



DÍOSPÓIREACHTAÍ PARLAIMINTE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

DÁIL ÉIREANN

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

*Dé Máirt, 17 Iúil 2012.*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Ceisteanna — Questions  |     |
| Minister for Social Protection  |     |
| Priority Questions ... ..   | 1   |
| Other Questions ... ..  | 13  |
| Topical Issue Matters ... ..  | 19  |
| Leaders' Questions ... ..   | 20  |
| Ceisteanna — Questions ( <i>resumed</i> )   |     |
| An Taoiseach ... ..   | 27  |
| Order of Business ... ..  | 47  |
| Gaeltacht Bill 2012: Second Stage ( <i>resumed</i> ) ... ..   | 54  |
| Topical Issue Matters ... ..  | 56  |
| Topical Issue Debate  |     |
| Departmental Bodies ... ..  | 57  |
| Job Creation ... ..   | 60  |
| Suicide Incidence ... ..  | 63  |
| Services for People with Disabilities ... ..  | 65  |
| Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012:  |     |
| Order for Report Stage ... ..   | 68  |
| Report Stage ... ..   | 68  |
| Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill 2012: Second Stage [ <i>Private Members</i> ] ... ..                     | 80  |
| Messages from Seanad ... ..   | 97  |
| Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012: Report Stage ( <i>resumed</i> ) and Final Stage ... .. | 97  |
| Questions: Written Answers ... ..   | 111 |

# DÁIL ÉIREANN

---

## DÍOSPÓIREACHTAÍ PARLAIMINTE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

---

### TUAIRISC OIFIGIÚIL OFFICIAL REPORT

---

---

IMLEABHAR 773

VOLUME 773

---

---

*Dé Máirt, 17 Iúil 2012.*  
*Tuesday, 17 July 2012.*

---

Chuaigh an Leas-Cheann Comhairle i gceannas ar 2.00 p.m.

---

*Paidir.*

*Prayer.*

---

#### **Ceisteanna — Questions**

##### **Priority Questions**

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** As Deputy Cowen is not present and Deputy Ó Snodaigh is arriving in the Chamber I ask the Minister to respond to Question No. 16 in the name of Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh, after which we will return to Question No. 15.

##### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

16. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of additional persons to whom the new lower rent supplement ceiling was applied in the past month; the number who have been forced to move as a consequence of the new ceiling to date in 2012; her views on whether it may be too late for parents who are forced to leave their locality to enrol their children in new schools; and if she will seek to make savings on rent supplement by negotiating directly with landlord representatives instead of placing exclusive responsibility for achieving her Departments savings on individual vulnerable tenants.  
[35043/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Government has provided €436 million for rent supplement in 2012. Total expenditure on the scheme over the past five years from 2007 to 2011 was €2.36 billion. At present, approximately 92,000 persons are in receipt of

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

rent supplement, of whom approximately 37,000 are single persons. The remaining 55,000 clients are couples, couples with children and single-parent households.

New maximum rent payments reduced from 1 January 2012 based on a review of the most up-to-date market data available. The emphasis of the rent review was to ensure value for money for tenants and taxpayers while ensuring people on rent supplement are not priced out of the market for private rented accommodation. The revised limits are applicable to new rent supplement tenancies from January 2012 and existing tenancies on review. Approximately 25,000 rent supplement claims have been awarded in 2012, of which 3,700 were awarded within the last month, indicating that accommodation can be secured within the new limits.

When rents are in excess of the limit, clients are being asked to contact the landlord and renegotiate the rent. Where landlords do not agree to reduce the rent within the limits, staff will discuss the options open to the tenant, including seeking alternative accommodation. Statistics on the numbers who have secured alternative accommodation are not available. Officials administering the scheme advise that customers are securing alternative accommodation within their locality. Any customers who have specific issues with regard to relocating should discuss these issues with departmental officials, who continue to provide support and advice to customers in addressing their accommodation and other needs. There will be no incidence of homelessness due to these changes.

*Additional information not given on floor of the House.*

Rent supplement is specifically for the benefit of the tenants to assist them with their accommodation needs. The Department does not intend negotiating directly with landlords to reduce rents on behalf of a tenant.

I have recently introduced powers of inquiry for appropriate staff to request formally and oblige landlords to provide information in respect of their rent supplement tenants, principally to verify the agreed rent and existence of the tenancy. This measure will improve both the governance and oversight arrangements in place and complement existing compliance arrangements which the Department has in place with the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** The last sentence spoken by the Minister is completely and utterly wrong as there will be homelessness due to this measure. Those people who cannot find accommodation in the areas affected, where the rent supplement rates have been substantially reduced, are being displaced from areas in which they and their families have laid down their roots. They will be homeless. While they may not be captured by the homeless agency, they will be homeless by virtue of the Minister's steps.

The Minister is a bulk purchaser of a service. Does she not agree that the Department, through local authorities, already negotiates directly with landlords? Why does she refuse point blank in this instance to negotiate the reductions in rent with the landlords rather than through tenants who already are vulnerable? The Department and not the tenant negotiates in the case of the rental accommodation scheme.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The Deputy and I have discussed this issue previously. Rent supplement is intended as a short-term renting scheme for people who have lost their jobs and who expect to find new employment within a short period. Over the past decade, the numbers relying on this scheme have grown enormously. The purpose of the scheme is to provide a rent supplement to persons who require that supplement because they are not in employment. I have said previously that it is our intention to reform the scheme in a way that will provide for its transfer to the local authorities. I agree with the Deputy in his reference to local authorities in regard to the rental accommodation scheme. They have housing departments which are

experts on the provision and acquisition of housing. The community welfare service staff in my Department are not experts on housing, rather they are experts in giving monetary assistance on a monetary basis to persons in need of assistance and they do this with great consideration and care. As I indicated to the Deputy, more than 25,000 rent supplement claims have been awarded to date in 2012. One must bear in mind that the total number we anticipate this year is 92,000. To date, we have had more than 25,000 people negotiating claims, of which 3,700 relate to this month. That indicates that people are negotiating.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** We know people are negotiating and they are doing so from a position in which they are in severe distress. They have no choice because the Minister will not meet her responsibility in that regard. She mentioned the rental accommodation scheme. Why are the numbers under that scheme reducing? According to the Revised Estimates for public services in 2012, the numbers under the scheme have shrunk from 6,800 to 6,300 and the Minister has outlined her big solution. We have argued about the issue previously and the Minister referred to the local authorities. Why does she not give them some of the 230,000 vacant housing units across the State? There are only 100,000 families on local authority housing lists. They are the ones in need of accommodation and many of them are in receipt of rent supplement. I have never supported the notion of the State subsidising private landlords. I have always argued that it should provide social housing. Why is the Minister not delivering the NAMA houses and the empty units around the country to the local authorities, rather than continuing to subsidise private landlords?

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The issue concerning the NAMA houses, an important potential resource, is under negotiation between my colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, and NAMA. The Department of Social Protection commands approximately 40% of the private rental market. There has been a fall at historic levels in the value of housing and property assets and the Deputy is seriously suggesting those who rent privately — they account for 60% of the private rental market — should have their rent driven up by the Department in order to benefit private landlords.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** Nobody is suggesting that.

**Deputy Jonathan O'Brien:** That is just——

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Order, please.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The private landlords need to give value for money on their tenancies. I have advised Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh that in the past five years the country has spent €2.36 billion on rent supplement. That is a great deal of money in anybody's language. I share any concern the Deputy may have about any individual in distress, but the officials in the Department, community welfare officers, have been extremely careful to be diligent towards those who are renting and who may have special requirements.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** That is just not true.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Please allow the Minister to speak.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** It is the exact opposite.

**Deputy Jonathan O'Brien:** The Minister is living in a bubble.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Order, please.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** We are in an exceptionally difficult financial position and Sinn Féin is suggesting the Department should push up private rents.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** No, we are not suggesting that.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Will the Deputy, please, resume his seat?

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I have suggested money should be spent on social housing and given to local authorities.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Deputy Ó Snodaigh, please resume your seat.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I have never suggested that private landlords or their like should get any extra funding.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Deputy Ó Snodaigh, please resume your seat.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** The Minister is misrepresenting me, absolutely.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** The time for this question is up. We must move on to Question No. 15.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Deputy Ó Snodaigh has just made allegations——

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I have not made any allegations.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** ——about staff in the Department of Social Protection.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I did not make any allegation against any member of the Department's staff. Stop misrepresenting what I say.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Deputy Ó Snodaigh has not accepted that the staff in the Department of Social Protection are working very hard.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I did not say anything about the staff. I said the Minister's Department was not doing its job, which is to negotiate with landlords. I did not make any insinuation about the community welfare officers.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The staff are the Department.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** We are moving to Question No. 15 in the name of Deputy Cowen.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The staff are the Department. I am glad Deputy Ó Snodaigh has withdrawn his comment about them.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Order, please.

**Deputy Jonathan O'Brien:** He has nothing to withdraw because he never made an allegation in the first place.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I have not withdrawn anything because I never made such a comment in the first place. I cannot withdraw an allegation I did not make.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Deputy Ó Snodaigh, please. We are moving to Question No. 15.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** The Minister should stop misrepresenting me. Every single time on Priority Questions she misrepresents me. Maybe she needs to get her ears cleaned.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** We are moving on to Question No. 15 in the name of Deputy Cowen.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Deputy Ó Snodaigh never objected before, so obviously he has been holding a lot of it back.

**Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh:** I did but the Minister does not listen.

### Sick Pay Scheme

15. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline her plans to introduce statutory sick pay on employers for the first four weeks of illness; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35041/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** From 2008 to 2011, inclusive, total expenditure on illness benefit, invalidity pension and disability allowance was €10.6 billion, of which €3.6 billion related to illness benefit. It is estimated that expenditure on illness benefit in 2012 will be €847 million. The introduction of a scheme of statutory sick pay, whereby employers would directly meet the costs of illness-related absence for an initial period of illness, is being considered in the context of the need to reform the social welfare system to bring it into line with practices in other countries in this area, the need to address the deficit in the social insurance fund and the need to limit progression from short-term illness to long-term illness or disability, as well as in the wider context of enhancing the health of the workforce and addressing absenteeism levels.

Most other European countries, including all of our major competitors, oblige employers to pay for some sick pay costs. The extent of this obligation varies considerably. For example, it is two years in the Netherlands, 28 weeks in Northern Ireland and the UK, six weeks in Germany and nine days in Finland. I will circulate a table with the Official Report which illustrates in a concise format the statutory sick pay arrangements in a range of other countries.

A range of complex issues needs to be addressed before any decision can be taken by the Government on the possible introduction of such a scheme. These include the extent of coverage, the duration of payment, the rate of payment, compensation mechanisms for smaller scale employers and how to ensure such a scheme would be enforced and policed.

Earlier this year, I hosted a consultative forum on the feasibility and implications of introducing a scheme of statutory sick pay. This afforded an opportunity to key stakeholders to discuss the complex issues involved. All of these issues will be discussed in the course of the wider process associated with the preparation of the 2013 budget.

*Additional information not given on the floor of the House.*

Any decision which might be taken by the Government on the possible introduction of a scheme of statutory sick pay will be considered in that context. One of my priorities in this regard is to promote wellness in the workplace and to address levels of absenteeism generally.

Table: Statutory sick pay in a range of countries

| Country   | Statutory Sick Pay | Details   |
|-----------|--------------------|---|
| Australia | Yes                | 10 days per annum                               |
| Austria   | Yes                | 6-12 weeks on full pay plus 4 weeks at half pay |
| Belgium   | Yes                | 4 weeks full pay                                |

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

| Country        | Statutory Sick Pay | Details   |
|----------------|--------------------|---|
| Czech Republic | Yes                | 2 weeks @ 60% of average pay  |
| Denmark        | Yes                | Top-up of illness benefit to normal pay   |
| Finland        | Yes                | 9 days  |
| France         | Yes                | Top-up of illness benefit to normal pay   |
| Germany        | Yes                | 6 weeks on normal pay   |
| Hungary        | Yes                | 15 days at 80% of salary  |
| Iceland        | Yes                | 1 month at normal salary  |
| Italy          | Yes                | 180 days (6 months) per year  |
| Luxembourg     | Yes                | 13 weeks  |
| Netherlands    | Yes                | 2 years at a minimum of 70% of salary plus 1 year funding of disability benefit |
| New Zealand    | Yes                | 5 days for each year of service   |
| Norway         | Yes                | 16 days at full pay   |
| Poland         | Yes                | 33 days at 80% of pay based on previous 12 months                               |
| Spain          | Yes                | 15 days (1st 4 unpaid)  |
| Sweden         | Yes                | 14 days at 80% of pay   |
| Switzerland    | Yes                | 3 weeks at full pay, then 80% for up to 2 years                                 |
| UK             | Yes                | 28 weeks at sickness benefit rate   |

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** The Minister said there needs to be more consultation in Government on this proposal. Is she aware, however, that some Government backbenchers and one Cabinet member have stated they do not agree with her proposal? Last week, the Deputy behind the Minister, Deputy Harris, said that the sick leave situation in Departments was three times more serious than in the private sector. He suggested this should be dealt with before we examine sick leave arrangements in the private sector. Is the Minister aware that small businesses and the self-employed are still awaiting legislation on upward-only rent reviews and proposals for new methods by which rates are calculated, let alone paid? Is she aware that many of those whom she implies should be brought into this sick pay arrangement — taxation by the back door — cannot afford an arrangement which could possibly amount to €89 million in new taxation?

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Thank you, Deputy.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Earlier this month, the Minister said she was considering raising employer PRSI in the budget, a move which would further undermine confidence in the private sector and small and medium-sized enterprises.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I have stated on a number of occasions that in the context of the consultative forum held a short time ago, a statutory sick pay scheme would have to take into account the needs of different sectors of employment, particularly those small businesses, and other specific situations. The costs relating to illness benefit, disability allowance and invalidity pension are enormous. The number of people claiming these payments and the costs relating to them have soared in recent years. I wish to put a point to Deputy Cowen. All of our principal competitors have statutory sick pay systems and they have found — this is evident from published information and from conversations I have had with people from other countries — that it improves matters and provides for a much better atmosphere in places of work. In other words, these systems lead to employers being interested in both the health and welfare of their employees and in promoting a wellness environment in the workplace. The most up-to-date

international research, including that compiled by the OECD over a protracted period, indicates that this is good for everybody. It is a win-win situation for employers and employees. It is particularly positive for employees who may develop problems and who, together with their employers, can actually access assistance in order to provide for their good health.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** I welcome that there has been some movement on this issue. That is evident from the Minister's initial reply and her comment to the effect that proposals in this regard will be categorised. In other words, the scheme will be based on an ability to pay and the needs of different categories of businesses to which it apply will have to be taken into consideration. She also indicated there would be a saving of €89 million if employers paid the first four weeks of sick pay.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Absolutely.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** When the Minister first mentioned this matter last year, she stated the saving would be €150 million.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** That is in a full year. It would be introduced halfway through the year.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** At this stage of the Minister's quest to bring this scheme forward, is it the case that, in light of the dissent that is obvious within the ranks of Government backbenchers and among some of her Cabinet colleagues, the saving involved has been watered down by half? What is being proposed does not go far enough. It is not enough to state that everything will be categorised. How is it proposed to categorise the scheme? Will a table be produced — well in advance of any decisions the Minister might make — which will give an indication of who exactly is going to be lumped with paying this?

I return to my initial point that this is merely taxation by the back door. What provision will be made in respect of PRSI contributions, over and above those statutorily required, for self-employed people whose businesses might fail and who may need to claim benefits from the Department?

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The savings indicated have been exactly the same on every occasion on which I have commented on this matter. As stated earlier, introducing a statutory sick pay scheme involves a series of very detailed steps and an in-depth examination must be carried out. Both the dialogue and the consultation process which have taken place indicate that all sick pay schemes generally take into account the needs of smaller firms. There is no doubt, and the OECD frequently reports this fact, that Ireland is probably the only country which does not have a statutory sick pay scheme.

I reiterate what I stated previously, namely, that except where companies, Departments or whatever have sick pay schemes in place, most employees, regardless of whether they work for small or large employers, pay for the first three days of their illness. There is no proposal to change that. The first three days of sick leave are not paid for by the employer, they are paid for by the individual. Following this initial period, an employee is obliged to obtain a medical certificate from his or her doctor to claim illness benefit. One of the issues some employers raised during the consultation — individuals dealing with occupational health issues were among the most prominent speakers — was the perception among employers, which I share, that there were serious issues about the way in which some medical practitioners issued sick notes. This emerged as a significant issue for employers during the consultation process. Having examined what employer groups such as Retail Ireland have stated about this issue, it is an important point. At the end of the day we want to have good sick pay schemes for persons who are ill, while reducing the overall level of absenteeism. I acknowledge that absenteeism is

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

a significant problem in large parts of the public sector, although generally not among all employees but often among less than 25% where a pattern has been formed. This information gathering is part of the process of looking at this important issue.

### **Budget 2013**

17. **Deputy John Halligan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if he will give a firm commitment that there will be no cuts to basic social welfare rates in budget 2013; if she will give a further commitment that there will be no cuts by stealth, through changing eligibility rules and cutting secondary benefits; if she is seeking views specifically from such groups as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and MABS on the potential effect of cuts to the social welfare rate; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35326/12]

19. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans to do an equality and poverty audit of the effects of the upcoming budget within social protection; if these will be done in advance of the budget announcement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35439/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 17 and 19 together.

The Government is committed to tackling Ireland's economic crisis in a way that is fair, balanced and recognises the need for social solidarity. The appropriate level of overall expenditure by the Department of Social Protection will be considered in the context of budget 2013 and subsequent budgets. This consideration will be informed by the commitment in the programme for Government to maintain social welfare rates.

Sustainable public finances are a prerequisite for future economic stability and growth, as well as being a prerequisite for maintaining and developing the social protection system. The Government's priority is to secure economic recovery, promote growth and employment, and enhance our international reputation. As Deputies will know, we are required to return to the 3% general Government deficit over a period of time, as set out in the Stability and Growth Pact. The State must pursue a determined deficit reduction strategy. Accordingly, there will be an ongoing requirement to curtail expenditure in 2013 and later years.

There are a lot of challenges ahead and we want to protect, as far as possible, the key income supports and services operated by my Department. These services and supports impact in some way on the lives of almost every single person in the State. They are important to older people, children and those who have lost their employment following what was done to the banks by the previous Government. The scope and scale of this expenditure play a key role in the wider economy. Social welfare income support is widely recognised as being one of the most important forms of stimulus in European economies.

There is no question of introducing changes by stealth. If the Government decides to change eligibility rules or make other changes to achieve savings, any such measure will be announced in the budget and debated in this House.

As regards the preparations for budget 2013, I will be holding a pre-budget forum in the autumn to which I will invite a wide range of organisations, including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I will listen carefully to their submissions on the next budget. In addition, I will take into account the views of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service which operates under the aegis of the Citizen's Information Board, an agency of my Department. As part of the deliberative process for the next budget, the Department will analyse, in so far as possible, the distribu-

tive and poverty impact of possible welfare changes. These impacts will be taken into account in arriving at final decisions on the budget.

The Government's priority is to get the economy moving, restore confidence, fix the banking system and support the protection and creation of jobs. The success of our economic plans will lay the foundations for the rest of our agenda for change.

**Deputy John Halligan:** The report released by Social Justice Ireland confirms what many Deputies are aware of, particularly those who represent constituencies with high unemployment levels. The gap between Ireland's rich and poor is spiralling out of control. The disposable income of Ireland's poorest households fell by 18% in a single year. By comparison, the income of the richest in Ireland rose by 4%.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Will the Deputy, please, frame a question?

**Deputy John Halligan:** It is estimated that 10% of the population receive almost 14 times more in disposable income than the poorest who are experiencing the worst income distribution for over 30 years. Some 200,000 children live in poverty. My question is straightforward. Based on the comments of organisation such as Social Justice Ireland and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a huge number of the people suffering from poverty are unemployed and in receipt of social welfare. It is inconceivable to consider reducing social welfare rate based on much of what the Minister said when she was in opposition and what fine organisations such as Social Justice Ireland and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have stated. As we are in the final week of the Dáil session and before the Cabinet decides on the budget, I ask the Minister to relieve people's misery, because of the speculation and comment in some of the right-wing press that social welfare rates should be cut, by telling the 450,000 who rely on an income on which they can barely survive that their payments will not be touched or cut in the next budget.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I cannot make any commitment about what will or will not be included in the budget. That is a matter to be decided by the Government. The announcement of the budget will be made in this House. I acknowledge and share the Deputies' concerns that during this very difficult period for the economy we should protect those who are most vulnerable, particularly the elderly and people who have retired. However, for people of working age, the best way to get back to financial independence is for the Government to assist them to get a job. Most of those who, unfortunately, are languishing on the live register would love to have an opportunity to return to work. That must be the focus of policy. For that reason, I am reforming the system in the Department of Social Protection to provide for a process that will not be passive, whereby we leave people alone when they receive social welfare payments, rather we should give them options. It is difficult to get a job, but many could return to school, training or education and take opportunities provided by internships. We must expand the range of options available, as well as providing, when we roll out the new Pathways to Work programme, a more dedicated one-on-one service for persons who are unemployed.

**Deputy Joan Collins:** When I heard the Minister's reply to Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh's Question No. 16, I thought she was not living in the real world. Her most reply indicates that she is definitely not living in the real world. The income of Ireland's poorest households fell by 18%, while the rich got richer. Is the Minister going to stand over this as a Labour Party Minister? She asked people last year to elect her to protect them from this horrible gap between rich and poor. Some 700,000 are living in poverty, of whom 200,000 are children. The Minister has cut back on the lone parent allowance and the household package for the elderly. She is leaving people more vulnerable. I want to see a more aggressive approach being adopted by the Department to auditing how changes will have an impact on people. There are international

[Deputy Joan Collins.]

models for such an approach, including in Australia and Canada. The Scottish Parliament, to give another example, conducts gender-based and poverty-based audits. Will the Minister give a commitment to undertake such audits in respect of all proposed measures in advance of the budget?

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The important study published yesterday by Social Justice Ireland includes figures relating to the Fianna Fáil budgets in the 2009 to 2010 period.

**Deputy John Halligan:** The figures are worse now.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Deputy Joan Collins referred to the platform on which the Labour Party contested the last election. That platform included a commitment to protect basic social welfare rates, which I am pleased to say was done in the budget for this year. In addition, we ensured some 330,000 people on very low pay were taken out of the universal social charge net, which had an important impact for those affected. One of my first actions as Minister was to reinstate the minimum wage. We are in a period of unprecedented crisis in terms of the national finances, as a consequence of the collapse of the banking system. Our objective in the budget was to oversee with fairness and compassion and in a targeted way the distribution of the €20 billion plus we are spending on social protection. Deputy Collins might think that sum is not enough. The overriding objective in all of this is to get people back to work. That is why I reinstated the original level of the minimum wage, which the Deputy supported.

In regard to pensioners, our system of payments and supports for older people means that pensioners in this country are among the least at risk of poverty in the European Union. In fairness to it, Social Justice Ireland has fully acknowledge that in its reports.

