,614.34
TRINITY COMPREHENSIVE SCOIL PHOBAIL CHUIL MHIN	Roof Works Replacement CCTV	529,363.69
BLAKESTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, BLANCHARDSTOWN	Heating Works	111,685.32
HOLY CHILD C S SALLYNOGGIN	Repair Water Main	16,949.99
ST MARKS SPRINGFIELD, TALLAGHT	replace fire alarm	11,214.43
OLD BAWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TALLAGHT	Rewiring Replace Boiler	480,680.17
KILLINARDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TALLAGHT	Replacement of oil Storage Tank Electrical upgrade	76,405.18
ST AIDENS BROOKFIELD, TALLAGHT	Replacement of oil Storage Tank Electrical upgrade	322,564.68
POBAILSCOIL NEASAIN, BALDOYLE	Roof Works Upgrade Heating System Refurb of water system hot & cold sanitary areas, sinks, toilets Replacement of Floor covering	1,544,788.14
ROSMINI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, DROMCONDRA	Disabled Access	49,976.20
CITY OF DUBLIN YOUTH SERVICES	Renovation of Reception Area, Office & Visitors Room & Construction of New Reception Area	46,421.82
	Renovation of Reception Area, Office & Visitors Room & Construction of New Reception Area	122,314.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

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CITY OF DUBLIN VEC PREMISES HERBERT STREET DUBLIN	Renovation of Reception Area, Office & Visitors Room & Construction of New Reception Area	123,868.40
PARNELL ADULT LEARNING CENTRE	Renovation of Reception Area, Office & Visitors Room & Construction of New Reception Area	230,838.00
TOTAL DUBLIN		9,178,535.58
GALWAY		
PRESENTATION GALWAY	Replacement of Concrete Parapets & 6 Areas of Glazed Windows	130,206.00
PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ATHENRY	Refurb of 2 crooms for add enrolments	347,787.21
ST JOSEPHS GARBALLY	Upgrade heating system in Technology Room Roof & Ceiling Works Boiler Replacement Replace Two Boilers	312,754.13
COLAISTE EINDE, THREADNEEDLE ROAD	Disabled Access	218,076.63
MEAN SCOIL MHUIRE, NEWTOWNSMITH	Repair of External Concrete Structure & Replacement of Render	221,464.23
HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW	Replace Penthouse Water Tank & Structure	25,565.00
GAIRMSCOIL FHEICHIN NAOFA		71,250.00
COLAISTE NA COIRIBE	Replace Damaged Section of Railings & Supporting Wall	75,644.84
COLAISTE AN EACHREIDH	provision of drop off/pick up & car parking	177,424.21
SCOIL CHUIMSITHEACH CHIARAIN, AN CHEATHRU RUA	Replacement of asbestos flooring	107,719.95
SCOIL POBAIL MHIC DARA	Boundary Fence	24,336.67
GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Replace Light Fixtures	83,721.56
TOTAL GALWAY		1,795,950.43
KERRY		
MEAN SCOIL NAOMH JOSEPH, CASTLEISLAND	Upgrade Electrical Installation	164,450.00
ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, CILL AIRNE	Roof Works	465,829.00
PRESENTATION S.S. MILLTOWN, KILLARNEY	Disabled access	50,519.59
TRALEE CC	Heating Upgrade Install Gas proving system	320,042.50
GAELCHOLAISTE CHIARRAI, TRALEE	Replacement of Roof of the Sports Hall & Squash Courts	0.00
CASTLEISLAND V S	Disabled access	45,848.31
CAHIRCIVEEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	roof repairs, replace existing external doors, replace damaged window lever handles & locking mechanisms, replace deteriorated incoming gas pipework & defective floor surface in existing toilet.	70,727.00
TARBERT COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Replace Electrical Distribution boards	77,777.56
DINGLE CS	Fencing & provision of boundary wall	7,838.36
TOTAL KERRY		1,203,032.32

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KILDARE		
COLAISTE NAOMH MHUIRE, NAAS	Roof Works	269,327.00
CURRAGH POST PRIMARY	Ground clearance works & fencing	0.00
COLAISTE LORCAIN CASTLEDERMOT		17,433.60
SCOIL DARA KILCOCK	Repair of External Rendering	39,518.00
ST CONLETHS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, NEWBRIDGE		63,659.32
TOTAL KILDARE		389,937.92
KILKENNY		
COLAISTE EAMANN RIS, CALLAN	Fire Safety Works	42,888.28
ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE CALLAN	Demolition of Old Building	75,863.00
ST KIERANS COLLEGE KILKENNY	Replace Distribution Boards Eradication of dry rot	50,958.66
KILKENNY COLLEGE	Replace Boiler	32,341.53
ORMONDE COLLEGE	Remedial Work Heating System	16,000.00
GRENNAN COLLEGE THOMASTOWN	Draught Proofing & Insulation	25,300.00
CBS KILKENNY	Upgrade Fire Safety	75,665.10
TOTAL KILKENNY		319,016.57
LAOIS		
LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE	Leaking Roof	11,590.62
TOTAL LAOIS		11,590.62
LEITRIM		
CARRIGALLEN V S	Electrical Upgrade	67,166.53
DRUMSHAMBO V.S.	School Lift Lift Transfer science furniture & equipment	102,970.73
SCOIL CHUIMSITHEACH NAOMH CLAR	New Floor in Gym Platform Lift	102,295.53
DRUMKEERIN VS	Replace boiler Replace Oil Tank	17,366.78
TOTAL LEITRIM		289,799.57
LIMERICK		
CBS SEXTON STREET	Roof Works Repair Water Main	197,439.28
ST MUNCHIN'S COLLEGE, CORBALLY	Replacement of Main Electrical Switch Board Science Lab	19,184.83
ARD SCOIL MHUIRE CORBALLY	Repair water leak	35,964.76
JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Upgrade Heating System	95,471.77
LIMERICK SENIOR COLLEGE, MULGRADE STREET	Replacement of Water Main System	65,561.91
COLAISTE POBAIL MHICHIL	Repairs to Footpaths	2,332.05
DRUMCOLLOGHER COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Repair to Gym Roof	45,568.34
SCOIL POL KILFINANE	Replacement of Oil Pipework	24,439.97

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

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CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE, DOORADOYLE	Toilet upgrade	30,108.21
TOTAL LIMERICK		516,071.12
LONGFORD		
MEAN SCOIL MHUIRE	Special Needs Access	162,671.44
CONVENT OF MERCY BALLYMAHON	Disabled Access & Upgrade Emergency Fire Exits	14,651.37
LONGFORD ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE	Upgrade M&E under VEC	308,400.00
CNOC MHUIRE, GRANARD	Disabled access	216,318.25
MOYNE C S	Replacement of Damaged Footpath	16,116.20
TOTAL LONGFORD		718,157.26
LOUTH		
ST JOSEPHS, DROGHEDA	Security Fencing Replace Boiler House	123,582.60
ST MARYS DIOCESAN SCHOOL, DROGHEDA		6,215.96
COLAISTE RIS, DUN DEALGAN	Works to Valley Gutter & Skylight	25,505.60
DUNDALK GRAMMAR SCHOOL	Replace Boiler	30,363.50
BUSH POST PRIMARY CC, DUNDALK	Replacement of Heating System Disabled Access	338,473.04
DROGHEDA COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	Upgrade Internal Aspects of Building to meet Safety Standards	163,010.00
ST OLIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Refurb Toilet Facilities & Shower Changing Rooms in Gym	175,969.01
OFAICH COLLEGE, DUNDALK	replacement of heating system in single storey building	103,471.20
SCOIL UI MHUIRE, DUNLEER	Disabled Access	43,697.94
TOTAL LOUTH		1,010,288.85
MAYO		
COLAISTE MHUIRE, TUAR MHIC EADAIGH		5,154.98
SACRED HEART, WESTPORT	Disabled Access	130,000.00
ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA	Works to Chimney, Upgrade rear entrance/porch, replace windows in gym, removal of weathered plaster on front of main building	45,011.96
DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR	Disabled Toilet	29,302.73
ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA	Roof works	39,025.00
OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET	Roof Works	159,281.44
JESUS & MARY S.S. CROSSMOLINA	Roof Works on PE Hall & 1920's Extension	180,647.97
SCOIL MUIRE & PADRAIG, SWINFORD	Window Replacement	79,982.90
MOYNE V S, BALLINA	Roof Works	576,454.68
ROSSPORT V.S.	Replace Heating System	177,141.59

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BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	Replace Boiler Replace Ceilings, Carpets, PA System & Office Equipment	93,817.29
MAYO EDUCATION CENTRE	Ramp & Lift	36,758.68
TOTAL MAYO		1,552,579.22
MEATH		
ST OLIVERS POST PRIMARY, KELLS	Installation of New Gas Pipework	37,786.32
SCOIL MHUIRE COM TRIM	Replace 2 water tanks Roof Works/repairs to spalling concrete/windows	76,486.00
DUNSHAUGHLIN V S	Replace windows	76,766.45
O CAROLANS COLLEGE NOBBER	Removal of asbestos	5,163.95
TOTAL MEATH		196,202.72
MONAGHAN		
ST LOUIS S.S. MONAGHAN	Replace 2 boilers	21,961.50
OUR LADYS SEC SCHOOL, CASTLEBLANEY	Roof Repairs Roof Works (Boiler House & Caretakers Room)	49,294.75
TOTAL MONAGHAN		71,256.25
OFFALY		
SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL, TULLAMORE	Roof Works Replace Heating System	73,565.10
KILCORMAC VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	Remove & Replace oil burner	33,670.25
TULLAMORE COLLEGE	Replace Calorifier in Gym Buildings	5,488.21
TOTAL OFFALY		112,723.56
ROSCOMMON		
CBS ROSCOMMON	Works to Water Mains & Sewerage Removal of Chemicals Dry Lining Classrooms Roof	222,250.83
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL ROSCOMMON	Upgrade Electrical Installation in PE Hall	105,973.49
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		328,224.32
SLIGO		
TUBBERCERRY VS — NORTH CONNAUGHT COLLEGE	Disabled Access	20,324.70
URSULINE COLLEGE	Treatment of Rampant Dry Rot	78,645.00
COOLA V.S., SOOEY, VIA BOYLE	Roof repairs & window replacement	41,294.47
ST MARYS COLLEGE, BALLYADARE	Removal & reinstatement of 2 external Emergency Steel staircases	7,727.50
SLIGO EDUCATION CENTRE	Disabled access, reorganisation of reception area & drain to be installed at fire exit	4,235.00
TOTAL SLIGO		152,226.67
TIPPERARY		
CBS NENAGH	Installation of new 4" water main, shut off valves & fire hydrant	34,000.00
OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL	Refurb boys toilet	31,745.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

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CBS SECONDARY SCHOOL	Roof repairs	37,131.00
THE ABBEY SCHOOL	Installation of Fire Alarm & Emergency Lighting	76,843.30
BORRISOKANE V S	Disabled Toilets	46,941.00
COMERAGH COLLEGE	Install lift & disabled toilet	93,500.00
C T I CLONMEL	Science Room Refurbishment	130,950.63
SCOIL RUAIN	Replacement of water tank, repair of leaking pipes Replace existing gas boiler & install gas shut off system	27,995.51
NEWPORT V S	Roof Works Boundary Fence	134,940.20
TOTAL TIPPERARY		614,046.64
WATERFORD		
ST AUGUSTINES COLLEGE	Remedial Work on Outer Walls	77,235.90
C B S TRAMORE	Repairs to Roof of Prefabs	4,117.28
OUR LADY OF MERCY SEC SCHOOL WATERFORD	Electrical Works Upgrade Home Economics Room	490,403.20
CENTRAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	Roof Works	63,917.72
ST PAULS C C	Repairs to main underfloor & external drainage system	265,841.81
WOLFE TONE ROAD ED CENTRE	Works to Heating System	114,865.00
WATERFORD CITY VEC, 30 THE MALL	Window Replacement	104,332.00
TOTAL WATERFORD		1,120,712.91
WESTMEATH		
COLAISTE MHUIRE	Replace Gym Roof	193,797.85
ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE	Relocation of Mains ESB Meter Board	49,596.00
CONVENT S S KILBEGGAN	Refurb Woodwork Room, Alterations to Form New Machine Area, New Shed for Materials	411,965.09
ST FINIANS COLLEGE	Re-construction of access road	50,403.20
ST MARYS COLLEGE MULLINGAR	Replace canteen ceiling	20,423.24
LORETO COLLEGE MULLINGAR	Roof Works Replace oil tank and pipeworks	72,714.18
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL	Roof Works	22,791.01
TOTAL WESTMEATH		821,690.57
WEXFORD		
FCJ BUNCLODY	Roof Works & Electrical Works In St Brigid's Block Connection to Foul Drainage to new loacl authority mains drain	169,322.13
ST MARY'S CBS ENNISCORTHY	New Toilet Block	124,967.04
COLAISTE BRIDE ENNISCORTHY	Roof Works	39,500.00
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SS NEW ROSS	Roof Works Demolish Old School Building	82,217.00
GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE	Rainscreen system	128,800.00
ST MARYS WEXFORD	Replace Boilder in Gym	18,490.84
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Installation of Fire Alarm & Instruder Alarm	55,935.66

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LORETO S.S. SPAWELL RD	Replacement of Velux Windows	48,200.00
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, GROGAN'S ROAD	Cracks in the walls from ceiling to ground floor leaks	13,023.44
ADAMSTOWN VS	Refurbish Toilets	57,548.57
TOTAL WEXFORD		738,004.68
WICKLOW		
ST KEVIN'S CBS, ARKLOW	Replace Roof in Sports Hall	64,080.00
ST MARYS COLLEGE, ARKLOW	Water Tank Replacement	15,397.50
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, BRAY	Refurb Science Labs	557,403.00
TOTAL WICKLOW		636,880.50
TOTAL POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS		27,861,265.00

2010 EMERGENCY WORKS SCHEME

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
CARLOW		
BAILE AN CHUILINN NS	Connection of Sewerage System to Main Sewerage System	29,845.00
NEWTOWN DUNLECKNEY MXD	Upgrade of Sewerage System Replacement of Windows & Doors	53,000.00
RATHOE NS	Replace boiler	11,395.50
MONASTERY BOYS SCHOOL	Security & Fire Safety Works	103,147.70
BISHOP FOLEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL	Fit fire doors & connect prefab to fire alarm	30,700.00
ST JOSEPHS NS	Boiler	32,667.19
ST BRENDANS NATIONAL SCHOOL	Boiler	19,990.00
ST JOSEPH'S BNS	Fire Safety Works	18,000.00
BHRIDE NS	Fire Safety Works	0.00
GS EOGHAN UI THUAIRISE	Boundary wall	116,452.00
TOTAL CARLOW		>415,197.39
CAVAN		
BAILIEBOROUGH MODEL SCHOOL	Upgrade Entrance & Access Road	27,099.60
SN TAMHNACH DHUIBH	Replacement of Boundary Fence Yard re-surfacing	54,126.25
GREAGHRAHAN NS	Replacement of boiler and burner	9,224.93
S N LEITIR	Upgrade waste water treatment & percolation area	52,527.86
CABRA CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL	Replace Septic Tank	57,500.00
KILDALLON NS	Repair Front Boundary	15,370.00
SN CORR LORGAN	roof & sewerage works	69,500.00
TOTAL CAVAN		285,348.64

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
CLARE		
TOONAGH NS	repairs to pipes, insulate walls & attic	9,800.00
LACKEN MIXED NS	drain & resurface play area	50,955.88
SN MHAINISTIR CHUNCHE		140,000.00
BAREFIELD NS	Replace Dangerous Perimeter Fencing Roof Works inc Velux Windows	72,449.83
ENNIS NS	Works to Heating System Roof works partial replace or repair	37,605.50
KILNABOY NATIONAL SCHOOL	Repair works to septic tank	7,597.00
HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR SCHOOL	Roof Replacement	96,166.29
SN CLUAIN MUINGE		22,075.06
SN CNOC DOIRE	Sewerage Treatment System, Separate Drains, Pipe Run off water	20,203.00
S N BAILE AN DROICHID	Upgrade of waste water treatment system	22,725.89
LISSYCASEY NS	Boiler Replacement	9,960.00
MERCY CONVENT KILLALOE	Replacement of Boiler	47,711.82
MILTOWN MALBAY BNS	New surface water sewer	25,638.81
NEW QUAY NATIONAL SCHOOL	Upgrade Heating Works	62,835.00
ST CONAIRES NS	replace sewer pipework & manholes	13,788.32
NAOMH TOLA	Replacement of oil burner and boiler	52,214.96
KILLALOE BNS	CCTV	70,663.00
RUAN CENTRAL NS	Replacement of floor coverings	25,649.64
TOTAL CLARE		788,040.00
CORK		
MIDLETON CONVENT NS	Repair of heating system	13,286.31
DROMLEIGH NS	Removal of Dangerous Chimney	36,815.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA UI LIATHAIN	Replacement of Radiators & Piping	28,331.40
PRESENTATION N S	Replace Boiler & Re-surfacing Yard	46,464.12
SCOIL URSULA	Replacement of Boiler	190,801.75
VICARSTOWN MIXED NS	Replacement of Boiler	6,450.92
CLOGHROE NS	Water tank replacement	9,659.05
ST JOSEPHS NS	Replace Boiler	53,952.80
NEWMARKET BNS	Replace Retaining wall, Replace Shed	97,089.35
DRUIMNE NS	Drainage	12,508.25
ST MOLAGAS TIMOLEAGUE	Sewerage Works, Boiler & Heating Replacement, Electrical, Yard Works, Mould Removal	49,400.00
KILBRITTAIN MIXED NS	Installation of fire alarm & emergency lighting	10,500.00
SCOIL BHRIDE		5,600.00
DERRYCREHA NS	Roof Works	30,072.00
BISHOP OBRIEN NS	Replace Windows & Doors	51,800.00
BALLINTEMPLE NS	Replace Boiler	33,879.47
CONVENT OF MERCY NS	Ceiling Replacement	14,031.40
MITCHELSTOWN CON NS	Ceiling Replacement	44,200.00
S N IOSEF NAOFA	Repairs to Prefabs	45,776.00

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
BOHERBUE NS	Raising of Wall at Front of School	16,173.75
COPPEEN NS	new Treatment Plant & Percolation Area	37,000.00
ADRIGOLE NATIONAL SCHOOL	Replace Boiler & Electrical Works	22,971.00
S N PADRAIG NAOFA B	replace boiler	23,296.50
ST. PATRICKS BOYS NS	replace boiler	0.00
SCOIL NAOMH AINE	Fire Safety Works	128,119.90
DRIPSEY NATIONAL SCHOOL	Repair Roof of GP Room	63,089.00
SCARTHEIGH NS	Development of Playspace	37,800.00
ST PATRCKS NS	Replace boiler	7,148.40
GURRANE NS	Water Treatment System	3,214.99
SCOIL PADRE PIO NS	Upgrade Heating System	90,115.00
LITTLE ISLAND N S	Upgrade Heating System & Insulation Works in Areas of School which have Flat Roof	154,467.72
SCOIL MHUIRE BROADFORD NS	Upgrade Heating System & Insulation Works in Areas of School which have Flat Roof	36,561.95
SN AN SPIORAID NAOMH C	Replace external drainage system	152,964.10
KILMEEN NS	Replace an existing Concrete Roof Cornicing Roof works	0.00
SN BARRA NAOFA CAILINI	Replace an existing Concrete Roof Cornicing Roof works	81,482.97
SCOIL MUIRE NA NGRAST	Replacement of boiler & associated works	43,842.86
GAELSCOIL DE HIDE	Portable toilets	3,267.00
BANDON BOYS NS	replace oil tank	20,263.00
SN CILL DAIRBHRE	replace oil tank	68,465.43
SCOIL AISEIRI CHRIOST	Electrical Works	51,100.00
BALLYVONGANE MXD NS	fencing	8,500.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	upgrade of existing waste water treatment Unit	51,440.84
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	provision of 5 new WC Cubicles & 1 disabled toilet	20,775.18
KILCONE MIXED NS	replace boiler & associated works	10,902.00
DROMAGH NS	Drainage Works	14,107.75
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	fire alarm & emergency lighting New boiler system & associated works	37,153.45
COBH CONVENT	fire alarm & emergency lighting New boiler system & associated works	63,500.00
S N CARRAIG AN IME	roof works	24,513.36
SCOIL MHUIRE	roof works	40,341.45
CAHERMORE NEW CENTRAL S	replace existing pipe heating system	33,198.81
SCOIL AN SPIORAID NAOIMH NS	works to repair existing water tower building at school	19,585.58
TOTAL CORK		2,145,979.81
DONEGAL		
SN AN CHEIDIDH	Replacement of Septic Tank	29,850.00
GARTAN NS	Replace Boiler, Roof Works	75,233.04
MURROE NS	Roof	56,300.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA FHIONNTRA	fencing & Repair Playground	17,330.89
SN GORT AN CHOIRCE	Roof and drainage works	60,776.04

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
ST PATRICKS GIRLS NS	Replace Boiler	22,532.60
S N GARBHAIN SATHLOIR	New Toilet facilities	34,499.50
S N EADAN FHIONNFHAOICH	Bus shelter	2,130.00
SN DOMHNACH MOR	Roof Works	88,835.00
SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA	replace rooflights, windows & external doors	34,512.10
SN DHUN NA NGALL	Car Park & Bus Pull In Bay	173,828.33
ST CATHERINES SCHOOL	Replace Water Storage Tanks	6,950.00
S N OLIBHEAR PLUINCEID	replace boiler & associated works yard works	47,220.00
SCOIL NAOMH SEOSAMH	Replacement of Boiler	5,372.17
ST PETERS NS	Pest Control & Associated Works spraying & treatment of school building due to fungus gnats	5,309.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	Install CCTV system	6,500.00
CRANNFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	Dry Lining & Insulation, Replace Heating System	57,278.70
GLENSWILLY N S	Roof Works, New Chimney, New Septic Tank	263,372.69
ST AENGUES NS	Replacement of Boiler & Provision of Services for Connection to a Biomass Plant	27,683.48
S N BAILE RAIGHIN	Replacement of roof	81,779.12
ST BERNADETTE'S SPECIAL SCHOOL	Conversion Works to Toilet Area for Special Needs Pupil	33,258.60
SN CHILL CHARTAIGH	Drainage & fencing	33,769.40
SCOIL MHUIRE	repair defects to walls & ceilings	24,500.00
SN CAISEAL NA GCORR	refurb Office & porch Electrical upgrade	32,557.50
FROSSES NS	new storm porch	19,200.00
SN BAILE NUA AN PHOBAIL	replacement of boiler	39,127.50
SCOIL MHUIRE	replace boiler & water services & replace roof	146,227.20
S N ADHAMHNAIN	Electrical works Replacement of windows & doors	128,300.00
COMHSCOIL CHONMHA SN	Replace windows	46,000.00
TOTAL DONEGAL		1,425,932.86
DUBLIN		
SANDYFORD MXD NS		20,415.10
HOLY FAMILY NS RATHCOOLE		210,192.96
ST BRIGIDS GIRLS NS		64,020.00
ST COLUMBAS CON G&I		4,775.26
SCOIL NA MBRATHAR		150,182.12
SCOIL MHUIRE MARINO		62,806.49
ST BRIGIDS CONVENT NS		237,195.05
ST MOLAGAS		42,057.83
ST LOUIS INFANT SCHOOL		29,533.63
ST FINBARS NS		6,774.90
ST SYLVESTERS INFANT SCHOOL		65,487.00
SCOIL AINE		63,617.06
SCOIL BHRIDE BNS		3,313.57
SN MUIRE NA FREASTOGALA		288,400.00
S N BRIOTAS		40,888.06

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
S N NMH FIONNAN		87,500.00
MARIST NATIONAL SCHOOL		513,849.65
ST MARYS NS		45,979.27
S N SEOSAMH NA MBRATHAR		34,889.90
BENINCASA SPECIAL SCHOOL		4,000.00
EOIN BAISDE C NAOIDH		252,765.36
LORETO NS		79,022.96
ST JOHN OF GOD SPECIAL SCHOOL		288,795.00
ST KEVINS BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL		217,040.50
VIRGIN MARY SCHOOL		109,064.20
ST BRIGIDS BNS		17,012.51
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL GNS		59,171.25
SCOIL CHIARAIN		9,761.00
ST MICHAELS HSE SPECIAL SCHOOL		7,859.88
HOLY TRINITY SEN NS		7,719.00
SCOIL MHUIRE BOYS		89,870.20
ST CRONAN'S JNS		239,402.40
ST MAELRUANS JUNIOR NS		6,667.41
NAOMH MAOLRUAIN SNR		31,702.83
ST KEVINS BOYS & GIRLS NS		30,930.66
ST KEVINS GIRLS NS		197,140.11
ST FRANCIS X SENIOR SCHOOL		20,884.05
ST MARKS JNR & SNR NS		12,031.00
ST FINIANS NS		26,298.93
BISHOP GALVIN NS		27,078.46
SN NAOMH TREASA		235,217.85
ST OLIVER PLUNKETT NS		127,166.20
SCOIL TREASA FIRHOUSE		192,812.28
		178,289.38
ST MARYS JNS		144,916.74
ST HELENS JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL		50,000.00
PHYSIC HANDICAPPED S SC		10,914.90
POPE JOHN PAUL 2 SCHOOL		293,710.00
BISHOP SHANAHAN NS		70,034.34
ST GABRIELS NS		249,242.79
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE		123,007.44
ST MICHAELS PRIMARY SCHOOL		212,988.41
ST RAPHAELS NS		242,984.62
CATHERINE McAULEY N SC		94,919.10
ST ATTRACTAS SNR NS		12,158.70
ST BERNADETTE'S JNR NS		299,576.37
HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR NS		126,186.35

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
ST BRIGIDS NS		614,080.89
ST BRIGIDS/ST AIDANS		730,926.79
BALLYCRAGH NS		20,419.50
ST. ANNES MIXED NS		21,392.00
SCOIL MHUIR S IOSAF		42,601.09
HOLY CROSS NS		383,847.12
GAELSCOIL MOLOGA		7,018.80
SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN DEA AOIRE		19,220.52
GAELSCOIL NAOMH PADRAIG		6,340.73
ST JOHNS NS BALLYBRACK		35,521.50
ST KEVINS NS		22,390.00
SETANTA SPECIAL SCHOOL		196,833.51
SCOIL PHADRAIG		164,510.55
LUCAN EDUCATE TOGETHER NS		70,000.00
ARCHBISHOP RYAN SENIOR NS		14,922.69
GAELSCOIL UI HEARCAIN		239,340.70
HOLY CHILD NATIONAL SCHOOL 20338C		431,842.66
TOTAL DUBLIN		9,391,430.08
GALWAY		
SN NAOMH TREASA	Replacement of Boiler / Boiler House	6,700.56
SN AINDREIS NAOFA	Replacement of Boiler / Boiler House	7,217.46
SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA	Replacement of cold water storage tank	38,326.00
S N CREACHMHAOIL	New central heating boiler Car Parking	17,754.62
ST IOMARS	Prefab roof window & ventilation repair	10,336.00
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	Roof Repairs, Floor Tile Replacement	66,000.00
SN CILL CONAILL	Sewage Treatment & Percolation Area	67,220.00
AINBHTHIN NAOFA	Replace Flooring, Clean & Dry Line above windows & repaint wall, replace tiles in bathroom	33,000.00
ST. PATRICKS NS	Car parking & new entrance	43,085.87
SN NAOMH UINSEANN	Replace Concrete Barges, Fence Boundary Wall, Widen School Gate, Replace Gutters Facia	16,013.40
CREGMORE NS	Car Park	38,990.00
SCOIL FHURSA	Roof Works, Replace 2 Windows	22,095.25
CARRABANE NS	Replace sewerage tank with treatment system	85,212.75
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	Removal of Boundary wall	25,010.00
SN BREANDAN NAOFA	Provide ESB, Watermain & Hydrant, Boundary Wall & Fencing, Demolish Wall in Playarea	26,083.50
S N NAOMH CIARAIN	Water works	28,653.59
ST CATHERINES	Flat roof repairs toilet refurb	23,800.00
SCOIL BHRIDE MIONLOCH	M & E works	41,421.90
SCOIL BHREANDAIN NAOFA	toilet refurb	9,344.31
SN BAILE AN MHUILINN	Installation of new septic tank & percolation area	8,139.65
MONIVEA NS	Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade Fuseboard	74,496.00
SCOIL NAOMH EINDE	Removal of asbestos floor tiles & replacement flooring	107,260.00

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
LAKE VIEW SCHOOL RENMORE	Replacement windows & doors	52,401.48
SCOIL CHAITRIONA	Roof Works	159,707.00
ST OLIVER PLUNKETT NS	Sewerage Works	95,308.99
SCOIL CHAITRIONA SENIOR	Removal of asbestos tiles in GP room & New Sports Flooring	27,892.63
MOYCULLEN CENTRAL SCHOOL	Works to Boiler House & Heating Installation	123,355.90
CARNMORE NS	Car parking	44,470.15
MHIC DARA	Upgrade Toilets	99,300.00
BARNADERG NS	traffic management measures	72,100.00
S N AN CILLIN	Treatment of dry rot & replacement of decayed timber	16,360.69
TOTAL GALWAY		1,480,357.14
KERRY		
CLOCHAR DAINGEAN	Boiler	96,000.00
SCOIL EOIN XX111	Upgrade Electrics	5,675.00
S N BHAILE AN CHROSAIGH	Repair to ceilings	18,061.36
SCOIL MHUIRE	Water Storage Tanks, Replace Floor, Radon Vents & Extractor	465,764.73
SCOIL MHUIRE	Replace Copper Piping in Attic & Insulate Attic	8,789.00
SCOIL MHUIRE KILLORGLIN NS	Upgrade Electrical	22,759.00
CAHIRCIVEEN CONVENT	Roof Works Replace central heating pipework	325,498.15
UNION HALL MIXED NATIONAL SCHOOL	Roof works	55,926.68
SCOIL EOIN	Security Works	25,078.28
ST FINIANS AN CORAIN	Replacement of windows & Door	35,060.60
CULLINA NS	Drainage	11,200.00
MUIRE NA MAINISTREACH	demolition of pre-fab	13,186.23
KILCONLY NS	Works to Foul Drainage System, Works to Play Area	52,093.74
S N MHUIRE NA MBRAITHRE	Works to Foul Drainage System, Works to Play Area	7,552.50
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	roof works	39,434.04
SN DAR EARCA	Refurb Toilets	29,322.00
HOLY CROSS MERCY SCHOOL	Replace Section of Roof, Repair damage to Walls & Floor	11,050.00
ST OLIVERS NS	Yard Works	129,043.80
SCARTAGLIN NEW CENT SC	Replacement of Heating Pipework & Radiators Yard Works	90,256.00
BALLYDUFF CENTRAL	roof works	103,943.65
REALT NA MAIDNE	Electrical upgrade	191,465.00
GAELSCOIL NAOMH AOGAIN	ICT grant re New Classroom Build	5,000.00
SCOIL ATHA NA MBLATH	roof works	121,166.10
TOTAL KERRY		1,863,325.86
KILDARE		
ATHY MODEL NS	Refurbishment after fire at school (ongoing bills)	36,625.44
SN CIANO NAOFA	Yard Works (Concrete Playarea)	151,597.82
CELBRIDGE NS	Conversion works	22,750.27
HEWETSONS NS	Dryline Walls & construct covered walkway	13,995.85

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
ST JOSEPH'S BOYS NS	Electrical Upgrade	207,775.00
BRANNOXTOWN NS	Instal Emergency Lighting, Upgrade Heating & Hot Water Systems	67,780.72
SCOIL CHORBAIN	Fire Safety Upgrade	121,775.31
S N AINE NAOFA	Electrical Upgrade	43,309.86
SUNCROFT NS	Replace flooring with non slip flooring install door operator for 3 external doors & replace existing door saddlebo	21,458.15
S N SCOIL TREASA		32,512.87
NEWTOWN NS	Upgrade Heating System	250,453.43
KILDANGAN NS	Heating Systems Upgrade	160,134.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	Replace Push Bar open Mechanisms on Doors, Floor Works, Roof Works	3,540.00
ST ANNES SPECIAL NS	Replace Push Bar open Mechanisms on Doors, Floor Works, Roof Works	100,954.62
SCOIL MHUIRE SOISEARACH	Replace Push Bar open Mechanisms on Doors, Floor Works, Roof Works	24,359.79
SAN CARLO JUNIOR NS	Replace Push Bar open Mechanisms on Doors, Floor Works, Roof Works	22,104.82
GAEL SCOIL CILL DARA	installation of fire alarm	0.00
NAAS NS	Conversion works to classroom	5,000.00
TOTAL KILDARE		1,286,127.95
KILKENNY		
CHURCH HILL NS	Extend Playground	31,747.16
SCOIL MHUIRE	Wall & Ceiling Repair Works to water storage tanks works to heating syste,	75,032.16
GRAIGNAMANAGH	Replace Boiler	58,764.47
ST LEONARDS NS	Fire Safety upgrade	19,903.74
S N BHREANAIN NAOFA	Roof & ceiling repairs	38,322.00
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	Disabled Access Works	61,383.40
S N NAOMH CHIARAIN	Drainage works	66,250.00
S N CHRION CHOILL	Water Treatment System	6,035.28
SN CHIARAIN NAOFA	Connect Wastewater System to Public Sewerage System	33,615.00
ST BRIGIDS CONVENT NS	Gym Roof	46,753.00
LISTERLIN NS	Replace boiler, burner & oil tank	26,500.00
MOTHER OF FAIR LOVE	Replacement of existing substnadard non-thermally broken timber non safety glass single glazed windows & external doors.	183,011.36
ST PATRICKS SPECIAL SCHOOL	Replacement of existing substnadard non-thermally broken timber non safety glass single glazed windows & external doors.	26,606.88
SCOIL BHRIDE	Replace Floor of Pre-fab	14,843.12
SCOIL BHRIDE B7C	Replace boiler, burner & oil tank	11,102.95
TOTAL KILKENNY		699,870.52
LAOIS		
SN AN CHROI RO NAOFA	Upgrade of water supply system	5,974.23
CILL AN IUBHAIR NS	Upgrade of water supply system	17,736.12

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
RATHDOMHNAIGH NS	Upgrade of water supply system	16,605.00
CLONENAGH NS	Roof works & disabled toilet	71,100.00
MHUIRE FATIMA NS	Electrical upgrade	92,385.00
TOTAL LAOIS		197,826.12
LEITRIM		
TOTAL LEITRIM		
LIMERICK		
MHUIRE NAOFA CAILINI	Heating works Upgrade Electrics	25,761.29
S N FIODHNACH	Roof Works	0.00
GRANAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL	Roof Works	42,849.00
PALLASKENRY NS	Installation of Security Cameras	9,366.02
SN GALLBHAILE	Replace Roof	20,362.50
NICKER NATIONAL SCHOOL	Upgrade of water & sewerage connections	80,903.70
SCOIL MHATHAIR TROCAIRE	Upgrade of water & sewerage connections	19,203.00
ROXBORO NS	Upgrade of water & sewerage connections	23,861.73
MEENKILLY NS	Replace Boiler	10,870.00
ATHLACCA NS	Toilet Upgrade, Replace Flooring & Upgrade Paths Outside	80,253.25
SHANAGOLDEN NS	Playground	21,705.72
CAHERCONLISH NS	Playground	62,741.57
QUEEN OF THE PEACE NS	Lift, CCTV system and external works	48,780.00
S N GEAROID UI GHRIOBHTHA	Boundary Wall	22,848.05
SCOIL MHAINCHIN BUACH	Roof Works	54,253.05
SCOIL IDE NAOFA RAHEENAGH	Yard works, ramp & removal of shelter	57,473.50
ASKEATON SENIOR NS	Asbestos tile removal Replacement of boiler	20,400.00
SCOIL IDE	Asbestos tile removal Replacement of boiler	68,813.22
ST AUGUSTINES SPEC SC	Replace Boiler M&E & flooring works	16,416.87
LIMERICK SCHOOL PROJECT	Roof Conversion Works	7,815.75
ST FERGUS PRIMARY SCH	Toilet Upgrade	6,450.00
GAELSCOIL AN RAITHIN	Fire Safety Requirements/Vehicular Access Road	126,701.24
MARY QUEEN OF IRELAND GNS	Replace boiler	20,512.92
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	Roof repairs	37,550.91
MONALEEN NATIONAL SCHOOL	replace fire alarm system	33,763.24
TOTAL LIMERICK		848,342.38
LONGFORD		
SN AN LEANA MOR	Replacement of heating pipework & radiators	35,000.00
SAMHTHANN NS	Sewage Works	24,000.00
S N MHUIRE	Roof Leaks & Ceilings Works	9,224.93
S N COLMCILLE	Car Park	97,500.00
ST PATRICKS NS	Sewage Works	65,000.00
SCOIL MHUIRE NS	Roof Works	49,712.56

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
EDGEWOTHSTOWN NS	Yard Works, Removal of Old Storage Shed Repair leak in pipework PE Hall Project	305,988.65
MELVIEW NS	New heating system & windows	252,048.09
LANESBORO NS	Provision of car park facilities	106,437.00
TOTAL LONGFORD		944,911.23
LOUTH		
LOUTH MIXED SCHOOL	Replacement of Oil Tank	6,294.66
TALLANSTOWN NS	Security Fencing Heating Works	43,881.41
TERMONFECKIN NS	Sewerage works	32,500.00
TULLYALLEN NS	Boiler & Insulation Boundary Wall	37,180.82
SCOIL DAIRBHE	Boiler & Insulation Boundary Wall	147,814.40
SN NAOMH FHIONAIN	Drainage & Associates Works	21,402.47
SN MUIRE NA TROCAIRE	Replacement flooring —	115,161.00
SCOIL BHRIDE MXD NS	Boiler Replacement replacement of heating system	159,479.78
SCOIL PHADRAIG NAOFA	Boiler	28,306.90
REALT NA MARA	Flood Prevention Works	11,209.38
TOTAL LOUTH		603,230.82
MAYO		
BEHYMORE NS		43,000.00
AUGHLEAM NS		86,892.45
ST JOSEPHS NS		19,096.38
SN GLEANN A CHAISIL		6,000.00
BEANNCHOR NS		45,600.00
S N NAOMH PADRAIG		97,626.93
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MUIRE GAN SMAL		34,811.75
CARRAKENNEDY NS		9,767.58
LISANISKA NS		48,630.00
KNOCK NS		142,571.70
MYNA NS		76,134.55
SN REALT NA MARA		10,000.00
DRUMSLIDE NS		43,000.00
ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA		14,000.00
ST ANGELAS NS		32,625.30
SCOIL IOSA		44,145.73
TOTAL MAYO		43,000.00
MEATH		
AINE NAOFA NS	Resurface School Yard replace cold water storage tank	62,444.52
SCOIL MHICHIL NA BUACHAILLI	Roof Repairs to Prefab roof works	37,500.00
RATHKENNY NATIONAL SCHOOL	replacement of paths, paving & drainage works	50,125.56
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE	Fire Detection & Alarm System, Emergency Lighting, Signs & Fire Doors	77,800.00
SCOIL NAIS AN OBAIR	Mould Removal & Repair of Eaves Structural Repairs	79,611.72

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
CARNAROSS NS	Ceiling Replacement	2,685.00
S N MHUIRE	Hard Play Area & Rear Access	10,658.25
ST JOSEPHS DUNDERRY NS	Roof	21,950.10
ST MARYS NS	Upgrade of drainage and water mains	26,429.55
SN MHUIRE	Increase ESB Supply, replace fuse board & conversion works	38,447.28
SN NAOMH PADRAIG	Increase ESB Supply, replace fuse board & conversion works	15,200.98
S N REALT NA MARA (CAILINI)		21,705.73
SCOIL CAITRIONA NAOFA	Works to Water Supply	4,742.43
SCOIL NAIS MAOL HOSAE		10,242.38
S N MHUIRE	Upgrading of toilet facilities upgrade heating system & replace oil tank	48,485.18
DANGAN NS	Heating Upgrade & Insulation of External Panels	124,749.77
CASTLETOWN NS NAVAN	Upgrade Electrical	121,441.88
ST OLIVER PLUNKETT NS	upgrade fire alarm, install smoke detectors & emergency lighting	17,319.14
ST. MARYS SPECIAL SCHOOL	Resurface Playground	5,675.00
DUNBOYNE JUNIOR NS		89,152.38
ST PAULS NS	Replacement of leaking oil tank	11,084.00
TOTAL MEATH		877,450.85
MONAGHAN		
DONAGHMOYNE NS	Works to Playground including Drainage	52,405.00
BUN SCOIL LOUIS NAOFA	Replace boiler	35,800.00
CASTLEBLANEY CONVENT	CCTV, external intruder protection, security lighting & security fencing	100,221.04
CASTLEBLANEY CON INFS	Upgrade Electrical Installation	263,135.00
SCOIL MHICHIL	Upgrade Electrical Installation	29,737.60
S N BLAITHIN IOSA	Upgrade toilet facilities	24,820.10
ST JOSEPHS NS	Upgrade Heating System	95,395.00
CLOCHAR LUGHAI DH NAI	Removal of concrete shelter	9,885.00
SCOIL PHADRAIG	Removal & Replacement of Floor Tiles Removal of asbestos cement slates and replace Remove & replace asbestos cement slates	73,855.00
SCOIL MHUIRE B	Install fire escape	44,442.78
SCOIL NAOMH PADRAIG	Roof repairs	34,516.80
SCOIL NAOMH DEAGHA	Roof repairs	0.00
SCOIL EANNA	Roof repairs	125,387.00
TOTAL MONAGHAN		764,213.32
OFFALY		
SCOIL NAOMH EOIN		51,944.06
KILCORMAC CONVENT NS		23,257.46
GEASHILL 1 NS	Upgrade Heating System	116,376.41
ST CRONANS NS LUSMAGH	Construct bund to oil storage tank and new porch to school entrance	16,100.00
ST BRENDANS MONASTERY	Replace Floor Tiles	20,287.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
CLONBULLOGUE NATIONAL SCHOOL	Heating upgrade	75,375.79
MOUNTBOLUS NATIONAL SCHOOL	Re-inforcement of ceilings Dry Lining, Upgrade Heating System, Ramp at Front Entrance, new Flooring Roof repairs and replace water tank	92,220.00
MONASTERORIS NS	Entrance Works	13,566.08
CLONEYHURKE NS	Replace Heating System, Insulate Roof, Replace Windows, Replace Ceiling	40,000.00
ST MARYS NS	Removal of Asbestos Tiles Electrical Upgrade to cater for ICT Infrastructure	105,955.37
S N NAOMH PHILOMENA	Roof works	104,887.13
POLLAGH NS	Roof works	42,176.00
SN PHADRAIG	Boiler Replacement	7,000.00
ROSCOMROE NS	Boiler replacement	14,613.24
SCOIL BHRIDE	Upgrade Fire Detection System & Emergency Lighting	25,011.20
COOLANARNEY NS	Installation of water treatment system	2,903.00
ST COLMANS NS	Replace Floor Covering, Install 2 New Sinks, Repairs Leaking Pipe	6,395.86
S N LOMCHLUANA	Replace floor in GP Room	19,713.74
TOTAL OFFALY		682,867.08
ROSCOMMON		
S N NAOMH SEOSAMH		20,250.00
LISANISKEY NS	Replace boiler	25,251.90
KILTEEVAN NS	Replace Floor with Concrete Slab, Treat Rising Damp & Mould on Internal Perimeter Walls, Construction of New Insulated Stud Walls	40,636.00
CLOCHAR NA TROCAIRE	Roof Works	85,864.40
ST MARYS CONVENT NS	Roof Works	87,722.14
TIBOHINE NS	Replacment Oil burner & upgrade heating system	28,217.44
BALLINTUBBER NATIONAL SCHOOL 16334S	Repair to flat roof — leaks	23,734.50
SN NAOMH CEITHEACH	Roof Works	28,846.00
S N RATH ARADH	Flat roof repair	23,876.30
ABBAY NS	Roof works & Velux windows	46,382.20
TISRARA NATIONAL SCHOOL	Replace water main & install new hydrant, landscape & re-seed play ground area	5,379.75
S N NAOMH EOIN	Replace Windows	7,054.36
KNOCKCROGHERY NS	Fencing & Redamation of Land Repair concrete yard	34,750.00
STRABAGGAN NS	Re-surface play ground	8,841.65
SCOIL BHRIDE	New porch area	10,635.81
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		466,806.64
SLIGO		
COOLOONEY CONVENT NATIONAL SCHOOL	Upgrade Electrics	81,638.79
S N BHRIDE	Replace Storm & Foul Sewer	13,023.44
ST. JOHNS NS	Window replacement	31,700.00
STOKANE NATIONAL SCHOOL	Replace boiler	8,000.00

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
SLIGO PROJECT SCHOOL	Replace pipes	8,050.50
TOTAL SLIGO		142,412.73
TIPPERARY		
MOYGLASS NS	Sewerage Treatment & Percolation Area	72,210.00
REARCROSS NS	insulate walls & Attic	14,514.42
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	Removal of Asbestos Flooring & Sinks	17,445.71
SN MUIRE NA NAINGEAL	insulate walls & Attic	114,462.36
GAILE NS	Boundary Fence	8,253.06
KILLUSTY NATIONAL SCHOOL	Roof works	33,069.00
SCOIL AILBHE	conversion of cloakroom to resource room	4,610.60
SN GLEANN GOILL	Roof Works Install New Boiler & Replace Radiators	79,090.18
S N IOSEF NAOFA	Disabled Access, Yard Works, Works to Concrete ink, Replace Asbestos Floor Tiles, Radon Gas	136,420.49
SCOIL NAISIUNTA CHILL CHUMIN	upgrade electrics	50,701.10
KILLURNEY NATIONAL SCHOOL	replace oil tank	1,890.57
SCOIL MHUIRE KILVEMNON	electrical upgrade, install fire alarm system	25,276.70
TOTAL TIPPERARY		530,776.92
WATERFORD		
SN CILL ROSANTA	Resurface yard for playarea	17,810.00
FERRYBANK CONVENT	Upgrade to meet H & S Standards & Fire Regulations	230,341.17
SN URSULA NAOFA	Replace pipeline	20,143.64
OUR LADY OF MERCY N S STRADBALLY	Repairs to School Drains	113,130.75
ST STEPHENS NATIONAL SCHOOL	Roof Works, Replace Water Storage Tank replace heating system	221,968.18
S N DEAGLAN	Removal of Roof & Walls of Playground Shelter	147,250.00
SN MUIRE MAGH DEILGE	Upgrade water mains supply	0.00
SCOIL NAOMH GOBNAIT	Fencing creation of new play area	20,416.00
CHRIST CHURCH N S	Works to heating system	12,589.32
ST MARYS NS	re-pipe external water mains to urban council supply	23,442.18
GLOR NA MARA NS	Roof Works	75,643.51
WATERPARK NS	Water Works	23,008.07
KILMATHOMAS NS	Replace boiler replace boiler	21,186.88
AGLISH NATIONAL SCHOOL WATERFORD	replace boundary fence	20,422.11
TOTAL WATERFORD		926,929.70
WESTMEATH		
MULLINGAR CONVENT (JNR)	Electrical Upgrade	230,141.93
ST PETERS NS SNR	Replacement of Section of Damaged Plasterwork on School Wall, Works to Housing & Steel which Supports Water Tank on Roof	19,816.50
BRIDESWELL NS	Replacement of Windows	11,380.00
ST BRIGIDS PRIMARY SCHOOL	Replacement of Windows	78,101.30
BAILE UI GHEIBHINN	Upgrade Fire alarm	6,457.50

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
RATH EOGHAN	Replace Septic Tank	9,655.17
S N NAOMH FIONTAN	Replace Septic Tank	19,000.55
SCOIL NA MAIGHDINE MHUIRE	Replacement of slates & ridge caps, repair of gutters, replace fire doors	53,300.00
ST EARNANS	Flat roof works	24,395.00
CHOLMAIN NAOFA	replace flat roof on 3 pre-fab units	17,483.75
GAEL SCOIL MULLINGAR	refurbishment works	38,797.44
TOTAL WESTMEATH		508,529.14
WEXFORD		
SN BHANTIARNA	Upgrade Electrical, Mechanical & Fire Safety Installations	812,939.57
BALLYMURN NATIONAL SCHOOL	Car Parking	42,377.00
MICHEAL STREET NS	Priority Health & Safety Works	179,800.00
GLANBRIEN NATIONAL SCHOOL	Replacement of Path	5,850.78
BALLYCANEW NS		140,000.00
KILLEGNEY NATIONAL SCHOOL		109,630.20
NEWBAWN NS	Replacement of flooring M & E works	16,168.60
BALLYGARRETT NS	Security fencing around oil tank and repairs to flat roof	20,520.00
KILRANE NS	Fire Safety Works, Disabled Access, Foul Sewerage & Drainage	199,552.00
OYLEGATE NS	Replace Flat Roof	48,000.00
CLONGEEN NS	Condensation & Ventilation, Drainage to Toilets	78,120.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA BAILE UI COILEAIN	Upgrade of heating system	85,954.68
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE		148,438.75
SN MHAODHOIG	Replace Windows Replacement of Space Heating Installation	226,900.00
S N SEOSAIMH	Replacement of septic tank	70,543.61
S N RATH AN IUBHAIR	Removal of asbestos floor tiles Upgrade electrical installation	168,019.96
GALBALLY NS	Yard Works	26,346.50
S N MHUIRE	refurb works	114,401.70
ST CATHERINES NS	Upgrade of sewerage drains	19,950.00
RATHANGAN NS	Electrical works	156,365.92
GOREY CENTRAL SCHOOL	Roof Works	59,113.16
HORESWOOD NS	Roof Works	24,961.59
SCOIL MHUIRE	Removal of asbestos floor tiles replace boiler & associated works	80,401.71
S N NAOMH SEOSAIMH	replacement of defective foul drainage	35,814.00
TOTAL WEXFORD		2,870,169.73
WICKLOW		
ST BRIGIDS NS	Water Mains Protection	42,765.92
DELGANY NATIONAL SCHOOL	Roof Works	147,000.00

COUNTY/SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT
CARYSFORT MIXED NS	new Electrical Supply Board	2,831.38
MAIN STREET NS	CCTV & Fencing	34,744.00
SHILLELAGH NS	Replace Heating Piping	24,500.00
ST PETERS INFANTS	Replace Heating Piping	54,125.75
SN MUIRE MXD	Upgrade ESB Supply, Replacement of Existing Main Distribution Board & ESB Meters	80,705.80
ST PATRICKS LORETO PRIMARY SCHOOL	Replace Fire Alarm System	38,929.09
PADRAIG NAOFA NS	Water Drainage	19,710.00
KILMACANOGUE NS	Roof works	78,458.64
NAOMH PEADAR N S	Roof works	90,423.00
TOTAL WICKLOW		523,770.58
TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS		30,712,847.49

Large Scale Refurbishment Projects

	2011 €	2010 €
Primary Major Refurbs		
ST AUGUSTINES SPEC SC	752,986	168
PORTLAOISE EDUCATE TOGETHER	4,546	390,327
GS LIOS NA NOG	111,238	13,407
ST BRIGID'S GNS	116,817	1,855,703
STANHOPE STREET NS	2,188	12,103
BLANCHARDSTOWN WEST EDUCATE TOGETHER NS	508	0
ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL	0	4,500
DUNMANWAY MODEL SCHOOL	0	4,219
ST JOHN GIRLS & INFANT BOYS	0	182,688
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	0	19,471
DROMTRASNA NS	0	13,744
ST MICHAELS HSE SPECIAL SCHOOL	0	84,700
TOTAL	988,284	2,581,029
Post-Primary Major Refurbs		
SCOIL MHUIRE STROKESTOWN	56,127	1,742,608
ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE CABRA	10,593	285,283
BALLYMAHON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	94,533	767,937
BORRISOKANE V S	452,709	392,870
ST ENDAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	43,171	107,128
ST PATRICKS COLLEGE	0	465,063
CNOC MHUIRE, GRANARD	0	3,500
ST FINTANS HIGH SCHOOL, SUTTON	0	10,769
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL	0	164,589
AVONDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RATHDRUM	0	39,748
COLAISTE LORCAIN CASTLEDERMOT	0	3,102
JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY SCHOOL	0	4,756

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

	2011 €	2010 €
RATHMINES SENIOR COLLEGE KILDARE VEC, NAAS	0	8,221
	0	38,417
TOTAL	657,133	4,033,991

2011 Emergency Works post-Primary Schools

	PROJECT	CASH YTD 2011
CARLOW		
ST LEOS COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	475,878.07
PRESENTATION/DE LA SALLE CARLOW, MHUINE BHEAG	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	35,168.00
PRESENTATION/DE LA SALLE CARLOW, MHUINE BHEAG	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	—
CARLOW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILKENNY ROAD, CARLOW	ROOF WORKS	32,802.67
TOTAL CARLOW		543,848.74
CAVAN		
ST AIDANS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, COOTEHILLE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
TOTAL CAVAN		—
CLARE		
ST JOSEPHS SPANISH POINT, MILTOWN MALBAY	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL CLARE		—
CORK		
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
COLAISTE CHROI NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	14,800.00
ST COLMANS COLLEGE	GAS WORKS	10,918.72
ST FACHTNAS DE LA SALLE, SKIBBEREEN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
MERCY HEIGHTS SECONDARD SCHOOL, SKIBBEREEN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	36,429.33
URSULINE SECONDARY SCHOOL, BLACKROCK, CORK	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	18,696.94
COLAISTE GHOBNATAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
COLAISTE TREASA, KANTURK	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	15,520.68
COLAISTE STIOFAN NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TERENCE MACSWEENEY COLLEGE, KNOCKNAHEENY	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
BISHOPSTOWN C S	MECHANICAL WORKS	24,689.70
KINSALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,362.88
TOTAL CORK		142,418.25

	PROJECT	CASH YTD 2011
DONEGAL		
MILFORD ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE AND TRAINING CENTRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
MILFORD ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE AND TRAINING CENTRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
BUNCRANA EDUCATION CENTRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	23,261.25
CARRICK VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, CARRICK	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,641.40
ST CATHERINES VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILLYBEGS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	—
ST COLUMBAS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, GLENTIES	ROOF WORKS	8,410.97
CARNDONAGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL DONEGAL		42,313.62
DUBLIN		
ARD SCOIL LA SALLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, RATHFARNHAM	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	67,827.90
MEANSKOIL IOGNAID RIS, WALKINSTOWN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	31,134.33
ST DOMINIC'S, BALLYFERMOT	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	80,058.64
MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, INCHICORE	GAS WORKS	—
OUR LADY OF MERCY DRIMNAGH	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,672.00
BALBRIGGAN C C	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
COLLINSTOWN PARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
RINGSEND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
NEWPARK COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, BLACKROCK	GAS WORKS	16,266.00
MALAHIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	23,000.00
HOLY CHILD C S SALLYNOGGIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	14,500.00
ST AIDENS BROOKFIELD, TALLAGHT	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
HARTSTOWN C S, CLONSILLA	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	10,193.75
TOTAL DUBLIN		295,652.62
GALWAY		
PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ATHENRY	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	34,300.00
ST JOSEPHS NUNS ISLAND	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	106,358.06
TOTAL GALWAY		140,658.06
KERRY		
ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, CILL AIRNE	MECHANICAL WORKS	19,250.00
ST MICHAELS COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,651.00
CAHIRCIVEEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TARBERT COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,008.17
RATHMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
TOTAL KERRY		70,909.17

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

	PROJECT	CASH YTD 2011
KILDARE		
HOLY FAMILY SECONDARY SCHOOL, NEWBRIDGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	31,147.72
CROSS AND PASSION COLLEGE, KILCULLEN	GAS WORKS	66,150.49
COLAISTE LORCAIN CASTLEDERMOT	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	69,500.00
CONFHEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	75,970.04
TOTAL KILDARE		242,768.25
KILKENNY		
ST BRIGIDS SS, GORESBRIDGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	10,079.30
PRESENTATION SS	ROOF WORKS	—
CITY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, NEW STREET, KILKENNY	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	—
CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL KILKENNY		10,079.30
LEITRIM		
CARRIGALLEN V S	GAS WORKS	—
TOTAL LEITRIM		—
LIMERICK		
ASKEATON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL LIMERICK		—
LONGFORD		
LANESBORO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
TOTAL LONGFORD		—
LOUTH		
ST MARY'S COLLEGE, DUNDALK	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
TOTAL LOUTH		—
MAYO		
ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	84,310.00
ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	14,889.00
OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SACRED HEART, WESTPORT	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	29,400.00
BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	19,492.85
TOTAL MAYO		148,091.85
MONAGHAN		
CASTLEBLANEY COLLEGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
BEECHILL V S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
BEECHILL V S	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	48,582.81

	PROJECT	CASH YTD 2011
COLAISTE OIRIALL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL MONAGHAN		48,582.81
OFFALY		
TULLAMORE COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	25,981.75
ST BRENDANS C S BIRR	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST BRENDANS C S BIRR	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
TOTAL OFFALY		25,981.75
ROSCOMMON		
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL ROSCOMMON	ROOF WORKS	32,287.28
ELPHIN V S	ROOF WORKS	—
CASTLEREA C.S.	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,215.00
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		42,502.28
TIPPERARY		
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL TIPPERARY		—
WATERFORD		
LISMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	24,199.79
LISMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	75,096.43
TOTAL WATERFORD		99,296.22
WESTMEATH		
ST FINIANS COLLEGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	206,980.76
MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	49,717.40
MOATE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL WESTMEATH		256,698.16
WEXFORD		
GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	69,325.70
LORETO S.S. SPAWELL RD	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	73,691.10
BUNCLODY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
NEW ROSS VS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	—
TOTAL WEXFORD		143,016.80
WICKLOW		
ST MARYS COLLEGE, ARKLOW	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	154,952.00
DOMINICAN COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
AVONDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RATHDRUM	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
TOTAL WICKLOW		154,952.00
TOTAL POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS		2,407,769.88
Number of Schools On Site		
Number of Schools Complete		
Number of Schools Non Start		

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

	PROJECT	CASH YTD 2011
Number of Schools Overspend		
Total Number of Schools		

SWS Post-Primary 2010

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CARLOW		
ST MARYS ACADEMY, STATION ROAD	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	235,352.50
COLAISTE MHUIRE CARLOW, KNOCKBEG	TOILET FACILITIES	104,953.00
PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ASKEA	ROOF WORKS	215,447.46
PRESENTATION/DE LA SALLE CARLOW, MHUINE BHEAG	ROOF WORKS	395,360.00
CARLOW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILKENNY ROAD, CARLOW	TOILET FACILITIES	77,555.46
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL MUINEBEAG	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,568.73
TOTAL CARLOW		1,079,237.15
CAVAN		
ST CLARES COLLEGE, BALLYJAMESDUFF	ELECTRICAL WORKS	250,918.85
ROYAL SCHOOL CAVAN	ROOF WORKS	52,250.00
ST BRICKINS BELTURBET	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	22,000.00
VIRGINIA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	37,764.00
CAVAN COLLEGE OF FURTHER STUDIES	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	79,795.00
ST AIDANS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, COOTEHILLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	226,266.35
BAILIEBORO COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	259,592.22
TOTAL CAVAN		928,586.42
CLARE		
SCOIL MHUIRE ENNISTYMON	ROOF WORKS	175,315.33
MARY IMMACULATE S S LISDOONVARNA	ROOF WORKS	131,177.91
ST JOSEPHS SPANISH POINT, MILTOWN MALBAY	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	275,901.00
ST JOSEPHS, TULLA	MECHANICAL WORKS	17,059.69
ENNIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	337,206.20
ENNISTYNOM VS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	157,058.38
ST JOSEPHS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, KILKEE	TOILET FACILITIES	54,438.00
SCARIFF COMMUNITY CLOOEGE	ROOF WORKS	232,100.46
ST ANNES KILLALOE	WINDOW PROJECTS	178,807.58
ST PATRICKS SHANNON	WINDOW PROJECTS	466,909.80
KILRUSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	44,565.78
TOTAL CLARE		2,070,540.13
CORK		

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
BALLINORA NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ARDSCOIL UI URMOLTAIGH	WINDOW PROJECTS	22,982.40
BANDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	341,919.54
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	WINDOW PROJECTS	28,358.69
COLAISTE CHROI NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	70,300.00
ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	100,000.00
SACRED HEART CLONAKILTY	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	53,800.00
COLAISTE MHUIRE COBH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	162,454.75
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	219,766.00
COLAISTE AN PHIARSAIGH	ROOF WORKS	10,723.05
MIDDLETON COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	109,145.87
ST MARYS HIGH SCHOOL, MIDDLETON	WINDOW PROJECTS	133,162.90
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS, MITCHELSTOWN	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,887.56
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL CORK, MITCHELSTOWN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	79,759.05
ST FRANCIS CAPUCHIN COLLEGE, ROCHESTOWN	TOILET FACILITIES	78,640.00
MOUNT ST MICHAEL, ROSSCARBERY	MECHANICAL WORKS	229,276.00
MERCY HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, SKIBBEREEN	WINDOW PROJECTS	76,341.30
GAELCHOLAISTE MHUIRE NORTH MONASTERY	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	18,431.00
DEERPARK CBS CORK	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	157,541.00
COLAISTE CHROI RI, CAPWELL ROAD	ROOF WORKS	48,936.23
ST VINCENTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ST MARYS ROAD	MECHANICAL WORKS	64,666.29
NORTH PRESENTATION, FARRANREE	WINDOW PROJECTS	108,171.88
ST ALOYSIUS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	161,364.73
MOUNT MERCY COLLEGE, MODEL FARM ROAD	ELECTRICAL WORKS	101,242.44
REGINA MUNDI, DOUGLAS ROAD	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	100,000.00
COLAISTE GHOBNATAN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	36,209.00
SCOIL MHUIRE BALLINGEARY	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	117,584.48
CLONAKILTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	173,688.29
COACHFORD C C	TOILET FACILITIES	137,490.00
CARRIGHNAFOY C C	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	97,983.66
COLAISTE AN CHRAOIBHIN, FERMOY	ROOF WORKS	336,018.00
COLAISTE TREASA, KANTURK	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	99,249.41
DAVIS COLLEGE MALLOW	TOILET FACILITIES	216,710.00
MCEGAN COLLEGE, MACROOM	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	75,861.24
ST FANAHANS COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	110,084.72
SCHULL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, COLLA ROAD	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	94,565.00
NAGLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BLACKROCK	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	116,438.22
COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, MORRISON'S BLACKROCK	WINDOW PROJECTS	51,467.66
ST JOHNS CENTRAL COLLEGE, SAWMILL STREET	WINDOW PROJECTS	81,407.43
COLAISTE STIOFAN NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	119,668.53

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
TERENCE MACSWEENEY COLLEGE, KNOCKNAHEENY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	179,585.23
COLAISTE DAIBHAID, AN T-ARDAN THEAS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	167,240.15
ASHTON SCHOOL, BLACKROCK	WINDOW PROJECTS	142,639.22
BOHERBUE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	68,117.57
BEARA COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	29,500.00
MILLSTREET COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	236,177.13
ST PETERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PASSAGE WEST	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	141,558.83
DOUGLAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	29,285.82
BISHOPSTOWN C S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	335,150.03
TOTAL CORK		5,692,550.30
DONEGAL		
SCOIL MHUIRE BUNCRANA	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	178,355.00
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	28,000.00
ST COLUMBAS COLLEGE, LIFFORD	TOILET FACILITIES	60,020.00
CRANA COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	81,950.50
ABBEY V S	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	125,235.57
DEELE COLLEGE, RAPHOE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	324,319.00
ST CATHERINES VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILLYBEGS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	97,790.00
GAIRMSCOIL MHIC DIARMADA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	66,156.00
MOVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	35,297.55
CARNDONAGH COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	461,991.28
ROSSES COMMUNITY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	124,560.84
POBALSCOIL CHLOICH CHEANNFHAOLA	WINDOW PROJECTS	335,955.01
GWEEDORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	53,746.24
BALLYSHANNON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
TOTAL DONEGAL		1,973,376.99
DUBLIN		
BLACKROCK COLLEGE DUBLIN	ROOF WORKS	131,650.00
COLAISTE EOIN AGUS IOSAGAIN, STILORGAN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	35,241.70
COLAISTE IOSAGAIN, BAILE AN BHOTHAIR	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,825.30
OATLANDS COLLEGE, MOUNT MERRION	ROOF WORKS	218,945.00
DOMINICAN COLLEGE, SION HILL, BLACKROCK	ROOF WORKS	248,966.87
ROCKFORD MANOR S.S., STRADBROOK ROAD, BLACKROCK	WINDOW PROJECTS	162,000.00
CASTLEKNOCK COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
MOYLE PARK COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	ROOF WORKS	211,000.00
MOUNT ANVILLE SECONDARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	48,466.57
NOTRE DAME DES MISSIONS, UPPER	MECHANICAL WORKS	14,850.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CHURCHTOWN ROAD		
HOLY CHILD KILLINEY, MILITARY ROAD KILLINEY	WINDOW PROJECTS	106,478.00
ST JOSEPHS OF CLUNY, BELLEVUE PARK, BALLINCLEA ROAD	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,750.00
ST BENILDUS COLLEGE, UPPER KILMACUD RD, BLACKROCK	TOILET FACILITIES	203,500.00
ST LAURENCES COLLEGE, LOUGHLINSTOWN, DUBLIN 18	ELECTRICAL WORKS	328,702.00
ST JOSEPHS LUCAN	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	75,600.00
COLAISTE PHADRAIG CBS, ROSELAWN	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	238,441.46
THE KINGS HOSPITAL, PALMERSTOWN	WINDOW PROJECTS	276,019.00
ST PAULS COLLEGE, RAHENY	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	76,217.17
ARD SCOIL LA SALLE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	34,950.85
MANOR HOUSE RAHENY, WATERMILL ROAD, RAHENY	WINDOW PROJECTS	195,927.00
DE LA SALLE CHURCHTOWN	MECHANICAL WORKS	446,384.60
LORETO HIGH SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	21,450.00
COLAISTE EANNA CBS, RATHFARNHAM	ELECTRICAL WORKS	113,320.37
ST RAPHAELAS, STILLORGAN	TOILET FACILITIES	77,511.58
ST FINTANS HIGH SCHOOL, SUTTON	ROOF WORKS	171,417.80
ST JAMES CBS, JAMES'S STREET	TOILET FACILITIES	103,937.00
CBS SYNGE STREET	MECHANICAL WORKS	261,126.87
ST DAVIDS CBS, ARTANE	ROOF WORKS	196,721.39
MEANSKOIL IOGNAID RIS, WALKINSTOWN	TOILET FACILITIES	182,193.00
ST DECLANS COLLEGE, CABRA	TOILET FACILITIES	49,292.35
MARIAN COLLEGE, BALLSBRIDGE	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	184,830.00
ST JOHNS COLLEGE DE LA SALLE BALLYFERMOT	TOILET FACILITIES	96,007.60
CHANEL COLLEGE COOLOCK	WINDOW PROJECTS	143,414.63
TEMPLEOGUE COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	87,941.26
PATRICIAN COLLEGE, FINGLAS WEST	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	115,301.30
ST KEVINS COLLEGE, EAST FINGLAS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	197,712.80
ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ST PATRICKS CLOSE	TOILET FACILITIES	35,417.32
THE HIGH SCHOOL RATHGAR	ROOF WORKS	99,125.00
SCOIL CATRIONA MOBHI ROAD	MECHANICAL WORKS	106,467.15
ST DOMINIC'S, BALLYFERMOT	TOILET FACILITIES	179,182.80
ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE CABRA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	26,631.74
CARITAS COLLEGE, BALLYFERMOT	ROOF WORKS	47,384.95
ST MICHAEL'S HOLY FAITH, FINGLAS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	250,148.00
HOLY FAITH, CLONTARF	ROOF WORKS	133,298.18
ST MARYS GLASNEVIN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	43,363.12
PRESENTATION CONVENT WARRENMOUNT	TOILET FACILITIES	100,000.00
LORETO COLLEGE CRUMLIN	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	82,139.00
LORETO SWORDS	WINDOW PROJECTS	89,805.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
LORETO COLLEGE, ST STEPHEN'S GREEN	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	—
MARYFIELD COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	390,000.00
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL, STANHOPE STREET	MECHANICAL WORKS	181,158.63
MERCY COLLEGE COOLOCK	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	130,052.60
MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, INCHICORE	ROOF WORKS	254,475.51
ST LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL, RATHMINES	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	208,762.41
ST PAULS SECONDARY SCHOOL, GREENHILLS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	135,110.00
ALEXANDRA COLLEGE, MILLTOWN	ROOF WORKS	167,066.77
OUR LADY OF MERCY DRIMNAGH	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	92,282.00
WESLEY COLLEGE, BALLINTEER	MECHANICAL WORKS	45,019.00
STRATFORD COLLEGE, RATHGAR	WINDOW PROJECTS	25,069.76
BALBRIGGAN C C	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
COLAISTE DE HIDE TALLAGHT	ROOF WORKS	72,802.88
DEANSRATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	292,808.43
COLLINSTOWN PARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	117,863.67
ST KEVINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	192,315.85
DUN LAOGHAIRE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,910.00
LUCAN V S	WINDOW PROJECTS	65,976.97
RIVERSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BLANCHARDSTOWN	MECHANICAL WORKS	251,205.94
COLAISTE CHILLIAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	191,532.58
STILLORGAN COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	WINDOW PROJECTS	104,737.00
ST FINIANS C C	ROOF WORKS	—
FINGAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	71,791.35
GREENHILLS COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	232,950.05
FIRHOUSE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	186,846.35
JOBSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	140,000.00
ST KEVINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CRUMLIN	TOILET FACILITIES	16,629.38
CRUMLIN COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	TOILET FACILITIES	58,350.49
COLAISTE EOIN, FINGLAS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	232,400.17
COLAISTE IDE, FINGLAS WEST	ELECTRICAL WORKS	400,157.91
RINGSSEND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	MECHANICAL WORKS	102,020.22
KILLESTER COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	MECHANICAL WORKS	270,871.08
KYLEMORE COLLEGE BALLYFERMOT	TOILET FACILITIES	88,835.68
MARION COLLEGE, FAIRVIEW	TOILET FACILITIES	106,464.61
ST MACDARAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TEMPLEOGUE	TOILET FACILITIES	215,375.93
RATHMINES SENIOR COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	127,215.40

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
BALLSBRIDGE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDIES	MECHANICAL WORKS	191,260.75
PEARSE COLLEGE, CRUMLIN	TOILET FACILITIES	174,915.00
PLUNKET COLLEGE, WHITEHALL	ROOF WORKS	94,217.06
WHITEHALL HSE SEN SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	66,871.43
MARGARET AYLWARD COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	145,706.00
COLAISTE DHULAIGH, COOLOCK	ELECTRICAL WORKS	234,466.62
LIBERTIES COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	186,481.69
BALLYFERMOT COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION	MECHANICAL WORKS	241,746.13
COLAISTE LAN GAEILGE AN GHRAINSEACH	ROOF WORKS	110,420.94
PRESENTATION COLLEGE TERENCE	TOILET FACILITIES	81,248.44
TRINITY COMPREHENSIVE	ROOF WORKS	237,796.88
SCOIL PHOBAIL CHUIL MHIN	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	311,728.52
THE DONAHIES COMMUNITY SCHOOL, STREAMVILLE ROAD	WINDOW PROJECTS	232,820.87
PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	72,360.04
MALAHIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	147,578.70
HOLY CHILD C S SALLYNOGGIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	57,295.86
ST MARKS SPRINGFIELD, TALLAGHT	WINDOW PROJECTS	200,221.93
TALLAGHT COMMUNITY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	29,944.79
OLD BAWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TALLAGHT	WINDOW PROJECTS	249,952.30
ST AIDENS BROOKFIELD, TALLAGHT	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	68,519.70
ST TIERNANS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BALALLY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	203,487.35
TOTAL DUBLIN		14,836,155.35
GALWAY		
PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ATHENRY	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	178,000.00
ST JOSEPHS GARBALLY	WINDOW PROJECTS	188,842.00
COLAISTE MHUIRE, BALLYGAR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	113,500.00
ST JOSEPHS NUNS ISLAND	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	266,640.40
DOMINICAN COLLEGE TAYLORS' HILL	MECHANICAL WORKS	91,303.00
JESUS & MARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, THREADNEEDLE ROAD	ROOF WORKS	52,300.00
PRESENTATION COLLEGE, HEADFORD	TOILET FACILITIES	60,980.23
HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW	TOILET FACILITIES	177,000.00
CALASANCTIUS COLLEGE ORANMORE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	35,056.00
ST JARLATH'S COLLEGE, TUAM	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST BRIGID'S TUAM	ROOF WORKS	110,160.00
PRESENTATION COLLEGE CURRYLEA	WINDOW PROJECTS	174,000.00
ST JARLATHS COLLEGE	TOILET FACILITIES	94,024.64
ST JARLATHS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, MOUNTBELLEW	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	49,045.00
GAIRM SCOIL CHILLEAIN NAOFA, BALLINASLOE	ROOF WORKS	56,000.00
GAIRMSOIL FHEICHIN NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	54,186.00
COLAISTE GHOBNAIT INISOIRR	MECHANICAL WORKS	77,756.11

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
GALWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WELLPARK	WINDOW PROJECTS	171,441.92
SCOIL CHUIMSITHEACH CHIARAIN, AN CHEATHRU RUA	TOILET FACILITIES	70,540.68
TOTAL GALWAY		2,020,775.98
KERRY		
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLYBUNION	MECHANICAL WORKS	58,528.84
MEANSKOIL PHADRAIG NAOFA, CASTLEISLAND	TOILET FACILITIES	54,736.59
MEAN SCOIL NAOMH JOSEPH, CASTLEISLAND	ROOF WORKS	214,362.00
ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, CILL AIRNE	WINDOW PROJECTS	221,650.20
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL KILLORGLIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	73,440.00
ST MICHAELS COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	189,648.48
PRESENTATION S.S. MILLTOWN, KILLARNEY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	100,000.00
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL TRALEE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	50,000.00
MOUNT HAWK SCHOOL, TRALEE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	234,239.39
KILLORGLIN C C	ROOF WORKS	267,000.00
LISTOWEL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	58,800.00
CASTLEISLAND V S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	16,227.40
CAUSEWAY C C, TRALEE	MECHANICAL WORKS	59,500.00
TRALEE CC	ELECTRICAL WORKS	410,000.00
GAELCHOLAISTE CHIARRAI, TRALEE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
RATHMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,964.52
DINGLE CS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	722.93
TOTAL KERRY		2,030,820.35
KILDARE		
SALESIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, CELLBRIDGE	ROOF WORKS	264,930.40
CROSS AND PASSION COLLEGE, KILCULLEN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	216,000.00
SCOIL DARA KILCOCK	TOILET FACILITIES	41,200.00
ST PAUL'S MONASTEREVIN	ROOF WORKS	146,932.97
COLAISTE NAOMH MHUIRE, NAAS	WINDOW PROJECTS	222,575.75
CURRAGH POST PRIMARY	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	11,371.00
COLAISTE LORCAIN CASTLEDERMOT	WINDOW PROJECTS	240,279.00
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL KILDARE COLLEGE OF FURTHER STUDIES	WINDOW PROJECTS	89,421.26
CONFEEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	194,500.00
ST FARNANS POST PRIMARY SCHOOL, PROSPEROUS	TOILET FACILITIES	21,600.00
RATHANGAN POST PRIMARY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
TOTAL KILDARE		1,448,810.38
KILKENNY		
COLAISTE EAMANN RIS, CALLAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	42,524.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CBS KILKENNY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	100,823.72
ST KIERANS COLLEGE KILKENNY	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	140,607.40
KILKENNY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	62,334.49
COLAISTE AIREAGAIL BALLYHALE	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	23,156.07
DUISKE COLLEGE GRAIGNAMANAGH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	34,100.00
COLAISTE MHUIRE JOHNSTOWN VS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	51,500.00
CITY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, NEW STREET, KILKENNY	ROOF WORKS	200,000.00
CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	177,981.35
TOTAL KILKENNY		833,027.03
LAOIS		
CLONASLEE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	34,977.45
MOUNTMELICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	83,565.21
HEYWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL, BALLINAKILL	WINDOW PROJECTS	104,792.37
TOTAL LAOIS		223,335.03
LEITRIM		
CARRIGALLEN V S	ROOF WORKS	83,474.00
DRUMKEERIN VS	TOILET FACILITIES	72,669.03
DRUMSHAMBO V.S.	TOILET FACILITIES	161,360.85
SCOIL CHUIMSITHEACH NAOMH CLAR	TOILET FACILITIES	63,146.76
TOTAL LEITRIM		380,650.64
LIMERICK		
SALESIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, PALLASKENRY	WINDOW PROJECTS	89,075.00
PRESENTATION CONVENT, SEXTON STREET	TOILET FACILITIES	81,664.35
LAUREL HILL, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	76,469.00
SALESIAN SEC SCHOOL, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,236.12
ARD SCOIL MHUIRE CORBALLY	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	148,278.00
SCOIL CARMEL LIMERICK, O'CONNELL AVENUE	MECHANICAL WORKS	50,353.28
ASKEATON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	4,375.00
DESMOND COLLEGE, NEWCASTLEWEST	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	37,750.00
LIMERICK SENIOR COLLEGE, MULGRADE STREET	WINDOW PROJECTS	56,787.94
MERCY C C RATHKEALE VS	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,699.76
COLAISTE IOSAEF, KILMALLOCK	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	17,755.98
CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE, DOORADOYLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	227,300.72
JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	108,205.75
TOTAL LIMERICK		964,950.90
LONGFORD		
CNOC MHUIRE, GRANARD	WINDOW PROJECTS	72,300.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ARDSCOIL PHADRAIG, GRANARD	WINDOW PROJECTS	45,704.00
TEMPLEMICHAELCOLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	73,334.00
MOYNE C S	ROOF WORKS	295,438.82
TOTAL LONGFORD		486,776.82
LOUTH		
ST JOSEPHS, DROGHEDA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	378,767.43
OUR LADY'S COLLEGE GREENHILLS, DROGHEDA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	79,969.00
COLAISTE RIS, DUN DEALGAN	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	358,533.42
ST MARY'S COLLEGE, DUNDALK	TOILET FACILITIES	154,362.12
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	573,600.00
ST VINCENTS SECONDARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	64,874.34
BUSH POST PRIMARY CC, DUNDALK	WINDOW PROJECTS	243,363.08
ST OLIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	500,000.00
OFAICH COLLEGE, DUNDALK	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	213,775.10
SCOIL UI MHUIRE, DUNLEER	TOILET FACILITIES	138,384.81
ARDEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	365,583.83
TOTAL LOUTH		3,071,213.13
MAYO		
ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA	MECHANICAL WORKS	342,200.00
OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET	WINDOW PROJECTS	157,555.07
ST JOSEPH'S S S, CASTLEBAR	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	54,834.45
ST JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, MARIST CONVENT	TOILET FACILITIES	14,500.00
ST COLMANS COLLEGE, SWINFORD	ROOF WORKS	194,753.00
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	205,161.62
COLAISTE MHUIRE, TUAR MHIC EADAIGH	WINDOW PROJECTS	36,205.07
RICE COLLEGE WESTPORT	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	25,400.00
SACRED HEART, WESTPORT	ROOF WORKS	39,458.75
MOYNE V S, BALLINA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	33,286.33
MC HALE COLLEGE ACHILL	WINDOW PROJECTS	58,563.32
ST TIERNAN'S COLLEGE, CROSSMOLINA	TOILET FACILITIES	144,000.00
WESTPORT V.S.	TOILET FACILITIES	50,947.31
DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR	TOILET FACILITIES	86,400.00
BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,149.98
BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	43,985.55
ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	59,485.61
TOTAL MAYO		1,572,886.06
MEATH		
ST PATRICKS CLASSICAL, MOATLANDS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	49,130.00
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL NAVAN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	346,031.43
EUREKA SECONDARY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	107,777.45

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
SCOIL MHUIRE COM TRIM	ELECTRICAL WORKS	296,437.83
ST PETER'S COLLEGE, DUNBOYNE	WINDOW PROJECTS	196,627.00
ST OLIVERS POST PRIMARY, KELLS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	13,746.65
COLAISTE PHOBAIL	ROOF WORKS	205,997.17
BEAUFORT NAVAN	ROOF WORKS	159,572.15
RATHOATH C C	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	87,000.00
ASHBOURNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	540,654.42
TOTAL MEATH		2,002,974.10
MONAGHAN		
ST LOUIS SS CARRICKMACROSS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	395,594.94
OUR LADYS SEC SCHOOL, CASTLEBLANEY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	214,002.00
ST McCARTANS COLLEGE	TOILET FACILITIES	172,041.78
ST LOUIS S.S. MONAGHAN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	40,170.74
MONAGHAN COLLEGIATE, CORLATT	TOILET FACILITIES	116,252.50
BALLYBAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	662,178.81
CASTLEBLANEY COLLEGE	TOILET FACILITIES	273,359.19
BEECHILL V S	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	430,652.43
TOTAL MONAGHAN		2,304,252.39
OFFALY		
ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, EDENDERRY	ROOF WORKS	270,000.00
SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL, TULLAMORE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	100,400.00
KILLINA, RAHAN, TULLAMORE	ROOF WORKS	69,448.00
CLARA V S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	52,949.75
OAKLANDS COLLEGE, EDENDERRY	ROOF WORKS	205,876.97
TOTAL OFFALY		698,674.72
ROSCOMMON		
ELPHIN V S	ROOF WORKS	21,930.00
ROSCOMMON C C	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	94,826.55
CASTLEREA C.S.	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	27,240.00
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		143,996.55
SLIGO		
ST MARYS COLLEGE, BALLYADARE	ROOF WORKS	39,665.20
COLAISTE MHUIRE, BALLYMOTE	ROOF WORKS	46,859.26
JESUS & MARY, ENNISCROME	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	181,758.50
URSULINE COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	36,700.00
MERCY COLLEGE SLIGO	WINDOW PROJECTS	53,143.97
SLIGO GRAMMAR SCHOOL, THE MALL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	183,000.00
COOLA V.S., SOOEY, VIA BOYLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	120,510.48
GRANGE C C	ROOF WORKS	50,080.18
BALLINODE VS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	102,878.93
TOTAL SLIGO		814,596.52

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
TIPPERARY		
ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE	TOILET FACILITIES	17,339.71
ROCKWELL COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	70,327.59
ARD SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	51,070.92
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	33,021.00
PATRICIAN PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	53,644.73
ST MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL NENAGH	ROOF WORKS	348,377.47
CISTERCIAN COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	50,014.06
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	279,169.36
URSULINE SEC SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	66,099.70
ST ANNE'S S.S. ROSANNA RD	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	100,562.75
COMERAGH COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	92,600.00
SCOIL RUAIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	56,561.55
NEWPORT V S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	35,629.28
ST SHEELANS TEMPLEMORE	WINDOW PROJECTS	121,940.40
TIPPERARY TOWN VS	WINDOW PROJECTS	157,400.00
THURLES VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	45,885.17
CAHIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	82,441.74
ROSCREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	46,132.88
TOTAL TIPPERARY		1,708,218.31
WATERFORD		
CBS DUNGARVAN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	210,600.00
ST AUGUSTINES COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	140,000.00
ARD SCOIL NA NDEISE	WINDOW PROJECTS	106,553.00
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE NEWTOWN	WINDOW PROJECTS	236,555.00
OUR LADY OF MERCY SEC SCHOOL WATERFORD	MECHANICAL WORKS	421,623.31
NEWTOWN SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST DECLANS KILMACTHOMAS	WINDOW PROJECTS	61,950.00
CENTRAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	44,024.00
ST PAULS C C	ROOF WORKS	809,235.47
LISMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	39,725.00
TOTAL WATERFORD		2,070,265.78
WESTMEATH		
ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	100,210.05
ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	17,480.00
CONVENT S S KILBEGGAN	ROOF WORKS	81,017.51
ST MARYS COLLEGE MULLINGAR	WINDOW PROJECTS	128,375.00
ST FINIANS COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	288,020.02
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	150,000.00
CASTLEPOLLARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	34,690.50
COLUMBA COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	228,034.04
TOTAL WESTMEATH		1,027,827.12

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
WEXFORD		
FCJ BUNCLODY	WINDOW PROJECTS	234,000.00
ST MARY'S CBS ENNISCORTHY	ROOF WORKS	196,638.04
COLAISTE BRIDE ENNISCORTHY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	387,232.66
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SS NEW ROSS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	184,210.50
GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	97,892.67
ST MARYS WEXFORD	ROOF WORKS	200,000.00
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	100,000.00
LORETO S.S. SPAWELL RD	WINDOW PROJECTS	160,172.52
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, GROGAN'S ROAD	MECHANICAL WORKS	391,777.00
ADAMSTOWN VS	WINDOW PROJECTS	140,800.00
BRIDGETOWN VS	WINDOW PROJECTS	179,143.89
BUNCLODY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	44,203.28
NEW ROSS VS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	93,564.35
WEXFORD VS	ROOF WORKS	178,401.30
RAMSGRANGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	60,392.00
GOREY C S	MECHANICAL WORKS	18,965.69
TOTAL WEXFORD		2,667,393.90
WICKLOW		
ST KEVIN'S CBS, ARKLOW	WINDOW PROJECTS	211,065.38
ST MARYS COLLEGE, ARKLOW	ROOF WORKS	96,482.94
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, BRAY	WINDOW PROJECTS	81,100.00
ST DAVIDS, GREYSTONES	ELECTRICAL WORKS	311,936.82
DOMINICAN COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	150,112.23
ARKLOW V.S.	ROOF WORKS	126,655.16
BLESSINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	18,537.73
ST THOMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BRAY	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	131,611.74
CARNEW V S	WINDOW PROJECTS	61,539.00
ST KEVIN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUNLAVIN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	54,203.90
ABBAY V S	MECHANICAL WORKS	75,175.02
EAST GLENDALOUGH CS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	274,455.01
ST KILLIANS BALLYWALTRIM	MECHANICAL WORKS	125,556.30
TOTAL WICKLOW		1,718,431.23
TOTAL POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS	TOTAL POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS	54,770,323.28

SWS and Capital Jobs Initiative Post-Primary 2011

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CARLOW		
BORRIS VS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
COLAISTE EOIN HACKETSTOWN	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
CARLOW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILKENNY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ROAD, CARLOW TULLOW COMMUNITY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	60,082.08
TOTAL CARLOW		60,082.08
CAVAN ST BRICKINS BELTURBET	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
CAVAN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, COOTEHILL RD, CAVAN	ROOF WORKS	—
VIRGINIA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	48,638.33
ST AIDANS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, COOTEHILLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
BAILIEBORO COMMUNITY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	189,925.11
TOTAL CAVAN		238,563.44
CLARE ST FLANNANS COLLEGE, ENNIS	ROOF WORKS	—
COLAISTE MHUIRE, ENNIS	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE ENNISTYMON	TOILET FACILITIES	29,673.90
ENNIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	75,970.04
ENNISTYNOM VS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST JOSEPHS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, KILKEE	MECHANICAL WORKS	44,234.32
ST ANNES KILLALOE	TOILET FACILITIES	54,453.18
TOTAL CLARE		204,331.44
CORK ARDSKOIL UI URMOLTAIGH	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	WINDOW PROJECTS	33,615.51
ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	—
SACRED HEART CLONAKILTY	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST COLMANS COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	146,264.95
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	44,069.90
ST MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, CONVENT OF MERCY MALLOW	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	9,116.41
ST MARYS HIGH SCHOOL, MIDLETON	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
MOUNT ST MICHAEL, ROSSCARBERY	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,275.03
ST FACHTNAS DE LA SALLE, SKIBBEREEN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	24,842.22
NORTH MONASTERY CBS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
COLAISTE CHROI RI, CAPWELL ROAD	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST VINCENTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, ST MARYS ROAD	WINDOW PROJECTS	37,225.32
ST ALOYSIUS	WINDOW PROJECTS	64,246.00
ST PATRICK'S GIRLS SCHOOL, GARDINERS HILL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	34,990.90
COLAISTE GHOBNATAN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	58,132.52
CLONAKILTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
COLAISTE AN CHRAOIBHIN, FERMOY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	124,291.06

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ST AIDENS BALLYVOLANE, BALLINCOLLY	MECHANICAL WORKS	144,526.16
ST JOHNS CENTRAL COLLEGE, SAWMILL STREET	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
TERENCE MACSWEENEY COLLEGE, KNOCKNAHEENY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	225,929.09
BOHERBUE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,755.00
MAYFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	88,628.40
TOTAL CORK		1,102,908.47
DONEGAL		
SCOIL MHUIRE BUNCRANA	ROOF WORKS	—
ST COLUMBAS COLLEGE, LIFFORD	ROOF WORKS	—
LETTERKENNY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	32,334.75
DEELE COLLEGE, RAPHOE	ROOF WORKS	19,942.04
ST CATHERINES VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, KILLYBEGS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	116,506.84
ST COLUMBAS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, GLENTIES	ROOF WORKS	—
ROYAL & PRIOR SCHOOL, RAPHOE	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
POBALSCOIL CHLOICH CHEANNFHAOLA	ROOF WORKS	123,547.07
TOTAL DONEGAL		292,330.70
DUBLIN		
ROCKFORD MANOR S.S., STRADBROOK ROAD, BLACKROCK	ELECTRICAL WORKS	91,923.75
RATHDOWN SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
MOYLE PARK COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	126,254.43
HOLY CHILD KILLINEY, MILITARY ROAD KILLINEY	GAS WORKS	—
ARD SCOIL LA SALLE	ROOF WORKS	—
MANOR HOUSE RAHENY, WATERMILL ROAD, RAHENY	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
COLLEGE OF ST COLUMBA, WHITECHURCH	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,843.10
SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, RATHFARNHAM	GAS WORKS	30,656.22
COLAISTE EANNA CBS, RATHFARNHAM	ROOF WORKS	—
ST DOMINICS HIGH SCHOOL, GREENFIELD, DUBLIN 13	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST JOSEPHS CBS FAIRVIEW	MECHANICAL WORKS	162,065.88
ST PAULS CBS, NORTH BURNSWICK STREET	MECHANICAL WORKS	129,845.74
ST AIDAN'S CBS, WHITEHALL	TOILET FACILITIES	25,770.53
ST DECLANS COLLEGE, CABRA	ROOF WORKS	—
MARIAN COLLEGE, BALLSBRIDGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	165,604.85
ST JOHNS COLLEGE DE LA SALLE BALLYFERMOT	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CHANEL COLLEGE COOLOCK	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
PATRICIAN COLLEGE, FINGLAS WEST	TOILET FACILITIES	91,100.04
ST KEVINS COLLEGE, EAST FINGLAS	MECHANICAL WORKS	118,007.26
ST CONLETHS COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	50,610.00
DOMINICAN COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	91,847.78

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
SCOIL CATRIONA MOBHI ROAD	TOILET FACILITIES	—
CARITAS COLLEGE, BALLYFERMOT	ROOF WORKS	—
HOLY FAITH, CLONTARF	ROOF WORKS	62,530.60
ST MARYS GLASNEVIN	ROOF WORKS	—
LORETO COLLEGE CRUMLIN	TOILET FACILITIES	—
MARYFIELD COLLEGE, DRUMCONDRA	ROOF WORKS	—
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL, STANHOPE STREET	MECHANICAL WORKS	131,667.10
MOUNT CARMEL SECONDARY SCHOOL, KINGS INN STREET	MECHANICAL WORKS	163,335.59
OUR LADY OF MERCY, BEAUMOUNT	ELECTRICAL WORKS	50,440.30
MERCY COLLEGE COOLOCK	ELECTRICAL WORKS	97,241.38
ST LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL, RATHMINES	GAS WORKS	61,737.82
ST PAULS SECONDARY SCHOOL, GREENHILLS	MECHANICAL WORKS	20,650.00
GRANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DONAGHAMEDE	TOILET FACILITIES	90,569.30
COLAISTE DE HIDE TALLAGHT	ROOF WORKS	—
DEANSRATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	ROOF WORKS	188,188.24
COLLINSTOWN PARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	280,329.46
ST KEVINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLONDALKIN	TOILET FACILITIES	72,429.70
LUCAN V S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	273,112.31
GREENHILLS COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	113,400.00
FIRHOUSE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SPECIAL NEEDS	—
MOUNT SESKIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	241,432.80
COLAISTE EANNA, CABRA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST KEVINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CRUMLIN	ROOF WORKS	—
COLAISTE EOIN, FINGLAS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	68,915.97
RINGSEND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
KYLEMORE COLLEGE BALLYFERMOT	ROOF WORKS	—
MARION COLLEGE, FAIRVIEW	ROOF WORKS	—
ST MACDARAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TEMPLEOGUE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	49,000.00
RATHMINES SENIOR COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
PEARSE COLLEGE, CRUMLIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	142,460.19
PLUNKET COLLEGE, WHITEHALL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
MARGARET AYLWARD COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	34,300.00
HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY SCHOOL, KILTEEL ROAD	ELECTRICAL WORKS	274,112.45
CABINTEELY COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	118,587.00
SCOIL PHOBAIL CHUIL MHIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	232,810.20
ST MARKS SPRINGFIELD, TALLAGHT	TOILET FACILITIES	113,473.41
OLD BAWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TALLAGHT	ROOF WORKS	—
ST TIERNANS COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BALALLY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	90,575.98

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ROSMINI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, DRUMCONDRA	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL DUBLIN		4,112,829.38
GALWAY		
PRESENTATION COLLEGE, ATHENRY	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
DOMINICAN COLLEGE TAYLORS' HILL	MECHANICAL WORKS	74,578.53
JESUS & MARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, THREADNEEDLE ROAD	ROOF WORKS	45,920.00
HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW	ROOF WORKS	—
ST JARLATH'S COLLEGE, TUAM	ROOF WORKS	—
MERCY COLLEGE	SPECIAL NEEDS	—
COLAISTE CHOLMCILLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
GAIRMSCOIL MHUIRE, ATHENRY	ROOF WORKS	58,400.30
GAIRM SCOIL CHILLEAIN NAOFA, BALLINASLOE	WINDOW PROJECTS	53,025.00
COLAISTE NA COIRIBE	TOILET FACILITIES	—
GALWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WELLPARK	WINDOW PROJECTS	71,399.44
SCOIL POBAIL MHIC DARA	WINDOW PROJECTS	81,396.48
DUNMORE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	139,650.00
GORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL GALWAY		524,369.75
KERRY		
MEAN SCOIL NAOMH JOSEPH, CASTLEISLAND	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
COLAISTE IDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	155,206.80
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL KILLORGLIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL TRALEE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	116,405.10
KILLARNEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	—
KILLORGLIN C C	ELECTRICAL WORKS	94,848.60
TRALEE CC	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,691.26
TOTAL KERRY		382,151.76
KILDARE		
PATRICIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, NEWBRIDGE	ROOF WORKS	93,100.00
CROSS AND PASSION COLLEGE, KILCULLEN	GAS WORKS	113,783.41
SCOIL DARA KILCOCK	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	36,400.00
ST PAUL'S MONASTEREVIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	38,797.70
COLAISTE NAOMH MHUIRE, NAAS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	170,311.20
COLAISTE LORCAIN CASTLEDERMOT	MECHANICAL WORKS	218,137.50
ST CONLETHS VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, NEWBRIDGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	97,759.38
TOTAL KILDARE		768,289.19
KILKENNY		
COLAISTE EAMANN RIS, CALLAN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	39,999.54

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
COLAISTE AIREAGAIL BALLYHALE	MECHANICAL WORKS	24,265.63
DUISKE COLLEGE GRAIGNAMANAGH	TOILET FACILITIES	17,150.00
COLAISTE MHUIRE JOHNSTOWN VS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
COLÁISTE COIS SIÚIRE, MOONCOIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	25,200.00
GRENNAN COLLEGE THOMASTOWN	MECHANICAL WORKS	72,213.40
CASTLECOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	46,036.17
TOTAL KILKENNY		224,864.74
LAOIS		
COLAISTE IOSAGAIN, PORTARLINGTON	ROOF WORKS	—
MOUNTMELICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
HEYWOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOL, BALLINAKILL	MECHANICAL WORKS	159,537.09
TOTAL LAOIS		159,537.09
LEITRIM		
DRUMKEERIN VS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
DRUMSHAMBO V.S.	ELECTRICAL WORKS	98,880.12
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL BALLINAMORE	ROOF WORKS	14,000.00
TOTAL LEITRIM		112,880.12
LIMERICK		
ST JOSEPHS SECONDARY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	60,776.04
SALESIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL, PALLASKENRY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	13,405.00
CBS SEXTON STREET	WINDOW PROJECTS	64,203.04
ARDSCOIL RIS, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST MUNCHIN'S COLLEGE, CORBALLY	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	10,635.81
LAUREL HILL COLAISTE FCJ	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
SALESIAN SEC SCHOOL, NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
SCOIL CARMEL LIMERICK, O'CONNELL AVENUE	ROOF WORKS	—
ASKEATON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
LIMERICK SENIOR COLLEGE, MULGRADE STREET	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
MERCY C C RATHKEALE VS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE, DOORADOYLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	285,607.49
JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	64,574.54
TOTAL LIMERICK		499,201.92
LONGFORD		
CONVENT OF MERCY BALLYMAHON	ROOF WORKS	—
MEAN SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	73,248.35
BALLYMAHON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ARDSCOIL PHADRAIG, GRANARD	ROOF WORKS	—
LANESBORO COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
TEMPLEMICHAELCOLLEGE MOYNE C S	ROOF WORKS WINDOW PROJECTS	— 106,229.61
TOTAL LONGFORD		179,477.96
LOUTH		
OUR LADY'S COLLEGE GREENHILLS, DROGHEDA	WINDOW PROJECTS	68,500.00
COLAISTE RIS, DUN DEALGAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	154,344.40
ST MARY'S COLLEGE, DUNDALK	ELECTRICAL WORKS	30,388.02
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE	TOILET FACILITIES	147,228.26
ST VINCENTS SECONDARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
BUSH POST PRIMARY CC, DUNDALK	ELECTRICAL WORKS	153,744.37
ST OLIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
TOTAL LOUTH		554,205.05
MAYO		
BALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBAR	TOILET FACILITIES	183,566.85
ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA	GAS WORKS	165,900.00
ST JOSEPH'S S S, CASTLEBAR	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST COLMANS COLLEGE, SWINFORD	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
JESUS & MARY S.S. CROSSMOLINA	ROOF WORKS	49,380.53
ST JOSEPHS SS FOXFORD	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, LOUISBURGH	ROOF WORKS	59,046.40
COLAISTE MHUIRE, TUAR MHIC EADAIGH	TOILET FACILITIES	—
RICE COLLEGE WESTPORT	ROOF WORKS	—
SACRED HEART, WESTPORT	ROOF WORKS	18,500.00
MOYNE V S, BALLINA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
WESTPORT V.S.	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL MAYO		476,393.78
MEATH		
ST PATRICKS CLASSICAL, MOATLANDS	GAS WORKS	22,968.02
SCOIL MHUIRE COM TRIM	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	107,877.46
ST FINTAN'S POST PRIMARY, LONGWOOD, ENFIELD	ROOF WORKS	—
RATHCAIRN V S, ATHBOY	ROOF WORKS	75,036.35
BEAUFORT NAVAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	299,758.80
RATHOATH C C	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ASHBOURNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
TOTAL MEATH		505,640.63
MONAGHAN		
ST LOUIS SS CARRICKMACROSS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	90,229.62
OUR LADYS SEC SCHOOL, CASTLEBLANEY	TOILET FACILITIES	59,256.63
ST MCCARTANS COLLEGE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	70,619.37

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
MONAGHAN COLLEGIATE, CORLATT BEECHILL V S	ELECTRICAL WORKS ROOF WORKS	105,195.72 —
TOTAL MONAGHAN		325,301.34
OFFALY		
SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL, TULLAMORE	MECHANICAL WORKS	80,528.25
KILCORMAC VOCATIONAL SCHOOL CLARA V S	WINDOW PROJECTS TOILET FACILITIES	— 32,083.91
ST BRENDANS C S BIRR	GAS WORKS	40,526.22
TOTAL OFFALY		153,138.38
ROSCOMMON		
CBS ROSCOMMON	ROOF WORKS	71,767.50
CASTLEREA C.S.	TOILET FACILITIES	—
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		71,767.50
SLIGO		
ST MARYS COLLEGE, BALLYADARE	ROOF WORKS	40,438.19
COLAISTE MHUIRE, BALLYMOTE	MECHANICAL WORKS	80,357.35
SUMMERHILL COLLEGE, SLIGO	ROOF WORKS	—
CORRAN COLLEGE, BALLYMOTE	WINDOW PROJECTS	36,810.62
COOLA V.S., SOOEY, VIA BOYLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	38,366.30
EASKEY C S	ROOF WORKS	17,796.80
GRANGE C C	WINDOW PROJECTS	10,778.26
BALLINODE COLLEGE	TOILET FACILITIES	—
TOTAL SLIGO		224,547.52
TIPPERARY		
ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	73,782.23
CBS MOUNT ST NICHOLAS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE CARRICK ON SUIR	ROOF WORKS	—
CBS NENAGH	ROOF WORKS	220,500.00
CBS SECONDARY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	—
THE ABBEY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
COMERAGH COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
C T I CLONMEL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
SCOIL RUAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	23,240.00
NEWPORT V S	MECHANICAL WORKS	67,114.53
ST SHEELANS TEMPLEMORE	TOILET FACILITIES	—
TIPPERARY TOWN VS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CAHIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ROSCREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
TOTAL TIPPERARY		384,636.76
WATERFORD		
CBS DUNGARVAN	ROOF WORKS	78,367.49

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ARD SCOIL NA NDEISE	WINDOW PROJECTS	94,260.45
CBS SECONDARY SCHOOL SION HILL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	202,171.48
DE LA SALLE COLLEGE NEWTOWN	WINDOW PROJECTS	382,536.51
ST ANGELAS COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	127,629.68
ST ANGELAS COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	—
NEWTOWN SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
DUNGARVAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	ROOF WORKS	—
ST DECLANS KILMACTHOMAS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
RING V S	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL WATERFORD		884,965.61
WESTMEATH		
COLAISTE MHUIRE	SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
LORETO COLLEGE MULLINGAR	ROOF WORKS	—
WILSON'S HOSPITAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	145,634.57
COLUMBA COLLEGE	WINDOW PROJECTS	33,389.59
MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL WESTMEATH		179,024.16
WEXFORD		
FCJ BUNCLODY	MECHANICAL WORKS	142,018.40
COLAISTE BRIDE ENNISCORTHY	ROOF WORKS	—
GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	—
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	ROOF WORKS	—
LORETO S.S. SPAWELL RD	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, GROGAN'S ROAD	ELECTRICAL WORKS	82,959.29
BRIDGETOWN VS	TOILET FACILITIES	46,550.00
KILMUCKRIDGE C C	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
TOTAL WEXFORD		271,527.69
WICKLOW		
ST KEVIN'S CBS, ARKLOW	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,011.08
ST MARYS COLLEGE, ARKLOW	ROOF WORKS	180,311.64
LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL, BRAY	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST DAVIDS, GREYSTONES	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
DOMINICAN COLLEGE	ROOF WORKS	—
ARKLOW V.S.	ROOF WORKS	88,519.61
BLESSINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
TOTAL WICKLOW		318,842.33
TOTAL POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS	TOTAL POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS	13,211,808.79
	Schools on site	
	Schools complete	
	Schools non-Start	

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
	Schools amalgamated	
	Schools with overspend	
	Total Schools	

2011 Emergency Works Primary Schools

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CARLOW		
NEWTOWN DUNLECKNEY MXD	MECHANICAL WORKS	11,200.00
FR CULLEN MEMORIAL NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	17,630.90
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	7,597.00
ST LASERIANS MXD NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
TOTAL CARLOW		36,427.90
CAVAN		
S N BHAILE AN AIRIDH	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL CAVAN		—
CLARE		
MULLAGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
KILKISHEN NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ENNIS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	28,906.50
ENNIS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
COORACLARE NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
COORACLARE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
ST SENANS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	18,729.00
TOTAL CLARE		47,635.50
CORK		
BANTEER NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	3,802.25
CLOGHOULA NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL MUIRE LOURDES CARRIGALINE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SHANBALLY NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
CONVENT OF MERCY NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
KNOCKSKAGH NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CHURCHTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL NAOMH MUIRE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
S N AN PHAIRC	ROOF WORKS	—
SN CILL MUIRE B	ROOF WORKS	—
MUIRE GAN SMAL B	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	31,117.80
KILMEEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	23,100.00
S N BARRA NAOFA BHUACH	ROOF WORKS	37,628.23

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
BARRYROE NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	5,884.00
S N SEAN BAILE MOR	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SCOIL BHRIDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
KANTURK B N S	TOILET FACILITIES	15,582.00
S N IOSEF NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	—
ST MARY'S CENTRAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	13,882.39
MHUIRE AR CHNOC HAOINE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	33,971.00
TOTAL CORK		164,967.67
DONEGAL		
COMHSCOIL CHONMHA SN	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	13,674.61
SN ARAINN MHOR 1	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,955.00
KILLYBEGS COMMON NATIONAL SCHOOL 16608G	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL NAOMH MHIN TEINEADH DE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST. PATRICKS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	17,663.04
SN AN LEINBH IOSA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	13,796.16
SCOIL ADHAMHNAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	29,770.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA RATH MEALLT	MECHANICAL WORKS	32,721.38
TOTAL DONEGAL		121,580.19
DUBLIN		
HOWTH RD MXD NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	14,936.94
SCOIL MOIBHI	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,195.98
SCOIL NA MBRATHAR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
ST LOUIS INFANT SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	11,717.29
SN MUIRE AN SEAN BAILE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	7,830.63
CILL COSCAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	1,169.05
GREENLANE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
SCOIL UI CHONAILL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SCOIL MHUIRE NS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	5,000.00
MARY QUEEN OF ANGELS 1 NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	41,240.88
KILTERNAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST BRIGIDS BNS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	21,000.00
SCOIL EOIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL COLMCILLE SNR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	7,319.75
BELGARD HEIGHTS NS	ROOF WORKS	27,705.73
SCOIL N AN CROI RO NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
DIVINE WORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	49,700.00
POPE JOHN PAUL 2 SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,435.00
ST COLMCILLE JUN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST RAPHAELS NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SCOIL IOSAGAIN/MHUIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	14,200.00
SCOIL IOSAGAIN/MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	24,414.86

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
LADYSWELL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL COLM	ROOF WORKS	—
HOLY CROSS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
HAROLDS CROSS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	51,541.43
ST KEVINS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL EDUCATE TOGETHER	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,639.98
DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL EDUCATE TOGETHER	ROOF WORKS	—
RUSH AND LUSK EDUCATE TOGETHER NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
TYRRELSTOWN EDUCATE TOGETHER	MECHANICAL WORKS	4,670.52
DAU 2008 SWORDS	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,567.50
HOLY CHILD NATIONAL SCHOOL 20338C	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
HOLYWELL ENTS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
TOTAL DUBLIN		337,835.34
GALWAY		
ST JOSEPHS BNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
TULLOKYNE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
KILCOOLEY NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
SCOIL FHURSA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
S N MUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,457.55
SN CILLINI DIOMA	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	50,290.80
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL GALWAY		63,748.35
KERRY		
ASDEE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,060.00
SCOIL MHUIRE KILLORGLIN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	31,595.67
DERRYQUAY NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
SCOIL NAOMH PADRAIG MEASC	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL NA SRONA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
MUIRE NA MAINISTREACH	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TARBERT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,132.16
HOLY CROSS MERCY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST OLIVERS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
NAGLE RICE PRIMARY SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	23,003.11
TOTAL KERRY		97,790.94
KILDARE		
SN MHUIRE C	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,900.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CLOCHA RINCE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL KILDARE		13,900.00
KILKENNY		
SEANAN BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST BRENDANS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
GOWRAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST CANICES CO ED.	MECHANICAL WORKS	18,401.80
SN CHOLMCILLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL KILKENNY		18,401.80
LAOIS		
SHANGANMORE NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	23,970.83
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MOLAISE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
TOTAL LAOIS		23,970.83
LEITRIM		
MARIST GNS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST BRIGIDS NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
ACHADH NA SILEANN	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
DRUMSHAMBO CENTRAL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SN MUIRE NA TOIRBHIRTE	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,903.25
TOTAL LEITRIM		6,903.25
LIMERICK		
TEMPLEGLANTINE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,352.05
SCOIL NAIS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL BAILE AN AIRD	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
QUEEN OF THE PEACE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
TOTAL LIMERICK		8,352.05
LONGFORD		
ST MELS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	4,938.05
SCOIL MHUIRE NS	ROOF WORKS	22,462.65
ST MATTHEW'S MIXED NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	82,753.25
TOTAL LONGFORD		110,153.95
LOUTH		
ST BRIGHIDS SPECIAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
REALT NA MARA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	17,017.00
TOTAL LOUTH		17,017.00
MAYO		
ST JOSEPHS NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	5,615.00
MEELICKMORE N S	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
BARNATRA NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	31,392.00
PULLATHOMAS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	11,395.50
MYNA NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	12,409.15
ST. PAUL'S NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
QUIGNAMANGER NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	33,153.90
MUIRE GAN SMAL CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	69,222.16
TOTAL MAYO		163,187.71
MEATH		
MERCY CONVENT	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL CAITRIONA NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	17,258.59
ST ULTANS SPECIAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
CASTLEJORDAN NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	10,490.90
DUNBOYNE SENIOR NS	ROOF WORKS	86,291.11
TOTAL MEATH		114,040.60
MONAGHAN		
ST JOSEPHS NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	37,898.62
TOTAL MONAGHAN		37,898.62
OFFALY		
ST PATRICKS BNS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
COOLDERRY CENTRAL NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL OFFALY		—
ROSCOMMON		
AUGHRIM NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	14,392.88
GRANLAHAN NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	26,197.19
STROKESTOWN CON NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,201.69
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		50,791.76
SLIGO		
ARDKEERAN NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	22,639.07
SN MULLACH RUA	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST JOSEPHS SPEC SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
TOTAL SLIGO		22,639.07
TIPPERARY		
BALLYDREHID NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN MUIRE NA NAINGEAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,985.02
ROSCREA NO 2 NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	6,384.37
ST MARYS JNR BNS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	12,000.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
TIPPERARY GIRLS NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
BIRDHILL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL NAISIUNTA GORT NA HUAIGHE	MECHANICAL WORKS	20,692.00
GAELSCOIL CHLUAIN MEALA	TOILET FACILITIES	—
S N IOSEF NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	—
CLONOLTY CENTRAL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	29,047.90
TOTAL TIPPERARY		106,109.29
WATERFORD		
SN URSULA NAOFA	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
BALLYDUFF B2 NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	41,783.53
ST MARYS TOURANEENA NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	20,969.00
S N AN CHLAIS MHOR	ROOF WORKS	—
ST MARYS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST MARTINS SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	34,338.46
SCOIL NAISIUMTA NA TOIRBHIRTE	MECHANICAL WORKS	23,400.00
TOTAL WATERFORD		120,490.99
WESTMEATH		
BRIDESWELL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CLONBONNY NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL NA MAIGHDINE MHUIRE	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	83,187.20
ST BAOITHINS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,225.00
SN PHOIL NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
GAEL SCOIL MULLINGAR	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
TOTAL WESTMEATH		119,412.20
WICKLOW		
NUNS CROSS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
NUNS CROSS NS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	5,000.00
GLENEALY 1 NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
CRONAN NAOFA NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
GREYSTONES NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL WICKLOW		5,000.00
TOTAL '0000000000		1,808,255.01
TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS		1,808,255.01

SWS 2010 Primary Schools

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CARLOW		
BORRIS MXD NS	ROOF WORKS	251,113.25

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
RATHOE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	68,200.00
ST MARY'S NS	TOILET FACILITIES	31,900.00
ST BRIDGETS MONASTERY	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	193,379.00
TULLOW NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	156,654.42
ST COLUMBAS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	64,328.87
MONASTERY BOYS SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	250,559.94
BISHOP FOLEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
S N NMH FHINGIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,757.00
ST JOSEPHS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,138.83
Scoil Nais Mhichil	ELECTRICAL WORKS	48,239.16
S N CLUAIN NA GALL	WINDOW PROJECTS	33,400.00
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	106,801.95
BALLINABRANNA MXD NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	28,637.99
QUEEN OF UNIVERSE NS	ROOF WORKS	75,341.00
ST JOSEPH'S BNS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	22,900.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH PADRAIG	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	48,011.32
HOLY FAMILY GNS	TOILET FACILITIES	88,894.00
ST LASERIANNS MXD NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	48,052.00
TOTAL CARLOW		1,621,308.73
CAVAN		
SCOIL MHUIRE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	32,690.75
ST CLARES NS	ROOF WORKS	119,976.87
CORLISS NS	ROOF WORKS	15,400.00
CAVAN NO 1 SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	21,580.00
FARNHAM NS	ROOF WORKS	63,297.20
KILGARRY N S	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	162,500.00
ST MARYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	30,272.00
BALLYCONNELL MXD NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	35,800.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	115,257.00
DRUNG 1 NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	21,579.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA CNOC RUA	MECHANICAL WORKS	46,796.10
ST FELIMS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	29,000.00
CNOC AN TEAMPAILL	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,090.00
SN DROM CNAMH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,600.00
BAILIEBORO NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	79,850.00
SN MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	16,184.00
S N CILLIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	26,000.00
S N LEITIR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	20,670.00
CARRIGABRUISE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	52,900.00
DRUMKILLY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	22,762.93
KILMORE CENTRAL NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	39,980.80
BUTLERSBRIDGE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	61,792.45
MULLAHORAN CENTRAL NS	TOILET FACILITIES	48,315.29
S N BHAILE AN AIRIDH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	134,810.03
CABRA CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	61,792.45
ST PATRICKS	WINDOW PROJECTS	25,293.75

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ST AIDAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	55,911.25
ST JOSEPHS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	20,000.00
ST MICHAELS NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	221,160.00
TOTAL CAVAN		1,633,261.87
CLARE		
CRATLOE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	34,948.71
HOLY FAMILY SCHOOLS	TOILET FACILITIES	20,534.56
ROCKMOUNT MIXED NS	ROOF WORKS	36,200.00
S N NA CORADH	MECHANICAL WORKS	65,370.00
TUBBER NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	19,543.79
CLOHANBEG NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	34,850.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA PADRAIG NAOFA FANOIR	TOILET FACILITIES	32,300.00
CLOHANES NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	7,616.54
KILMURRAY NS	TOILET FACILITIES	4,200.00
KILMALEY NS	ROOF WORKS	29,500.00
SN MHAINISTIR CHUNCHE	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,338.19
BAREFIELD NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	28,051.98
ANNAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	22,498.00
CAHERMURPHY NATIONAL SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	16,814.07
STONEHALL NS	TOILET FACILITIES	30,210.90
KILLALOE BNS	WINDOW PROJECTS	44,083.00
INCH NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	25,837.50
CBS PRIMARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	88,734.00
SHRAGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	15,436.00
SN AN PHAIRTIN MIXED	WINDOW PROJECTS	91,735.87
SCOIL COLM CILLE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	15,898.00
KNOCKANEAN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	55,484.80
BALLYVAUGHAN NS	ROOF WORKS	13,662.51
COORACLARE NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	59,029.80
KILNABOY NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	23,007.00
HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	29,808.94
ST MARYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	8,354.83
SCOIL IOSEF NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	43,349.28
LISCANNOR NS	ROOF WORKS	24,815.00
S N BAILE AN DROICHID	WINDOW PROJECTS	44,485.65
BALLYCAR NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	5,832.96
SN CATHAIR AODHA	TOILET FACILITIES	54,021.95
LISSYCASEY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	17,564.91
SN MA SHEASTA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	130,622.15
SHANNON AIRPORT NO 2 NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,419.87
NEW QUAY NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	53,701.81
FLAGMOUNT CENTRAL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,000.00
CRUSHEEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	11,349.45
ST ENDAS NS	ROOF WORKS	37,500.00
ST MOCHULLAS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	19,701.17
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	134,152.54

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ST FACHNAN & ST ATTRACTAS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	33,000.00
TOTAL CLARE		1,557,565.73
CORK		
BALLINSPIITTLE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	29,688.00
MIDLETON CONVENT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	140,000.00
FIRMOUNT NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	21,676.20
SCOIL NAISIUNTA UI LIATHAIN	TOILET FACILITIES	73,731.92
PRESENTATION N S	TOILET FACILITIES	66,977.25
ST COLMANS NS	ROOF WORKS	225,489.75
S N SEAN BAILE MOR	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	26,009.57
LEAMLARA MIXED NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	19,607.00
S N CNOC AN BHILE	ROOF WORKS	4,153.50
SCOIL NAOMH EOIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	60,587.88
CONVENT OF MERCY	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
BALLYHASS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
LARAGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	32,451.71
DOUGLAS GNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	113,000.00
DROMAHANE NS	ROOF WORKS	16,377.25
CLOGHROE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	19,507.18
KILCORNEY MIXED NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	6,285.65
CLOGHOULA NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	9,175.25
BANTRY 3 NS	TOILET FACILITIES	98,250.00
SOUTH ABBEY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	605.00
COBH NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	26,520.01
SN CILL MHIC ABHAIDH	WINDOW PROJECTS	76,261.70
WHITEGATE (MXD) NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	22,440.00
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	27,822.70
ARDFIELD NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	30,000.00
SN NAONH ANTAINE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	30,888.00
CURRAGLASS NS	ROOF WORKS	25,000.00
RUSHEEN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	35,910.00
ST JOSPEHS CONVENT NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,766.00
DROMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	66,947.05
SCOIL BHRIDE	TOILET FACILITIES	39,200.00
DERRINACAHARA N.S.	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	—
CASTLEMARTYR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	187,740.00
ST LUKES NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	16,359.00
ST MARYS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	14,580.00
SCOIL MHUIRE NAIONAIN DUNMANWAY	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	24,763.28
GLEANNA MAGHAIR IOCHTARAIGH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
SHANBALLY NS	ROOF WORKS	54,269.34
SCOIL BHRIDE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	10,943.25
SN B TOGHER CORK	TOILET FACILITIES	73,693.78
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	37,311.92
SN BAILE DEASMUMHAN	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	190,265.86

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CASTLETOWNROCHE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	104,741.70
KILBRITTAIN MIXED NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	19,068.00
NAOMH EOIN EASPAL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	46,600.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	ROOF WORKS	49,420.00
DERRYCREHA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	22,060.09
ABBEYSTREWRY NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	106,794.00
ST. MULTOSE NS	ROOF WORKS	51,944.00
SN B BHLARNA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	41,822.50
SN C BHLARNA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	5,500.00
ST FINBARRS BOYS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	52,400.00
BALLINGREE MIXED NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	26,672.50
SACRED HEART NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	17,476.48
SCOIL GRANGE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	22,940.00
UPPER GLANMIRE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	110,624.11
KEALKIL NS	ROOF WORKS	20,000.00
MITCHELSTOWN CON NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	78,500.00
CONVENT OF MERCY NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	7,261.00
KILCOLMAN NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	18,627.00
WATERGRASSHILL NS	ROOF WORKS	14,960.50
CARRIGBOY NS	ROOF WORKS	21,250.00
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE CBS	WINDOW PROJECTS	59,560.92
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	150,000.00
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	133,659.71
S N PADRAIG NAOFA B	MECHANICAL WORKS	19,570.37
SN MICHEAL NAOFA B	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	22,449.00
SCOIL CHRIOST RI	WINDOW PROJECTS	93,176.39
SN AN CHLOCHAIR KANTURK CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	22,485.00
ST MARYS CONVENT G	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	45,516.74
S N INIS EOGHANAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	10,584.00
S N FEARGHAIL NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	117,041.85
SN CILL BONAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	12,600.00
RATHPEACON NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	132,537.72
SCOIL CHILL RHADHAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	11,100.00
S N ATH FHADA	WINDOW PROJECTS	30,786.70
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	TOILET FACILITIES	138,984.48
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	210,700.53
S N AN PHAIRC	TOILET FACILITIES	12,679.66
KNOCKNAMANAGH NS	TOILET FACILITIES	62,081.50
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	29,297.53
SN MOING NA MIOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,650.00
SHANAGARRY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	16,179.00
MUIRE GAN SMAL	ROOF WORKS	49,500.00
SN CILL MHUIRE B	ELECTRICAL WORKS	40,624.36
GURRANE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	15,578.65
SN GLEANNAMHAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	74,966.50
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL SPECIAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	79,017.50

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
MARIA ASSUMPTA SENIOR GIRLS SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	54,186.60
SCOIL MHUIRE BROADFORD NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	84,544.27
BALLYGOWN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	98,419.00
KINSALEBEG NS	TOILET FACILITIES	18,580.00
IOSEF NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	16,800.00
BALLINORA NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	11,510.00
SN DROICHEAD NA BANDAN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	73,802.15
SN CLOGACH	TOILET FACILITIES	48,940.62
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MUIRE NA DOIRINI	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	130,047.84
BALLYNOE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	49,480.00
LITTLE ISLAND N S	TOILET FACILITIES	35,808.19
SN CARRAIG UI LEIGHIN	ROOF WORKS	232,424.56
S N CNOC NA CROIGHE	TOILET FACILITIES	29,940.97
EGLANTINE SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,144.00
SCOIL AN ATHAR MAITIU	WINDOW PROJECTS	75,000.00
INCH NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	3,921.00
SCOIL MHUIRE BANRION	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	101,178.63
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	12,250.00
S N FIONAN NA REANNA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	18,760.00
SCOIL IOSAGAIN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	45,338.77
SN BARRA NAOFA CAILINI	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	3,543.80
KILCREDAN NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	58,750.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	9,161.25
ST. MARK'S SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	75,000.00
SN BHREANNDAIN C	ROOF WORKS	170,000.00
CAHERAGH NS	ROOF WORKS	53,499.88
SCOIL NAOMH THERESE	ROOF WORKS	159,719.35
ST MARY'S CENTRAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	227,065.90
MHUIRE AR CHNOC HAOINE	MECHANICAL WORKS	42,550.00
SCOIL OILIBHEIR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	119,660.61
ST MARYS SPECIAL SCH	WINDOW PROJECTS	26,500.00
SCOIL TREIST	ROOF WORKS	150,728.60
SCOIL BARRA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	173,095.00
ST KEVINS SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	175,689.67
DRIMOLEAGUE NS	ROOF WORKS	15,400.00
GAELSCOIL DE HIDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	33,248.15
GAELSCOIL MHACHAN	WINDOW PROJECTS	53,766.78
DRINAGH MIXED NS	TOILET FACILITIES	73,830.73
SCOIL NA MBUACHAILLI	WINDOW PROJECTS	41,862.33
BUN SCOIL MUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	340,420.55
RINGASKIDDY	WINDOW PROJECTS	8,541.18
SCOIL MHUIRE FATIMA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	26,922.23
TOTAL CORK		7,646,277.60
DONEGAL		
LOWER ILLIES NS	ROOF WORKS	18,700.00
SN AN CHEIDIDH	ROOF WORKS	50,000.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ST FRANCIS' NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	48,137.80
KILBARRON NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	10,855.00
GARTAN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	28,521.25
S N TEARMANN	WINDOW PROJECTS	67,072.50
SCOIL MHUIRE DOIRE BEAGA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	51,462.00
CASTLEFIN 1 BNS	TOILET FACILITIES	59,300.00
CASHELSHANAGHAN NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	18,450.00
STRANMORE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	73,802.00
SN ARAINN MHOR 1	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	82,000.00
St Patrick's NS	ROOF WORKS	67,727.96
SN BAILE NUA AN PHOBAIL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	44,079.00
ST BRIGIDS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	32,981.39
S N GARBHAIN SATHLOIR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	29,950.00
S N AN BHREACAIGH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	56,570.81
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	23,045.00
CLOONTAGH NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	17,975.00
SN DOMHNACH MOR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	30,340.00
SN GLEANN COIMHEAD	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	9,522.00
SEASSIAGHONEILL NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	24,700.00
S N FHIONNAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	14,179.00
SCOIL ADHAMHNAIN	ROOF WORKS	47,765.00
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	25,760.99
SN MHUIRE GAN SMAL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	79,943.21
ST PETERS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	19,674.00
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	ROOF WORKS	14,200.00
SN DUN CEANNFHAOLAIDH	TOILET FACILITIES	14,158.00
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	27,370.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN CHAISEAL	WINDOW PROJECTS	11,400.00
ROBERSTONS NS	ROOF WORKS	27,900.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	14,350.00
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	30,751.00
CRANNFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	48,767.00
ST AENGUES NS	TOILET FACILITIES	37,500.00
ST BERNADETTE'S SPECIAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	44,572.00
SN CHILL CHARTAIGH	MECHANICAL WORKS	7,920.00
ST MACARTANS CENTRAL	ROOF WORKS	7,500.00
SCOIL AODH RUA AGUS NUALA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	24,384.00
TOTAL DONEGAL		1,343,285.91
DUBLIN		
LUCAN BNS	WINDOW PROJECTS	124,816.05
LORETO NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	47,880.00
ST JAMES CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	74,500.00
BALLYROAN BNS	ROOF WORKS	199,530.00
CLOCHAR SAN DOMINIC	MECHANICAL WORKS	111,411.00
GEORGE'S HILL NS	TOILET FACILITIES	124,375.98
ST MARYS BNS	TOILET FACILITIES	91,033.20
GOLDENBRIDGE CONVENT	ROOF WORKS	88,354.31

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
BURROW NS	TOILET FACILITIES	145,231.22
ST JOSEPH'S BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	15,500.00
ST PATRICKS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	50,514.33
ST ANDREWS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	2,724.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	141,112.63
GARDINER STREET CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	227,563.00
KILDARE PLACE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	261,000.00
HOLY FAMILY NS RATHCOOLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	130,750.00
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	257,889.56
HOWTH RD MXD NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	32,573.20
ST COLUMBAS NS MXD	ELECTRICAL WORKS	85,226.80
CARYSFORT NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	91,332.69
RATHGAR NS MXD	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	4,000.00
S N NAOMH PADRAIGH	TOILET FACILITIES	43,691.00
ST VINCENTS INF BOYS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	211,395.21
LINDSAY ROAD NATIONAL SCHOOL 16177F	ROOF WORKS	105,117.56
ST BRIGIDS BOYS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	277,259.00
ST BRIGIDS GIRLS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	97,557.50
ST BRIGIDS CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	5,420.39
ST CLARES CONVENT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	33,400.00
ST COLUMBAS CON G&I	ROOF WORKS	45,350.00
SCOIL NA MBRATHAR	MECHANICAL WORKS	178,872.87
ST BRIGIDS	MECHANICAL WORKS	91,848.00
ST JOSEPHS SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	81,472.53
SCOIL NAISIUNTA	MECHANICAL WORKS	23,025.00
CHRIST THE KING BNS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	16,960.00
CHRIST THE KING GNS	TOILET FACILITIES	60,308.53
CLOCHAR LUGHAIDH CAILIN	ROOF WORKS	175,120.00
ST LOUIS INFANT SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	100,000.00
SAN UINSONN CBS	MECHANICAL WORKS	151,413.90
SN MUIRE AN SEAN BAILE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	52,538.76
LARKHILL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	232,018.25
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL GIRLS SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,383.00
MUIRE NA DEA COIRLE INFANTS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,383.00
CHRIST THE KING	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST FINBARS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	153,569.42
ST RAPHAELAS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	79,484.60
SCOIL IOSAGAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	265,671.80
SCOIL MHUIRE OG	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	68,495.00
GREENLANE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	35,270.00
SCOIL CHIARAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	37,000.00
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	19,029.75
SCOIL UI CHONAILL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	215,625.00
ST SYLVESTERS INFANT SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	127,135.00
SCOIL MAISIUNTA BHAILE EAMOINN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	2,200.00
SCOIL CAOIMHIN NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	273,465.72