**Deputy John Halligan:** I remind the Minister that the Irish Association of Suicidology has indicated, based on international research, that for every one percentage point increase in unemployment, there is a 0.78% increase in the rate of suicide. Let us be clear that as the economic situation worsens, human lives are at stake. I urge the Minister to bear in mind the arguments put forward by those organisations working at the coalface to combat poverty in this country, as she was wont to do when in opposition. She has indicated that she will meet representatives of Social Justice Ireland, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the money advice and budgeting service, among others. Deputies, including those in the Minister's party, in constituencies with high unemployment, such as Waterford city in my constituency, are aware of how difficult things are for people. There is no point in asking the Minister to increase social welfare rates, as should be done, because I know she will not do it. I ask, however, that she at least not reduce them.

**Deputy Joan Collins:** The Minister is correct that the period referenced in the Social Justice Ireland report is 2009 to 2010. She chose, however, to ignore that organisation's observation that current Government policy is making the situation worse. The Minister cannot hide behind Fianna Fáil forever. That party ruined this country, but it is the Minister's job now to protect those who require protection. She has it in her gift to restore people's confidence in the Government. People need protection, not compassion. Will she put in place audits in regard to gender, poverty, impact on children and so on in advance of the cutbacks of more than €3.9 billion that will be introduced in the next budget? It is worth bearing in mind that in 1945, under Churchill, the British establishment created the National Health Service at a time when that country's debt to GDP ratio was 240%.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** To be picky about history, it was Aneurin Bevan and the British Labour Party which created the National Health Service.

**Deputy Joan Collins:** My point is that it was established in the post-war period when Britain had huge debts.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I am sure Deputy John Halligan from Waterford is aware of the work of Mr. Bevan from across the water in Wales. Credit should be given where it is due, to the British Labour Party and to Mr. Bevan.

To respond to Deputy Halligan's comments, unemployment is the most important issue we face. Since becoming Minister, I have reinstated the minimum wage because it is vital that people avail of employment opportunities that become available. Last year, 140,000 people left the live register to take up work. Unemployment is also the reason I am reforming my Department and adopting a new approach that is much more active and provides for training needs.

Years ago, I used to work in Waterford for months at a time. I know how devastating the unemployment crisis has been in that city, with the loss of TalkTalk, the Waterford Crystal factory and other firms. We must focus our efforts on employment. For this reason, I established the national internship scheme, which has so far attracted 8,500 participants, of whom 5,000 are currently taking part in the scheme. A further 4,500 people are taking part in the Tús scheme. These schemes are alternatives for people in a tight and difficult jobs market. I am working with my colleague, the Minister for Education and Skills, Deputy Ruairí Quinn, to address our inability to fill certain high-level jobs. We need to redouble our efforts in the area of training to ensure local people on the live register have opportunities to fill vacancies in sectors such as high-level information technology, medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

### **Community Employment Schemes**

18. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection the progress that has been made on the findings of the reviews she commissioned in relation to community employment schemes; the schemes that have been earmarked for closure, cuts in materials and training grants; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35042/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Total expenditure on the community employment programme in 2012 will be approximately €340 million. The number of places available on the community employment programme has remained constant at 23,300, including supervisors. The financial review of the schemes has been completed, and the Department has contacted schemes to advise them of their revised materials and training allocations. The materials and training budget for community employment schemes has been increased by €9.5 million from the original budget of approximately €11 million following transfers from savings identified elsewhere in the departmental budget. The new materials and training budget is thus €20.5 million.

Under the revised arrangements, schemes will no longer be given universal amounts of financial support but will instead be provided with specific levels of support aimed at meeting the particular costs of community employment schemes, having regard to the overall level of funding available for community employment nationally. To date, significant savings have already been made to the overheads of community employment projects in annual insurance costs and audit fees.

I am not aware of any proposals to close community employment schemes following the outcome of the financial review. I urge all schemes, supervisors and boards of management to work closely with officials of my Department to ensure community employment continues to play an important role in the provision of local community services, work experience and

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

training opportunities. I thank the many sponsors, staff and participants in community employment schemes who co-operated with the Department's review in a positive manner.

On the training allocation for schemes, community employment participants may also access a number of Springboard, VEC and FÁS courses free of charge. I am working on this issue with the Department of Education and Skills to ensure courses are made available to participants in community employment schemes which assist them in securing employment in the future.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** As the Minister stated, in recent weeks community employment providers received notification that the review of community employment schemes was complete. They were also notified of the details of their revised grants for the year. The Minister also noted a slight increase of €9 million in materials and training grants from the originally budgeted figure of €11 million. The allocations made to many community employment schemes have been cut by between 30% and 40%. That will tip many of them over the edge in their efforts to continue in existence. Given that it had been going on since the budgetary process in January, when was the review completed and placed on the Minister's desk? When will she publish the plan for us to review? In direct communications and also at the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection, Deputy Ó Snodaigh and I have asked her to publish the plan.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** It was a very substantial piece of work because, as the Deputy knows, the FÁS employment officers and responsibility for the community employment, CE, schemes transferred to my Department on 1 January. The review was a major undertaking and I received the report in recent weeks. I do not have the exact date, which I can get for the Deputy, but it was towards the end of June. As soon as I received it we contacted those involved with the schemes. However, I was very impressed by the level of contact between the social protection officials, who are now managing CE, and the schemes. I had the opportunity, which I greatly valued, to visit and meet a number of sponsors of schemes and those involved. As there are almost 1,000 schemes, obviously I could not visit them all, but I visited very many of them and had very detailed discussions about how people envisage the schemes being used for the improvement and enhancement of their communities as well as providing quality experience to the participants.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** From my discussions with those involved in CE schemes in my constituencies and beyond, I have discovered extensive variations in the size of cuts. In some cases those cuts will lead to possible closures of the schemes. The Minister is very precise in saying the budgetary allocation towards that materials and training grant has increased from €9 million to €11 million in this year's budget spend. Obviously it compares unfavourably with the allocations for last year and previous years. Can the Minister say to me definitively — as definitively as she mentioned the increase in her initial allocation from €9 million to €11 million — the revised average cut taken by CE schemes? It has been a long and drawn out process. We all recognise and pay tribute to those involved in the schemes and the good work they do in their communities. We acknowledge that and it goes without saying. The process has taken a long time and been very labour intensive with intense negotiations and deliberations by the departmental officials in arriving at their conclusions. Based on that process, surely the Minister can indicate the percentage cut to these CE schemes.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Schemes have been allocated funding of between €500 and €1,000. Approximately 6% of schemes have been allocated less than that because the process depended on two things: the submission and application the schemes themselves made and the availability

of funding for both materials and training of up to €1,000. Some schemes would have other forms of funding whereas other schemes might have almost no other sources of funding. We have moved away from the old system whereby everybody got exactly the same amount towards a customised approach——

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** They have to wait until July each year.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** ——to the actual work the scheme is doing. We have looked very closely at the work the scheme is doing in the community as well as the provision of the training experience to the community employment scheme participants.

### Other Questions

---

#### Illness Benefit

20. **Deputy Tom Barry** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide the annual cost of illness benefit in the public sector and in the private sector, respectively. [34336/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** Illness benefit is a non-means-tested social insurance payment. It is payable to people who are unable to work owing to illness, satisfy the relevant contribution conditions, are certified as unfit for work by a medical practitioner and aged under 66 years. It is not payable for the first three days of an illness. That cost is borne by the employee, except where there is a work scheme. The benefit is payable for a maximum of two years or 104 weeks in respect of new claims made from January 2009. During the period 2008 to 2011, inclusive, total expenditure on illness benefit was €3.6 billion and an estimated €846.5 million has been provided for in 2012.

A total of 150,154 illness benefit claims were processed in the first six months of 2012. To process such a large volume of claims expeditiously the Department prioritises the capture and maintenance of critical customer and claim records such as customer biographical data, information on pay-related social insurance, PRSI, contributions made, information on dependants, payment method and certified incapacity data. The Department does not, however, maintain data on the sector of economy of illness benefit claims. As a result, it is not possible to distinguish between claimants working in different sectors of the economy, including the public sector. However, my Department is undertaking research to arrive at an estimate of illness benefit costs in the public and private sectors, respectively.

Deputies will appreciate that a given claim is supported by a certified medical practitioner. It is based on a person's personal public service, PPS, number and the system is geared to capture the contribution record of an individual to determine whether he or she qualifies for illness benefit and then to pay him or her.

#### National Employment and Entitlements Service

21. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Social Protection the progress she has made in the implementation of the pathways to work plan; if private contractors will be employed by her Department in its implementation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34973/12]

34. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the date on which the new national employment and entitlements service will be fully rolled out; the key functions of the new agency;; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34334/12]

43. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the roll-out of National Employment and Entitlements Service and pathways to work in the context of increasingly stretched Departmental resources. [34951/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 21, 34 and 43 together.

The Department is establishing the new national employment and entitlements service, NEES, which is central to the realisation of the Government's Pathways to Work policy. As set out in the NEES project plan, published on the Department's website, the development of the NEES is a multi-annual programme to the end of 2014.

The first step in establishing the NEES was integrating staff from FÁS, the community welfare services and the Department of Social Protection. The integration which involved the transfer of almost 2,000 staff was completed on schedule in January this year. The new body will facilitate the delivery of a one-stop-shop service to clients and greatly simplify the process. Previously clients had to apply to three organisations for welfare and employment services. The delivery of a one-stop-shop service is being piloted in four of the Department's offices and will be extended to a further ten offices by the end of the year. Under these pilot schemes clients can receive a single decision on their welfare entitlements. They are assessed to determine their employment services requirements and, following assessment, attend a group interview with subsequent one-to-one interviews. Clients who do not engage with the process are placed on a penalty rate of payment.

The delivery of such a personalised case management service is a resource-intensive process and as the service is rolled out, the Department intends to deploy more staff to this activity. The staff will be redeployed from other functions in the Department and the wider public service. The Department also intends to evaluate the potential to increase the role of the voluntary and not-for-profit sector, in particular the Local Employment Service Network, LESN. Moreover, because of the need to address the unemployment crisis and develop flexibility, the Department is examining the potential of contracting with private sector providers as a means of supplementing its own resources in some case management and activation services. In this regard, the Department is exploring several international models of private sector provision, including the not-for-profit and voluntary sectors, as well as for-profit organisations. Any arrangements in this regard will be made within the framework of the Croke Park agreement.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** How much money is to be spent on staff training and redeployment? The Minister suggests the private sector will fill some of the gaps in expertise. Has this been costed and, if so, how much money is to be provided? Does the Minister stand by her initial projection at this late stage of the year that 75,000 long-term unemployed persons will be in employment by 2015?

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The targets set out in Pathways to Work are to be achieved in the period up to 2014. This is a major change. The first part of the year was spent taking in the new staff and integrating the three strands of staff, that is, the original Department of Social Protection staff; the former FÁS staff who, on 1 January, became civil servants and the former community welfare service staff who, on 1 October, became civil servants. We have been working on the integration and rolling out the project in four offices on a pilot basis in Sligo, Arklow, King's Inns Street and Tallaght, Dublin.

In terms of targets, we have put in place the engagement procedures whereby people are profiled for employment and education history and a prediction is made about whether they will be able to find a job. All of this is taking place according to plan. The group engagements

are all happening as set out and I am pleased to report that all targets in terms of establishment of the scheme are being achieved.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** I realise time is limited and that it is difficult to get to the nub of the question. Will the Minister indicate how much money has been spent on staff training and redeployment? How much will be spent on private contractors, should they be provided? The Minister has indicated she is seriously considering this option.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** We are examining options for private contractors. I referred to the local employment services. These are local companies which provide services on a one-to-one basis and offer an interesting and good model. These are not-for-profit bodies funded by the Department. They were formerly funded by FÁS. The annual spend on these programmes is approximately €20 million. There are other not-for-profit organisations such as Rehab which has been involved in Ireland and abroad in providing activation services. We are examining best practice in a range of countries, especially countries in Scandinavia and others such as New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and France. At this stage we have no detailed budgetary estimates. We are examining the options and the pros and cons of the experience of a range of countries.

### **Disability Support Service**

22. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to help facilitate disabled persons to enter the workforce; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34995/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I am committed to supporting people with a disability to participate more fully in society and enabling people to become more self-sufficient. To do this it is necessary to provide supports which address barriers that people may face when entering and remaining in the workforce. Earlier in the year I announced several initiatives in this area. First, a scheme of partial capacity benefit, PCB, was introduced. This scheme supports the progression of people with a disability to full open market employment by providing an opportunity for those with capacity to engage in open market employment to some degree and continue to receive an income support payment. The intention is that the PCB will largely replace the exemptions system and address the limitations associated with the current system which categorises people as “able to work” or “unable to work” by concentrating on their ability to work.

Second, existing programmes to support persons with disabilities are being consolidated as a national EmployAbility service, with the emphasis always on the ability of persons who may have a disability but are anxious and able to participate in the workplace with appropriate supports. This EmployAbility service will provide a new impetus to persons with a disability and potential employers to focus on the positive benefits of ability and capacity to work. In addition to job coaches, workplace adaptation grants are available on a small scale as part of this programme.

Third, a wage subsidy scheme is also available to persons with a disability. The objective of the scheme is to increase the numbers of persons with a disability in employment by creating, as far as practicable, a level playing field for them in seeking out or remaining in employment.

*Additional information not given on the floor of the House.*

The scheme provides payment of a wage subsidy to the employer to compensate for the reduced productivity of the worker with a disability. The wage subsidies are designed to provide

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

an incentive to employers and to look more closely at the potential of persons with a disability to meet their labour force requirements. There are 946 registered on wage subsidy schemes.

Fourth, the Department will announce shortly details on funding innovative projects in the Border, midland and western regions. These projects will be designed to provide persons with a disability with appropriate progression, education and employment opportunities to enhance their access to employment.

In addition, in May last, recipients of disability allowance became eligible to participate on the national internship scheme, JobBridge. The measures outlined above will facilitate greater levels of recruitment of persons with a disability in open market employment.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** The programme for Government states, “We will also facilitate people with disabilities in achieving a greater level of participation in employment, training and education.” Many would say the opposite has occurred. Despite the fact the workforce participation is significantly lower for individuals with a disability and those with a disability are more likely to be at risk of poverty, can the Minister substantiate that statement by virtue of her 18 months in office? I would ask the Minister to provide, if not now then in the coming days, evidence-based information to prove that in the past 18 months she lived up to the commitment in the programme for Government to facilitate a greater level of participation in employment, training and education for those with a disability. The evidence coming into my constituency from representations that I receive is to the contrary and I would like the Minister to put the matter right.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** As I stated, I have introduced a series of new options for persons with a disability. The partial capacity benefit had been spoken of as a desirable development for many years but I am happy to say that since becoming Minister, I have gone ahead and introduced it. That is an innovation which, over time, will bear fruit.

Second, in the discussions on JobBridge, a number of Deputies and Senators raised with me the issue of persons with a disability being able to access JobBridge. I am pleased to say I was able to expand the number of JobBridge places by 1,000 and to open, at the end of May, JobBridge applications to interested persons who were in receipt of a disability allowance or a lone parent’s allowance. That started at the end of May and I do not have statistics on its take-up.

On EmployAbility, we place 2,800 persons with a disability and we are at the maximum capacity, but that is a scheme I have a strong interest in expanding. In April we advertised a scheme, partially funded by the European Union, on innovative projects for persons with a disability and related organisations in the Border, midlands and western regions. I sent a note to Deputies at the time. We hope to be able to make an announcement on those example projects shortly.

### **Homeless Persons**

23. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will review a matter regarding jobseeker’s allowance for young persons (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34957/12]

27. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that young persons who have experienced homelessness are in need of emergency accommodation (details supplied); and the steps she will take to respond to this situation. [34947/12]

**Deputy Joan Burton:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 23 and 27 together.

The €100 rate of jobseeker's allowance was introduced for claimants aged under 20 in April 2009, and this rate was applied to claimants aged up to 21 from December 2009. The €100 rate does not apply to certain categories of claimant, including those who were in the care of the HSE during the 12 months before they reached the age of 18. A rate of €144 applies to claimants aged 22 to 24.

The adoption of these measures reflects the need to encourage more young jobseekers to improve their skills by either pursuing further study or accessing a labour market programme, thereby reducing their risk of becoming long-term unemployed. The aim is to assist young jobseekers to progress into sustainable employment on a long-term basis. Where a young jobseeker is in receipt of a reduced rate and he or she pursues further study or accesses a labour market programme, the full normal rate of payment applicable to that course or scheme applies without any reduction for persons aged under 25.

I understand that Deputies have been contacted with regard to these measures following a campaign by Focus Ireland. My officials and I have met Focus Ireland on its concerns. These are being examined and further discussions are planned.

More generally, Deputies may wish to note that the Department, through its work in the homeless persons unit and the asylum seekers and new communities unit, provides assistance to persons in sourcing the most appropriate accommodation available.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** There are many obscenities to the austerity agenda one of the worst of which is homelessness and of that, the worst of all is youth homelessness. There are approximately 1,000 homeless in the Dublin city area. The number has increased dramatically and the homelessness organisations estimate that 100 young people sleep alone on the streets at night in Dublin.

The Fianna Fáil Government, in one of its most disgusting cuts, cut social welfare for young people. This has contributed directly, not to job creation but to driving many young people out of the country and also into homelessness.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** The Deputy should frame a question.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** My question to the Minister is simple. Whereas a person in the care of the homeless services retains his or her full social welfare, a person who becomes homeless between the ages of 18 and 24 does not get the full social welfare payment and, consequently, becomes trapped in homelessness because even if the person finds private rented accommodation and gets rent supplement, the person's income is so low that he or she cannot pay the rent. As a result, it becomes more difficult for the person to access work because he or she must give as an address a homeless hostel. What we are asking simply is that any young person who, at any point between the ages of 18 and 24, becomes homeless should be given the full social welfare entitlement so that he or she can get out of homelessness and can access other accommodation.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** My objective as a Minister is to ensure as far as possible that no young people in society go onto social welfare and that we provide a pathway for young people who may not be able to find work to continue to expand their education and training and to take up training positions and places from among the various options and opportunities we have laid out. I cannot stress enough how important it is that young people should not be encouraged to go on social welfare and that they should be encouraged into an alternative of work and to

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

become involved in education and training, and improving their skills and qualifications so that eventually they can become financially independent.

In the budget, we provided specifically that young people leaving care would have arrangements through the HSE. The homeless unit, in dealing with young people who become homeless, is acutely aware of the difficulties that befall young people in that situation. The focus of public policy should be to encourage such young people into education and training or to take up options for the development of their skills. As I said, if they do that, they then get a full rate of payment — that is what actually applies. I would prefer to avoid sending out any kind of signal that would do other than encourage young people to stay in education and training or go into employment. We do not want young people to find themselves in a position in which they become homeless and then probably enter into a very difficult period in their lives, where their chances of becoming financially independent are limited.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** I cannot believe I am hearing this from a Labour Party Minister. This is the Michael McDowell school of economics — if we have inequality and if people are downtrodden, this will somehow act as an incentive for them to get a job.

Does the Minister understand the question? People who are homeless as a result of whatever circumstances led them into homelessness are trying to get out of homelessness and they are being prevented from doing so because, even if they access private rented accommodation and get rent supplement, the low level of social welfare income provided for them under the job-seeker's allowance — because of the cuts imposed by Fianna Fáil — means they cannot take up that accommodation and get onto the next step of the ladder to try to access employment and get back into society. The question is simple. For those between the ages of 18 and 24 who are homeless and trying to access homelessness services, will the Minister review the situation and give them the full social welfare entitlement of €188 so they can get out of homelessness, access private rented accommodation and, from there, apply for jobs? It is very difficult to apply for a job from a homeless hostel.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** The most important thing for young people is to give them a future.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** They have no future on the streets.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** To imply, as the Deputy does, that the future for young people is contingent upon their becoming dependent on social welfare over a long period of their lives is wrong. In all my experience down the years — I have always lived in the centre of Dublin and am very familiar with people who become homeless — the most important thing—

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Is to cut their social welfare.

**Deputy Joan Burton:** —is to get those people as quickly as possible back into education, training, support, workshops and community employment schemes. Many people who become homeless, as I know and I am sure the Deputy is aware, have a complex series of problems. What they need is a helping hand in regard to accessing education and training and getting their lives back together.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** What about a roof over their heads?

**Deputy Joan Burton:** If they take up the options that are there, they will get a full rate of payment. I went to very specific efforts to ensure the needs of people who are leaving care are specifically provided for. As well as having long experience with people who have become

homeless, I have had an opportunity to sit down and discuss this with people from Focus Ireland. They agree it is important that we, as a society, develop a pathway for young people who are either at risk of homelessness or have actually become homeless to get them into positive routes such as training and education.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** We all agree with that. What about the ones who are homeless?

**Deputy Joan Burton:** What I am saying to the Deputy is that I expect him to perhaps encourage young people he may know in this situation to take up the options of education and training. This is very important for their future. We have some good options and opportunities available.

### 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 Michael Healy-Rae — the impact that the recent bad weather is having on farming; (2) Deputy Jim Daly — the need for an emergency fund for uninsured business victims of the recent flooding at Clonakilty, County Cork; (3) Deputies Finian McGrath and Denis Naughten — the recent cuts to the education and service provisions for school-leavers with disabilities; (4) Deputy Regina Doherty — continuing reports of the theft of power and telecommunications cables; (5) Deputy James Bannon — the need to provided funding in respect of St. Christopher’s services, Longford; (6) Deputy Ciara Conway — the report on the IDA’s job creation figures and its implications for balanced regional development; (7) Deputy Alan Farrell — the forthcoming publication, findings and implications of the pyrite panel report; (8) Deputy Patrick O’Donovan — the need for the establishment of a national strategy for the development of the horticulture industry; (9) Deputy Jonathan O’Brien — the role of crime prevention officers in fighting crime; (10) Deputy Martin Ferris — ComReg’s legal action against An Post; (11) Deputy Seán Crowe — the loss of teaching posts at schools for children with special needs and the need to review the DES-NSCE definition of “multiple disability” governing the pupil-teacher ratio at such schools; (12) Deputy Michael Lowry — the failure to reopen a number of short-stay beds at the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, County Tipperary; (13) Deputy Noel Harrington — the status of the proposed Clonakilty flood relief scheme; (14) Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh — the proposals for funding of €250 million in respect of priority new-build projects and the need to extend the applications deadline to allow Labre Park redevelopment plans by Dublin City Council to be included; (15) Deputy Clare Daly — fire safety issues in Martello estate in Balbriggan, County Dublin; (16) Deputy Mick Wallace — the figures highlighted yesterday by Social Justice Ireland which show that, in a single year, the disposable income of the poorest households fell by 18.6% while the income of the richest rose by 4.1%; (17) Deputy Joan Collins — the proposals for funding of €250 million in respect of priority new-build projects and the need to extend the applications deadline to allow Labre Park redevelopment plans by Dublin City Council to be included; (18) Deputy Mattie McGrath — the decision of the Law Society to prohibit solicitors’ acting for more than one party in all cases involving the transfer of property; (19) Deputy Billy Kelleher — the report of the National Suicide Research Foundation which found that alcohol abuse is among the mental health risk factors associated with suicide; (20) Deputy Tom Hayes — the need to allow low-income families to apply for the back to school allowance; (21) Deputy Ciarán Lynch — the measures to be taken to alleviate the hardship caused to householders in Douglas and other parts of Cork by the recent flooding; (22) Deputy Dessie Ellis — the problems faced by residents of Dublin North West whose homes are contaminated with pyrite,

[An Leas-Cheann Comhairle.]

particularly the 140 homes which were part of the Ballymun regeneration project; (23) Deputy Niall Collins — the need for funds to renovate Nicker National School, County Limerick; (24) Deputy Michael Conaghan — the need for a new housing scheme for residents of Labre Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin; and (25) Deputy Tom Fleming — the secondment of corporals and sergeants from the Defence Forces to assist the Garda Síochána.

The matters raised by Deputies Patrick O'Donovan, Ciara Conway, Billy Kelleher and Finian McGrath and Denis Naughten have been selected for discussion.

### Leaders' Questions

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Upskilling of the population and the workforce is stated as Government policy and it is a great pity this aspiration is not matched by policy decisions by Ministers. The Taoiseach frequently mentions in the House PayPal and its announcement of 1,000 jobs as being great news for the people of the north east, which it is, and it is very welcome. However, as the Taoiseach can see, its chief executive officer made a strong statement yesterday that she finds it extremely difficult to find local people with the necessary language skills to fill the jobs. There are reports today the company has to recruit more than 500 workers with language skills from overseas. The CEO said in a speech yesterday at the Louth economic forum that she continues to promote Ireland as a location for foreign direct investment but that it will have to address the languages problem.

It seems to me — and I have looked hard — that the only response the Government has taken to the language agenda in our schools is to scrap the one innovative modern language initiative that was introduced back in 1999, under which we now have more than 550 schools teaching four modern languages at primary school level. For some unknown reason and with no rationale, the Minister, Deputy Ruairí Quinn, decided to scrap that programme, which cost only €2 million a year. This flies exactly in the face of what the CEO of PayPal is saying. It goes to the heart of a Government that exercises itself more on spin than on substance that many of its decisions fly totally in the face of any logic or rationale, particularly in the context of this issue.

It is interesting, for example, that across the water our competitors in the United Kingdom have decided to launch a new curriculum in primary schools which makes languages compulsory from the age of seven. The British Labour Party had got rid of its compulsory programme for children under 14 and the result was a 32% reduction in the number of children who took languages in secondary school.

Does the Government have a plan to address the different language requirements of foreign direct investors and of indigenous companies that export overseas? Will it reverse the decision to scrap the modern languages initiative?

**The Taoiseach:** No, we will not reverse that decision; we will take a different course. Many schools are still operating alternative schemes to the pilot programme to which the Deputy referred.

It is a fact that learning the Irish language is compulsory in this country. It is also a fact that our students go to our own schools, go through the language course for up to 14 years and still cannot speak it fluently. It is a fact of life. The chief executive of PayPal made the point to me that 150 more people could be employed if they could have high-quality German speakers, and I do not mean just technical German but fluency in the language. My view is that we should start this process much earlier.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Then why scrap the programme?

**The Taoiseach:** Our children are no less intelligent than they ever were. The surveys I carried out myself many years ago in the Department of Education showed that the Irish Celtic route is actually more favourable to learning languages than many others, and I suppose many students come here to learn English because of the quality of the language spoken by our young people in particular. We need to start the process at a much lower level, at junior certificate level and before that, as languages are picked up by children in primary school without any great difficulty.

It is the teaching methods that are critical here. The Deputy, as a former múinteoir, knows this himself. It is now easy to learn modern languages in so many ways, given the facilities. We should look at what we have done. After 70 years, the vast majority of young people leaving the secondary school system are still not conversant in the language of their native country. The Deputy speaks about compulsion and the Labour Party in England. That is a matter for it. We have a compulsory language, and it has not delivered in the context of fluency.

I share the view of the chief executive that we could do so much more in terms of modern languages. We are in the top 20 globally in terms of competitiveness. We are in the top three in terms of availability and flexibility of workforce. We are in the top three in terms of the productivity of our workers. Language is very specialist. In a global sense, when that particular company deals with different dialects, it needs fluency. That is an issue we as a people should be able to address and that Government will address. I would like to think that when multinationals and foreign direct investment companies make the decision to site here they do so for a package of issues be it tax, technology, track record or talent and in that talent there is always an issue for language fluency.

In the Deputy's county recently I spoke to people in a number of multinationals where the receptionists deal with different languages. Some of them are international; some are Irish. I spoke to somebody the other day about the Japanese companies which come here. One firm has a Donegal native who speaks fluent Japanese and has been doing so for many years. There is no restriction upon us in having the competence to learn languages fluently. It is a combination of teaching method, and the capacity to teach it properly, that makes our young people aware of the opportunities that come from being able to speak language with the fluency required by business these days.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** There are times when I find the Taoiseach's replies to questions both incredible and baffling. I have known for a long time that there is no restriction on the capacity of a Donegal person to learn any language——

**The Taoiseach:** I will speak Irish if the Deputy wants.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——but the Taoiseach said we must start learning languages at a lower level. That is the point of my question. There is a programme called the modern languages primary initiative.

**The Taoiseach:** There was.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Exactly.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** "Was" is right. That is the problem.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** A total of 550 schools participated in that which was good value for money in that €2 million was the annual cost. There were hundreds of teachers involved across the country. It was efficiently introduced into primary schools in terms of complementing the existing curriculum. German was one of those languages, and the Taoiseach has scrapped it for

[Deputy Micheál Martin.]

the sake of making a saving of €2 million. The signal that sends out in terms of a Government addressing a core competitiveness issue——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Could we have a question please?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——and a core skills issue is very clear. The Taoiseach does not know what he is doing, and there are no alternative schemes. He said at the beginning of his reply that they are doing other schemes. They are not doing other schemes.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Blame the teachers too.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** There is no other scheme in place at primary level in terms of modern languages that are sponsored and supported by the State. I put it to the Taoiseach that he does not have a strategy in terms of the language issue or the language problem, as the chief executive officer of PayPal identifies it. Will he accept that this is a further example of spin coming before substance and the policy being completely different?

**The Taoiseach:** The Deputy wants to restore a pilot programme he introduced when he was Minister for Education and Science.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** No.

**The Taoiseach:** I respected that for what it was worth.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Yes, and it was a success. The evaluation was positive.

**The Taoiseach:** Many schools teach a second and third language, and teachers are committed to doing that. I am saying that when we look at what we have done as a country, in the context of teaching our own language, it leaves a great deal to be desired.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I am not talking about that.

**The Taoiseach:** I appreciate the value of young children learning a second and third language. Many of them do that outside school hours——

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** They do not.

**The Taoiseach:** ——as they do in other subjects now.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Taoiseach does not appreciate it. The Taoiseach scrapped it. Words are cheap.

**The Taoiseach:** The Deputy is asking me to restore the pilot programme introduced many years ago, which was of benefit but which——

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Yes.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Why scrap it then?

**The Taoiseach:** ——in my view does not meet the needs in terms of where we are headed for the future. The Minister for Education and Skills is reflecting on that because the matter was raised during Question Time previously. Modern languages are critical for the economic development of the country.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Why get rid of it?

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** Restore it.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Taoiseach should restore it.

**The Taoiseach:** We signed strategic partnerships with China——

*(Interruptions).*

**The Taoiseach:** Students in some schools are starting to learn Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian and some of the Middle Eastern languages because of the explosion in economic development that will inevitably follow in the years ahead. The answer to the Deputy's question on whether we are restoring the pilot programme that was abolished is "No". The Minister for Education and Skills is reflecting on the best opportunities for the teaching of language from now on, particularly a range of modern languages that will be of benefit to us as an economy.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** I raise the issue of symphysiotomy of which the Taoiseach is very aware. It is an 18th century surgical operation performed on women that unhinges the pelvis and splits the pubic joint and its ligaments with a surgical knife or a saw. Patients were rarely asked for their consent. They were never told of the nature of the surgery or its risks or offered the safer alternatives of Caesarian section.

In my constituency, 350 of the estimated 1,500 symphysiotomies were carried out, many without the consent of the women victimised by this procedure. There have been statements in the Dáil and in the Seanad on this issue. In opposition both Government parties, including the Minister for Health, gave their support to the women involved.

There are approximately 200 survivors, some of whom are becoming quite frail. They are all very elderly agus níl aon dabht ann ach go ndearnadh éagóir uafásach ar na mná seo agus tá siad ag lorg birt ar a son de bharr an dochar a rinneadh orthu. Rinneadh brúidiúlacht ar a gcorp agus loiteadh a saol dá bharr. Tá sé thar am go ndéanfar an rud ceart agus cóir dóibh. All of the women involved, and we had them in here recently, bear deep physical and emotional scars.

I ask the Taoiseach to ensure that justice is done for these women by introducing legislation to lift the Statute of Limitations for 12 months to ensure that those who want to can seek redress through the courts. This was done previously regarding the issue of child abuse. Will the Government bring forward this legislation and, if so, will it do so early in the new Dáil term?

**The Taoiseach:** I read the comments arising from the recent symphysiotomy court case. This practice belongs to the dark ages. I was struck by the words of the woman involved who said that while it happened many years ago, she still goes to bed at night with that pain and wakes up with it every morning.

I understand there are several hundred people involved who may wish to take recourse to the courts. In regard to that matter, obviously they will take legal advice on the route to follow. The Minister for Health will consider the Deputy's request.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** To be clear, the woman who won the recent court case, and she is a constituent of mine, basically did so on a technicality. She was at pains to point out that this does not apply to the vast majority of the survivors of symphysiotomy.

I have here the Statute of Limitations (Amendment) Act. I imagine introducing the legislation I request would get the support of every Deputy in this Chamber. These are very brave

[Deputy Gerry Adams.]

women. They have long campaigned for truth and justice. The Taoiseach is right. This was an act of barbarism. There is all-party support for this issue. When the Taoiseach was in opposition he supported them. The Minister for Health moved a motion in support and therefore there is an imperative that the Statute of Limitations is lifted. That is what is preventing those women who want to go to court from taking that avenue.

Sinn Féin could introduce a Private Members' Bill and if it comes to it, we will but this is not a party political issue. This is an issue the Government should make time for and which I am sure all the parties in this Dáil would support. It is the very least we could do. Many people have been afflicted by injustice, and this did not happen on the Taoiseach's watch, but these women suffered major trauma. We can rectify that in so far as it is possible to show them that we, as legislators, are prepared to uphold their rights as citizens. I appeal to the Taoiseach to give a commitment to lift the Statute of Limitations for just 12 months.

**The Taoiseach:** I will not be pushed around by a threat from Sinn Féin to introduce legislation.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** I am not threatening the Taoiseach. For God's sake, Taoiseach.

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** The issue has all-party support.

**The Taoiseach:** The reason we changed the rules in the House is to ensure that people can introduce legislation if they wish by way of a Private Members' Bill. The Deputy should understand that.

I am not a medical person but it seems to me that the breaking of a pelvis for the purposes of child birth was a practice that belongs to the dark ages. That has been replaced by much more modern treatments for giving birth.

I take the Deputy's point. The Minister, Deputy Reilly, is studying the court judgment, which was very clear in respect of the person from County Louth who was courageous enough to appear on television and to give her views, both about the court case — which she won on a technicality, as the Deputy said — but also about the pain she feels every night and morning as a result of a treatment that was carried out many years ago.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** It was carried out into the 1980s.

**The Taoiseach:** The Minister will reflect on the court judgment and will respond to the Deputy in due course.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** In the programme for Government the Taoiseach stated:

[O]ur parties are committed to protecting the vulnerable and to burden-sharing on an equitable basis. Fianna Fáil presided over an unequal and increasingly divided Ireland. We are both committed to forging a new Ireland that is built on fairness and equal citizenship.

They are fine words but the facts revealed this week confirm again that the opposite is the truth under the Government. Social Justice Ireland shows that while the poorest people in society have seen their income drop by 18% in the past year, the wealthiest 10% have seen their income increase by 4% and that the gap between the richest and the poorest has opened dramatically in recent years.

When we say that one should tax the wealthy in this country, the Taoiseach claims there is no pot of gold. I got shocking replies from the Minister for Finance about the earnings of the

wealthiest people in society last week and how much tax they paid. They showed a very low level of effective taxes on the wealthiest in society. For example, the top 10,000 earners earned just under €6 billion last year, an average of €595,000 each, and paid an effective tax rate of only 29%. That information came from the Department of Finance.

What everyone on the street knows is now official: the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. Working people and the least well-off are getting it in the neck with austerity while the rich are being protected. What is the Taoiseach going to do about it? Is he going to address the inequality and unfairness and is he going to impose taxes on the super-wealthy who can afford it or will he continue to slaughter the poor, the vulnerable and the working people?

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** Did Deputy Boyd Barrett pay the household charge?

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** The Deputy should calm down. It is the turn of the leader of the Fine Gael Party to speak.

**The Taoiseach:** I am not sure the Deputy's figures are correct——

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** The Deputy should calm down. Did he pay the septic tank charge?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Taoiseach should be allowed to speak.

**The Taoiseach:** ——that 10,000 people earn more than €500,000 a year. The Social Justice Ireland report is a good one. Much work went into it but it is based on figures from 2009 and 2010.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** The figures are from 2012.

**The Taoiseach:** The Central Statistics Office pointed out that the basic rates are now higher than they were even at the height of the boom. The Government is cognisant of the pressure on people. We did not increase income tax and we did not reduce the basic rates of social welfare. We removed the requirement on 330,000 to pay the universal social charge and we reversed the minimum wage. It was much to the annoyance of some people that it could be done by negotiation with the troika.

The answer to the problem is employment. That is why the Government announced today, in addition to the €17 billion capital programme for the period of the Government's lifetime, €2 billion to cover investment in schools, primary care centres, a number of justice buildings and the major development in the inner city of the Grangegorman DIT facility to tie all those strands together. These matters are the focus of Government which is why the Minister for Finance, Deputy Noonan, is in Frankfurt today speaking to Mr. Draghi in respect of the decision by the European Council to break the link between sovereign debt and banking debt and that the deal that can be got for this country would be at the highest level possible so that confidence can be restored to the indigenous economy and that we can get people back to work. The report from Social Justice Ireland is a good one but it refers to the years 2009 and 2010.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** This is about poverty and inequality in this country, it is not about Europe and the debt crisis. The figures I quoted to the Taoiseach on the top income earners are 2012 figures provided by the Department of Finance. They also show, for example, that the top 10% of earners earned €29.5 billion in total income last year. They have average earnings of €136,000 per year and they are paying an effective tax rate of only 24%.

**Deputy Simon Harris:** Deputy Boyd Barrett will not even pay his tax.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** The budget cuts to lone parents, rent allowance and other social welfare payments and community employment schemes are further attacking the least well-off while the wealthy are being protected and are not paying their fair share of taxes.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Could the Deputy ask a question, please?

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Can we have a radical shift in policy where people who earn between €130,000 and €600,000 a year — the super-wealthy in society——

**Deputy Simon Harris:** Deputy Boyd Barrett is one of them. He should pay his taxes.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** ——are made to shoulder the burden of the cuts and austerity instead of people who are homeless or on social welfare, low and middle income workers and people who are struggling to pay their bills?

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Did they go to St. Michael's?

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** The Deputy should pay his tax.

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** The Government parties are heckling.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Will the Government change its policy and stop protecting the super-wealthy?

**Deputy Joan Collins:** The Government should introduce just taxation.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Taoiseach should be allowed to speak without interruption.

**The Taoiseach:** Deputy Boyd Barrett has a radical shift of policy every week. His radical shift of policy in sending the Europeans and the IMF would cause a catastrophe in the economy of this country. The position is that the Government has set out to protect the welfare of the elderly. In European terms we have the lowest at-risk population of elderly people of most of the countries in Europe because of the in-built protection in terms of the old age State pension and the other facilities that are made available to them.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Two hundred thousand children are living in poverty. Is the Taoiseach dreaming?

**The Taoiseach:** Deputy Boyd Barrett spoke about poverty and inequality. The answer to poverty and inequality is employment and the opportunity to create it. That is why in dealing with the mess we inherited, we are trying to sort out the problems with the public finances and at the same time to grow the economy so that people can experience a restoration of confidence in the indigenous economy and spend, create jobs and have gainful employment. While the road ahead is still challenging, the Government, in its collective decision in dealing with the budget for 2013, will do so on the basis of protecting the most vulnerable and at the same time understanding that the elderly population must be cherished and respected for what they did for this country in times that were far more difficult than now. The Government has that as a priority in its deliberations on the budget preparations that will start later in the year.

**Deputy Joan Collins:** The Government is protecting the super-rich.

**Ceisteanna — Questions (Resumed)**

---

**Departmental Staff**

1. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach if there were any retired officials in his Department re-employed even on a short term basis; if so, the reasons for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [25060/12]

2. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Taoiseach if his Department has re-employed any retired civil servants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [30544/12]

**The Taoiseach:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 1 and 2 together.

No retired civil servants have been re-employed by my Department. One person who previously retired from a different part of the public service is employed in an unestablished position by my Department. The employment contract of the person concerned will cease when my term of office as Taoiseach ends.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I accept the Taoiseach's reply. Does he accept there is a broad principle across the public service that, where possible, those who have retired should not be re-employed and that opportunities should be given to younger people and those seeking jobs for the first time to gain experience and opportunities?

**The Taoiseach:** I do, of course, accept that principle. It is only right and proper that where young people have the qualifications and the opportunity, they should be given it. Information received by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform shows the number of re-engagements of retired civil servants at 850 for 2010, 767 for 2011, and 70 for 2012. In implementing the principle that I stand by, that should happen where it is possible. Deputy Martin will understand that some retired public servants have a particular specialty and they are often brought back on a specific contract, as distinct from being employed again on the basis of having retired and drawing a pension. I accept the principle and, in so far as we can, we implement it.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I raised previously the issue in the context of the health service that those who have been re-employed on contracts have arrangements that allow them not to pay tax in this country. I refer to arrangements that allowed them to operate companies in the United Kingdom from which their services were then provided for the Minister for Health. This pertains to the advisers who had been recruited. It was reported some time ago in *The Sunday Business Post* — I raised this issue with the Taoiseach — that people were being employed as advisers to the Minister for Health but through companies located in the United Kingdom and that in consequence they, apparently, were legally avoiding the necessity to pay tax in this country. This causes difficulties in terms of—

**The Taoiseach:** There may be a slight difference in this regard. The persons employed by the Minister for Health have a specific competence and expertise and are employed not as advisers but as consultants to the special delivery unit.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** They were called “advisers” originally.

**The Taoiseach:** In addition, during a previous Question Time, I made the point to the Deputy that last January, before the exit from the public service took place at the end of February, the

[The Taoiseach.]

Government had made arrangements, for instance, in respect of leaving and junior certificate examination classes. Because of the bond between teachers and pupils, those teachers who had chosen to leave the public service at the end of February were able to be re-employed until the aforementioned classes completed their examinations.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** That was practical.

**The Taoiseach:** For the Deputy's information, 254 such teachers retired during that grace period and were re-engaged in secondary schools because of that bond and for that purpose.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** I welcome the Taoiseach's statement and consider it to be progress that the figures for retired public servants who have been re-employed in State employment have been decreasing. However, a figure of 850 still constitutes 850 too many, given current unemployment rates. I note that it was revealed last week that rules aimed at curtailing the amounts retired public service staff could earn if they returned to State employment were not applied if such individuals' services were provided through employment agencies. Is this the case and does it affect, for example, the single person employed in the Taoiseach's Department? Is the introduction of rules to prevent this from recurring planned or anticipated?

**The Taoiseach:** The principle is that when public servants retire, the opportunity to take up that employment should be given to younger people. The person employed in my Department worked in the Defence Forces for a period and was not at the normal retirement age. The person concerned is employed in an unestablished position in my Department and that contract will end when my contract as Taoiseach ends.

### Departmental Records

3. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the reason that records in relation to the banking guarantee were inappropriately shredded in his Department; the date on which he was informed of same; if he had this matter investigated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [30307/12]

4. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the reason that records of the banking guarantee decision were shredded; the person who informed him of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [30308/12]

5. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Taoiseach the circumstances in which documents related to the bank guarantee were shredded in his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34958/12]

**The Taoiseach:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 3 to 5, inclusive, together.

I take it the Deputies' questions arise from my remarks in the House on 12 June when I was critical of the previous Government's handling of the decision-making process in the run-up to and on the night of the bank guarantee. I continue to have these concerns which I believe to be well founded and widely shared. My remarks were intended to highlight the remarkably small volume of documentation held in the Department of the Taoiseach from the night of the bank guarantee, which bears out these widely held concerns. I did not intend to suggest I had evidence the documentation relating to the bank guarantee had been destroyed or otherwise removed. I have since clarified the position on the record of the House in response to a question from Deputy Michael McGrath.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Taoiseach's reply is unacceptable and he should stop trying to walk away from his own words. The only possible construction on what the Taoiseach said is he believed records might have been shredded. It is the only reason he would have said it. He has been in sole charge of Government Buildings since early last year and it is unacceptable to throw out conspiracies like a man standing at the bar in a pub. It is beneath his office and he should have the decency to withdraw his statement fully and without equivocation.

In addition, the Taoiseach is oversimplifying a serious decision on a bank guarantee for which he and his party voted. To quote him at the time, they did so "in the interests of the country, in the interests of protecting our economy and to protect the interests of our taxpayers." This is the precise reason the previous Government made the decision itself. I do not know why the Taoiseach——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Can we have a question, please?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——deliberately articulated the view that documents had been shredded. However, he decided to invent a wild allegation.

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** It might not be so wild.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** All the officials and information have been available to him since he took over as Taoiseach at the start of 2011. It did not happen straightaway and this came out at a particular point in time. The Taoiseach was making a cynical political attack that was unworthy of him——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Sorry, Deputy, this is Question Time.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I ask the Taoiseach whether he accepts this to be the case.

**The Taoiseach:** Honest to God, I am amused by the Deputy. What I said on 12 June was:

It is either shredded or has been disposed of or dispatched of — in other words, the Government has no evidence of the discussion that took place or of what Deputy Martin said when he was Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Deputy might help the Government in that regard.

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** Where was the Deputy?

**The Taoiseach:** He was the Minister who dropped the Travers report behind the radiator and could not find it for many years.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Did the Taoiseach shred the advice he received to vote for the guarantee? He must have because he cannot get an explanation.

**The Taoiseach:** If the Taoiseach of the day meets a group from Deputy Peter Mathews's constituency, Deputy Micheál Martin can be sure that whatever it is about, notes will be taken and be there for posterity.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** The Taoiseach has no faith in his own staff.

**The Taoiseach:** I find it incredible that Deputy Micheál Martin should make such a political charge in this Chamber because his name is on the incorporeal list of Ministers.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Yes.

**The Taoiseach:** Perhaps he might tell the House where he was or whether he asked any questions in this regard when he was contacted. Did he attend those meetings at which banks gave evidence? What did he contribute to the rationale which led to the decision on that night?

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** He pressed the snooze button.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** What about the Taoiseach? He advised his party.

**The Taoiseach:** I find it incredible that the Department of the Taoiseach does not have a single solitary slip of evidence, paper, about any of these discussions or the rationale that resulted in the incorporeal decision being made in the manner it was. Perhaps Deputy Micheál Martin might enlighten the House because I have looked behind the radiators in the Department of the Taoiseach——

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** The Taoiseach was at summit meetings.

**The Taoiseach:** ——and no report has been dropped behind them in the way he did when he previously was in charge of a Department.

**Deputy James Reilly:** Perhaps Deputy Barry Cowen might ask his brother.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Perhaps one might ask the Minister's brother. What advice did the Minister receive to vote for it?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** With respect, the Travers report was not behind any radiator but was published. It vindicated my role in that issue and was debated in the Oireachtas. Moreover, I appeared before an Oireachtas committee without difficulty and dealt with every single question asked. It did not go anywhere behind the radiator. However, my position is well known. The Taoiseach creates innuendo with the manner of his approach to this matter with comments such as “documents must have been shredded” or “where were you on the night” and so on.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Can we have a question, please?