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CL SCOIL M NA TROCAIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	32,863.11
ST MICHAELS SPEC SCH	TOILET FACILITIES	122,870.95
SCOIL ASSAIM B	WINDOW PROJECTS	194,208.24
SCOIL AINE	WINDOW PROJECTS	121,606.49
NAI SCOIL IDE	ROOF WORKS	160,134.00
GLEN NA SMOL NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	8,789.00
SCOIL MHUIRE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	142,500.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH FEARGAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	237,287.31
SN MUIRE NA FREASTOGALA	MECHANICAL WORKS	107,928.68
OUR LADY ASSUMPTION BNS	MECHANICAL WORKS	107,928.68
CENTRAL REMEDIAL CLINIC	WINDOW PROJECTS	384,137.00
SCOIL LORCAIN B	MECHANICAL WORKS	188,297.53
SN LOUISE DE MARILLAC	ROOF WORKS	217,122.70
SCOIL BHRENDAIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	202,458.41
S N CAITRIONA C	ELECTRICAL WORKS	107,811.55
SCOIL CHAITRIONA INFANTS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	126,311.55
ST MARYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	36,107.70
SN C NAOMH PADRAIG	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	32,358.77
ST JOSEPHS FOR THE BLIND NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	57,712.24
OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION	MECHANICAL WORKS	107,928.68
SCOIL NA MBRATHAR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	16,290.56
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,732.00
SN SAN TREASA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	277,091.37
ST CANICES GNS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	53,500.00
KILTERNAN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	253,622.38
SN BRIGHDE	ROOF WORKS	—
BAINRION NA NAINGAL 2	ELECTRICAL WORKS	170,198.17
BENINCASA SPECIAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST PETERS SPECIAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	199,750.00
BANTIARNA NA MBUANNA B	MECHANICAL WORKS	181,870.00
ST COLMCILLE'S BNS	ROOF WORKS	84,820.85
ST COLMCILLES NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	202,425.70
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SENIOR AND JUNIOR BOYS SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	190,773.90
LORETO NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	52,605.00
SCOIL NAOMH PADARIG	TOILET FACILITIES	91,809.09
ST JOHN OF GOD SPECIAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	91,201.05
ST PAULS NS GREENHILLS	WINDOW PROJECTS	174,935.79
HOLY SPIRIT B N S	TOILET FACILITIES	103,878.77
HOLY SPIRIT NS	TOILET FACILITIES	100,345.26
SCOIL IDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	58,777.37
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA B	TOILET FACILITIES	251,013.94
ST PATRICKS GNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	131,547.44
SCOIL FHURSA	ROOF WORKS	49,259.00
VIRGIN MARY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	284,028.44
VIRGIN MARY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	284,028.44
ST BRIGIDS BNS	TOILET FACILITIES	138,187.95
SCOIL NEASAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	20,201.24

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
BALALLY GIRL'S NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	71,549.19
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL GNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	100,000.00
SCOIL na nAINGEAL COIMHDEACHTA	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	31,412.50
MHUIRE IOSEF JUNIOR	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	18,458.50
SCOIL NA MAIGHDINE MUIRE	ROOF WORKS	162,516.93
HOLY TRINITY SEN NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	189,910.98
CASA CATERINA SPECIAL	ROOF WORKS	7,588.54
SCOIL AN TSEACHTAR LAOCH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	43,222.57
SCOIL COLMCILLE SNR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	221,151.91
SCOIL MHUIRE BOYS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	83,252.71
DARNDALE JNR	WINDOW PROJECTS	133,944.50
ST CRONAN'S JNS	TOILET FACILITIES	150,035.75
ST MAELRUANS JUNIOR NS	ROOF WORKS	31,106.52
NAOMH MAOLRUAIN SNR	WINDOW PROJECTS	178,235.48
ST KEVINS BOYS & GIRLS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	518,458.75
ST KEVINS GIRLS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST PAULS JUNIOR NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	72,217.62
SCOIL BHRIDE	ROOF WORKS	191,052.51
BISHOP GALVIN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	72,997.26
SCOIL FIACHRA	WINDOW PROJECTS	168,379.53
SCOIL MUIRE NS SHANKILL	WINDOW PROJECTS	108,190.98
SCOIL AENGHUSA JUN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	104,021.15
S N OILIBHEIR	WINDOW PROJECTS	64,260.00
S N MUIRE AGUS IOSEF	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	18,458.50
ST KEVIN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	62,668.77
SCOIL TREASA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	152,567.72
OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES	WINDOW PROJECTS	100,000.00
DIVINE WORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	54,472.00
S N AENGHUSA	ROOF WORKS	204,449.96
ST HELENS JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	161,200.00
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	123,184.87
GAELSCOIL INSE COR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	7,485.82
PHYSIC HANDICAPPED S SC	MECHANICAL WORKS	49,187.78
ST PHILIPS JNR	WINDOW PROJECTS	203,383.58
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE	TOILET FACILITIES	64,200.73
DALKEY SCHOOL PROJECT	WINDOW PROJECTS	277,765.00
ST MARTIN DE PORRES NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	283,406.00
ST PAULS SEN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	74,836.72
ST PAULS JNR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	34,825.06
POPE JOHN PAUL 2 SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	18,235.00
ST COLMCILLE JUN NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	263,199.19
ST PETER APOSTLE SEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	176,025.10
BISHOP SHANAHAN NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	107,675.57
ST GABRIELS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	107,819.21
ST MICHAELS PRIMARY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	99,614.96
ST RAPHAELS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	99,614.96

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,383.00
ST. THOMAS JUNIOR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	318,101.30
ST ATTRACTAS SNR NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	19,255.29
HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	264,145.60
SCOIL AN CHROI RO NAOFA IOSA	TOILET FACILITIES	107,627.00
ST HELENS SENIOR NS	ROOF WORKS	63,903.50
OUR LADY OF WAYSIDE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	83,426.00
ST THOMAS SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	73,700.74
SCOIL IOSAGAIN/MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	106,239.64
ST JOSEPHS MXD NS	TOILET FACILITIES	102,987.41
ST BRIGIDS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	123,700.10
SACRED HEART NS	ROOF WORKS	47,735.76
ST BRIGIDS/ST AIDANS	MECHANICAL WORKS	130,047.00
HOLY FAMILY NS	ROOF WORKS	150,389.28
BALLYCRAGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	47,136.50
SCOIL CAITRIONA NA MBRAITHRE	ROOF WORKS	46,397.84
BOOTERSTOWN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	74,423.62
HOLY CROSS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	33,839.49
GAELSCOIL MOLOGA	WINDOW PROJECTS	42,925.00
ST DAVIDS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	503,988.99
OUR LADY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	182,457.88
HAROLDS CROSS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	119,994.54
ST BRIGIDS SNR GNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	147,295.00
ST JOSEPHS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	63,950.04
SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN DEA AOIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	161,814.00
ST DOMINICS N S	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	104,680.29
NORTH BAY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,550.98
ST JOHNS NS BALLYBRACK	WINDOW PROJECTS	55,355.00
ST KEVINS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,858.65
ST AGNES NS	ROOF WORKS	304,563.78
MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE	TOILET FACILITIES	30,103.00
ST JOSEPHS ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY SERVICE SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	97,329.57
ARCHBISHOP MCQUAID NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	93,580.17
GAELSCOIL UI HEARCAIN	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	126,671.89
ST BENEDICT'S & ST MARY'S NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	101,500.00
HOLY CHILD NATIONAL SCHOOL 20338C	MECHANICAL WORKS	146,876.96
TOTAL DUBLIN		21,541,230.25
GALWAY		
SCOIL CROI IOSA	TOILET FACILITIES	12,460.00
ST JOSEPHS BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	97,976.53
SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	27,314.00
SN AN TSAILEAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	15,750.59
BAWNMORE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	18,400.52
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	34,500.00
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	WINDOW PROJECTS	17,339.71
S N MHUIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	36,135.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	91,417.28
S N EANNA	MECHANICAL WORKS	73,656.00
LURGA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	74,806.00
S N MUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	63,289.95
SCOIL NAOMH SHEOSAIMH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	35,004.90
SCOIL NAISIUNTA LEITIR MUCU	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	102,789.02
SCOIL NAISIUNTA CARNAIN BAILE ATHA 'N RI	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	113,649.75
SCOIL NAISIUNTA PADRAIG NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	48,720.41
S N NAOMH PADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	22,572.30
SN PADRAIG NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	20,163.00
KILBEACANTY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	22,750.00
SN ARD	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	61,198.49
AINBHTHIN NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	15,746.40
SCOIL RONAIN	ROOF WORKS	50,792.18
ST BRENDANS CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	30,240.00
SCOIL CHROI NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	88,600.00
PAROCHIAL N S	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	59,602.98
CREGMORE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	12,287.31
SCOIL FHURSA	WINDOW PROJECTS	52,652.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NA CEALL TRAIGHE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,675.00
S N AN LEATH BHAILE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	35,800.00
SN COLMCILLE NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	142,272.92
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	TOILET FACILITIES	36,200.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA CAOMHAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,000.00
LOUGH CUTRA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	61,500.00
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	14,662.00
SN AN AILL BHREACH	WINDOW PROJECTS	41,166.50
SCOIL NAISIUNTA LORCAIN NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	77,332.00
S N NAOMH CIARAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	22,136.00
KILTIERNAN NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	15,500.00
S N TIR AN FHIAIDH	TOILET FACILITIES	22,796.20
SN BRIGHDE NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	39,000.00
S N CILL TARTAIN	ROOF WORKS	4,334.93
SN PADRAIG NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	47,975.44
GARBALLY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	33,826.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	9,752.00
BELCLARE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	67,306.67
PRESENTATION CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	8,513.00
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	29,000.00
SN BAILE AN MHUILINN	WINDOW PROJECTS	36,320.00
SN CHOLMCILLE	ROOF WORKS	2,160.00
SCOIL IDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	42,000.00
SCOIL NAOMH EINDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	110,000.00
ST JOSEPHS SPECIAL SCHOOL GALWAY	MECHANICAL WORKS	33,000.00
MERVUE BOYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	169,000.00
MERVUE GIRLS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	200,000.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
DOMINICAN CONVENT	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	127,494.64
CLONBERNE CENTRAL NS	ROOF WORKS	88,408.80
ST OLIVER PLUNKETT NS	ROOF WORKS	27,200.00
SCOIL CHAITRIONA SENIOR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	131,500.00
SCOIL SHEAMAIS NAOFA	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	29,868.00
CREGG'S NS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	184,121.26
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	38,487.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	65,237.24
ST BRENDANS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	15,590.00
ROSEDALE SPECIAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,068.00
TOTAL GALWAY		3,362,017.92
KERRY		
KENMARE BOYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL KERRY	ROOF WORKS	115,199.09
KILGOBNET NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,440.00
NAOMH CARTHACH	WINDOW PROJECTS	22,755.66
ST CLAIRS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
LAURAGH NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	21,878.58
CASTLEDROM NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	40,772.00
LISTELICK NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	51,910.76
SCOIL MHUIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	31,200.00
CURRANES NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,674.63
LOUGHGUITANE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	79,027.47
NOHOVAL NS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	72,584.45
KNOCKANURE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	32,287.27
S N MHUIRE DE LOURDES	WINDOW PROJECTS	62,500.00
FAHA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,900.00
FILEMORE NS	ROOF WORKS	5,447.50
SCOIL MHUIRE KILLORGLIN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	13,284.39
DOUGLAS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	26,280.50
SN NAOMH IOSEPH	MECHANICAL WORKS	7,540.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	56,581.65
MURHUR MXD N S	MECHANICAL WORKS	46,058.61
CAHIRCIVEEN CONVENT	ELECTRICAL WORKS	23,580.68
SCOIL EOIN	ROOF WORKS	81,279.90
SCOIL MHUIRE SCOIL AN CHROI RO NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	196,300.00
S N BREANDAN NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	30,383.00
SCOIL NAOMH PADRAIG MEASC	MECHANICAL WORKS	44,703.95
SN AN LEANA MHOIR	MECHANICAL WORKS	35,763.16
CAHORREIGH NS	ROOF WORKS	33,004.00
SN TUAIRIN CATHAIL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	16,668.00
SCOIL NA SRONA	WINDOW PROJECTS	16,390.23
NA MINTEOGA NS	TOILET FACILITIES	67,668.10
MUIRE NA MAINISTREACH	MECHANICAL WORKS	110,600.00
SN GLEANN BEITHE	ROOF WORKS	19,903.00
SPA NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,043.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,039.23
ST ITAS & ST JOSEPHS	ROOF WORKS	120,000.00
ARDFERT CENTRAL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	63,615.87
KILGARVAN CENTRAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,366.20
HOLY CROSS MERCY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	231,200.00
HOLY FAMILY BALLOONAGH	WINDOW PROJECTS	125,000.00
ST. FRANCIS SPRCIAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	55,600.00
GAELSCOIL MHIC EASMAONN	WINDOW PROJECTS	49,693.45
SCARTAGLIN NEW CENT SC	WINDOW PROJECTS	48,400.00
BALLYDUFF CENTRAL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	103,614.31
REALT NA MAIDNE	TOILET FACILITIES	62,314.59
GAELSCOIL NAOMH AOGAIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	184,128.78
GAELSCOIL FAITHLEANN	ROOF WORKS	65,023.92
SCOIL MHUIRE AGUS N. TREASA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	58,521.00
NAGLE RICE PRIMARY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	35,278.35
TOTAL KERRY		2,730,405.28
KILDARE		
SALLINS NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	45,698.91
ST. PATRICK'S NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	33,467.80
SN NA CLOICHE MOIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	28,372.85
MERCY CONVENT PRIMARY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	244,767.27
SCOIL CHONNLA PHADRAIG	TOILET FACILITIES	40,981.57
RATHANGAN BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	25,255.56
SN BRIGHDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	41,800.00
ST PETERS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	53,279.00
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
ALLENWOOD BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	42,500.00
BRANNOXTOWN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	25,237.10
RATHCOFFEY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	61,297.00
SCOIL CHORBAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	142,400.00
ST MARYS BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	158,566.34
ST CONLETH & MARYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	98,745.00
TWO MILE HOUSE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	95,190.00
SN OILBHEAR PLUNGLEAD	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	43,091.20
SUNCROFT NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	46,440.00
COOLE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	60,173.43
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	72,692.98
SN MHUIRE C	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	18,971.37
S N BAILE MHIC ADAIM	WINDOW PROJECTS	12,928.41
SN PADRAIG	WINDOW PROJECTS	84,188.51
SCOIL MHICIL NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	112,640.00
ROBERTSTOWN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	42,101.00
S N SCOIL TREASA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	70,782.59
SN NAOMH CONNLAEDH MXD	WINDOW PROJECTS	133,380.00
STRAFFAN NS	ROOF WORKS	—
NEWTOWN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	42,106.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
KILDANGAN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	—
ST MARKS SPECIAL SCH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	160,993.38
SCOIL MHUIRE SOISEARACH	TOILET FACILITIES	31,991.14
SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA, BALLYCANE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	63,502.84
SAN CARLO JUNIOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	91,767.60
ST BRIGIDS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	105,909.73
CHEARBHAILL UI DHALAIGH	WINDOW PROJECTS	14,150.00
SCOIL EOIN PHOIL	ROOF WORKS	232,151.80
SCOIL MOCHUA	ROOF WORKS	251,485.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA BHRIDE	ROOF WORKS	54,453.54
TOTAL KILDARE		2,883,458.92
KILKENNY		
LISDOWNEY NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	39,968.66
BALLYRAGGET BOYS	WINDOW PROJECTS	27,535.98
MOONCOIN CONVENT	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	4,184.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	14,398.00
SKEAGHVASTEEN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	45,900.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA LISFUNCHIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	21,190.00
GRAIG NA MANAGH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	38,159.46
BENNETTSBRIDGE MIXED	ROOF WORKS	8,500.00
ST LEONARDS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	22,491.00
SN NAOMH PADRAIGH	ROOF WORKS	91,285.94
S N BHREANAIN NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	18,450.00
ST. JOHNS JNR SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	20,318.00
SN BHRIGHDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	46,217.50
KILKENNY MIXED NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	30,756.90
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	WINDOW PROJECTS	111,363.16
S N NAOMH CHIARAIN	ROOF WORKS	79,799.00
SN SHEAN BHOTH	ROOF WORKS	53,625.50
SN CHIARAIN NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	25,309.00
ST BRIGIDS CONVENT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	60,378.70
BURNCHURCH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	40,774.85
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	43,912.60
SCOIL IOGNAID DE RIS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	190,074.00
COLMCILLE MIXED NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	16,261.17
GOWRAN NS	ROOF WORKS	62,628.87
SCOIL BHRIDE B7C	ROOF WORKS	29,909.00
GLENMORE NS	ROOF WORKS	67,673.57
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEPH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	2,596.39
SN SHAN NIOCLAS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	53,730.65
LISTERLIN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	60,044.68
TEMPLEORUM NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	38,235.43
ST AIDANS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	105,645.00
ST PATRICKS SPECIAL SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	23,780.78
ST CANICES CO ED.	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	150,830.00
GAELSCOIL OSRAI	TOILET FACILITIES	21,000.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	43,905.16

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COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
URLINGFORD NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	40,605.00
SCOIL BHRIDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	92,499.64
ST. JOHN'S SENIOR NS	TOILET FACILITIES	55,442.00
TOTAL KILKENNY		1,899,379.59
LAOIS		
MOUNTMELICK CONVENT NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	136,230.14
COSBY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	24,345.75
PIKE OF RUSHALL NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	33,210.97
KILADOOLEY MIXED NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,551.43
SCOIL BHRIDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	49,975.00
CAMROSS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	106,257.30
MOUNTMELICK BNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	136,230.14
SCOIL MHUIRE MAIGHEO	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	79,775.00
ST ABBANS NS, MAGENEY	ROOF WORKS	44,515.00
RATHDOMHNAIGH NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	22,700.00
FRAOCH MOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
NAOMH PIUS X NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	9,174.83
SN NAOMH COLMCILLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	6,078.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	20,200.00
ST PAULS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	20,263.05
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	81,780.00
CULLOHILL NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	103,642.00
TOTAL LAOIS		900,928.61
LEITRIM		
MOHILL 2 NS	ROOF WORKS	9,403.46
NEWTOWNGORE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	16,261.17
DRUMEELA NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	39,624.25
MANORHAMILTON BNS	ROOF WORKS	24,095.82
SN CORR NA GAOITHE	TOILET FACILITIES	20,600.00
SN BEAL AN ATHA MHOIR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	95,314.27
DRUMSHAMBO CENTRAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	11,808.34
ST BRIDS	MECHANICAL WORKS	24,475.81
DRUMLEA	TOILET FACILITIES	27,503.00
SCOIL CHUIMSITHEACH NAOMH CLAR	TOILET FACILITIES	—
TOTAL LEITRIM		269,086.12
LIMERICK		
ST SENANS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	42,691.58
KILDIMO NS	ROOF WORKS	82,775.00
S N AILBHE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	144,054.32
BALLYSTEEN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	30,578.65
CROOM NATIONAL SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	137,140.06
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH PADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	18,152.50
PALLASKENRY NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	12,629.40
ST JOSEPHS CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	49,156.06
NICKER NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	28,160.27

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
BALLYLANDERS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	65,485.00
ST NESSANS NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	59,043.65
ST MICHAELS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	19,759.30
ST MARY'S BNS	ROOF WORKS	116,195.44
CONVENT OF MERCY NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	34,840.00
SCOIL NAIS	TOILET FACILITIES	12,517.10
SCOIL BAILE AN AIRD	TOILET FACILITIES	16,255.00
SHANAGOLDEN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	20,721.14
SCOIL LILE NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	52,776.01
MARIA AUXILIATRIX NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	25,981.64
QUEEN OF THE PEACE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	45,378.04
SCOIL TOBAR PADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	45,380.36
S N GEAROID UI GHRIOBHTHA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	51,823.14
MONALEEN NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	93,447.81
ST MUNCHINS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	84,578.74
SCOIL MHAINCHIN BUACH	MECHANICAL WORKS	74,451.04
COURTENAY NS	TOILET FACILITIES	91,655.00
ST ANNE'S NS	ROOF WORKS	225,394.95
SCOIL IDE NAOFA RAHEENAGH	WINDOW PROJECTS	22,500.00
S N MA RUA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	26,925.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,589.80
ST. JOSEPH'S BOYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	43,744.22
SCOIL IDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	239,112.96
CROI RO NAOFA IOSA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	69,276.25
SN NAOMH IOSEF	ROOF WORKS	141,597.43
SCOIL CHRISOR RI B	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	151,722.48
MARY QUEEN OF IRELAND GNS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	70,000.00
SOUTH HILL NS	ROOF WORKS	132,187.91
ST BRIGIDS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	43,050.00
OUR LADY OF LOURDES NS	TOILET FACILITIES	48,534.61
MILFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	115,000.00
CORPUS CHRISTI NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	184,200.00
AN MHODH SCOIL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	100,526.46
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	WINDOW PROJECTS	36,500.00
MARIA KING PRESENTATION SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	236,696.48
BRUFF NS	ROOF WORKS	53,544.00
PRESENTATION SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	21,335.75
SCOIL MOCHEALLOG	TOILET FACILITIES	16,400.00
SCOIL CHAITRIONA	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	87,999.04
TOTAL LIMERICK		3,559,463.59
LONGFORD		
SCOIL NAOMH MICHAEL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	36,698.40
TASHINNY NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	6,500.00
ST COLUMBA'S	ROOF WORKS	36,118.00
ST BRIGIDS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	15,719.13
ST BERNARDS MIXED NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	31,200.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
SAMHTHANN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	24,000.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	15,177.09
ST JOSEPHS CONVENT	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	42,988.04
ST TERESAS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	19,320.00
S N COLMCILLE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	93,271.65
ST PATRICKS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	23,700.00
ST MELS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	41,340.00
TOTAL LONGFORD		386,032.31
LOUTH		
PRESENTATION CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	67,006.86
ST COLMCILLES NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	44,197.96
ST OLIVERS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	93,509.05
TALLANSTOWN NS	ROOF WORKS	36,149.92
WALSHESTOWN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	65,376.22
NEWTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	39,617.33
ST PETERS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	19,580.63
DUN DEALGAN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	17,161.00
CALLYSTOWN MIXED NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	56,412.12
SCOIL NAOMH FAINCHE	MECHANICAL WORKS	156,889.76
ST MARYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	31,438.26
ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT'S NS	ROOF WORKS	64,045.09
TERMONFECKIN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	53,526.20
BELLURGAN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	31,918.00
ST NICHOLAS MONASTERY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	244,717.50
DROMISKIN MIXED NS	ROOF WORKS	20,870.00
ST JOSEPHS CBS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	12,304.29
CBS PRIMARY	MECHANICAL WORKS	106,823.31
ST FURSEYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	14,785.27
ST PATRICKS SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	61,792.45
SN NAOMH FHIONAIN	ROOF WORKS	45,516.74
SN BHRIDE	TOILET FACILITIES	12,934.93
SN MUIRE NA TROCAIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	95,467.52
SCOIL BHRIDE MXD NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	198,570.00
ST NICHOLAS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	44,013.83
SN BRIGHDE	WINDOW PROJECTS	33,836.78
SN N MAOLMHADAODHAGH B	TOILET FACILITIES	8,944.21
ST BUIE'S NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	46,000.00
ST BRIGHIDS SPECIAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	384,431.33
ST MARYS SPECIAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	104,500.00
S N PADRAIG	ELECTRICAL WORKS	53,258.20
REDEEMER BNS	WINDOW PROJECTS	85,887.11
REDEEMER GIRLS SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	85,887.11
SCOIL EOIN BAISTE	TOILET FACILITIES	116,644.62
REALT NA MARA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	63,581.00
TOTAL LOUTH		2,617,594.60

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
MAYO		
SCOIL NAOMH BRID	WINDOW PROJECTS	44,928.84
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH FEICHIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	8,901.90
GLENISLAND NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	120,284.71
BEHYMORE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	15,500.00
SN NAOMH PADRAIG	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	36,000.00
S N NA HAILLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	40,332.17
AUGHLEAM NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	110,617.09
INVER NS	ROOF WORKS	97,354.00
SN GLEANN A CHAISIL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	5,118.77
CORMAIC NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	12,128.26
SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN TSRAITH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	7,214.15
ST. JOSEPH'S NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	80,478.80
BARNATRA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	31,000.00
SN DUBH THUAMA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	34,679.00
AN GLEANNA MHOIR S N	MECHANICAL WORKS	410.40
S N NAOMH PADRAIG	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	9,288.00
RICHMOND NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	25,380.00
BOFIELD MIXED NS	ROOF WORKS	45,338.40
BULLSMOUTH NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	29,463.96
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MUIRE GAN SMAL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	8,127.99
QUIGNAMANGER NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	12,000.00
KNOCK NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	113,765.85
CLOGHAN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	8,000.00
KINAFFE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	45,500.00
KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	28,000.00
RATHLEE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	7,559.65
MYNA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	58,968.44
CARRA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	8,485.00
SN LAINN CILLE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	17,200.00
ST PATRICKS NS RATHNAMAGH	ROOF WORKS	29,160.00
SN REALT NA MARA	TOILET FACILITIES	22,663.38
COONEAL NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	41,233.33
CARROWHOLLY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,480.00
ST. PAUL'S NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	70,386.00
S N BEAL CARADH	WINDOW PROJECTS	53,755.81
CLOGHANS HILL NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	20,000.00
SN ATHRACTH NFA BUACH	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	28,177.03
MUIRE GAN SMAL CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	130,250.00
ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR	TOILET FACILITIES	101,437.32
ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	56,000.00
SN ACHAIDH AN GHLAISIN	TOILET FACILITIES	28,177.00
SN NAOMH IOSAF	WINDOW PROJECTS	11,688.85
SN PEADAIR AGUS POL	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,670.00
ST ANTHONYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	22,950.00
KILTIMGH CENTRAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	204,050.00
ST PATRICKS CENTRAL NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	64,385.86

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH TOLA	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,854.23
ST. PETERS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	6,242.50
SWINFORD NS	ROOF WORKS	193,038.16
GAELSCOIUL UILEOG DE BURCA	MECHANICAL WORKS	53,750.90
CROSSMOLINA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	40,000.00
SCOIL PHADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	25,535.48
TOTAL MAYO		2,379,911.23
MEATH		
AINE NAOFA NS	ROOF WORKS	84,364.34
ST PATRICKS NS	ROOF WORKS	71,000.00
KILSKYRE MIXED NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	47,909.36
SCOIL MHICHIL NA BUACHAILLI	MECHANICAL WORKS	55,500.00
BALLINLOUGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	60,708.37
DRUMBARRAGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	127,000.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	97,000.00
KELLS CONVENT	TOILET FACILITIES	37,942.73
OLDCASTLE MIXED NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	54,000.00
CARRICKLECK NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	55,900.00
RATHKENNY NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	30,354.18
MERCY CONVENT	ROOF WORKS	30,348.53
S N PHEADAIR AGUS PHOIL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	89,900.00
KNOCKCOMMON NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	14,765.14
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE	WINDOW PROJECTS	113,828.19
KILBRIDE NS	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	17,879.20
CARNAROSS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	32,638.34
KILMAINHAMWOOD NS	ROOF WORKS	55,120.00
ST ULTAN'S	WINDOW PROJECTS	30,946.40
SN ULTAIN NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	59,500.00
SN BHRIGHDE, MEATH HILL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	107,500.00
S N CUL AN MHUILINN	WINDOW PROJECTS	38,166.00
KENTSTOWN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	105,728.34
SN CILL BHRIGHDE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	36,162.34
S N MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	7,800.00
S N PADRAIG NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,000.00
SCOIL OILIBHEIR NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	103,017.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MHUIRE NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	9,710.54
S N DUN UABHAIR	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,872.50
ST ANDREWS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,925.21
SCOIL SEACHNALL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	43,921.80
SCOILNAIS NAOMH AINE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	7,800.00
S N NMH SHEOSAMH	WINDOW PROJECTS	78,345.32
SCOIL MHUIRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	173,000.00
RATHREGAN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	10,021.14
SCOIL CAITRIONA NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	31,977.87
S N MHUIRE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	9,600.00
S N FIACH	WINDOW PROJECTS	23,500.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
SCOIL NAOMH TREASA BELLEWSTOWN	WINDOW PROJECTS	15,990.15
RATHBEGGAN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	42,185.52
SCOIL NAIS MAOL HOSAE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	75,777.50
DANGAN NS	ROOF WORKS	54,715.33
CASTLEJORDAN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	51,937.00
ST OLIVER PLUNKETT NS	TOILET FACILITIES	51,900.33
ST MARY'S N S	WINDOW PROJECTS	212,750.00
KILDALKEY NS	ROOF WORKS	37,000.00
DUNBOYNE SENIOR NS	ROOF WORKS	37,942.73
TOTAL MEATH		2,578,851.40
MONAGHAN		
MONAGHAN CONVENT GIRLS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	51,826.29
DERAVOY NATIONAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	20,023.38
DRUMCRUTTIN NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	5,650.00
CORCREAGH NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,261.00
DRUMGOSSETT NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	16,261.17
BUN SCOIL LOUIS NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	253,000.00
CASTLEBLANEY CON INFS	MECHANICAL WORKS	94,253.24
SCOIL MHICHIL	MECHANICAL WORKS	54,927.67
S N BLAITHIN IOSA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	8,672.00
ST JOSEPHS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	128,755.00
ST. MARY'S BOYS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	75,900.00
SCOIL MHUIRE B	ELECTRICAL WORKS	243,392.30
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	32,504.00
CLOCHAR LUGHAI DH NAI	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	46,414.00
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	75,468.00
ST MARYS THREEMILEHOUSE	WINDOW PROJECTS	66,995.00
SCOIL NAOMH DEAGHA	TOILET FACILITIES	19,306.00
ST PATRICKS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	173,439.00
KILEEVAN CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	72,052.00
LATTON NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	90,000.00
NAOMH OLIVER PLUNKETT	MECHANICAL WORKS	94,333.00
SCOIL PHADRAIG	TOILET FACILITIES	67,212.84
SCOIL BHRIDE	TOILET FACILITIES	73,000.00
GAEL SCOIL ROIS CARRICKMACROSS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	76,150.00
SCOIL EANNA	ROOF WORKS	278,862.50
EDENMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	4,397.00
TOTAL MONAGHAN		2,144,055.39
OFFALY		
SCOIL NAOMH EOIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	93,821.94
KILCORMAC CONVENT NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	212,619.10
GEASHILL 1 NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	32,292.05
SHINRONE MXD NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	12,035.70
CLARA CONVENT NS	TOILET FACILITIES	67,996.25
HIGH ST MIXED N S	ROOF WORKS	112,466.25

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CLONBULLOGUE NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	59,180.00
S N NAOMH BROGAIN	ROOF WORKS	97,705.98
ST MARYS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	121,549.00
DAINGEAN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	39,075.27
S N NAOMH PHILOMENA	MECHANICAL WORKS	311,256.50
SHINCHILL NS	ROOF WORKS	39,650.00
POLLAGH NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	42,462.50
SN MHUIRE BAINRIOGHAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	105,618.32
SN NAOMH CHOLUMCHILLE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	49,655.20
NAOMH MHUIRE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	80,980.00
ST COLMANS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	63,429.92
ST PATRICKS BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	108,626.32
S N PEADAR AGUS POL	WINDOW PROJECTS	15,461.12
ST. RYANAGH'S NS	ROOF WORKS	71,055.14
SN MHUIRE NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	260,466.01
S N MUIRE BAINRION	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	49,860.00
ST FRANCIS BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	53,624.49
SCOIL BHRIDE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	21,483.15
GAELSCOIL EISICIR RIADA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	33,501.90
S N CHARTAIGH NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	31,932.05
TOTAL OFFALY		2,187,804.16
ROSCOMMON		
CLOONFOUR NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	5,144.82
TARMON NATIONAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	3,640.00
BALLYFARNON NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	21,680.00
KILTEEVAN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	19,849.49
SCOIL PHÁDRAIG	ROOF WORKS	22,662.18
ST MARYS CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	15,850.00
TIBOHINE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	14,750.00
ST JOSEPHS BNS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	94,774.00
CARRICK MIXED NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	19,680.57
ABBAY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	34,004.77
STROKESTOWN CON NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	23,835.00
BRUSNA NS	TOILET FACILITIES	4,860.00
NAOMH ATRACHTA	MECHANICAL WORKS	9,378.00
S N NAOMH EOIN	TOILET FACILITIES	17,792.25
S N NAOMH TREASA	ROOF WORKS	17,610.65
ST CIARANS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	21,663.98
ABBAYCARTON NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	129,669.07
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		476,844.78
SLIGO		
SCOIL NAOMH TREASA	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,500.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA ABHAINN BHEAG	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	16,386.00
CULLEENS NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	6,615.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
CORBALLA NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,580.00
MOYLOUGH NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	18,700.00
STOKANE NATIONAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	14,782.00
CARRAROE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,625.50
SCOIL ASICUS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	31,950.00
ARDKEERAN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	18,429.37
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	41,565.75
KILROSS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	19,742.12
COOLOONEY CONVENT NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	27,548.89
SN PADRAIG NAOFA	WINDOW PROJECTS	20,803.56
SN SEOSAMH NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	53,000.00
S N EOIN NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,862.50
SN MULLACH RUA	TOILET FACILITIES	11,685.50
ST CECILIAS SPECIAL SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	58,300.00
ST JOSEPHS SPEC SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	31,800.00
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	TOILET FACILITIES	25,000.00
RATHCORMACK NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	72,172.00
BANADA MXD NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,945.89
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,159.00
ST. JOHNS NS	ROOF WORKS	67,192.10
OUR LADY OF MERCY PRIMARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	179,798.64
TOTAL SLIGO		910,143.82
TIPPERARY		
BORRISOLEIGH NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	25,500.00
MONARD NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	45,833.97
TIPPERARY JNR BNS	WINDOW PROJECTS	46,952.79
BALLYCAHILL NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	16,420.00
ROSCREA BNS	WINDOW PROJECTS	70,466.81
TIPPERARY GIRLS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	38,459.94
DUALLA NS	ROOF WORKS	57,577.43
CONVENT OF MERCY	MECHANICAL WORKS	101,360.15
CULLEN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	23,845.54
UPPER NEWTOWN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	9,196.29
SN MHUIRE NA TROCAIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	48,700.00
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	102,696.20
CREHANA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,983.00
REARCROSS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	59,507.64
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	35,113.19
SN MUIRE NA NAINGEAL	ROOF WORKS	205,909.08
CLONMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL TEMPLEMORE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	48,162.90
ROSCREA NO 2 NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	117,210.00
SN Bhríde	WINDOW PROJECTS	43,890.00
KNOCKAVILLA NS	TOILET FACILITIES	43,890.00
KILLEA NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	51,325.30
SHRONELL NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	86,156.69

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ST MARYS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,686.67
ST MARYS N S	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	56,839.00
ARDFINNAN NS	ROOF WORKS	54,548.33
ST MARYS CONVENT PRIM	MECHANICAL WORKS	89,884.89
TWO MILE BORRIS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	40,950.00
TEMPLETUOHY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	63,977.00
CARRIG NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	37,330.00
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	247,479.36
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	ROOF WORKS	140,155.55
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	47,500.00
EOCHAILLE ARA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,195.80
SCOIL COLMCILLE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	47,330.00
GOLDEN NS	ROOF WORKS	75,429.72
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	179,295.10
S N CLEIREACHAIN	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	10,566.39
S N NAOMH SHEOSAMH	MECHANICAL WORKS	164,262.71
RATHKEEVIN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	69,000.00
SN NA MAIGHNE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	18,784.00
S N IOSEF NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	260,628.00
POWERSTOWN NS	ROOF WORKS	40,300.00
SCOIL ANGELA	ROOF WORKS	67,875.46
SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN DROMA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,462.92
SN NAOMH PADRAIG	ROOF WORKS	26,700.00
ST KEVINS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	24,980.00
SN IOSEF NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	36,950.00
S N RATH EILTE	WINDOW PROJECTS	42,661.93
SCOIL MHUIRE KILVEMNON	WINDOW PROJECTS	26,197.60
LISSENHALL NS	TOILET FACILITIES	41,181.82
GRANGEMOCKLER NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	42,360.00
S N TEAMPALL DOIRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	7,044.00
SN CILL NA NAOMH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	56,556.50
BALLYLOOBY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	13,750.00
SN MICHAEL NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	35,289.00
KILLENAULE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	40,500.00
ST ANNES SPECIAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	68,865.36
CLOUGHJORDAN NO 1 NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	158,772.32
SCOIL AONGHUSA SPECIAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	32,000.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	42,845.81
SCOIL IOSAGAIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	76,631.23
CLONOLTY CENTRAL NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	38,849.00
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	ROOF WORKS	—
CASHEL DEANERY	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	86,599.96
NAOMH PADRAIG SENIOR	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	10,630.50
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST BNS	ROOF WORKS	597,213.06
TOTAL TIPPERARY		4,579,215.91

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
WATERFORD		
RINGVILLE MIXED NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	25,031.90
SN CILL ROSANTA	ROOF WORKS	40,300.00
SN NA CROISE NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,950.00
VILLIERSTOWN NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	51,699.49
FERRYBANK CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	106,310.00
SLIEVERUE MXD NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,630.50
SN URSULA NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	254,000.00
STRADBALLY CONVENT	WINDOW PROJECTS	98,550.00
SN BAILE BUILEAR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	105,681.28
PASSAGE EAST NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	38,443.00
ST STEPHENS NATIONAL SCHOOL	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	91,000.00
BALLYDUFF B2 NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	45,500.00
RATHGORMACK NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	75,370.52
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MHUIRE LOURDES BUAC 16887N	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	48,293.04
SCOIL NAOMH SEOSAMH	TOILET FACILITIES	156,995.00
S N DEAGLAN	WINDOW PROJECTS	135,000.00
S N AN GARRAIN BHAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	10,600.00
BALLYGUNNER NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	140,090.00
S N NA BHFIODH	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	36,397.25
ST MARYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	44,447.20
S N CNOC MACHAN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	35,904.14
S N AINE NAOFA SEAFIELD	MECHANICAL WORKS	77,700.00
SN MUIRE MAGH DEILGE	ROOF WORKS	103,883.10
FAITHLEG NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	40,174.42
SCOIL NAOMH GOBNAIT	WINDOW PROJECTS	1,400.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	19,500.00
CHRIST CHURCH N S	ELECTRICAL WORKS	81,218.04
SCOIL MUIRE NA TROCAIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	8,310.00
SC NAOMH EOIN LE DIA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	89,793.47
ST JOHNS SPECIAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	179,793.25
BALLYMACARBERRY NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	29,139.33
SCOIL CHRUIMIN NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	138,660.00
SCOIL GEARBHAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	76,649.82
MOUNT SION PRIMARY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	150,000.00
SCOIL NAISIUMTA NA TOIRBHIRTE	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,423.57
PORTLAW NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	64,132.25
KILMACTHOMAS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	29,812.15
NEWTOWN JUNIOR SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	81,946.54
TOTAL WATERFORD		2,767,729.26
WESTMEATH		
MULLINGAR CONVENT (JNR)	TOILET FACILITIES	65,470.75
BALLYNACARGY NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,500.00
BALLYNACARGY MXD NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	6,300.00
CROWENSTOWN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	98,112.00
CASTLEPOLLARD MIXED NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	27,181.70

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ST PETERS NS SNR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	38,380.49
SN PHADRAIG	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	39,447.11
ROCHFORTBRIDGE CONVENT NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	34,047.85
STREAMSTOWN MIXED NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	25,223.78
ST JOSEPHS NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	30,896.22
SCOIL NA NDUN	WINDOW PROJECTS	42,469.03
MHICHIL NAOFA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	76,800.00
RATH EOGHAN	WINDOW PROJECTS	14,600.00
S N BRIGHDE BUACH	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,400.00
NAOMH MICHEAL NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	14,697.14
ST MARYS	TOILET FACILITIES	28,628.65
DIARMADA NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	27,950.00
S N NAOMH FIONTAN	ROOF WORKS	23,296.00
SCOIL NA MAIGHDINE MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	278,485.00
ST BAOITHINS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	59,109.58
SN PHOIL NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	31,845.00
NAOMH IOSEF NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	63,925.20
AN GHRIANAN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	10,006.00
KILPATRICK NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	116,694.31
CHOLMAIN NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	245,560.00
ST ETCHENS NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	21,146.25
KILBEGGAN NS	ROOF WORKS	79,591.45
TOTAL WESTMEATH		1,527,763.51
WEXFORD		
ST CANICE'S NS	ROOF WORKS	121,697.63
BALLYMURN NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	116,222.04
CLONROCHE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	35,000.00
ST. SENANS PRIMARY SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	105,074.26
CAIM NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	19,057.00
CONVENT OF MERCY	TOILET FACILITIES	115,616.63
MICHEAL STREET NS	ROOF WORKS	138,432.62
ST. PATRICKS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,400.00
GLANBRIEN NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	5,845.20
COURT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,305.00
KILMYSHALL NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	38,401.25
GUSSERANE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	66,500.00
ST JOSEPHS NS	ROOF WORKS	78,594.20
ST LEONARD'S NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	39,200.00
CAMOLIN NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	6,504.47
BALLYCANEW NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,550.00
KILLEGNEY NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	56,453.36
TOMBRACK NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	17,327.38
CLOLOGUE NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	13,859.50
BALLINDAGGIN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	34,200.00
NEUBAWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	14,099.00
BALLYGARRETT NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	108,342.47

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
KILRANE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	16,000.00
SN BAILE CUISIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,684.39
S N CILL T-SILE	ROOF WORKS	25,410.79
S N NMH BRIGHDE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	37,500.00
GLYNN NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,069.75
SCOIL NAISIUNTA BAILE UI COILEAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	34,766.60
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	121,515.55
SN FIONNTAIN	TOILET FACILITIES	82,735.64
CASTLEDOCKNILL NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	20,431.00
S N ABBAIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	57,600.00
S N SEOSAIMH	ELECTRICAL WORKS	45,540.00
S N NMH SEOSAIMH	WINDOW PROJECTS	39,654.00
DUNCANNON NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	115,996.35
S N RATH AN IUBHAIR	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	53,567.52
GALBALLY NS	ROOF WORKS	48,617.50
ST MARYS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	57,264.00
KILANERIN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	40,713.60
BARNTOWN NS	ROOF WORKS	191,300.00
SN RAITHIN	WINDOW PROJECTS	19,740.50
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEPH	WINDOW PROJECTS	35,197.85
MONAGEER PRIMARY SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	26,000.00
S N PADRAIG NFA		85,360.98
ST CATHERINES NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	44,005.00
S.N. BAILE AN PHIARSAIGH	MECHANICAL WORKS	181,799.98
ST. IBARS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	223,944.86
ST IBERIUS N S	TOILET FACILITIES	52,785.38
ST JOSEPHS SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	22,765.64
RATHANGAN NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	119,351.95
SCOIL REALT NA MARA	TOILET FACILITIES	50,000.00
HORESWOOD NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	96,219.51
SCOIL MHUIRE	TOILET FACILITIES	97,512.82
TOTAL WEXFORD		3,328,733.17
WICKLOW		
GRANGECON NS	TOILET FACILITIES	14,583.20
SISTERS OF CHARITY NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	100,000.00
ST ANDREWS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	62,116.87
A N NAOMH MICHAEL	WINDOW PROJECTS	41,000.00
JONATHAN SWIFT NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	26,485.49
GLEBE NS	ROOF WORKS	25,268.86
SHILLELAGH NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	31,350.00
ST PETERS INFANTS	ROOF WORKS	69,000.00
SN MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,177.09
ST BRIGIDS SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	138,692.25
ST BRIGIDS CONVENT	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	68,569.26
ST LAURENCES NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	79,350.34
SN NAOMH IOSAF	TOILET FACILITIES	19,500.00
SCOIL CHAOIMHIN NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	8,329.00

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	TOTAL PAID
ST MARYS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	2,283.73
ST JOSEPHS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,760.71
ST MARYS & ST GERARDS	MECHANICAL WORKS	235,971.59
CLOCHAR MUIRE NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	61,322.76
RATHDRUM BNS	ROOF WORKS	129,120.00
ANNACURRA NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	80,744.00
SN MUIRE MXD	WINDOW PROJECTS	50,470.00
SCOIL AN CHORAIN MHUIRE	WINDOW PROJECTS	99,617.00
SN NICOLAIS NAOFA	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	9,966.47
NA COROINE MUIRE MXD	WINDOW PROJECTS	34,666.40
KILCOMMON NS	ROOF WORKS	105,600.00
PADRAIG NAOFA NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	98,033.40
CARNEW NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	117,365.00
MARINO SCHOOL	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	—
KILMACANOGUE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	157,950.00
RATHCOYLE NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	38,937.00
NAOMH PEADAR N S	ROOF WORKS	93,650.84
AN CHROI RO NAOFA NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	62,854.40
TINAHELY NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	50,181.84
SCOIL NAOMH BRID	WINDOW PROJECTS	20,200.00
ST ERNANS BNS	ROOF WORKS	51,246.22
STRATFORD LODGE NATIONAL SCHOOL	WINDOW PROJECTS	18,189.75
ST FERGALS JUNIOR NS	EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS	12,762.28
GREYSTONES NS	ROOF WORKS	44,295.43
ST. FERGAL'S SENIOR NS	ROOF WORKS	16,392.40
ST FRANCIS NS	WINDOW PROJECTS	29,161.70
SCOIL MHUIRE NA NAIRD	WINDOW PROJECTS	40,668.00
BRAY SCHOOL PROJECT NS	OTHER STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS	28,414.25
NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	85,796.89
TOTAL WICKLOW		2,506,044.42
TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS		79,338,394.08

SWS and Capital Jobs Initiative Primary Schools 2011

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CARLOW		
BAILE AN CHUILINN NS	ROOF WORKS	23,800.00
ST MARY'S NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	11,882.14
ST CUMBAS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
FR CULLEN MEMORIAL NS	ROOF WORKS	110,270.51
ST JOSEPHS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST BRENDANS NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	9,450.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH PADRAIG	ROOF WORKS	26,254.04
HOLY FAMILY BNS	MECHANICAL WORKS	86,379.51
HOLY FAMILY GNS	MECHANICAL WORKS	150,738.70
TOTAL CARLOW		418,774.90
CAVAN		
CORLEA NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,985.02
KILLYGARRY N S	ROOF WORKS	13,968.50
KILLINKERE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	22,711.67
SCOIL BHRIDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	51,574.97
SN TAMHNACH DHUIBH	ROOF WORKS	—
ST FELIMS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	28,264.88
CNOC AN TEAMPAILL	TOILET FACILITIES	22,791.01
BAILIEBORO NS	ROOF WORKS	195,380.47
GREAGHRAHAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,092.21
S N CILLIN	TOILET FACILITIES	32,640.60
S N LEITIR	TOILET FACILITIES	—
CARRIGABRUISE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	29,333.50
KILMORE CENTRAL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	17,072.74
MULLAHORAN CENTRAL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	55,926.57
CROSSKEYS CENTRAL NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	37,590.00
ST PATRICKS	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,926.51
TOTAL CAVAN		610,258.65
CLARE		
O CALLAGHANS MILLS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	8,751.75
ROCKMOUNT MIXED NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	12,773.95
CLONIGULANE NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	9,441.74
BURRANE NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	14,081.36
SN MHAINISTIR CHUNCHE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ANNAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	45,164.95
KILLALOE BNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	47,911.47
SN AN PHAIRTIN MIXED	ELECTRICAL WORKS	43,975.26
SCOIL NA MAIGHDINE MUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	2,658.95
COORACLARE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	21,297.82
KILNABOY NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	8,236.20
ST MARYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	27,128.90
S N BAILE AN DROICHID	CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS	20,004.43
NEW QUAY NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	15,952.18
NAOMH TOLA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	96,803.73
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,052.47
TOTAL CLARE		426,235.16
CORK		
BALLINSPIITTE NS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
S N CNOC AN BHILE	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,674.60

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
PRESENTATION COLLEGE	MECHANICAL WORKS	234,762.50
DOUGLAS GNS	MECHANICAL WORKS	86,226.00
FREEMOUNT MIXED NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	15,953.70
CLOGHROE NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST JOSEPHS NS	ROOF WORKS	68,810.00
COBH NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	26,596.35
NEWMARKET BNS	ROOF WORKS	—
SEANDROMA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
WHITEGATE (MXD) NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	32,025.00
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NS	ROOF WORKS	—
RUSHEEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	26,200.00
DROMORE NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	34,059.27
SCOIL MHUIRE LOURDES CARRIGALINE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	44,616.96
ST VINCENTS CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	—
RIVERSTOWN NS	ROOF WORKS	—
DROMAHANE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SN B TOGHER CORK	ELECTRICAL WORKS	92,471.88
ABBEYSTREWRY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	35,668.50
SN C BHLARNA	MECHANICAL WORKS	9,703.00
ST FINBARRS BOYS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SACRED HEART NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	25,842.25
UPPER GLANMIRE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	43,113.00
BOHERBUE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	74,200.00
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE CBS	ROOF WORKS	—
ADRIGOLE NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	19,674.39
S N PADRAIG NAOFA B	ROOF WORKS	176,184.92
SN NA MONA FLICHE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CHURCHTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
S N ATH FHADA	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	42,207.62
KNOCKNAMANAGH NS	ROOF WORKS	41,650.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	42,649.10
MUIRE GAN SMAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,500.00
SN CILL MHUIRE B	ROOF WORKS	27,728.92
SN GLEANNAMHAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	101,136.01
MARIA ASSUMPTA INFANT SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,225.70
ST CATHERINES NS	ROOF WORKS	101,248.00
SN CLOGACH	ELECTRICAL WORKS	41,496.00
LITTLE ISLAND N S	MECHANICAL WORKS	38,632.82
SN CARRAIG UI LEIGHIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	78,610.91
REALT NA MAIDINE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	33,444.60
RATHMORE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN BHREANNDAIN C	TOILET FACILITIES	50,786.05
ST MARY'S CENTRAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	34,900.63
MHUIRE AR CHNOC HAOINE	ROOF WORKS	218,762.60

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
SCOIL OILIBHEIR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	112,035.00
SCOIL BARRA	MECHANICAL WORKS	43,051.75
SCOIL NA MBUACHAILLI	ROOF WORKS	39,908.14
BUN SCOIL MUIRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	267,295.03
RINGASKIDDY	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,556.80
SCOIL MHUIRE FATIMA	TOILET FACILITIES	50,185.80
TOTAL CORK		2,494,793.80
DONEGAL		
GARTAN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	76,500.00
SN GLEANN COIMHEAD	MECHANICAL WORKS	9,116.40
SN AN LEINBH IOSA	TOILET FACILITIES	36,959.42
S N FHIONNAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	31,690.00
SCOIL TREASA NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	62,765.50
SN DHUN NA NGALL	ROOF WORKS	—
ST CATHERINES SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	54,200.30
SCOIL MHUIRE GAN SMAL	ROOF WORKS	—
SN MHUIRE GAN SMAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,674.50
ST PETERS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	23,398.77
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	41,783.52
SCOIL PHADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN CHAISEAL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ROBERSTONS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	46,377.80
NAOMH BODAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	31,907.42
SCOIL NAOMH FIONAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL AODH RUA AGUS NUALA	TOILET FACILITIES	25,914.36
TOTAL DONEGAL		454,287.99
DUBLIN		
LUCAN BNS	ROOF WORKS	—
CLOCHAR LORETO N S	MECHANICAL WORKS	154,185.76
ST JAMES CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	56,350.00
SCOIL AN CROI NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CLOCHAR SAN DOMINIC	TOILET FACILITIES	50,010.80
ST MARYS BNS	ROOF WORKS	80,958.19
ST PATRICKS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
HOLY FAMILY NS RATHCOOLE	ROOF WORKS	56,664.21
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCH	MECHANICAL WORKS	92,085.00
ST. VINCENT'S GIRLS & INFANT SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
CORDUFF NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST VINCENTS INF BOYS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
CANON O HANLON MEMORIAL N S	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	58,344.99
ST BRIGIDS GIRLS NS	GAS WORKS	71,002.80
ST CLARES CONVENT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,697.90

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ST BRIGIDS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	64,237.95
ST CUMBAS CON G&I	MECHANICAL WORKS	21,883.18
SCOIL MHUIRE MARINO	ELECTRICAL WORKS	93,072.04
ST BRIGIDS CONVENT NS	ROOF WORKS	145,512.50
ST BRIGIDS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	36,646.05
ST MOLAGAS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	84,425.76
CHRIST THE KING BNS	TOILET FACILITIES	97,606.00
BALDOYLE BNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	106,318.10
LARKHILL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	—
MUIRE NA DEA COIRLE INFANTS NS	ROOF WORKS	25,867.80
ST PATRICKS SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE OG	ROOF WORKS	—
GREENLANE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	—
ST SYLVESTERS INFANT SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL MAISIUNTA BHAILE EAMOINN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL ASSAIM B	ELECTRICAL WORKS	63,714.06
NAI SCOIL IDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	100,214.10
MT ANVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	26,782.12
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH FEARGAL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	123,130.00
SN PAROISTE MAITIU	ROOF WORKS	35,929.25
CENTRAL REMEDIAL CLINIC	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	261,336.60
SCOIL LORCAIN B	TOILET FACILITIES	—
S N CAITRIONA C	MECHANICAL WORKS	74,201.78
SN C NAOMH PADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	161,551.53
OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SCOIL NA MBRATHAR	TOILET FACILITIES	34,490.40
ST AUGUSTINE CARYSFORT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	265,545.75
SCOIL SEAMUS CBS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
MARY QUEEN OF ANGELS 1 NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	77,473.55
ST MICHAELS HOUSE SPECIAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	—
KILTERNAN NS	ROOF WORKS	55,462.91
SN BRIGHDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
BAINRION NA NAINGAL 2	MECHANICAL WORKS	77,473.55
ST PETERS SPECIAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	42,543.22
BANTIARNA NA MBUANNA B	ELECTRICAL WORKS	132,513.50
BANTIARNA NA MBUANNA G	ELECTRICAL WORKS	80,980.47
ST EITHNES SENIOR GIRLS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	103,202.47
EOIN BAISDE C NAOIDH	MECHANICAL WORKS	144,343.08
ST MONICA'S NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	99,431.50
SCOIL NAOMH PADARIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	102,272.01
ST JOHN OF GOD SPECIAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	91,431.01
ST PETERS BNS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	178,580.61
ST PIUS X BNS	ROOF WORKS	131,774.47

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ST PIUS X GNS	ROOF WORKS	131,774.47
ST KEVINS BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	112,042.80
HOLY SPIRIT B N S	ROOF WORKS	—
HOLY SPIRIT NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL NAIS IDE CAILINI	ELECTRICAL WORKS	213,427.35
VIRGIN MARY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,820.88
VIRGIN MARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	24,341.36
ST BRIGIDS BNS	ROOF WORKS	22,108.39
SCOIL EOIN	ROOF WORKS	—
MHUIRE IOSEF JUNIOR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL AN TSEACHTAR LAOCH	ELECTRICAL WORKS	59,236.12
ST FRANCIS XAVIER JNS	ROOF WORKS	199,892.93
SCOIL COLMCILLE SNR	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST PAULS JUNIOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	147,616.88
SCOIL BHRIDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	70,102.20
ST FINIANS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	72,418.50
SCOIL AENGHUSA JUN NS	ROOF WORKS	125,779.37
ST JOSEPHS SPECIAL SCHOOL DUBLIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	61,220.46
OUR LADY IMMAC SEN NS	ROOF WORKS	57,631.70
S N MUIRE AGUS IOSEF	ELECTRICAL WORKS	114,680.58
ST ATTRACTAS JNR NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST KEVIN'S JUNIOR SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	42,543.22
ST OLICER PLUNKETT NS	TOILET FACILITIES	53,874.94
DIVINE WORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	60,032.63
S N AENGHUSA	TOILET FACILITIES	71,421.21
ST HELENS JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	51,659.62
ST MARTIN DE PORRES NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	71,567.58
ST PAULS SEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	147,616.88
ST FIACHRA'S SENIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST COLMCILLE JUN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST PETER APOSTLE SEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	100,367.06
BISHOP SHANAHAN NS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST FRANCIS SENIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	96,038.43
CATHERINE MC AULEY N SC	ROOF WORKS	79,906.28
ST RONANS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST MARYS NS BELMONT AVE	ROOF WORKS	—
OUR LADY OF WAYSIDE NS	ROOF WORKS	56,983.50
ST THOMAS SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	207,882.58
ST BRIGIDS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	187,666.55
ARCHBISHOP MCQUAID SENIOR SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
ST BRIGIDS/ST AIDANS	MECHANICAL WORKS	143,199.72
HOLY FAMILY NS	TOILET FACILITIES	38,347.51
HOLY FAMILY SENIOR NS	TOILET FACILITIES	68,250.53
SCOIL MHUIR S IOSAF	TOILET FACILITIES	23,814.00
BOOTERSTOWN NS	GAS WORKS	63,462.33
ST JOSEPHS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	72,481.50

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ST DAVIDS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
OUR LADY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST JOSEPHS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	74,223.10
ST KEVINS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	5,904.16
CRUMLIN MULTI DENOMINATIONAL N	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST DAVIDS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
ST JOHN OF GOD SPECIAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	14,658.42
ST ANNES PRIMARY SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	79,259.74
ARCHBISHOP MCQUAID NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL DUBLIN		7,042,502.45
GALWAY		
SN NAOMH TREASA	ROOF WORKS	31,850.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	34,650.00
SN NAOMH PADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,033.90
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL COILM CILLE	MECHANICAL WORKS	41,930.00
SCOIL NAOMH SHEOSAIMH	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
ST. PATRICKS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	55,253.01
SCOIL RONAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL BHAILE NUA	MECHANICAL WORKS	12,200.97
SN COR AN DROMA	ROOF WORKS	—
BALLINDERRY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
PAROCHIAL N S	MECHANICAL WORKS	33,024.55
SN IDE NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	81,103.33
CLAREGALWAY	MECHANICAL WORKS	24,310.41
CREGMORE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	33,600.00
SN NAOMH FHURSA	ROOF WORKS	—
CREAGH NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
S N DOMHNACH PADRAIG	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SCOIL NAISIUNTA CAOMHAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	20,114.50
LOUGH CUTRA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	38,026.04
SN AN AILL BHREACH	ELECTRICAL WORKS	15,922.22
SN NAOMH THOMAS	TOILET FACILITIES	3,703.54
SN BREANDAN NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	13,000.00
S N PADRAIC NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL MUIRE NAOFA MENLOUGH	MECHANICAL WORKS	35,970.95
PRESENTATION CONVENT	TOILET FACILITIES	—
SN N BREANDAIN	ROOF WORKS	9,891.28
SCOIL NAISIUNTA CEATHRU NA GAOITHE	TOILET FACILITIES	—
SCOIL IDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	19,752.20
DOMINICAN CONVENT	ROOF WORKS	—
BALLYCONEELY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	8,260.71
SCOIL NAISIUNTA IOGNAID	ROOF WORKS	—

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CLONBERNE CENTRAL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	9,100.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN AN AILL BHREACH	WINDOW PROJECTS	11,775.35
TOTAL GALWAY		569,472.96
KERRY		
CONVENT PRIMARY SCHOOL KERRY	MECHANICAL WORKS	83,567.05
KILGOBNET NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	33,110.00
LAURAGH NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	20,303.45
CASTLEDRUM NATIONAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
CASTLEDRUM NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,125.18
ASDEE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	10,522.80
BALLYFERRITER NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	65,531.76
SCOIL ATHA NA MBLATH	MECHANICAL WORKS	61,455.96
COOLARD MXD NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	83,639.22
DOUGLAS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	24,310.03
SCOIL EOIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	210,391.44
ST FINIANS AN CORAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	31,907.42
SCOIL MHUIRE SCOIL AN CHROI RO NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	166,453.00
MUIRE NA MAINISTREACH	ELECTRICAL WORKS	34,909.45
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	41,892.05
NAOMH CHARTHAIGH	ELECTRICAL WORKS	89,711.12
SPA NATIONAL SCHOOL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	84,706.60
ST ITAS & ST JOSEPHS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	22,031.31
HOLY CROSS MERCY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	54,165.44
ST. FRANCIS SPRCIAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	44,062.62
BALLYDUFF CENTRAL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	65,334.24
GAELSCOIL NAOMH AOGAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL KERRY		1,255,130.14
KILDARE		
CELBRIDGE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SN BRIGHDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	63,993.12
ST JOSEPH'S BOYS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	40,361.34
BRANNOXTOWN NS	ROOF WORKS	56,059.05
RATHCOFFEY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,110.12
ST CONLETHS INFANT PRIMARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	50,090.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	29,138.19
SCOIL NA MAINISTREACH	ROOF WORKS	—
TIERMOHAN NS	ROOF WORKS	19,565.54
KILDANGAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	54,028.37
ST MARKS SPECIAL SCH	ROOF WORKS	140,069.76
SCOIL AN LINBH IOSA, BALLYCANE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	80,180.87
SAN CARLO JUNIOR NS	ROOF WORKS	—

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
SAN CARLO SENIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	125,889.96
NORTH KILDARE EDUCATE TOGETHER	TOILET FACILITIES	—
TOTAL KILDARE		689,486.32
KILKENNY		
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	41,571.95
ST BRENDANS NS	ROOF WORKS	58,076.50
ST. JOHNS JNR SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN MUIRE GAN SMAL	ROOF WORKS	120,015.77
SCOIL NAOMH MOLING-GLYNN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	47,806.15
SN BHRIDHE	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	70,101.73
Colmcille Mixed NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	22,411.16
SCOIL BHRIDE B7C	MECHANICAL WORKS	31,700.29
HOLYCROSS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
LISTERLIN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	86,437.40
TEMPLEORUM NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	11,015.65
ST CANICES CO ED.	TOILET FACILITIES	19,300.00
TOTAL KILKENNY		508,436.60
LAOIS		
ST FINTANS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	45,582.02
SCOIL BHRIDE	ROOF WORKS	—
RATH MIXED NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	11,395.51
FRAOCH MOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CULLOHILL NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	33,768.00
TOTAL LAOIS		90,745.53
LEITRIM		
ST CAILLINS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	54,514.20
DRUMLEASE NS	ROOF WORKS	13,446.70
LARGY NS	ROOF WORKS	12,933.90
MANORHAMILTON BNS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
SN CORR NA GAOITHE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
SN BEAL AN ATHA MHOIR	MECHANICAL WORKS	57,567.23
FATIMA NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL LEITRIM		138,462.03
LIMERICK		
ST SENANS NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	67,200.00
S N FIODHNACH	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
MARTINSTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
GLENBROHANE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
ST JOSEPHS CONVENT	MECHANICAL WORKS	44,587.99

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
BULGADEN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,713.41
ST MICHAELS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	12,071.64
ST PATRICKS GNS	TOILET FACILITIES	48,286.56
ATHLACCA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	64,574.53
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL BAILE AN AIRD	ROOF WORKS	25,900.00
MARIA AUXILIATRIX NS	TOILET FACILITIES	37,347.29
S N GEAROID UI GHRIOBHTHA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST ANNE'S NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	102,566.28
SCOIL NAOMH MHUIRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
SN MA RUA	ROOF WORKS	41,300.00
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,184.00
ST. JOSEPH'S BOYS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
KILFINNY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,837.30
ST. VINCENTS SPECIAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	—
OUR LADY OF LOURDES NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	76,041.68
MILFORD NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	37,985.02
CORPUS CHRISTI NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	114,539.69
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEF	TOILET FACILITIES	18,950.72
MARIA KING PRESENTATION SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL CHAITRIONA	MECHANICAL WORKS	26,700.47
TOTAL LIMERICK		771,786.58
LONGFORD		
SCOIL NAOMH MICHAEL	MECHANICAL WORKS	107,883.72
NAOMH PADRAIG NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	56,977.53
ST BERNARDS MIXED NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,654.92
LANESBORO NS	ROOF WORKS	17,242.92
S N NAOMH MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,273.24
ST PATRICKS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
ST MELS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	28,868.61
TOTAL LONGFORD		254,900.94
LOUTH		
NEWTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
DUN DEALGAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN CILL SARAIN	ROOF WORKS	39,900.00
SCOIL NAOMH FAINCHE	ROOF WORKS	60,776.03
CASTLETOWN RD CONVENT	MECHANICAL WORKS	20,047.63
TERMONFECKIN NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	—
DROMISKIN MIXED NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	63,716.07
MONASTERY NS	ROOF WORKS	34,807.50
SN NAOMH FHIONAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	25,609.12
SN BHRIDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,910.60
S N CHAOIMHIN NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	63,778.65