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** Where was Deputy Micheál Martin?

**Deputy Simon Harris:** Where was he?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It is well known: I was in the United States as Minister for Foreign Affairs and participated in the incorporeal meeting. That is a matter of public record and it was covered in a major programme broadcast on RTE months ago. There is no secret or mystery about it. Moreover, there was a Cabinet meeting the following morning at which it was discussed.

**Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor:** What did the Deputy say at the meeting?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Moreover, as the then Leader of the Opposition, the Taoiseach had plenty of time to obtain independent advice——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** May we have a question, please?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——between the Cabinet decision and the decision of the Oireachtas to pass legislation introducing the bank guarantee. Did the Taoiseach receive independent advice? He voted for the measure and led his party through it.

**Deputy James Reilly:** There is no record of the deliberative process.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It suits the Taoiseach——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Sorry, can we have a question, please?

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** There is only one revisionist in this Chamber and that is Deputy Micheál Martin.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Give it a break.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I put it to the Taoiseach that it suits him to create this aura of something wrong or hidden. At the time the late Brian Lenihan——

**Deputy James Reilly:** There is no record of it.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** There is a record of the deliberative process.

**Deputy James Reilly:** Where is it?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It is from the Minister for Finance. The rationale for the decision is on the record of this House.

**Deputy James Reilly:** The deliberative process is——

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** The Minister is saying the Government has no trust in its own staff.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I invite Members to speak through the Chair, please.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** When the late Minister for Finance came into this Chamber——

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** It is the same staff.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——and actually spoke to the Taoiseach before he brought in the bank guarantee——

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Where is the advice the Minister provided?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The then Leader of the Opposition, now Taoiseach, was actually briefed by the Minister for Finance at the time on the rationale behind the bank guarantee.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Would the Deputy mind putting his question? This is Question Time.

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Where is the advice the Taoiseach received?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** There are no secrets. I agree that this issue should certainly be examined and there is no difficulty in bringing forward——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** What is the Deputy's question?

**Deputy James Reilly:** The difficulty is there is no record.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** My fundamental question is that the Taoiseach's approach to this matter has been deeply cynical and political.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Will the Deputy ask him a question?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It vindicates the decision of the people taken last year on Oireachtas inquiries because they do not trust the capacity of politicians to be objective and impartial——

**Deputy James Reilly:** They certainly do not trust Fianna Fáil, my dear boy.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——and to follow due process in the pursuit of or when investigating a particular issue. I do not have a difficulty in so doing——

**Deputy James Reilly:** Certainly not in the greater Dublin area.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——but the Taoiseach should cut out the innuendo and the attempt to smear people, particularly previous holders of his office who certainly did not shred any document. He owes his predecessor an apology for what he attempted to suggest that day, which was unacceptable.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I do not know what the question was.

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Maybe he got someone else to do it.

**The Taoiseach:** Unlike many others, I paid tribute to my predecessor. The Deputy's question to me concerns:

the reason records in respect of the banking guarantee were inappropriately shredded in his Department; the date on which he was informed of same; if he [has] had this matter investigated.

The Deputy's second question is "to ask the Taoiseach the reason records of the banking guarantee decision were shredded; the person who informed him of same". As far as I can ascertain, there are no informers over there.

I asked the Secretary General if there was a file in the Department on the meetings that had taken place between members of the Government——

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Cabinet memo.

**The Taoiseach:** ——and those involved in the banking organisations; whether we had a record of what they had said and a record of the rationale applied by the Government. We do not.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Is there a Cabinet memo?

**The Taoiseach:** There is no file in the Department of the Taoiseach.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Is there a Cabinet memo?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Would the Deputy mind speaking through the Chair, please?

**Deputy James Reilly:** Deputy Micheál Martin has asked his questions. Perhaps he might answer a few.

**The Taoiseach:** I am saying that in the Department of the Taoiseach there is no file on the meetings that took place or the rationale applied. The Deputy is now telling me that this information is available. Perhaps he might tell me outside where it is in order that we can have a look at it. Up until the incorporeal meeting at that hour of the morning, there is no file in

the Department of the Taoiseach with any relevance to this question. My point was that the Government had no information on the rationale applied.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** That is not true. There were the Honohan and the Watson and Regling reports.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Why did Fine Gael vote for it?

**The Taoiseach:** If it is available, I do not know where we can find it. I am not suggesting my predecessor hid it under the table or anything else, but there is no evidence available.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Taoiseach has suggested it was shredded. He should not be so disingenuous.

**The Taoiseach:** I have said it was either shredded, disposed of or dispatched. Is the Deputy suggesting to me, from long years of experience, that when the chief executives and directors of banks come to meet members of the Government to make their case for a guarantee or whatever else, there is no written record available in the Department?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** An event like that does not happen every week.

**The Taoiseach:** Is the Deputy telling me that no notes are taken and that meetings take place in secret? It does not happen. There is no file in the Department of the Taoiseach.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Is there a Cabinet memo?

**The Taoiseach:** Perhaps the Deputy might reflect on where he was during the incorporeal meeting in doing his duty as Minister for Foreign Affairs. Did he ask questions?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It is well known.

**The Taoiseach:** Was the Deputy at the meeting?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I am after telling the Taoiseach.

**The Taoiseach:** Until that point, there were meetings and discussions and a rationale was applied by members of the Government in order for that incorporeal meeting to take place and the Deputy to be called on his phone and asked whether he agreed with the decision. The Government has no evidence of the rationale applied and of the meetings that took place——

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It does.

**The Taoiseach:** ——and what was said at them.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Government does have evidence of the rationale applied.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Deputy Martin, please.

**The Taoiseach:** In view of the fact that this was the single biggest economic decision ever made and foisted on the back of the taxpayer, I would have thought there would be plenty files on the meetings, what was said and why the rationale was applied in the way it was. There is none in the Department of the Taoiseach.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** There is in the Department of Finance.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Fine Gael should not have voted for it.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett has a question.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** I find the political point scoring between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael extremely amusing——

**The Taoiseach:** Have another march.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** ——as they both supported the bank guarantee which, as the Taoiseach rightly said——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** It may be amusing, but as this is Question Time, perhaps we should have some questions.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** ——was the single most important financial decision taken by any Government in the State's history and which bankrupted the country with disastrous consequences.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Does the Deputy have a question?

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** I am responding to the amusing political games being played.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Perhaps the Deputy might do that some other time.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** The Taoiseach certainly has a point. Fianna Fáil has a brass neck to raise the issue; it is beyond belief, but how the Taoiseach can poke fun when he supported the measure is beyond me.

**Deputy Michael Ring:** Fianna Fáil does not have the neck of the Deputy.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Has the Taoiseach asked the departmental officials who were present at the time where the records are? It stinks to high heaven that there is no record of this most important decision and the deliberations on it. What investigations has the Taoiseach carried out into the record keeping for that crucial meeting if he is so worried about it?

**The Taoiseach:** I am only trying to answer the questions asked — two by Deputy Micheál Martin and one by Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett. His question relates to the circumstances in which documents related to the bank guarantee were shredded in the Department. On 12 June I used the words shredded, disposed of and dispatched, but the fact is that there is no record in the Department of the Taoiseach with any relevance to this matter.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It was a lousy, dishonourable thing to do.

**The Taoiseach:** For the single biggest economic decision which has caused mayhem within the economy and so much stress and pressure——

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** Which Fine Gael supported.

**The Taoiseach:** ——there is no record of what happened in the lead-in to that decision, the meetings that took place, the discussions held and the rationale applied by members of that Government at the incorporeal meeting in the early hours of that morning. The late, lamented Minister for Finance called me that morning shortly after 7 a.m. to say there was a real problem with the banks and to ask about the position of the Fine Gael Party on the issue. I said that

we supported having a banking system because it was the lifeblood of the economy, but we needed to know the conditions attached.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** He said, “Do what you have to do.”

**The Taoiseach:** I was in a radio studio at the time and happened to speak to the Minister who had kindly contacted me shortly after 7 a.m. It was not a matter for discussion then. One would expect to find evidence in a Department as important as the Department of the Taoiseach, given that it was an issue of such economic significance and has been the cause of financial stress for so many since, but there is no file. Who said what? What evidence was given to my predecessor? What was the evidence given to the people who attended the meetings? Was the rationale applied by members of the Government to the evidence in order that an incorporeal decision could be taken? There is no file which I find quite extraordinary.

**Deputy Barry Cowen:** It is on the public record.

**The Taoiseach:** It is not.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I will allow a brief supplementary question from Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** It stinks to high heaven that there is no record of this most important meeting or the deliberations that led to this disastrous decision. I have pointed out that it is amusing that the Taoiseach is poking fun at Fianna Fáil when his party supported the decision. We all know, as it turned out, that the rationale was shared by Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the European authorities——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Will the Deputy, please, ask a supplementary question?

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** ——to protect the banks at all costs and sacrifice the rest of us to pay for it.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I do not think the Deputy heard me. This is Question Time.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** If the Taoiseach is so concerned about the matter, what investigations has he conducted to ascertain whether records were taken by departmental officials or anybody else, especially if he is making the serious suggestion there may have been shredding or the dispatching of these critical records? It is suspicious that there are no records, what is he doing to find out what happened to them, or if records were taken?

**The Taoiseach:** I inquired into it as a matter of deep interest to me and the nation. I read the few pieces of paper available and there is nothing in them of any consequence.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** If there are pieces of paper, the Taoiseach should publish them.

**The Taoiseach:** I understand influential people called on the Government in the days prior to the decision to make their views known about the issues involved.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Who?

**The Taoiseach:** There is no evidence of these discussions or what was said. There is no evidence of the facts given to members of the Government or my predecessor and why the

[The Taoiseach.]

decision was made in the way it was. That evidence should have been made available to the people. On an issue of such magnitude one would have thought this was absolutely critical.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Has the Taoiseach asked the departmental officials?

**The Taoiseach:** Yes, of course. All of the delegations to Government Buildings had something to say and a story to tell on how good or bad their financial institutions were, but there is no evidence of this in the Department of the Taoiseach. If I am at the Bunclody Community Council, I will have somebody taking notes in order that they will be there for all to see in the years ahead.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Can we confirm that notes were taken?

**The Taoiseach:** On the single biggest economic decision ever foisted on the backs of the people, there is no evidence in the Department of the Taoiseach about who said what, record of the evidence they gave and the rationale applied to it. Even by the Deputy's terms, that is quite extraordinary.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Tá an píosa stair seo cosúil le clár “Laurel and Hardy”, an raibh and comhdán, nach raibh an comhdán, bhí an comhdán, ní raibh an comhdán. What the Taoiseach has said is very clear.

There is no file in the Department of the Taoiseach. It has been either shredded, disposed of or dispatched. In other words, the Government has no evidence of the discussion that took place.

Will the Taoiseach clarify whether there ever was a file? If it never existed, when did it become clear to the Taoiseach? When did officials tell him no such file or files existed? If, as the Taoiseach appears to believe, a deficiency existed in the Department of the Taoiseach, and for that matter the Department of Finance, in record-keeping and note-taking, what steps has he taken to investigate his allegations and to change procedures in this regard since he took office?

**The Taoiseach:** Bhí an Teachta Ó Máirtín ag rá liom gur cóir dom a bheith an-cúramach faoi seo. Níl mé ag rá ar chor ar bith go ndeachaigh Aire ar bith nó an duine a bhí romham sa suíochán seo amach leis na páipéir seo agus gur chaith sé amach iad, ach níl siad ann. Sin atá i gceist agam. Ba seo an cinneadh is tábhachtaí a ndearnadh le blianta anuas.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Cén uair a bhfuair an Taoiseach an t-eolas seo?

**The Taoiseach:** Bhuail mé isteach leis na hoifigigh a bhí sa Roinn ag an am sin agus léigh mé na páipéir atá ann, ach níl tada iontu faoin gcinneadh.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Bhí nóta ann mar sin, an raibh?

**The Taoiseach:** De réir na ráitis poiblí agus de réir an eolas poiblí atá againn, bhí neart cruinnithe ar siúl roimh déanamh an chinnidh sin, ó thaobh bancanna agus iad siúd a bhí ag teacht isteach chuig iad siúd a bhí ag freastal ar an Rialtas ag an am sin, ach níl an scéal leagtha amach. Níl tuarascáil ar fáil ar chor ar bith orthu sin. Sílim go bhfuil sin an-aisteach ar fad. Sílim gur cóir go mbeadh tuarascáil ann. Mar adúirt mé, ghlaoigh mé isteach ar an oifigeach a bhí ag obair sa Roinn ag an am sin, an duine a bhí i gceannas ar an Roinn, agus thug sé dom na páipéir atá ann, ach níl tada iontu siúd faoi na cruinnithe sin, an cinneadh sin, an t-eolas sin, an fhaisnéis sin nó an scéal sin a tugadh do bhaill an Rialtais ag an am.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Sin rud difriúil.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** We are not having a long debate on this.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Dúirt an Taoiseach go raibh píosaí páipéir ann agus gur léigh sé iad ach ansin deireann sé nach raibh aon rud ann.

**The Taoiseach:** Mar adúirt mé leis an Teachta Ó Máirtín, léigh mé na páipéir atá ann ach níl tada iontu. Níl scéal, faisnéis ná eolas ar bith iontu faoi na cruinnithe a bhí ann roimh an cinneadh sin a bheith déanta.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Tuigim sin

**The Taoiseach:** Níl eolas ar bith faoi iad siúd a tháinig isteach roimh bhaill an Rialtais ag insint an scéil leo agus ag rá leo go raibh siad i dtrioblóid agus go raibh deacracht acu. Níl tuarascáil ar bith le fáil faoi sin. Tá an t-eolas sin iontach tábhachtach do mhuintir agus do pholaiteoirí na tíre, ach níl sé ar fáil.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Tá difear mór idir nótaí agus nótaí dona.

**The Taoiseach:** Cinnte, go bhfuil.

**Deputy Peter Mathews:** What records are taken at the EU Heads of Government summits, for instance like the one on 29 June recently? If contentious matters come to pass after a summit meeting, what sorts of records and documentation are prepared and recorded at these summit meetings?

**The Taoiseach:** Sometimes at these meetings conclusions are prepared in advance. Sometimes the conclusions, however, are not what actually was concluded at all. During the course of a meeting, while there are only one or two officials present, briefing notes of the discussion are sent to various delegations in order that they will know the trend of the discussion and the nature of the argument that might arise. With modern digital technology, I have seen some leaders texting or sending information out, too. In a formal sense, as the discussion continues, sections of briefing notes are prepared by officials and sent to the delegations so they have an understanding of the trend of the arguments, the discussions and who is saying what.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Through a freedom of information request I long ago sought records of a discussion between the European Council President, Mr. Van Rompuy, and the Taoiseach. It was, however, stopped by the Taoiseach and the Government side even though Europe was anxious to give the records of that particular Van Rompuy compromise.

The real issue is the Taoiseach playing games and spreading conspiracy theories to shed a better light on himself.

**The Taoiseach:** No, that is not the case.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** What is the question?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** That is wrong, because the fundamental point is we all know the rationale for the bank guarantee at the time. There is no secret about it.

**Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor:** We actually do not know what happened.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** We will not go into that. What is the question?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** We know it was a liquidity issue and not just in Ireland.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** No, we will not go there.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I am putting this to the Taoiseach, if I may. I will not be long putting it.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Put what to the Taoiseach?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** I am putting a question.

**Deputy James Reilly:** Tá an ceist seo an-fhada.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** At the time, there was the collapse of Lehman Brothers, while in Britain Royal Bank Scotland announced it was going to go bankrupt. Northern Rock had gone bankrupt the year before. There was a seizure in bank liquidity across the globe following the fall of Lehman Brothers. The fundamental issue facing the Government at the time——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Deputy is giving us a lecture on history. Will he ask a question?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** ——was, as per Professor Honohan's report, that it either maintained a banking system or it allowed it to collapse. I believe the guarantee should be examined and I have no difficulty with such an examination. The Committee of Public Accounts should  
*4 o'clock* be allowed get on with its work in this regard, having already put in six months of significant work on the issues around the bank guarantee, the collapse of the banks and the banking crisis not just here but across the world. This is the worst banking crisis since the late 1920s. It has been unprecedented. What faced the Government the last time was unprecedented as well. The Taoiseach knows that in all sincerity. Putting the politics to one side, those are the issues. We need to find out, first, why the banks collapsed and, second, the policy response to that collapse which was the bank guarantee.

There is growing concern in the House that one of the most effective committees we have had for many a year and which has cross-party support, namely, the Committee of Public Accounts, is being nobbled and undermined progressively by the Government. The most recent manifestation of this is Ministers questioning its capacity to investigate the issues around the banking crisis and bank guarantee. Will the Taoiseach assure the House that we will not witness an unacceptable undermining of the status of the Committee of Public Accounts? Many other committees should be like it in terms of its cross-party consensus and capacity to deal with issues, as it did before.

**Deputy Peter Mathews:** The Deputy should ask the former Attorneys General about that.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Will the Taoiseach confirm the Committee of Public Accounts will continue its work on the bank guarantee issue?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** That is an entirely separate question.

**The Taoiseach:** The Deputy is making the case why all the evidence as to what led the then Government to make its decision on the bank guarantee should be made available to the people. Everyone knew a banking crisis was on its way when Lehman Brothers went down, as well as the letter from Mr. Trichet and the European Central Bank in respect of the then difficulties in the Irish banking sector.

Without playing politics with this, I would have thought, and Deputy Martin as a Government member would have expected, I am quite sure, that whatever delegations came in to members of the then Government, stating there was a problem, we were running into dry sand and we needed to do something, and if their case was to have a bank guarantee or whatever else, the evidence they would have presented to the then Government, of which Deputy Martin was a member, is not available to this Government. Whether it was ever written down or, if it was, where it went, I certainly do not have access to it. In the interests of everyone, that would have been of fundamental importance. However, for whatever reason, the Department of the Taoiseach has no access to all of that information, evidence and rationale.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Has the Department of Finance access to it?

**The Taoiseach:** I do not want to proceed down a road where we end up with some sort of interminable inquiry. We have had the Regling and Watson report, Governor Honohan's response, the Commission papers and all that. These questions are about a comment I made in the House about the information and evidence presented to the members of the Government before the decision on the guarantee was made. The other reports are subsequent to the bank guarantee. The Government, in its own way, will make its decision as to what is the best thing to do.

I read the good report from the Committee of Public Accounts. The committee has always had, still has and will continue to have a very high standing in the House. There is also the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform which has a different remit, or we could focus on the question of using a different committee entirely.

Last year we put this matter to the people in a referendum relating to whistleblowers and those who might want to provide information. However, what was proposed was torpedoed by the input of eight former Attorneys General——

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** No, the people voted against it.

**The Taoiseach:** ——who exerted really strong influence at a critical time.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Taoiseach should accept the choice of the people.

**The Taoiseach:** The people turned down the proposal.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** They voted against it for good reason.

**The Taoiseach:** I respect their choice and we must live with their decision. It might have made the position of the Government somewhat easier if the decision had been different. However, that is neither here nor there.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Not when one considers the way the Government is behaving.

**The Taoiseach:** The answer to the Deputy's question is that the Government wants this matter to be resolved. We will try to ensure this happens in a way that is realisable and credible. We will not proceed down the road where there will be a pyramid of writs and litigation and a series of interminable meanderings which do not get to the truth. After all, getting to the truth is the fundamental issue.

### **Regulatory Impact Assessments**

6. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the success his Department is having in

[Deputy Micheál Martin.]

relation to the requirement outlined in the strategy statement regarding publishing Regulatory Impact Assessments before Government decisions are taken; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [30314/12]

7. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the way his Department is rationalising regulators to promote consumer interest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [30315/12]

**The Taoiseach:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 6 and 7 together.

My Department will shortly be consulting Departments generally about the question of publication of regulatory impact analyses carried out before Government decisions are taken. I draw the Deputy's attention to the fact that the Government has, in a number of instances, been publishing the general schemes of Bills and referring them to Oireachtas committees for consideration in advance of publishing the related Bill.

As regards the rationalisation of regulators, given the radical changes in the Irish economic environment in recent years, there is a need to reassess and reframe the role of regulators as a central part of Ireland's recovery. In particular, the creation of an investment-friendly environment that encourages job creation, at lowest cost to business and consumers, should be an important factor in the overall work of all regulatory bodies in Ireland. This is captured in the programme for Government commitment on economic regulation. In that context and under a commitment in the action plan for jobs, Forfás is undertaking a study to identify changes in the operation of sectoral regulators that would enhance cost competitiveness. The Forfás study which is expected to be completed later this year and the recommendations arising will provide an important evidence base and input into work on the effectiveness of economic regulation more generally as envisaged in the programme for Government which is being co-ordinated by my Department.

Given the multifaceted nature of the overall regulation agenda and the need for clarity and certainty for businesses and consumers, the Government recently confirmed the assignment of lead responsibility in respect of the various functions in this area across a number of relevant Departments. As with other major policy areas of government, overall strategic co-ordination and work on economic regulation in general will be overseen and progressed at Cabinet committee level.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It is difficult to make much of the Taoiseach's reply which has been scripted in such a way as to avoid specifics. In the context of regulatory impact assessments being made before Government decisions are taken, do I understand from the initial part of the reply that this is not quite happening as normal in respect of legislation being brought forward? Is there a requirement to produce regulatory impact assessments in respect of all items of legislation before they are published and prior to the taking of all Government decisions?

The consumer and competition Bill has been delayed on three occasions. Is the Taoiseach in a position to outline the progress made in promoting the interests of consumers in the context of rationalising the position on regulators generally? The rationalisation of regulators has its origins in the many statements made by the Taoiseach and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Deputy Phil Hogan, when they were in opposition. The Minister, in particular, wanted to rationalise the position to such an extent that there would be a single regulator who would have responsibility for all areas. I do not get the sense that we are moving in that direction. If anything, we are moving towards creating even further regulators. I refer to the Government's proposals to appoint a regulator with responsi-

bility for water services. I would like the Taoiseach to clarify the position on the points I have made.

**The Taoiseach:** The programme for Government states, “We will require Departments to carry out and publish Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) before Government decisions are taken”. As the Deputy is aware, regulatory impact assessments involve an examination of the likely impact of proposed new regulations or regulatory changes. They help to identify side-effects or hidden costs associated with regulation and clarify the likely outcome of proposed changes. During the assessment process everyone affected is entitled to ensure his or her views and interests are understood.

All Bills have not been referred to the Cabinet or Oireachtas committees prior to publication. My Department is taking the lead in this matter and will consult all other Departments on it. I expect that the process in this regard will be completed in the autumn. The Government will then consider how to implement what is proposed. The heads of Bills are being published more frequently. This is not happening as often as I would like, but they are being published more frequently and referred to the relevant Oireachtas committees, which is good. Where committees have considered the heads of Bills, they have made some very pertinent points. The quality of the consultation in this regard has assisted the process relating to taking a Bill on Second and Committee Stages, when matters go that far.

I referred to the multifaceted nature of the overall regulation agenda and the need for certainty regarding the allocation of responsibilities. In that regard, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for reducing red tape and administrative burdens, dealing with competition issues and representing Ireland at EU-OECD international fora dealing with regulation, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has responsibility for dealing with regulatory impact assessments, that is, training, support, monitoring and compliance, while the Department of the Taoiseach has responsibility for dealing with the effectiveness of economic regulators. In addition, the Department of the Taoiseach and the Office of the Attorney General have responsibility for dealing with the transparency and quality of regulation.