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
SN SAN NIOCLAS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	20,511.91
SCOIL PHADRAIG NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	45,661.77
SN BRIGHDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	73,324.77
ST BUIE'S NS	TOILET FACILITIES	10,863.71
ST BRIGHIDS SPECIAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	65,100.63
ST JOSEPHS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	61,169.91
SCOIL AONGHUSA	TOILET FACILITIES	15,865.50
SCOIL EOIN BAISTE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	20,478.67
TOTAL LOUTH		659,522.47
MAYO		
SCOIL NAOMH BRID	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,736.70
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH FEICHIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST. JOSEPH'S NS	ROOF WORKS	36,465.61
BONNICONLON NS	ROOF WORKS	21,773.01
LECANVEY NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,225.00
ESKERAGH NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	19,372.36
CILL MHOR IORRAIS	MECHANICAL WORKS	63,701.40
IRISHTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
QUIGNAMANGER NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	14,000.00
ST JOHNS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CLOONFAD N S	ROOF WORKS	17,089.46
PULLATHOMAS NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	19,752.20
ARDAGH NS BALLINA	ROOF WORKS	—
S N BEAL CARADH	ROOF WORKS	—
CLOGHANS HILL NS	ROOF WORKS	22,791.01
ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR	ROOF WORKS	140,001.94
SCOIL NAISIUNTA BAILE CUISIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	25,449.96
S N TEAGHLAIGH NAOFA	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	62,827.22
BALLYVARY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	28,529.55
ST PATRICKS CENTRAL NS	TOILET FACILITIES	—
SWINFORD NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	113,582.00
GAELSCOIUL UILEOG DE BURCA	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL MAYO		630,297.42
MEATH		
ST PATRICKS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	53,179.02
BALLINLOUGH NS	TOILET FACILITIES	61,915.58
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	34,186.52
OLDCASTLE MIXED NS	TOILET FACILITIES	44,062.62
SCOIL BHRIDE	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
RATHKENNY NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	53,167.36
SCOIL NAIS FININ NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	90,252.41

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
ST MARYS CONVENT NS	TOILET FACILITIES	31,731.00
SCOIL CHOLMCILLE	TOILET FACILITIES	26,170.38
SN ULTAIN NAOFA	TOILET FACILITIES	23,550.71
SN AN RATH MOR	ROOF WORKS	14,140.00
SN CILL BHRIGHDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	32,558.59
ST JOSEPHS DUNDERRY NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	66,442.55
S N PADRAIG NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	53,938.73
SCOIL OILIBHEIR NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	126,798.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MHUIRE NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	151,225.14
S N DUN UABHAIR	ELECTRICAL WORKS	30,179.10
ST ANDREWS NS	ROOF WORKS	113,361.85
S N NMH SHEOSAMH	MECHANICAL WORKS	111,593.37
SN NAOMH PADRAIG	ROOF WORKS	96,250.00
RATHREGAN NS	ROOF WORKS	6,762.39
RATHBEGGAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	8,850.51
CASTLEJORDAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	12,142.00
ST. MARYS SPECIAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST PAULS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,388.01
ST MARY'S N S	ROOF WORKS	60,358.20
GAELSCOIL AN BHRAIDAIN FEASA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
TOTAL MEATH		1,333,204.04
MONAGHAN		
DERAVOY NATIONAL SCHOOL	TOILET FACILITIES	38,924.88
DONAGHMOYNE NS	ROOF WORKS	64,093.74
LISDOONAN NS	ROOF WORKS	57,582.03
CASTLEBLANEY CONVENT	MECHANICAL WORKS	72,854.67
CASTLEBLANEY CON INFS	MECHANICAL WORKS	47,424.30
LATMANARD NS	ROOF WORKS	111,962.56
SCOIL MHICHIL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
S N BLAITHIN IOSA	ROOF WORKS	23,800.00
ST. MARY'S BOYS NS	TOILET FACILITIES	28,367.21
SCOIL MHUIRE B	MECHANICAL WORKS	73,292.10
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	23,839.40
CLOCHAR LUGHAI DH NAI	ROOF WORKS	37,878.66
ST MARYS THREEMILEHOUSE	MECHANICAL WORKS	102,239.40
ST PATRICKS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	64,220.73
KILEEVAN CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	67,133.64
LATTON NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	46,979.17
NAOMH OLIVER PLUNKETT	ELECTRICAL WORKS	141,690.87
TOTAL MONAGHAN		1,002,283.36
OFFALY		
SCOIL NAOMH EOIN	ELECTRICAL WORKS	45,022.29
S N OSMANN	ROOF WORKS	95,158.82
ST BRENDANS MONASTERY	ELECTRICAL WORKS	113,925.00

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COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CLARA CONVENT NS	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	96,264.52
POLLAGH NS	TOILET FACILITIES	34,250.84
ST COLMANS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	75,666.16
S N PEADAR AGUS POL	ROOF WORKS	15,456.00
SCOIL NAOMH PADRAIG	TOILET FACILITIES	—
SCOIL BHRIDE	TOILET FACILITIES	27,159.29
TOTAL OFFALY		502,902.92
ROSCOMMON		
KILMOVEE NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
LISANISKEY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
CARRICK MIXED NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	18,452.36
KILMORE NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL NAISIUNTA NAOMH MHUIRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	5,577.30
STROKESTOWN CON NS	ROOF WORKS	25,436.60
BRUSNA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SOOEY NS	TOILET FACILITIES	10,347.12
S N NAOMH EOIN	ROOF WORKS	21,525.00
BALLYFEENEY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,077.40
ST CIARANS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	38,762.50
MICHAEL AGUS PADRAIG	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL BHRIDE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	20,587.88
TOTAL ROSCOMMON		146,766.16
SLIGO		
CORBALLA NS	TOILET FACILITIES	27,447.00
ENNISCRONE NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	15,746.92
CARRAROE NS	ROOF WORKS	55,221.27
ARDKEERAN NS	ROOF WORKS	15,640.63
LEAFFONEY NATIONAL SCHOOL 15496Q	ELECTRICAL WORKS	15,176.00
COOLOONEY CONVENT NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	27,263.63
SN PADRAIG NAOFA	ELECTRICAL WORKS	49,140.00
S N EOIN NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN CUL FADA	ROOF WORKS	14,569.80
ST CECILIAS SPECIAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	150,040.98
ST BRENDAN NS SLIGO	TOILET FACILITIES	101,420.01
TOTAL SLIGO		471,666.24
TIPPERARY		
BORRISOLEIGH NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	49,000.00
MONARD NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	21,399.00
THOMASTOWN NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	47,489.11
CONVENT OF MERCY	TOILET FACILITIES	73,943.96
LISNAMROCK NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	29,536.87
SLIEVEARDAGH NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	28,000.00

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
CLOCHAR NA TOIRBHIRTE PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	42,000.00
PRESENTATION PRIMARY SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	119,000.00
SN MUIRE NA NAINGEAL	PROJECTS-SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES	31,089.80
ST JOSEPHS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
HOLLYFORD NS	ROOF WORKS	57,519.00
SN BHRIDE	TOILET FACILITIES	32,015.95
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
ST MARYS CONVENT PRIM	ROOF WORKS	126,700.00
TWO MILE BORRIS	MECHANICAL WORKS	88,109.46
ST MARYS JNR BNS	MECHANICAL WORKS	141,500.00
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	260,468.72
SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	52,893.19
S N BAILE NA HINSE	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL NAISIUNTA GORT NA HUAIGHE	ROOF WORKS	52,440.50
S N LUA NAOFA	ROOF WORKS	—
SN GLEANN GOILL	ROOF WORKS	52,200.00
SN NA MAIGHNE	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,670.50
SN AN GRAINSEACH	TOILET FACILITIES	—
ST KEVINS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	59,665.94
SCOIL MHUIRE KILVEMNON	ROOF WORKS	—
SCOIL MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,267.52
ST ANNES SPECIAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	127,132.15
NAOMH PADRAIG SENIOR	TOILET FACILITIES	16,811.09
TOTAL TIPPERARY		1,531,852.76
WATERFORD		
RINGVILLE MIXED NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SLIEVERUE MXD NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	26,589.51
SN URSULA NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	182,082.00
OUR LADY OF MERCY N S STRADBALLY	MECHANICAL WORKS	129,908.77
KILLEA BOYS NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	36,750.00
PASSAGE EAST NS	TOILET FACILITIES	47,139.75
BALLYDUFF B2 NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	107,985.99
RATHGORMACK NS	ROOF WORKS	93,853.20
SN NA CILLE	ROOF WORKS	40,355.00
SCOIL NAISIUNTA MHUIRE LOURDES BUAC 16887N	MECHANICAL WORKS	64,131.00
S N DEAGLAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,073.37
MHUIRE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	52,965.65
SCOIL NAOMH GOBNAIT	MECHANICAL WORKS	30,029.38
CHRIST CHURCH N S	TOILET FACILITIES	36,731.51
ST MARYS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	258,222.18
PORTLAW NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL WATERFORD		1,143,817.31
WESTMEATH		

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
MULLINGAR CONVENT (JNR)	MECHANICAL WORKS	222,592.23
BALLYNACARGY MXD NS	ROOF WORKS	17,074.26
CROWENSTOWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	62,256.63
ROCHFORTBRIDGE CONVENT NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
STREAMSTOWN MIXED NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	47,373.97
SCOIL NA NDUN	MECHANICAL WORKS	96,405.98
CLONBONNY NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	35,400.00
RATH EOGHAN	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,855.00
S N BRIGHDE BUACH	TOILET FACILITIES	20,091.03
CORR NA MADADH N S	MECHANICAL WORKS	77,603.40
EOIN NAOFA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	6,483.96
ST EARNANS	MECHANICAL WORKS	47,017.34
AN GHRIANAN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	64,125.36
CHOLMAIN NAOFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	179,821.09
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
TOTAL WESTMEATH		913,100.25
WEXFORD		
BALLAGHKEENE NS	ROOF WORKS	19,040.00
ST JOSEPHS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	64,540.00
CAMOLIN NS	ROOF WORKS	13,788.56
BALLYCANEW NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	83,567.05
BALLINDAGGIN NS	ROOF WORKS	—
NEWBAWN NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	42,695.16
BALLYGARRETT NS	ROOF WORKS	—
KILRANE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	46,065.07
SCOIL MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	65,053.14
CLONGEEN NS	ROOF WORKS	18,703.82
GLYNN NATIONAL SCHOOL	MECHANICAL WORKS	73,240.86
SN FIONNTAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	113,955.06
SN MHAODHOIG	ELECTRICAL WORKS	50,370.71
S N ABBAIN	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,526.38
S N SEOSAIMH	MECHANICAL WORKS	37,960.00
S N MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	28,840.13
ST MARYS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
SN MHUIRE	ROOF WORKS	35,248.58
SCOIL NAOMH IOSEPH	MECHANICAL WORKS	112,910.00
MONAGEER PRIMARY SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	20,300.00
S N PADRAIG NFA	MECHANICAL WORKS	36,371.45
BALLYDUFF NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SCOIL REALT NA MARA	ROOF WORKS	206,436.54
SCOIL MHUIRE	ELECTRICAL WORKS	57,291.50
SCOIL NAOMH MAODHOG	ROOF WORKS	22,400.00
TOTAL WEXFORD		1,310,169.08

COUNTY / SCHOOL	PROJECT APPLICATION	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID 2011
WICKLOW		
NAOMH PADRAIG	TOILET FACILITIES	7,350.00
ST BRIGIDS NS	ROOF WORKS	—
NUNS CROSS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
ST SAVIOURS NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	56,333.90
A N NAOMH MICHAEL	ROOF WORKS	18,705.40
CARYSFORT MIXED NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	81,103.90
ST PETERS INFANTS	GAS WORKS	—
PADRAIG NAOFA B NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	172,900.00
SN MHUIRE	MECHANICAL WORKS	52,806.77
ST MARYS & ST GERARDS	ROOF WORKS	26,619.09
CLOCHAR MUIRE NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
RATHDRUM BNS	GAS WORKS	44,184.00
ANNACURRA NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	—
SN MUIRE MXD	MECHANICAL WORKS	43,920.80
CROSSBRIDGE NATIONAL SCHOOL	ROOF WORKS	16,899.75
CARNEW NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	67,650.37
KILMACANOGUE NS	ROOF WORKS	148,191.93
STRATFORD LODGE NATIONAL SCHOOL	ELECTRICAL WORKS	—
ST FERGALS JUNIOR NS	MECHANICAL WORKS	51,849.55
GREYSTONES NS	ROOF WORKS	178,648.05
ST. FERGAL'S SENIOR NS	ELECTRICAL WORKS	184,756.45
SCOIL MHUIRE NA NAIRD	MECHANICAL WORKS	16,431.87
TOTAL WICKLOW		1,168,351.83
TOTAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS		26,539,207.89

University Legal Fees

159. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the amount of money spent by each university on legal fees in 2010 and to date in 2011. [24537/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The information requested by the Deputy is being compiled and I will arrange to forward the information as soon as possible.

School Starting Age

160. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to raise the school-going age to five and to abolish the transition year. [24538/11]

182. **Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding increasing the age at which children start national school and the abolition of the transition year [24968/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I propose to take Questions Nos. 160 and 182 together.

The compulsory school starting age is 6 years of age and a child must be at least 4 years of age before she/he may be enrolled in a primary school.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

A proposal to raise the school starting age to 5 years and the abolition of transition year were among a range of budgetary savings options that were put forward to the previous government as a means of reducing teacher payroll costs. These measures were not implemented.

The Deputy will be aware that within the context of the parameters of the EU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland, it is not possible to give commitments about any future measures that may be required.

Home Tuition Grants

161. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a home tuition grant will be made available to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24568/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The Deputy will be aware that my Department's home tuition scheme provides funding to parents to provide education at home for children who, for a number of reasons such as chronic illness, are unable to attend school. The scheme was extended in recent years to facilitate tuition for children awaiting a suitable educational placement and also to provide early educational intervention for pre-school children with autism.

Allocation of home tuition for the school year is subject to applicants meeting the eligibility criteria. My Department has no record of receiving home tuition applications for the children mentioned.

The Deputy will be aware that the NCSE is responsible for the provision of a range of educational services at local and national level for students with special educational needs. In particular, its network of Special Education Needs Organisers (SENOs) co-ordinates special needs education provision at local level and arranges for the delivery of special educational services. The SENOs act as single points of contact for parents of students with special educational needs. Another specific function of the SENO is to identify appropriate educational placements for children with special educational needs and SENOs are a valuable source of support to parents who are actively sourcing a placement for their children.

Question No. 162 answered with Question No. 145.

Schools Refurbishment

163. **Deputy Derek Nolan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to the study by the National Back Pain Association in the UK which states that the current design of Irish school chairs is not conducive to good posture and back safety; if he will consider phasing out these chairs as part of the natural furniture replacement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24582/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Schools should be satisfied before placing an order that the items tendered are of an acceptable quality and finish. Health and safety is, in the first instance, a matter for each Board of Management and this includes ensuring that school furniture complies with the appropriate standards.

Where the provision of furniture at schools is being grant-aided in whole or in part by my Department, schools must comply with my Department's specifications. These are based on standards set by the National Standard Authority of Ireland or equivalent. In relation to school chairs my Department's specifications require that the chair conform to the Irish (and

European) Standard which is I.S. EN 1729 Furniture, Tables and Chairs for Educational Institutions. This is a recent standard dating from 2006.

Departmental Schemes

164. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if an Inspector will be provided to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry who has applied for the national internship scheme at a national school in County Kerry to complete their diploma in teaching; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24652/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The “JobBridge” National Internship Scheme was announced as part of the Government’s Jobs Initiative and was launched in June this year. It will provide work experience placements for interns for a 6 or 9 month period.

In consultation with school management bodies and unions, my Department is currently considering the possible extension of this initiative to schools.

School Staffing

165. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if the special needs assistant posts he held in reserve are now being filled; and if SNAs who have been made redundant are eligible to apply for these posts [24660/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Having considered all of the applications for SNA support which have been received from mainstream primary and post primary schools, the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) has now advised all mainstream schools of their SNA allocations for the 2011/12 school year, taking into account the number of valid applications for SNA support and the assessed care needs of the children concerned.

In relation to special schools, the existing levels of SNA support in special schools has been maintained in the first instance, in order to assist and protect the most vulnerable children, with a review to take place in the first term of the school year. SNA provision in special schools is currently being reviewed.

As not all applications for SNA support can be made in advance of the school year, in order to prudently manage this valuable but limited resource, the NCSE and my Department decided that 475 of the 10,575 posts should be retained in order to allocate them over the coming school year in cases such as emergency, appeals, acquired injuries or new school entrants with special needs care.

The NCSE will now begin the process of allocating these 475 posts in the coming period in a measured and prioritised manner taking account of the existing levels of SNA support already available in the schools. Accordingly, it is expected that schools, before requesting any review of their SNA provision, will be in a position to demonstrate that they have made every effort to manage their allocation of SNA posts to best effect

Special Educational Needs

166. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if it is the case that a junior infant cannot be assessed for special needs assistant support for one year; and his views on allowing such assessment to be made after one term in school. [24661/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The Deputy will be aware that the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is responsible, through its network of local Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) for allocating resource teachers and Special

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

Needs Assistants (SNAs) to schools to support children with special educational needs. The NCSE operates within my Department's criteria in allocating such support. This now includes a requirement for the NCSE to have regard to an overall cap on the number of SNA posts.

The NCSE issued a circular to all schools earlier this year advising of the allocation process for the 2011/2012 school year. A key feature of the amended scheme is to provide for an annual allocation of Special Needs Assistant support to eligible schools. This circular also set out that in the case of new applications for SNA support, where the professional report has identified the care needs as being related specifically to behaviour, including such applications for junior infants, in general it will not be possible to consider access to SNA support until the school has set out the specific strategies that have been employed and that have been implemented to minimise the pupil's difficulties and to promote more adaptive behaviours.

In instances where applications have been made for SNA support for junior infants, for care needs such as medical or toileting needs, as opposed to for behavioural reasons, access to SNA support has been allocated for such qualifying infants. Whereas there is no prescriptive time-frame before which a review may take place, it will be expected that schools, before requesting any such review, will be in a position to demonstrate that they have made every effort to manage pupil behaviour and also to manage any SNA allocation that has already been made to their school to best effect.

Schools Building Projects

167. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding a school (details supplied) in Dublin 18 with regard to the construction of a permanent building for the school; when he expects this application to proceed to the next stage of the building process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24754/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The project referred to by the Deputy was included in the School Buildings Works Programme for 2011 which was announced on 24th January.

The project to deliver a new 24 classroom building for the school is currently at an advanced stage of architectural planning. The Board of Management was informed in June that the project could proceed to stage 2b which involves securing planning permission, fire certificate and disability access certificate and the completion of tender documents.

When the relevant statutory approvals have been obtained and stage 2b completed, and assuming no issues arise, my Department will then be in contact with the Board of Management with regard to the further progression of the project.

Higher Education Fees

168. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the reason a person (details supplied) in County Wicklow has been classified as a non-resident student and required to pay a higher college fee when they have been living here for the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24755/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Under the terms of my Department's Free Fee Scheme the Exchequer meets the cost of tuition fees in respect of eligible students who are pursuing full-time undergraduate courses of study which are a minimum of two years duration in an approved higher education institution. The main conditions of the scheme are that students must be first-time undergraduates, hold inter alia EU/EEA/Swiss nationality in their own right, and have been ordinarily resident in an EU/EEA/Swiss state for

at least three of the five years preceding their entry to an approved third level course. I understand that the student referred to by the Deputy is a US national and therefore does not meet the nationality requirement of the scheme.

Where undergraduate students, such as non-EU students, do not meet the eligibility criteria of the free fees schemes, it is the higher education institution concerned that determines, in accordance with its criteria, the appropriate tuition fee payable by such students. I also understand, that in this case the student, by virtue of his education and residency in the EU, has been approved by the third level institution concerned as being liable to pay the 'EU rate of fees'.

Section 473A, Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, as amended by Section 11 of the Finance Act 2011, provides for tax relief, at the standard rate of tax, for tuition fees paid in respect of approved courses at approved colleges of higher education including certain approved undergraduate and postgraduate courses in E.U. Member States and in non EU countries. Details are available on the Revenue Commissioners' website at www.revenue.ie.

FÁS Training Programmes

169. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to amend some of the pay structures of the FÁS apprenticeship scheme to take into account persons with families who have gone back to do apprenticeships in view of the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24761/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon): The pay structure for apprentices is a matter for Industry. My Department understands from FÁS that registered apprentices are paid the agreed industry apprentice wage rate by the relevant employer and that the actual rate paid may vary depending on the occupation and employer. All registered apprentices who are scheduled to attend off-the-job training in a FÁS Training Centre or Institute of Technology or College of Further Education are paid a FÁS training allowance which is calculated with reference to the gross Industry Wage Norm for the different trade sectors.

All registered apprentices are also paid a contribution towards travel or accommodation costs by FÁS based on existing eligibility criteria.

I understand that FÁS has no plans at present to amend the existing training allowances for apprentices.

Schools Building Projects

170. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans for a site containing a school building and land, purchased by his Department on Haddington Road, Dublin 4. [24773/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): My Department has acquired the former school building and lands at the location to which the Deputy refers to provide additional school accommodation for the projected increase in pupil numbers in the area.

It is intended that the site will be developed to meet some of this need and this is currently being explored by my Department in consultation with the existing primary schools.

School Curriculum

171. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a decision has been made to include history as a core subject in the junior cycle. [24774/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The NCCA has been asked to review the junior certificate and advise on the scope for reform designed to strengthen literacy and numeracy, embed key skills, promote active learning and enhanced creativity and innovation, and ensure appropriate ways of generating evidence of learning. Concerns have also been raised about curriculum overload, and rote learning.

The Council has completed a public consultation process and has published a report of the consultation findings on its website *www.ncca.ie*. The Council is currently finalising its advice to me on the direction of reform, in consultation with the partners in education. I expect to receive the advice shortly.

I am aware that teachers of history and geography have raised concerns that their subjects will no longer be compulsory. The requirement to study history and geography in a secondary school but to have different options in vocational schools is a historical anomaly which is no longer appropriate. I believe that students should have as wide a choice as is feasible in their schools given the overall level of student demand and interest, the teaching resources available, and the qualifications profile of staff. They should also acquire a range of knowledge, essential skills and values which will contribute to lifelong learning, and effective social and economic participation. The importance of history and geography in promoting critical analysis skills, interculturalism, an understanding of human development, democracy, past and current world issues, and the skills for an environmentally sustainable life are fully appreciated. I will be guided by the NCCA's advice in this matter.

Schools Building Projects

172. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding the progress made in relation to the provision of a replacement building for a school (details supplied) in County Galway; when it is envisaged that approval will be given to go to tender with this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24785/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The school building project referred to by the Deputy was included in the School Building Works Programme for 2011 which was announced on 24th January.

The Design Team are currently working on finalising the Stage 2b submission (Detailed Design) which will then be submitted to my Department for review.

Subsequently, assuming no issues arise, my Department will be in contact with the Board of Management with regard to the further progression of the project.

173. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Education and Skills in view of his statements on the unsuitability of prefabs as classroom accommodation, when approval will be given to a school (details supplied) in County Galway for a new school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24787/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The Deputy will be aware that this project was not included in the school building works programme for 2011 published earlier this year by my predecessor.

The progression of all large scale building projects, including this project, from initial design stage through to construction phase will continue to be considered in the context of the Department's multi-annual School Building and Modernisation Programme.

However, in light of competing demands on the capital budget of the Department it is not possible to give an indicative timeframe, at this time, for the progression of this project to completion of tender and construction.

Apprenticeship Programmes

174. **Deputy Tony McLoughlin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the route he, FÁS and SOLAS are providing to ensure school leavers can be trained as tradespeople (details supplied). [24868/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon): Apprenticeship is the recognised means by which people are trained to become craftspeople in Ireland. FÁS has the statutory responsibility for the organisation and control of designated apprenticeship. FÁS does this in co-operation with my Department, the Institutes of Technology, employers and unions.

The significant reduction in construction activity in Ireland over the last few years has raised difficult issues in relation to the future recruitment of apprentices. It has resulted in a situation where the recruitment of apprentices to the construction industry has declined by roughly 90% since 2007.

It is to be expected that the recruitment of apprentices will rise as the construction industry gradually recovers. However, it is anticipated that the level of annual recruitment will not reach the levels which prevailed during the construction boom — even in the long-term.

It is important that those who have responsibility for planning the intake of apprentices in the future, namely FÁS and the Institutes of Technology, have access to information on what the future levels of apprentice intake are likely to be.

A skills shortage could arise if the demand for apprentices in the future was significantly under-estimated; in contrast, an over-estimation of the future levels of demand for apprentices could result in the State retaining more resources than is required for the training of apprentices.

The Institutes of Technology, FÁS, the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the Department of Enterprise, Innovation and Jobs as well as my Department are all represented on an Interdepartmental Study Group on Apprentice Forecasting set-up by my Department in 2009. These forecasts can provide an objective, rational basis for planning the future level of apprentice intake. FÁS and the HEA, based on the forecast of apprenticeship intake, monitor the apprenticeship training capacity requirements on a regular basis and, within the relevant budget allocations, make the necessary adjustment to capacity to meet the demand.

Special Educational Needs

175. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills when a full-time special needs assistant will be provided in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 20; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24883/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The Deputy will be aware that the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is responsible, through its network of local Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) for allocating resource teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) to schools to support children with special educational needs. The NCSE operates within my Department's criteria in allocating such support. This now includes a requirement for the NCSE to have regard to an overall cap on the number of SNA posts.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

10,575 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts are being provided for SNA support for the coming school year. This is a significant number of posts and unlike other areas of the public sector vacancies are being filled up to this number.

It is considered that with equitable and careful management and distribution of these resources that there should be sufficient posts to provide access to SNA support for all children who require such care support to attend school, in accordance with Departmental criteria.

The NCSE issued a circular to all schools advising of the allocation process for the 2011/2012 school year. A key feature of the amended scheme is to provide for an annual allocation of Special Needs Assistant support to eligible schools.

The NCSE has now advised all mainstream schools, including the school referred to by the Deputy in Palmerstown, Dublin 20, of their SNA allocation for the current school year, taking into account the care needs of qualifying pupils attending the school.

I wish to clarify that the recruitment and deployment of SNAs within schools are matters for the individual Principal/Board of Management. SNAs should be deployed by the school in a manner which best meets the care support requirements of the children enrolled in the school for whom SNA support has been allocated. It is a matter for schools to allocate support as required, and on the basis of individual need, which allows schools flexibility in how the SNA support is utilised.

The NCSE will advise schools early in the new school year of any review process to review allocation decisions to ensure that correct procedures were followed and that they comply with my Department's policy. The merits of individual allocation decisions will not be open to appeal under this mechanism.

It will be expected that schools, before requesting a review, will be in a position to demonstrate that they have made every effort to manage their allocation of SNA posts to best effect.

Schools Building Projects

176. **Deputy Tom Hayes** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding an application for school building funding in respect of a school (details supplied) in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24894/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The building project for the school referred to by the Deputy is currently at an advanced stage of architectural planning.

The project was included in the School Building Works Programme for 2011 which was announced on 24th January 2011.

The stage 2b was submitted to my Department this month and is currently under review. When that review is complete officials from my Department will be in contact with the Board of Management regarding the further progression of the project.

Higher Education Grants

177. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the guidelines set down by him regarding calculating the distances from residences to colleges under the adjacent and non-adjacent grant scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24905/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The measurement of the distances in question is a matter for grant awarding bodies. I understand that a range of mechanisms can be used, for example, online mapping such as AA Route Planner and Google Maps. In all

cases, the shortest most direct route to the institution attended is measured. If the distance is disputed, the matter should be taken up with the grant awarding authority concerned. In some cases, it may be necessary to carry out a physical measurement.

Post-Leaving Certification Courses

178. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of post-leaving certificate places available in County Wicklow; the location of these places in County Wicklow; the way this number compares with the number of places available in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24911/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon): Co. Wicklow Vocational Educational Committee (VEC) operates the PLC programme in County Wicklow. The number of approved PLC places in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 is as follows

- 2006/2007 academic year
- 990 PLC places 2007/2008 academic year
- 990 PLC places 2008/2009 academic year
- 950 PLC places 2009/2010 academic year
- 980 PLC places 2010/2011 academic year
- 980 PLC places 2011/2012 academic year
- 1,040 PLC places

The reduction in the number of PLC places allocated to Co Wicklow VEC in the 2008/2009 academic year was as a result of the VEC not utilising its full allocation in the previous year. The increase in the 2009/2010 allocation was in response to increased demand and the allocation of 1,500 additional PLC places nationally.

An additional 60 PLC places were allocated to the VEC in the current academic year as part of the recent Jobs Initiative whereby 1,000 additional PLC places were made available nationally.

Irish Language Exemption

179. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his views on examining the criteria for an Irish language exemption in primary and secondary schools to include consideration of children with diagnoses of Asperger's syndrome; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24912/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): In recent years, my Department has given some consideration to consolidating and updating the departmental circulars which deal with exemptions from the study of Irish in recognised primary (12/96) and post-primary schools (M10/94). All aspects of the current arrangements are under consideration including issues in respect of students with special educational needs. The intention is to consider the matter on a comprehensive basis rather than isolate any one aspect of the existing arrangements. Therefore a revised circular is unlikely to issue until consideration is complete including consideration of students with special educational needs.

Schools Building Projects

180. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the situation regarding a request for additional classroom and ancillary accommodation at a school (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24942/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The school to which the Deputy refers has applied to my Department for funding for the provision of a General Purpose Room (GP), or alternatively to convert two of the existing classrooms into a GP Room and then build two additional classrooms.

The position is that given the current financial constraints within which the Department is operating, priority is being given to applications for essential mainstream classroom accommodation. In this context, it is not possible to give an indicative timeframe for the progression of the project.

Appointments to State Boards

181. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24956/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The information requested by the Deputy is set out below.

Agency Name	Total Board Members	Board Details
An Chomhairle um Oideachais Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG)	21	The board was appointed in September 2010 for a 4 year term.
Commission to Inquire Into Child Abuse (CICA)	6	It is not envisaged that further appointments will be made prior to the Commission being dissolved by the Minister.
Education Finance Board (EFB)	9	The board was appointed in February 2009 for a 3 year term.
FÁS	11 (including Director General)	The board was appointed in January 2010. 3 appointments are up to January 2013, 3 are up to January 2014 while the remainder are up to January 2015.
Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC)	17	The Council was appointed in December 2006 for a 5 year term. <i>See Note 1 below re: upcoming merger.</i>
Grangegorman Development Agency	15 (including CEO)	The board was appointed in November 2009 for a 3 year term.
Higher Education and Training Awards Council	15	The Council was appointed in December 2006 for a 5 year term. <i>See Note 1 below re: upcoming merger .</i>
Higher Education Authority (HEA)	19	9 appointments are up to January 2012, 8 are up to December 2015 and 1 (Chairperson) to January 2016. The remaining position relates to a nominee of the USI and is due to expire in June 2012.
Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering & Technology (IRCSET)	15 (including Executive Director)	9 appointments to the Council are up to January 2015 and 5 are up to January 2013.
Irish Research Council for the Humanities & Social Sciences (IRCHSS)	12	5 appointments are up to January 2014 and 5 are up to January 2012. The remaining 2 members are co-opted by the council members.
Léargas — The Exchange Bureau	9	The Articles of Association of Léargas provide that, at each annual general meeting, one third of the directors shall retire from office in order of length of service, which in effect gives each director a term of three years. There are currently 4 vacancies.
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)	25	The Council was appointed on 1st April 2009 for a 3 year term.

Agency Name	Total Board Members	Board Details
National Council for Guidance in Education (NCGE)	11	The Council was appointed in July 2010 for a 3 year term.
National Council for Special Education (NCSE)	13	The Council was appointed in December 2009 for a 3 year term. There is currently 1 vacancy.
National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI)	14	The board of the Authority was appointed in March of this year. <i>See Note 1 re: upcoming merger .</i>
Residential Institutions Redress Board (RIRB)	11	It is not envisaged that any further appointments will be made to the Board prior to the RIRB ceasing operations.
Residential Institutions Review Committee (RIRC)	6	It is not envisaged that any further appointments will be made to the Committee prior to the RIRC ceasing operations.
Skillnets Ltd	13	The Board's composition and operation are currently being reviewed by officials in the Department.
State Examinations Commission	5	The Commissioners were appointed in March 2009 for a 3 year term.
The Teaching Council	37	The Council was established in March 2009 for a 3 year term.

Question No. 182 answered with Question No. 160.

Employment Support Services

183. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of Springboard places out of the 5,900 provided as part of the recent jobs initiative that remain vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25007/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Applications for the 5,900 Springboard places opened on 25 May 2011 through the online applications facility on the Bluebrick.ie web portal. It is open to applicants to submit multiple applications and to date 16,040 applications have been received from 6,736 people. 3,792 applicants have been accepted and are enrolled on courses and 2,378 applications are currently being processed.

As applications are still being submitted and processed, the overall position in relation to uptake will not be known for another few weeks. The majority of Springboard programmes will have commenced by mid October.

Social Welfare Benefits

184. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of back to education places out of the 3,000 provided as part of the recent jobs initiative that remain vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25008/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon): The additional 3,000 BTEI places provided as part of the recent Jobs Initiative were allocated to the VECs in June, 2011. These places are designed to provide flexible short term programmes, with priority given to people who are unemployed and who left school prior to completing their Leaving Certificate.

VECs are currently in the process of recruiting participants and initiating programmes for the Jobs Initiative. Data on the number of participants availing of these places will be submitted by VECs as part of end of year reports. The analysis of this data will not be available until early 2012.

Departmental Expenditure

185. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25409/11]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The information sought by the Deputy is being collated and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Pension Provisions

186. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of pensions in excess of €100,000 per annum being paid to the Department of An Taoiseach; and the total cost to the State of pensions in excess of €100,000 paid to former staff of the Department of An Taoiseach. [23885/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): According to data supplied by the Paymaster General's Office, there are three retirees from the Department of the Taoiseach who are in receipt of pensions in excess of €100,000 per annum. I am advised that the total amount paid in respect of pensions above €100,000 per annum, dating from 2006 when the first pension exceeded €100,000 for these retirees, is €1,393,900.

The three individuals retired under the terms of their appointment as Secretaries General. However, I should point out that, before the end of this month, I will introduce the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011. This will propose a career averaged rather than final salary pension for Single Scheme members. In addition, the Bill provides that abatement will apply for a Civil or Public Service pensioner who takes up a Public Service position.

Public Service Remuneration

187. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the savings that would be made to the Exchequer if all public sector salaries, including those at semi-State bodies, were reduced and capped at €100,000 per annum. [24406/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): I refer to the reply by my colleague, the Minister for Finance, to Question Nos. 18587/11, 18588/11, and 18586/11 on 5 July 2011.

188. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the current pay of senior civil servants from higher executive officer to Secretary General; if he will provide a breakdown by Department and by grade; the pension entitlements of same; the other emoluments they are entitled to upon reaching retirement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24541/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): Remuneration rates for the Civil Service grades up to Secretary General Level III are detailed in Civil Service Circular No. 28 of 2009 which is accessible through the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform website at <http://per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/circ282009.pdf>

Additionally, the equivalent pay rates for Secretary General Level II are €226,937 (Personal Pension Contribution rate) and €215,590 (Non Personal Pension Contribution rate), and for Secretary General Level I -- €240,286 (Personal Pension Contribution rate) and €228,466 (Non Personal Pension Contribution rate). I should point out that, following the introduction by the Government in June last of a pay ceiling of €200,000 p.a. for senior Public Service posts, all

current incumbents of Secretary General Level I and II posts voluntarily waived their entitlement to any salary in excess of €200,000 p.a. New appointees to such posts are subject to the €200,000 p.a. pay ceiling also.

At present, pension terms for Civil Servants are normally based on their service and final salary, subject to certain conditions. In the case of Heads of Departments or Offices, Top-level Appointments Committee (TLAC) terms may also apply. However, I will before the end of this month introduce the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011. This will propose a career averaged rather than final salary pension for new entrants to the Civil or Public Service who will be members of the new Single Scheme. In addition, the Bill provides that abatement will apply for a Civil or Public Service pensioner who takes up a Public Service position.

Decentralisation Programme

189. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the total cost to the State of decentralisation; when a review of the scheme will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24550/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The 2009 Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) includes an audit of property management under the decentralisation programme. This report identified capital expenditure on the Programme of 289.4 million Euro on property and recurring costs (leases) of 7 million Euro (as at April 2010). Dublin property disposals were 356m Euro and leases with an annual value of 10m Euro over the same period were surrendered. Non-property costs in the order of 30m Euro were incurred, including the costs of decentralising offices and the OPW's spend on dedicated staffing for the programme. The expenditure figures have not been updated since April 2010 as there has been very little activity on the Programme since then, due to the deferral for budgetary reasons in October 2008 of the implementation of the elements of the programme remaining to be completed at that time.

My Department has commenced work on a review of the Programme, and I hope to report to Government in relation to that review later in the year.

Local Authority Valuations

190. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans to amend the Valuation Act 2011 to allow an employer to appeal a rates valuation in volatile economic circumstances; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24887/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The Valuation Act 2001 provides for the valuation of all commercial and industrial property and the Commissioner of Valuation is independent in the performance of his functions under the Act and the making of valuations for rating is his sole prerogative.

Under section 28(4) of the Act, a Revision Officer of the Commissioner may carry out a revision of valuation in relation to a particular property only if a material change of circumstances (MCC) has occurred since the property was last revised. MCC is defined in section 3 of the Act as a change of circumstances, which consist of a new building, a change in value due to structural alterations of an existing building, total or partial demolition of a building or a sub-division or amalgamation of relevant property. The definition does not allow for a revision of valuation where the change in value is due to economic factors, differential movements in property values or other external factors such as roads or other infrastructural development in the vicinity of a property.

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

It is acknowledged that all commercial property owners/occupiers are currently facing economic challenges and the only means, under statute, by which external influences on individual property values can be adequately addressed by the Commissioner, is through the national revaluation programme which is currently underway.

My Department is considering proposals to amend the Valuation Act to modernise and streamline the valuation process in the interests of both the ratepayers and the local authorities.

Pension Provisions

191. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans to introduce a cap on the pensions of future Presidents of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24895/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): Under the current legislative arrangements, the President of Ireland is entitled to a full pension of half pay on leaving office. I will before the end of this month introduce the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011 which will propose a career averaged rather than final salary pension for a President who is a member of the new Single Scheme. The pension that such a President may accrue will also be subject to a cap of 50% of the pay of the office, to cater for a two-term President. In addition, the Bill provides that abatement will apply for a public service pensioner who takes up a public service position, including the Presidency. Finally, it provides for a reduction in the pay of the President, as well as new members of the judiciary, whose pay rates are determined in legislation.

Garda Stations

192. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 122 of 11 May 2010, the position regarding this project; when the premises will be manned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24950/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): Following complete renovation, Clonark Garda Station, Co. Roscommon, will be available for Garda use in mid October 2011. The manning of the Station is an operational matter for An Garda Síochána.

Architectural Heritage

193. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if local workers will be hired in the restoration of Killarney house, County Kerry; if so, when the hiring will begin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24471/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): Following a public tendering process, a contract is expected to be placed shortly for the first phase of the works on the restoration of Killarney, House, County Kerry. The initial package of works will consist of essential repair works, mainly to the external fabric of the building, including repairs of the roof, chimneystacks, flues, gutters, downpipes, windows and drains. The contractor appointed to carry out the works will be responsible for the engagement of workers for the project.

Civil Service Staff

194. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number

of promotions from age 63 years to retirement that were awarded to senior civil servants from higher executive officer grade to Secretary General grade over the past ten years on a yearly basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24765/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The information sought by the Deputy is not collected centrally. Generally, information on the age of a candidate is not part of the candidate information that is collected when promotion competitions take place in the Civil Service.

Selection for appointment to posts in the Civil Service (both internal and external) is governed by the Codes of Practice set down by the Commission for Public Service Appointments. The Commission has a statutory role in ensuring that all appointments are made on merit and as result of fair and transparent processes. The Civil Service is an equal opportunities employer. Age is not one of the eligibility criteria used in the selection process in promotion competitions. Individual Departments and Offices may be able to provide the Deputy with information sought as it applies in each organisation should the Deputy wish to pursue the matter.

Flood Relief

195. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason correspondence from this Deputy on a decision made by Government last December on the interaction between Government and the insurance industry on flood insurance in the aftermath of the floods of 2009 was not replied to; if he intends to implement this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24790/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): I met with the Irish Insurance Industry Federation in July to review the interchange of information between OPW and the IIF. In this regard, OPW has provided extensive data to the IIF, detailing areas of the country which have benefitted from flood protection measures put in place over several decades. In addition, the recently published Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), as part of the CFRAM Programme, has been forwarded to the IIF for its information. This interchange of data contributes to providing opportunities for the insurance industry to make informed decisions in relation to flood risk cover.

Similarly, when complete, the details of the capital protection works in the Lisheenavalla/Caherlea area, will be issued to the IIF to better inform consideration by its members of flood risk cover in that area. It is hoped that the advance phase of these works will be complete before the end of the year, subject to favourable weather conditions. Details of these works have been given to residents in the Clare River area and it is open to them to present this information in support of any application for flood insurance cover.

It has not been possible to respond fully to all correspondence received during the peak summer holiday period due to the normal seasonal constraints on staff resources and the priority assignment of resources to the urgent requirements of the CFRAM programme. A reply to the Deputy's correspondence will issue shortly.

Proposed Legislation

196. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans to introduce the Construction Contracts Bills into Dáil Éireann this term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24882/11]

201. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans to introduce the Construction Contracts Bill to Dáil Éireann; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25011/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): I propose to take Questions Nos. 196 and 201 together.

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to introduce new legislation to protect small building subcontractors that have been denied payments from bigger companies. In addition, you may be aware that the Construction Contracts Bill 2010 was introduced by Senator Feargal Quinn and passed Committee and remaining stages in the Seanad on 8 March 2011. It is now before the Dáil.

In this regard, my colleague Minister of State Mr Brian Hayes is working with Senator Quinn to continue a collaborative approach in regard to advancing the Bill. The Senator's Bill is a welcome initiative and I understand that Minister Hayes and Senator Quinn held a meeting with relevant stakeholders and opposition spokespersons on 28th June 2011. This consultation highlighted a number of matters relating to the Bill that required further consideration and that have been taken into account in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which is being finalised in my Department at present.

These steps will make it possible to bring proposals to Government about how to progress this legislation. It is intended to have the legislation progress in the Dáil in the current session. It is important that a solution to the problem of non-payment in the construction sector must not place an unnecessary regulatory or cost burden on the parties to the dispute, other parties involved in the project, or the State.

Pension Provisions

197. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason he did not rescind the recent special severance gratuity payment agreed by the Top Level Appointments Committee to the former Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach, in view of the fact that this payment, which is clearly defined in section 7 of the Superannuation and Pensions Act 1963 as being as a special severance gratuity, could only have been awarded to this person on the instruction, if he so thinks proper by him. [24888/11]

198. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason the former Secretary General to the Department of the Taoiseach was facilitated by him to retire with a full pension at 57 years with no actuarial reduction despite section 6 of the Superannuation and Pensions Act 1963 stating that a notional period shall be added to the established service of a civil servant if he in his discretion so directs. [24889/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): I propose to take Questions Nos. 197 and 198 together.

Prior to the appointment of the former Secretary General to the post of Secretary General to the Government in January 2000, the Government decided that the terms applicable to Secretaries General appointed under the Top Level Appointments Committee (TLAC) process would apply in his case. At the end of his term in December 2010, the then Government confirmed the application of those TLAC exit terms on his retirement but deferred his retirement until 6 July 2011 at the latest. It was decided by the Government in June 2011 that his retirement be further deferred to 31 July 2011. In these circumstances the payment of the former Secretary General's superannuation and severance benefits was deferred until he ceased to hold office and his benefits were then paid in accordance with the Government decisions made on his appointment and on 7 December 2010.

Appointments to State Boards

199. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the names

of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24963/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The following are the State Boards whose membership is determined by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Public Appointment Service

The following have been nominated and have agreed to serve on the Board of PAS.

Mr. Eddie Sullivan, Chairman

Mr. Des Dowling, Assistant Secretary — Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

Ms Deirdre O’Keeffe, Assistant Secretary — Department of Justice and Equality

Ms Patricia Coleman, Director — Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

Mr. Seán McGrath — National Director of HR in the HSE

Ms Judith Eve — former Chairperson the Civil Service Commissioners, Northern Ireland — Ministerial Nomination

Mr. Eddie Molloy — HR Consultant — Ministerial Nomination

Mr. Dan Murphy, former General Secretary of the PSEU — nominated by ICTU

The final member of the Board is Mr. Bryan Andrews, CEO of the PAS who holds office on an ex officio basis.

The appointments are for a period of three years and it is proposed that they will take effect from 1 September 2011.

The Public Appointments Service was established, under the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004, on 19th October 2004.

I (in consultation with Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence) have in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act, 2004, appointed the following persons as members of the Board of the Public Appointments Service (with effect from 1st September, 2011).

An Post National Lottery

An Post National Lottery has a board of seven directors, four of whom (including the chairman) are nominated by an Post and appointed by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform while the remaining three directors are both nominated and appointed by the Minister. A director’s term of office is generally for three years and a director may serve more than one term of office.

The dates on which each director’s term will end are set out in the table below:

Name of Director	Nominated by An Post or by Minister for PER	Date on which term of office expires
Mr. Donal Connell (Chairman)	Nominated by An Post	5th November 2011

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

Name of Director	Nominated by An Post or by Minister for PER	Date on which term of office expires
Mr. James Hyland	Nominated by An Post	5th November 2011
Ms Barbara Patton	Nominated by Minister	5th November 2011
Mr. Dermot Griffin	Nominated by An Post	5th November 2012
Mr. Micheál Ó Muirheartaigh	Nominated by Minister	5th November 2012
Ms Caroline Murphy	Nominated by An Post	5th November 2013
Mr. Oliver Wilkinson	Nominated by Minister	5th November 2013

The Standards in Public Office Commission

The Standards in Public Office Commission is an independent body established in December 2001 under the Standards in Public Office Act 2001. This legislation was introduced in the Dáil by the Minister for Finance. It is an independent public body — it is not a state agency, and does not carry out departmental policy. It supervises the Ethics in Public Office, the Electoral, and the Party Leaders' Allowance legislation. The Chair of the Commission is appointed by the President on the advice of the Government following resolutions passed by each House of the Oireachtas recommending the appointment. The Ordinary Member is appointed by the Government following resolutions passed by each House approving the proposed appointment.

Departmental Staff

200. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of new Secretaries General and their senior staff appointed to Departments since 9 March 2011 whose appointments were in accordance with the Top Level Appointments Commission arrangements which include provision for substantial severance payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25006/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): There have been four Secretaries-General appointed to Government Departments since 9 March 2011 as follows, Mr. Robert Watt (Department of Public Expenditure & Reform), Mr. Martin Fraser (Department of the Taoiseach), Mr. Brian Purcell (Department of Justice & Equality) and Mr. Jim Breslin (Department of Children & Youth Affairs). The severance arrangements to which the Deputy refers only apply to Heads of Departments and not to other senior level appointments in Departments.

Their appointments were made in line with Government Decision of 5 March 1987 concerning appointments of Secretaries General of Departments which provides for early retirement terms and a special severance gratuity. These arrangements are currently under review and I expect that proposals will be brought to Government in due course. I should also point out that I will before the end of this month introduce the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme) and Remuneration Bill 2011. This will propose a career averaged rather than final salary pension for Single Scheme members. In addition, the Bill provides that abatement will apply for a civil or public service pensioner who takes up a public service position. There will be no provision for added years or severance payments in that Bill.

Question No. 201 answered with Question No. 196.

Departmental Expenditure

202. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the

amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25416/11]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): Following clarification with the Deputy's office I understand that the information being sought is the total expenditure by my Department on translations from English into Irish for 2010. Expenditure in relation to translation costs in 2010 for my Department are covered by material provided by the Department of Finance in respect of that year, given that the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform was not officially established until last July.

Rights Commissioner Service

203. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the reason for the delays in the Rights Commissioners issuing a decision on a case (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24646/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The Labour Relations Commission, of which the Rights Commissioner Service is a Division, is a body that acts independently in the carrying out of its functions. The question deals with matters relating to the day-to-day functioning of the Labour Relations Commission and is one in which I have no direct responsibility.

204. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his plans to amend the legislative provisions regarding the Rights Commissioner Service to provide for an administrative complaints procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24647/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): On 1 July 2011, I announced my intention to streamline the State's five employment rights bodies and to introduce a simpler, more effective system, including a single point of entry for all users of the State's employment rights machinery. The Rights Commissioner Service is part of the Labour Relations Commission, one of the five bodies in question.

On 15 August 2011, I published a consultation paper on this reform process, and invited submissions from interested parties by 16th September. My proposals are aimed at providing Ireland with a world-class employment rights system, as well as reducing costs for taxpayers and users of the system. My proposals include providing a system that will be easy to understand and use; A new integrated two-tier structure to replace the five existing employment rights bodies; Individuals being able to take their own case and not having to rely on a legal representative, a representative body or a labour inspector; The development of shared services and integration of back office functions to ensure greater efficiency and savings; Support to ensure that speedy resolution can occur at workplace level; related cases being taken at the same hearing; One entry point to the system.

At this stage, it is too early to be precise as to how the reformed entity will operate, whether by a form of 'administrative complaints procedure' or by some other procedure. These issues will be addressed in the context of the streamlining review.

Registry of Friendly Societies

205. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if an organisation (details supplied) in County Sligo is registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies; if this organisation has met its statutory obligation regarding the filing of annual returns; if the

[Deputy Joan Collins.]

annual returns for 2009 and 2010 have been filed to date; if the Registry of Friendly Societies has an obligation to ensure that registered organisations meet their statutory obligations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24651/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The position in relation to the society referred to by the Deputy is that the society was registered by the Registrar for Friendly Societies on 25 June 2007, under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1893-1978. This legislation requires that societies file an annual return with the Registry of Friendly Societies no later than the thirty-first of March each year. I am informed that the last year for which an annual return has been filed with the Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS) by the society referred to is in respect of the year 2008. The annual returns for the years 2009 and 2010 have not been filed to date.

This information is available on the public file of each society, which includes details of registration, the rules of the society and its annual returns, and is available for inspection at the Registry of Friendly Societies. The Registry of Friendly Societies issues timely notification to registered societies to file annual returns, and in respect of those societies that fail to file on time, subsequent reminders issue. The non-filing of annual returns constitutes an offence under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. Provision also exists under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts for cancellation of the registration of such societies. In this regard the Registrar has cancelled societies in the past for failure to file annual returns and the position in relation to those societies who have outstanding annual returns is kept under review.

Small and Medium Enterprises

206. **Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his views on a proposal to establish an independent body, similar to the Money Advice and Budgeting Service, which would provide ongoing financial and budgeting advice to small and medium enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24885/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): Suggestions have been made, including under the Credit Suggestions Initiative run by my colleague Minister Noonan in the Department of Finance, for the establishment of an independent body for Small Business, similar to the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS), which would provide ongoing financial and budgeting advice to small and medium enterprises. MABS currently assists people who are over-indebted and need help and advice in coping with debt problems. The role of money advisers is to help clients to assess their financial situation, make a budget plan and deal with creditors.

While there is some merit in the general idea of a MABS for small business, there is a need to fully consider precisely what role it would play and whether a new structure is needed to assist business people in effectively running their businesses. There are already a number of State agencies supporting the enterprise sector which provide, inter alia, advice in relation to general financing of a business and also cashflow management. Business accountants and auditors also provide financial advice and input along with many other private sector specialists. In addition, business representative bodies provide assistance to their members in dealing with financial matters. To the extent that such advisory services are already available, it remains to be seen to what extent a MABS for Small Business would be necessary.

In the context of debt management for overly indebted businesses, the need is for such businesses to develop a recovery strategy and to negotiate a solution with creditors, including the banking sector. Opportunities exist for formal and informal debt restructuring arrange-

ments. In the first instance, businesses in difficulty must recognise their difficulty, confront their problems and discuss their position frankly with their creditors. In the current climate, the most significant creditors would tend to be the banks.

I think the idea of a MABS for Small Business needs to be considered more fully in order to determine what interventions are needed by business and who is best equipped to provide those interventions. The current MABS initiative has a budget requirement in excess of €18m and is provided through 52 independent MABS companies operating local MABS services from 65 locations throughout the country. Any consideration would have to include an examination of existing supports, the demand for a new initiative, the resources, and a cost benefit analysis. In developing any proposal, there should be an involvement and contributions from all stakeholders in the process. I do not think that the State alone should be seen as the solution to the issue either in terms of service delivery or underwriting the cost of any initiative.

Appointments to State Boards

207. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24961/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The information sought by the Deputy is set out in the following table.

DJEI State Board Membership Renewal Dates — PQ 24961/11

Name of Board	How membership is determined	No. of Members	Renewal date(s) for members (if multiple appts due on same date, state that date and no. of members involved)
Personal Injuries Assessment Board	Section 56 of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board Act, 2003	5	12 April 2012 2 Members 26 January 2013 x 1 Member 12 April 2014 x 1 Member Vacancy x1 Member
Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority	Section 11 of the Companies (Auditing and Accounting) Act, 2003	2	03 January 2012 x 1 Member 03 January 2013 x 1 Member
National Consumer Agency	Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act 2007 provides that the Minister shall appoint the Members of the Agency (with the exception of the CEO, who is appointed by the Agency itself subject to the approval of the Minister The section also provides that on the anniversary of the establishment day of the Agency and on each subsequent anniversary of that day, two members of the Agency (other than the chairperson and the CEO) shall retire from office. The section further provides that a member of the Agency (other than the CEO) shall serve for not more than 10 consecutive years.	12	There are currently 3 vacancies, 2 since the 1st May 2011 and 1 since the 1st April 2010. Two posts were recently advertised.

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

Name of Board	How membership is determined	No. of Members	Renewal date(s) for members (if multiple appts due on same date, state that date and no. of members involved)
Health and Safety Authority	Section 37 of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (No. 10 of 2005) states that the Board of the Health and Safety Authority shall consist of a chairperson and 11 ordinary members appointed by the Minister. The ordinary members shall consist of 3 persons nominated by organisations representative of employees, 3 persons nominated by organisations representative of employers and 5 persons the Minister considers appropriate including one person from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation.	12	The term of the Board is three years from date of appointment. The current Board was appointed by the Minister on 20th December 2010 and is due for renewal on 20 December 2013.
Labour Relations Commission	Chair and two other members appointed directly by Minister. Four remaining members appointed by Minister on nomination of other bodies.	7 (including Chair)	6th July 2012 (all members)
The Tyndall National Institute	* see attached note	13	2 vacancies exist at present February 2012 1 Member April 2013 1 Member October 2013 1 Member January 2014 1 Member October 2014 1 Member October 2014 1 Member January 2015 1 Member January 2015 1 Member April 2015 1 Member July 2016 1 Member
IDA	All members appointed at the discretion of the Minister	12	The two longest serving Board Members retire on 31st December of each year**
Shannon Development	All members appointed at the discretion of the Minister	12	The two longest serving Board Members retire in April of each year at the time of the AGM***
Patent Agents Registration Board	Rule 6(1) of the Register of Patents Agents Rules 1992	5	Jun-13
Trade Mark Agents Registration Board	Rule 51(2) of the Trade Mark Rules 1996	5	Jun-13
Science Foundation Ireland	Appointments to the Board of Science Foundation Ireland are governed by statute under the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act 2003. The Board comprises twelve members in total. Eleven members are appointed by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, with the consent of the Minister for Finance following consultation with the Minister for Education and Skills. The Minister for Education and Skills can nominate one of these appointments. The Director General is appointed as an ex-officio member of the SFI Board.	12	Sections 9(3) and 9(4) of the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act 2003 deals with the term of office of a Board member. The duration of SFI Board membership is dependent on turnover of members which, on an annual basis and effective from 25th July, includes a minimum of two retirements from the Board per year. A Board member shall not serve more than ten consecutive years.

Name of Board	How membership is determined	No. of Members	Renewal date(s) for members (if multiple appts due on same date, state that date and no. of members involved)
InterTradeIreland	The Board of InterTradeIreland consists of twelve members, six of whom are nominated by the South and six by the North. In the South, ICTU and IBEC each nominate one member to the Board. These two nominees, along with the four others, are recommended for appointment to the North South ministerial Council (NSMC) by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.	12	The renewal date for members is 13th December 2011. (The six Northern members are nominated by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the six Southern members are nominated by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.
National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI)	Appointed by the Minister	10	3 longest serving members (excluding ex-officio CEO) to retire on 14 April each year
	staff representatives by lot	2	
	ex-officio	1	
Forfás	Members are appointed by the Minister (four Members of the board are ex-officio posts under the establishing legislation — CEOs of Forfás, IDA and Enterprise Ireland and the Director General of SFI)	13	At end of each year December the two longest serving board members are obliged to resign — they are eligible for re-appointment should the Minister so choose
Enterprise Ireland	One ex officio and eleven ministerial appointment	12	Two members annually on 23rd July

*Appointments to the Board of the Tyndall National InstituteThe Board is comprised of 13 members inclusive of a Chairman. Membership of the Board is ratified by the Minister and University College Cork (UCC) under the terms of an agreement between the parties. Under this agreement a maximum of 7 and a minimum of 6 members are appointed by the Board of the Institute on the nomination of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, 3 members on the nomination of UCC, and 1 member on the nomination of Forfás. The CEO of the Institute is an ex-officio Board member. Additionally, the Chairman of the Board is appointed by UCC on foot of a proposal made by the Minister. The term of office of a Board member is normally 5 years but a Board member is eligible for reappointment for a further 5 year term. In exceptional circumstances a further term of 2 years may be offered.

** There is currently one vacancy on the IDA board.

***There are two vacancies currently on the Shannon Development Board.

Industrial Development

208. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of site visits that the Industrial Development Agency and Enterprise Ireland have made to IDA and Enterprise Ireland supported companies in County Meath in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24978/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The relationship between the enterprise development agencies and their client companies is a day-to-day operational matter for the agencies and not one in which I have a function. Furthermore, for reasons of commercial sensitivity and client confidentiality, it would not be appropriate to make public the normal and regular contacts which the agencies have with their client companies.

On the other hand the number of site visits arranged by IDA for potential investors is available. I have been informed by IDA Ireland that between 2006 and 2010, a total of 16 site visits were made by potential investors to County Meath. A breakdown of these site visits is set out in the following tabular statement. In the main itineraries for site visits relate to mobile investments, normally from overseas. Indigenous investment is not of its nature very mobile.

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

Table showing the number of first time site visits by potential investors to County Meath in the period 2006 to 2010

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Meath	10	0	4	2	0

County Enterprise Boards

209. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the funding for the County Meath Community Enterprise Board in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; the number of applications supported in each of those years; the amount each successful application received; the number of community enterprise centres in Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24979/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The role of Meath County Enterprise Board, as one of a network of County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs) throughout the country, is to provide a source of support for micro-enterprise in the start-up and expansion phases, to promote and develop indigenous micro-enterprise potential and to stimulate economic activity and entrepreneurship at local level. Business growth, job creation and retention are central to the activities of the CEBs.

Subject to certain eligibility criteria, Meath CEB can provide both financial and non-financial assistance to eligible project promoters. The forms of financial assistance available include Priming Grants, Business Expansion/Development Grants and Feasibility/Innovation Grants. The provision of non-financial assistance includes general Business Advice and Business Management Training as well as Mentoring and Networking opportunities.

The overall Exchequer allocations to Meath CEB for the years 2006 to 2010 including administrative overheads, salaries, and financial supports to micro-enterprises in the form of direct grant aid and soft supports were €916,019, €968,275, €1,042,093, €964,617 and €898,531 respectively.

The information sought by the Deputy in relation to grant assistance is set out as follows. Individual grant details are not retained by this Department. An average grant aid figure per project has been included.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Grants Paid	€204,813	€252,974	€286,336	€228,797	€230,515
No. of Projects Assisted	22	27	26	42	32
Average Grant Issued	€9,310	€9,369	€11,013	€5,448	€7,204

Enterprise Ireland and the CEBs work closely together on the EI Community Enterprise Centre Scheme and provide practical support in terms of space and facilities and a supportive environment for new businesses to emerge and prosper at a local level. Under this scheme three Enterprise Centres have been funded in Meath, they are:

Navan Enterprise Centre, now eight years in existence, is fully occupied and expansion plans have received Enterprise Ireland approval. 27 different tenants employ about 250 people in the 7,000 square metre centre and this is continuing to grow. Epicom Ltd, a

specialty packaging company, is one of the largest employers in the centre. Other tenants include Millmount Healthcare, Navan uPVC and the Health Service Executive.

Kells Enterprise Centre Ltd. was completed in December 2006 at an estimated cost of €2.9m. The Centre has a total floor space of 2,280 square metres, with units of approximately 20-750 square metres. Phase 2 of the centre has now moved swiftly ahead and when complete will accommodate 30/35 businesses in a 29,000 square foot facility. Selection will be based on technology and high-value added businesses with a particular emphasis on manufacturing.

Trim Initiative for Development and Enterprise Ltd (TIDE) is planning for future development.

210. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his plans for the restructuring of the community enterprise boards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24980/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The issue of restructuring the CEBs has been in the public domain since the publication of the McCarthy Group Report in 2009. There is no doubt but that the County Enterprise Board model has served the micro-enterprise sector very well over the years but some restructuring of that model is now required to meet the current social, economic and technological landscape of Ireland in line with the many changes since the establishment of the Boards in 1993. The indigenous micro-enterprise sector plays a key part in Irish business and will be vital to our return to economic growth, and it is therefore important that the current deliberations on the most appropriate structures for the support of the micro-enterprise sector are dealt with in a considered and focused manner.

There are a number of schools of thought on the best way forward in relation to CEB restructuring. It will be important to ensure that there is a coherent and cohesive delivery of State support to the indigenous business sector based on clear enterprise policy principles laid down by this Department. Any restructuring must not diminish the State's engagement with and support for our important micro-enterprise sector and in particular must not make it more difficult for the end-user to access the support services available for the Sector.

Within my Department we are currently seeking to determine the extent to which there should be restructuring of the CEBs having regard to the Programme for Government, and to other recommendations on CEB restructuring, taking account of the need to achieve a rational and focused model for entrepreneurs, as well as the need to ensure that there is targeted local delivery of enterprise support, driven by a national enterprise policy, in a manner which eliminates overlap and duplication.

Credit Guarantee Scheme

211. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation when he will make the partial credit scheme operational; the amount of money that will be invested in the scheme; the way the scheme will operate; his projections for the scheme for the years 2011-2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24981/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): I am working towards the introduction of a targeted, Temporary Partial Credit Guarantee scheme which will be in operation later in the year.

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

The current position is that the contract for the design of the Scheme was awarded to Capital for Enterprise Limited (CfEL) on 26th August following a competitive tendering process. CfEL is a Non-Departmental Public Body owned by and reporting to the UK Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. CfEL have extensive experience of developing and operating the Small Firms Loan Guarantee and Enterprise Finance Guarantee schemes in the UK. CfEL is currently actively engaged on the design of an appropriate scheme.

Once a suitable scheme design has been agreed in early October, there will then be a further tendering process to select an operator to allow for the roll out of the scheme towards the end of the year.

As the Scheme is still in the design phase I am not in a position to set out specific details to the Deputy. Under the scheme, a loan guarantee will be provided by the guarantor (the State) to the lender, under strict criteria to target specific identified market failures, thereby facilitating the outflow of additional credit from the banks. Both the borrower and the bank will retain exposure in the event of default. The State will be exposed only to the portion of the loan guaranteed up to a pre-specified limit.

Allowing for a level of default and taking into account income from premiums, there will be an overall direct net cost to the exchequer. However this net cost will be compensated by exchequer gains in terms of employment sustained and created, savings on welfare payments and increased direct and indirect tax payments. It should also have a positive impact on exports, contributing to further jobs in the medium-term.

The Government's commitment will be for an initial period of one year. Specific performance criteria will be set down that allow for review and revision of the scheme at the end of that initial period, before any commitment to a roll-over of the scheme for subsequent years.

Enterprise Ireland Mentor Network

212. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the numbers of business mentors under schemes operated by him available in County Meath and nationally; the number of businesses or persons in County Meath and nationally they have interacted with; the frequency with which they met them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24982/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The Enterprise Ireland Mentor Network was established to help companies identify and overcome obstacles to growth and provide tailored advice, guidance and support, to help accelerate growth and build management capability. Mentors are senior executives, drawn from the private sector, with a proven track record in business. They act as a confidential sounding board, advising companies on key operational and strategic issues. The Network is regularly refreshed with CEOs and senior executives with high levels of achievement and with proven skills in a range of areas. Every effort is made to match the Mentor to the specific needs of a company.