As I have already informed the Deputy, my Department is involved in consultations with all other Departments and we expect to conclude the process by early autumn. We will then make a Government decision on implementing the programme and see to it that all Departments publish regulatory impact assessments before Government decisions are taken.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Many business concerns state they are over-regulated. That was also said to be the case in the financial world for a long period. The Government’s policy is to reduce regulation and the regulatory burden and also to simplify regulations in order to avoid duplication. The position of the European Union and the OECD is the same. However, every European directive brought forward will, in all likelihood, increase the regulatory burden on somebody somewhere in the context of their business. I do not get a sense that, either at official level across Departments or at Oireachtas level, penetration is being achieved on the regulatory issue. There is no indication that people are shouting, “Halt”, that they are taking stock or that they are bringing forward alternative or simple mechanisms.

I do not intend what I am about to say in a partisan way, but the Taoiseach has referred to three or four Departments which are dealing with different bodies internationally. That sounds itsy bitsy and somewhat all over the place. In the context of the Government, the European Union and the various Oireachtas committees which deal with it, we need a far more simple approach to dealing with regulation that is coming down the tracks and a more honest approach

[Deputy Micheál Martin.]

to assessing what will be the impact of such regulation on businesses and sectoral interests and how it may relate to costs and jobs.

**The Taoiseach:** I do not disagree with this principle. The Department of Finance has produced a report which was brought before us just today which outlines the reductions achieved in the administrative and red-tape bureaucracy associated with the Revenue Commissioners. I understand Revenue measured up in all areas in this regard, except in the area of VAT. I have indicated that the Departments of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Public Expenditure and Reform and the Taoiseach and the Office of the Attorney General have been allocated lead responsibility in a number of the areas to which I refer in the context of starting a process of co-ordination. I recall talking to the Mayor of Chicago, Mr. Rahm Emanuel, who informed me that in order to establish any kind of an enterprise in that city one required well over 100 licences. He then stated that because of the authority invested in him, he had been able to reduce the burden in this regard by up to two thirds. In so far as businesses and retail outlets in this country are concerned, the Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Deputy John Perry, is considering what is involved. Some of the licences which apply in Ireland have European connotations and reducing their number is not as simple as one might think. The Nice treaty stated we should reduce bureaucratic red tape by 25% and this has been an aspiration for a long time. While it is not where I would like it to be, it is taking shape. I hope that by mid-autumn we will be in a position to publish our decision in respect of having the process right for publishing all of these in order that Deputies and others involved will have that information before the Government decision is made.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** I have one question about consumer regulators. The National Consumer Agency was established in 2007 to protect and promote consumers' rights. In 2008, it was announced that it would be amalgamated with the Competition Authority which, it appears to me, is a totally different body responsible for enforcing Irish and European competition law. The National Consumer Agency has a good record of defending consumer rights in a number of disputes, including the one involving Aer Lingus. It is now 2012, so can the Taoiseach give us some sense of where this merger stands? Will legislation be introduced and, if so, when? Can the Taoiseach give a commitment that this merger will not in any way reduce the service provided and the role played by the National Consumer Agency in defending and promoting consumers' rights?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** We are straining this question a little now.

**The Taoiseach:** I do not know the up-to-date position on that merger, but I will check the details and respond to Deputy Adams on its status.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Okay. Go raibh maith agat.

### **Economic Management Council**

8. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Taoiseach if the Economic Management Council met with the banks on 26 June. [32114/12]

9. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Taoiseach if he will report on the meeting between the Economic Management Council and the banks on 26 June. [32115/12]

10. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Taoiseach if there was a meeting between the Economic Management Council and the banks on 26 June 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34959/12]

11. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Taoiseach if he will report on any meeting held between the Economic Management Council and the banks on 26 June 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34960/12]

**The Taoiseach:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 8 to 11, inclusive, together.

The Economic Management Council has met 62 times since its establishment. The members have met 25 times so far this year, most recently on 12 July, and have met 12 times since the Easter recess. The Government has been working closely with the Irish banks to ensure that the banking sector supports economic recovery. The members of the council last met with the banks on 26 June. The general topic of the meeting was mortgage arrears and new mortgage lending. The timing of the meeting coincided with the Government's decision to publish the personal insolvency legislation. During the meeting, members of the council took the opportunity to set out the Government's commitment to assisting those in mortgage arrears and set out our strategy to address mortgage arrears difficulties. The council also took the opportunity to seek assurances from all of the banks that they are fully committed to addressing the mortgage arrears of their customers.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Did the Taoiseach deal with the issue of tracker mortgages with the banks?

The European Central Bank cut rates earlier this month but most of the 250,000 variable rate mortgage holders are not expected to benefit from that. AIB, EBS, National Irish Bank, Bank of Ireland, KBC Bank and Irish Nationwide are still considering whether to pass on the latest cut. Did the Taoiseach take the opportunity to raise that matter with the banks?

Did he raise the issue of bank branch closures, which will have a significant social consequence, particularly in rural areas? According to the figures, upwards of 200 bank branches are threatened with closure, which will make it difficult for people in rural communities to bank locally.

When the Taoiseach has replied, I would like to come back with another question if I may.

**The Taoiseach:** The Economic Management Council has met with the banks on a number of occasions. On the last occasion we had a series of questions about SME credit, including how banks are ensuring that their targets will be met, whether they are taking practical initiatives to assist SMEs in obtaining credit, and whether they show a willingness to implement and support the Government's initiatives as set out in the action plan on jobs. There was also a discussion on the Government's proposed microfinance agency and the partial loan credit guarantee report on freeing up access to credit for small businesses.

With regard to mortgage credit, we asked how banks were ensuring that credit is available to support the Government's budget initiative on first-time buyers, whereby they will have access to mortgage interest relief this year and for years to come if they buy in 2012, but not if they buy in 2013. We asked what checks and balances there are to ensure that conditions on mortgage credit are fair, balanced and not unduly restrictive. We also asked the banks for an analysis of the differences in what is happening in the various regions. In some parts of Dublin city house prices have begun to rise to a small extent, while in other areas prices are continuing to fall or there is a slight fluctuation.

We want to see banks supporting the mortgage interest relief initiative. We sought examples of how banks were dealing with difficulties in regard to mortgage arrears, asked whether they were sitting down with customers to work out solutions in these cases, and asked about their implementation of the Keane report.

[The Taoiseach.]

At the last meeting, we indicated that we intended to publish the Personal Insolvency Bill and two days later the banks came out with a range of facilities they were offering. That is part of a regular process of meetings with the banks to ensure that the focus is kept where it should be. The pillar banks are both committed to lending €3.5 billion of new money this year. That is for approval for new loans as distinct from loans that are not drawn down. I hope the banks will keep to those targets.

Banks have been encouraged to get back out into the workplace and inform people that they have money to lend, which is available under the normal rules. The Deputy asked for examples of the types of business that have been funded by banks. While funding is not as extensive as one would wish, it is beginning to happen. I hope that will continue. It is a measure of the confidence that is returning to the indigenous economy, which has been very flat for quite some time.

In moving around the country, I have seen that in general the number of new business start-ups is quite encouraging. I know that some businesses have gone to the wall but there are also people who are putting their money where the challenge is. They are measuring up and starting off new small and medium-sized businesses. It is great to see people who are prepared to put their own money into initiatives where they can get access to credit and employ up to ten people where they see such opportunities.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** I appreciate that the main focus of the Taoiseach's meeting concerned the Government's Personal Insolvency Bill. Sinn Féin has welcomed the publication of that legislation but we are disappointed that the banks are being allowed to have a veto. Would the Government consider an independent agency, as we have sought, which is empowered to enforce legally binding settlements on debtors and creditors?

Did the banks give the Taoiseach an assurance that they would work within the terms of the Bill and engage constructively with mortgage holders?

Has the Taoiseach had any opportunity to consider the apparent change in the European Central Bank's policy on burning senior bondholders? If press reports of remarks by the ECB president, Mr. Draghi, are correct, this would be a significant change. Has the Taoiseach had an opportunity to consider the matter? Can he cast any light on reports that Mr. Draghi's proposals for the Spanish banks were rejected by EU finance ministers? I do not know whether that is true, but perhaps the Taoiseach has an inside line on it.

**The Taoiseach:** To answer the Deputy's first question on the Personal Insolvency Bill, I met with a number of representatives of Money Advice and Budgeting Service organisations around the country, which have been dealing with debt and distress arising from credit cards, car loans and other financial issues, as distinct from mortgages. If people wish to go down the road of personal insolvency under the legislation, a personal financial statement must be prepared. Under the legislation, they have access to skilled accountancy expertise for two hours, which is paid for by the banks. At that stage, they are required to put up all the information about their indebtedness. The point made by MABS was that it would prefer a more comprehensive response. If someone is going down the road of personal insolvency resolution, all indebtedness must come to light, including the expertise that the MABS personnel had been dealing with, together with the expertise available from accountants, which will come from a panel of accountants.

As far as the ECB is concerned, the matter was discussed at the eurogroup meeting. There were differences of opinion and the matter has not been finalised. Ireland has paid off most of

the bondholders for the past number of years. The requirement is for Ireland to get the best deal it can on the outcome of European Council meeting, where the eurogroup was charged with putting flesh on the decision. That is part of the reason the Minister for Finance is in Frankfurt speaking to Mr. Draghi. This country has paid off the bondholders but, in the case of Spain, I understand it is talking about banks that would become defunct. The impending crisis meant the Spanish Government of the day encouraged people to save and some of those savers may get caught in that situation if it was to apply in Spain. Irrespective of the decision on Spain, we want the best possible deal for our restructuring of debt. The fact the European Council meeting made a specific point about equality of treatment is important. At the eurogroup meeting, that was followed by similar requirements in respect of Ireland. The matter has not been concluded. Members are aware of the statement of Commissioner Rehn that he would like to see this concluded for Ireland by October. The approach has been endorsed by Commissioner Barnier, the IMF and Europe, which has been far more supportive of the challenge faced by the Irish people in regard to safeguarding Europe and meeting the challenge. Now is the time for analysis and negotiation so we can have the best deal possible secured for our people arising from these negotiations, which will take place between now and October.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** There was widespread disappointment at the Personal Insolvency Bill. It failed to do what should have been done, which is to provide for the writing down of unsustainable mortgage debt left on the backs of people through no fault of their own. It happened because of the pumping up of the property bubble by the banks, the developers and their friends, Fianna Fáil, in government at the time. People have been left with this disastrous situation, which is no fault of their own. They hoped there would be real relief in writing down the debt and recognising it was a debt artificially created by the greedy and imposed on the back of people who want nothing more than to put a roof over their heads. Instead, there is an arrangement—

**An Ceann Comhairle:** We are not discussing the Personal Insolvency Bill. Deputy Boyd Barrett should ask a question.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** —where the banks have a veto and the last say. Is this the meeting where the Taoiseach decided to give the banks the last say? They seem to have the last say on everything. Is this the meeting at which it was all agreed, whereby the bank said that any debt settlement arrangements and insolvency arrangements would be subject to the banks having the last say and the Taoiseach just accepted it? It is a pretty poor show given what the banks have done and are doing to this country. Once again, they come in and tell the Taoiseach what to do and he obeys.

Did the Taoiseach invite distressed mortgages holders to the meeting? Did he invite the credit unions, which are more in touch with ordinary people? There will be no debt write-downs for them and no bailout but the banks get the bailout and still do not engage in debt write-down.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Can the Deputy stick to the question?

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Did the Taoiseach talk to ordinary people affected by this problem or did he listen only to the banks?

**The Taoiseach:** I am not too sure Deputy Boyd Barrett would recognise a happy day if he saw one. Does he think we live at one remove from ordinary people? Does he not think people walk in to the offices of members of Government parties to talk about their problems? Does he not think they express their concerns, anxiety and distress about the challenge they face

[The Taoiseach.]

every day in their lives? They do, and the Personal Insolvency Bill is an incentive for banks to get on with it. They have been recapitalised to the extent that they can deal with mortgage arrears, mortgage distress and people's concerns. At the Economic Management Council meetings, we have encouraged the banks to put teams together to sit down with people, to work out solutions from the Keane report or from another facility, such as mortgage to rent, split mortgages, mortgage to lease or part write-downs without having recourse to personal insolvency. There is a real incentive for the banks and lending institutions to sit down with their customers and work out individual solutions. That is what it takes because a particular formula does not fit every case. Each case is different given the human circumstances, where the people live, and whether they are working. We encourage that process.

In the case of Deputy Boyd Barrett, impossible is the measure of his satisfaction. I do not know who Deputy Boyd Barrett meets in his constituency or whether he has a good word to say about anybody ever. We tried to help in the best way we can those who are in distress and who have concerns and anxieties. For Deputy Boyd Barrett to suggest you do not meet people like this everyday is complete and utter nonsense.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** I will talk about this issue in more detail later in the week. I got my brief on the Bill from someone who is in mortgage distress.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** We are not talking about Deputy Boyd Barrett's brief.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** I went to someone in the situation of unsustainable mortgage arrears——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** We are talking about a meeting of the Economic Management Council.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** ——and I asked the person to read the Bill and provide me with a critique of it. The person said the Bill was rubbish because it left the power in the hands of the banks.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Deputy Boyd Barrett can make that point on Second Stage.

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Deputy Boyd Barrett finds everything to be rubbish.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Was it at this meeting that the Taoiseach gave the banks the veto? Why did he not tell them that the Government was going to tell the banks what to do and that it was going to impose fair debt settlement arrangements because the Government is now the boss of the banks and, having recapitalised them, they should serve the people rather than their own interests? Why did the Taoiseach not do so? Why did he allow the banks to have a veto? Did the banks tell the Taoiseach that at the meeting?

**The Taoiseach:** They did not. I am sure that if Deputy Boyd Barrett sat down, as he knows most things, he could have devised a solution for the person he is talking about.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** I spoke to someone affected by the problem.

**Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor:** We know about that.

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** Why did the Taoiseach not get such people to write the Bill, not the banks?

**The Taoiseach:** The Personal Insolvency Bill is one of the most complex items of legislation to come before the House in many years. Leaving aside the Bill, the fact that banks were recapitalised to the extent they were——

**Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett:** By us, the people.

**The Taoiseach:** ——the fact that the Keane report produced recommendations on how to bring about a resolution for distressed mortgages and those in arrears and in difficulties, is the reason the lending institutions have an incentive to sit down with everyone and work out an individual solution for each case. There are those who have had solutions worked out where the house is not being taken from them, where one of a variety of things has been put in place and people know they will have a roof over their heads and have a sense of an end in sight for their problems. It works both ways because people make adjustments and the lending institutions make adjustments. That is why the taxpayer recapitalised banks to that extent. Banks said they need to put teams of competent people in place in order to do so. The trend in banks for many years was to throw out money. The more they threw out, the more they got paid. This seemed a complete contradiction and certainly led to this country standing on the cliff edge. I share the Deputy's view in that regard.

### Order of Business

**The Taoiseach:** It is proposed to take No. 13, Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012 — Order for Report, Report and Final Stages; and No. 14, Personal Insolvency Bill 2012 — Second Stage (resumed).

It is proposed, notwithstanding anything in Standing Orders, that the Dáil shall sit later than 9 p.m. and shall adjourn not later than 10 p.m., and Private Members' business, which shall be No. 28, Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill 2012 — Second Stage, shall, if not previously concluded, be brought to a conclusion at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 July, 2012.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** There are two proposals to be put to the House. Is the proposal that the Dáil shall sit later than 9 p.m. agreed to? Agreed. Is the proposal for dealing with Private Members' business agreed to? Agreed.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The child and family support agency Bill is more necessary than ever given the extent of the cuts the Government has applied to one-parent family supports, disability payments, the provision of special needs assistants and so on. Families are facing an increasing number of challenges as a result of these reductions. Will the Bill provide for a sufficiency of places for the hundreds of intellectually disabled children who left school in June?

Earlier today I met a delegation from Community Hospital of the Assumption in Thurles. The Minister for Health, Deputy James Reilly, has reneged on a firm commitment he gave to reopen 22 beds at that facility.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** That is not a matter for the Order of Business. It would be better suited to a parliamentary question.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** People are extremely concerned at the undermining of the hospital. It is symptomatic of the lack of governance in the health service.

**Deputy James Reilly:** A lack of governance we inherited from the Deputy and his colleagues in government.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** No, you did not. This is a new, start-of-the-art hospital which we built and opened.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** Correct.

**Deputy James Reilly:** It is difficult to listen to the Deputy talking about governance in the health service.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Can we have the conversation through the Chair, please?

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The Minister cynically promised these people the sun, moon and stars, just as he made promises to every community up and down the country.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Deputy should not succumb to the interruptions.

**Deputy James Reilly:** We will deliver on our promises.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Will the HSE governance Bill be published during the summer recess? What is the intention? Does the Government have interim plans in terms of the legal structures governing the provision of health services at this time? There is a lack of clarity as to who is in charge, whether the Secretary General, the Minister, the chief executive officer of the Health Service Executive, the officials——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** That sounds like a query suited to Leaders' Questions.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Given the volume of issues we have to raise, putting in place a legislative framework would give much needed clarity to a situation that is of the Minister's own creation. He abolished the HSE board without putting anything in its place.

**The Taoiseach:** I notice that the Deputy said in reference to the hospital he mentioned that "we" built it. That is what has been wrong in this place for so long, this notion that "we" build things.

*(Interruptions).*

**The Taoiseach:** The taxpayers pay their money and governments put a process in place to oversee the expenditure of those moneys. That does not allow us to claim ownership of the people's facilities.

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae:** Government members are always saying "We will do this" and "We have done that".

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Do not get excited, Deputy Healy-Rae.

**Deputy John Paul Phelan:** Deputy Healy-Rae's father was good at that. He built a lot of things.

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae:** We did.

**Deputy James Reilly:** Using their own construction equipment.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Let us get back to business.

**The Taoiseach:** The heads of the child and family support agency Bill were cleared by the Cabinet this morning and the Minister given approval to proceed. That legislation will be ready in the autumn. The HSE governance Bill was approved by Cabinet today for publication.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Hallelujah.

**The Taoiseach:** There might be some Government amendments on Committee Stage, but the Bill is expected to be published tomorrow.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** I have two questions for the Taoiseach, both of which relate to legislation on health matters. This is no coincidence given that the health service is in such a mess. I very much welcome the news that the HSE governance Bill is about to be published. Every Member could tell a story of constituents coming into their offices in extreme distress. I, too, met the group from north Tipperary to which Deputy Micheál Martin referred. The people concerned are beside themselves over the closure of those 22 beds. It has had dreadful consequences, particularly for elderly citizens and for carers in that area.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I ask the Deputy to confine himself to questions on promised legislation.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** The Minister for Health promised that the beds would be reopened. I note that the Minister has written to pharmacists and GPs in regard to the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill, presumably because that Bill has not completed all Stages in the Dáil and Seanad. When does the Taoiseach expect that it will complete its passage through the Houses and is that the reason the Minister wrote to doctors and pharmacists?

**The Taoiseach:** I am not up to date with the community nursing home in Thurles to which the Deputy referred. The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill was published last Friday and is on its way into the Seanad.

**Deputy Dessie Ellis:** I am sure the Taoiseach is aware that private management companies are using clamping as a means to force people to pay management fees. A report has been sent to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Deputy Leo Varadkar, from the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications containing a series of recommendations to bring public and private regulations under one umbrella. Will the Taoiseach indicate when the vehicle immobilisation regulation Bill will be published and whether any of the committee's recommendations have been taken into account in setting out its provisions? One of those recommendations relates to the absurd situation of clamping in hospital carparks. It is going on constantly at Blanchardstown hospital.

**The Taoiseach:** Drafting of that Bill has commenced, but I do not have a date for its publication. The Minister will keep in touch with the Deputy as matters proceed.

**Deputy Brendan Ryan:** Noise nuisance and pollution is a major issue for people throughout the country. A noise nuisance Bill has been promised.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Something like that is required in this Chamber at times.

**Deputy Brendan Ryan:** What progress has been made on that legislation and when will it be brought before the House?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** And will its provisions extend to the Chamber?

**The Taoiseach:** That legislation is still rumbling in the distance. I can see it but I cannot hear it. I will get back to the Deputy with a more accurate fix on it.

**Deputy Joan Collins:** Last week I asked the Taoiseach, and the Minister for Education and Skills, Deputy Ruairí Quinn, last Thursday week, about legislation to implement the ruling in the X case and the working group established to discuss the matter. I have not received any

[Deputy Joan Collins.]

information from the Taoiseach's Department despite his undertaking to update me on progress in this regard. The group's report was supposed to have been published by now.

**The Taoiseach:** The specialist group established by the Government to consider this matter requested and was granted an extension of time. When it completes its deliberations in due course, that report will go to the Minister.

**Deputy Joan Collins:** How much additional time was given to the group to complete the report?

**The Taoiseach:** The request was for an extension until the end of September.

**Deputy Thomas P. Broughan:** What is the status of the public health (alcohol) Bill, which will introduce measures relating to minimum pricing of alcohol? I have heard from the chairperson of the Labour Party that it was neither discussed nor signed off at today's Cabinet meeting. Yesterday a Garda forum on the north side of Dublin issued a request that the legislation be passed by Hallowe'en. Will the Taoiseach indicate whether that will be done?

Several sections of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008 were never implemented or are not being enforced, specifically those relating to the quantities and pricing of alcohol for sale. Large multiples, in particular, are selling large quantities of alcohol at low prices. Will the Minister for Justice and Equality, Deputy Alan Shatter, undertake to implement those sections of the 2008 Act that are not yet implemented by signing the relevant regulations and, where provisions are already implemented, will he ensure their enforcement?

**The Taoiseach:** I assume the Deputy is referring to provisions regarding the separation of alcohol for sale in outlets. The Minister has his documentation ready in that regard. That 2,000 hospital beds throughout the State are taken up every night by people fuelled with drink is an appalling statistic. The Minister of State at the Department of Health, Deputy Róisín Shortall, has been working on a range of propositions in regard to the sale of alcohol. We had a good discussion about this issue at the Cabinet sub-committee on social affairs some time ago. The agreement at the conclusion of the meeting was that the Minister would reflect upon the issues that were raised and the good range of comments that were made and would bring her findings back to the next meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee, which would be entirely devoted to the question of alcohol. This matter is of the most serious import given what happened, along with drug abuse, in the Phoenix Park recently with horrendous consequences. I saw some sort of an altercation on Talbot Street in one of the videos one sees on the newspaper websites in which somebody kicked somebody else in the head. It was absolutely appalling. This issue is of major significance and must be dealt with correctly.

**Deputy Thomas P. Broughan:** Will the Bill be taken before Hallowe'en?

**The Taoiseach:** I saw many reports that this issue would be on the Cabinet agenda for today. It was never to be on the agenda for today. It will come back to the Cabinet sub-committee on social policy's next meeting, which will be devoted fully to this matter. We will include in that the recommendations of the Minister, Deputy Shatter, in regard to the sections of the 2008 Act. We will, in the most comprehensive way we can, bring it to the House and have a proper discussion about it.

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae:** All training bodies or providers should be bonded and regulated to avoid another fiasco such as occurred recently with trainee pilots. Does the Government have proposals or will it produce legislation——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** This sounds like a matter to be raised as a topical issue or in a parliamentary question.