- A mentoring assignment consists of 10 visits from a Mentor over a 12 month period.
- Companies choose a Mentor from a short-list of Mentors with the experience to meet their stated needs.
- The goals and objectives are established by the client in agreement with the Mentor at the start of the assignment.
- All Mentors sign a strict confidentiality agreement with Enterprise Ireland.

Enterprise Ireland has 291 active mentors on its Mentor Network nationally. Six of these mentors are located in County Meath.

Since 2005, EI mentors have been appointed to 33 assignments with EI and County Enterprise Board clients located in County Meath. 23 of these assignments have been completed over a course of 133 visits and 10 are in progress with 36 visits instigated so far.

Mentors from the Network were appointed to companies across the country in the following years:

- 2009 — 365 assignments set up
- 2010 — 327 assignments set up
- 2011 — To date 259 assignments have been set up, and 420 assignments are currently in progress.

Meath County Enterprise Board and the County and City Enterprise Board (CEB) network across the country provide support for micro-enterprises in the start-up and expansion phases. The assistance provided includes a wide range of one-to-one mentoring, business advice and information services.

Meath CEB's mentoring services are complemented by business advice sessions and 'Start Your Own Business' (SYOB) training. In 2010, there were 228 business advice sessions and 193 SYOB provisions. Meath CEB has an available panel of 151 mentors across a variety of business specialisations. Mentoring sessions in 2010 to Meath CEB clients totalled 26 individual project promoters with 66 sessions carried out.

Meath CEB offers three mentoring packages as follows:

- *Developmental Stage Mentoring*: This is aimed at those who cannot attend a Start Your Own Business Programme due to personal or work commitments and wish to gain expert advice on how to get started. This package consists of 4 mentoring visits (3 hours per visit).
- *Crisis Mentoring*: This is aimed at businesses in difficulties financial or otherwise who cannot attend training courses but require immediate help with their business. It allows micro-enterprises (i.e. businesses employing 1-10 employees) the opportunity to meet with a business mentor over a period of 1.5 hours to discuss the clients credit control, cash flow or other urgent issues. Additional hours may be granted if necessary.
- *Subsidised Mentoring*: This is for client businesses operating within manufacturing and internationally traded service businesses, those who have been in receipt of a grant from the Board, or those who have the potential to be assisted by the Board, and are offered between 3 and 5 sessions each of 3 hours duration. Mentors may be appointed, at the discretion of the Board, for those businesses operating in the services sector.

CEB mentoring provision operates on broadly similar parameters across the CEB Network. However, it has not been possible within the timescale to provide the required information across the remaining 34 CEBs.

Throughout 2011, the CEBs have continued to be actively involved in the economic development of the country by direct grant aid to businesses and project promoters and through the provision of one-to-one mentoring together with other "soft supports" to business, all of which help to stimulate indigenous enterprise and job creation.

County Enterprise Boards

213. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the cost per job for community enterprise jobs in County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24983/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The role of Meath County Enterprise Board (CEB) as part of the CEB Network is to provide support for small businesses with 10 employees or fewer in the start-up and expansion phases, to promote and develop indigenous micro-enterprise potential and to stimulate economic activity and entrepreneurship at local level, with priority being given to manufacturing and internationally traded services. CEBs recognise that business growth and job creation are inherent considerations in their activities.

Subject to eligibility criteria new and developing micro-enterprises may qualify for financial support from the CEBs in the form of priming, expansion/development and feasibility/innovation grants. In addition, the CEBs deliver a range of non-financial supports to improve management capability development within micro-enterprises designed to help new and existing enterprises to operate effectively and efficiently so as to last and grow.

The average cost of jobs is calculated by reference to the total capital grants paid to promoters since 1993 and the gross jobs existing at the end of 2010. Meath CEB provided €4.910m in capital grant aid to project promoters over that period with gross jobs amounting to 883, giving an average cost per job of €5,561. Allocations to Meath CEB in relation to current expenditures and soft supports are not included in the cost of jobs calculation.

214. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the micro enterprise supports currently available in County Meath; of these, the companies currently utilising them in County Meath; the amount being spent on them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24984/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): Meath County Enterprise Board (CEB) as part of the CEB Network provides support for the micro-enterprise sector (small businesses not exceeding 10 employees) in the start-up and expansion phases. CEBs also promote and develop indigenous micro-enterprise potential and stimulate economic activity and entrepreneurship at local level, with priority being given to manufacturing and internationally traded services. CEBs recognise that business growth and job creation are inherent considerations in their activities and while their primary function is to promote enterprise, CEBs can support individuals, firms and community groups provided they have the capacity to achieve commercial viability which is vital to job creation.

The CEBs deliver a range of tailored Programmes and Supports in order to fulfil this role. The overall priorities for Capital expenditure by the CEBs focus on the promotion and stimulation of entrepreneurship at local level and the development of sustainable growth-orientated micro-enterprises, which, over time, can develop into strong export entities. This is done through the provision of both financial assistance and non-financial assistance.

The criteria under which funding is available from the CEBs is based on factors such as the sector of the economy in which an enterprise is operating or intends to operate and the size or proposed size of the enterprise. CEBs can assist in the establishment, and/or development, of new and existing enterprises subject to the following eligibility criteria;

- the enterprise must be in the commercial sphere;
- the enterprise must demonstrate a market for the product/service;

- the enterprise must have a capacity for growth and new job creation;
- the enterprise must not employ more than 10 people;
- the enterprise must not give rise to deadweight or displacement.

Within the above eligibility criteria there are certain priorities and restrictions imposed such as the following;

- priority must be given to enterprises in the manufacturing or internationally traded services sector which over time can develop into strong export entities and graduate to the Enterprise Ireland Portfolio;
- tourism enterprises must be aimed predominantly at overseas visitors;
- locally provided enterprises promoted by the unemployed, those recently made redundant and women re-entering the workforce can be supported provided that those enterprises do not give rise to concerns about deadweight or displacement;
- it is considered inappropriate to support other areas such as retail enterprises, personal services (e.g. hairdressers, gardeners, etc), professional services (accountants, solicitors, etc) lacking export potential, construction, etc, as it is considered that these generally give rise to unacceptable deadweight (where projects would have proceeded anyway) and/or displacement (where the projects simply displace business from other players in the market) concerns.

The CEBs can provide both financial and non-financial assistance to a project promoter. The forms of *financial assistance*, which are available, subject to certain restrictions and conditional on an agreed business plan, include priming Grants for Start-ups, Business Expansion and Development Grants to assist with pre start-up market or product studies to include testing the viability of the business.

The provision of *non-financial assistance* can take the form of a wide range of business advice and information services, management capability training and development programmes, e-Commerce training initiatives etc. While these soft supports may not directly generate jobs in an enterprise, they can contribute positively to the wider policy objective of building an enterprise culture which, in time, may result in job creation without direct financial assistance from the State.

Through the provision of both financial and non-financial support the CEBs are central in assisting many micro-enterprises in developing their growth potential and, which over time, can develop into strong export entities where they have sufficient mass to access the services of Enterprise Ireland.

In 2010, Meath CEB provided €230,515 in financial assistance to 32 projects resulting in the creation of 43 jobs and sustaining a further 40. In addition, training was provided to 366 participants. To date in 2011 15 projects have been assisted resulting in 22 full time jobs created, and sustaining a further 22 jobs.

During 2011, Meath CEB and the CEB network will continue to be actively involved in the economic development of microenterprises across the regions.

Enterprise Ireland

215. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of bank officials that have been trained by Enterprise Ireland in dealing with business loans for small and medium enterprises and micro enterprises in County Meath; what this training entails; when the remaining bank officials will be trained; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24985/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): This Government recognises the importance of ensuring that bank officials engaged in business lending have a good knowledge and understanding of the financial needs of viable businesses, the sectors and markets they trade in, and modern business models. The development and maintenance of close working relationships between our banks and enterprise will enable Irish companies to trade locally as well as helping them to take full advantage of export growth opportunities.

It is in this context that Enterprise Ireland has established working relationships with both the pillar banks and other SME banks. Knowledge sharing activities have been initiated which have included reciprocal secondments, sectoral briefings, participation in Enterprise Ireland sponsored events including international markets week, the finance for growth workshops and the trade mission to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2010.

This ongoing interaction between Enterprise Ireland and the banks has to date facilitated the participation by over 100 senior bank officials from the main banks, across various general and specialist functions (including Business and Corporate Banking, Trade Finance, Treasury and Credit) in knowledge sharing activities. Enterprise Ireland does not collate data in relation to this type of activity on a county basis.

Additionally, Enterprise Ireland is encouraging the banks to develop propositions for exporters and technology companies that are suited to different stages of growth (start-ups, early stage and mature companies) and to adopt a cashflow lending approach as opposed to the asset backed approach that has been the norm in recent years.

This engagement is ongoing and is a key part of the Government's strategy to ensure that viable businesses have access to credit.

Departmental Expenditure

216. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25414/11]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): My Department has been unable to collate the information sought by the Deputy within the timeframe given. I will endeavour to provide the information to the Deputy as soon as possible .

Social Insurance

217. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the amount generated from PRSI contributions in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010; and the corresponding percentage of total revenue generating in those years. [24768/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The total value of PRSI contributions paid into my Department's Social Insurance Fund in each of the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 is set out in the following table:

PRSI Receipts

Year	2010	2009	2008	2007
	€million	€million	€million	€million
TOTAL	6,708	7,165	7,984	7,722

PRSI contributions on average accounted for 99% of revenue generated by the Department in the four years 2007 to 2010. The Social Insurance Fund also received additional income by way of a return on the Social Insurance Investment Accounts and rental income amounting to €407million and €176,000 respectively in this period. The figures contained in the table are net of the Health Contribution and the National Training Levy which were collected up to last year as part of PRSI contributions and paid over the Health Service Executive and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

The above figures do not include revenue generated by the Exchequer through general taxation and applied to social welfare purposes, such as funding means tested social assistance payments or universal entitlements such as Child Benefit.

Social Welfare Appeals

218. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason for the ongoing delay in processing the appeal for disability allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24443/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the disability allowance claim of the person concerned was disallowed following an assessment by a Medical Assessor who expressed the opinion that she was medically unsuitable for the allowance. An appeal was registered on 21 July 2011 and in accordance with the statutory procedures the relevant department papers and the comments of the Social Welfare services on the matter raised in the appeal have been sought. In that context, an assessment by another Medical Assessor will be carried out.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Benefits

219. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Mayo will receive a decision on their application for back to school allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24453/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year.

A person may qualify for a BSCFA payment if he or she is in receipt of a social welfare or health service executive payment, is participating in an approved employment scheme or attending a recognised education or training course, and has household income at or below certain specified levels.

The BSCFA section has advised that there is no record of an application from the person concerned.

The administrative arrangements for the 2011 Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme differ from those that applied in previous years. For this year, the majority of Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance entitlements was fully automated with no application form required from customers. Those customers who did not receive an automated payment are required to complete an application form that is available for download from www.welfare.ie or by texting "Form BTSCFA", followed by their name and address to 51909.

Social Welfare Appeals

220. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a carer's allowance application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Wexford; when a decision will issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24461/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 19 March 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 21 June 2011 and the appeal has now been assigned an Appeals Officer who will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Question No. 221 withdrawn.

Social Welfare Benefits

222. **Deputy Aodhán Ó Riordáin** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide information on the operation of the mortgage interest relief supplement which is administered by her, in particular in the context of any engagement she may have had with the mortgage arrears group, which is currently examining the issue of mortgage arrears; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24473/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The purpose of the mortgage interest supplement scheme is to provide short term support to eligible people who are unable to meet their mortgage interest repayments in respect of a house which is their sole place of residence. The supplement assists with the interest portion of the mortgage repayments only.

At the end of December 2010 there were 17,974 people in receipt of mortgage interest supplement, an increase of 337% over the 2007 figure. There are currently over 18,500 households benefiting from the scheme for which €77.2m has been allocated for 2011.

The Department's review of the administrative, policy and legal aspects of the mortgage interest supplement scheme was published in July 2010 in conjunction with the interim report of the Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt Review Group. The final review of the Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt Review Group was published in November 2010. These reports set out a number of recommendations. These recommendations are centered on the delivery of significant customer service improvement by ensuring that State support for those unable to deal with mortgage arrears is better targeted, consistent and easily understood. Allied with the focus on customer service improvement are recommendations that seek to ensure that lending institutions, borrowers and the Exchequer share responsibilities and commitments in a balanced way.

The recommendations set out in the Mortgage and Personal Debt Review Group's final report are now being considered in the context of other commitments contained in the Programme for Government in relation to mortgage holders and are now informing the wider remit of the Economic Management Council's review. Specifically, the issue of distressed mortgages is being examined by the Economic Management Council's (EMC) subgroup on Mortgage Over-Indebtedness. The subgroup is due to report to the EMC at the end of September with

the final report being issued to Government by the EMC. Any proposed changes to the operation of the Mortgage Interest Supplement will form part of this report.

223. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection when she expects the review into the operation of the rent supplement scheme with a view to introducing a code of conduct for rent supplement eligibility similar to that which operates for local authority tenants will be completed and published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24474/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Social Welfare legislation already provides the Health Service Executive with the authority to refuse payment of a rent supplement in the case of a person who has been required to deliver up possession of a dwelling provided by a housing authority or an approved body where the reasons for that requirement include anti-social behaviour or the interests of good estate management.

In the case of private rented accommodation, tenancy arrangements involve a contract between the landlord and tenant and tenant behaviour is a matter for the landlord in the first instance. There are a number of avenues open to landlords in such cases, including the mediation service for landlords and tenants operated by the Private Residential Tenancies Board and/or recourse to the Garda Síochána and/or the Courts in relation to the enforcement of the law in dealing with anti-social or criminal behaviour. If necessary, the landlord may seek termination of the tenancy which, if effected, would result in the termination of rent supplement.

There is a commitment in the Programme for Government to review the operation of the rent supplement scheme with a view to introducing a code of conduct for rent supplement eligibility similar to that which operates for local authority tenants.

This review should ensure that tenants who are receiving long term support from the State under the rent supplement scheme are subject to the same type of anti-social behaviour regime as local authority tenants. However, the most appropriate way for this to happen is for local authorities to take over full responsibility for meeting the accommodation needs of these individuals. My Department is currently working with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with a view to achieving this goal.

Social Welfare Appeals

224. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a request for an oral hearing regarding an invalidity pension appeal will be decided in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24477/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 25th August 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Social Welfare Services on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the appeal in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer for consideration.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

225. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an application regarding disability allowance will be determined in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24487/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an Appeals Officer, having fully considered all the evidence, has allowed the appeal of the person concerned by way of summary decision. The person concerned has been notified of the decision.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Benefits

226. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) in County Galway did not have their rent allowance reinstated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24490/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Health Service Executive has advised that rent supplement has been re-instated to the person concerned from 8th August 2011.

227. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Social Protection if greater clarity will be provided in terms of courses eligible for the back to education allowance as many students are applying for courses on the understanding that they will receive the allowance and then discover that the courses are not eligible; her views on widening the parameters of courses deemed eligible, to include courses such as software development, information systems and pharmaceutical science as the inclusion of such courses would lead to better job prospects for those involved and would also help in the creation of the knowledge economy, a prerequisite to regenerating the country's economy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24491/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): A person wishing to pursue back to education allowance (BTEA) scheme will have to satisfy a number of conditions such as being a certain age, in receipt of a prescribed social welfare payment for a specified time period, pursuing a full time course of study leading to a recognised qualification in a recognised college and progressing in the level of education held by the client with reference to the national framework of qualifications among others.

The back to education scheme covers a large range of full-time courses of education in approved colleges spanning basic foundation courses to third level courses across all disciplines, including, inter alia, those mentioned in the question. Courses may be pursued up to a higher diploma level in any discipline [level 8 in the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)] and to a Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary and Secondary Teaching; level 9 in NFQ). BTEA will not usually be approved if a person holds a qualification equivalent or higher than the qualification for which the application has been received. Other postgraduate qualifications (level 9 or level 10) are not included.

Social Welfare Code

228. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reasons for reduction on the household benefits package that took effect from 1 September 2011; her future plans regarding this package; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24498/11]

240. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason householders were not given prior notice of the changes to the household benefits package; her views that issuing a press release is not a sufficient method of informing persons of the changes and

if the possibility of changing the slips issued at post offices in relation to social welfare payments could be explored to allow messages to be inserted, for example informing recipients that as from 1 September the households benefits package would be cut, which would allow families, particularly low income families such as those in receipt of the households benefits package, to plan for the changes in terms of the family budget; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24583/11]

257. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection if measures are in place to ensure the most vulnerable in society, especially the over 70's medical card holders, will not be adversely affected by the cuts in the household benefits package. [24776/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I propose to take Questions Nos. 228, 240 and 257 together.

The savings in the fuel allowance scheme and household benefits package were provided for last December in Budget 2011 but were not specified or announced by the Government at that time.

From September 2011 the fuel allowance has been standardised at €20 per week, the rate currently received by the majority of customers, with no additional allowance for living in a smokeless area. The cost of the telephone allowance is reduced following negotiations with Eircom which will ensure that customers receive €26.86 of value on their bills, at a cost to the State of €22.22 per month. The number of free units provided under the electricity and gas allowance will be reduced to the level at the start of 2007 (from 2,400 to 1,800). These three measures will generate savings of €17 million in 2011 and €65 million annually.

The rationale for paying the smokeless allowance to customers in smokeless areas cannot be maintained. The price differential between the types of coal is as low as 2% while the allowance represents an addition of 20% to the fuel allowance. Use of coal has dropped considerably, to about 3%. It is inequitable to continue paying this top-up allowance to some customers and not others when the purpose for which it was intended no longer applies.

As regards the telephone allowance, the deal negotiated with Eircom represents good value for the State and the customer. The main saving is that the Department will no longer pay a monthly rental for handsets, but customers will be able to keep their set at no charge. Indeed a lot of households no longer use or have their original handsets so it makes no sense that the State would continue to pick up this cost.

The reduction in units in the electricity allowance and equivalent gas allowance is essential to control spending. Because the allowances are based on units the full cost of energy increases has been borne by the State, with no incentive for customers to switch to other cheaper companies. Currently, up to 82,000 (21%) customers under-use their allowance of 2,400 units. Only 16% of social welfare customers have switched companies compared to 42% nationally. People will be able to offset some of the reduction in units by availing of cheaper rates.

A poverty impact assessment was carried out in the context of developing a range of options for the future administration of the household benefits package in a de-regulated domestic energy market. While this focused on the potential impact of changing the electricity allowance from a unit base to a cash base to avail of cheaper rates available it also examined the issue of the vulnerability of older people who are the main recipients of the household benefits package.

Data for the 2009 EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) show that households comprising predominantly older people had lower consistent poverty rates than other age categories. Single adults aged over 65 with no children had a consistent poverty rate of 0.6% while people in households with 2 adults at least one of whom was aged 65 or over with no children

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

had a consistent poverty rate of 1.0%. In 2009, in the general population, 5.5% of people were in consistent poverty.

My Department will spend over €530 million in 2011 on the fuel scheme and the telephone, gas and electricity elements of the household benefits package which will benefit over 630,000 people. Help will also continue to be available for people with special or additional heating needs through the Heating Supplement and Exceptional Needs Payment Scheme under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme.

Along with other Departments and agencies, my Department has been working with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on an Affordable Energy Strategy which will be published shortly. The most cost-effective means of protecting households from energy poverty in the long term is to reduce their consumption of energy through improving the thermal efficiency of the home. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has administered an energy efficiency programme for privately owned low income households (Warmer Homes) since 2001. Over 65,000 such households have benefited to date, with a further 15,000 expected to receive energy efficiency upgrades this year. A similar upgrade programme is also in place for local authority houses.

In addition, my colleague the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte T.D. announced this week that Electricity and Gas customers experiencing financial hardship will not be disconnected this winter provided they have entered a payment plan or have agreed to the installations of a pay-as-you-go meter. The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) is to work with all gas and electricity supply companies to implement the initiative.

Furthermore, myself and my colleague the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte T.D. are in the process of seeking greater discounts from the ESB in the context of the electricity allowance. However to date I have been disappointed at the apparent reluctance of the ESB to offer what I would regard as meaningful discounts. In circumstances where a large percentage of the ESB's customers are in arrears, my Department is effectively guaranteeing the payment of 390,000 customers' bills on exceptionally favourable payment terms; it is therefore a matter of serious concern to me that the ESB is either unwilling or unable to offer my Department a discount that is commensurate with the benefits it derives from the electricity allowance.

My officials have been liaising with Minister Rabbitte's officials in relation to this matter and we hope to be in a position to arrange a meeting with the CEO of the ESB in order to urgently progress this matter.

As regards informing our customers, these changes were announced by my Department on 12th July 2011. On foot of a press release there was significant coverage in the national papers, radio and television. Information, including a Frequently Asked Questions segment was available on my Department's website www.welfare.ie. My Department's phone system was updated with a recorded message advising changes to the scheme and a Lo-call number was available for any enquiries. Given the volume of customers in receipt of either a fuel allowance or household benefits package the cost of changing the slip in post offices or writing to customers individually on the changes would be prohibitive in an environment where departments are under pressure to achieve savings.

Pension Provisions

229. **Deputy Ciara Conway** asked the Minister for Social Protection if the transitional pension, which is due to come to an end in 2013, will be replaced by a similar scheme for persons

who retire early but who have enough social insurance contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24509/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): There are no plans to introduce a scheme as outlined by the Deputy. State pension (transition) (SPT) is currently paid to people aged 65 who have a minimum yearly average of 24 social insurance contributions and who have retired from work. Currently it ceases at age 66 when the claimant transfers to State pension (contributory) (SPC).

As announced in the National Pensions Framework, State pension age will be increased gradually to 68 years. This will begin in 2014 with the standardisation of State pension age at 66. State pension age will be increased to 67 years in 2021 and to 68 in 2028. It is worth noting that, until the early 1970s, the qualifying age for State pension (contributory) was 70 years of age. By gradually increasing the qualifying age for State pension, people will be further encouraged to remain in employment beyond 65 years of age.

The Quarterly National Household Survey Q4 2010 showed that the numbers currently at work drop dramatically at 65 years of age. While 77.2 per cent of people aged 45-54 years are in employment, this drops to 64.3 per cent for 55-64 year-olds and to just 8.7 per cent for people aged 65 years or older. It is clear, therefore, that the challenges facing the Irish pension system are significant. Increases in life expectancy mean that more people are living to pension age and living longer in retirement. While this is to be welcomed, this has obvious and significant implications in relation to the future costs of State pension provision. The fundamental principle that people need to participate in the workforce for longer needs to be emphasised and they need to contribute more towards their pensions if they are to achieve the income they expect or would like to have in retirement.

People who have retired before State pension age will be entitled to apply for another social welfare payment, as is the current position.

Social Welfare Appeals

230. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an appeal against the decision not to grant a back to school allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24522/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year.

A person may qualify for a BSCFA payment if he or she is in receipt of a social welfare or health service executive payment, is participating in an approved employment scheme or attending a recognised education or training course, and has household income at or below certain specified levels.

The person concerned was refused BSCFA as their income exceeded the limit allowable for their family composition.

The BSCFA review section in Letterkenny will arrange to have this decision reviewed as soon as possible. However, due to the large volume of applications received, information regarding the progress of individual reviews will not be available until such time as all applications have been examined and a decision taken.

231. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a report on the progress of a carer's allowance application will be issued in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; and if the file has been sent to the social welfare inspector. [24523/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): An application for carer's allowance from the person concerned was received in respect of two care recipients. Her application was refused on the grounds that the care recipients were not so disabled as to require fulltime care and attention. A letter has issued to person concerned informing her of the decision and the reason for it.

Social Welfare Benefits

232. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare is entitled to a back to school allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24530/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): An automatic payment of a back to school clothing and footwear allowance was made to the spouse of the person concerned on 24th June 2011.

Tax and Social Welfare Codes

233. **Deputy Derek Nolan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will explain the large discrepancy in the number of PPS numbers in existence as compared to the number of persons in the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24531/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The PPS No is the individual's unique reference number for all dealings with Government Departments and public bodies. This covers its use for DSP purposes as well as use by other agencies (in accordance with legislation — Section 262 of the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act 2005 provides the basis for the allocation, use and sharing of the PPS No.).

These numbers are issued by my Department following checks on an individual's identity. The checks vary depending on the type of individual concerned — we accept notification via the General Register Office of births but for the last number of years (since 2000) insist on a face to face interview before issuing a PPS number to a resident of working age.

There are some 7.4m records on my Department's central database, each identified by a PPS number. These records are for all PPS numbers ever issued so the amount of PPS numbers issued and the population figure should differ. As well as all individuals currently resident in the State who have been issued with a PPS number, the figure also includes any individual who:

- since 1979, required a PPS Number and has died,
- has been resident in the State but has subsequently left the jurisdiction (including those born in the State since 1971) or
- has not been resident in the State but has, for instance, benefited from an Irish Estate (the Revenue Commissioners have a requirement that all beneficiaries of Irish Estates should have a PPS Number).

It is not possible for me to describe all uses that other agencies have for the PPS Number, but it is worth remarking that my Department uses the number to identify an individual's PRSI contributions while they are working in the state. This means that, even after they have left the State, the number allocated to them remains valid. The PRSI contribution information will be relevant to calculating pension entitlements in other jurisdictions as well as this one.

I will also make the point that possession of a number, in itself, does not convey any entitlement. While it can make identifying a person easier for both the individual and the agency, checks on identity and meeting the qualifying conditions for any scheme must be carried out.

My Department takes its stewardship of the individual's data very seriously and, although any database containing the volume and historical content of its client records will contain incomplete and incorrect data, we have processes in place to monitor, correct and enhance the data that we hold. Most importantly, we also continue to enhance the processes associated with collecting the data in the first place.

Social Welfare Benefits

234. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a back to school allowance application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork. [24546/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned has been awarded a back to school clothing and footwear allowance and a payment issued to her nominated account on the 10th September 2011.

Social Welfare Appeals

235. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an appeal for illness benefit in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork. [24549/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the illness benefit claim of the person concerned was disallowed following an examination by a Medical Assessor who expressed the opinion that he was medically unsuitable for the benefit. An appeal was registered on 21st July 2011 and in accordance with the statutory procedures the relevant department papers and the comments of the Social Welfare services on the matter raised in the appeal have been sought. In that context, an examination by another Medical Assessor will be carried out.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

236. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will expedite the processing of the appeal against the refusal of lone parents allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo. [24556/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that, the appeal from the person concerned has been referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing on 26 September 2011. The person concerned has been notified of the arrangements.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

237. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a pension entitlement in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24563/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 3rd August 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 14th September 2011 and the appeal will be assigned an Appeals Officer who, in due course, will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

238. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding jobseeker's benefit appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Limerick. [24567/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 29th July 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 2nd August 2011 and the appeal was assigned to an Appeals Officer on 29th August 2011 who will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Benefits

239. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will expedite a decision on an application for back to school clothing and footwear allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 11. [24580/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year.

The administrative arrangements for the 2011 BSCFA scheme differ from those that applied in previous years. For this year, the majority of BSCFA entitlements were fully automated with no application form required from customers, 127,000 households in respect of over 250,000 children received their payment automatically in June.

Those customers who did not receive an automated payment are required to complete and return an application form to the Department. The timescale for determining applications for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance claims is dependent on a number of factors including: the number of applications received, when the application is lodged, the availability of the required information such as details of the applicant's income, bank statements and other relevant information regarding an individual's application.

In addition, some aspects of the applications are inevitably time consuming and delays can occur where further investigations or third party evidence is required. Delays can also arise if the applicant is slow to respond to requests for additional information. Staff are working as quickly as possible on clearing the large volume of manual application claims received. Based on the current volume of applications it could take up to 7 weeks from date of receipt to process claims. Departmental records show that an application form was received from the person concerned on 2nd August 2011 and it is expected she will be notified of the outcome of her claim shortly.

Question No. 240 answered with Question No. 228.

241. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a domiciliary care allowance application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo; and if the processing of the application will be expedited. [24587/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): An application for domiciliary care allowance (DCA) was received on 12th August 2011. This application has been forwarded to one of the Department's Medical Assessors for their medical opinion. Upon receipt of this opinion a decision will issue to the customer. Currently it takes approximately eight weeks to process an application.

Social Welfare Code

242. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the procedure to be followed in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare who was advised by their local community welfare officer to sign on for job seekers allowance as a dependant of their partner who has been offered employment under the job bridge national internship scheme and satisfies the prerequisites but who has been told they can not participate as they are only a dependant on their partner's claim; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24588/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): To be eligible to participate on the national internship scheme a person must be currently in receipt of jobseeker's benefit, jobseeker's allowance or jobseeker's credits and have been unemployed for a minimum of 78 days in the preceding 6 months and be actively seeking employment. The person concerned does not satisfy the criteria to qualify for this scheme.

243. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason those in receipt of illness benefit are not entitled to be considered for the back to education top up payment even in cases where they are in receipt of equivalent payment to those in receipt of other social welfare payments; her plans to alter the rules; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24591/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The focus of Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) scheme is to assist those who are most marginalised and distant from the labour market to acquire the necessary education to improve their chances of becoming independent of the social welfare system. The BTEA scheme can offer participation in second and third level education by enabling eligible people on social welfare to continue to receive a payment while pursuing an approved full-time education course that leads to a higher qualification than that already held.

The eligibility criteria for participation in the BTEA scheme require a person to be in receipt of Illness Benefit for at least two years prior to commencement of their approved course of study. However, if a person fails to satisfy the two year requirement on Illness Benefit, periods spent on other qualifying social welfare claims can be used to make up the two year qualifying period provided that at least 50% of the two years is spent on Illness Benefit. The 50 % rule is relaxed for persons in receipt of Illness Benefit and subsequently qualifies for another qualifying illness related payment.

Additionally, a person in receipt of Illness Benefit can pursue a course of study while receiving payment without recourse to BTEA if it is medically certified that pursuit of the course will not impede his or her recovery.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

At present there are no plans to change the qualifying criteria for the BTEA scheme, however all employment schemes will continue to be monitored in the context of the objectives of the scheme and the changing economic circumstances.

244. **Deputy Alex White** asked the Minister for Social Protection in view of the increased demand amongst unemployed persons to seek retraining and re-education, if the absolute terms of the back to education allowance second level course-78 days receipt of social welfare payment, and third level course-234 days, will be reconsidered and modified in order that a more flexible, tiered approach might be taken to qualifying candidates. [24595/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): A person wishing to pursue back to education allowance (BTEA) scheme will have to satisfy a number of conditions such as being a certain age, in receipt of a prescribed social welfare payment for a specified time period, pursuing a full time course of study leading to a recognised qualification in a recognised college and progressing in the level of education held by the client with reference to the national framework of qualifications among others.

A waiting period is considered essential given that BTEA confers entitlement to income support for an extended period and avoids establishing a pull factor to the Live Register. It is also considered necessary as it reduces unnecessary provision, for those who will leave the Live Register in any event, in the context of targeting scarce resources at those who need it most.

The qualifying period for the second level option of the scheme has remained at 3 months in recognition of the need for more urgent intervention in the case of people who have not completed formal second level education. With effect from 19th July 2010, the period for which a person is required to be on a qualifying social welfare payment before accessing third level education under the BTEA was reduced from 12 months to 9 months (a 2 year qualifying period continues to apply to participants coming from Illness Benefit). Since 2007, people who are awarded statutory redundancy may access BTEA immediately, provided an entitlement to a relevant social welfare payment is established prior to commencing an approved course of study.

However, if a person wishes to pursue a part time education course they may be able to do so while still obtaining their jobseekers payment. They must apply at their local social welfare office and verify that participation on the course does not reduce their availability for work. In the case of jobseekers benefit, participation on a course does not grant any extension to the normal period for which jobseekers benefit is paid. In May, a new fund, entitled Springboard, which is being managed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills, provides education and training opportunities to support unemployed people. The target group for this programme of over 200 part-time courses includes unemployed people with a previous history of employment who already hold a higher level qualification at NFQ Levels 6 to 9, who may also require additional upskilling or reskilling in order to re-enter employment. By way of the part-time education option, unemployed people on jobseekers' payments will be facilitated in retaining their payment, subject to continuing entitlement, within the broader back to education framework.

The BTEA, in conjunction with other employment support schemes, will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that it continues to meet its objectives.

Social Welfare Appeals

245. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will issue

in relation to the appeal for invalidity pension in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 17. [24596/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 27 June 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Social Welfare Services on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the appeal in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer for consideration.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Departmental Expenditure

246. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Social Protection the amount spent by her paying all doctors, including those in the employ of the Health Service Executive, and general practitioners for the provision of medical certificates for social welfare applications in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively; if she will divide the total figure into those paid to public sector doctors and general practitioners respectively, on an annual basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24599/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The amounts paid to medical practitioners in respect of medical certificates and reports required to support claims for illness benefit and other medical-related payments made by the Department are as follows:

2007 €26.8m

2008 €30.4m

2009 €30.3m

2010 €28.7m

It is not possible to distinguish between payments made to general practitioners and payments made to other medical practitioners.

Social Welfare Benefits

247. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an application for invalidity pension in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24617/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Invalidity pension is a payment for people who are permanently incapable of work because of illness or incapacity and who satisfy the contribution conditions.

On 16 September, 2011, the person concerned was refused invalidity pension on the grounds that he was not considered to be permanently incapable of work and he has been notified of this decision. The person concerned is currently in receipt of illness benefit from my Department at a weekly rate of €312.80. Illness benefit is a short-term payment for people who are incapable of work for medical reasons and who satisfy the contribution conditions.

248. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare qualifies for back to education allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24618/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): To qualify for back to education allowance (third level option) a person must be in receipt of a qualifying payment for at least 234 days. The person concerned has been paid jobseeker's allowance for a total of 92 days and therefore his application for back to education allowance while pursuing a higher national diploma course was refused as he does not satisfy the qualifying conditions.

249. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason rent allowance was discontinued in the case of a person (detail supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24619/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Health Service Executive has advised that a rent supplement of €599.30 per month continues to be paid to the person concerned.

250. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if and when rent support will be approved in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24620/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Health Service Executive has advised that it has refused rent supplement in this case as the rent payable is in excess of the prescribed limits and he did not provide a housing needs assessment from his local authority.

Social Welfare Appeals

251. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an appeal against refusal of disability allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo and if the application will be expedited. [24633/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The claim for disability allowance, by the person concerned, was disallowed by a Deciding Officer of the Department on the grounds that she did not satisfy the statutory means test.

I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an Appeals Officer having fully considered all the available evidence, disallowed the appeal by way of summary decision. Under Social Welfare legislation, the decision of the Appeals Officer is final and conclusive and may only be reviewed by the Appeals Officer in the light of new evidence or new facts.

Following the submission of additional evidence the Appeals Officer has reviewed, on two separate occasions, his decision in this case. However, the Appeals Officer having considered all the available evidence decided that a revision of his original decision was not warranted. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

252. **Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will be reached on an application for domiciliary care in respect of a person (details supplied). [24637/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 08 March 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 20 June 2011 and the

appeal has now been assigned an Appeals Officer who will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Code

253. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider amending the legislative conditions which must be satisfied to qualify for family income supplement so that those persons who are maintaining their family but whose children are not normally living with them would qualify for family income supplement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24645/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The family income supplement (FIS) is designed to provide income for employees on low earnings with families. This preserves the incentive to remain in employment in circumstances where the employee might only be marginally better off than if he or she were unemployed and claiming other social welfare payments.

To qualify for payment of FIS, a person must be engaged in full-time insurable employment which is expected to last for at least 3 months and be working for a minimum of 38 hours per fortnight or 19 hours per week. A couple may combine their hours of employment to meet the qualification criteria. Furthermore, the average family income must be below a specified amount which varies according to the number of qualified children in the family.

The applicant must also have at least one qualified child who normally resides with them or is supported by them. In the case of parents who are separated, a parent who is wholly or mainly maintaining a former spouse can qualify for FIS. However, only one FIS payment can be made in respect of any family.

Furthermore, a person included in one particular family for any period for FIS purposes shall not be regarded as a member of any other family during that period. I have no immediate plans to amend the legislation further in this regard.

Community Employment Schemes

254. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans for community employment; and her further plans to ring fence community employment schemes specifically for persons being rehabilitated from drugs. [24662/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): From 1st January 2011 policy and funding responsibility for FÁS functions in relation to employment and community employment services was transferred to this Department in accordance with the provisions of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010.

A number of special community employment projects operate under the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016. As part of the Strategy (whose primary objective is to continue to tackle the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs), FÁS is committed to providing 1,000 places on such projects as part of the overall funding for the community employment programme. These 1,000 community employment places are ring-fenced for persons undergoing rehabilitation from drug addiction. Specific criteria exist for these places and the eligibility for participation. These were revised and agreed with the sector in 2010/2011.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

Further work is under way in the context of the National Drug Rehabilitation Implementation Committee to review the allocation of these places and ensure that appropriate referral protocols are in place. Participants can be in specific drug response projects or may be in 'mainstream' community employment projects.

It is my intention to ensure the continuation of such projects subject to the overall budgetary constraints for the community employment programme.

JobBridge Scheme

255. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of places that have been offered on the job bridge scheme; the number of successful applicants there have been to date in 2011; the number of places that have been removed for being inappropriate; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24664/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): As of Friday 16th September a total of 2,471 internship opportunities with host organisations were approved and were available on the JobBridge website to be filled. In addition, to date 1,276 interns have commenced an internship under the JobBridge scheme. Of these, 583 individuals have converted their Work Placement Programme placement into a JobBridge internship.

The Department is continuously monitoring the internships which are located on the JobBridge website. To date approximately 200 internship opportunities, which were clearly not in accordance with the intent of the scheme have been removed.

Tax Reliefs

256. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the numbers of persons estimated to begin drawing down additional social welfare payments as a gap solution between reaching retirement at age 65 years and receiving the State pension at age 66 years; and the cost to the Exchequer of same. [24775/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The position has not changed since the reply to Question No. 136 (PQ Ref No. 23721/11) on 14 September 2011.

Question No. 257 answered with Question No. 228.

258. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Social Protection when final decisions will be made on the relocation offers to households whose houses were flooded in autumn 2009; the progress to date; the reason for the delay in progressing this matter since a Government decision was made on same last December; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24788/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): As the Deputy is aware the Government has provided various types of support to people affected by the November 2009 flooding. Humanitarian Aid payments were made, both in the immediate aftermath of the flooding and subsequently to enable eligible households to resume living at their home. Flood relief works were also undertaken in some of the affected areas and other works are at an advanced state of preparation. Discussions also took place with representatives of the insurance industry regarding giving households access to appropriate house insurance at a reasonable cost.

Subject to certain conditions the Government also decided to provide support to a small number of families who are continuing to experience significant housing problems as a result

of the November 2009 flooding and are considering the possibility of relocating rather than resuming living at their original home.

The households have been visited by officials from the Department and reports of their individual circumstances have been completed. The Department has also received reports from the Office of Public Works in relation to the individual households. These reports are being considered at present and the Department expects to be in a position to make a decision on the cases in the coming weeks.

259. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an application for relocation in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Galway whose house was damaged in the floods in autumn 2009 will be made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24789/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): As the Deputy is aware the Government has provided various types of support to people affected by the November 2009 flooding. Humanitarian Aid payments were made, both in the immediate aftermath of the flooding and subsequently to enable eligible households to resume living at their home. Flood relief works were also undertaken in some of the affected areas and other works are at an advanced state of preparation. Discussions also took place with representatives of the insurance industry regarding giving households access to appropriate house insurance at a reasonable cost.

Subject to certain conditions the Government also decided to provide support to a small number of families who are continuing to experience significant housing problems as a result of the November 2009 flooding and are considering the possibility of relocating rather than resuming living at their original home.

The household of the person concerned has been visited by an official from the Department and a report of their individual circumstances has been completed. The Department has received a report from the Office of Public Works in relation to the house of the person concerned and expects to be in a position to make a decision on the case in the coming weeks.

Social Welfare Code

260. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she has given any consideration to re-introducing the pre-retirement allowances for over 55s, which was abolished under the Social Welfare Law Reform and Pensions Act 2006; and if her attention has been drawn to the growing number of over 55s who, after years of employment, are struggling to find jobs in the current turbulent labour market. [24798/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Pre-Retirement Allowance (PRETA) is means-tested payment for people in Ireland aged 55 and over who have left the labour force. Persons on PRETA are no longer required to sign-on as they do not need to be available for work. On the 4 July, 2007, PRETA was discontinued for new entrants. The phasing-out of PRETA was consistent with efforts being made to encourage and facilitate people to continue to work up to and beyond pension age. These efforts are being made in the context of the significant challenges facing the Irish pension system. In particular, the task of financing increasing pension spending will fall to a diminishing share of the population. There are currently six workers for every pensioner and this ratio is expected to decrease to less than two to one by 2050. Increasing State pension age is one of the ways in which we can sustain the pensions system and also maintain the value of the State pension at 35% of average earnings. As announced as part of the National Pensions Framework, state pension age will be increased

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gradually to 68 years. This will begin in 2014 with the standardisation of the state pension age at 66. State pension age will be increased to 67 years in 2021 and to 68 in 2028.

The Department of Social Protection operates a range of employment support measures designed to encourage and support social welfare recipients of working age to reduce their dependency on welfare payments. While the primary responsibility for job creation rests with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Innovation, this Department already has a role in supporting people from welfare to work. The National Employment Action Plan process is a key element in addressing the progression needs of those on the Live Register. It provides a stimulus to job search and affords an opportunity to explore, under professional guidance, the full range of employment and training services.

While it is acknowledged that the decision to phase out PRETA was taken at a time when labour market conditions were significantly different to that of today. Any re-introduction of the scheme, or a similar benefit type payment, would be inconsistent with the interaction of current working age/pensions policy. Significant costs would also arise.

Question No. 261 withdrawn.

Social Welfare Appeals

262. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect to be called for an oral hearing. [24807/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the appeal from the person concerned was referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing in this case. There has been a very significant increase in the number of appeals received by the Social Welfare Appeals Office since 2007 when the intake was 14,070 to 2010 when the intake rose to 32,432. This has significantly impacted on the processing time for appeals which require oral hearings and, in order to be fair to all appellants, they are dealt with in strict chronological order. In the context of dealing with the considerable number of appeals now on hand, the Department made 9 additional appointments to the office earlier this year. While every effort is being made to deal with the large numbers awaiting oral hearing as quickly as possible, it is not possible to give a date when the person's oral hearing will be heard, but s/he will be informed when arrangements have been made. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

263. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for disability allowance. [24809/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 27 April 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 19 May 2011 and the appeal was assigned to an Appeals Officer on 22 August 2011 who will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of

the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

264. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for disability allowance. [24810/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department received an application from the person concerned for disability allowance. Her claim was referred to one of the department's medical assessors who was of the opinion that the person was not medically suitable for disability allowance. The deciding officer accepted this opinion. Furthermore, she was assessed with weekly means in excess of the statutory limit for receipt of disability allowance so her claim was disallowed on two grounds. The person was notified in writing of this decision and the reasons for it on 10 February 2011.

The person subsequently appealed this decision to the Social Welfare Appeals Office. Based on the evidence before him the appeals officer found that the person concerned failed to show that her weekly means did not exceed the statutory limit allowed for receipt of disability allowance and she was not substantially restricted in undertaking suitable employment by reason of a specified disability within the meaning of Social Welfare legislation and, accordingly, the appeal was not allowed. The applicant was notified of this decision in writing by the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 6 August 2011. An appeal officer's decision is final and conclusive in the absence of any fresh facts or evidence.

265. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an appeal for disability allowance. [24811/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the appeal from the person concerned was referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing in this case. There has been a very significant increase in the number of appeals received by the Social Welfare Appeals Office since 2007 when the intake was 14,070 to 2010 when the intake rose to 32,432. This has significantly impacted on the processing time for appeals which require oral hearings and, in order to be fair to all appellants, they are dealt with in strict chronological order. In the context of dealing with the considerable number of appeals now on hand, the Department made 9 additional appointments to the office earlier this year. While every effort is being made to deal with the large numbers awaiting oral hearing as quickly as possible, it is not possible to give a date when the person's oral hearing will be heard, but s/he will be informed when arrangements have been made. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

266. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for disability allowance. [24812/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department is in receipt of a claim for disability allowance from the person concerned. In order to determine his weekly means, his claim was forwarded to a Social Welfare Investigator for a means assessment. I understand the investigator will visit the person shortly to carry out an assessment of

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his means. A decision on his entitlement to disability allowance will be given on receipt of the social welfare investigator's report and the person will be notified directly of the outcome.

Social Welfare Benefits

267. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on back to school clothing and footwear allowance. [24815/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned has been awarded a back to school clothing and footwear allowance and a payment issued to their nominated Post Office on 10 September 2011.

268. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on back to school clothing and footwear allowance. [24816/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year.

The administrative arrangements for the 2011 BSCFA scheme differ from those that applied in previous years. For this year, the majority of BSCFA entitlements were fully automated with no application form required from customers, 127,000 households in respect of over 250,000 children received their payment automatically in June.

Those customers who did not receive an automated payment are required to complete and return an application form to the Department. The timescale for determining applications for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance claims is dependent on a number of factors including: the number of applications received, when the application is lodged, the availability of the required information such as details of the applicant's income, bank statements and other relevant information regarding an individual's application.

In addition, some aspects of the applications are inevitably time consuming and delays can occur where further investigations or third party evidence is required. Delays can also arise if the applicant is slow to respond to requests for additional information.

Staff are working as quickly as possible on clearing the large volume of manual application claims received. Based on the current volume of applications it could take up to 7 weeks from date of receipt to process claims. Departmental records show that an application form was received from the persons concerned on 8 August 2011 and it is expected they will be notified of the outcome of his claim shortly.

269. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on a back to school clothing and footwear allowance. [24817/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned has been awarded a back to school clothing and footwear allowance and a payment issued to their nominated account on 10 September 2011.

270. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on a back to school clothing and footwear allowance. [24818/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned has been awarded a back to school clothing and footwear allowance and a payment issued to their nominated Post Office on 17 August 2011.

Social Welfare Appeals

271. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an appeal for invalidity pension. [24819/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the appeal from the person concerned was referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing in this case. There has been a very significant increase in the number of appeals received by the Social Welfare Appeals Office since 2007 when the intake was 14,070 to 2010 when the intake rose to 32,432. This has significantly impacted on the processing time for appeals which require oral hearings and, in order to be fair to all appellants, they are dealt with in strict chronological order. In the context of dealing with the considerable number of appeals now on hand, the Department made 9 additional appointments to the office earlier this year. While every effort is being made to deal with the large numbers awaiting oral hearing as quickly as possible, it is not possible to give a date when the person's oral hearing will be heard, but she will be informed when arrangements have been made. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Benefits

272. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for carer's allowance. [24820/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance was received from the above named person. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of her claim a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome. The average time taken to process a claim for Carers Allowance through to completion is c 12 weeks.

273. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for carer's allowance. [24821/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that an application for carer's allowance was received from the above named. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of his claim a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

274. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for disability allowance. [24823/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned applied for disability allowance on 8 June 2011. Her claim has been referred to one of the Department's a medical assessor for an opinion with regard to her medical suitability for disability allowance.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

When the deciding officer receives this opinion a decision will be made, taking into account an assessment of the person's means. The person will be notified directly of the outcome.

275. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Laois may expect a decision on an application for carer's allowance. [24824/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Carer's Allowance has been awarded to the person concerned at half rate with effect from 3 February. This half rate carer's allowance is the maximum payable with his disability allowance claim. His first weekly payment to his bank account will take effect from 22 September 2011 and arrears will issue by cheque shortly afterwards.

276. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on an application for carer's allowance. [24826/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that an application for carer's allowance was received from the above named person. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of her claim a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

Question No. 277 withdrawn.

278. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for carer's allowance. [24829/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Following a review and investigation by the Department's investigative branch, payment of carer's allowance was stopped on 20 July 2011. It was decided that, while the person concerned was providing some care and attention, the statutory condition that full time care and attention be provided was not fulfilled in this case. The person concerned was notified of the decision and has appealed the decision to the independent Social Welfare Appeals Office.

279. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for carer's allowance. [24830/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the Department is in receipt of a claim for carer's allowance from the above named person. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of her claim a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome. The average time to process a claim for Carer's Allowance, which includes an assessment of medical evidence and a review of means through to decision is circa 12 weeks. I expect this claim to be decided shortly.

280. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for carer's allowance. [24831/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department is in receipt of a claim application for carer's allowance from the person concerned. On completion of the necessary investigations on all aspects of her case, which requires assessment of medical evidence and means, a decision will be made and she will be notified directly of the outcome. I expect that a decision will be completed shortly.

281. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for carer's allowance. [24834/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that an application for carer's allowance from the person concerned was received by the department. Her application was refused on the grounds that the care recipient is not so disabled as to require full-time care and attention. Further medical evidence was submitted to the department and on completion of the review of this new information she will be notified directly of the outcome.

282. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for disability allowance. [24835/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned applied for disability allowance on 29 August 2011. His application is currently being assessed by a medical assessor from this Department with regard to his medical suitability for disability allowance. When the deciding officer receives this opinion a decision on the person's application will be made taking account of an assessment of the person's means. The person will be notified in due course of the outcome. Applications for disability allowance are, as far as possible, dealt with in order of date of receipt.

283. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for disability allowance. [24837/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department received an application from the person concerned for disability allowance. Her claim was referred to one of the department's medical assessors who was of the opinion that the person was not medically suitable for disability allowance. The deciding officer accepted this opinion and her claim was refused and the person was notified in writing of this decision on 16 August 2011.

Further medical evidence has now been received in this case and has been referred to one of the department's medical assessors for their opinion. The person concerned will be notified in due course of the outcome of the review.

284. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will expect on their application for disability allowance. [24841/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department is in receipt of a recent claim from the person concerned for disability allowance. Her application has been referred to one of the Department's medical assessors for an opinion with regard to her medical suitability for disability allowance. When this opinion is received the person's means will be assessed and a decision on her application will be made and the person will be notified directly of the outcome. Applications for disability allowance are, as far as possible, dealt with in order of date of receipt.

Social Welfare Appeals

285. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on a domiciliary allowance. [24843/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the appeal from the person concerned was referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing in this case. There has been a very significant increase in the number of appeals received by the Social Welfare Appeals Office since 2007 when the intake was 14,070 to 2010 when the intake rose to 32,432. This has significantly impacted on the processing time for appeals which require oral hearings and, in order to be fair to all appellants, they are dealt with in strict chronological order. In the context of dealing with the considerable number of appeals now on hand, the Department made 9 additional appointments to the office earlier this year.

While every effort is being made to deal with the large numbers awaiting oral hearing as quickly as possible, it is not possible to give a date when the person's oral hearing will be heard, but she will be informed when arrangements have been made. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Question No. 286 withdrawn.

287. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for one parent family payment. [24847/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 25 May 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 05 July 2011 and the appeal will be assigned, in due course, to an Appeals Officer who will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

288. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for jobseeker's allowance. [24848/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an Appeals Officer having fully considered all the available evidence disallowed the appeal of the person concerned by way of summary decision. Under Social Welfare legislation, the decision of the Appeals Officer is final and conclusive and may only be reviewed by the Appeals Officer in the light of new evidence or new facts.

Following the submission of additional evidence the Appeals Officer has set aside his original decision and has re-opened the appeal by way of oral hearing. The person concerned will be informed when arrangements have been made. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions

independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Benefits

289. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their application for disability allowance. [24849/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The application for disability allowance from the person concerned was assessed by a medical assessor from this Department who expressed the opinion that she was not medically suitable for disability allowance. A deciding officer accepted this opinion and disallowed her claim. The person in question was informed in writing on 8 September 2011 of this decision and the reason for it.

Question No. 290 withdrawn.

Social Welfare Appeals

291. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly will receive a decision on their appeal for domiciliary care allowance. [24853/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 5th July 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by or on behalf of the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 4th August 2011 and the appeal will be assigned an Appeals Officer who, in due course, will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Question No. 292 withdrawn.

Departmental Schemes

293. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans to provide extra places on the rural social scheme to FORUM Connemara in view of the low number of places allocated to them; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24867/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): It is unlikely that any additional rural social scheme (RSS) placements will become available in the short-term. However, my Department is keeping the matter under review and, if placements arise from unused allocations elsewhere in the country, opportunities will be afforded to all concerned Implementing Bodies to expand their existing quotas in due course.

Social Welfare Benefits

294. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a back to school allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 22. [24875/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year. The administrative arrangements for the 2011 BSCFA scheme differ from those that applied in previous years. For this year, the majority of BSCFA entitlements were fully automated with no application form required from customers, 127,000 households in respect of over 250,000 children received their payment automatically in June.

Those customers who did not receive an automated payment are required to complete and return an application form to the Department. The timescale for determining applications for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance claims is dependent on a number of factors including: the number of applications received, when the application is lodged, the availability of the required information such as details of the applicant's income, bank statements and other relevant information regarding an individual's application.

In addition, some aspects of the applications are inevitably time consuming and delays can occur where further investigations or third party evidence is required. Delays can also arise if the applicant is slow to respond to requests for additional information.

Staff are working as quickly as possible on clearing the large volume of manual application claims received. Based on the current volume of applications it could take up to 7 weeks from date of receipt to process claims. Departmental records show that an application form was received from the person concerned on 1st August 2011 and it is expected she will be notified of the outcome of her claim shortly.

Departmental Responsibilities

295. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Social Protection how the transfer of responsibility for FÁS and SOLAS from her Department to the Department of Education and Skills is progressing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24878/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): With effect from 1 January 2011, my Department has taken responsibility for the employment programmes and employment service functions of FÁS. My Department has no role in relation to the transfer of other functions from FÁS to SOLAS and this is a matter for the Department of Education and Skills.

Social Welfare Benefits

296. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare has an automatic entitlement to back to school clothing and footwear allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24886/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year.

A person may qualify for a BSCFA payment if he or she is in receipt of a social welfare or health service executive payment, is participating in an approved employment scheme or attending a recognised education or training course, and has household income at or below certain specified levels.

The persons concerned were refused BSCFA as their income exceeded the limit allowable for their family composition. If the persons concerned are unhappy with the decision they should forward a letter to the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Review Section at PO Box 131, Letterkenny, setting out why they are not happy with the decision and asking that the claim be reviewed. Due to the large volume of applications received, infor-

mation regarding the progress of individual reviews will not be available until such time as all applications have been examined and a decision taken.

297. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Mayo will receive their back to school allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24896/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September each year.

A person may qualify for a BSCFA payment if he or she is in receipt of a social welfare or health service executive payment, is participating in an approved employment scheme or attending a recognised education or training course, and has household income at or below certain specified levels. The BSCFA section has advised that there is no record of an application from the person concerned.

The administrative arrangements for the 2011 Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme differ from those that applied in previous years. For this year, the majority of Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance entitlements was fully automated with no application form required from customers. Those customers who did not receive an automated payment are required to complete an application form that is available for download from www.welfare.ie or by texting "Form BTSCFA", followed by their name and address to 51909.

298. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans to reduce waiting times in the processing of applications within her Department, in particular with regard to the progress of an online application system and a one-stop-shop system for applicants for social welfare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24902/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Customer service is at the centre of my Department's strategies and business. Processing times vary across schemes because of both the volume of applications and the differing qualification criteria. For example, means assessments are required for all of the social assistance schemes; medical examinations are required for some of the illness related schemes and customers must also satisfy the habitual residence conditions. In the case of the insurance-based schemes, it may be necessary to ascertain details of foreign insurance records.

All scheme areas in the Department are subject to continuous business process improvement supported by modern technology. In addition, the staffing needs of my Department are kept under constant review to ensure that the best use is made of all available resources.

In excess of 900 staff have been assigned to my Department since May 2008, to fill critical vacancies and additional posts that were approved to deal with the significant increase in claims for the various schemes operated by my Department.

One of the main impacts on current service delivery has been the increase in the Live Register. In this context, my Department has introduced a range of process improvement initiatives regarding claims for jobseeker's allowance and jobseeker's benefit. One of the most significant initiatives, aimed at reducing queuing and waiting times, involves customers attending their local office by appointment at which time the claim is taken and decided. This provides for the appropriate appointment to be scheduled for the customer thus enabling certain claims to be dealt with in a single visit to the office.

Process improvements have resulted in a significant reduction in the number and proportion of all claims awaiting a decision. For example, there were 35,329 jobseeker's claims awaiting a

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

decision on 10 September 2011 equating to 7% of the total claim-load. This compares favourably to 11 September 2010 when 44,717 claims or 9% of claim-load were awaiting decision and 69,074 claims or 14% of claim-load in September 2009.

The Department's eGovernment strategy aims to support and develop customer contact channels that maximise customer service and minimise cost of delivery and recent years have seen significant investment in the provision of improved information and online services, resulting in increased customer awareness of their entitlements and more efficient claim processing procedures.

The Department's website *www.welfare.ie*, redesigned in 2008, provides comprehensive information on all the Department's schemes and services as well as a range of online services which include online claiming for State Pension Contributory, Household Benefits, Child Benefit, Jobseeker's payments and Widow(er)'s and Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension. It is planned to extend the online claiming service in 2011/2012 to include Carer's Allowance, Disability Allowance, State Pension (Non-Contributory) and Redundancy Payments and Insolvency Payments. The range of online services on the website also includes

- dedicated pages for each local and branch office, containing contact details, maps and notice boards
- social insurance record request service
- statement (of benefit paid) request service
- sign-off service for jobseekers
- anonymous reporting of suspected social welfare fraud
- form and leaflet request service

The Department has also recently introduced a pilot initiative allowing certain customers to sign on for their Jobseeker's payment online.

As well as online services, the Department operates an SMS (text messaging) service through which customer can request applications forms and leaflets and also request statements of benefit paid.

Social Welfare Fraud

299. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for Social Protection the means by which the public services card will reduce social welfare fraud and waiting periods; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24903/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The introduction of the Public Services Card (PSC) will assist in the identification of customers to providers of public services.

A more secure registration process, leading to issue of a PSC incorporating the customer's photograph and signature, will give significant assurance as to the identity of the cardholder. This means that the issuer of a PSC will get three main benefits:

- It will reduce the number of people who fraudulently claim to be someone else,
- It will be a secure card and will considerably reduce the potential for forgery, and
- It will save some of the time currently spent re-verifying an individual's identity each time a member of the public tries to access a public service.

This last benefit will also be realisable for those other bodies that use the card subsequently — they will not have to re-register a card-holder. Small savings for each interaction with card-holders will represent a considerable overall saving.

The benefits for a cardholder are similar to those for a public body. It will make it more difficult for someone else to claim to be that cardholder, thus playing its part in reducing identity theft. It will also save time and effort for the individual in that they will not have to re-register for every supplier of public services who need to verify identity and it should reduce the amount of time spent establishing identity for each transaction.

Social Welfare Benefits

300. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection when payment will issue in respect of a rent support application in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24906/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Health Service Executive has advised that a decision on rent supplement in this case will be made on receipt of documentation requested from the person concerned.

Social Welfare Code

301. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will change the means assessment criteria for supplementary welfare allowance for those who have a second property either through inheritance or as a pension investment and who, owing to market conditions, can neither rent nor sell said asset; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24907/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The supplementary welfare allowance means test includes a value attributed to any capital a person may have. Capital refers to savings, investments, cash-on-hands and property (excluding their own home). The value of all of these items is added together and a formula applied to their total value to calculate a person's weekly means, depending on the particular social assistance scheme in involved.

Capital that is owned but not personally used or enjoyed (e.g. a second house) is assessed as means under the means test. Where capital or property is assessed on this basis, any income received from its use (e.g. interest on savings, dividends from shares, rent from property) is not assessed as cash income. Instead, the following formula is used to establish weekly means:

- Disregard first €5,000 of capital value of property/savings
- Assess next €10,000 at €1 per €1,000
- Assess next €25,000 at €2 per €1,000
- Assess remaining capital over €40,000 at €4 per €1,000.

The capital assessment formula applicable to SWA is not intended to determine a potential rate of interest or income from the capital, but rather to ensure that any such capital or savings should be utilized by applicants towards their basic income needs. Apart from this assessment formula, any interest or income actually received by an applicant derived from this capital is not taken into account further for SWA means assessment purposes.

There are no plans to change the treatment of capital under the supplementary welfare allowance means test. Any changes would have to be considered within a budgetary context.

302. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in County Wicklow in receipt of rent supplement in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and to date in 2011; her plans to reform the rent supplement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24917/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The table below shows the number of recipients of rent supplement in County Wicklow from 2007 to 2011.

As the Deputy is aware, there are several commitments contained in the Programme for Government in relation to the rent supplement scheme. In this regard, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Minister of State with responsibility for housing and planning, on 16 June 2011, announced a new housing policy framework statement reflecting the content of the Programme for Government (Government for National Recovery 2011-2016) and setting out the principles to underpin the development of housing policy into the medium term. This policy framework statement contained an announcement in relation to the transfer of responsibility for providing for the housing needs of long term rent supplement recipients to housing authorities on a phased basis.

This transfer of tenants from rent supplement to the local authorities will help achieve a key Government commitment and return rent supplement to its original intention of a short-term income support payment. My Department is currently working with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government with a view to achieving this goal.

Recipients of Rent Supplement in Co. Wicklow, 2007 to 2011

Year	Recipients*
2007	1,726
2008	2,066
2009	2,699
2010	2,613
2011(1)	2,730

*At 2 September 2011

Social Welfare Appeals

303. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Social Protection when the social welfare appeals office will hold an oral hearing in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Louth; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24922/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the appeal from the person concerned was referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing on 28 September 2011. The person concerned has been notified of the arrangements.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Social Welfare Code

304. **Deputy Brian Stanley** asked the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that community welfare officers are using their personal discretion to refuse

persons rent supplement on the basis of their turning down a local authority housing offer; and her plans to put in place strict guidelines and criteria for this practice. [24107/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): It is a condition of any applicant's entitlement to a Rent Supplement that they have not refused to accept within any continuous 12 month period a second offer of accommodation provided by either a housing authority (including accommodation offered under the Rental Accommodation Scheme) or any approved body by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government for the purposes of section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992 (No. 18 of 1992) i.e. the Capital Assistance Housing scheme.

Where a Rent Supplement claimant refuses a second offer of accommodation within a 12 month period the Community Welfare Service is obliged to cease payment of Rent Supplement for a period of 12 months from the date of refusal.

Departmental Schemes

305. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will amend the national internship scheme to enable candidates who were enrolled on a FÁS course in the previous three months to be eligible for the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24928/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): In order for an individual to be eligible to participate in JobBridge, the National Internship Scheme an individual must be:

- currently in receipt of a live claim (Jobseeker's Allowance/Jobseeker's Benefit/Signing for Credits) on the Live Register;
- have been in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowance or signing for Social Insurance credits for a total of 78 days or more in the last 6 months.

Having reviewed the participant eligibility requirements for JobBridge, the Steering Group of the National Internship Scheme has decided that time spent on Back to Education Allowance, VTOS, FÁS/Fáilte Ireland Training courses, Youthreach, FIT, Community Employment Schemes, TUS, the Rural Social Scheme, Back to Work Scheme, FÁS Job Initiative or Job Assist may count towards the 78-day qualifying period. This revised criterion will come into effect from Monday, 26 September 2011. However, individuals must still have signed back on to the Live Register and be in receipt of Jobseeker's Benefit/Allowance or Jobseeker credits immediately before commencing on JobBridge.

Social Welfare Appeals

306. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an appeal for invalidity pension in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24930/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 9th June 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Social Welfare Services on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the appeal in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer for consideration.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Appointments to State Boards

307. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Social Protection the names of the State boards whose memberships are determined by her Department; and the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment. [24964/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The three statutory bodies operating under the aegis of the Department are the Social Welfare Tribunal, the Citizens Information Board and the Pensions Board. In addition, the Office of the Pensions Ombudsman comes under the remit of the Department but it does not have a board.

The information requested by the Deputy in relation to the boards of the Social Welfare Tribunal, the Citizens Information Board and the Pensions Board is available on the Department's website at www.welfare.ie/EN/AboutUs/Pages/stateagencies.aspx.

Social Welfare Appeals

308. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a domiciliary care allowance appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24986/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that an appeal by the person concerned was registered in that office on 2 September 2011. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Social Welfare Services on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the appeal in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer for consideration.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

309. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on a jobseeker's benefit appeal will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [25016/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that a jobseeker's benefit appeal by the person concerned, was registered in that office on 19 July 2011 and will be referred to an Appeals Officer in due course, who will decide whether the case can be decided on a summary basis or whether to list it for oral hearing.