**The Taoiseach:** I believe the Minister, Deputy Varadkar, is meeting with representatives of the trainee pilots on Friday.

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae:** I wish to briefly raise a second matter.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Please ensure it is in order this time.

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae:** I believe it is in order. On critical infrastructure legislation, last week I raised with the Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the critical situation facing farmers. Has the Government produced any sensible, practical proposals in the past week to help farmers with the crisis they face this winter?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Is legislation promised?

**The Taoiseach:** The Minister has commented on this matter publicly and, as the Deputy will be aware, sections of the single payment have been brought forward. Clearly, the bad weather has exacerbated the position. I note today's reports that farmers could lose up to €250 per head through the drop in the value of cattle caused by this problem. The situation has been exacerbated by the flooding of 100,000 acres on the wetlands of the River Shannon.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** And elsewhere.

**The Taoiseach:** The problem is that there has never been any management structure in place to look at that issue to see what could be done. It is not a case of going back to drain the river. Much more sophisticated early warning systems are needed, and a system that operates to the best advantage of everybody. For years, farmers have had to put up with winter flooding but nothing of the scale of the current summer flooding which has devastated the incomes of many.

**Deputy Michael Healy-Rae:** We will have to put a roof over the country.

**Deputy Billy Kelleher:** In recent days, we have had unedifying episodes of Cabinet Ministers undermining the national substance misuse strategy and, in particular, undermining the Minister of State with responsibility for its implementation, Deputy Shortall, who has been brave in taking on the issue of alcohol abuse. When will legislation be introduced to implement minimum pricing for alcohol, which is a key part of the national substance misuse strategy? In view of the finding of a recent report commissioned by the National Suicide Research Foundation that up to 80% of suicides of young males were related to alcohol or substance abuse, this is clearly an issue of major importance.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I understand the matter the Deputy raises will be addressed in the Topical Issue debate.

**Deputy Billy Kelleher:** Yes, but I am seeking clarity on the legislation. The Minister of State, Deputy Shortall, clearly will not be able to give a commitment because she is being undermined by the Cabinet as she seeks to implement her proposals.

**The Taoiseach:** Nobody is undermining anybody. There is a clear process in place for dealing with this matter, which is far too serious to be rushed in any way. As I indicated to Deputy Broughan, it is a case of the Cabinet sub-committee on social policy having a full hearing on the issue, taking into account the recommendations from two Ministers, the Minister for Justice

[The Taoiseach.]

and Equality, Deputy Shatter, and Minister of State at the Department of Health, Deputy Shortall.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** Has the Cabinet sub-committee met?

**The Taoiseach:** Yes, it has met.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** It obviously did not have a full hearing.

**The Taoiseach:** Based on the comments and proposals put forward at the meeting, the Minister of State, Deputy Shortall, was mandated to come back to the sub-committee with a focus arising from those comments. The next meeting of the sub-committee will be devoted exclusively to this matter.

**Deputy Micheál Martin:** The *Irish Daily Mail* got an exclusive on the issue today.

**The Taoiseach:** Unfortunately, it is true in my experience that drink and drugs are involved in the vast majority of cases resulting in self-harm or suicide. Tragically, such cases are occurring in every parish and townland in the country. I know of a particular location where six cases arose in just a fortnight, which is a terrible burden for people to bear.

The issue of minimum pricing and other areas surrounding alcohol are matters for serious discussion at the Cabinet sub-committee. When it concludes its discussions the Government will make its collective decision and we can all debate it in the House. I listened to the points made about the urgency of this issue but it is also important to get it right. Somebody brought to my attention last week that on the morning after a recent celebration following examinations young people were wheeled out of ambulances on trolleys with their mothers walking alongside them as they went to have their stomachs pumped out. While we have issues of parental responsibility, these things should not happen in 2012.

**Deputy Martin Heydon:** Will the proposed Bill to amend the Valuation Act give due cognisance to the need to take a flexible approach to differences between small businesses and much larger industries? When local authorities change the rates for a pub or shop it makes a small difference, whereas in the case of a large multinational a change to the local authority rates could lead to a significant loss of income. At what stage is the legislation?

**The Taoiseach:** The Bill is due for publication on 24 July. The points raised by Deputy Heydon have been raised by many others and will be relevant to the Bill.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** I will raise an issue related to the reorganisation of the Health Service Executive. I am delighted the Taoiseach has indicated the HSE governance Bill will be introduced tomorrow. The word “non-governance” would be more appropriate in the Title. I am glad the Minister for Health is present as I have two questions on health issues. When the Health Information and Quality Authority visits a facility, as it did when it visited Carrick-on-Suir in my constituency of Tipperary South—

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Deputy should table a parliamentary question on the matter.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** I have done so but I cannot get an answer.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** He will not get an answer on the Order of Business.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** Are all nursing homes treated equally?

On the issue raised by Deputy Martin, the Minister for Health gave a commitment last November, in the company of Deputy Noel Coonan, to reopen 22 beds in the Hospital of the Assumption in Thurles in January of this year.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** That matter has been dealt with.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** The commitment was not given before the election.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The issue is not appropriate to the Order of Business.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** It was given in November last when the Minister had been in government for a year and had access to the books and his own budget. In response to his announcement that 22 beds would be reopened, Deputy Coonan issued a press release indicating the commitment was solid and would be met.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I ask the Deputy to resume his seat.

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Deputy Coonan will sort him out.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** When will it be met?

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The matter is not relevant to the Order of Business.

**Deputy Noel Coonan:** I attended the public meetings whereas Deputy McGrath did not show up for them. He has no support.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** We cannot have untruths such as this peddled by a Minister and a Deputy. People in County Tipperary are entitled to honesty.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Order of Business is concluded. The Deputy must resume his seat.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** No. They are entitled to honesty. Deputy Coonan welcomed the commitment to reopen the beds. A deputation from County Tipperary has just left.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I ask Deputy McGrath to resume his seat, please.

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Deputy Coonan will sort the Deputy out.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** That is an awful threat. I am asking about beds in a hospital.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Deputy may not do so on the Order of Business.

**Deputy Noel Coonan:** The Deputy did not show up at any of the meetings.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** Deputy Coonan has been promising the beds will be reopened.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** The Deputy should contact the Minister.

**Deputy Paul Kehoe:** Is the Deputy getting anything in the reshuffle?

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** Tá mé ag teacht.

**Deputy James Reilly:** Ceapaim go bhfuil tú ag dúl.

**Deputy Mattie McGrath:** Ní bheidh aon fháilte roimh an Aire i gCarraig na Siúire arís.

**Gaeiltacht Bill 2012: Second Stage (Resumed)**

**An Ceann Comhairle:** A division was challenged last Friday on the question that the Gaeiltacht Bill 2012 be read a Second Time. In accordance with an order of the Dáil of 12 July 2012, that division must be taken now.

Question put: "That the Bill be now read a Second Time."

The Dáil divided: Tá, 87; Níl, 38.

Tá

Barry, Tom.  
Breen, Pat.  
Broughan, Thomas P.  
Bruton, Richard.  
Burton, Joan.  
Butler, Ray.  
Buttimer, Jerry.  
Byrne, Catherine.  
Byrne, Eric.  
Cannon, Ciarán.  
Carey, Joe.  
Coffey, Paudie.  
Conlan, Seán.  
Connaughton, Paul J.  
Conway, Ciara.  
Coonan, Noel.  
Corcoran Kennedy, Marcella.  
Costello, Joe.  
Coveney, Simon.  
Creed, Michael.  
Daly, Jim.  
Deasy, John.  
Deering, Pat.  
Doherty, Regina.  
Donohoe, Paschal.  
Doyle, Andrew.  
English, Damien.  
Farrell, Alan.  
Feighan, Frank.  
Fitzgerald, Frances.  
Fitzpatrick, Peter.  
Flanagan, Charles.  
Flanagan, Terence.  
Hannigan, Dominic.  
Harrington, Noel.  
Harris, Simon.  
Hayes, Brian.  
Hayes, Tom.  
Heydon, Martin.  
Humphreys, Heather.  
Humphreys, Kevin.  
Keating, Derek.  
Keaveney, Colm.  
Kehoe, Paul.

Kelly, Alan.  
Kenny, Enda.  
Kenny, Seán.  
Kyne, Seán.  
Lawlor, Anthony.  
Lynch, Ciarán.  
Lyons, John.  
Maloney, Eamonn.  
McCarthy, Michael.  
McEntee, Shane.  
McFadden, Nicky.  
McGinley, Dinny.  
McLoughlin, Tony.  
McNamara, Michael.  
Mathews, Peter.  
Mitchell, Olivia.  
Mitchell O'Connor, Mary.  
Mulherin, Michelle.  
Murphy, Dara.  
Murphy, Eoghan.  
Nash, Gerald.  
Naughten, Denis.  
Nolan, Derek.  
Nulty, Patrick.  
Ó Ríordáin, Aodhán.  
O'Donnell, Kieran.  
O'Donovan, Patrick.  
O'Mahony, John.  
O'Reilly, Joe.  
O'Sullivan, Jan.  
Phelan, Ann.  
Phelan, John Paul.  
Rabbitte, Pat.  
Reilly, James.  
Ring, Michael.  
Ryan, Brendan.  
Shatter, Alan.  
Stagg, Emmet.  
Timmins, Billy.  
Tuffy, Joanna.  
Twomey, Liam.  
Wall, Jack.  
White, Alex.

Níl

Adams, Gerry.  
Boyd Barrett, Richard.  
Calleary, Dara.  
Collins, Joan.  
Colreavy, Michael.  
Cowen, Barry.  
Crowe, Seán.

Daly, Clare.  
Doherty, Pearse.  
Donnelly, Stephen S.  
Ellis, Dessie.  
Ferris, Martin.  
Flanagan, Luke 'Ming'.  
Fleming, Sean.

Níl—*continued*

Grealish, Noel.  
Halligan, John.  
Healy-Rae, Michael.  
Higgins, Joe.  
Kelleher, Billy.  
Kirk, Seamus.  
Kitt, Michael P.  
Lowry, Michael.  
McConalogue, Charlie.  
McGrath, Finian.  
McGrath, Mattie.  
McGuinness, John.

McLellan, Sandra.  
Martin, Micheál.  
Murphy, Catherine.  
Ó Cuív, Éamon.  
Ó Fearghaíl, Seán.  
Pringle, Thomas.  
Ross, Shane.  
Smith, Brendan.  
Stanley, Brian.  
Tóibín, Peadar.  
Troy, Robert.  
Wallace, Mick.

Tellers: Tá, Deputies Emmet Stagg and Paul Kehoe; Níl, Deputies Peadar Tóibín and Seán Ó Fearghaíl.

Question declared carried.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** When is it proposed to take Committee Stage?

**Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Dinny McGinley):** Thursday, 19 July 2012.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Is that agreed to?

**Deputy Peadar Tóibín:** Not agreed.

Question put: “That the Bill be considered in Committee of the whole Dáil.”

The Dáil divided: Tá, 89; Níl, 38.

Tá

Barry, Tom.  
Breen, Pat.  
Broughan, Thomas P.  
Bruton, Richard.  
Burton, Joan.  
Butler, Ray.  
Buttimer, Jerry.  
Byrne, Catherine.  
Byrne, Eric.  
Cannon, Ciarán.  
Carey, Joe.  
Coffey, Paudie.  
Conlan, Seán.  
Connaughton, Paul J.  
Conway, Ciara.  
Coonan, Noel.  
Corcoran Kennedy, Marcella.  
Costello, Joe.  
Coveney, Simon.  
Creed, Michael.  
Daly, Jim.  
Deasy, John.  
Deering, Pat.  
Doherty, Regina.  
Donohoe, Paschal.  
Dowds, Robert.  
Doyle, Andrew.

English, Damien.  
Farrell, Alan.  
Feighan, Frank.  
Fitzgerald, Frances.  
Fitzpatrick, Peter.  
Flanagan, Charles.  
Flanagan, Terence.  
Hannigan, Dominic.  
Harrington, Noel.  
Harris, Simon.  
Hayes, Brian.  
Hayes, Tom.  
Heydon, Martin.  
Humphreys, Heather.  
Humphreys, Kevin.  
Keating, Derek.  
Keaveney, Colm.  
Kehoe, Paul.  
Kelly, Alan.  
Kenny, Enda.  
Kenny, Seán.  
Kyne, Seán.  
Lawlor, Anthony.  
Lynch, Ciarán.  
Lyons, John.  
McCarthy, Michael.  
McEntee, Shane.

Tá—*continued*

McFadden, Nicky.  
 McGinley, Dinny.  
 McLoughlin, Tony.  
 McNamara, Michael.  
 Maloney, Eamonn.  
 Mathews, Peter.  
 Mitchell, Olivia.  
 Mitchell O'Connor, Mary.  
 Mulherin, Michelle.  
 Murphy, Dara.  
 Murphy, Eoghan.  
 Nash, Gerald.  
 Naughten, Denis.  
 Nolan, Derek.  
 Nulty, Patrick.  
 Ó Ríordáin, Aodhán.  
 O'Donnell, Kieran.  
 O'Donovan, Patrick.

O'Mahony, John.  
 O'Reilly, Joe.  
 O'Sullivan, Jan.  
 Phelan, Ann.  
 Phelan, John Paul.  
 Quinn, Ruairí.  
 Rabbitte, Pat.  
 Reilly, James.  
 Ring, Michael.  
 Ryan, Brendan.  
 Shatter, Alan.  
 Stagg, Emmet.  
 Timmins, Billy.  
 Tuffy, Joanna.  
 Twomey, Liam.  
 Wall, Jack.  
 White, Alex.

Níl

Adams, Gerry.  
 Calleary, Dara.  
 Collins, Joan.  
 Colreavy, Michael.  
 Cowen, Barry.  
 Crowe, Seán.  
 Daly, Clare.  
 Doherty, Pearse.  
 Donnelly, Stephen S.  
 Ellis, Dessie.  
 Ferris, Martin.  
 Flanagan, Luke 'Ming'.  
 Fleming, Sean.  
 Grealish, Noel.  
 Halligan, John.  
 Healy-Rae, Michael.  
 Higgins, Joe.  
 Kelleher, Billy.  
 Kirk, Seamus.

Kitt, Michael P.  
 Lowry, Michael.  
 McConalogue, Charlie.  
 McGrath, Finian.  
 McGrath, Mattie.  
 McGrath, Michael.  
 McGuinness, John.  
 McLellan, Sandra.  
 Martin, Micheál.  
 Murphy, Catherine.  
 Ó Cuív, Éamon.  
 Ó Fearghaíl, Seán.  
 Pringle, Thomas.  
 Ross, Shane.  
 Smith, Brendan.  
 Stanley, Brian.  
 Tóibín, Peadar.  
 Troy, Robert.  
 Wallace, Mick.

Tellers: Tá, Deputies Emmet Stagg and Paul Kehoe; Níl, Deputies Peadar Tóibín and Seán Ó Fearghaíl.

Question declared carried.

### Topical Issue Matters

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** 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 Michael Healy-Rae — the impact of recent bad weather on farming; (2) Deputy Jim Daly — the need for an emergency fund for uninsured business victims of the recent flooding at Clonakilty, County Cork; (3) Deputies Finian McGrath and Denis Naughten — the recent cuts to the education and service provisions for school leavers with disabilities; (4) Deputy Regina Doherty — continuing reports of the theft of power and telecommunications cables; (5) Deputy James Bannon — the need to provide funding for St. Christopher's Services, Longford; (6) Deputy Ciara Conway — the report on IDA Ireland's job creation figures and its implications for balanced regional development; (7) Deputy Alan

Farrell — the forthcoming publication, findings and implications of the Pyrite panel report; (8) Deputy Patrick O'Donovan — the need for the establishment of a national strategy for the development of the horticulture industry; (9) Deputy Jonathan O'Brien — the role of crime prevention officers in fighting crime; (10) Deputy Martin Ferris — Comreg's legal action against An Post; (11) Deputy Seán Crowe — the loss of teaching posts at schools for children with special needs and the need to review the DES-NSCE definition of "multiple disability" governing the pupil-teacher ratio at such schools; (12) Deputy Michael Lowry — the failure to reopen a number of short-stay beds at the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, County Tipperary; (13) Deputy Noel Harrington — the status of the proposed Clonakilty flood relief scheme; (14) Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh — the proposals for funding of €250 million in respect of priority new build projects and the need to extend the applications deadline to allow Labre Park redevelopment plans by Dublin City Council to be included; (15) Deputy Clare Daly — fire safety issues in Martello estate in Balbriggan, County Dublin; (16) Deputy Mick Wallace — the figures highlighted yesterday by Social Justice Ireland which show that, in a single year, the disposable income of the poorest households fell by 18.6%, while the income of the richest rose by 4.1%; (17) Deputy Joan Collins — the proposals for funding of €250 million in respect of priority new build projects and the need to extend the applications deadline to allow Labre Park redevelopment plans by Dublin City Council to be included; (18) Deputy Mattie McGrath — the decision of the Law Society of Ireland to prohibit solicitors acting for more than one party in all cases involving the transfer of property; (19) Deputy Billy Kelleher — the report of the National Suicide Research Foundation which has found that alcohol abuse is among the mental health risk factors associated with suicide; (20) Deputy Tom Hayes — the need to allow low-income families apply for the back-to-school allowance; (21) Deputy Ciarán Lynch — the measures to be taken to alleviate the hardship caused to householders in Douglas and other parts of Cork by the recent flooding; (22) Deputy Dessie Ellis — the problems faced by residents of Dublin North-West whose homes are contaminated with pyrite, particularly the 140 homes which were part of the Ballymun regeneration project; (23) Deputy Niall Collins — the need for funds to renovate Nicker national school, County Limerick; (24) Deputy Michael Conaghan — the need for a new housing scheme for residents of Labre Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin; and (25) Deputy Tom Fleming — the secondment of corporals and sergeants from the Defence Forces to assist the Garda Síochána.

The matters raised by Deputies Patrick O'Donovan, Ciara Conway, Billy Kelleher, and Finian McGrath and Denis Naughten have been selected for discussion.

### **Topical Issue Debate**

---

### **Departmental Bodies**

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** I thank the Ceann Comhairle for selecting this matter. It might not be one that affects constituencies up and down the country, but it is one that was brought to my attention in the recent past by a number of nursery and garden centre owners, namely, the need for the establishment of a national horticultural strategy to drive the potential of the sector. I welcome the presence of the Minister of State, Deputy Shane McEntee, and thank him for and compliment him on the work he has done so far. He might take on board the need for engagement with all stakeholders in the horticulture sector, including garden centre and nursery owners, those responsible for training graduates and SOLAS which is in the throes of revamping the old community employment and training initiatives. In the recent past, having

[Deputy Patrick O'Donovan.]

regard to the level of construction that took place, both in Ireland and our nearest neighbour, the sector experienced large growth in numbers employed in it.

The sector is being promoted by Bord Bia. It struck me and those working in the sector that, first and foremost, the remit of Bord Bia should be the promotion of Irish food, in respect of which it is doing a good job. There is a danger, however, that the sector will be subsumed into it and, perhaps, have a less important place than it would enjoy if there was a board or a subsidiary of it with its own label and unique identity. There is a difference between the approaches taken in Britain and Ireland to garnering the potential of the sector. One need only look at the approach of the BBC in promoting both the gardening and the horticulture sectors as a means to encourage people to engage in these activities.

I would like the Minister to engage with the local authorities and State agencies which in many cases have a hefty budget for the procurement of horticultural services and plants and shrubs from nurseries. There is a concern that these services are not being put out to tender by local authorities and State agencies and that small nurseries and garden centres are not being given an opportunity to offer their material to these outlets and promote their stock. The nursery owners and garden centre operators whom I met recently are also concerned about the standards of training and certification for college graduates. They would like to see a comparative study being carried out of the standards and courses on offer in Ireland versus those on offer in our nearest neighbour, the United Kingdom. There is obviously a need for a closer relationship between the sector and the colleges to ensure, first, that the right calibre of person is steered in the direction of the sector and, second, that the standard reached reflects the needs of the sector. The nursery owners and garden centre operators to whom I spoke are not concerned that there is a shortage of graduates available but that their skills base does not reflect the needs of the modern sector.

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** The Deputy's time is up.

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** I welcome the opportunity to raise this issue which is not one that affects every constituency, but it is one, as I am sure the Minister of State will agree, which has considerable potential.

**Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Shane McEntee):** I thank the Deputy most sincerely for raising this significant issue. It concerns a sector which has considerable potential for growth, but much must happen and it must start with the producers themselves.

On a number of occasions, I have got them together to try to become one unit but they have failed to do that and have continued to work individually.

I know a lot of money and help has been invested through Bord Bia. The one point that really annoys me about the whole horticultural industry is the manner in which it allows itself to be treated by the supermarkets, whether it be in regard to plants or food, where they use Irish product as a loss leader. I have tried to address this on several occasions, but with no great success. We have met all the companies and, some six or eight months ago, I had all of the different people involved in the horticulture industry, in particular the nurseries, around the table to try to draw up a plan. I left it up to them to come back to me with a plan on how they were going to operate as one, as they do in England, but they have not done that.

As the Deputy rightly said, while the industry is going through a bad time at present, there is great potential, not only for the home market. I do not know how many lorry loads of plants and shrubs come into supermarkets in Ireland daily. For the first time, however, through a

grant aid system we put in place, a nursery is this year being given the opportunity to supply one of our supermarkets, and I hope many more will follow. The producers have much to do themselves. They went through a good time during the Celtic tiger period and did not care about anybody. Now, they have left themselves with an awful lot of large borrowings. They have to come together. I am glad the Deputy has raised the issue.

Production of fruit and vegetables is a significant entity within the overall agricultural industry, making an important economic contribution in terms of supplying the domestic market, employment and foreign trade. The horticulture and potato sectors contributed approximately €400 million to farm output in 2011 and this includes non-food horticultural crops such as plants and nursery stock. It is estimated that Ireland is 24% self-sufficient in fruit and 85% self-sufficient in vegetables, including potatoes, although these estimates relate only to produce that can be grown domestically.

The horticulture sector has performed well over the past decade and has grown to be a significant entity within the overall agricultural industry. The area and proportion of production under protection from the weather has increased significantly. Improvements in the quality and presentation of Irish produce over the past decade have also been significant. Quality of output, hygiene and food safety concerns have become critical issues for the sector. The industry is labour intensive, employing approximately 18,500 across the food and non-food areas, and employment is broadly based across the country.

The sector continues to have considerable potential for further development but is experiencing strong competitive pressures, particularly from the highly concentrated retail market and competitively priced imports. The multiples have enormous bargaining power in that they prefer to be supplied from one or two sources and they exert unrelenting pressure on producers to drive down prices. This pressure, coupled with ever-increasing input costs, particularly the costs of energy and labour, has resulted in many producers leaving the sector. Scale has become a significant prerequisite for success.

Following the publication of the Harvest 2020 report in June 2010, the then Minister of State with responsibility for horticulture at the then Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food established the horticulture action group in December 2010 to oversee the implementation of the relevant recommendations relating to horticulture in the report. The membership of the group consisted of eight people who represented the various sectors of the horticulture industry. They comprised a nursery stock producer, a horticulture wholesaler and protected crop producer, a field vegetable producer, a mushroom producer, a potato producer and representatives of Teagasc, An Bord Bia and the then Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The group met on a number of occasions and submitted a detailed 25-page report to myself at the end of June 2011. The group also reported back to the high level implementation group for the overall management and implementation of the Harvest 2020 recommendations. In addition, Teagasc, in consultation with the other State agencies and relevant stakeholders, has established a number of working groups to examine in detail individual horticultural sectors and, to date, two reports on the cut foliage and apple sectors have been prepared.

Since receiving the horticultural action group report, I, my officials and the relevant State agencies have been involved in progressing the implementation of as many of the recommendations as are feasible in the current economic climate. I have met the main supermarkets to impress on them the need to support Irish producers, although to no avail in that they continue to abuse the Irish farmer and supplier daily and are putting them out of business. They do not seem to be listening to anybody. I have also secured funding of €3.25 million for the horticultural grant scheme for this year which has been allocated to projects across all areas of horticultural activity.

**Deputy Patrick O'Donovan:** I welcome the Minister of State's response, although it highlights the fact there is an issue with regard to labelling. In the supermarkets, unfortunately, whether the product is a chicken or a griselinia, consumers do not know that it is Irish because the labelling of Irish farm products, whether from a greenhouse or a field, is totally inadequate.

The fact Bord Bia is the responsible agency does not give this issue the significance the industry deserves. The fact there are some 18,500 employees means there are a lot of mouths to feed. The producers deserve, if not a quango, a separate entity that will drive forward the labelling, marketing and research that is needed.

The recommendations of the report commissioned by the Minister of State will be interesting. I take on board his point in regard to the horticulture industry. I have made the point to the producers that they need to formalise themselves into a national association and engage with the Minister of State in a constructive way. There is also massive export potential, when one considers the number of garden centres and of people engaged in this area in the UK in particular. One thing Ireland has is plenty of rain, as we know, which means we have an excellent climate for growing the type of plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables that will get into the UK market, and which are traceable, safe and useable. However, unless we are prepared to take on board the recommendations of the report commissioned by the Minister of State, put a proper labelling system and marketing system in place and bring all the stakeholders together under the one roof, it will not work.

I take the Minister of State's point in regard to the disparate organisations pulling and dragging in separate directions. That is in the past, however, and we need to move on. I will go back to the people who contacted me and ask them to formalise themselves into a national association. When that is done, perhaps the Department and its officials can sit down with them again. This is an industry that clearly has huge potential given it already sustains 18,500 employees and God only knows how many families.

**Deputy Shane McEntee:** I appreciate the Deputy's comments. If he is free on Thursday, I invite him to Citywest where there will be an open day on the horticulture industry, in particular the plants sector. Doors are opening in China and in England with regard to exports, but we have to come together with regard to the logistics of transport and standing up to the multiples. If we do not do that, we are wasting our time. Please God, in the not too distant future, I will be announcing a plan that will take on the multiples, whether they like it or not.

### **Job Creation**

**Deputy Ciara Conway:** As the Minister, Deputy Bruton, is aware, the IDA last year had a record breaking year in terms of job creation, with a net figure of almost 6,000 jobs created. This is not the first time the Minister will have heard somebody from Waterford try to hold the IDA to account and it will not be the last because, unfortunately, for all the good that is in the recent report, it makes very poor reading for the south east, the only region of the country to see a marked decline in terms of job creation through IDA initiatives. This drop of 8.2% translates to in excess of 1,000 jobs, a figure that is nothing to be scoffed at for Waterford city and the south-east region, which has a current unemployment rate of 20%.

There has been a lot of rhetoric about this high unemployment rate in the south east. The reality is there are people and families behind these figures who find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. What I want to know, and I have asked the same of the IDA, is whether exit interviews are being conducted with prospective investors. What is it that Waterford and the south east is lacking that other regions seem to have in abundance? If exit interviews are not being conducted, why not? Can we develop a policy to ensure that, as a Government, we have

the information we need to make the best decisions to ensure something both parties promised in the run-up to the election, namely, balanced regional development?

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I thank Deputy Conway for raising this issue. She is correct that the IDA had a record year last year, with 13,000 jobs and a net expansion of 6,000 jobs. It was the highest job creation rate in a decade and the lowest rate of job loss in a decade, and that pattern is being continued into the first half of this year.

The Deputy is also right in saying that the south east is an area that has not shared in that success, and a number of responses are necessary to try to reverse that. Part of the problem is that the pattern of IDA gains in recent times has seen a move towards very high end types of project and that has favoured the very large cities with very deep labour pools and strong and established centres. Undoubtedly, that has favoured Cork, Dublin and Galway. They have built bases in clusters and they are seeing the product of that. They act as magnets.

The challenge for us in Waterford is to seek to build an equivalent cluster of strength around the existing base within Waterford. As the Deputy is aware, I have established a south-east action plan in recognition of the particular structural problems in Waterford. We have got all the key agencies around the table, including the local authorities and the Waterford Institute of Technology, WIT. It is a question of identifying the competitive strengths and how we build those. We had a successful review meeting there recently as a result of which a number of sectoral opportunities will now be focused on, and we will seek to develop those. To be fair, WIT has a strong base in technology across telecommunications, pharmaceutical and ICT for us to build upon.

I have given a direction to our agencies to give renewed emphasis to the south east, and one of the products of that is that so far this year the number of site visits to the south east have doubled. Enterprise Ireland has had a competition for new start-ups, and I attended one of the sessions with the 20 individuals who were successful in responding to a competitive start fund. Enterprise Ireland is working intensively with those as high potential new start-ups.

There is no doubt that regional spread will be an increasing challenge because of the type of companies IDA Ireland is winning, and in trying to achieve a greater regional spread, IDA Ireland is now targeting emerging companies, not just the iconic names. It is now looking at companies that are considering their very first move out of, say, the United States to come to Ireland. We have had 11 of those so far and they will be much better prospects for getting regional spread.

The other initiative is ConnectIreland which, as the Deputy is aware, is being conducted with the assistance of a company based in the south east that is aiming to use the diaspora or anyone with connections to attract companies to consider Ireland. More than 200,000 companies come to Europe each year and most of them would not have Ireland on their radar because IDA Ireland would not be working at that level. An impressive example is that 3,500 Irish accountants are working in multinationals across the United States. That is a huge group of people whom we can use as ambassadors.

We have set a target for IDA Ireland of 50% outside of Dublin and Cork. It did not come anywhere near that in 2011; it was only 28%. This year so far we are showing much better. It is closer to the 50% target, although not quite at it, but I would have to admit that the south east continues to be a challenge. We are working on it. We have had a six months review. We will continue to have those meetings. We set targets that we seek to achieve, and we are examining the reason companies are leaving. By and large, it is not always a great guide. It is not that Waterford is doing something wrong. Companies reach the end of their cycle. I am

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

not sure looking at those who are leaving is the best source of information. We are trying to examine the competitive strengths of the region and build on that. However, I will ask IDA Ireland to examine if there is a pattern to the companies which have left in the past two years to determine if there is a diagnostic from that on which we could build based on what the Deputy is suggesting.

**Deputy Ciara Conway:** I thank the Minister for his response. He may have misunderstood me. I welcome that there has been a notable increase in the number of companies that have visited Waterford but are questions asked when prospective investors do not choose Waterford rather than the reason people are leaving? I can understand that macroeconomic issues can arise that impact on a company's decision to move or whatever, but in terms of the issue I raise, we have seen a huge increase in the number of IDA site visits to Waterford. However, they have not yielded any results. With the greatest respect, one can bring a horse to water but one cannot make it drink, and we need to know why they are not drinking because we need a significant investment in employment in Waterford and in the south east as a region.

There were some positives from IDA Ireland's report on Waterford, including Bausch and Lomb's investment in continued production and the loyalty that company has shown to the city over the years. Also, Genzyme is making a significant investment. Two weeks ago, I and a number of other Oireachtas Members visited GSK in Dungarvan which employs 700 people.

The companies in Waterford must be brought into the fold in terms of trade missions to allow them drum up more business for themselves and perhaps expand and secure the jobs we have already in Waterford. A vital part of the south-east task force would be to ensure those companies which are there remain.

**Deputy Richard Bruton:** I take the point. I will ask for that to be done in that we will examine the reason companies ultimately choose to locate elsewhere. Very often it is not Waterford competing with Limerick. It is Ireland, or Waterford, if it is the preferred location, competing with Scotland.

**Deputy Ciara Conway:** I know that.

**Deputy Richard Bruton:** The issues are to do with what many of these companies are now looking for, namely, ICT skills and language skills. There may not be the same depth of skill base in Waterford compared with some of the competing locations. In other areas we have Genzyme, on the pharmaceutical side, and we use established companies as the main reference sale. It is people who have come here and been successful in a region who become the reference sale. To be fair, Eistec, which replaced TalkTalk, is in a class of its own. It may be an Irish-owned company but it is a quality company and I am optimistic about its prospects. It will be a very good reference point in the future.

On foot of the Deputy's suggestion, we will examine the visits that do not succeed to determine if there is a pattern to those, but there are structural problems in terms of many of them. The Deputy knows them also. Many issues have arisen, some infrastructural and some to do with the knowledge infrastructure, and there are a number of issues enterprise policy alone cannot address. It was recognised in the south-east action plan that we must examine elements of the development of the region other than simply what we can do within enterprise policy.

I will take note of what the Deputy said. We will use that to see if we can analyse more closely the items we might be able to tweak in our promotion, but I reassure the Deputy of our continuing commitment. We recognise that this is an area where we have not been as successful as we would have liked, and we will continue to persist.

### Suicide Incidence

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** The next item is in the name of Deputy Billy Kelleher. This matter and the next matter in the names of Deputies Finian McGrath and Denis Naughten come under the remit of the Minister of State, Deputy Kathleen Lynch, but she sends her apologies to the House because she is held up in traffic. The Minister for Education and Skills, Deputy Quinn, has kindly offered to respond to the issue.

**Deputy Billy Kelleher:** Knowing the Minister of State, Deputy Lynch, quite well it is a brave person who would try to replace her but I know the Minister will do his best.

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** Brave or foolish.

**Deputy Billy Kelleher:** The reasons I raise this issue are twofold. First, a report was published today which analysed suicides in Cork over a three year period. It was quite disturbing in view of the fact that behind the statistics I personally knew some of the people who had taken their own lives for whatever reason. There is a need to implement the national substance misuse strategy and to address the issue of alcohol once and for all in society. I hope we will not park the issue and refer it to a committee that will wait for ages before a sub-committee issues a report. We know for certain, and all the statistical data show, that alcohol is a major contributory factor to mental health problems and suicide in this country. The recent report found that 80% of young males who took their lives were abusing alcohol for a year prior to their committing suicide. For all those reasons I urge the Government to implement the substance misuse strategy as quickly, efficiently and effectively as possible.

Recently we witnessed disturbances and anti-social behaviour connected with a concert in the Phoenix Park. Thousands of people congregate on a regular basis in this country and no difficulties arise but it is a recipe for disaster where there is a cocktail of cheap drink sloshing around the system and the use of illegal and other substances in terms of anti-social behaviour, damage to individuals, collective damage to society and, in this unfortunate case, deaths.

According to the World Health Organisation, tackling alcohol pricing is one of the most effective policies a government can undertake to reduce alcohol consumption and associated alcohol-related harm. We have taken action on tobacco. We adopted the policy of increasing prices to decrease consumption and of making advertising less attractive so as to reduce consumption. I do not blame the Government but it is unfortunate that we have done the exact opposite with alcohol. Collectively, the Government and the people should try to limit the availability of cheap alcohol, in particular to younger people. For all those reasons I urge the Minister to follow up on the report commissioned by the Suicide Support and Information System, the National Suicide Research Foundation and Dr. Ella Arensman. It brings home the impact of alcohol on society and on individuals who are already under pressure, who may have mental health issues and use alcohol as a crutch and for escapism, and who end up in a situation where further depression leads to self-harm or suicide.

I was a little disappointed at the Cabinet's response to the proposals on the advertising of alcohol. Let us have such a debate, but the Government should at least introduce minimum pricing for alcohol. That would automatically make drink more expensive and less available to people. We can have a debate on the other issue again but we should not let it slow this issue down. It is critically important for us to show, collectively, as a society that we acknowledge that we have a problem with alcohol in this country.

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I thank the Deputy for raising this important matter. As the House has been informed, my colleague Deputy Kathleen Lynch,

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

whose shoes I would never attempt to step into, is unavoidably detained and I have offered to take both this matter and the subsequent matter on her behalf.

Reach Out, the national strategy for action on suicide prevention, recognises that alcohol and substance misuse are strongly related to deliberate self-harm and suicidal behaviour. The national registry of deliberate self-harm for 2011, published by the National Suicide Research Foundation, again highlights the misuse of alcohol as one of the factors associated with the higher rate of self-harm presentations on Sundays, Mondays and public holidays.

We, as a society, can no longer be tolerant or ambivalent when it comes to the pattern of alcohol consumption and the problems for which alcohol is responsible. The Government is concerned at the harm caused by the use and misuse of alcohol and, to that end, a report of the national substance misuse strategy steering group was launched in February this year. The report contains a range of recommendations to, among other things, reduce the consumption of alcohol in general. The recommendations are grouped under five pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research.

The main recommendations cover areas such as those correctly raised by Deputy Kelleher, namely, the price of alcohol, advertising, sponsorship, monitoring the enforcement of the provisions of the intoxicating liquor legislation and the development of early intervention guidelines for alcohol and substance use across all relevant sectors of the health and social care system. The substance misuse report is a roadmap for the future direction of policy to deal with the misuse of alcohol and an action plan is currently being developed.

The latest figures for the number of people who died by suicide last year or who have engaged in deliberate self-harm are truly disturbing. Suicide is a tragedy that we are constantly working to prevent, and we are also working to give more support to the families affected. The implementation of Reach Out, the national strategy for action on suicide prevention, is a priority for the Government and a personal priority for the Minister of State directly involved in the area, Deputy Kathleen Lynch. The National Office for Suicide Prevention, NOSP, is implementing the Reach Out actions as part of a four-way strategy which involves delivering a general population approach to mental health promotion and suicide prevention; using targeted programmes for people at high risk of suicide; delivering services to individuals who have engaged in deliberate self-harm; and providing support to families and communities bereaved by suicide. The annual budget for this work has been increased by the Government to more than €12 million.

A wide range of awareness and training programmes are available, including safeTALK and ASIST, which train participants to become more alert to the possibility of suicide in their communities. The Irish College of General Practitioners is currently developing a specific suicide prevention skills training programme which will be rolled out in the near future. The NOSP has also piloted a system under which suicide crisis assessment nurses work with emergency departments and GPs, which will be rolled out nationally this year. Up to 20 voluntary organisations part-funded by the HSE provide excellent prevention, intervention and postvention support services including telephone helplines and web-based support. The special allocation of €35 million for mental health which was announced in budget 2012 will be used primarily to further strengthen community mental health teams in both adult and children's mental health services. Some of the additional funds will also be used to advance further suicide prevention initiatives and to initiate the provision of psychological and counselling services in primary care, specifically for people with mental health problems.

**Deputy Billy Kelleher:** I thank the Minister for the reply. We must admit that as a nation we have a problem with alcohol. We must introduce policies that send out a strong message that we accept our difficulties in terms of how we deal with alcohol and our pattern of drinking and binge drinking. The reduction in the age of people who regularly abuse alcohol is disturbing. I do not wish to be seen as a killjoy. I was a young lad too, but the bottom line is that we cannot ignore the issue any longer. If the Cabinet, as is indicated, has a difficulty with the area of sponsorship then let us have the debate at another time, but let us deal with minimum pricing and supply as a matter of urgency. At least that would send out a message that the Government, Parliament and people are willing to tackle alcohol consumption and its fallout in terms of mental health problems, suicide, anti-social behaviour and all that flows from it.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I thank the Deputy for raising the matter. I do not think we can say any longer that we do not know the facts, that we do not have the evidence and that we are not aware of the scale or extent of the problem. As the Deputy rightly said, the evidence is in front of us. I share his concern that the Government must listen to what is being said in this House and must consider the various reports I have cited on behalf of the Minister of State, Deputy Kathleen Lynch. I assure Deputy Kelleher and the House that I will convey his concern to her personally.

### Services for People with Disabilities

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** Deputies Denis Naughten and Finian McGrath should note the Minister of State, Deputy Kathleen Lynch, has sent her apologies as she has, unfortunately, been caught in traffic. The Minister for Education and Skills, Deputy Ruairí Quinn, will stand in for her.

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** I wish to raise once again the forgotten issue in current political debates, that of young people with a physical and intellectual disability. This issue is hugely important for the young people themselves and, in particular, their families. It is also an issue that can be dealt with easily with the right attitude, with sensible and correct policies and the support of parents and service providers.

Is it not an absolute and total disgrace that today the Government can find €2 billion for roads and buildings and yet cannot find €2 million to €3 million for 220 young people with a disability who have no place to go to next September? Does anyone in his or her right mind find this acceptable, despite the current economic crisis? Does the Minister? Is he aware that 226 young people with an intellectual disability who need a training or day care place have been forced to go on a waiting list? Moreover, 660 other school leavers need some form of specialist placement. This is the reality for those on the ground. For example, one disability service covering the north side of Dublin has 40 service users who are in crisis and need residential care. I hope the Minister understands what the term “crisis needs” means. These are adults in their 40s and 50s whose parents are dead, very ill or who have dementia or Alzheimer’s disease and who need urgent care. In other words, there are 40 such young people and adults in one service alone, yet the Government is prepared to spend billions of euro on roads and buildings.

In addition, at a national level between 2012 and 2016, 217 people will require a new day care service, while 486 will require a home support service and 2,248 residential places. In addition, 2,040 support services will be needed in respect of respite services. While these are the facts, the Minister will have noted I referred to what will happen in the next five years. I urge him to deal with this issue concerning people with intellectual disabilities who have left school this week and will need a place in September.

6 o'clock

**Deputy Denis Naughten:** Nearly one in four school leavers with an intellectual disability and one in five young adults who have left post-leaving training courses are seeking a placement. This comprises a significant cohort of young adults who await a placement, even leaving aside the issues relating to physical and sensory disabilities about which there are also problems. Quite a number of those awaiting a placement have high dependency needs, requiring either one-to-one or two-to-one care. The high dependency places cannot be provided from existing resources, as has been the instruction by the Minister to the service providers which have taken a 3.7% cut to their overall funding. This will have an impact on the individualised services provided for these young people and marks a reversion to providing group services which are contrary to public policy.

It is not good enough for parents to be obliged to wait until the middle of July to learn whether they will have a place for their son or daughter next September. They are waiting for letters to arrive and some have gone on waiting lists, which is not acceptable. Others have been informed they have a part-placement, for either two or three days per week, while others have been informed they will be provided with a place until Christmas, but the position thereafter is unknown, which simply constitutes kicking the can down the road. Moreover, on top of all this, they are being given no choice; they are being told they can either like it or lump it. Some placements are not appropriate and it is akin to telling a leaving certificate student that, having failed to secure his or her preferred choice of a college to study agricultural science, he or she must take up a place in speech and drama studies instead. It is not acceptable that people are being forced into positions in which they must take particular places and that other young people are not even being given the opportunity to take up any placement. Additional funding will be required to address this issue and I urge the Minister to discuss it with the Minister of State at the Department of Health, Deputy Kathleen Lynch, and address the issue as urgently as possible.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I thank the two Deputies for bringing this important matter to the attention of the House. It is not unrelated to my own responsibility in education, although it is catered for by the Minister of State, Deputy Kathleen Lynch, whose apologies have been conveyed to the House.

I recognise the importance of life skills training and day services to people with disabilities who are leaving the education system and assure Members that every effort is being made within the available resources to provide services for all of the 2012 school leavers. Day services for adults with disabilities provide a network of support for more than 25,000 people who have a wide spectrum of needs ranging from those with severe and profound disabilities and who are likely to need long-term specialist service provision to those with lower support needs and a greater potential for community participation and inclusion.

The HSE, through its occupational guidance service, works with schools, service providers, service users and families to identify the needs of young people with disabilities who are due to complete their second level education. The aim is to address the needs of individuals through health-funded life skills training which usually is referred to as rehabilitative or RT training, health-funded day services, FÁS-funded vocational training and further education. Service providers and the HSE have come together under the auspices of the national consultative forum to identify how the needs of those individuals who require day services or RT places in 2012 can be responded to within available resources and the Minister of State is being kept informed of progress on a regular basis. I assure Members the process of notifying families whether a place is available or whether the young person is to be placed on a waiting list has commenced. Many families have been informed this week and every family should know the position very soon.

The demand for services for school leavers continues to grow as more than 660 school leavers will need services in 2012 and suitable placements also must be identified for a further 390 people who are completing their RT course. Disability services are required to cater for demographic pressures such as new services for those leaving school and RT training from within their existing budgets. The budgets for 2012 have been reduced by 3.7% and the moratorium on staff recruitment gives rise to challenges in service provision. However, both the voluntary sector and the HSE are committed to making the best use of available resources in a creative and flexible manner in order to be as responsive as possible to the needs of this cohort of young Irish citizens. To date, more than 500 of those leaving school this year have been placed in an RT place or other day service. In addition, places have been found for 321 of those who are completing their RT course. I thank the HSE disability service and service providers for working to achieve this without additional funding. The HSE and the disability service providers acknowledge this is a difficult time for the young people who have yet to be placed in an appropriate service, as well as for their families. Therefore, the Government will continue to make every effort to find suitable arrangements for them.

**Deputy Finian McGrath:** The Minister should bring back the message that he will make every effort to find suitable arrangements for these young people. However, I will quote briefly from a letter I received this morning from a parent who is dealing with a seriously disabled young teenager. He wrote:

What I am hearing is that some parents are being communicated with verbally and the trend appears to be that the HSE are madly scrambling to get the numbers down by addressing those with 'lower' needs (or perceived to be lower needs or their needs have been inadequately assessed) in the first instance, shoehorning people in where ever they can. Those with greater needs are being left as the resources required are greater. Not sure where this is all going to go but I can tell you that the stress levels are rising in this house.

I feel that it is still going to need input from outside the HSE to redirect the required resources.

In other words, my point is that the severely disabled kids and young teenagers are the ones who are being hammered because they will cost more from a resources perspective and as that parent's letter demonstrates, stress levels are rising. Consequently, I urge the Minister to support them as best he can.

**Deputy Denis Naughten:** To follow on from Deputy Finian McGrath's comments, this pertains to a cohort of young people, many of whom have profound disabilities. At the best of times it is a difficult challenge for parents who are involved in caring for such children on an ongoing basis, without being left in limbo in which they do not know what will happen from 1 September onwards. To be quite honest, it is not good enough that we are telling those parents in the middle of July that they will find out their position very soon. An intellectual disability database was set up to ensure this crisis would not be replicated year after year, yet parents will now have to wait until the end of July.

How many families have received a letter from the HSE at this stage? How many families have a full placement or a part placement offer from the HSE, or even a placement for part of a year, which is only kicking the can down the road? How many families have now been left on a waiting list with no service provision whatsoever? These are basic questions and I hope the Minister can answer them.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I thank both Deputies for raising this matter. I recognise the seriousness of it. I also recognise that we are dealing with a cohort of young people who are moving from a certain phase in their life out of secondary education or training and into the wider world. The relationship between those young people and their families is itself changing, and the fact that they have disabilities does not alter that transition process.

I do not have the answers to the questions raised by Deputy Naughten, but they are on the record of the House and I will ask Deputy Kathleen Lynch to ensure that specific replies are conveyed to both Deputies.