The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Departmental Expenditure

310. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Social Protection the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25417/11]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I understand, following clarification with the Deputy, that he is seeking the cost of translating Government reports to Irish for the year 2010.

The Department is committed to providing a quality customer service in Irish and meeting its obligations under the Official Languages Act. In this regard the cost of translating Departmental reports to Irish was some €37,500 in 2010.

Endangered Species

311. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if there is a need for a licence under any environmental act to retain specific animals on a farm (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24500/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): My responsibilities under the Wildlife Acts relate primarily to the conservation of populations of certain protected species. My Department is also responsible for the inspection and licensing of zoos. Any person wishing to display such creatures to the public may require a license under the European Communities (Licensing and Inspection of Zoos) Regulations, 2003.

In addition, as the animals mentioned by the Deputy are listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) any person wishing to import or display to the public such animals may require certain CITES Permits and or CITES Certificates. However, these regulations do not relate to the control of such animals once imported.

Heritage Sites

312. **Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will include unmarked burial grounds outside the confines of established burial grounds in the existing record of monuments and places established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, which would accord unmarked burial grounds a legal designation and ensure they are protected in county development plans, in view of the fact that a new version of the record of monuments is proposed. [25004/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): The National Monuments Service of my Department records all pre-1700 AD burial places as monuments, either as 'Graveyard' where associated with a church, or, as 'Burial ground', for those that are not associated with a church. My Department is currently examining the recording of post-1700 AD monuments with a view to formulating policy and criteria for including them in a revised and updated Record of Monuments. The objective of the review is to achieve a standard approach nationally that will ensure that all elements of the built heritage continue to be adequately protected.

Special Areas of Conservation

313. **Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht when a case (details supplied) will be dealt with; if he will confirm that he has received correspondence about this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24506/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): The case in question refers to a claim for compensation relating to a commercial turf cutting operation in a Special Area of Conservation and also to the ownership of land in the same area. As I advised the Deputy in a reply to a recent representation, this case has been responded to by my Department following the receipt of advice from the Chief State Solicitor's Office. My Department has had no further correspondence on the matter, save the representation from the Deputy which was replied to on 7 July.

Architectural Heritage

314. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if consideration has been given to emphasising or utilising Hume Street as a cultural asset. [24769/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): I am not aware of any consideration given to such a proposal.

It should be noted that my Department has raised the issue of the protection of the Hume Street buildings with Dublin City Council, as the authority with responsibility for implementing the law in relation to protected structures.

NAMA Portfolio

315. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 32 and 36 of 11 May 2011, if the meeting with the National Assets Management Agency is taking place; and if he has any further information from NAMA on buildings that have no commercial potential. [24770/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): In relation to the proposal regarding the use of NAMA buildings for cultural purposes, I have met the chair and chief executive of NAMA on the matter and those contacts will continue.

As the Deputy and the House will, however, appreciate, NAMA is dealing with sensitive financial matters and is restricted in regard to the information it may make available in relation to such assets.

Limistéir faoi Chosaint Speisialta

316. **D'fhiafraigh Éamon Ó Cuív** den Aire Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta an bhfuil sé i gceist aige síneadh ama a chur leis an sprioclá d'aighneachtaí a chur isteach in aghaidh ainmniú ceantar i gConamara mar Limistéir faoi Chosaint Speisialta, de bharr an inní atá ar dhaoine faoin ainmniú seo agus an deacracht atá ag daoine na mapaí atá riachtanach le haighneacht a chur isteach a fháil, ón 21ú Meán Fómhair go deireadh Dheireadh Fómhair ar a laghad; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. [24784/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): Tá athbhreithniú déanta agam ar an tréimhse inar féidir aighneachtaí a chur isteach i gcoinne ainmniú Choimpléasc Phortach Chonamara mar Limistéir faoi Chosaint Speisialta agus tá cinneadh déanta agam síneadh ama coicíse a chur leis an sprioclá go dtí Dé Céadaoin, 5 Deireadh Fómhair 2011.

Archaeological Heritage

317. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if, in view of the fact that residents in County Kildare have been waiting more than ten years for the publication of the archeological inventory for the county, he will confirm that same will be published; if so, the date of publication; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24870/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): I envisage that the website of the National Monuments Service of my Department (www.archaeology.ie) will, in future, be the primary portal for the dissemination of information on archaeological monuments. Summary descriptions of approximately 50% of the records for County Kildare will be available online by the end of this month, with the remainder to follow over the next 18 months.

This website will continue to be complemented by the published archaeological inventory series which, to date, has seen the publication of twenty-one volumes covering sixteen counties. The series, which is aimed at the general reader and scholar alike, supports the key strategy of promoting the awareness and appreciation of our rich archaeological heritage. The inventory for County Kildare is being progressed, along with other counties, but I hope that, in the meantime, the availability of the Archaeological Survey records on our website will be of assistance to all interested parties. I

should point out that, due to a security breach, the web-site is not full operational at the moment. However, the mapviewer component is available and information on monuments can still be accessed. Work is ongoing to resolve this issue. <http://www.archaeology.ie/>

National Parks

318. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the reason there is no mention at the Connemara National Parks Visitors Centre of the history of the Letterfrack industrial school and its association with the park; his plans to update the information displays to include information regarding the history of the industrial school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24918/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): Connemara National Park was established in 1980, combining land from a number of sources including Kylemore Abbey, Coillte Teoranta and a number of private landowners. The Park is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of my Department.

The main remit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service is the conservation of our natural heritage and the Park provides a valuable amenity for both locals and visitors to the area and encourages the development of sustainable tourism in the locality. The main purpose of the Park's exhibition area is to interpret the landscape and natural heritage of the National Park and the surrounding area through information exhibits and special events such as children's activities, guided walks and evening talks which are organised throughout the year.

While the graveyard and some outbuildings from the former Letterfrack Industrial School lie within the boundaries of the National Park the main building which housed the School does not. With regard to the graveyard itself, its enhancement was facilitated and funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the area is treated with dignity and respect and is cared for by NPWS staff who maintain it to the highest standards. In addition, there is appropriate signage in place where the access path to the graveyard leaves the main route in the park.

The appropriate means of highlighting the history of the Letterfrack Industrial School and other such institutions and the commemoration of those who spent time there is a matter that falls outside the primary remit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and is more appropriate to the Department of Education and Skills.

I understand from enquiries made to that department's Residential Institution Redress Unit that as part of the Government's implementation of the recommendations of the Ryan Report, an independent Committee was appointed by the Minister for Education & Skills to oversee the design and commissioning of a memorial for those affected by institutional abuse.

Following the consultative process, a competition is being organised and administered on behalf of the Committee by the Commissioners of Public Works. The competition is open to all including those who might wish to make proposals for an appropriate memorial to those affected by institutional abuse in Letterfrack Industrial School.

The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest is Thursday 13th of October 2011 and details of the competition, including selection criteria, indicative dates, and competition jury membership is available on the Department of Education & Skills web-site www.education.ie and www.publicart.ie.

Arts Funding

319. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the supports offered by him to independent arts centres across the county; if his policy will continue to support

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arts centres, which provide so much vital community spirit and support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24919/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): Primary responsibility for the promotion of the arts at all levels throughout the country is devolved to the Arts Council. The Council is statutorily funded by my Department and is independent in its day to day operations, including funding decisions. The allocation to the Arts Council for 2011 is €65.127m. My Department has no statutory responsibility for ongoing funding of independent arts centres.

In the context of the 2012 Estimates I will endeavour to maximise continuing Government support for the arts.

Appointments to State Boards

320. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24952/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): The Deputy will find the information requested in the accompanying table.

Bodies under the Aegis of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Does the Body have a Board? — Yes/No	Is the Board Membership determined by the D/AHG? — Yes/No	When is the Board Membership due for Renewal?
An Foras Teanga	Yes	The North South Ministerial Council appoints the members — nominations are made on a 50/50 basis by both jurisdictions.	The terms of appointment of current nominated members will expire on 12th December, 2011.
Arts Council	Yes	Yes	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire on dates between 15th December, 2013 and 12th December, 2016.
Crawford Art Gallery	Yes	Yes — however, one member is ex-officio.	The terms of appointment of current nominated members will expire in December 2011.
Heritage Council	Yes	Yes	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire in June 2013.
Irish Film Board	Yes	Yes	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire in January 2013.
Irish Museum of Modern Art	Yes	Yes	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire between 5th December, 2011 and 2nd February, 2016.
National Concert Hall	Yes	Yes	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire on 10th July, 2016 and on 29th August, 2016 in relation to the Chairman.

Bodies under the Aegis of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	Does the Body have a Board? — Yes/No	Is the Board Membership determined by the D/AHG? — Yes/No	When is the Board Membership due for Renewal?
National Gallery of Ireland	Yes	Yes — Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht appoints ten Governors. Of the remaining seven Governors, five are ex-officio and two are appointed the Royal Hibernian Academy.	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire between 14th April, 2013 and 7th June, 2016.
National Library of Ireland	Yes	Yes — however, two members are Royal Irish Academy appointed and one is staff nominated.	The terms of appointment of current nominated members will expire in 2015.
National Museum of Ireland	Yes	Yes — Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht appoints all of the Board. However, two appointments are nominees of the Royal Irish Academy, one is a nominee of the Royal Dublin Society and one is a staff nominee.	The terms of appointment of current members of the Board will expire between 20th October, 2015 and 19th January, 2016.
Údarás na Gaeltachta	Yes	3 members are nominated by the Minister and 17 are elected by the Gaeltacht community.	The terms of appointment of current nominated members will expire on 18th April, 2013 and elected members on 1st October, 2012.

Departmental Expenditure

321. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25554/11]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): As the Deputy will be aware, my Department was established on 2 June 2011 and brings together functions from the former Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Since its establishment, my Department has spent €357 on translation costs associated with the production of the Annual Appropriation Account.

Telecommunications Services

322. **Deputy Noel Coonan** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the reason he is unable to provide broadband to a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; if it is envisioned the service will be provided in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24402/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): While the provision of broadband services is, in the first instance, a matter for private sector service providers, the Government has intervened in the market in instances of market failure. The National Broadband Scheme (NBS) and the Rural Broadband Scheme (RBS) are examples of such interventions.

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The RBS aims to provide a basic broadband service to individual, unserved rural premises including any premises in Lorrha, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Any applications received from residents in this area prior to the closing date for the scheme (29th July 2011) will be assessed in accordance with the terms of the Scheme. The exercise to fully process all of the approximately 5000 nationwide applications received is expected to be completed by the end of September.

323. **Deputy Noel Coonan** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the reason he is unable to provide broadband to a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; if it is envisioned the service will be provided in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24403/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): While the provision of broadband services is, in the first instance, a matter for private sector service providers, the Government has intervened in the market in instances of market failure. The National Broadband Scheme (NBS) and the Rural Broadband Scheme (RBS) are examples of such interventions.

Services under the NBS have been available to all designated NBS areas since October 2010.

As the person referred to in the Deputy's Question resides within a NBS area he should contact the NBS service provider 3 on 1800 944 794 for details regarding signing up for the NBS service.

Fishing Rights

324. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will purchase fishing rights from a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24606/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): The suitability of fishing rights for purchase by the State is a matter in the first instance for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). IFI are aware that the rights in question are currently for sale on the open market. Given the commercially sensitive nature of such matters it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the State's intentions with regards to the purchase of any property for sale on the open market.

Energy Resources

325. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if the contract for the installation of charging points for electric vehicles in public locations will be put out to tender or if the contract is being granted automatically to the ESB without any competitive tender; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24643/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): The ESB, as the single operator of the electricity distribution system, is responsible for implementing the public Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure across Ireland.

I understand that, to date, the installation of charge points on public sites has been undertaken by contractors working on behalf of the ESB. I also understand that from time to time the ESB hold tendering competitions whereby interested parties may apply to be registered on a 'tender list'. The ESB then signs framework agreements to last for a fixed period with success-

ful candidates. Over the period of the framework agreement, contractors on the list will be engaged to undertake work on projects such as installation of charge points.

326. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if, in the course of his efforts to promote wave and tidal energy production, consideration has been given to launching a competition for inventors to submit workable designs of energy production from wave and tidal sources with a significant monetary reward, on the basis that the State will have some or all of the rights to the patents of technologies of the winning submission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24665/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): The Ocean Energy Development Unit in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) was established to take forward the ocean energy sector in Ireland. SEAI operates a Prototype Development Fund aimed at stimulating the development and deployment of ocean energy devices and systems and developers may apply for funding under the scheme.

Prior to the introduction of the Prototype Development Fund, SEAI considered a variety of ways to incentivise industry to develop innovative products, seeking to introduce a level playing field for all product developers/inventors.

Developers/inventors often require support at the very early stage of their project to be able to bring their products to a workable design level. A concern with the proposal outlined would be that only those companies that already have initial development funding in place would be able to avail of such a scheme. The suggestion of the state taking a stake in patent rights is complex and would require in-depth analysis. It would also likely involve the state in the product on an ongoing basis, perhaps well beyond the lifetime of the scheme.

Ministerial Responsibilities

327. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources his involvement in the day to day operations of Bord Gáis, *vis-à-vis* salary increases, its office location and its value for money and audits. [24778/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): The respective roles and powers of the Board of Bord Gáis Éireann and the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources with regard to Bord Gáis Éireann are set out in legislation, in particular the Gas Act 1976 as amended.

The day to day operations of Bord Gáis Éireann are a matter for the Board.

Departmental Agencies

328. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the position regarding engagement by his Department or agencies under his remit with a proposed infrastructural connection (details supplied) between two metropolitan centres in the north west; if there is up-to-date information on the impact that such a connection would have on energy prices for consumers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24866/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): I have no direct statutory function in relation to the connection of towns to the gas network. Infrastructural connections which extend the natural gas network are a matter for the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) and the companies involved in gas transmission and distribution, principally Gaslink and Bord Gais Networks (BGN). Under the Gas (Interim) (Regulation) Act 2002, the CER, which is a statutory independent body, has been charged with all aspects

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of the assessment and licensing of prospective operators who wish to develop and/or operate a gas distribution system within the State. The CER must be satisfied that a proposal to extend the network is an economic proposition before it will grant consent for it, as otherwise uneconomic projects will increase costs for all energy consumers.

In 2006 the CER directed BGN to implement a new Connections Policy Document, allowing for the appraisal of connecting new towns in relative proximity to the gas network, either on their own or as part of a regional group of towns. This Connections Policy was adopted in April 2006 and updated in June 2008.

Having regard to the new policy, BGN carried out a comprehensive review of towns being considered for connection to the national gas network. The review was carried out in three Phases. During 2008 and 2009, BGN, on behalf of Gaslink, examined the potential connection of 39 towns throughout the country, in a study known as New Towns Analysis Phase III. The results of this examination were reviewed and subsequently approved by the CER in April 2010. As part of this analysis, the connection of six towns in the North West to the natural gas network was examined (Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Donegal Town, Lifford, Letterkenny and Sligo Town). The report considered the connection of these towns under three different potential routes. In all cases, the results of the analysis showed that none of the six towns were economically viable for connection to the gas network.

The CER's decision not to proceed with connecting certain towns in this regard followed a detailed economic analysis based upon criteria outlined in the Connections Policy. In light of the general economic downturn and evidence from previous phases, the CER required a more prudent application of the Connections Policy than in previous phases, particularly relating to underlying assumptions.

At an earlier stage in 2001, the Government had at the time approved in principle the extension of the gas network to Letterkenny from the proposed Belfast Derry pipeline. It was also agreed that a formal detailed proposal for extending the network, with full costings, should be submitted to it before any formal decision was made to commit Exchequer funding for the project. In July 2004 the Department, commissioned the feasibility study, which was undertaken by Fingleton McAdam Consultants. It concluded that the pipeline proposal was not viable in economic terms and could require up to 100% subvention. On foot of that study, the Minister decided to carry out a full Cost Benefit Analysis and DKM Economic Consultants Ltd was commissioned to undertake this work. The report was completed in March 2005. The report concluded that the pipeline would require 100% subvention of the capital costs and would also require an annual subvention to offset the operational costs of the pipeline.

While the project could have attracted a contribution towards the construction phase under the InterReg III Programme, in the light of the conclusions of both the feasibility study and the cost benefit analysis that the extension was not viable either in financial or economic terms, the Special European Union Projects Body decided in June 2005 to re-allocate the relevant envelope of funding to other infrastructural projects located in the border region. Against this backdrop, the Minister decided not to progress this project by means of using significant Exchequer funds and advised Government accordingly in June 2005.

Appointments to State Boards

329. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24954/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): I can inform the Deputy that there are 18 State bodies under the aegis of my Department. Of these there are 15 whose boards are appointed in whole in or in part by the Minister and /or the Government, The following table details the number of board positions which fall to be filled by Ministerial appointment.

The Deputy will be aware, that following the Government Decision regarding new procedures for Appointments to State Boards, I publically sought Expressions of Interest for appointments for vacancies which arise in bodies under the aegis of my Department in 2011.

State Body	No. members	No. members appointed by Minister	Term end date for members appointed by Minister
Broadcasting Authority Of Ireland	9	9 ¹	5 members — 30/09/2014 4 members — 16/02/2015
RTÉ	12	10 ²	6 members — 31/08/2014 4 members — 16/02/2015
TG4	12	10 ³	9 members — 31/03/2012 1 member — 28/09/2015
An Post	15	9	2 members — 02/04/2011 (process underway to fill these vacancies) 1 member — 10/12/2011 1 member — 22/11/2012 1 member — 03/02/2013 1 member — 28/02/2013 1 member — 23/06/2013 1 member — 13/08/2013 1 member — 07/03/2016
Digital Hub Development Agency ⁴	14	12	1 member — 27/01/2009 5 members — 23/10/2009 1 member — 10/11/2009 1 member — 30/11/2009 1 member — 23/10/2012 1 member — 23/11/2012 1 member — 08/02/2013 1 member — 18/10/2013
Bord Gáis Éireann	9	8	1 member — 05/06/2012 1 member — 17/12/2012 1 member — 27/11/2013 2 members — 09/06/2014 1 member — 27/07/2014 1 member — 31/07/2014 1 member — 22/11/2015
Bord na Móna	12	7	1 member — 21/10/2011 1 member — 13/06/2012 1 member — 27/09/2012 2 members — 01/05/2013 1 member — 21/10/2013 1 member — 08/06/2014
EirGrid	10	8	4 members — 16/07/2011 (process underway to fill these vacancies) 1 member — 07/09/2013 2 members — 15/06/2014 1 member — 15/09/2014
ESB	12	7 ⁵	1 member — 05/06/2012 1 member — 22/10/2012 1 member — 21/01/2013 1 member — 08/09/2014 1 member — 04/10/2015 1 member — 02/05/2016 1 member — 27/06/2016

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State Body	No. members	No. members appointed by Minister	Term end date for members appointed by Minister
Irish National Petroleum Corporation	5	5	1 member ⁶ — 14/12/2007 2 members — 31/05/2012 2 members — 31/05/2013
National Oil Reserves Agency	6	5	1 member — 26/09/2012 1 member — 10/04/2013 2 members — 22/07/2013 1 member — 10/04/2016
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	12	11	1 member — 30/04/2007 2 members — 30/04/2011 1 member — 03/06/2011 (process underway to fill the above vacancies) 1 member — 30/04/2012 1 member — 10/05/2012 1 member — 25/08/2012 1 member — 30/09/2012 3 members — 30/04/2013
Ordnance Survey Ireland	10	10	3 members — 03/03/2011 (process underway to fill the above vacancies) 6 members — 03/03/2012 1 member — 30/04/2012
Inland Fisheries Ireland	9	8 ⁷	1 member — 30/06/2013 1 member — 30/06/2014 1 member — 30/06/2015
The Planning Board	3	1	01/09/2012 — Must be Senior Counsel

1. 5 directly nominated by Minister and appointed by Government. 4 appointed by Government on nomination of Minister following recommendation of Joint Oireachtas Committee.

2. 6 appointed by Government on recommendation of Minister. 4 appointed by Government on nomination of Minister following recommendation of Joint Oireachtas Committee.

3. Board in situ until 2012. Thereafter 6 appointed by Government on recommendation of Minister. 4 appointed by Government on nomination of Minister following recommendation of Joint Oireachtas Committee.

4. A strategic review of the DHDA is currently being undertaken by my Department. It is envisaged that the Review Process should be completed in October of this year. It will inter alia set out recommendations for the future of the Digital Hub and on the funding model. Following the review I will be in a better position to look at existing Board vacancies in the context of the DHDA at that time.

5. Appointed by the Government on recommendation of Minister.

6. It is not envisaged that this position will be filled at the present time.

7. 3 appointed by Minister, and 5 others on the nomination of other Ministers (2) and the Oireachtas (3).

Departmental Expenditure

330. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25556/11]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): Details of such reports are shown in the following table.

	€
National Renewable Energy National Plan	8,245.42
GSI Annual Report 2009	1,496.71
Appropriation Account 2009	365.54
Department Annual Report 2009	2,081.56

Register of Electors

331. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the reason gardaí serving on UN or EU missions abroad are unable to vote in the presidential election. [24780/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Electoral law provides for postal voting for specified categories of persons, including members of the Defence Forces and Irish Diplomats serving abroad. I will consider extending the categories of voters for which such arrangements should be put in place to Gardaí serving abroad in the context of any future amendments to electoral law.

Local Authority Charges

332. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will review local authority rates for struggling Irish businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24897/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Local authorities are under a statutory obligation to levy rates on any property used for commercial purposes in accordance with the details entered in the valuation lists prepared by the independent Commissioner of Valuation under the Valuation Act 2001. The levying and collection of rates are matters for each individual local authority. The Annual Rate on Valuation (ARV), which is applied to the valuation of each property, determined by the Valuation Office, to obtain the amount payable in rates, is decided by the elected members of each local authority in the annual budget and its determination is a reserved function of a local authority.

The Commissioner of Valuation, who has sole responsibility for all valuation matters, is conducting a programme of revaluation of all commercial and industrial properties throughout the State on a county by county basis. The purpose of the revaluation process is to provide for more consistent and up-to-date valuations for rating purposes and to assist in making the rating system fairer and equitable for ratepayers.

Following completion of the revaluation programme, there is expected to be a much closer and uniform relationship between rental values of property and their commercial rates liability and this relationship will thereafter be maintained by means of recurring revaluations provided for in the Valuation Act.

Nuclear Plants

333. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, further to Parliamentary Question No. 160 of 29 June 2011, the steps he has taken to ensure the UK authorities are made aware of his concerns about likely effects on Ireland of British plans to build additional nuclear facilities, including with respect to the long-term management of radioactive waste and the potential cumulative impacts of having multiple nuclear sites in one area [24468/11]

334. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland has completed its independent assessment of the possible impacts for Ireland from the UK's nuclear build programme; when he expects this report to be completed; and when same will be published [24469/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 333 and 334 together.

Ireland recognises the right of States to determine their own energy mix, including whether or not to develop nuclear power. It is Ireland's expectation that, where a State chooses to develop a nuclear power industry, this will be done in line with the highest international standards with respect to safety and environmental protection.

In view of the potential for transboundary impacts, however unlikely, the importance of prioritising nuclear safety and environmental protection is a matter of concern to non-nuclear States such as Ireland. With regard to the UK's plans for new nuclear build, including at Sellafield, my Department has engaged bilaterally with the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change on these plans since they were first signalled a number of years ago and continues to do so. This engagement serves to highlight to the UK any concerns identified from Ireland's perspective in relation to the planned new nuclear build. Concerns raised to date have included the long-term management of radioactive waste, as well as potential cumulative impacts of having multiple nuclear sites in an area, including with respect to emergency planning and response and radioactive discharges to the Irish Sea. As part of these ongoing discussions, UK authorities have advised my Department that they have identified no likely significant effects arising for Ireland from the planned new build programme. I will continue in these efforts to ensure that the UK authorities are made aware of and address our concerns and take all possible steps to ensure that the highest levels of safety apply at Sellafield and any other new plants to be developed in the coming years.

At the request of my Department, the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) is conducting an independent assessment of possible impacts for Ireland from the UK's new nuclear build programme. This work is ongoing. Its initial timeframe was revised to account for the demands placed on the RPII's Nuclear Safety Directorate by the response and follow-up to the accident at the Fukushima nuclear facility in Japan in March 2011. It is now expected that the results of the assessment will be provided to my Department at the end of 2011.

Fire Services

335. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he is satisfied with the current level of fire services available in an area (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24472/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The provision of a fire service in its functional area, including the establishment and maintenance of a fire brigade, the assessment of fire cover needs, the provision of a premises and the making of such other provisions as it considers necessary or desirable, is a statutory function of individual fire authorities under the provisions of the Fire Services Act 1981. The provision of fire services to the areas referred to in the Question is, therefore, a matter for Kerry County Council.

By way of background, Kerry County Council's fire services are provided by a retained staffing system. Retained fire-fighters are employees of fire authorities, and are organised to provide a full professional fire service throughout the county, including for the communities referred to in the question. The retained fire services are appropriately trained, equipped, supervised and operate to proper procedures. The local station whose closure is referred to in the Question was a voluntary fire unit, which was outside the direct control of the fire authority. The voluntary unit in question did not have the requisite training to attend and deal safely with a variety of incident types. While it received some training, equipment and funding from the

Council in the past, it did not report to and was not under the control of the Council's Fire Service. I would like to emphasise that the most effective measure to protect the lives of persons in the communities referred to, as in all communities, is to ensure that each dwelling is fitted with proper smoke alarms. I encourage all households in Kerry, as throughout the country, to ensure that this is the case.

Water and Sewerage Schemes

336. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when funding will be made available to Kerry County Council for a project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24481/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012, a copy of which is available in the Oireachtas Library, provides for the commencement of water conservation contracts to the value of just under €18.8 million during the programme period in County Kerry. Since the publication of the programme, Kerry County Council has completed its countywide watermains rehabilitation strategy required as part of its water conservation programme. This strategy identifies specific defective water supply networks requiring rehabilitation and/or replacement. The Council is also identifying the works to be included in the Countywide Watermains Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 contract to be progressed and funded under my Department's Water Services Investment Programme 2010 — 2012. My Department recently approved advance work proposals for the replacement of watermains in a number of areas in Kerry including the works for Ballydowney, Killarney to Beaufort Bridge, Killarney.

Local Authority Housing

337. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the local authorities that are implementing the incremental purchase scheme; the number of properties that have been purchased to date in each local authority area; the targets that have been set for 2011; the funding that has been provided to each local authority to facilitate delivery of this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24482/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Willie Penrose): Part 3 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, 2009 provides for an incremental purchase scheme in respect of newly — built houses reserved by housing authorities for the purpose. Regulations to implement the Incremental Purchase Scheme for new homes were made in June 2010. The scheme is available to all housing authorities. I am not aware of any completed purchases to date under the scheme and it is not appropriate to set targets for a scheme such as this which will be provided by housing authorities according to the specific opportunities and needs in their own areas. It is acknowledged that the current economic climate, reduced demand for house purchase including purchase by local authority tenants, constraints on availability of credit to applicants and a scale back of new-build local authority houses have all combined to limit the potential of the scheme at present. Capital funding is not needed by authorities as funding to purchase or build a housing unit designated for Incremental Purchase has generally already been provided by the Exchequer.

Unfinished Housing Developments

338. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the steps being taken in conjunction with the relevant local authority and a developer (details supplied) to urgently complete the unfinished estate of Castlemoyne, Bal-

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griffin, Dublin 13, and remedy all outstanding defects for the benefit of existing residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24508/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Willie Penrose): I have established and am chairing the National Co-ordination Committee on Unfinished Housing Developments to oversee implementation of the Report of the Advisory Group on Unfinished Housing Developments, together with the Government's response to the recommendations. The Committee is meeting on a regular basis with the aim of publishing a report on progress achieved within the next 12 months. In the meantime, work is ongoing on implementation of the Report of the Advisory Group and real progress is being made with regard to the public safety works required to improve the living conditions of existing residents on some unfinished estates.

To date, my Department has made allocations totalling some €2.16 million to fifteen local authorities from the €5 million funding allocation made available to address immediate safety issues. The types of works that have been approved include the fencing off of unsecured and hazardous areas, capping of pipes, installation of street lighting, and other works to secure sites. My Department will be making further allocations as applications are received from local authorities and assessed. Planning authorities are also making progress in securing the co-operation of developers, financial institutions and/or bond holders, thereby obviating the need to use Exchequer resources to fund such work.

Developers and owners of unfinished housing developments (or their receivers, where appointed) have the primary legal obligation in addressing outstanding problems associated with these developments. Any public funds expended under this provision should ultimately be recouped from the developer/receiver. Estates which fall under the direct control of NAMA, or receivers appointed by NAMA, are being managed by them and as a consequence do not fall within this scheme.

The recent national survey of Unfinished Housing Developments has identified that there are no serious health and safety issues on Phase 1 of Castlemoyne. In relation to Phase 2 of this development the unbuilt areas have been fenced off. Fingal County Council has not identified this estate as being Category 4 — the only category being considered for funding under the public safety initiative — and has therefore not received any funding.

Waste Management

339. **Deputy Derek Nolan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if his attention has been drawn to the vast amount of waste that goes unsegregated by private waste operators; if there is a requirement for private waste operators to segregate their waste; his plans to introduce mandatory waste segregation; his views on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24533/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The greater the degree of separation of different categories of waste by consumers and businesses, the easier it will be to reduce the proportion of our waste disposed of in landfill and to create the conditions for investment in much needed recovery and recycling infrastructure. Waste presentation is largely determined by permit conditions and local bye-laws. The Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007 provide that a permitted waste collector must source-segregate, treat or recover a specified proportion of waste collected, or class or classes of such waste, in such manner as may be specified by the relevant local authority. In

2008, my Department instructed local authorities to provide, as a matter of urgency, for the implementation of source-segregated collection for organic waste in urban areas.

The Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 require the segregation and recovery of food waste arising in the commercial sector. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is currently underway in relation to the placing of an obligation on waste collectors to provide or arrange for the separate collection of household food waste and its diversion from disposal to recovery and recycling. The increases to the landfill levy which became effective earlier this month are intended to provide an economic mechanism to encourage the segregation of waste.

Performance has undoubtedly improved in recent years. The National Waste Report 2009 states that in 2009 a 2-bin service was provided to 72% of serviced households and a 3-bin service was provided to a further 24% of serviced households. However, notwithstanding the legal and policy framework, our improved performance and the likely impact of recent and anticipated changes, as a society we must do better.

The Programme for Government commits to the development of a coherent national waste policy, adhering to the waste hierarchy, which will aim to minimise waste disposal in landfill and maximise recovery. I am prioritising this commitment. A public consultation in relation to the new national waste policy is under way; a discussion document has been published on my Department's website to help inform consideration. The discussion document sets out a range of possible policy initiatives and issues for wider consideration, including in relation to the mandatory segregation of waste, and presents a real opportunity for interested parties to contribute to shaping a new national waste policy. The consultation period closes on Friday 30 September.

Temple Bar Cultural Trust

340. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, in view of the fact that the Temple Bar Cultural Trust, TBCT, organisation has been found to have offset the cost of lunches in February 2009 and 2010 against the rent of a restaurant whose owners are tenants of the trust, if he will call for a full independent audit into the spending of the TBCT, which is a body whose sole shareholder is the Dublin City Council. [24578/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The Temple Bar Cultural Trust organisation is a private limited company with the Dublin City Manager as the sole shareholder. Therefore, in the first instance, governance arrangements and financial management of the Trust are a matter for Dublin City Council and its Audit Committee. I understand that an independent consultancy report into the operation of the Trust, commissioned by Dublin City Council, has been presented to the Council. The Report was discussed at a recent Council meeting and will be discussed again by the Council at its meeting in October.

Departmental Funding

341. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number and location of voluntary housing associations WHICH have not drawn down the annual maintenance grant; if known, the reason the grants have not been drawn down; the checks and balances in place to ensure such associations are in compliance with the terms of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24612/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Willie Penrose): My Department's involvement with voluntary and co-operative hous-

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ing schemes relates primarily to the provision of funds for individual projects. The detailed administration of the schemes, and the certification that projects comply with the terms and conditions of the funding schemes, are the responsibility of the relevant local authority.

Under the terms of the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme, which provides funding for standard family-type accommodation, management and maintenance costs are met from the rental income generated by the project as well as an annual management and maintenance allowance of up to €543 which is paid by the local authority to approved housing bodies in respect of each dwelling funded under the scheme. It is a requirement of the scheme that the dwelling is occupied by tenants drawn from the local authority housing list and it is a matter for the relevant authority to ensure compliance with all of the conditions pertaining to payment of the allowance. Expenditure on the payment of management and maintenance allowances to approved housing bodies is recouped to local authorities by my Department on receipt of the appropriate claims. All matters relating to the receipt, examination and payment of payment claims are dealt with locally. Information relating to approved housing bodies who have not drawn the allowance from the housing authority is not available in my Department.

Local Authority Funding

342. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the proposals and appropriate arrangements relating to the financial position of Sligo County Council that were discussed at his meeting with the cathaoirleach of the council and the county manager on 20 May 2011; the location of which the meeting took place; the time the meeting commenced; the time the meeting concluded; if other items apart from the council's finances were included on the agenda for the meeting; if the report, minutes, notes and documentation from the meeting are available for inspection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24630/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): I met with the Cathaoirleach and Manager of Sligo County Council on the occasion of the official openings of the new Library and Fire Station in Ballymote on 20 May 2011. The meeting commenced at 3.30 p.m. and concluded at 3.45 p.m. approximately. At this meeting the financial position and the funding challenges facing the Council were briefly discussed with a view to further exploration between my Department and the Council of appropriate arrangements to reduce the deficit over time. There was no specific documentation arising from the meeting. It is a matter for each local authority, including Sligo County Council, to determine its own spending priorities in the context of the annual budgetary process having regard to both locally identified needs and available resources. It is also a matter for individual local authorities to manage their own day-to-day finances in a prudent and sustainable manner.

343. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he has received any correspondence or submissions from Sligo Borough Council or Sligo County Council in regard to funding for the improvement of O'Connell Street, Sligo, in the period since 5 July 2011; the date on which the correspondence or submissions were received in addition to a summary of the materials received; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24631/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Willie Penrose): My Department received e-mail correspondence from Sligo Borough Council on 30 August 2011 in connection with the proposed improvement works to O'Connell Street together with copies of motions adopted by the Borough Council relating to these works

and traffic management arrangements locally. The Council also advised that only the planning and design phase of the proposed works to O'Connell Street would be completed this year and requested that the capital funding for the construction phase be included in the Council's 2012 allocation. A detailed proposal in respect of these works is awaited from Sligo Borough Council. This will be evaluated on the basis of its contribution to supporting the overall objectives of the regeneration project and how it can address issues such as creating linkages with the Cranmore estate and adjacent areas as well as issues such as infrastructure deficit generally, accessibility and social exclusion resulting from unemployment and economic disadvantage.

Local Authority Charges

344. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the amount of commercial rates written off as bad debts over the past three years for each local authority; the total revenue stream lost to local authorities as a result of commercial rates written off as bad debts; his plans to supplement the shortfall of income to local authorities to minimise any adverse impact on the provision of local services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24649/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Local authorities are under a statutory obligation to levy rates on any property used for commercial purposes in accordance with the details entered in the valuation lists prepared by the independent Commissioner of Valuation under the Valuation Act 2001. The levying and collection of rates are matters for each individual local authority. As with all local charges, the invoicing and collection of due amounts is a matter for the local authority concerned to manage in the light of prevailing local circumstances and in accordance with normal accountancy procedures. I recognise that these are difficult economic times and I will continue to keep all matters relating to rates under regular consideration in my Department.

The revenue base of local authorities was broadened in 2009 by the introduction in the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 of a €200 charge on non-principal private residences. The charge is payable in respect of private rented accommodation, holiday homes and other non-principal private residences. As at 15 September, 2011, the non-principal private residence charge has raised €69,821,880 in 2009, €68,294,000 in 2010 and €61,789,760 in respect of 2011.

The EU/IMF Programme of Financial Support for Ireland commits the Government to the introduction of a property tax for 2012. The Programme reflects the need, in the context of the State's overall financial position, to put the funding of locally delivered services on a sound financial footing, improve accountability and better align the cost of providing services with the demand for such services. In light of the complex issues involved, a property tax, requiring a comprehensive property valuation system, would take time to introduce and accordingly, to meet the requirements in the EU/IMF Programme, the Government has decided to introduce a household charge in 2012. The household charge is an interim measure and proposals for a full property tax will be considered by the Government in due course. The charge will be set at €100 and will apply to the majority of the households in the country, subject to a limited number of exemptions and waivers. It is expected to raise some €160 million and it is the intention that the revenues from the charge will support the provision of local services. Legislation to underpin the household charge will be brought before the Oireachtas shortly.

The information requested in respect of each local authority is set out in the following table. 2009 is the most recent year for which audited information is available.

[Deputy Phil Hogan.]

Authority Name	2007 €	2008 €	2009 €
Carlow County Council	48,659	63,701	84,558
Cavan County Council	106,716	78,828	150,332
Clare County Council	301,577	419,856	396,538
Cork County Council	3,279,302	3,868,254	5,041,167
Donegal County Council	2,137,878	2,302,580	1,363,280
Fingal County Council	886,521	1,364,689	2,141,388
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	1,464,053	1,161,247	1,712,032
Galway County Council	1,951,482	2,636,068	2,727,353
Kerry County Council	2,050,403	1,719,763	2,362,878
Kildare County Council	0	0	0
Kilkenny County Council	498,011	1,013,476	1,237,416
Laois County Council	119,570	172,267	271,481
Leitrim County Council	339,461	439,741	545,554
Limerick County Council	1,720,067	1,948,681	2,644,874
Longford County Council	272,432	410,706	204,541
Louth County Council	617,097	654,051	756,462
Mayo County Council	1,438,372	1,649,093	2,484,383
Meath County Council	0	0	0
Monaghan County Council	211,786	274,444	602,947
North Tipperary County Council	44,232	77,122	188,260
Offaly County Council	395,289	567,400	803,689
Roscommon County Council	31,383	751,669	1,563,232
Sligo County Council	176,004	283,838	579,355
South Dublin County Council	2,192,432	-188,700	1,687,009
South Tipperary County Council	3,716	2,380	1,760
Waterford County Council	509,005	383,252	408,964
Westmeath County Council	66,805	1,480	236,607
Wexford County Council	606,820	509,989	660,644
Wicklow County Council	579,045	1,260,842	1,464,190
Cork City Council	188,362	313,373	1,852,616
Dublin City Council	17,718,465	5,616,183	6,247,794
Galway City Council	1,500,777	2,627,132	2,435,131
Limerick City Council	2,742,128	2,079,954	1,823,528
Waterford City Council	89,214	143,235	189,950
Clonmel Borough Council	0	0	47,189
Drogheda Borough Council	952,938	928,391	2,149,886
Kilkenny Borough Council	234,328	457,958	555,533
Sligo Borough Council	1,322,193	661,977	890,046
Wexford Borough Council	303,771	209,381	467,995
Arklow Town Council	258,683	413,109	520,877
Athlone Town Council	14,374	0	0
Athy Town Council	0	0	0
Ballina Town Council	554,858	525,779	729,526
Ballinasloe Town Council	272,079	321,894	324,172
Birr Town Council	205,713	270,109	233,453

Authority Name	2007 €	2008 €	2009 €
Bray Town Council	541,561	734,883	704,429
Buncrana Town Council	282,927	282,303	762,828
Bundoran Town Council	36,039	54,630	87,232
Carlow Town Council	58,618	161,463	110,825
Carrick on Suir Town Council	14,523	3,253	4,606
Carrickmacross Town Council	36,121	51,037	88,280
Cashel Town Council	0	0	0
Castlebar Town Council	424,300	537,165	682,085
Castleblayney Town Council	90,093	150,298	133,134
Cavan Town Council	259,398	213,192	300,985
Clonakilty Town Council	12,773	12,343	52,862
Clones Town Council	65,752	51,175	128,492
Cobh Town Council	64,784	125,741	146,664
Dundalk Town Council	874,504	409,189	966,133
Dungarvan Town Council	434,906	276,356	311,792
Ennis Town Council	339,577	540,437	591,822
Enniscorthy Town Council	11,661	51,780	58,316
Fermoy Town Council	102,313	138,402	204,826
Kells Town Council	0	0	0
Killarney Town Council	715,466	654,326	833,203
Kilrush Town Council	4,793	1,970	7,777
Kinsale Town Council	15,216	51,171	14,472
Letterkenny Town Council	154,583	347,679	388,328
Listowel Town Council	103,557	217,702	209,707
Longford Town Council	339,919	339,023	591,740
Macroom Town Council	4,899	5,855	51,661
Mallow Town Council	56,559	135,168	171,242
Midleton Town Council	94,332	80,524	108,601
Monaghan Town Council	308,221	299,864	538,040
Naas Town Council	5,473	886	0
Navan Town Council	0	0	331,598
Nenagh Town Council	177,348	247,242	377,330
New Ross Town Council	24,976	12,565	8,065
Skibbereen Town Council	118,618	133,064	161,644
Templemore Town Council	5,925	14,354	16,509
Thurles Town Council	121,320	215,490	344,008
Tipperary Town Council	1,278	0	0
Tralee Town Council	982,956	1,179,870	2,912,370
Trim Town Council	0	0	0
Tullamore Town Council	543,070	855,628	736,996
Westport Town Council	164,327	121,984	149,391
Wicklow Town Council	191,001	230,205	291,953
Youghal Town Council	182,887	440,598	339,981
Total	56,372,575	47,774,005	64,708,517

Leader Programmes

345. **Deputy Michael Ring** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding an appeal for Leader funding by an applicant (details supplied) in County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24796/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): There are 36 Local Action Groups contracted, on my Department's behalf, to deliver the Rural Development Programme throughout the country and these groups are the principal decision-makers in relation to the allocation of project funding. Such decisions are made in the context of the local development strategy of the individual groups and in line with Departmental operating rules and EU regulations. There is provision in the operating rules of the Rural Development Programme to allow an applicant if dissatisfied with the decision of a Local Action Group, to appeal that decision to the Regional Inspector. The applicant in question appealed a decision made by South West Mayo Development Company not to support a grant application. On foot of the appeal by the applicant a review was carried out and has been completed. The applicant was made aware of the findings of the appeal on the 29 June 2011. Subsequently the applicant wrote to my Department requesting a review of the appeal decision. This is currently under consideration.

Water Charges

346. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the proposed cost and timeframe involved in the installation of water meters for households; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24898/11]

359. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if the administration of water charge billing will be subcontracted to the private sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24989/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 346 and 359 together.

The Programme for Government provides for the introduction of a fair funding model to deliver clean and reliable water. The objective is to install water meters in households connected to public water supplies and move to a charging system based on usage above a free allowance. My Department is currently preparing a strategy to implement these proposals, which will include estimates of the cost of metering and consideration of how the metering programme is to be funded and procured. The Programme for Government also proposes the establishment of a new State-owned water company, Irish Water. The Memorandum of Understanding between Ireland and the European Union and International Monetary Fund commits Ireland to undertaking an independent assessment of the establishment of a water utility. Work on the independent assessment is underway. The assessment will examine the optimal organisational structures for Irish Water and will also include recommendations on the functions to be assigned to the company (e.g. administration of billing and collection functions).

Referendum Proposals

347. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the means by which the details of the upcoming referendum on parliamentary powers will be communicated to the electorate to ensure full clarity and understanding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24899/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Houses of the Oireachtas) Bill 2011 is being sponsored by my colleague the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The Government has approved the establishment of a Referendum Commission in relation to the proposed amendment of the Constitution contained in this Bill. Arising from that decision, I exercised the powers conferred on me under the Referendum Act 1998 to establish the Commission on 13 September 2011. The task of the Commission is to explain the subject matter of the referendum proposals, to promote public awareness of the referendum and to encourage the electorate to vote at the poll. Further information about the Referendum Commission can be found at www.refcom.ie.

The Government has also agreed that a statement for the information of voters at the forthcoming referendum should issue in accordance with section 23 of the Referendum Act 1994. This statement will be sent with the polling information card to every elector and issued separately to postal and special voters. It will be displayed in poster form in polling stations and it will also be available to presiding officers to assist blind and incapacitated voters and voters with literacy difficulties on polling day. The required motions for resolutions of each House of the Oireachtas in relation to the Statement are being progressed in tandem with the passage of the Bill through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Departmental Bodies

348. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the proposed timeframe within which the working group on pyrite will be established; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24900/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): On 15 September I announced the establishment of a panel to seek to identify a way forward in regard to pyrite contamination in private housing stock. Arrangements for the establishment of the panel should be finalised this week.

Water Services

349. **Deputy Alan Farrell** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans in respect of the servicing and preparation he has been carrying out to prevent water disruptions during freezing weather conditions as experienced in December 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24904/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): My Department considers water conservation to be of paramount importance. The current Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012, a copy of which is in the Oireachtas library, places a significant emphasis on water conservation, providing for network rehabilitation contracts with a total value of some €321 million to commence in the period 2010-2012.

In the aftermath of the severe weather in December 2010 and January 2011, my Department carried out a review of the local authority response. The purpose of the review was to identify lessons learnt — what worked successfully and what needed improvement, so that organisations/agencies could consolidate and further enhance preparedness and the response process in the future. Specifically, in relation to water services, local authorities have identified the contingency arrangements needed when a severe weather incident is predicted. These include demand management measures to seek to reduce demand and replenish reservoirs during the period of freezing weather, mainly through pressure reductions and night-time restrictions and ensuring that staff are available throughout the thawing phase to manage pro-

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duction, find and fix leaks, provide alternative supplies through tankers and standpipes and provide information through websites and other media outlets. In addition, my Department's National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management is currently drawing up a severe weather preparedness guidance document, which includes guidance on water issues.

Local Authority Services

350. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to roll out the *fixyourstreet.ie* customer service for local authorities across the State; the contact he has had with local authorities on this issue to-date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24908/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Local authorities have arrangements and applications in place which facilitate citizens in making complaints or suggestions or in reporting problems through various mediums, including by post, phone, text, fax, e-mail and on-line through their websites. In the context of the commitment in the Programme for Government, my Department is working with local authorities in developing options for the enhancement of these arrangements which will further assist citizens in availing of local authority services and in reporting problems or faults to their local authority. This has included engagement with the County and City Managers' Association and bilateral discussions with South Dublin County Council who are now piloting a website *www.fixyourstreet.ie*, which allows members of the public notify non-emergency issues such as graffiti, road defects, street lighting, drainage, litter and illegal dumping. Subject to successful piloting and any necessary adaptations, it can then be considered for extension to other local authorities.

Local Government Audit Service

351. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his views regarding local government not being covered under the remit of the Committee of Public Accounts; his plans to introduce legislation or other measures to rectify this anomaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24909/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The audit of the accounts of all local authorities is required to be carried out by the independent Local Government Audit Service under the Local Government Act 2001. I have no plans at present to alter this statutory arrangement. The elected members of a local authority have direct responsibility in law for all reserved functions of the authority, which include adopting the annual budget and authorising borrowing, and are democratically accountable for all expenditure by the local authority.

In order to enhance the financial management and audit control systems in local authorities, an audit committee, with both councillor and expert external membership, is now in place in each county and city council. The functions of an audit committee are to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within a local authority, foster the development of best practice in the internal audit function, review auditors' reports and special reports and assess follow-up action by management, assess and promote efficiency and value for money, review risk management systems and make such recommendations to the authority as the committee considers appropriate in respect of such matters.

The Report of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group made a number of recommendations in relation to value for money and audit functions. In particular, it recommended that the Director of the Local Government Audit Service produce an annual report that takes

a more strategic overview of financial management and audit issues across the local government sector, taking account of sectoral issues that emerge from the audit of individual local authorities. The Group considered that this report would provide the opportunity for the Director to put before my Department key issues for attention and for the local government sector to address. In addition, the Group recommended that this report should be sent to the relevant Oireachtas committee so that it can be discussed with the Director and relevant local government officials. The Group considered that this approach would facilitate Oireachtas oversight of local expenditure of central funds, while at the same time recognising that expenditure by local authorities is a matter of separate local democratic accountability. In accordance with this recommendation, the annual report of the Director of Audit of the Local Government Audit Service, covering local authority accounts for the year 2009, has been submitted to the Joint Committee on the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Local Authority Staff

352. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if his attention has been drawn to a situation regarding the impact of the public sector recruitment moratorium on the provision of access and equality officers within local authorities; if he finds it acceptable that these positions, which are required under the Disability Act, are being carried out by officials with other duties; if he believes that it is best appropriate for access and equality officer roles to be independent positions within local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24910/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The embargo on the filling of posts in local authorities was introduced on 24 March 2009 following a Government decision to implement savings measures across the wider public service. My Department received a delegated sanction from the Department of Finance in August 2009 for implementation of this general moratorium on the filling of public sector posts across all local authorities. This is on condition that the overall staffing levels in the sector are reduced by the end of 2013. In this regard, local authorities have reduced numbers, in terms of whole time equivalent staff, by approximately 6,500 since June 2008. The work carried out by departing staff has been absorbed by remaining staff delivering very significant savings in terms of sustainable remuneration costs.

Under section 159 of the Local Government Act 2001, each County and City Manager is responsible for staffing and organisational arrangements necessary for carrying out the functions of the local authorities for which he or she is responsible. In this regard, it is a matter for County and City managers, in the first instance, to ensure that the reduction in staff numbers is managed so that the appropriate service level is maintained. Where vacancies arise, local authorities must consider all options for reorganisation and reallocation of work to meet requirements. Any exceptions to this principle, which will arise in very limited circumstances, require sanction from this Department. All staffing sanction requests are examined on a case by case basis having due regard to the continued delivery of key services and the need to further reduce overall staffing levels in the local authority sector. In this regard, local authorities have an employment control framework numbers ceiling of 30,000 whole time equivalents for the end of 2013. In June 2011, total local authority staff numbers were approximately 30,900.

My Department works closely with local authorities to ensure key posts are filled. In this regard, the majority of the sanctions granted are for the filling of posts in front line service areas such as water services, roads maintenance, housing, community and enterprise, fire and emergency services and in relation to capital projects. In view of the financial position facing local authorities and the country as a whole, my Department and local authorities will continue

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to make every effort to ensure that further efficiencies and savings are attained by the sector while an appropriate level of service to the public is maintained. In this context, while local authorities must comply with statutory obligations, including those outlined in the Disability Act 2005, all options for reorganisation and reallocation of work to meet the statutory requirements must be made.

Water Services

353. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding the harvesting of rainwater (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24921/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Harvested rainwater can potentially be used as an alternative source of water for various domestic purposes, e.g. supplying toilet cisterns, washing machines etc., and for various business and commercial operations. Environmental and economic benefits can also accrue from reducing the demand for water abstraction at source and the subsequent and expensive treatment of raw water for human consumption. Large-scale rainwater harvesting systems are already in use by some schools, factories and other buildings and are increasingly being incorporated into new developments. Retrofitting a rainwater harvesting system in existing households could require the installation of an attic storage tank and the re-routing and upgrading of plumbing and, therefore, could be expensive. Any plumbing system based on rainwater collection may contain traces of atmospheric and environmental pollutants, along with animal and bird faecal matter. It is essential, therefore, that there is no cross-connection between any pipe, fitting or appliance carrying non-potable water and pipes carrying potable water in order to avoid potentially serious issues for public health and risk of cross-contamination of the public water supply. It is essential that any installer is competent in safeguarding potable water supplies within a mixed pipe system and consumers installing such systems should be aware of the ongoing operational and maintenance requirements.

My Department has funded two pilot projects undertaken by the Dublin Institute of Technology on behalf of the National Rural Water Services Committee. The first pilot was carried out at two locations, a house in Ballinabrannagh, County Carlow and a farm at Clonalvey, County Meath. The project concluded that rainwater harvesting is a sustainable water conservation measure but was inconclusive on economic grounds. The report on the second pilot project, which was carried out in a school at Carrowholly in County Mayo, will be published shortly. All findings and recommendations regarding the projects will then be assessed fully by my Department. Earlier this month, I amended the Planning Regulations to facilitate rainwater harvesting in agricultural buildings. This amendment inserted a new exemption which will allow a farmer to install rainwater collecting receptacles either below ground or at gable ends of sheds to gather rainwater which can then be used for cleaning, etc. This provision should facilitate farmers to store and use free water for purposes other than watering their livestock, thereby saving money on their water bills as well as making optimal use of natural and renewable resources. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has advised that this water cannot be used for feeding livestock etc., unless it is properly treated.

Deposit Protection Scheme

354. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to introduce a deposit protection scheme for private tenants; the

communication he has had with the Private Residencies Tenancies Board in relation to this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24924/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Willie Penrose): The Residential Tenancies Act 2004 regulates the tenant-landlord relationship in the private rented residential sector. My Department conducted a review of the Act in 2009 with a specific emphasis on whether it best supports the PRTB's key functions and whether legislative amendments would support the achievement of additional operational efficiencies by the PRTB in the delivery of those functions or the broader good working of the private rented sector. The outcomes of the review were announced by my predecessor as Minister of State. In April 2010, and the Government approved the preparation of the Heads of a Bill to deliver on the review's recommendations. Full details in relation to the background of the review and the outcomes are available on my Departments website, www.environ.ie. The drafting of the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Bill 2011 was approved by Government in July 2011. The General Scheme of the Bill, *inter alia*, includes the introduction of fines where a landlord is found unjustifiably to have retained all or part of a tenant's security deposit, as a first step to eliminating the problem of deposit retention. I am at present evaluating the Residential Tenancies Act review process recommendations and associated legislative proposals. I have met with the PRTB which has engaged in some research as to the viability of a separate deposit retention scheme pursuant to its function, under section 151(1) of the Act, to provide advice to the Minister concerning policy in relation to the private rented sector. On foot of that meeting, I have asked the PRTB to carry out further research on how best to address the issue of deposit retention. This research will further inform my thinking on this matter.

Water and Sewerage Schemes

355. **Deputy Tony McLoughlin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will reconsider his decision not to approve funding for the extension of the Sligo and environs sewerage scheme for Cumeen, County Sligo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24946/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The Sligo and Environs Sewerage Scheme, which includes the extension to Cumeen, is included as a scheme at planning in my Department's Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012, a copy of which is available in the Oireachtas Library. My Department wrote to Sligo County Council in July 2011 advising that the design review report for the scheme could not be considered further until such time as the council completed a Local Area Plan for the Cumeen area which would provide a clearer basis for determining the nature and scale of water services infrastructure that may be required for the area.

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356. **Deputy Tony McLoughlin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will consider grant aiding community and sports centre controlled by local authorities and local communities across the State to provide rain water harvesting facilities which would be welcomed in view of the amount of treated water used in these types of community complexes [24948/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): I refer to the reply to Question No. 353 on today's Order Paper which sets out my Department's general policy position in relation to rainwater harvesting and addresses certain operational issues arising in the use of these technologies. Funding of €427 million is available for allocation

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to qualifying projects up to the end of 2013 under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007-13. Some 36 Local Action Groups are contracted on my Department's behalf to deliver the RDP throughout the country. These groups are the principal decision-makers in relation to the allocation of project funding. Such decisions are made in the context of the local development strategy of the individual groups and in line with departmental operating rules and EU regulations. There is scope for funding water harvesting facilities under the conservation measure of the rural development programme which is subject to a range of eligibility criteria. Funding can not be made available to public bodies under the RDP. However, it may be possible to consider funding applications in respect of initiatives that are organised, managed and led at community level. Contact details for the 36 Local Action Groups are available on my Department's website, *www.environ.ie*.

Appointments to State Boards

357. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24957/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The table that follows this reply details the position in relation to appointments to the governing council or board of each agency under the aegis of my Department and the due date for appointments. Appointments include both individual appointments of board or council members and/or the appointment of a full board or council.

State Agency	Date for next Renewal/Appointment (individual appointment or entire board)
An Bord Pleanála	April 2010 (There are 2 individual vacancies at present and a further six will arise by the end of December 2011)
Building Regulations Advisory Body (BRAB)	June 2012 (Entire board)
An Chomhairle Leabharlanna — Library Council	April 2013 (Entire board)
Comhar SDC	March 2012 (18 individual member vacancies from a total of 25)
Dormant Accounts Board	January 2012 (1 individual member)
Dublin Docklands Development Authority	April 2012 (Entire board)
Environmental Protection Agency	Appointments to the EPA Board of Directors are made by Government, in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. The position of Director General is currently vacant and has been advertised recently. The contracts of the 4 Director posts expire in 2012, 2013 (x2) and 2015.
Housing Finance Agency	December 2011 (Entire board apart from C.E.O)
Irish Water Safety	July 2011 (Entire council)(Elections of water safety representatives have been held and expressions of interest have also been sought. The matter is under consideration at present)
Interim Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency	Early 2012
Limerick Southside Regeneration Agency	June 2012 (Entire board)
Limerick Northside Regeneration Agency	June 2012 (Entire board)
Local Government Computer Services Board/ Local Government Management Services Board (merged board)	October 2013 (Entire board)

State Agency	Date for next Renewal/Appointment (individual appointment or entire board)
National Building Agency	NBA to be abolished in early 2012
National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	April 2013 (Entire board)
Private Residential Tenancies Board	September 2012 (1 individual member)
Rent Tribunal	September 2013 (Entire board)
Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland	May 2011 (2 individual members)
Western Development Commission	February 2014 (Entire Board)
Pobal	October 2011 (4 individual members)

A number of different statutory processes are involved in appointments to State boards. In some cases, statutory selection procedures must be followed or nominations must be sought from independent nominating panels before appointments are made by the Government or by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. In other cases, only particular public office holders may be appointed to certain boards. In a number of situations, only some appointments to the body concerned are made by the Minister, or appointments are made with the consent of the Minister for Finance or following consultation with the Minister for Finance or Minister for Education and Skills, as appropriate. The boards of An Bord Pleanála and the Environmental Protection Agency are executive in nature and the members/directors hold full-time salaried positions. The Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (Housing Agency) and the National Buildings Agency (NBA) are served by a single interim board which was established by the Department until such time as the Housing Agency is established as a legal entity and the NBA is closed down.

In that context, it is expected that a new board will be established for the Housing Agency early in 2012. A process is in place to merge the Local Government Management Services and Computer Services Boards into the Local Government Management Agency. The membership of both boards has been standardised to enable them to act as one in advance of the required legislation. Pobal operates under the aegis of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. Pobal is a private company limited by guarantee. It is not a State agency and the Department does not appoint members to its Board. As provided for by Government Decision S28081 of 2 November 2005, the members are appointed by the Government on nomination by the key stakeholders. Generally, Board appointments are made on an annual basis on the normal rotation of Board members as prescribed by the Company's Articles of Association.

Local Authority Housing

358. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if recipients of carer's allowance are precluded from tenant purchase schemes and if so whether consideration can be given to amending this on account of the special nature of the carer's allowance scheme. [24975/11]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Willie Penrose): Tenant purchase schemes are open to applications from eligible tenants in accordance with the relevant regulations and the terms of the schemes adopted by individual local authorities. The eligibility criteria for the schemes do not exclude recipients of carer's allowance nor any other category of applicant by reason solely of their occupation or their being in receipt of social welfare payments. If the application is approved, the purchase may be funded by mortgage loan from a commercial institution, by local authority loan or from

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a tenant's own resources. Provisions governing mortgage lending by local authorities are set out under the Housing (Local Authority Loans) Regulations 2009 and associated credit policy. To ensure effective targeting of resources, loan finance continues to be available to first-time buyers only. Income limits are also in place, distinguishing between single and dual income households and a maximum loan limit is applied. In assessing loan applications, local authorities take account of the household's ability to finance the loan based on their net household income. While, as a general rule, the credit policy provides that loans are not available to those in receipt of unemployment or social welfare benefits, an exception may be made where there is a primary income of a permanent waged or salaried nature, and where the secondary income is from the Department of Social Protection. In such cases, long-term social welfare payments can be considered, provided the long-term nature of the payment is confirmed. The final decision on whether to grant or refuse an applicant lies solely with the relevant local authority. All local authorities must satisfy themselves on the financial risk they are undertaking. These provisions apply for purposes of mortgage lending by all local authorities.

Question No. 359 answered with Question No. 346.

Environmental Policy

360. **Deputy James Bannon** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the difference between an inspection charge for septic tanks and a registration charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25031/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): My Department, along with the Office of the Attorney General, is finalising the preparation of a Bill to establish a system of inspection of septic tanks and other on-site systems. This is necessary to comply with a European Court of Justice ruling against Ireland in October 2009. I expect to bring the Bill to the Government in the coming weeks to seek approval for its publication. Full details of how the inspection system will operate will be announced at the time. I can confirm that the new legislation will require householders to register details of their on-site systems on a national register and a modest fee will be charged for registration. As I indicated in reply to Questions Nos. 1 and 2 of 15 September, a registration fee of no more than €50 is envisaged. The revenue generated from the registration fee will be used to implement a proportionate and risk-based approach to inspections. It is intended that inspections will be targeted to areas where drinking water sources or habitats are likely to be, or have been, affected by septic tank discharges. The inspections will be carried out in accordance with a national inspection plan which will be developed by the EPA. The implementation of the national inspection plan will be managed by the local authorities and there will be no charge to householders for inspections.

Waste Disposal

361. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if his attention has been drawn to the fact that 4 million tyres are used every year here and the producer responsibility initiative for end of life tyres is a voluntary code and that those who are disposing of tyres are not registered and not regulated; his views on the need for legislation to address this environmental problem [25037/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Information on tyre flows and the management of waste tyres has long been regarded as inadequate. The Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2007 were designed to

tackle this deficit and put in place a proper regulatory framework. These regulations facilitate the comparison of quantities of waste tyres arising with the amounts placed on the market and the tracking of the movement of waste tyres from their discarding until they are either reused or processed for recycling. The Regulations impose obligations on persons who supply tyres to the Irish market, whether as producers (e.g. manufacturers, importers including wholesalers, traders and retailers who source tyres outside the State), or suppliers (e.g. wholesalers, traders and retailers who source tyres exclusively within the State), and on the collectors of waste tyres. Economic operators have the option of either self-complying with the regulations or participating in an approved industry compliance scheme which takes on the administrative burden associated with self-compliance. Self-complying economic operators are required to register with local authorities and submit information on tyre and waste tyre flows in each quarterly period to the relevant local authorities. Participants in an approved collective compliance scheme must also submit information on tyre and waste tyre flows in each quarterly period to the scheme concerned. I have approved two collective compliance schemes, Tyre Recovery Activity Compliance Scheme Ltd. (TRACS) and Tyre Waste Management Ltd. (TWM) to operate as approved bodies under the regulations. The Programme for Government makes a commitment to drive a waste reduction programme through the extension of Producer Responsibility initiatives and, in that context, my Department will shortly be conducting a review of all aspects of the producer responsibility schemes. The results of this review will help determine whether TRACS and TWM have been operating satisfactorily. It will also assist in determining whether a system that tracks products from the time they are placed on the market until they reach end of life is effective in keeping waste tyres out of the reach of unauthorised operators, or whether it would be more effective to require producers to take direct responsibility for the environmentally sound management of waste tyres.

Departmental Expenditure

362. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25410/11]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The information requested is being compiled and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as possible.

Visa Applications

363. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding a visa application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24565/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): When completing an on-line visa application the applicant is assigned a unique visa transaction number. This detail must be provided where a query on the status of a visa application arises. If the Deputy can provide the relevant detail I will ensure that officials in the Visa Office will make further enquiries and respond to the Deputy directly.

Each application is considered on its individual merits, the time frame for decision being dependent on a number of factors, including the circumstances of each application, the number of applications on hand and the resources available to process them.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may also be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has

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been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

364. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if applications for holiday visas have been received in respect of persons (details supplied); the status of their applications; if all necessary documentation has been provided; when a decision on the matter will issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24584/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): When completing an on-line visa application the applicant is assigned a unique visa transaction number. This detail must be provided where a query on the status of a visa application arises. If the Deputy can provide the relevant detail I will ensure that officials in the Visa Office will make further enquiries and respond to the Deputy directly.

In general terms visa applicants are advised to apply at least eight weeks in advance of the proposed date of travel. Only at the time of consideration of a visa application will it become apparent as to whether all the required documentation has been provided. Information regarding the visa application process, including details of the required supporting documentation is available on the website of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (*www.inis.gov.ie*). The onus rests with the applicant to provide the required documentation as identified. It should be borne in mind, however, that the provision of all the documents listed on the website does not guarantee that a visa will be granted. It is the case that each application is considered on its individual merits, and that the onus rests with the applicant to satisfy the Visa Officer as to why the visa sought should be granted.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may also be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

Road Traffic Accidents

365. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of accidents that have been recorded by gardaí in the vicinity of Beaulieu Cross, Drogheda, County Louth, in each of the past five years. [24992/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda authorities that the following table gives a breakdown of the number of collisions recorded at the location referred to for the years 2006 — 2010 and for 2011 to 15 September.

Year	Fatal Injury Collisions	Serious Injury Collisions	Non-serious Injury Collisions	Material Damage Collisions
2011	1	—	2	—
2010	—	—	5	3
2009	—	—	2	5
2008	—	1	1	16
2007	—	—	5	7
2006	—	1	3	3

Garda Divisional Officers, supported by their local management teams, ensure Divisional resources are deployed to optimum effect to meet local traffic requirements.

Visa Waiver Programme

366. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of short-stay visitors who ordinarily require a visa to enter this country who have been allowed lawful entry to Ireland without a visa from May to 14 September 2011, due to the short-term visa waiver programme introduced as part of the recent job initiative; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25009/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The indications from the tourism industry is that the numbers of tourists entering the country has increased this year. This is very much to be welcomed and while it is difficult to attribute what proportion of this may be attributable to the Visa Waiver Programme I introduced earlier this year, the response from the industry as a whole to the scheme has been overwhelmingly very positive.

While the specific information sought by the Deputy is not maintained at ports of entry by the Garda National Immigration Bureau at this stage, I am committed, as I stated at the launch of the programme, to carry out a review of its operations. This review will be conducted in conjunction with the tourism industry and carriers to assess the impact of the scheme and the results will inform any decision on whether to extend it.

Visa Applications

367. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if a person who has overstayed their visa by 15 months will be refused re-entry into the State if they leave; the penalties associated with overstaying a visa; the exemptions or waivers that exist to a person if they overstay their visa; the criteria used by immigration officers in relation to whether or not to admit or re-admit a person to the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24475/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): In the absence of further details on the person's situation, it is difficult to address the question in any specific manner. However, in general, the onus is on the individual who requires permission to remain in the State to keep this permission up-to-date at all times. If a person is required to have the permission of the Minister to remain in the State and he/she does not obtain or renew that permission as applicable, that person is staying in the State illegally, is in breach of Irish Immigration law and may ultimately be subject to deportation proceedings.

By virtue of section 4(9) of the Immigration Act 2004, it is an offence for a foreign national not to comply with any conditions attached to his or her permission to be in the State including a condition as to duration of stay. A person guilty of such an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both. Non-EEA nationals whose stay exceeds 3 months are required to register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau.

Section 4(3) of the Immigration Act, 2004 sets out the grounds on which an immigration officer may, on behalf of the Minister refuse to give a person permission to enter the State.

An Immigration Officer may, on behalf of the Minister, attach to a permission under section 4 of the Immigration Act, 2004 such conditions as to duration of stay and engagement in employment, business or a profession in the State or amend such conditions, as he or she may think fit. In performing these functions, the Immigration Officer shall, pursuant to section 4(10)

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of the Act of 2004, have regard to all the circumstances of the non-national concerned known to the Officer or represented to the Officer by him or her and, in particular, to matters including the following:

- (a) the stated purpose of the proposed visit to the State,
- (b) the intended duration of the stay in the State,
- (c) any family relationships (whether of blood or through marriage) of him or her with persons in the State,
- (d) his or her income, earning capacity and other financial resources,
- (e) the financial needs, obligations and responsibilities which he or she has or is likely to have in the foreseeable future,
- (f) whether he or she is likely to comply with any proposed conditions as to duration of stay and engagement in employment, business or profession in the State,
- (g) any entitlements of him or her to enter the State under the Act of 1996 or the treaties governing the European Communities within the meaning of the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2003.

I would strongly urge any person in the circumstances described by the Deputy to contact the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service in relation to their status in the State.

Legislative Programme

368. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if legislation on mediation and conciliation will be introduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24520/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): My proposals for the Mediation and Conciliation Bill are at an advanced stage of preparation in my Department and I expect the General Scheme of the Bill to be submitted to the Government for approval in the near future. It is my intention that a copy of the General Scheme be then furnished to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality for its consideration and comment.

The Government Legislation Programme which was published on 14 September indicates that the Bill will be published in 2012.

Asylum Support Services

369. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the accommodation options available to an asylum seeker with a guide dog. [24521/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Reception and Integration Agency that, should an asylum seeker present to RIA for accommodation with a guide dog, the necessary arrangements for accommodation would be made. RIA deals with accommodation placement on a case-by-case basis and tailors such placement to suit the needs of the individual or family unit as appropriate.

Garda Investigations

370. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the measures the

Garda has taken to track down the 28 Irish driving licences unlawfully issued to foreign nationals who were not entitled to them; his views on the fact that these licenses were issued; if he will confirm if some or all of the licences have been recovered by gardaí; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24540/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda authorities that, following an audit by a local authority, it made complaints to An Garda Síochána. As the matters complained of remain under investigation, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further at this time.

Appropriate action with regard to the licences is being taken by the Garda authorities.

Residency Permits

371. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding a residency application in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 9. [24555/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): On 2nd March, 2011, the person concerned, through his legal representative, made an application for the renewal of his permission to remain in the State on the basis of his marriage to an Irish national. Following consideration of this application, the person concerned was informed, by letter dated 28th July, 2011, that his application was refused for reasons set out in that letter. That letter also informed the person concerned that, in accordance with Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999 (as amended), the Minister proposed to make a Deportation Order in respect of him. He was given the options, to be exercised within 15 working days, of leaving the State voluntarily, of consenting to the making of a Deportation Order or of making representations to the Minister setting out the reasons why he should not have a Deportation Order made against him.

The position in the State of the person concerned will now be decided by reference to the provisions of Section 3 (6) of the Immigration Act 1999 (as amended) and Section 5 of the Refugee Act 1996 (as amended) on the prohibition of refoulement. All representations submitted will be considered before the file is passed to me for decision. Once a decision has been made, this decision, and the consequences of the decision, will be conveyed in writing to the person concerned. In advance of a final decision being made, the case of the person concerned will be examined to determine what, if any, impact the recent European Court of Justice Judgment in the Zambrano case may have on his case.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

Freedom of Information

372. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on repealing the Freedom of Information (Amendment) Act 2003; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24566/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I have to inform the Deputy that I am not responsible for the Freedom of Information Acts. I have, however, been informed by my colleague the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Brendan Howlin T.D., that his Department is currently carrying out preparatory work to implement the commitments in

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the Programme for Government in relation to the Freedom of Information Acts. When this work is completed, Minister Howlin will bring forward proposals to the Government.

Garda Transport

373. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the size of the Garda vehicle fleet in 2010; the size of the fleet in 2011; the number of Garda cars taken off the road in 2010 and to date in 2011 due to the car reaching its kilometre limit; if he is concerned that the Garda Representative Association has complained of a shortage of Garda patrol cars; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24575/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I have requested the information from the Garda Commissioner and I will write to the Deputy directly when this information is to hand.

Departmental Bodies

374. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the Ministerial Council on Migrant Integration; the purpose of the establishment of the council; the number of times same has met; if same was established under legislation; if the council is still in operation, the objectives that have been set for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24593/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Ministerial Council on Integration was established on a non-statutory basis in 2010 by the then Minister of State at the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs, Deputy Mary White. Its purpose was to provide a forum where migrants could speak direct to the Minister of State regarding their experiences of integration in Ireland and thereby promote better-informed policy making by identifying any issues and bringing them to attention.

The Council is organised in regional formation and an inaugural meeting of each regional forum — Dublin, Rest of Leinster, Munster and Connacht/Ulster — was held in 2010. In the light of current Ministerial responsibilities, the future of the Council is under consideration and I will make a decision on the matter shortly.

Citizenship Applications

375. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding citizenship in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24608/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that the person referred to by the Deputy has been granted permission to be in the State in her own right on stamp 1 conditions since 2010. It is open to the person concerned to apply to INIS for a renewal of this permission or, if appropriate, a change of Status.

It is also open to any individual to lodge an application for citizenship if and when they are in a position to meet the statutory requirements as prescribed in the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 as amended. In that regard, the Minister may, in his absolute discretion, grant an application for a certificate of naturalisation provided certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. The conditions are that the applicant must:—

- be of full age

- be of good character
- have had a period of one year's continuous residency in the State immediately before the date of application and, during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years
- have made, either before a Judge of the District Court in open court or in such a manner as the Minister for special reasons allows, a declaration in the prescribed manner, of fidelity to the nation and loyalty to the State.

In the context of naturalisation, certain periods of residence in the State are excluded. These include—

- periods of residence in respect of which an applicant does not have permission to remain in the State
- periods granted for the purposes of study
- periods granted for the purposes of seeking recognition as a refugee within the meaning of the Refugee Act, 1996.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

Charity Regulation

376. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the arrangements that are currently in place to ensure the bona fides of charity trustees and employees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24610/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Deputy may be aware that Irish charities may take a number of legal forms. For example, many charities are companies limited by guarantee while other charities are trusts. They are, therefore, governed by the relevant legislative or other provisions governing such entities. Incorporated charities, for example, are subject to the provisions of company law and thus eligibility for becoming a director of such a charity would be subject to the provisions of Irish company law, and particularly Part VII of the Companies Act 1990. In the case of charitable trusts, trusteeship would be subject to the general provisions of trust law, though most of the precedents for disqualification have actually developed in case law. For example, it has been held that unsoundness of mind, bankruptcy, or conviction for a dishonest crime, should disqualify a trustee.

The Deputy may be aware that responsibility for the Charities Act transferred to my Department in May 2011. This Act contains provisions relating to eligibility for trusteeship. Given the likely costs involved, I am considering the potential for full commencement of this Act in the context of the review of expenditure currently being undertaken in my Department.

I understand that the Deputy is particularly interested in the interaction between charities and children. In this context, organisations would generally adhere to the standards contained in “Children First”, which was launched in July 2011 by my colleague, the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. Under these guidelines, *“every organisation, both public and private, that is providing services for children or that is in regular direct contact with children should ensure best practice in the recruitment of staff or volunteers, which includes Garda vetting, taking up of references, good HR practices in interviewing, induction training, probation and ongoing supervision and management”*.

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Finally, in July 2011, I obtained Government approval for a draft scheme of a “National Vetting Bureau Bill 2011”. This will place the vetting of persons working with children or vulnerable adults on a statutory basis. It seeks to provide an appropriate balance between the need to disclose such information in the public interest, and in the interest of protecting children or vulnerable adults, while also providing appropriate safeguards to recognise the rights of persons who are the subject of such disclosures. The scheme also provides a statutory framework for vetting procedures provided by the Gardaí arising from a range of other enactments. It is hoped to publish the Bill in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Social Welfare Fraud

377. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if consideration has been given by him to introduce amendments to the Data Protection Acts in order that airlines could be compelled to provide details, including passenger name record, to him as a means to combatting social welfare fraud; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24628/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I would draw the attention of the Deputy to provisions contained in the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2010. Section 127 of the Bill sets out the obligations on carriers in relation to the provision of information in relation to persons travelling to or from the State and the uses to which that data can be put; including for law enforcement purposes. The information collected may be shared with a number of Departments and agencies in specified circumstances including the Minister for Social Protection where it relates to a person of concern who has committed or is suspected of committing an offence under the Social Welfare Acts.

One of the outcomes when this provision of the Bill is commenced is that it will allow us to meet the requirements of the Council Directive 2004/82/EC of 29 April, 2004 on the obligation of carriers to communicate passenger data. However, as an interim measure in advance of enactment of the Bill, I am actively considering transposing the above Directive by way of Regulation under the European Communities Act, 1972. This would facilitate the collection of passenger data by carriers on flights originating from outside the territory of the EU Member States and its transmission to the Irish immigration authorities for the purposes of combating illegal immigration and improving border control.

I should also add that section 8 of the Data Protection Act 1988 (as amended by the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003) provides that restrictions in the Act on the processing of personal data do not apply if the processing is required for the purposes of preventing, detecting or investigating offences or prosecuting offenders in any case in which the application of those restrictions would be likely to prejudice the exercise of those functions.

Court Procedures

378. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he considers it desirable to provide, in cases in which a conviction is set aside in the District Court, for a report to be provided on the reason a judge decided on this course of action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24632/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): As the Deputy will appreciate, members of the judiciary are, subject only to the Constitution and the law, independent in matters concerning the exercise of judicial functions.

I assume the Deputy is referring to the operation of section 22 (6) of the Courts Act 1991 which provides that summary proceedings may be set aside where a person was summoned to court and the court is satisfied that he or she did not receive the notice of the summons or hearing.

I do not have any proposals at this time to introduce a new provision along the lines suggested by the Deputy. However, the matter will be kept under review by my Department.

Legal Aid Service

379. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will consider expanding the legal aid scheme to enable the Legal Aid Board to provide legal advice in defamation claims; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24638/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I can inform the Deputy that the Civil Legal Aid Act 1995 provides that certain “designated matters” are excluded from the scope of civil legal aid. Defamation is one of these matters and thus legal advice or legal aid is not generally available on foot of the legal aid scheme. There are some very limited exceptions to this. On foot of the EU Directive on cross border legal aid the Legal Aid Board is required to take into account the nature of the case where the applicant is claiming damages to his or her reputation. The Board may therefore grant applications for legal aid in relation to defamation, where the applicant is domiciled or habitually resident in another Member State. The Board has however received little or no such applications in recent years.

The Board has previously been asked for its views in relation to the inclusion of defamation within the scope of civil legal aid. It took no particular view. In its comments on the Civil Legal Aid Bill 1995 (now the Act), the Board did not express an opinion on the matter. It has not been formally considered by the Board since that time.

The matter was the subject of discussions with my Department in 2006 following the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the *Steel & Morris v United Kingdom* (“McLibel” case), when the Board suggested that the continued exclusion of defamation might leave the State open to challenge for not providing for the possibility of the provision of legal aid in such cases.

While there is only basic research to hand on the availability of legal aid for defamation cases in other jurisdictions it would appear that it is not available, or is available only in very limited circumstances in England / Wales, Scotland, New South Wales and South Australia. The only country where it appears that it is more readily available for defamation cases is New Zealand.

The Deputy will be aware that the Board’s services are under considerable pressure at the moment due to increased demand for its services which has resulted in longer waiting times for a first appointment with a solicitor for many applicants. Bringing another area of law within the scope of civil legal aid is likely add to those pressures.

Medical Records

380. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will consider amending legislation to facilitate patients accessing medical records held by private health care facilities in a similar manner to that available through public health care facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24639/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Under the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003, individuals have a right of access, subject to limited exemptions, to their per-

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sonal data irrespective of whether the data is held by a data controller in the private, voluntary or public sectors. Specific rules in relation to the right of access to personal data relating to physical or mental health are set out in the Data Protection (Access Modification) (Health) Regulations 1989.

Disability Support Service

381. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the discussions he has had with, or instructions he has issued to, the officials of the Department of An Taoiseach who serve as a nominee chairing the National Disability Strategy Stakeholders Monitoring Group and the Senior Officials Group on Disability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [18390/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The Programme for Government commits to publishing, following wide consultation, a realistic implementation plan for the National Disability Strategy, including sectoral plans with achievable timescales and targets within available resources and ensuring whole-of-government involvement and monitoring of the Strategy, in partnership with the disability sector.

As the Minister responsible for Disability, in line with this commitment, and given that the strategy was launched in 2004, I have been assessing the monitoring and implementation structures for the strategy, including the National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group and the Senior Officials Group on Disability. This has necessitated consultation by my officials and myself with key organisations involved, including the Department of the Taoiseach, with which there has also been consultation in respect of discussion of the issue at both the Senior Officials Group and the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy.

Tribunals of Inquiry

382. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he has held discussions with the Northern Ireland First Minister, Mr. Robinson, regarding the Smithwick tribunal. [18912/11]

383. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will discuss the interim report of the Smithwick tribunal with any leaders during his planned visit to Northern Ireland. [18913/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 382 and 383 together.

The Deputy will recall that in my reply to his Question No. 155 of 22 June 2011, I stated that I had spoken with the Northern Ireland First Minister, Peter Robinson, and with the Northern Ireland Minister of Justice, David Ford, to inform them of the content of my speech in Dáil Éireann relating to the Smithwick Tribunal and the motion passed by the Dáil on 1 June 2011. The House will appreciate that given the independent nature of the Tribunal and conscious of the respective roles of the Oireachtas, the Government and the Tribunal, I do not consider that it would be proper for me to enter into discussions on the ongoing substantive work of the Tribunal as reflected in its interim report.

Interdepartmental Committees

384. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he has any administrative role in overseeing or co-ordinating inquiries undertaken by Departments regarding

matters of grave public concern; if, as a matter of course, he requires that his office be notified of changes to the operation of such inquiries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [18837/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I can confirm to the Deputy that as Minister for Justice and Equality, I do not have a role in overseeing or co-ordinating inquiries undertaken by other Government Departments. Government operates as a collective entity. When significant issues of co-ordination arise, it is generally agreed at Cabinet which Minister or Department should undertake an oversight or leadership role.

Detention Centres

385. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to proceed with the development of Phase 1 of the new national children detention facilities at Oberstown, Lusk, County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [19828/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): As the Deputy may be aware, responsibility for the development of the new National Children Detention Facilities will shortly fall under the remit of my colleague Ms. Frances Fitzgerald, T.D., Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. It is a commitment in the Programme for Government that we will end the practice of detaining 16 and 17 year old males in St. Patrick's Institution. The Irish Youth Justice Service has engaged with the Office of Public Works (OPW) to design the necessary facilities to accommodate all under 18 year olds who are ordered to be detained by the Courts in relation to criminal matters.

Concept and sketch designs have been completed and the necessary planning permission is in place. Currently, the OPW is in the process of preparing the required tender documentation for the project. As the Deputy is aware the Government is currently undertaking a review of capital projects across all Departments. The Government's decision on the funding for this project will be informed by the outcome of this review.

Human Trafficking

386. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the extent to which he intends to put in place measures to prevent trafficking in children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [19788/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Over the past few years strong legislative, administrative and operational measures have been put in place to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking, for the purpose of labour or sexual exploitation or the removal of organs. These measures include:

- the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act, 2008 with penalties of up to life imprisonment which builds on the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998.
- 4 dedicated Units in State Agencies dealing with this issue — a dedicated Unit in my Department, in An Garda Síochána, in the HSE and in the Legal Aid Board.
- Dedicated personnel have also been assigned to deal with the prosecution of cases in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- A National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat the Trafficking of Human Beings in Ireland, 2009-2012 was published with 144 Actions of which 92 were completed or significantly progressed by the end of 2010 and a further 52 were ongoing. Part 4 of the Plan is dedicated to the issue of child trafficking.

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- A Working Group on Child Trafficking — which is one of 5 Working Groups dealing with different aspects of human trafficking — meets regularly to progress the 26 Actions in the Plan related to child trafficking.
- A wide range of awareness raising and training initiatives have taken place focussing on all aspects of human trafficking including child trafficking.
- Periods of recovery and reflection and temporary residence are granted to victims of trafficking who do not have a permission to be in the State.

The care of children who are suspected victims of human trafficking is primarily the responsibility of the HSE. Services provided to child victims of human trafficking include counselling and debriefing, a multi-disciplinary assessment of need, the allocation of a Social Worker to oversee and implement an individual Care Plan, medical screening, access to primary and post-primary education and voluntary return is arranged, if this is deemed to be in the best interests of the child. A protocol between An Garda Síochána and the HSE to maximise inter-agency cooperation and promote the safety and welfare of children has been in place since April, 2009.

In 2011 An Garda Síochána, in their Annual Policing Plan, identified trafficking in human beings as one of their priorities and have conducted a number of operations to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking, and will continue to do so in line with intelligence available to them.

Constitutional Amendments

387. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the timetable for the publication and enactment of legislation regarding the judicial pay referendum. [19805/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Twenty Ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Judges' Remuneration) Bill 2011 which will allow for reductions in pay for the judiciary in circumstances where it has been necessary for the State to engage in financial emergency measures in the public interest was published on 4 August, 2011. The Bill passed all stages in this House on 14 September, 2011 and I was encouraged at the significant level of support expressed from all sides of the House for the proposed amendment. It is scheduled for debate in the Seanad on 21 September, 2011.

Question No. 388 answered with question No. 61.

Sexual Offences

389. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he has examined the report from his Department following its visit to Stockholm; and if he has reviewed at the Attorney General's recent advices regarding the legal and constitutional implications of introducing a ban on the sale of sex. [24782/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): In 2010, the Swedish government completed an evaluation of its 1999 legislation criminalising the purchase of sexual services. Following its publication, the Dignity Project arranged a visit to Stockholm to learn more about the evaluation. The delegation included representation from my Department. The Dignity Project was a research project funded by the EU. An inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional initiative led by the Dublin Employment Pact and the Immigrant Council of Ireland, it examined services provided to victims of human trafficking with a view to replicating best practice models in partner countries. My Department's Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and the Garda National Immigration Bureau were partners with observer status.

In this jurisdiction, it is not an offence to sell sex. In general, it is not an offence to purchase sex either. Consequently, neither party to the transaction is currently criminalised. Any proposal to amend the law in terms of criminalising the purchase of sex would therefore, require very careful examination.

Our legislative approach to prostitution is based on protecting society from the more intrusive aspects of such activity from a public order perspective, while also seeking to protect prostitutes from exploitation. Accordingly, it is an offence to solicit in a street or public place for the purpose of prostitution. The offence can be committed by the prostitute, the client or a third party — a pimp, for example. It is also an offence to organise prostitution, coerce or compel a person to be a prostitute, knowingly live on the earnings of a prostitute, or keep or manage a brothel. In addition, our 2008 human trafficking legislation made it an offence to knowingly solicit or importune a trafficked person, in any place, for the purpose of prostitution.

I am examining a report prepared by my department following the visit to Stockholm and which was submitted to the Attorney General's Office. I am also examining the Attorney's advices concerning the legal and constitutional implications of introducing a ban on the purchase of sex.

Citizenship Applications

390. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on their application. [24856/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that a valid application for a certificate of naturalisation was received from the person referred to by the Deputy in July, 2011. The application is currently being processed with a view to establishing whether the applicant meets the statutory conditions for the granting of naturalisation and will be submitted to me for decision as expeditiously as possible.

The granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour which confers certain rights and entitlements not only within the State but also at European Union level and it is important that appropriate procedures are in place to preserve the integrity of the process.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

391. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on their application. [24857/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that a valid application for a certificate of naturalisation was received from the person referred to by the Deputy in September 2009. The application has been finalised and a certificate of naturalisation will issue to the person concerned in due course.

The granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour which confers certain rights and entitlements not only within the State but also at European Union level and it is important that appropriate procedures are in place to preserve the integrity of the process.

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I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

392. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on their application. [24858/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that valid applications for a certificate of naturalisation were received from the persons referred to by the Deputy in September 2010 and October 2009 respectively. The applications are currently being processed with a view to establishing whether the applicants meet the statutory conditions for the granting of naturalisation and will be submitted to me for decision as expeditiously as possible.

The granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour which confers certain rights and entitlements not only within the State but also at European Union level and it is important that appropriate procedures are in place to preserve the integrity of the process.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

393. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when a person (details supplied) may expect a decision on their application. [24859/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that a valid application for a certificate of naturalisation was received from the person referred to by the Deputy in March 2009. A letter issued to the person referred to in the Deputy's question on 5 July 2011 requesting certain documents to be submitted. Upon receipt of the requested documentation the application will be finalised.

The granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour which confers certain rights and entitlements not only within the State but also at European Union level and it is important that appropriate procedures are in place to preserve the integrity of the process.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

394. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when a person (details supplied) in County Offaly may expect a decision on their application. [24860/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that a valid application for

a certificate of naturalisation was received from the person referred to by the Deputy in December, 2007. The application is currently being processed with a view to establishing whether the applicant meets the statutory conditions for the granting of naturalisation and will be submitted to me for decision as expeditiously as possible.

The granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour which confers certain rights and entitlements not only within the State but also at European Union level and it is important that appropriate procedures are in place to preserve the integrity of the process.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

Garda Strength

395. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he expects the number of gardaí stationed in County Kerry to drop in the coming years; if so, the numbers and the stations that will be affected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24865/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I have been informed by the Garda authorities that the personnel strength of Kerry Garda Division on 31 August 2011, the latest date for which figures are readily available, was 328. It is not known how many Gardaí stationed in the Kerry Division will retire in the coming years. The Deputy will be aware that Gardaí may retire once they have reached 50 years of age and have completed 30 years of service and that almost all Garda retirements are voluntary.

Responsibility for the allocation of resources, including personnel, within the Force rests with the Garda Commissioner, in consultation with his senior management team. In this context, it must be recognised that, under plans agreed by the last Government as part of their compliance with the terms of the EU/IMF agreement, Garda numbers are due to be reduced to 13,000. As part of this process, the Commissioner will of course have to examine every option for increased efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services.

Citizenship Applications

396. **Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the case of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 13. [24890/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) who confirm that a new application for a certificate of naturalisation was received from the person referred to by the Deputy in July, 2011. The application is currently being processed with a view to establishing whether the applicant meets the statutory conditions for the granting of naturalisation and will be submitted to me for decision as expeditiously as possible.

The granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation is a privilege and an honour which confers certain rights and entitlements not only within the State but also at European Union level and it is important that appropriate procedures are in place to preserve the integrity of the process.

I should remind the Deputy that queries in relation to the status of individual Immigration cases may be made direct to INIS by Email using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been

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specifically established for this purpose. The service enables up-to-date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek this information through the more administratively expensive Parliamentary Questions process.

Questions Nos. 397 and 398 answered with Question No. 61.

Garda Strength

399. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of gardaí in a division (details supplied); the breakdown of gardaí assigned to each Garda station in the division; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24915/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda authorities that the personnel strength of each Garda Station in the Wicklow Garda Division, as at 31 August 2011, was as set out in the following table. The allocation of resources, including personnel, is a matter for the Garda Commissioner and his senior management team.

Wicklow Garda Division

District	
Baltinglass District	
Baltinglass	36
Blessington	17
Carnew	4
Donard	1
Dunlavin	2
Hollywood	1
Shillelagh	1
Tinahely	2
Bray District	
Bray	127
Enniskerry	6
Greystones	35
Newtownmountkennedy	4
Wicklow District	
Arklow	35
Ashford	11
Aughrim	2
Avoca	3
Rathdrum	5
Roundwood	4
Wicklow	48
Total	344

Garda Investigations

400. **Deputy Joe Costello** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has

been drawn to the fraud perpetrated on an Irish citizen (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24934/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda authorities that the matter referred to by the Deputy was reported to the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation by the person referred to in August, 2011. The matter was referred to the local District Officer for investigation. Expert assistance in the investigation of this type of crime is available to the District Officer from personnel at the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation. An Garda Síochána will continue to liaise with the person concerned.

Garda Vetting of Personnel

401. **Deputy Tony McLoughlin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the waiting times for Garda clearance; and his plans to reduce this waiting time for persons who are awaiting this clearance to take up positions [24949/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda Authorities that the average processing time for vetting applications received at the Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU) is approximately 10 weeks. I appreciate that it is important to process these applications in as timely a manner as possible and that the length of time currently being taken is a matter of concern which I am determined to address.

A number of immediate steps are being taken to improve the situation. The sanction of the Department of Finance has been obtained to retain the services of ten temporary employees in the GCVU. A further ten temporary employees have recently commenced work in the GCVU. Other measures aimed at improving turnaround times are also under consideration. All of this should have a positive impact on processing times.

I should mention that, in processing an individual vetting application, additional time may be required in cases where clarification is needed as to the details provided or where other enquiries need to be made, for example, when the person in question has lived and worked abroad. It should be understood that while the Gardaí make every effort to reduce the time to the minimum possible consistent with carrying out what are very necessary checks, there will always be a reasonably significant period required to process a vetting application and registered organisations have been advised to take account of this in their recruitment and selection processes. In addition, the average processing time for vetting applications also fluctuates in line with periods of increased demand.

The GCVU has managed a substantial increase over recent years in the numbers of vetting applications it receives from around 188,000 in 2007 to almost 292,000 in 2010. At present, there are approximately 55,000 applications in the course of being processed. I am further informed by the Garda Authorities that at present there is a total of five Gardaí, 76 full-time Garda civilian personnel and twenty temporary civilian personnel assigned to the GCVU. This represents a very significant increase in the level of personnel assigned to the unit, which stood at only 13 before the current process of development in Garda vetting began in 2005.

Appointments to State Boards

402. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24962/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I wish to advise the Deputy that it has not been possible to provide the information required in the limited time available. However, the information is currently being collated and will be sent to the Deputy as soon as possible.

Question No. 403 answered with Question No. 81.

Garda Vetting of Personnel

404. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if previous convictions of persons on witness protection programmes will show up in the Garda vetting procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24987/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Deputy will understand that it is not the policy nor would it be in the public interest to comment in detail on matters relating to the personal security of individuals, including information relating to persons who have acted as witnesses in criminal trials and who, as a consequence, may be the subject of Garda protection or persons in the Garda Witness Security Programme. A high level of confidentiality is essential to protect the individuals involved and the operation of the protection measures in place.

Garda Deployment

405. **Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the allocation of policing resources in the Gracepark area of Dublin 9 and the Donnycarney area of Dublin 5; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25002/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda authorities that the areas referred to by the Deputy are covered by Clontarf, Raheny and Whitehall Garda Stations. The personnel strength of Clontarf, Raheny and Whitehall Garda Stations on 31 August 2011, the latest date for which figures are readily available, was 77, 71 and 47 respectively. The areas are subject to regular patrols by uniform and plain-clothes units, including the Community Policing and Garda Mountain Bike Units, local Detective and Drug Unit personnel, supplemented as required by the Divisional Crime Task Force and Traffic Corps personnel.

Responsibility for the allocation of resources, including personnel, within the Force rests with the Garda Commissioner, in consultation with his senior management team. Resource levels are constantly monitored, in conjunction with crime trends, and the situation is kept under continuing review to ensure optimum use is made of all resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public.

Garda Vetting of Personnel

406. **Deputy Timmy Dooley** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will clarify the issue in relation to an Irish citizen who worked in a number of countries abroad for an aid agency and now requires police clearance from each of the countries they worked in before they can take up a position here; if An Garda Síochána, their employer or the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade should assist them in getting the appropriate information and clearance as they are unemployed here while awaiting Garda clearance. [25013/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am informed by the Garda Authorities that policies relating to background checks in respect of individuals (including any Irish citizen who may have worked overseas) who are applying for positions within such organis-

ations are established by the organisations themselves and not by the Garda Síochána. If the individual in question has difficulty in corresponding with the relevant authorities of a particular country, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade would provide any necessary assistance.

Criminal Assets Bureau

407. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the extent the Criminal Assets Bureau have adequate resources to tackle organised crime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25019/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Criminal Assets Bureau has been at the forefront of fighting organised crime since its inception in 1996. The Bureau was established with a statutory remit of identifying and depriving persons of the proceeds of criminal activity. The Bureau is being actively utilised to target assets accumulated by criminal gangs. Furthermore, a strategic partnership has been established between the Garda National Drugs Unit and the Criminal Assets Bureau in identifying common targets who are then pursued through intelligence-led investigations, in order to maximise the response of law enforcement to organised crime gangs.

In recent years the Bureau has targeted the proceeds of crime of more middle and lower ranking criminals. A significant resource in this regard is the Divisional Asset Profilers Programme. Under this programme 167 asset profilers have been trained to date to assist the Bureau in targeting the assets of well known criminals, including drug dealers, in local communities, by supplying them with local knowledge. Asset Profilers are now based in every Garda Division in Ireland.

I am advised by the Garda Authorities that the Criminal Assets Bureau currently has sufficient financial and other resources to continue to operate effectively, pursuant to its statutory remit.

Questions Nos. 408 and 409 answered with Question No. 83.

Garda Strength

410. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if adequate resources will remain available to the Garda to combat ongoing crime at all levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25022/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I have been informed by the Garda Commissioner that the personnel strength of An Garda Síochána on 31 August 2011, the latest date for which figures are readily available, was 14,162. There are also over 800 members of the Garda Reserve and more than 2,000 civilian support staff in An Garda Síochána. Responsibility for the allocation of resources, including personnel, rests with the Garda Commissioner, in consultation with his senior management team.

It must be recognised that, under plans agreed by the last Government as part of their compliance with the terms of the EU/IMF agreement, Garda numbers are due to be reduced to 13,000. As part of this process, the Commissioner will of course have to examine every option for increased efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services. An example of this is the work currently under way under the Croke Park Agreement to agree new Garda rosters to better match Garda deployment with peak policing demands.

This Government is committed to maintaining frontline policing services at the highest level possible and to ensuring that the best possible service is provide to the public.

Garda Stations

411. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if rural Garda stations will not close for whatever reason having particular regard to the need for better policing in rural areas where criminal gangs regularly seek refuge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25023/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Responsibility for the allocation of Garda resources, including personnel, rests with the Garda Commissioner. I have been advised by the Garda authorities that the Commissioner is currently carrying out a review of the entire Garda organisation in the context of ensuring that the Force will be in a position to match the deployment of resources to its policing commitments as effectively as possible.

I look forward to the outcome of the Commissioner's review and I understand that it should be available in the next couple of months.

Garda Strength

412. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the degree to which adequate resources remain available to the Garda to combat the increased level of drugs associated with criminal gangs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25024/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I refer the Deputy to my reply to Question No. 72 of today.

Garda Operations

413. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to combat the activities of drug dealing criminal gangs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25025/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Tackling serious crime including drug trafficking remains a key ongoing priority both for the Government and for An Garda Síochána. The Garda Policing Plan for 2011 reflects this priority with one of its key actions being the proactive targeting by An Garda Síochána of drug trafficking.

In implementing this action a multi-agency law enforcement approach is used, whereby Garda National Units from the National Support Service work together to target those involved in the trafficking, importation, sale and supply of illegal drugs. To further enhance this approach a strategic partnership has been established between the Garda National Drugs Unit and the Criminal Assets Bureau in identifying common targets who are then pursued through intelligence-led investigations, in order to maximise the response of law enforcement to organised crime gangs.

This multi-agency approach is supported by a number of further strategies targeting drug dealing including, for example,

- The operation of dedicated Divisional and District Drug Units.
- Continued cooperation with the Revenue Commissioners (Customs & Excise) under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding in the pro-active investigation of persons suspected of being involved in international drug-trafficking.
- Strong and strategic partnerships in place at international level targeting drug trafficking.

Our drug law enforcement efforts are underpinned by a significant body of criminal law targeting organised crime. As I have indicated to the House it is my intention to keep under

review the question of whether any further improvements could be made to the overall legislative framework in this area to render it more effective. In addition, in accordance with the commitments contained in the Programme for Government it is my intention, in due course, to bring forward legislative proposals which will serve to strengthen the powers of the Criminal Assets Bureau in relation to forfeiting the proceeds of crime.

Witness Intimidation

414. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the extent of intimidation of witnesses by criminals continues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25026/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Section 41 of the Criminal Justice Act 1999 makes it an offence to harm or threaten, menace or in any other way intimidate or put in fear a person who is assisting in the investigation by An Garda Síochána of an offence or a witness or potential witness or a juror or potential juror in proceedings for an offence or a member of his or her family, intending to obstruct, pervert or interfere with an investigation or the course of justice. The original penalty provided for in the 1999 Act upon being found guilty under this section was 10 years. In view of the gravity with which this type of criminal activity is viewed, the penalty was increased to 15 years by the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act 2009.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that separate records are not maintained of offences under section 41 as between those directed against witnesses and those directed against jurors. Accordingly, the information available from the Gardaí covers both categories of individuals. The Deputy will appreciate that, of their nature, instances of intimidation of jurors are less likely to come to notice than instances of witness intimidation. The Gardaí rigorously enforce the provisions of the law relating to witness and jury intimidation and, of course, will continue to do so.

The following table shows the position with regard to the number of proceedings commenced for offences under Section 41 of the 1999 Act for the period from 2008 to 15 September 2011.

Year	Proceedings
2011	28
2010	42
2009	31
2008	18

Crime Levels

415. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of crimes recorded having been committed by persons while on bail in the past 12 months to date in 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25027/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Following the submission in 2004 of a report and recommendations by an expert group on crime statistics, it was decided that the compilation and publication of crime statistics should be taken over by the Central Statistics Office, as the national statistical agency, from An Garda Síochána. The Garda Síochána Act 2005 consequently makes provision for this and the CSO has established a dedicated unit for this purpose. Following the setting up of the necessary technical systems and auditing of the data from which the statistics are compiled, the CSO is now compiling, publishing and

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responding to queries regarding recorded crime statistics. I have requested the CSO to provide statistics directly to the Deputy.

Criminal Assets Bureau

416. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons, bodies or other entities the assets of which have been seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau in the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25028/11]

417. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the value of assets seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau in each of the past 12 months to date in 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25029/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 416 and 417 together.

In accordance with the provisions of section 21 of the Criminal Assets Bureau Act 1996 an annual report on the activities of the Bureau is prepared and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas. The most recently published annual report is that for the year 2009. At present arrangements are being made to make available the report for 2010. The 2011 report will be published in due course.

While the particular information sought by the Deputy is not readily available, I have set out the available information for the year 2010 in the following table, which provides the value of assets, and the number of respondents for orders obtained under the Proceeds of Crime Act 1996 and 2005 for the year 2010. In addition, as a result of its Revenue actions, the Criminal Assets Bureau assessed 31 individuals for tax and approximately €4 million was collected in relation to income which was generated from criminal conduct. Also, action pursuant to the Social Welfare remit of the Bureau was taken against 85 persons. Under the Social Welfare legislation, the Bureau made savings of €633,000 for all schemes and approximately €181,000 was recovered from overpayments.

Orders obtained under the Proceeds of Crime Act 1996 and 2005 2010

Description	Number of Orders	Number of Respondents	Amount €	Amount STG £
Interim Orders under Section 2	14	24	7,019,475.88	63,535.00
Interlocutory Orders under Section 3(1)	17	31	4,526,527.72	Nil
Variation Orders under Section 3(3)	3	3	23,000.00	Nil
Consent Disposal Orders under Section 4A	12	24	2,810,902.52	Nil
Receivership Orders under Section 7	15	26	2,633,531.25	55,560.00

Commissioners for Oaths

418. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will supply a list of registered Commissioners for Oaths for Cork City from 1987 to 1994; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25039/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I wish to inform the Deputy that as Minister I have no function in the appointment of Commissioners for Oaths which is entirely a matter for the Chief Justice. However, the Courts Service has assured me that they would be happy to assist the Deputy with his enquiries.

Gaming Regulation

419. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to bring forward proposals for a revised regulatory architecture for the online gambling industry in view of the number of high-value jobs that exist here in the online gambling and support services; his plans for a licensing regime for online gambling companies to allow for the taxation of online gambling; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25050/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Deputy will see from the Government Legislative Programme for the Autumn 2011 Session that a new Gambling Bill is being prepared. It will provide for the licensing of online services as part of a major reform of the gambling laws. The collection of taxes in this area, as in all others, is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners. However, I think their task will be eased when all operators are licensed, as will be the case under the new legislation.

In this legislation I aim to provide a well regulated system that is fair and transparent and that fosters safe and socially responsible gambling. Such an outcome would enhance our reputation. I'm sure large operators looking for a place to invest would be attracted by the system I aim to achieve. It would also improve our revenue yields and provide high quality employment.

420. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Questions No. 120 of 21 April 2011 and No. 405 of 19 July 2011, if his attention has been drawn to the recent hearings on the withdrawal of a gaming operating licence in Alderney for a company (details supplied), a subsidiary of which employs 700 persons here; if he has had any contact with his counterpart with responsibility for that jurisdiction in respect of this action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25053/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The hearings to which the Deputy refers are being conducted by the Alderney Gaming Control Commission (AGCC). They are part of on-going legal processes in the Channel Islands (Alderney) following the decision by the AGCC to suspend the gaming licence for the company concerned. Legal proceedings are also underway in the USA. I am keeping in touch with developments, but, in light of the on-going legal processes, it would be inappropriate for me to comment at this stage. I understand when the hearings resumed yesterday, they were held *in camera*.

I hope to have an opportunity later this year to meet with the Minister from the Channel Islands with responsibility for the regulation of gambling, for a wide ranging discussion. I am, of course, aware of the subsidiary based here and I regret that, in the case of some of its employees, there is some uncertainty at present about their continued employment.

The Deputy will be aware from the Government Legislative Programme for the Autumn 2011 Session that a new Gambling Bill is being prepared. I can confirm that it will provide for the licensing of online services as part of a major reform of the gambling laws.

Departmental Expenditure

421. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25415/11]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): As I understand the Deputy is specifically referring to translation costs for the year 2010 incurred by my Department and the agencies under its aegis, I can confirm that the total amount spent was €45,916.11.

Questions Nos. 422 and 423 withdrawn.

Irish Red Cross

424. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Defence if he will consider encouraging the Irish Red Cross to adequately address the issue of current long-serving members still serving on the council and executive committee of the IRC; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24570/11]

427. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Defence his views on the fact that the vice-chairman of the Irish Red Cross is now serving for the 21st year in that position, as well as on the organisation's central council and executive committee, in breach of accepted good corporate governance principles and practice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24573/11]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 424 and 427 together.

On 16 May 2011 I wrote to the Chairman of the Irish Red Cross Society regarding corporate governance, with particular reference to turnover and rotation at leadership levels in the Society. I did so as I am of the opinion that it is not conducive to good corporate governance that any individual should serve indefinitely on the Central Council or the Executive Committee, or in the same appointment.

The Chairman, in his response, advised me that the issue of turnover and rotation at leadership levels was raised by him at a subsequent Central Council meeting and that agreement was reached on a mandatory three-year break, or one full-term break, for Executive Committee members in circumstances where a member may have previously served for two full terms.

I subsequently met with the Chairman and the Secretary General of the Society. The matters raised in my letter of last May were discussed and the progress that the Society has made in relation to governance reform was outlined. I offered my support to the Chairman and the Secretary General in their efforts and I anticipate that further progress in this regard will be made in the coming months.

425. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Defence if he has met the chairman of the Irish Red Cross; the outcome of such discussions; the substance and nature of correspondence between himself and the chairman of the IRC regarding corporate governance issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24571/11]

426. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Defence his views on whether the Irish Red Cross has made a more comprehensive reform of its corporate governance arrangements following his letter to the chairman of the IRC of 16 May 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24572/11]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): I propose to take Questions Nos. 425 and 426 together.

On 16 May 2011 I wrote to the Chairman of the Irish Red Cross Society regarding corporate governance, emphasising my views on turnover and rotation at leadership levels in the Society. The Chairman, in his response, advised me that the issue of turnover and rotation at leadership

levels was raised by him at a subsequent Central Council meeting and that agreement was reached on a mandatory three-year break, or one full-term break, for Executive Committee members in circumstances where a member may have previously served for two full terms.

The Chairman also outlined a number of other changes and initiatives that have been taken. I subsequently met with the Chairman and the Secretary General of the Society. The matters raised in my letter of last May were discussed and the progress that the Society has made in relation to governance reform was outlined. Overall, it was a very positive meeting; I offered my support to the Chairman and the Secretary General in their efforts and I anticipate that further progress in this regard will be made in the coming months.

Question No. 427 answered with Question No. 424.

428. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Defence when he expects to nominate a replacement nominee to the central council of the Irish Red Cross; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24574/11]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): It is my intention to fill this vacancy before the next Central Council meeting which I understand is scheduled to take place in November.

Departmental Bodies

429. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Defence the names of the State boards the membership of which is determined by his Department; and the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment. [24955/11]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): The bodies under the aegis of my Department are the Civil Defence Board, the Army Pensions Board and the Board of Coiste an Asgard. The Civil Defence Board was established in 2003 under the Civil Defence Act 2002. The Act provides that the Board shall consist of at least eight but not more than fourteen members who shall be appointed by the Minister for Defence. The current Board was appointed by the Minister for Defence from 11 July 2011 for a three year term.

The Government has recently approved a proposal to begin drafting legislation to transfer the functions of the Civil Defence Board back into the Department of Defence. This decision is in line with Government policy to bring the functions of many State agencies back into their parent Department. The proposed Bill will, if enacted, repeal the Civil Defence Act, 2002, dissolve the Civil Defence Board and transfer its functions, property, rights, liabilities and other responsibilities to the Department of Defence. Such changes will not have any impact on Civil Defence operations nationally.

The Army Pensions Board is an independent statutory body established under the Army Pensions Act, 1927. Since its establishment, the Board has been made up of a chairman and two ordinary members. The two ordinary members must be qualified medical practitioners of whom one must be an officer of the Army Medical Corps. The chairman and the non-Military ordinary member are appointed by the Minister for Defence with the concurrence of the Minister for Finance. The Army Medical Corps ordinary member is appointed by the Minister for Defence.

There is no specified period of appointment to the Army Pensions Board.

In the context of settling the Estimates for the Department of Defence for 2010, the Government decided that the national sail training scheme operated by Coiste an Asgard would be discontinued as recommended in the Report of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers

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and Expenditure. As a result, no funding was provided in 2010 or 2011. No appointments have been made since that decision was taken and the Board will be dissolved shortly.

Departmental Expenditure

430. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Defence the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25557/11]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): The costs of translating reports into Irish for the year 2010, in order to implement the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 2003, were as follows:

Report	Cost (incl VAT)
Department of Defence and Defence Forces Annual Report 2009	€1,510.53
Coiste an Asgard Directors Report and Accounts 2009	€302.00
Ombudsman for the Defence Forces Annual Report 2009	€2,607.00

Hunting Licences

431. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the number of hunting licences that have been issued for 2011 for hunting in Coillte-operated forests; the culling programmes in operation in Coillte-operated forests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24762/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): Coillte Teoranta was established as a private commercial company under the Forestry Act, 1988 and day-to-day operational matters, such as the facilitation of recreational hunting under licence, are the responsibility of the company.

The matter was, however, raised with Coillte which has advised that they have 223 active licences for deer hunting on their lands for the 2011/12 season with a programmed cull of 864 deer.

Milk Quota

432. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the reason a person (details supplied) only received 3,000 litres of milk quota in the recent distribution as he normally receives 5,000 litres every year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24451/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): Allocations of milk quota from the National Reserve are granted on the basis of recommendations from the Milk Quota Appeals Tribunal. The Tribunal examines and makes recommendations on applications for additional quota from individual producers.

There is no fixed allocation to successful applicants. The amount of milk quota available for distribution through the scheme each year is limited, and particularly so in the years in which demand increases due to a greater probability of the national milk deliveries exceeding the country's quota.

On the basis of the information supplied by the named person, the Tribunal recommended an allocation of 3,000 litres. This recommendation has now been approved and notification has issued to the named person and his Co-op.

Animal Protection

433. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if there is a need for a licence under any environmental Act to retain specific animals on a farm (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24501/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): My Department does not have statutory responsibility concerning the keeping on farms of non-domestic animals such as those referred to.

My Department has responsibility for:-

Implementation of Council Directive 92/65/EEC (Balai), which is transposed nationally by Statutory instrument No. 12 of 1996 European Communities (Trade in Animals and Animal Semen, Ova and Embryos) Regulations 1996. This legislation requires that only registered premises may import the species of animals referred to therein (primates, non-domestic ungulates, birds (other than poultry), bees, lagomorphs and dogs/cats and ferrets. Importation is carried out by way of import licence issued under this legislation.

Implementation of Council Regulation 998/2003/EC (on non-commercial movement of pet animals), which is transposed by Statutory Instrument No. 263 of 2009 European Communities (Pet Passport) Regulations 2009. This legislation facilitates the movement of pet dogs, cats and ferrets with pet passports or certificates, but does not set down rules for movement of other pets ("pet animals" in this regard being defined as animals listed in Annex 1 of the EU pet regulation). The Protection of Animals Acts 1911 and the Protection of Animals (amendment) Act 1965 affords certain protection of wild animals and is enforced by An Garda Síochána.

Grant Payments

434. **Deputy Heather Humphreys** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when a person (details supplied) in County Monaghan may expect to receive the outstanding 25% of his REP scheme payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24507/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named commenced REPS 4 in 2009 and has received full payments for the first year of his contract.

In addition, 75% of the second year payment issued on 21st April 2011 for the amount of €4,871.06. An area based discrepancy was discovered following a cross check between the Single Payment Scheme application for 2010 of the person named and the REPS agri-environmental plan. This discrepancy has resulted in the imposition of a penalty and a delay in processing the final 25% payment under REPS 4 for 2010.

My Department is currently making arrangements to process outstanding payments to farmers of the 25% due in respect of 2010 in the cases where penalties were incurred and I expect payments to commence in these cases in October.

435. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food further to Parliamentary Question No. 362 of the 12 July 2011, the position regarding an application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24529/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named has appealed against a decision by my Department to exclude certain plots from the area

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submitted for approval by him under the Afforestation Scheme. This appeal is currently being examined and he will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible.

436. **Deputy Heather Humphreys** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when REP scheme payment will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24551/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named commenced REPS 4 in 2008 and received full payments for the first two years of their contract.

In addition, 75% of the third year payment issued on 24th March 2011 for the amount of €1,539.00. An area based discrepancy was discovered following a cross check between the Single Payment Scheme application for 2010 of the person named and the REPS agri-environmental plan. This discrepancy has resulted in the imposition of a penalty and a delay in processing the final 25% payment under REPS 4 for 2010.

My Department is currently making arrangements to process outstanding payments to farmers of the 25% due in respect of 2010 in the cases where penalties were incurred and I expect payments to commence in these cases in October.

437. **Deputy Heather Humphreys** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when REP scheme payment will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24552/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named commenced REPS 4 in 2009 and has received full payment for the first year of his contract.

In addition, 75% of the second year payment issued on 1st February 2011 for the amount of €3,968.63. An area based discrepancy was discovered following a cross check between the Single Payment Scheme application for 2010 from the person named and the REPS agri-environmental plan. This discrepancy has resulted in the imposition of a penalty and a delay in processing the final 25% payment under REPS 4 for 2010.

My Department is currently making arrangements to process outstanding payments to farmers of the 25% due in respect of 2010 in the cases where penalties were incurred and I expect payments to commence in these cases in October.

438. **Deputy Heather Humphreys** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when REP scheme payment will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24553/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named commenced REPS 4 in 2009 and has received full payment for the first year of his contract. In addition, 75% of the second year payment issued for the amount of €5,236.50 on 17 January 2011. An area based discrepancy was discovered following a cross check between the Single Payment Scheme application for 2010 from the person named and the REPS agri-environmental plan. This discrepancy has resulted in the imposition of a penalty and a delay in processing the final 25% payment under REPS 4 for 2010. My Department is currently making arrangements to process outstanding payments to farmers of the 25% due in respect of 2010 in the cases where penalties were incurred and I expect payments to commence in these cases in October.

439. **Deputy Heather Humphreys** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when REP scheme payment will issue in a respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cavan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24554/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named commenced REPS 4 in June 2009 and has received full payment for the first year of his contract. In addition, 75% of the second year payment issued for the amount of €4,141.88 on 4 July 2011. An area based discrepancy was discovered following a cross check between the Single Payment Scheme application for 2010 from the person named and the REPS agri-environmental plan. This discrepancy has resulted in the imposition of a penalty and a delay in processing the final 25% payment under REPS 4 for 2010. My Department is currently making arrangements to process outstanding payments to farmers of the 25% due in respect of 2010 in the cases where penalties were incurred and I expect payments to commence in these cases in October.

Agri-Environment Options Scheme

440. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when an application for agri-environment options scheme for 2010 will be finalised in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Galway ; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that this applicant was one of the first to join AEOS in May 2010 and is experiencing financial hardship because of the major delay in payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24636/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named has been approved into the AEOS scheme with effect from 1 September 2010. Under the EU Regulations governing the Agri-Environment Options Scheme and other area-based payment schemes, a comprehensive administrative check, including cross-checks with the Land Parcel Identification System, must be completed on all applications before any approvals can issue. In addition, as part of the checks required under EU regulations, the person named was randomly selected for inspection. As part of this process Record Sheets documenting details of actions undertaken under AEOS must be inspected and authorised by the Department's inspector. My Department has been in contact with the person named in relation to aspects of his claim and once a response is received the application will be further processed.

European Regulations

441. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food his plans to publish the European Communities Agricultural Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation 2011; if the draft regulations will be published for consultation with all stakeholders including environmental groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24766/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): On Thursday 8 September 2011, I signed into law the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 456 of 2011) to address the findings of the European Court of Justice against Ireland in the manner that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (85/337/EEC), as amended, was transposed into Irish law.

The Court found that Ireland was over-reliant on size thresholds and did not take other relevant criteria, such as the cumulative impacts of development, the location of the development or activity relative to sensitive sites etc, into account. The Regulations relate to three categories of projects — restructuring of rural land holdings, the use of uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture, and land drainage works on lands used for agriculture

The Regulations will be underpinned by a comprehensive guidance document. To facilitate consultation, the draft guidance document will be available on the Department's website from

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today and will invite relevant stakeholders to comment on this guidance during a consultation period of four weeks which will close on Friday the 21 October.

Tax Code

442. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food if he will implement changes to the levy applied on foals; and if the levy could be based on percentage of the current market value of the service fee as opposed to the current system. [24861/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The Foal Levy Scheme was introduced in 2000 on a statutory basis, the Horse and Greyhound Racing (Betting Charges and Levies) Act, 1999, refers. The Levy is payable by all breeders whose thoroughbred foals are born and registered in Ireland. The scheme is administered by Horse Racing Ireland, the State body with responsibility for the thoroughbred sector.

The proceeds of the levy are used by Horse Racing Ireland to help fund the Irish Equine Centre, the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association and Irish Thoroughbred Marketing. These organisations provide key support structures to the Irish thoroughbred breeding industry. The rate of the levy is calculated by reference to the advertised value of the nomination fee of the stallion in accordance with the provisions of the Thoroughbred Foal Levy Regulations, 2007, S.I. No. 853 of 2007. There are six levy rate bands. The setting of the rates of the levy and the distribution of the funds is decided by the Board of Horse Racing Ireland based on the advice of its Foal Levy Committee which includes representatives of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (ITBA) and the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA).

Given that it is the function of Horse Racing Ireland to submit proposals relating to the Foal Levy Scheme to me for approval I suggest that it would be appropriate for you to raise this matter with Horse Racing Ireland in the first instance. I understand Horse Racing Ireland is currently undertaking a review of the scheme and any changes ultimately proposed will have to be submitted to me for consent.

Departmental Schemes

443. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food when approval will issue for the first tranche of applicants for grant aid for sheep fencing and mobile handling units; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24941/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): My Department has already commenced the issue of approvals to applicants under the Sheep Fencing/Handling Scheme. The process of issuing approvals to all eligible applicants is well advanced and will be completed as quickly as possible in the next few weeks.

Departmental Bodies

444. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24951/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): There are currently 12 State Bodies/Agencies that fall under the aegis of this Department.

Body	Number on Boards	Number Vacancies	Selection Process
Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board (ALAB)	7 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 28.11.2013 3 vacancies 1.1.2013 1 vacancy 13.07.2012	Appointments to the Board of the ALAB are made in accordance with Section 22 of the Fisheries Amendment Act 1997. For the most part persons are nominated by specific organisations and they are appointed by the Minister.
Bord Bia	15 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 13.9.2012 1 vacancy 23.3.2012 1 vacancy 23.3.2012 1 vacancy 22.3.2013 1 vacancy 22.3.2013 1 vacancy 28.11.2013 1 vacancy 23.3.2012 1 vacancy 27.6.2013	Appointments to the Board are made in accordance with the An Bord Bia Acts, 1994 to 2004. Members must have knowledge of the food industry or consumer interests and no fewer than two must have knowledge of horticulture.
Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)	6 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 4.11.2013 1 vacancy 13.6.2012 2 vacancies 13.6.2013 1 vacancy 2.3.2014	Appointments are made by the Minister as a vacancy arises.
Bord na gCon	7 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 29.1.2010 2 vacancies 15.4.2011 1 vacancy 22.5.2012 1 vacancy 24.8.2009* * (Vacancy since death of former BNG board member)	Appointments to the Board are made in accordance with Section 9 of the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958. For the most part persons are nominated by specific organisations and they are appointed by the Minister.
Coillte	9 Directors	1 vacancy 25.7.2011 — to be an Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) nominee (to be ratified) 1 vacancy 9.10.2012 2 vacancies 27.11.2012 2 vacancies 1.1.2014 1 vacancy 1.8.2014 1 vacancy 1.1.2015	Appointments are made as a vacancy arises and last for a period not exceeding 5 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment there after
Horse Racing Ireland	14 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 18.12.2011 3 vacancies 6.2.2012 3 vacancies 18.2.2013 3 vacancies 18.12.2013 1 vacancy 9.2.2014 3 vacancies 11.1.2015	All HRI board positions except for the position of 1 ordinary member and the Chair are nominated by bodies specified in legislation. Within HRI there are 2 further sub-committees — Bookmakers Appeals Committee is awaiting a new Chair with Legislation stating that the chair must be a judge or a practising barrister or solicitor of at least 7 years' standing. Racegoers Consultative Forum has a committee of 14 members 2 of which are appointed at the Minister's discretion, the original forum had no set term of office but HRI have been replacing members on a phased basis since 2007. The Forum is made up of racegoers from around the country, from different regions, ages and walks of life.
Irish National Stud	5 Directors	2 vacancies 24.6.2010 (date of 2010 AGM) 2 vacancies 3.6.2011 (date of 2011 AGM)	Each year the 2 longest serving Directors of the INS are due to retire at the AGM with these Directors remaining in situ until they are replaced.
Marine Institute	9 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 27.11.2013 1 vacancy 11.6.2012 1 vacancy 17.2.2015 1 vacancy 27.5.2015 4 vacancies 18.4.2012	Appointments are made by the Minister as a vacancy arises.

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Body	Number on Boards	Number Vacancies	Selection Process
National Milk Agency	14 on the Board including Chairman	No vacancies — elections/nominations every 3 years approximately	Members are appointed by the Minister following election and/or nomination by the relevant organisations provided for in the Schedule to Milk (Regulation of Supply) Act 1994. The elections are held every three years, with the last election taking place in October 2009. The Chairman of the Board was nominated and appointed by the Minister in 1994. There has only been one chairman since NMA was established in 1994.
Sea Fisheries Protection Authority	3 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 21.2.2012 1 vacancy 1.1.2012 1 vacancy 1.1.2013	Appointments are made by the Minister as a vacancy arises.
Teagasc	11 on Board including Chair	1 vacancy 5.10.2011	For the most part persons are nominated by specific organisations and they are appointed by the Minister.
Veterinary Council of Ireland	19 on Board	15 vacancies 1.1.2014	15 members are appointed on the nomination of other Bodies and 4 are appointed directly by the Minister as provided under Section 16(1) of the Veterinary Practice Act, 2005

Departmental Expenditure

445. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25553/11]

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Deputy Simon Coveney): The amount spent during 2010 on producing publications in Irish is listed in the following table:

Report Title	Cost
Pesticide Residue in Food Report 2008	€2,601.75
2020 Strategy	€3,781.55
Output Statement	€415.03
Schemes & Services	€8,726.46
Annual Report Pesticide 2009	€2,975.00
Annual Report 2009	€7,480.73
Annual Review and Outlook	€5,070.14
Total for 2010	€31,050.66

Child Protection

446. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the action she has taken to implement the recommendations of the May 2010 report, The Need for Child Contact Centres in Ireland; her views on this report; the action she will take to rectify the current failings in the system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24916/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): The report 'Supporting Child Contact: the Need for Child Contact Centres in Ireland' prepared by One Family Organisation addressed the need for a service of this type to be established in the context of a wider

discussion on social, health and justice related services in Ireland. My Department agreed to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of one of the reports key recommendations which was to establish a pilot child contact centre project with the aim of testing different models of provision, drawing on international experience.

I am pleased to inform you that preparations for the pilot project (which is to be operated by Barnardos) are at an advanced stage and that funding is to be provided jointly by my Department along with the HSE, Family Support Agency and Ballymun Regeneration. An initial progress report has been received and Barnardos have indicated that the project is due to commence at the end of October 2011. A single contact centre will be located on the North and South City respectively with the client base drawn from the catchment areas of the North and South Dublin City Health offices. Details of the exact locations will be announced and publicised once formal leases and letting arrangements have been finalised.

It is important to state that this project as with any pilot is partly a learning exercise and that precise details relating to mode and methodologies for referral etc will be finalised at a later stage however it is anticipated that referrals will eventually come from both Social Care Professionals and/or the Courts system. Both the systems of referral and the exact nature of services provided may change and evolve as the centres begin operating on a practical basis.

The report also recommended that an appropriate monitoring mechanism needs to be put in place to evaluate the pilot project and to help guide decisions on further provision. The funders for this project will be mainly focused for now on ensuring that the maximum amount of existing funding allocations are maintained given the very tight fiscal situation at the present time. Arrangements to put in place appropriate monitoring and evaluation will be discussed at a later stage as the energies of those involved are now concentrated on getting the centres open and the pilot service up and running.

Adoption Services

447. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her views on the legislative proposals put forward by the Adoption Rights Alliance, including their recommendation to change current legislation to grant adopted persons automatic access to their birth certificates and all files, records, documents and papers on their origins, family histories and early care and medical records; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24442/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): The drafting of legislation with regard to Information and Tracing is a priority of mine and proposals such as those raised by the Adoption Alliance are being considered in the drafting process. The Heads of the Bill are currently being drafted, in consultation with the Adoption Authority. The aim is to provide for a structured and regulated way of providing access to information and contact for those affected by adoption. This is a complex area involving the balancing of rights and as such must be dealt with in a careful manner. I intend to take this legislation through the Houses of the Oireachtas in due course.

Special Educational Needs

448. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will extend the remit of the Children's Ombudsman to enable that office to examine the work of the National Council for Special Education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24913/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): I am aware of the matter raised by the Deputy. The Office of the Ombudsman for Children has been in contact with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. I am expecting further contact before the end of year from the Ombudsman's office in relation to their remit. While responsibility for the amendment of legislation in relation to the Ombudsman for Children rests with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs responsibility for the National Council for Special Education rests with the Department of Education and Skills.

Family Resource Centres

449. **Deputy Brian Stanley** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide an update on the discussions regarding local authorities or local partnerships taking over the family resource centres; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24099/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): There are 107 family resource centres throughout the country funded by the Family Support Agency. The aim of the Family Resource Centres Programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. The programme emphasises involving local communities in tackling the problems they face, and creating successful partnerships between voluntary and statutory agencies at community level. In 2011, funding of €15.897m has been provided to the Family Support Agency for the programme.

The family resource centres provide a range of services for families and groups at local level. These include information, education and training opportunities, childcare, breakfast, homework and after school clubs and youth work services. The family resource centres have an important role to play, in harnessing local community efforts, in support of improved outcomes for children and young people which is a key objective of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. My department is not engaged in discussions regarding local authorities or local partnerships taking over the Family Resource Centres Programme. Plans for the future development of the Family Resource Centres Programme will be formulated in the context of the arrangements for the new Child and Family Support Services Agency and in consultation with the Family Support Agency and the family resource centres themselves.

Homeless Persons

450. **Deputy Brian Stanley** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs her plans for the development of a youth homelessness strategy as part of the overall strategy for ending homelessness here. [24108/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): Youth Homelessness has been identified as a priority for 2011. My Department met with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and service providers at the end of May, to assess and review the current demand for services, the progress made to date under the Youth Homelessness Strategy 2001 and the need to address any outstanding service deficits. Work will commence shortly on a high level review of the 2001 strategy. This review will form the basis for the development of a framework to address youth homelessness over the next 5 years.

Appointments to State Boards

451. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by her Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [24953/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): I appoint members to the Boards of the following Bodies:

Body

Family Support Agency

National Educational Welfare Board

Adoption Authority of Ireland

The terms of office for Board members are determined by relevant legislation and are usually for a period of three or five years. Appointments are made when vacancies arise.

Adoption Services

452. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when a person will be placed in charge of the adoption files at a location (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [25041/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): My Department has concluded talks with the HSE on the issue of adoption files from Bessboro and the HSE has agreed to take responsibility for these files. Accordingly, this question has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Departmental Expenditure

453. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25555/11]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): I understand that the Deputy is referring to the cost of translating reports for the year 2010. As my Department was formally established on 2 June 2011 no such expenditure was incurred in 2010.

Medical Cards

454. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding a medical card appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24527/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

455. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) in County Cork is entitled to receive a medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24869/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Childhood Obesity

456. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Health his plans to tackle the issue of childhood obesity in view of new statistics which show that 25% of three year children here are obese; the level of coordination in place between him and other Government Departments regarding same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24914/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): My Department, in conjunction with other organisations and Government Departments, is involved in a number of programmes that encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles. We also have healthy eating guidelines specifically targeted at children, one for children in preschools and another for primary school children. In parallel, the Health Service Executive is involved in many programmes to help prevent obesity. Earlier this year I set up a Special Action Group on Obesity, comprising representatives from my Department, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Health Service Executive, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and Safefood to examine and progress a number of issues to address the problem of obesity, including nutritional labelling, calorie posting on restaurant menus, restrictions on the marketing to children and the treatment of obesity. The Group will liaise with other Departments and organisations as required.

Hospital Services

457. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding a medical procedure in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24399/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

458. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the case of a person (details supplied) whose diagnosis was delayed by eight months because an x-ray of their chest was not acted upon at Kerry General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24444/11]

459. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health the date on which a note was made on the file of a person (details supplied) expressing concern about the November 2009 chest X-ray. [24445/11]

460. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if he will establish whether the registrar and consultant at the accident and emergency unit in Kerry General Hospital reviewed the X-ray of a person (details supplied) before they were discharged; if not, the reason for same and if this is common practice. [24446/11]

461. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health when the radiologist at Kerry General Hospital reviewed an X-ray in respect of a person (details supplied) in November 2009; if there was a delay, the reason for same and if this was common practice at the time. [24447/11]

462. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if he is satisfied that no other patients' X-Rays were missed and not acted upon in sufficient time and the measures that have been put in place to ensure this does not occur in the future. [24448/11]

463. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health the reason that patients' X-Rays were not acted upon; his views on whether the was as a result of staff being over worked and or under resourced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24449/11]

464. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if he will be ordering an independent investigation into the circumstances of the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24450/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 458 to 464, inclusive, together. As these are service matters, they have been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

465. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding an appointment in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24452/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

466. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) in County Cavan will be given an earlier date for surgery in view of the length of time they have waited [24454/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Departmental Expenditure

467. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 362 of 21 June 2011, if he will clarify the statement in his reply that the figures provided include the cost of the fluoridating chemical, operational and minor capital costs, in view of the fact that the figure provided for the year 2006 is the same figure provided by his predecessor in a letter dated 12 June 2006 for the annual cost of the fluoridating chemical alone; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24456/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): The total cost to the HSE of fluoridation in 2006 was approximately €3.25 million. I am unaware of any correspondence from my Department or from a previous Minister stating otherwise.

Hospital Services

468. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if an early date will be set for an hip operation in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny. [24460/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Departmental Expenditure

469. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 362 of 21 June 2011, the reason for the significant increase in cost from 2009 to 2010. [24466/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): The increase in costs in 2010 can be attributed to the implementation of the corrective actions identified in the audit.

Departmental Investigations

470. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health if he has received the report of the independent research report on the practice of symphysiotomy; if not, when he expects to receive same; and when he envisages the report to be published [24467/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Work on this report is being progressed by the academic researcher appointed to carry out the research. However, the researcher has advised the Department that due to difficulties in accessing information sources over the summer period the report will not be completed this month as originally planned. My Department is urgently seeking a definite date for the completion of this report from the researcher and as soon as the draft report is received will further engage with patient representative groups and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

[Deputy James Reilly.]

It is my intention that the report be published, subject of course to the usual legal and related considerations, which are as of now not expected to create any significant barriers to publication.

Hospitals Building Programme

471. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if he will support the call for the new National Children's Hospital to be named after Dr. Kathleen Lynn. [24489/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): It is not my intention at this time to consider the naming of the new National Paediatric Hospital.

Medical Cards

472. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if a medical card will be issued without delay in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny. [24496/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Health Service Staff

473. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Health his plans to introduce further voluntary redundancies within the health sector; and when such voluntary redundancies might be introduced. [24502/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Government is committed in line with the Programme for Government to reducing numbers in the Civil/Public Service in the period to 2015, while protecting front-line services as far as possible. A comprehensive review of expenditure is underway to examine all areas where savings and numbers reductions might be identified. The results of this review are expected in the Autumn when the Government will consider its recommendations. There are, however, no plans at this time to introduce a voluntary redundancy/early retirement scheme in the Civil/Public Service.

Hospital Staff

474. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Health his views on the abolition of payments to student nurses and midwives during their fourth year pre-registration rostered placement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24511/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): In 2010 the previous Government decided to implement a range of budgetary measures, including the phased abolition over the period 2011 to 2015 of pay to student nurses and midwives when undertaking the rostered placement in their final undergraduate year.

Following my appointment as Minister, I initiated a review of this decision and invited the nursing unions to become involved in the process. This review is still in progress.

Departmental Bodies

475. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if standardised operating procedures are in place for all research ethics committees; the procedures in place for appointing members to these committees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24517/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): Clinical trials of medicinal products for human use are currently regulated by the European Communities (Clinical Trials on Medicinal Products for Human Use) Regulations, 2004. The operating pro-

cedures of clinical trials ethics committees are set out in Schedule 2 of these Regulations. These committees are required to be independent, consisting of healthcare professionals and lay members and to have responsibility to protect the rights, safety and wellbeing of human subjects involved in a trial. There are currently 13 research ethics committees approved under the regulations.

In addition, the Health Information Bill, which is currently being drafted, will facilitate a standardised approach in regard to research ethics committees dealing with research, other than clinical trials. The Bill will provide for the approval of committees by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and for procedural matters, including the appointment of members.

Hospital Waiting Lists

476. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health if he will arrange an appointment for an operation to be brought forward in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork. [24519/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Medical Cards

477. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding an application for a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork. [24544/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

478. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding a medical card application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork. [24548/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Nursing Home Accommodation

479. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health if he will review the future viability of a hospital (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24557/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The facility referred to by the Deputy is not a public facility, it is a voluntary facility which has a service level agreement with the HSE under section 39 of the Health Act 2009.

The legislation underpinning the Nursing Homes Support Scheme requires all private nursing homes and voluntary nursing homes which previously received funding under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 to negotiate and agree a price for the cost of care with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) should they wish to participate in the scheme. This is a necessary feature of the scheme due to the commitment by the State to meet the full balance of the cost of care over and above a person's contribution.

The NTPF has statutory responsibility for the negotiation of prices with private and voluntary nursing homes. The NTPF is independent in the performance of this function and, in carrying it out, it must ensure value for money for both the individual and the State. The NTPF negotiates with each nursing home individually and may examine the records and accounts of nursing homes as part of the process. This method of negotiation is necessary in order to ensure

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that the State obtains the best value for each individual in a nursing home and to comply with competition law.

The HSE is continuing to engage with the Board of Management of the facility to support the process of decision making with regard to the future of the service. The HSE will support whatever decision the Board of Management makes and hopes to work closely with it to provide services in the area into the future in a sustainable manner.

Health Service Staff

480. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Health if he will make an exemption to the hiring embargo in the Health Service Executive in cases where it is cheaper to renew a contract with existing workers than to recruit in new staff from outside agencies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24561/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Under the Employment Control Framework for the Health Sector, the Health Service Executive (HSE) has discretion to make exceptions to the general moratorium on recruitment in the public service in order to maintain essential services. Such exceptions must of necessity be kept to a minimum so that the targeted employment reductions and consequential payroll savings are met. The Framework also provides that certain posts are exempted from the moratorium, such as social workers, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists and medical consultants.

Recently, the HSE made the decision to pause recruitment due to its serious budgetary situation. Notwithstanding this pause, exceptions are still being made to address critical service risk.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) introduced new arrangements for contracting agency staff on 14 March 2011. The new contract for agency staff is part of the approved service plan for 2011 and was intended to deliver cost savings in 2011. However, I have been informed by the HSE that given its current financial situation, there are limitations on the use of agency staff and every effort is being made to make the best use of internal resources. The HSE has further advised that there is also a protocol in place which allows for internal part time staff to increase their hours on a temporary basis to deal with urgent service needs.

Hospital Staff

481. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the wage bill in each of public hospital in 2010; the percentage of the Health Service Executive budget to each hospital that was spent on wages in 2010; the projected wage bill for each of the public hospitals in 2011; and the HSE project budget allocation for each hospital in 2012. [24576/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The information sought by the Deputy is not readily available. However, I have asked the Health Service Executive to supply this information to me and I will forward it to the Deputy as soon as possible.

Health Service Properties

482. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the number of properties the Health Service Executive own which are used, either fully or partially to house sex offenders on their release from prison; and the addresses of these properties. [24577/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Health Service Executive do not provide dedicated housing services to sex offenders. The issue of accommodation for sex offenders who are released from prison would be a matter for Directorate of the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service.

Health Services

483. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) in Dublin 8, was not given the required orthodontic treatment before they turned 18 years of age; and will the work be carried out now in recognition that the delay in having the treatment was not of their making. [24579/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Ambulance Service

484. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Health the number of advanced paramedics who completed their training course in August 2011; the locations to which they were deployed; the numbers due to qualify in January 2012 and July 2012 ; the number enrolled in the course that has just commenced; the numbers who qualified from the last four courses; the locations to which they were deployed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24581/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Nineteen advanced paramedics (APs) completed their training course in July 2011, including three students from previous courses who sat the undergraduate internship and assessment. These APs have been deployed to the following locations.

- 1 to the South East
- 6 to the South
- 1 to the West
- 3 to the North West
- 3 to Dublin Fire Brigade
- 2 to the East
- 1 to the Midlands
- 2 to the North East

A further 42 APs are due to qualify in January and July next year

The following table details the numbers and locations of APs who have qualified in the past and students who are currently training in the National Ambulance Service College.

It is important to note that candidates who successfully complete the first year of the course and exams are then required to undergo a postgraduate internship of one year before being fully qualified as APs.

Advanced Paramedic Training

Region		Course 10	Course 11	Course 12	Course 13	Course 14	Course 15
	Qualified APs @ 2009	Finished Feb 2010	Finished July 2010	Finished Feb 2011	Finished July 2011	Commenced April 2011	Commenced Sept 2011
North East	17	3	0	1	2	0	4
North West	9	1	4	2	2	3	5
Midwest	20	3	1	0	0	0	3
West	16	0	0	2	0	3	1*
East	29	0	2	2	2	0	3
Midland	12	4	1	5	1	0	4**
South	13	4	3	3	5	1	3
South East	12	1	5	2	1	3	1

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Region		Course 10	Course 11	Course 12	Course 13	Course 14	Course 15
	Qualified APs @ 2009	Finished Feb 2010	Finished July 2010	Finished Feb 2011	Finished July 2011	Commenced April 2011	Commenced Sept 2011
NAS College	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
DFB	23	2	2	2	3	2	0
Defence Forces	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Total	159	19	18	19	16	18	24

Hospital Waiting Lists

485. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if a hospital appointment will be arranged in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24589/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Health Services

486. **Deputy Aodhán Ó Ríordáin** asked the Minister for Health his plans to include free or discounted cleaning and scaling dental care for persons who are in receipt of the medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24590/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): In 2010 the HSE introduced a number of measures, including the suspension of prophylaxis treatment, to contain expenditure in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS), which provides free dental services to medical card patients. Given the current difficult position of the public finances, the budget for the DTSS has been capped at the 2008 level of €63 million and it is not possible to expand the services currently being provided. The HSE will continue to monitor the operation of the DTSS to ensure the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of available resources.

Domestic Abuse

487. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Health his strategy in relation to front line services to victims of domestic abuse; the number of refuge places available, by location, throughout the country; the funding provided to them in 2010 and 2011; if same is regarded as a front line service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24597/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): *Cosc's National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2010-2014* outlines Government priority actions to address domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The HSE published its own Policy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence and this policy dovetails into the National Strategy.

The HSE currently fund 20 Crisis Refuges with a Budget in 2010 of €10.5M.

The final outturn for 2011 is not available yet.

These refuges are located as follows:

HSE South 6 Refuges — Kilkenny, Kerry, Tipperary, Cork, Waterford, Wexford

HSE West 5 Refuges — Limerick, Galway, Ennis, Donegal, Mayo

Dublin North East 5 Refuges — Coolock, Dundalk, Drogheda, Meath, Blanchardstown

Dublin Mid Leinster 4 Refuges — Bray, Athlone, Rathmines, Tallaght

Regarding the number of refuge places available in each location I have asked the Health Service Executive to supply this information to me and I will forward it to the Deputy as soon as possible.

488. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that Teach Tearmainn the only specialised domestic violence service in County Kildare is unable to open the new publicly funded facility because the Health Service Executive has informed it that no funding will be provided for that purpose; if his further attention has been drawn to the fact that the levels of domestic violence are on the increase; in the absence of HSE funding the other means of funding that are available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24598/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Teach Tearmainn is on the point of completing a major new capital development in Kildare. This development includes four self-contained apartments to be used as crisis accommodation for the victims of domestic violence. The capital aspects of this development were fully funded through the Department of Environment and Local Government.

Teach Tearmainn has recently approached the HSE with an application for revenue funding to operate this new development. The application includes a request for approximately €440,000 to be allocated on a recurring basis to cover the full year costs of operating the refuge.

The HSE reiterated its support for the project at that time. However, this new development was not included in the funding allocation for 2011 and, unfortunately, given the current financial position the HSE has no additional funds for allocation this year.

The HSE undertook to investigate potential avenues of funding for 2012 and this process is currently underway.

Hospital Services

489. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if outpatient physiotherapy care will be provided in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24603/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): As the Deputy's question relates to service matters I have arranged for the question to be referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Hospitals Building Programme

490. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Health when construction work will commence on the major new structure and extension to Sligo General Hospital which is intended to provide accommodation for accident and emergency, 57 surgical beds, the paediatrics department, the obstetrics department and intensive care and high dependence units; when the construction work will be completed; when it is expected that the new extension will become operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24635/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The management and delivery of the health capital programme is a service matter. Therefore your question has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Health Service Properties

491. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Health the number of residential units, including bed and breakfast provision, rented or leased by the Health Service Executive on an annual basis in south Lee area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24640/11]

492. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Health if he will confirm for each of the five most recent calendar years the total annual amount of expenditure incurred by the Health Service Executive renting or leasing residential units, including bed and breakfast provision, in the south Lee area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24641/11]

493. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Health the reasons the Health Service Executive rents or leases residential units from private landlords; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24642/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 491 to 493, inclusive, together.

I have referred this matter to the Health Service Executive for Direct Reply.

Private Health Insurance

494. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Health his plans for the Voluntary Health Insurance Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24653/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Programme for Government provides for the VHI to remain in State ownership in order to provide a publicly-owned health insurance option when the new system of Universal Health Insurance (UHI) is introduced. As part of preparations for the introduction of UHI, I have consistently voiced my concerns about the dominance of the VHI in the private health insurance market and my intention to take action to address this. Earlier this year I appointed a consortium consisting of Goodbody Stockbrokers and Matheson Ormsby Prentice Solicitors to undertake a review of options for rebalancing the private health insurance market. The project has been completed and I am currently considering the consortium's report before deciding on next steps.

I am also very conscious of an imminent ruling by the European Court of Justice which will be announced by the Court on 29 September 2011. The case relates to the VHI derogation under the Third Non-Life Insurance Directive, which exempts VHI from the requirement to be authorised as an insurer by the Central Bank of Ireland. The ruling of the Court will have implications for the future status of the VHI and my Department has been working for some time on measures to prepare for the outcome, whatever that may be. I plan to discuss the matter with my colleagues in Government shortly and I will make a further statement once the ruling of the Court is known.

Hospital Services

495. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health if an explanation will be provided by the Health Service Executive regarding the reason a person (details supplied) in County Kerry did not receive adequate follow-up care; the action the HSE will take to remedy complications that have arisen since the operation as a result of the lack of follow-up care; if the HSE will guarantee the person that they will be treated with competence in future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24654/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

National Treatment Purchase Fund

496. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health the way the average figure for the cost of a nursing home bed through the National Treatment Purchase Fund was decided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24760/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The legislation underpinning the Nursing Homes Support Scheme requires all private nursing homes and Voluntary Nursing Homes which previously received funding under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 to negotiate and agree a price for the cost of care with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) should they wish to participate in the scheme. This is a necessary feature of the scheme due to the commitment by the State to meet the full balance of the cost of care over and above a person's contribution.

The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) has statutory responsibility for the negotiation of prices with private and voluntary nursing homes. The NTPF is independent in the performance of this function and, in carrying it out, it must ensure value for money for both the individual and the State. The NTPF negotiates with each nursing home individually and may examine the records and accounts of nursing homes as part of the process. This method of negotiation is necessary in order to ensure that the State obtains the best value for each individual in a nursing home and to comply with competition law.

Health Service Staff

497. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for Health the bonuses awarded to senior management and middle management in the Health Service Executive from 2007 to 2011 in tabular form. [24764/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Performance related payments in the Health Service Executive (HSE) are currently suspended. The last year in respect of which such payments were made by the Board of the HSE was 2007. A total of €1.5 million was paid for that year to 128 senior HSE managers such as the Chief Executive Officer, National Directors, Assistant National Directors and Hospital Network Managers. Details are set out in tabular form below.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No Awards/Persons	128	0	0	0	0
Total cost of Awards	€1.5m	0	0	0	0

Compensation Tribunals

498. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Health if, in view of his meeting with the Irish Thalidomide Association on 15 July 2011, he has made a decision as to whether by thalidomide will be included in the compensation tribunal process. [24772/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): In accordance with the Programme for Government I met with both representative bodies of Irish survivors of thalidomide on Friday 15th July last. I listened to their proposals for additional health care supports and financial assistance. I

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undertook to consider their proposals and have further discussions with them. As soon as I have completed this consideration, I will be in touch with the Irish Thalidomide Association at an early date.

Care of the Elderly

499. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health if he is satisfied with the Health Service Executive plans for the provision of residential care for the elderly on the Iveragh Peninsula; if he will accept that the survival of Valentia Hospital is necessary for future residential care on the peninsula; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24799/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Valentia Hospital provides a range of services. With regard to long-term residential care, the legislation underpinning the Nursing Homes Support Scheme requires all private nursing homes and voluntary nursing homes which previously received funding under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 to negotiate and agree a price for the cost of care with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) should they wish to participate in the scheme. This is a necessary feature of the scheme due to the commitment by the State to meet the full balance of the cost of care over and above a person's contribution.

The NTPF has statutory responsibility for the negotiation of prices with private and voluntary nursing homes. The NTPF is independent in the performance of this function and, in carrying it out, it must ensure value for money for both the individual and the State. The NTPF negotiates with each nursing home individually and may examine the records and accounts of nursing homes as part of the process. This method of negotiation is necessary in order to ensure that the State obtains the best value for each individual in a nursing home and to comply with competition law.

Valentia Hospital can continue to have service level agreements with the HSE for services other than long-term residential care.

The HSE is continuing to engage with the Board of Management of the facility to support the process of decision making with regard to the future of the service. The HSE will support whatever decision the Board of Management makes and hopes to work closely with it to provide services in the area into the future in a sustainable manner.

Medical Cards

500. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the number of medical cards that have been issued to persons over 70 years; the number of over 70 years medical cards that are reassessed on an annual basis; following reassessment of over 70 years medical cards that are withdrawn on an annual basis; the cost of the reassessment of over 70 years medical cards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24862/11]

501. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health his plans to abolish the reassessment of issued over 70 years medical cards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24863/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): I propose to answer Questions Nos. 500 and 501 together.

The Health Service Executive has stated that 345,806 persons over 70 years now hold medical cards and that 224 hold GP Visit cards.

The Executive estimates that approximately 72,000 card holders in the over 70 age group are reviewed each year.

Data on the number of medical cards withdrawn on a yearly basis is not routinely collected by the Executive. The HSE does not disaggregate the cost of reviewing the over 70's scheme from the cost of other services provided by the Primary Care Reimbursement Services (PCRS). Schemes managed by PCRS currently include the over 70's Medical Card Scheme and the under 70's Medical Card Scheme; Drugs Payment Scheme; High Tech Drugs Scheme; Long Term Illness Scheme and payments to doctors, pharmacists, dentists and opticians contracted to provide these services.

The Executive has simplified the review/renewal process for over 70s medical cards where there has been no change in circumstances. In other circumstances, the case is reviewed in the normal way. However, the review process is an important quality assurance aspect of the management of the GMS. For this reason the HSE does not intend to abolish the review process for those persons whose circumstances have changed.

Health Services

502. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) in County Kildare will receive a date for an operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24873/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

National Treatment Purchase Fund

503. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) in County Wicklow will qualify to have an operation under the National Treatment Purchase Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24877/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The National Treatment Purchase fund is not currently accepting direct referrals. Its role is being considered in the context of the development of the Special Delivery Unit which it will support. Furthermore, as this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct referral.

Medical Cards

504. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in the processing of a medical card application in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 22; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24879/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Ambulance Service

505. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Health the number of ambulances serving an area (details supplied); the number of personnel assigned to each ambulance and the grade to which these personnel operate; his plans to improve the provision of this service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24920/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Water Fluoridation

506. **Deputy Brian Stanley** asked the Minister for Health if he has read the recent report by the EU Committee on Environmental and Health Risks into the scientific evidence around water fluoridation; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that this report has stated that water fluoridation poses some health risks for children; and his plans to end this practice. [24105/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): The report of the EU Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) was published in June of this year its report has not made any findings of negative health or environmental effects concerning fluoridation of water.

The SCHER Report states that a narrow margin exists in children between achieving the beneficial effects of fluoride in reducing dental decay and the potential adverse effect of dental fluorosis is true regardless of the source of fluoride, whether from water fluoridation or other sources, such as ingested toothpaste. It should be noted that dental fluorosis is a cosmetic or aesthetic condition which refers to the way teeth look and is generally easy to treat. It is in contrast to the treatment of tooth decay which may on occasion involve the use of general anaesthesia and hospitalisation.

The Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health advises that the balance of scientific evidence worldwide confirms that water fluoridation, at the optimal level, does not cause any ill effects and continues to be safe and effective in protecting the oral health of all age groups. There are no plans to discontinue the policy of fluoridation of public water supplies, which continues to make an effective contribution to oral health in Ireland.

Drugs Task Forces

507. **Deputy Brian Stanley** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that cuts to regional and local drugs task forces were over and above those to his Department; and if he will guarantee their current levels of funding in future in order that they may continue their valuable work in communities. [24101/11]

508. **Deputy Brian Stanley** asked the Minister for Health if he will protect funding for Ballymun Drugs Task Force, Dublin; if he will protect funding for Finglas Drugs Task Force; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24100/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): I propose to take Questions Nos. 507 and 508 together.

In excess of €30m has been made available to Local and Regional Drugs Task Forces in 2011, of which €1.2m has been allocated to Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force and €0.96m allocated to Finglas Cabra Local Drugs Task Force. This represents a reduction in the order of 2.7% on funding available in 2010. Funding for the Local and Regional Drugs Task Forces in 2012 will be determined in the context of the Estimates process, taking account of the need to protect front line services as far as possible.

Nursing Homes Support Scheme

509. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the fair deal scheme funding scheme; if any new applications are being funded as opposed to simply being processed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24937/11]

519. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the fair deal scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25001/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): I propose to take Questions Nos. 509 and 519 together.

The processing of approvals for financial support under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme was suspended for a month from May to June while an examination of funding was being carried out. However, the HSE has been issuing funding approvals again since the 13th June. Almost 1,700 people have been allocated funding since that date. The HSE is continuing to process applications within the funding limits available to the scheme and in accordance with the legislation.

The HSE intends to deal with those currently awaiting approval within the next month. This week, a further 900 funding approvals will be issued to applicants.

By the end of the year, the HSE intends that any delays in awarding funding will be eliminated. The situation will be closely monitored to ensure that funding is allocated as soon as it becomes available. It is anticipated that any delays will be resolved in the final quarter of 2011.

Mental Health Services

510. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take to enhance services for persons with eating disorders; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that VHI and Aviva will not provide cover with regard to a centre (details supplied) in Dublin 13, which treats persons with eating disorders; his views regarding same; if his further attention has been drawn to the fact that the Health Service Executive has referred persons to this centre, although no funding is provided towards this treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24938/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): HSE services for people with eating disorders are embedded in the Community Mental Health Service and with Primary Care. Individuals with eating disorders frequently present to the primary care practitioner with complications of their condition and early intervention at this level greatly improves outcomes. The HSE has developed a Mental Health in Primary Care accredited training programme for primary care practitioners with Dublin City University with a view to enhancing the capacity of primary care to recognise, assess and treat a range of mental illnesses within the primary care setting.

Community based Adult Mental Health Services receive referrals from Primary Care and provide assessment and treatment to individuals with eating disorders; Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams provide a similar role for their cohort of referrals. Where the individual's psychiatric or medical needs are more acute, in-patient admission is offered within the local psychiatric services or acute medical care where necessary.

The HSE can and has worked with service providers in the independent sector to provide specialised care, on an in-patient and/or an out-patient basis. In a limited number of cases, referrals to specialised eating disorder services in Dublin or the UK can be clinically recommended and supported in appropriate circumstances, subject to the necessary resources being available.

The situation with regard to services that are covered by private health insurance is that each private health insurance provider in the Irish Market, currently Aviva Health, Quinn Healthcare and VHI Healthcare, has the right to determine which health care providers they will cover for the benefit of their customers. The right to this determination is provided for in the Health Insurance Act 1994 (Minimum Benefit) Regulations, 1996. Health insurers operating in a commercial market may choose the providers they cover and it is a matter for each insurer to determine how much capacity in any particular area is required by them to deliver the services required by their members. The definition of "prescribed health services" in the 1996 Minimum Benefit Regulations excludes

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health services relating to eating disorders or weight reduction. Therefore there is no obligation on private health insurance providers to provide insurance cover for this type of treatment.

My Department does not have a role to play in relation to whether the insurers would cover the services offered by any particular provider.

Health Service Staff

511. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the recruitment of professional qualified social workers in the Health Service Executive area and especially those who understood that they will be offered a job but their employment was not proceeded with over the summer months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24945/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Employment Control Framework for the Health Sector exempts a number of grades, including Social Workers, from the moratorium on recruitment to maintain essential services. Since 25 June 2010 the Health Service Executive has filled a total of 457 social worker vacancies. These were to satisfy the recommendations of the Ryan report and to fill other vacancies caused by retirements, maternity leave, etc. This recruitment of Social Workers has resulted in a net increase of 212 WTE to 2,448 WTE at end-July 2011.

Currently, the HSE is processing a further 242 posts (62 of which are to address the recommendations of the Ryan report) as follows

- 70 — in the clearance process/awaiting permission to issue contracts
- 91 — at job offer stage (the clearance process has not begun)
- 81 — at earlier stages of the recruitment process

In July 2011, the HSE made the decision to pause recruitment in order to assist in addressing its difficult financial situation. Notwithstanding this pause, exceptions are still being made address critical service risk.

Appointments to State Boards

512. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Health the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these membership is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24960/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I appoint members to the Boards of the following bodies:

Body

An Bord Altranais
 Beaumont Hospital Board
 Board of the Adelaide and Meath Hospitals
 Consultative Council on Hepatitis C
 Dental Council
 Drug Treatment Centre Board
 Dublin Dental Hospital Board
 Food Safety Authority of Ireland
 Scientific Committee of the Food Safety Authority
 Food Safety Consultative Council

 Body

Food Safety Promotions Board
 Health and Social Care Professional Council
 Health Information Quality Authority
 Health Insurance Authority
 Health Research Board
 Health Service Executive
 Hepatitis C and HIV Compensation Tribunal
 Irish Blood Transfusion Service
 Irish Medicines Board
 Advisory Committee on Human Medicines (IMB)
 Advisory Committee for Veterinary Medicines (IMB)
 Leopardstown Park Hospital
 Medical Council
 Mental Health Commission
 National Cancer Registry Board
 National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing & Midwifery
 National Haemophilia Council
 National Paediatric Hospital Development Board
 National Treatment Purchase Fund
 Opticians Board
 Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland Council
 Poisons Council
 Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council
 St. James's Hospital Board
 Voluntary Health Insurance

The terms of office for Board members is determined by the relevant legislation and is usually three or five years. Appointments are made when vacancies arise.

Hospital Services

513. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) in County Cork will be receive an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24967/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Medicinal Products

514. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to licence the cannabis derived medicine, Sativex, to alleviate the symptoms of multiple sclerosis and whose introduction into here is supported by MS Ireland. [24969/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977, the manufacture, production, preparation, sale, supply, distribution and possession of cannabis-based medicinal products are unlawful except for the purposes of research.

I am aware that claims have been made in respect of the possible health benefits of cannabis-based medicinal products such as Sativex for patients suffering from certain conditions such as

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Multiple Sclerosis. I am also aware that cannabis-based medicinal products may be legally prescribed in other countries. However, as the law currently stands, it is not possible for cannabis-based medicinal products to be prescribed by a medical practitioner in Ireland. However, my Department is examining the issues associated with applying controls, similar to those that apply to other controlled drugs that can be misused, such as morphine and methadone, to cannabis-based medicinal products to permit them to be prescribed and dispensed in Ireland.

Health Services

515. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Health if emotionally unstable personality disorder is a condition which qualifies for treatment under the E 112 treatment abroad scheme; and if the decision to refuse treatment in the UK in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Galway will be reviewed in view of the seriousness of the illness. [24971/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Tobacco-Related Diseases

516. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Health his views that separate policies for reducing the consumption of both legal and illegal cigarettes should be organised by the Health Service Executive and the Office of Tobacco Control, as 20 % of all cigarettes consumed are counterfeit. [24972/11]

517. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Health the measures being taken to reduce the number of persons smoking legal and illegal cigarettes in view of the recently published research which shows that lung cancer is now the largest cause of cancer related deaths among women. [24973/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 516 and 517 together.

The Office of the Revenue Commissioners has responsibilities in the area of detection of counterfeit and contraband tobacco products. Smuggling cigarettes into Ireland is illegal and penalties prescribed in this regard reflect the gravity of such acts; however, policy with respect to the consumption of cigarettes is largely oriented towards reducing smoking — and it does not discriminate between the consumption of legal or illegal cigarettes. This is predicated on the fact that one in every two smokers will die from a tobacco-related disease — a stark fact that is central to the HSE's health education QUIT campaign aimed at encouraging smokers to quit; and in this regard, I share the Deputy's concern in relation to lung cancer deaths.

With regard to the Deputy's question on the measures being taken to reduce smoking, it seems appropriate to firstly reflect on the comprehensive range of tobacco control legislation that has been introduced in Ireland since 2002, particularly the successful implementation of the smoke-free initiative in 2004; the ban on the sale of packs of cigarettes of less than 20 in 2007; and the ban on in-store display and advertising and the introduction of the retail register in 2009. This comprehensive nature of our tobacco control legislation places Ireland in the top rank of countries internationally in this regard. Ultimately, the legislation further de-normalises smoking among children and will, I believe, reduce childhood initiation in the long term.

In addition to the HSE's QUIT campaign, other measures to encourage people to quite smoking include Nicotine Replacement Therapies (NRT) — which are available to medical card holders — and Smoking Cessation Services within the Health Service Executive that offer services in different areas. Specialist Smoking Cessation Counsellors are trained to deliver these

services on full time, part time and sessional basis nationally. Health Promotion Departments within the HSE also offer an extensive programme of training that includes developing skills for health care practitioners to support people wishing to stop smoking; they also provide support to schools around the issue of smoking and substance misuse, and support to workplaces on developing smoking policies.

The HSE funds the National Smokers Quitline which, in conjunction with the Irish Cancer Society, provides a smoking cessation advice and support service. This provides the public with access to a telephone support service from a trained smoking cessation counsellor. Referral to local smoking cessation services can also be arranged and a quitting booklet is offered and sent out to all callers who request it.

Finally, there is a range of measures under consideration by the Tobacco Policy Review Group (TPRG) including price, enforcement of existing legislation and cessation services. I anticipate that the report of the TPRG will be completed in the coming months and that this will be brought to Government for decision.

518. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Health if the Health Service Executive or Office of Tobacco Control have conducted research on the dangers of counterfeit cigarettes; his views on the necessity of conducting a public information campaign specifically outlining the increased danger associated with counterfeit cigarettes. [24974/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): All tobacco products, whether legally produced or counterfeit are injurious to health. No specific research on the dangers of counterfeit cigarettes has been undertaken by the HSE or the Office of Tobacco Control, which was merged into the HSE in December, 2010.

The HSE has no direct function in relation to illicit tobacco trade which is primarily a matter for the Revenue Commissioners. However, my Department and the HSE support Revenue's *Strategy On Combating the Illicit Tobacco Trade (2011- 2013)*. This multifaceted programme focuses on border and inland operations and internal distribution chains, and includes anti-smuggling initiatives, intelligence gathering and analysis, investigation and prosecution. In the period 2008 to 2010 the Irish Customs Service seized a total of 532 million cigarettes with an estimated retail value of €222 million representing just under 30,000 individual seizures.

The overwhelming majority of smokers in Ireland use legitimate tobacco products. The HSE's priority is to reduce the number of people smoking and de-normalise tobacco use in Irish society. The HSE recently undertook the QUIT campaign which highlighted that "1 in every 2 smokers will die of a tobacco related disease".

There is a range of measures under consideration by the Tobacco Policy Review Group (TPRG) including price, enforcement of existing legislation and cessation services. I anticipate that the report of the TPRG will be completed in the coming months and that this will be brought to Government for decision.

Question No. 519 answered with Question No. 509.

Hospital Services

520. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Health if he will direct the Health Service Executive to expedite a procedure in respect of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25005/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

521. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Health his views on the situation in Malin Head, County Donegal, where the Health Service Executive have yet to avail of the fully revamped health clinic in the local community centre while they continue to use a prefab in the same area. [25010/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Hospital Records

522. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if funding will be made available to the National Archives to preserve the records of psychiatric hospitals as highlighted in a recent television programme (details supplied); if these archives will receive statutory protection; if all archives for each hospital have been investigated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25047/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The allocation of funding for the National Archives is a matter for the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The maintenance and preservation of records held by hospitals is a matter for the Health Service Executive. I have asked the Executive to investigate the issue raised by the Deputy and to reply directly to her.

Under the National Archives Act, 1986 records held by my Department must be preserved, unless their disposal is authorised in writing by the National Archives of Ireland.

Departmental Expenditure

523. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Health the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis.. [25413/11]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The information requested by the Deputy is currently being collated within my Department and will be forwarded to him as soon as it is available.

Road Safety

524. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the steps he will take by ministerial regulation or legislation to address the growing practice of the sale of part worn tyres which may contribute to serious deficiencies in transport standards and may even contribute to road traffic accidents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25038/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): While there is currently no legislation that explicitly bans the sale of second hand or part worn tyres, there is legislation in place governing the condition and standard of tyres. Statutory Instrument No. 5 of 2003 (Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations) sets out the specific requirements with respect to tyre condition and tyre tread depth for vehicles. Specifically, it requires that a vehicle should not be used on a public road if:

- *the main grooves of the tread pattern of the tyre do not have a depth of at least 1.6 millimetres throughout a continuous band around the entire outer circumference of the tyre,*
- *the tyre is not maintained in such condition as to be fit for the use to which the vehicle is being put or has a defect which might in any way cause damage to persons or damage to the surface of the road.*

Furthermore, when undergoing the roadworthiness test all cars, goods vehicles and buses have their tyres inspected for tread depth, condition and the presence of European approval (E or e) marks. I have no proposals, at present, to introduce additional legislation in this regard.

Sports Capital Programme

525. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if the sports capital programme will reopen; if he will provide information on same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24412/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Michael Ring): No decision has yet been made about the timing of further rounds of the Programme.

Rail Network

526. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he has received a business case from Iarnród Éireann in relation to the development of a DART link to Dublin Airport; his views on the project; the estimated cost and forecast patronage of the proposed link; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24504/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): As Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport I have responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. Following the establishment of the National Transport Authority (NTA) on December 2009, the implementation and development of infrastructure projects in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), such as a DART link to Dublin Airport, comes under the remit of the NTA. I have recently received a copy of the preliminary business case that Iarnród Éireann has submitted to the National Transport Authority in relation to the development of the DART link to Dublin airport. In compliance with the Department of Public Expenditure capital appraisal guidelines which require independent review of business plans, this plan is currently being reviewed by the NTA. It would not therefore be appropriate for me to comment on the business plan details until this process is complete.

In relation to Government policy on public transport investment, the comprehensive review of capital expenditure is currently underway. The level of funding available for public transport investment from 2012 to 2016 will be dependent on the outcome of this review which takes place against a background of new funding realities. A major consideration for transport investment over the next five years will be the need to prioritise funding to protect investment made to date and to maintain high safety standards.

In relation to the large public transport projects in the Dublin area, the availability of funding, both from the Exchequer and private sources, will be a key consideration in the capital review as will the contribution to transport objectives, including the potential to add value to existing services, and create employment. The outcome of the review should be available in the next few weeks.

527. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the status of the DART interconnector project; the measures being undertaken in relation to maintaining the DART Interconnector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24505/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): The level of funding available for public transport investment from 2012 to 2016 will be dependent on the outcome of the review of capital expenditure which is being overseen by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. A major consideration for transport investment over the next five years will

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be the need to prioritise funding to protect investment made to date and to maintain high safety standards.

In relation to the large public transport projects in the Dublin area, such as DART Underground, the availability of funding, both from the Exchequer and private sources, will be a key consideration in the capital review as will the contribution to transport objectives, including the potential to add value to existing services, and employment creation potential.

The outcome of the review should be available in the next few weeks. Until the review is completed it would be premature for me to comment further in relation to individual projects.

Road Network

528. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in view of the fact that a consultancy contract was put out to tender by the National Roads Authority to examine the introduction of multi-point tolling on a number of Ireland's road networks, including the M50, his plans to introduce new toll charges; the way charges will be rolled out; the amount motorists will be charged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24539/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): As Minister for Transport, I have responsibility for overall policy and funding in relation to the national roads programme. The planning, design and implementation of individual national road schemes, including the M50, are matters for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007, in conjunction with the local authorities concerned. In particular, the statutory power to levy tolls on national roads, to make toll bye-laws and to enter into toll agreements with private investors in respect of national roads is vested in the NRA under Part V of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Roads Act 2007). I understand that the NRA has advertised for consultants to assist the Authority in relation to the running of existing tolling operations and to provide general advice on tolling options.

To date no decisions have been made in relation to future tolling strategy or the introduction of additional road tolls. Careful consideration will be given to the issues involved before any decisions are made.

Departmental Expenditure

529. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide details of the successful projects funded by the smarter travel project fund in 2010, including the name of applicants, the level of funding provided and a summary of each project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24629/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Alan Kelly): A short description of each of 31 projects that were approved under the Smarter Travel Project Fund early in 2010 is available at www.smartertravel.ie/Smarter-Travel-Project-Fund/Funded-projects. One further project, led by County Sligo Leader Partnership, which explores synergies and seeks opportunities to support the integration of transport services in Counties Sligo and Leitrim between the Rural Transport Programme, the Health Services Executive and the Irish Wheelchair Association, was approved later in the year and the web page is being updated to include this project.

The following payments were made in respect of projects under the Smarter Travel Projects Fund in 2010.

Grantee	Project	Paid 2010 €
Cork City Council	Cork Walks Development	50,000.00

Grantee	Project	Paid 2010 €
Dept of Economics NUI Galway	Galway-Moycullen greenway feasibility	85.11
Dingle Cycling Club	Promotion of cycling	4,792.00
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Cycleability review	32,948.30
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	Staff training	3,750.00
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	The Metals walking and cycling route	202,000.00
Dublin Cycling Campaign	Bikeability map	12,500.00
Dundalk Town Council	Walking and cycling to schools	21,250.01
Eircom	Integrating electric vehicles into their fleet	374,937.36
Fingal County Council	Skerries Balbriggan cycle route	126,389.62
Galway Chamber of Commerce	Cycle parking fund	17,239.13
Galway Chamber of Commerce	Workplace cycle champions	610.00
Galway Cycling Campaign	Cycling in Galway	27,282.28
IHT (AECOM)	Personalised Travel Plan pilot Raheen	35,000.00
Iompair Mhaigh Eo	Mayo, a Smarter Travel County	25,791.76
James Leahy	Now what? Remaking the modern suburb	11,955.72
Kerry Bicycle Festival	2 week festival	9,523.73
Laois Sports Partnership Ltd	Laois Smarter Travel	13,000.00
County Sligo Leader Partnership	Smarter Travel Sligo/Leitrim	112,553.59
Leitrim County Council	Cycleways Carrick-on-Shannon	577,004.12
Longford Local Sports Partnership	Cycle safe post primary training	4,290.00
Meath County Council	Stamullen Cycle lane	9,982.50
Meath Local Sports Partnership	Smarter Travel Meath	16,992.00
Roscommon Community Fora	Access to information and services	8,650.00
Sligo County Council	Modal shift visible approach	38,885.93
Tipperary Energy Agency	Eco-driving in local authority fleets	17,424.00
Tipperary Institute	Pro.motion plus	41,500.00
University College Cork	Campus bike	11,030.45
Westmeath County Council	Active Travel Mullingar	110,792.37

Question No. 530 withdrawn.

531. **Deputy Frank Feighan** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the extent of subventions to Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus and public service obligation to all airports and other entities of any for 2010; and if not, the same for 2009. [24650/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): Exchequer subvention paid in respect of Public Service Obligation services to the CIÉ companies for 2009 and 2010 is as follows:

	2009	2010
Iarnród Éireann	€170.624m	€155.137m
Bus Éireann	€49.365m	€45.039m
Bus Átha Cliath	€83.199m	€75.682m

Subvention in relation to PSO air services to regional airports, as paid to the relevant contracted airline, is set out in the following table. The contract year for the PSO air service during the period in question was from 21 July to 22 July each year.

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Contract Amounts, per contract year

Route	Jul 08 to Jul 09	Jul 09 to Jul 10	Jul 10 to Jul 11
Galway/Dublin	€3,271,344	€3,314,239	€3,430,810
Kerry/Dublin	€1,750,000	€1,750,000	€546,575
Sligo/Donegal/Dublin	€5,378,689	€5,639,552	€5,906,329
Knock/Derry/ Dublin	€3,837,595	€4,336,272	€4,476,736
	€14,237,628	€15,040,063	€14,360,450

The Sligo/Donegal and Knock/Derry routes were operated under a combined contract. The PSO Contract in respect of the Kerry/Dublin route ceased with effect from 13 November 2010.

Road Network

532. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the position regarding the Slane bypass; when the completion date is envisaged; if there has been a reduction in the costing of the project the amount that has been spent on the project to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24759/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): As Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, I have responsibility for overall policy and funding in relation to the national roads programme. The planning, design and implementation of individual road projects is a matter for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007 in conjunction with the local authorities concerned.

Within its capital budget, the assessment and prioritisation of individual roads projects is a matter in the first instance for the NRA in accordance with Section 19 of the Roads Act. Noting the above position, I have referred the Deputy's question to the NRA for direct reply. Please advise my private office if you don't receive a reply within 10 working days.

533. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the position regarding the progress made in relation to the provision of a Galway city outer bypass; if he intends to provide for this bypass in the revised national development plan; if a decision has been made on this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24786/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): As Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, I have responsibility for overall policy and funding in relation to the national roads programme. The planning, design and implementation of individual national road projects, including the N6 Galway City Outer Bypass, are matters for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007 in conjunction with the local authorities concerned.

Within its capital budget, the assessment and prioritisation of individual projects is a matter in the first instance for the NRA in accordance with Section 19 of the Roads Act.

As the Deputy is aware, a comprehensive review of capital spending is now underway, the results of which will form the basis of the new National Development Plan. This process is expected to be completed over the coming weeks.

Rail Network

534. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his views

on withdrawing the rail order for metro west unless he plans to implement the project in order to remove the need for an An Bord Pleanála oral hearing on the subject next month; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24933/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): I am currently considering the appropriate balance to be struck between funding for construction and for planning and design, in the context of the forthcoming National Development Plan, and I will shortly be providing clarity to the various transport agencies in that regard.

Road Network

535. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the cost per vehicle that he is obliged to pay to the private company which operates the M3 Dublin — Navan motorway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24936/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): As Minister for Transport, I have responsibility for overall policy and funding in relation to the national roads programme. The implementation of individual national road projects, including the M3, is a matter for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007.

In particular, the statutory power to levy tolls on national roads, to make toll bye-laws and to enter into toll agreements with private investors in respect of national roads is vested in the NRA under Part V of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Roads Act 2007).

Noting the above position, I have referred the Deputy's question to the NRA for direct reply. Please advise my private office if you don't receive a reply within 10 working days.

536. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport further to Parliamentary Question No. 55 of 6 July 2011, if he will renegotiate the commitments that the previous Government entered into in 2007 in respect of a roads investment package for Northern Ireland to take account of changed economic circumstances here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24939/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): As outlined in my reply to Parliamentary Question No. 55 of 6th July 2011, in the context of the March 2007 agreement between the Irish and British Governments on a funding package to support the restored Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government made a commitment to provide funding for a roads investment package for Northern Ireland to contribute to the upgrading of the A5 road from Aughnacloy to Derry/Londonderry to dual-carriageway status.

As the Taoiseach recently indicated, the Government remains committed to the upgrade of the A5 road in the context of the North West Gateway Initiative designed to develop the economic potential of the North West.

Swimming Pool Projects

537. **Deputy Tony McLoughlin** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if consideration will be given for grant assistance towards the upgrade of the Sligo town base swimming pool. [24947/11]

Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Michael Ring): Following discussions between my Department and the City and County Managers Association

[Deputy Michael Ring.]

Community Social and Economic Committee, Minister Varadkar and I approved an initiative whereby grant aid towards the upgrading of energy and water conservation measures as well as disabled access enhancement, to a maximum total of €400,000, would be provided for Local Authority swimming pools.

This is not a new round of the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme or a general refurbishment scheme for swimming pools.

An expression of interest was received in the Department from Sligo County Council on 1 June 2011 on behalf of Sligo Regional Sports Centre to upgrade the energy, water and enhanced disabled access. On 7 July the Department wrote to all local authorities, including Sligo County Council, to produce a more detailed application for funding by 29 July 2011.

A submission on behalf of Sligo Regional Sports Centre was received in the Department from Sligo County Council. This was assessed for a grant in accordance with the terms and conditions of the initiative, subject to the amount of funding available in the Department's Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme subhead.

Unfortunately the Department did not have sufficient funds available to fund the Sligo Regional Sports Centre pool under this initiative. However if further funding becomes available in the short term the application will be reconsidered.

Appointments to State Boards

538. **Deputy Joe McHugh** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the names of the State boards whose membership are determined by his Department; the date on which each of these memberships is due for renewal or appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [24965/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): The information requested by the Deputy is set out in the table. For the sake of clarity I have included details of *ex officio* and employee directors. I have also indicated when the consent of the Minister for Finance is required for any particular appointment.

Members of Boards under the aegis of the Department of transport as at 20 September 2011

Road Transport

National Roads Authority

Board Member	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. Peter Malone (Chairperson)	10/02/2012	No
Mr Fred Barry	06/03/2015	No
David O'Connor	26/06/2012	No
James Donlon	07/03/2012	No
Colm Lonergan	14/12/2011	No
Eric Fleming	14/12/2011	No
Clifford Kelly	13/07/2012	No
Ms Anne Butler	31/10/2012	No
Professor Margaret O'Mahony	31/10/2012	No
Ms Jacqueline Cross	28/02/2013	No
Robert Rowan	08/07/2013	No

Board Member	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Vacancy	N/A	No

Medical Bureau of Road Safety

Board Member	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Professor Cecily Kelleher (Chairperson)	31/03/2012	No
Dr. Niall McNamara	31/03/2012	No
Professor Denis Cusack	30/06/2012	No
Mr. Philip Joyce	31/03/2012	No
Mr. Declan Hayes	31/03/2012	No

Road Safety Authority

Board Member	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. Gay Byrne (Chairperson)	13/09/2016	No
Mr. Aaron McHale	13/09/2014	No
Ms Aine Cornally	13/09/2014	No
Ms Myra Garrett	13/09/2014	No
Mr Edward Rock	13/09/2016	No
Mr Sean Finan	13/09/2016	No
Dr Aine Carroll	13/09/2016	No
Mr Ronan Melvin	13/09/2016	No
Vacancy	N/A	No
Vacancy	N/A	No
Vacancy	N/A	No

Public Transport

Bus Átha Cliath (BÁC)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Kevin Bonner (Chairman)	Yes	28/06/2014	No
Mary Mooney	Yes	17/05/2012	No
Arnold O'Byrne	Yes	31/05/2012	No
Nuala Maher	Yes	01/06/2012	No
Grainne Ahern (nee Tuke)	Yes	01/06/2012	No
Una McGrath	Yes	14/03/2013	No
Bill McCamley	Worker Director	30/11/2012	No
Willie McDermott	Worker Director	30/11/2012	No
Ms Marian McGennis	Yes	07/03/2014	No

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Bus Éireann (BÉ)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Paul Mallee (Chairman)	Yes	28/06/2014	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
John Griffin	Yes	17/05/2012	No
Susan Donohoe	Yes	14/03/2013	No
Bill McCamley	Worker Director	30/11/2012	No
John Moloney	Worker Director	30/11/2012	No
Tom Hussey	Yes	02/12/2013	No
Mr. Micheál Ó Faoláin	Yes	20/02/2014	No

Iarnród Éireann (IÉ)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Phil Gaffney (Chairman)	Yes	28/06/2014	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Cliff Perry	Yes	17/05/2012	No
Michael Giblin	Yes	17/05/2012	No
Dearbhalla Smyth	Yes	17/05/2012	No
Ms Laetitia Baker	Yes	14/02/2013	No
Mick Cullen	Worker Director	30/11/2012	No
John Moloney	Worker Director	30/11/2012	No
Paul McGarry SC	Yes	07/03/2014	No

National Transport Authority

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. John Fitzgerald (Chairperson)	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Mr. Gerry Murphy (CEO)	(ex officio)	30/11/2014	No
Mr. John Tierney (Dublin City Manager)	(ex officio)	30/11/2014	No
Ms Linda Saunders	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Dr. Berna Grist	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Mr. Frank King	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Mr. Damian Usher	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Ms Valerie O'Reilly	Yes	14/03/2014	No
Ms Margaret O'Shaughnessy	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Mr. Jim Deegan	Yes	30/11/2014	No
Hugh Creegan	(ex officio)	N/A	No
Mr. Daithi Alcorn	Yes	30/11/2014	No

Railway Procurement Agency (RPA)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. Frank Allen (CEO)	No	05/08/2012	No
Mr. Ciaran Mac Samhrain	Yes	26/11/2012	No
Mr. David O'Connor	Yes	26/06/2012	No
Ms Jacqueline Cross	Yes	28/02/2013	No
Mr. Tom Wall (Chairman)	Yes	18/04/2012	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Mr. Pearse O'Hanrahan	Yes	23/11/2013	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No

Railway Safety Advisory Council

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr John Power (Chairperson)	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Ms Audrey Bradley	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Mr. Peter Cuff	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Ms Mary Dorgan	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Ms Kay Doyle	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Dr. Dermot Dwyer	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Ms Phil Lewis Farrell	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Ms Maria Kyte	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Mr. Dermot O'Leary	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Mr. Peter Rigney	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Mr. Paul Scully		11/05/2013	No
Ms Pauline Walsh	Yes	11/05/2013	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No

Advisory Committee to the National Transport Authority

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Pat Byrne (Chairperson)	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Frank Moore	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Peter Rogers	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Christopher Humphrey	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Ciaran Ayward	Yes	31/12/2001	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Michael Kilcoyne	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Donie O'Shea	Yes	31/12/2011	No
John Rice	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Douglas Jordan	Yes	31/12/2011	No

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No
Michael Rowland	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Derek McGovern	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Brian Killeen	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Mr. Al Ryan	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Cornelius McIntyre	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Kathleen Diamond	Yes	31/12/2011	No

Air Transport

Dublin Airport Authority plc

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Vacant (Chairperson)	Yes	N/A	Yes
Declan Collier (CEO)	Yes	03/04/2012	Yes
Sir Michael Hodgkinson	Yes	06/11/2011	Yes
Peter Barrett	Yes	30/11/2011	Yes
Bill Cullen	Yes	06/11/2011	Yes
Marie O'Connor	Yes	06/11/2011	Yes
Gerry Walsh	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Gerard Collins	Yes	06/11/2012	Yes
Brian O'Connell	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Barry Nevin	Worker Director	01/10/2014	Yes
Michael Lenane	Worker Director	01/10/2014	Yes
Mary McCabe	Worker Director	01/10/2014	Yes
Thomas Guilfoyle	Worker Director	01/10/2014	Yes

Shannon Airport Authority plc

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Brian O'Connell (Chairperson)	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Ray Gray	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Olivia Loughnane	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Patrick Blaney	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Mary Fitzgerald	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Vincent Cunnane	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Mark Nolan	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Joe Buckley	Worker Director	31/12/2011	Yes
Audrey Costello	Worker Director	31/12/2011	Yes

Cork Airport Authority plc

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Gerry Walsh (Chairperson)	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Pat Keohane	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Oliver Cussen	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Don Cullinane	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Humphrey Murphy	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Dick Lehane	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Annette McNamara	Yes	31/12/2011	Yes
Tony O'Connell	Worker Director	31/12/2011	Yes
Eric Nolan	Worker Director	31/12/2011	Yes

Irish Aviation Authority

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Eamonn Brennan	Yes	7/09/2015	Yes
Anne Nolan Chairperson	Yes	12/06/2014	Yes
Claire O' Donoghue	Yes	09/01/2012	Yes
Peter G. Ledbetter	Yes	12/11/2012	Yes
Rosheen McGuckian	Yes	22/06/2013	Yes
Pat Dalton	Yes	29/11/2013	Yes
Lorraine Burke	Yes	29/11/2013	Yes
Mr Geoffery O'Byrne-White	Yes	09/12/2014	Yes
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	Yes

Maritime Transport

Marine Casualty Investigation Board

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. John G O'Donnell (Chairperson)	Yes	29/06/2012	No
Mr. Tom Power	Yes	29/06/2012	No
Ms Sinead Brett	Yes	29/06/2012	No
Mr. Jurgen Whyte	Secretary General appointee	31/10/2012	No
Mr. Brian Hogan	Ex-officio	31/10/2012	No

Following the enactment of the Harbours Amendment Act 2009, there is provision for only 8 Board members to the Port Companies

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Port of Cork Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Dermot O'Mahony (Chairperson)	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Alan Coleman MCC	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Dominic J Daly	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
PW Fenton	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Finbarr Buckley	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Paul Millard	Employee (Elected)	04/10/2012	No
David Doolan	Employee (Elected)	04/10/2012	No
Cllr. John Kelleher	Local Authority	24/03/2012	No
Mr Brendan Keating CEO	ex-officio	N/A	No

Drogheda Port Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Dr Nino Binns (Acting Chairperson July 2011)	Yes	19/06/2013	Yes
Ms Gail McEvoy	Yes	01/06/2015	Yes
Michael Coyle	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Willie Lennon	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
David Prior	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	Local Authority	26/03/2012	No
Mr Paul Fleming CEO	ex-officio	N/A	No
Vacant	Yes	N/A	Yes

Dublin Port Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Lucy McCaffrey (Chairperson)	Yes	23/12/2014	Yes
Jerry Kiersey	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Ms Emer Finnan	Yes	21/02/2016	Yes
Mr Pat Magner	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Brian Kerr	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Charles Rochfort	Employee (Elected)	18/09/2012	No
John Moore	Employee (Elected)	18/09/2012	No
Mr. Eamonn O'Reilly CEO	Ex Officio	N/A	No

Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Sean Costello (Chairperson)	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Gerry Nagle	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Cllr. Victor Boyhan	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Eithne Scott Lennon	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Betty Coffey	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Patrick Cowhey	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne	Local Authority	19/04/2012	No
Cllr. Carrie Smyth	Local Authority	19/04/2012	No
Seighin Lennon	Employee (Elected)	03/12/2012	
Don McManus	Yes	28/04/2014	Yes
Mr Gerry Dunne	ex-officio	N/A	No

Shannon Foynes Port Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Kay McGuinness (Chairperson) -	Yes	24/09/2011	Yes
Rita McInerney	Yes	24/09/2011	Yes
Edmund Jennings	Yes	24/09/2011	Yes
Michael Adams	Yes	24/09/2011	Yes
John Carr	Yes	24/09/2011	Yes
Dick Sadlier	Yes	24/09/2011	Yes
Cllr. David Naughton	Local Authority	26/03/2012	No
Cllr. Kieron O'Hanlon	Local Authority	26/03/2012	No
Cllr. Pat Keane	Local Authority	26/03/2012	No
Gerard Reidy	Employee (Elected)	28/08/2012	No
Joe Treacy	Employee (Elected)	28/08/2012	No
Mr Pat Keating CEO	Ex-Officio	N/A	No

Port of Waterford Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Michael Flynn (Chairperson)	Yes	06/04/2014	Yes
Fiona Ormond	Yes	06/04/2014	Yes
Derek Donnolly	Yes	06/04/2014	Yes
Noreen McDonnell	Yes	06/04/2014	Yes
Patrick Murphy	Yes	06/04/2012	Yes
Maurice Lonergan	Yes	06/04/2012	Yes
Mr Pat Heffernan	Employee (Elected)	05/05/2015	No
Mr Stan McIlvenny CEO	ex-officio	N/A	No

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Galway Harbour Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Paul Carey (Chairperson)	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Mairead Cosgrave	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Tom McElwain	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Marie Cleary	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
John McNamara	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Robert Molloy	Yes	03/03/2013	Yes
Cllr. Ollie Crowe	Yes	22/11/2014	Yes
Mr Eamon Bradshaw CEO	ex-officio	N/A	No

New Ross Port Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mark Minihan (Chairperson)	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Cllr. Joan Murphy	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Tom Clarkin	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Martin Murphy	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Yes</i>
Rosie Kehoe	Yes	10/03/2012	Yes
Capt. Luke Foley CEO	ex-officio	N/A	No
Mr Des Moloney	Yes	15/09/2015	Yes

Wicklow Port Company

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Fachtna Whittle (Chairperson)	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Brendan Newsome	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Roy Conway	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Ray Tumulty	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Stephen Kearon	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Ken Lauder	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Charlie Byrne	Yes	12/06/2012	Yes
Kitt Dunne	Employee (Elected)	12/06/2012	No
Capt. John Barlow CEO	ex-officio	N/A	No

Arklow Harbour Commissioners

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr Paddy Mordaunt (Chairperson)	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Ms Irene Sweeney	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Austin Gaffney	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Mr James Roche	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Wicklow CC nominee	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Nicky Kelly	Wicklow CC nominee	06/10/2014	No
CLLR. Peter Dempsey	Arklow Town Council	30/11/2010	No
CLLR. Donal O'Sullivan	Arklow Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr James Tyrrell	Chamber of Commerce	06/10/2014	No
Mr Lorcan O'Toole	Chamber of Commerce	06/10/2014	No
Councillor Tommy Annesley	Yes	06/10/2014	No

Baltimore & Skibbereen Harbour

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr Joe Carroll (Chairperson)	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Vincent O'Driscoll	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Michael Harte	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Dermot Sheehy	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Con Minehane	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Karen Coakley	Skibbereen Town Council	06/10/2014	No
CLLR. Brendan McCarthy	Skibbereen Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Adrian Healy	Cork County Council	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Christopher O'Sullivan	Cork County Council	06/10/2014	No

Bantry Bay Harbour

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr David Shields	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Mr Michael Hennebry (Chairperson)	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Mr Eugene Cronin	Bantry Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr Diarmuid Murphy	Bantry Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Mary Hegarty	Cork County Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr Mario Minehane	Chamber of Commerce	06/10/2014	No
Mr Patrick Murphy	Cork County Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr Aiden McCarthy	Chamber of Commerce	06/10/2014	No
Ms Kathleen Tessyman	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr. Timmy Sullivan	Yes	06/10/2014	No

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr Vivian O'Callaghan	Yes	06/10/2014	No

Kinsale Harbour Commissioners

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr Billy Lynch	Kinsale Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr Tony Cierans	Kinsale Town Council	06/10/2014	No
CLLR. Kevin Murphy	Cork County Council	06/10/2014	No
CLLR. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr Eamonn O'Neill	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Mr Frank Kiernan	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Mr Tony Lane (Chairperson)	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Michael Frawley	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Pat Guilfoyle	Yes	06/10/2014	No

Tralee and Fenit Commissioners

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Ms Norma Foley	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Mike Moriarty	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Mr Denis Doolan	Yes	06/10/2014	No
Brian O'Sullivan (Chairperson)	Tralee Chamber of Commerce	06/10/2014	No
Mr Dermot Crowley	Tralee Chamber of Commerce	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Máiréad Fernane	Tralee Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Dan Galvin	Tralee Town Council	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Jim Finucane	Kerry County Council	06/10/2014	No
Cllr. Pat McCarthy	Kerry County Council	06/10/2014	No
Mr Liam O'Sullivan	Elected	06/10/2014	No
Mr. Vincent Locke	Elected	06/10/2014	No

Tourism

National Tourism Development Authority (Fáilte Ireland)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. Redmond O'Donoghue (Chairperson)	Yes	27/05/2013	No
Ms Susan Bergin	Yes	27/05/2014	No
Ms Gina Murphy	Yes	27/05/2015	No

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Dr. Mary Coveney	Yes	27/05/2014	No
Mr. Oliver Daniels	Yes	27/05/2013	No
Mr Noel Kavanagh	Yes	27/05/2015	No
Mr. Kevin Dundon	Yes	27/05/2014	No
Mr. Frankie Sheahan	Yes	27/05/2015	No
Ms Marguerite Howley	Yes	27/05/2014	No
Mr. Brian Hughes	Yes	27/05/2013	No
Mr. Ciaran O'Gaora	Yes	27/05/2015	No
Ms Catherine Reilly	Yes	27/05/2013	No
Ms Eithne Scott-Lennon	Yes	27/05/2013	No

Sports

Irish Sports Council (ISC)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Mr. Kieran Mulvey (Chairman)	Yes	16/09/2015	No
Mr. Brian Mullins	Yes	14/01/2013	No
Mr. Colm Brennan	Yes	23/04/2013	No
Mr. Daniel Owens (Yes	23/04/2013	No
Ms Susan Ahern	Yes	16/09/2014	No
Ms Frances Kavanagh	Yes	16/09/2014	No
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>16/09/2014</i>	<i>No</i>
Ms Sheila O'Flanagan	Yes	16/09/2014	No
Mr. John Byrne	Yes	16/09/2014	No
Ms Ginny Elliot	Yes	16/09/2014	No
Mr. Jim Glennon	Yes	16/09/2014	No

National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA)

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Dan Flinter (Chairperson)	Yes	31/12/2011	No
John Treacy *	Yes	31/12/2009	No
Pat Hickey *	Yes	31/12/2009	No
Tom Kiernan *	Yes	31/12/2009	No
Sean Benton *	Yes	31/12/2010	No
William Attley *	Yes	31/12/2010	No
Miriam O'Callaghan *	Yes	31/12/2010	No
Arthur O'Brien *	Yes	31/12/2010	No
Christy O'Connell	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Caroline Murphy	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Sean Donnelly	Yes	31/12/2011	No

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

Board Member	Please indicate Ministerial Appointees	Date of Expiry/Renewal	Is Minister for Finance Approval Required?
Bernadette Cronin	Yes	31/12/2011	No
Vacancy	Yes	N/A	No

* The term of office of seven members of the National Sports Campus Development Authority has expired but they continue to hold office under section 9(8) of the National Sports Campus Development Act, 2006 which provides that “*Notwithstanding subsections (5) to (7), an ordinary member of the Authority appointed under subsection (2) shall, unless he or she sooner dies, becomes disqualified for, resigns or is removed from office, hold office until the Minister appoints a person to replace that person as such a member of the Authority*”.

Road Safety

539. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of fatalities that have been recorded as a result of accidents in the vicinity of Beauliew Cross, Drogheda, County Louth, in each of the past five years. [24993/11]

540. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of serious road accidents in County Louth in the past year. [24994/11]

541. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the available statistics on fatal accidents in County Louth, including the location of fatal accidents. [24995/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): I propose to take Questions Nos. 539 to 541, inclusive, together.

Collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics in relation to road traffic collisions is a matter for the Road Safety Authority (RSA). I have requested the RSA to respond to the specific aspect of the Deputy’s questions. If you have not received a response within ten days, please contact my office.

Departmental Expenditure

542. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the amount of money spent producing Government reports in both Irish and English on a yearly basis. [25418/11]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): To date in 2011, my Department has spent approximately €5,259 on Irish translation fees.