### **Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012: Order for Report Stage**

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I move: “That Report Stage be taken now.”

Question put and agreed to.

### **Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012: Report Stage**

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** Amendments Nos. 1, 21, and 23 to 29, inclusive, are related and may be discussed together.

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I move amendment No. 1:

In page 7, between lines 11 and 12, to insert the following:

“ “terms” in relation to a relevant trust means terms whether or not in writing;”.

Amendments Nos. 1 and 29 are essentially technical in nature, and simply move the definition of “terms” from section 42 to section 2. This change is required because the expression “terms” also appears in section 29 of the Bill. Therefore, it is more appropriate that it be defined in the general interpretation section, namely, section 2. Consequently, amendment No. 29 deletes the text of the definition of “terms” from section 42.

The remaining seven amendments are also amendments of a technical nature that amend sections 29 and 42. These sections facilitate the making of contributions by relevant trusts, which are defined as the congregations that were party to the 2002 indemnity agreement, or those charities that manage scheduled institutions. The existing text provides that the trusts can make contributions, notwithstanding that this may not be authorised by the terms of the trust. These amendments extend the provisions to allow contributions to be made where it may be inconsistent with the charitable purposes of the trust. These provisions are being made to address concerns raised by some congregations in discussions with the Department.

Amendments Nos. 26 and 27 provide consequential clarifications and are necessary to ensure there is no confusion about the word “purpose”, which appears in sections 42(2) and 42(3). I am satisfied that these provisions are necessary and that they will further assist congregations in making contributions towards the cost of redress.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** I welcome the introduction of these amendments by the Minister and I agree that they will help ensure the maximum is provided and put to necessary use.

Amendment agreed to.

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Olivia Mitchell):** Amendments Nos. 2 to 5, inclusive, are related and may be discussed together.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I move amendment No. 2:

In page 7, to delete lines 14 to 20 and substitute the following:

“3.—(1) This Act shall apply to any person (in this Act referred to as a “former resident”), whether or not he or she is resident in the State, who is a former resident of Irish institutions identified in the various approved schedules of institutions as applied within the Residential Institutions Redress Act 2001 and eligible to apply to the Redress Board.”.

This was discussed at length on Committee Stage. It is probably one of the biggest areas in which people have sought change. It relates to the fact that the Bill restricts access to the fund to those former residents who have already received awards from the RIRB or from a court. Many survivors have said that this is just too restrictive and is unjust on that basis. There are many reasons people may have chosen not to seek redress. We dealt with them in this Chamber even on Second Stage. Some people had to deal with the issues themselves. Some people were outside the country and were not aware of the availability of the scheme. Some did not want others to know about their plight or simply found it too hard to deal with it at that time. It is unfair that they should be denied again this time.

The reason given for their exclusion is that the fund is limited and that if more people are added, it will delay the process and eat into moneys for everybody else. I do not accept that. Very strong arguments have been put forward about the small number of applicants living outside the State, mainly in Britain, numbering no more than a couple of hundred people who would seek to avail of the assistance. That will certainly not break the bank.

Another area that has been identified as a complexity is how to identify the people. Very good points have been made by some of the religious orders. The trust fund is not a redress issue. The redress issues have been dealt with by the redress board. Many people who were resident in these institutions, whether or not they were abused, should be able to avail of the fund because they were disadvantaged by virtue of the fact that they were in the institutions in the first place. One of the orders was quoted in the Ryan report as stating that an important aspect of this process of exploration, acceptance and understanding by the State and the congregations is the acknowledgement of the fact that the system failed the children, not just that the children were abused because occasional individual lapses occurred. People who were resident in these institutions have needs which have not been met. They were disadvantaged by their time there. Many arguments have been made about the nature of the fund and whether people should avail of a lump sum or a pension. These are worthy demands, but I think the definition and the terms are too restrictive at the moment. That is why we are moving the amendment.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** As the Minister of State, Deputy Sherlock, explained on Committee Stage — I was not able to attend myself — the effect of these amendments would be to widen significantly eligibility to the fund, which Deputy Daly has acknowledged. Some suggest that former residents who would be eligible for an award from the redress board should be eligible, while it is unclear in other instances whether the proposal is to include all former residents, irrespective of whether they were abused, in scheduled institutions. Amendment No. 5 also proposes to include family members of former residents in the case of educational services.

As I have repeatedly stated, the Bill’s primary purpose is to establish a statutory fund to support the needs of survivors in keeping with the all-party motion that was unanimously agreed by Dáil Éireann in 2009 in the aftermath of the Ryan report. As the Deputies are aware, a maximum of €110 million will be available to the fund to assist around 15,000 potential beneficiaries. If eligibility were significantly widened to include all former residents of sched-

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

uled institutions, as is proposed, then the amounts available to fund services for individuals could be greatly reduced. Accordingly, the effectiveness of the statutory fund would itself be put at risk. Some of the amendments refer to former residents who were eligible to apply under the redress Acts. Anyone could apply to the redress board and we know more than 900 applications to the board were withdrawn, refused or resulted in no award, generally on the basis that the person was not resident in the scheduled institution itself.

The Government has deliberately and for good reasons proposed confining entitlement to the 15,000 or so survivors who will have come through the redress process. If the fund were to investigate applications to establish residence and injury consistent with alleged abuse, as would be required if amendment No. 3 were accepted, clearly a considerable structure similar to the Residential Institutions Redress Board would be required, thus expanding the role of the statutory fund and deflecting it from its intended focus. The statutory fund is not intended nor is it designed to consider issues such as abuse. Since it will take applications only from those who received an award from the courts or the redress board, all issues relating to abuse have been dealt with, allowing the fund to focus on the needs of the prospective recipients. Extensive efforts were made to facilitate claims to the redress board. Those former residents who did not apply to the redress board can continue to avail of the counselling and family tracing services available.

The motivation for amendment No. 5 appears to be to allow the child of a former resident who received an award from the redress board to benefit from the fund in so far as it relates to educational services. The receipt of a grant or assistance of educational services from the education finance board was not linked to the receipt of an award from the redress board. This amendment proposes that any former resident and his or her relatives, including children and grandchildren, could benefit. Again, widening eligibility to include children and grandchildren would result in broadening the scope of the fund beyond that for which it is intended. The education finance board has done excellent work in distributing the moneys which came from the religious congregations under the 2002 indemnity agreement. Former residents and their relatives did benefit from this support. However, it was always clear the particular fund would run out and we are now almost at that point.

I appreciate the sentiments expressed by Deputies regarding the range of eligibility issues. I urge them, however, to see the logic of the Government's position on this matter. I have indicated previously that the issue of who was eligible to apply for assistance could be reviewed following the establishment of the statutory fund in the event of the applications to the fund not resulting in a significant expenditure of it. In view of the considerable concerns expressed by Members and by some groups and congregations, I am prepared to commit to reviewing the operation of the fund two years after its establishment.

While I note Deputies' many useful and positive comments, I believe it is best to proceed on the basis as proposed in the Bill as outlined. Regrettably, I must, therefore, oppose these amendments.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** Eligibility is one of the major weaknesses of the Bill. On every Stage I have argued about this section. It was discussed at length on Committee Stage with the Minister and I altered my amendments for Report Stage to take on board some of his points. The fund should be opened up not just to those who applied successfully for redress but also to those who, if they had applied, would have been successful. It should be opened up not just for those who have been through the courts concerning their abuse in a residential institution but those who may go through the courts in the future.

Having spoken to many of the survivors, I noted many of them found the whole redress process very difficult and regretted going through it. Some spoke about the process lacking empathy and how it opened up old wounds from the past which they are still trying to live with today. I find it difficult for us as legislators to draw a line in the sand when it comes to who is and who is not eligible for this fund. Clearly, we are talking about people who fulfil all the criteria and who were abused in residential institutions with the complicity of the State.

There are many reasons survivors of abuse did not feel able or were willing to apply to the redress board. It is wrong they should be penalised for not meeting a deadline. Many of those to whom I have spoken were clearly traumatised by their experiences in the institutions. Understandably, they did not want to re-open it at this time in their lives.

To illustrate the point, this morning I spoke to the husband of a survivor who had spent 19 years in an institution. She was supposed to be released when she reached her 16th birthday but she was retained in the institution until she was 21. In the 1990s, she took a court case which took seven years to get to court because of delays due to changes in solicitors on the State's and the institution's sides. In court it emerged from one of the witnesses that sexual abuse was involved which led to the case having to be stopped. The same woman applied to the redress board but was turned down on the basis she had gone down the court route. In one of her discussions with a counsellor, she was asked if she was still considering going down the court route, to which she replied it would be her preference. She did not get redress as a result. This woman is now outside the process, meaning she is not eligible for this fund.

Another survivor, who is disabled and now lives in the United States, suffered from severe post-traumatic stress disorder after 16 years of abuse. He will require counselling and medication for the rest of his life but must survive on a small stipend. He applied successfully to the redress board and the State is paying for basic counselling but refuses to cover his medication costs. It is wrong that only those eligible for assistance from the fund will be former residents who were offered awards from the residential institutions redress board or received awards pursuant to court actions. We need to show those who are not eligible for the fund — those who decided they could not go through the redress process — that we are concerned about what happened to them and that the State's apology to them is inclusive.

Under this legislation, a person who pursues a court action relating to their abuse will not have access to the fund. This is a weakness in the legislation that needs to be addressed. As matters stand, those who have not received redress to date will be excluded from benefiting from the new fund. It is expected that some 15,000 former residents — whether living in Ireland or abroad — will successfully complete the redress process and be eligible to apply for the range of services on offer. The Minister has previously stated that to widen the eligibility criteria to include all former residents would reduce the amount of money available to fund these services. When discussing the moneys for this fund, it must be remembered that last year we gave away an absolute fortune to zombie banks. The fund is relatively small, particularly when one considers what families have gone through and the inter-generational effects that have become apparent.

There is a need for flexibility. It is welcome that the position will be reviewed after two years. However, I do not want us to be obliged to wait two years. As the Minister, other Deputies and I are aware, those whom we are discussing have experienced absolute horror in their lives. Mr. Justice Ryan mentioned some of the things done to people in his report. As public representatives, we have spoken to people and are aware of the abuse they endured. In all conscience, I do not believe that, as legislators, we can put up a barrier for those to whom I refer. We failed them in the past and by not including them under the legislation we will fail them again.

[Deputy Seán Crowe.]

I experience strong emotions in respect of this matter. That is because people have related their stories to me. Some individuals were not able to seek redress or go to the courts. The difficult part for them was that they would have been obliged to narrate what had happened to them to counsellors, the Garda, the courts and their families and friends. That is a huge step for anyone to take. Many of those to whom I have spoken were not prepared to take it. As stated, others who went through the process regret doing so to this day. Their families also have regrets in this regard in the light of the impact it has had on their lives. In short, they did not have a positive experience. Most of the individuals with whom I have been in contact have informed me that it was never about the money. What they wanted was an apology and to be able to tell their stories.

That is the background to my amendments. The Minister of State, Deputy Sean Sherlock, indicated on Committee Stage that there was a difficulty with them. The Minister asked how we would actually process what was proposed. A number of later amendments in my name outline how we should proceed in the context of the board which will not be not a court of law. There are those who would be quite capable of making decisions on allowing the people to whom I refer access the fund. According to Right of Place, at least 150,000 children and teenagers went through orphanages, industrial schools and centres for young offenders, with many suffering abuse at the hands of religious orders and others in charge of their care. An estimated 100,000 left Ireland afterwards, with a large proportion going to the United States. In that context, previous speakers referred to the fact there were people who were not aware of the State's efforts in establishing the redress board. We have, of course, discussed that matter in detail on previous occasions.

The eligibility criteria severely limit people who have a right to avail of the statutory fund. They fail to take into consideration survivors who for many reasons were unaware that they could seek recompense from the redress board or were unable to do so while it was in operation. The amendment tabled in Deputy Brendan Smith's name refers to approved services covered under the Bill and would allow the children of survivors to avail of services relating to the statutory fund. I support what the Deputy is seeking to achieve in this regard. I want to facilitate those who were hurt by ensuring they will have an opportunity to access the new fund. That is why I am seeking to have the eligibility criteria widened.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** Amendment No. 4 in my name requests that the phrase "former residents who would have been eligible to receive an award under the Act of 2002 but who failed to apply under the Act of 2002" be inserted into the Bill. I am seeking to ensure people who would have been eligible if they had applied will not be excluded. Some of the other amendments refer to people who might apply. Last year, when we debated what became the Residential Institutions Redress (Amendment) Act 2011, under which the redress board was wound up and which was the forerunner of the Bill before the House, I appealed to the Minister to insert a provision whereby an appeals or some other mechanism would be put in place to cater for people, should they come forward at this point, who would have met the criteria set down by the redress board and thereby qualified for payment.

I am much better informed about this issue than was the case one year ago. Having had the opportunity to meet the individuals involved and the groups with represent them, I am even more convinced of the need to put in place a mechanism whereby people who did not go before the redress board will not be excluded. I have been in contact with some of the advocacy groups in Britain and with an eminent public representative in London who outlined her concerns about the possible exclusion of people who required help. I am concerned by the fact that the most marginalised have not availed of the redress board mechanism. We are all aware

of the particular difficulties they face in terms of a lack of literacy and, perhaps, social skills. In that context, they might not have been aware of the existence of the redress board. Advocacy groups, both here and outside the jurisdiction, have done a huge amount of good work in trying to get the message out in respect of the availability of assistance from the redress board and the eligibility criteria that applied. However, that message did not reach all potential applicants.

The group we are discussing is small. As time passes, the age profile of those who were resident in the relevant institutions is increasing. I appreciate the Minister's comment to the effect that the work of the statutory fund will be reviewed after two years. A period of two years is particularly lengthy for those who are in the older age cohort. That is a factor about which I am extremely concerned.

When we debated what became the Residential Institutions Redress (Amendment) Act 2011 last year, I stated provision could be made in legislation for residual functions to be brought back within the remit of the parent Department. As Deputy Seán Crowe indicated, on Committee Stage the Minister of State, Deputy Sean Sherlock, said this could lead to the creation of an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and that funding could be used up in a way none of us would desire. I fundamentally disagree with the Minister of State's assertion. There are enough competent people in the Department who possess the relevant expertise and could take on the role previously played by those who served on the redress board. As Deputies Seán Crowe and Clare Daly stated, there were individuals who were abused in the past and lacked the mental strength to come forward and relate their stories to the redress board. I appeal to the Minister that in the event of someone who did not previously receive assistance or support coming forward and meeting the criteria applied when the redress board was in place, he or she should not be denied the possibility of accessing such assistance or support.

Amendment No. 5 relates to the provision of education services. The Minister has rightly pointed out that the work of the Education Finance Board has proved to be very important. I am aware of this because I have spoken to people who availed of the services or assistance on offer from the board directly or the family members of those who did so. My understanding is that third level students in receipt of some assistance who commenced their courses in 2010 will be assisted throughout the full duration of their courses. However, it has been brought to my attention that in the case of students in receipt of assistance who began their courses in the current academic year, 2011-2012, this new legislation will not provide for such assistance to continue. As I said on Committee Stage, it would be a shame if the lack of additional support and incentives that many young people need was to cause them to quit their third level or further education studies. I would like to have that matter investigated also.

No matter what good promotional campaigns the Minister conducts on the availability of Government programmes, many of the most marginalised will not have been reading the newspapers and as such will not be aware of the redress board and its functions. What I genuinely believe is a small number of people should not be denied access to assistance that would have been readily available to them had they participated in the work of the redress board earlier. Through no fault of their own, however, they did not apply to it.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** It is crucial for us to step back and look at the reason we are here — the experience of horrendous abuse suffered by many in institutions. The State has a responsibility in that regard. The people concerned have been excluded during their lives and not listened to. However, in framing this legislation we are talking about excluding some of them who under other circumstances would have been entitled to redress before now. That is simply wrong. The Minister says he will review the matter in two years, but Deputy Brendan Smith's point is critical. This is a diminishing group and because of their age profile their numbers are, sadly, becoming smaller. Therefore, two years is a long time for such a group to wait and

[Deputy Clare Daly.]

providing for such a review period is just not good enough. We are talking about a statutory fund, allegedly, to meet the needs of survivors, many of whom tell us that their needs are not being met because we are excluding them from participating. The fund must be opened up in that regard, as otherwise we will be doing another wrong to the very ones for whom we are seeking some justice. The definition is too narrow. I fully endorse the point made that this would not be creating a bureaucratic nightmare of assessment if we were to open it up to the small numbers eligible to apply. These points have to be taken on board.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I appreciate the sincerity with which colleagues on the other side of the House have approached this matter. I know they have met, as I have, many members of the wide group of people concerned. One cannot really call them a group, but there is a large number who share a common experience — they had this horrendous experience. However, as their experiences are different, one cannot generalise. For that reason, I have given an undertaking to review the matter in two years time. This does not mean that in two years we will start a review process. We will monitor the way the process unfolds and will make some statement or evaluation after two years. That will not overload the working system, but we are not going to kick the can down the road. Therefore, there will be a response in two years time as to what our experience has been and if changes or alterations are required, we will consider them. That is the only commitment I am giving, to review the matter within that timeframe because I have heard what Deputy Clare Daly said about the age profile of some of the survivors.

The redress scheme has been running since 2002 and over 15,000 people have come through the system. We know, however, that there are more who did not apply. We also know of some who did apply but who were not given compensation for all the reasons with which Deputy Clare Daly is familiar.

We have considered the amendments and the process involved. The total fund is of the order of €110 million. If it is divided by 15,000, one gets an average figure of €7,300 per person. Any widening of the fund would lessen its effectiveness. It is available to help people who have, to a certain extent, been granted an award which recognises that it is the State's response by way of compensation. It is to assist them in the rest of their lives. This is the best way to go in that it is the most effective way to respond to what are considered to be this particular group's requirements.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** I have referred to the woman who spent seven years going through the courts without success. She failed because the local bishop or archbishop took a case on the basis of “an inexcusable and inordinate delay” in taking the original case. Consequently, she found herself out of the legal process. She went to the redress board where, for whatever reason, she was not successful either. She is outside the process and in the age cohort mentioned.

Is there any point in trying to understand the mindset of those who did not take the courts' route or apply to the redress board? It is similar to those who are raped or otherwise attacked and assaulted. At this stage they may not feel able to go through a claims process. Having spoken to many such persons, I know that the thought of narrating their stories is too difficult for them. Gardaí who regularly deal with victims know that they may feel strong enough to tell their story at some stage, but it is a huge step to ask someone to do so. We call them survivors who have survived some terrible things in their lives. My worry is that in establishing a process to help and support them we may actually make it worse in some cases. In establishing such a fund to help with support, including counselling and medical care, we must not leave

people out, yet I believe strongly that that is what we are doing. I have listened to what the Minister is saying, but he is wrong on this one. I will be pressing my amendment.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** I thank the Minister for his clarification, but I am still concerned about a two year review provision. We all know that no matter who is in government, such review periods can often be extended. They are generally never undertaken within the time-frame set, although that is not a reflection on the Department. However, it is a reflection on the system that deadlines for reviews, whether in the public or private sector, are generally not met.

The Minister has stated — this is understandable — that there is a finite amount of money available to be divided among the number of people who were granted awards by the redress board. Having spoken to many of them, as well as their representative groups, I know that a lot of them have been in ill health during the years. There has also been natural attrition of the age cohort. I wonder, therefore, how many of them will be alive when the time comes. We do not know the answer, but it depends on the law of averages. I do not know if dividing the finite amount of money available by the exact number of recipients of awards will provide the correct amount. I mentioned this when we were debating the legislation over one year ago when I had been spokesperson for only a few months. From speaking to individuals and groups both here and in Britain, I am convinced that a small number did not take the opportunity to go before the redress board. In the overall scheme, it would be a shame if, having met the relevant criteria, they were to be denied the much needed support and assistance available from the trust fund.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Does Deputy Clare Daly wish to make a further point?

**Deputy Clare Daly:** The main points have been made.

Question, “That the words proposed to be deleted stand,” put and declared carried.

Amendment declared lost.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Amendment No. 3 cannot be moved because amendment No. 2 has been defeated.

Amendment No. 3 not moved.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** I move amendment No. 4:

In page 7, between lines 20 and 21, to insert the following:

“(c) former residents who would have been eligible to receive an award under the Act of 2002 but who failed to apply under the Act of 2002.”.

Amendment put:

The Dáil divided: Tá, 34; Níl, 77.

Tá

Adams, Gerry.  
Calleary, Dara.  
Collins, Joan.  
Collins, Niall.  
Colreavy, Michael.

Cowen, Barry.  
Crowe, Seán.  
Daly, Clare.  
Doherty, Pearse.  
Ferris, Martin.

Tá—*continued*

Flanagan, Luke ‘Ming’.  
 Fleming, Sean.  
 Fleming, Tom.  
 Halligan, John.  
 Healy-Rae, Michael.  
 Higgins, Joe.  
 Kirk, Seamus.  
 Kitt, Michael P.  
 Lowry, Michael.  
 Mac Lochlainn, Pádraig.  
 McConalogue, Charlie.  
 McGrath, Finian.

McGrath, Michael.  
 McGuinness, John.  
 McLellan, Sandra.  
 Ó Cuív, Éamon.  
 Ó Fearghaíl, Seán.  
 Ó Snodaigh, Aengus.  
 O’Brien, Jonathan.  
 Ross, Shane.  
 Smith, Brendan.  
 Stanley, Brian.  
 Troy, Robert.  
 Wallace, Mick.

Níl

Barry, Tom.  
 Broughan, Thomas P.  
 Butler, Ray.  
 Buttimer, Jerry.  
 Byrne, Catherine.  
 Byrne, Eric.  
 Carey, Joe.  
 Coffey, Paudie.  
 Collins, Áine.  
 Conaghan, Michael.  
 Conlan, Seán.  
 Connaughton, Paul J.  
 Conway, Ciara.  
 Coonan, Noel.  
 Corcoran Kennedy, Marcella.  
 Costello, Joe.  
 Creed, Michael.  
 Daly, Jim.  
 Deasy, John.  
 Deenihan, Jimmy.  
 Deering, Pat.  
 Doherty, Regina.  
 Donohoe, Paschal.  
 Dowds, Robert.  
 Doyle, Andrew.  
 English, Damien.  
 Farrell, Alan.  
 Feighan, Frank.  
 Fitzpatrick, Peter.  
 Flanagan, Charles.  
 Griffin, Brendan.  
 Harrington, Noel.  
 Harris, Simon.  
 Hayes, Brian.  
 Hayes, Tom.  
 Heydon, Martin.  
 Howlin, Brendan.  
 Humphreys, Heather.  
 Humphreys, Kevin.

Keating, Derek.  
 Keaveney, Colm.  
 Kenny, Seán.  
 Kyne, Seán.  
 Lynch, Ciarán.  
 Lynch, Kathleen.  
 Lyons, John.  
 McCarthy, Michael.  
 McFadden, Nicky.  
 McGinley, Dinny.  
 McLoughlin, Tony.  
 Maloney, Eamonn.  
 Mathews, Peter.  
 Mitchell, Olivia.  
 Mitchell O’Connor, Mary.  
 Mulherin, Michelle.  
 Murphy, Dara.  
 Murphy, Eoghan.  
 Nash, Gerald.  
 Naughten, Denis.  
 Nolan, Derek.  
 Ó Ríordáin, Aodhán.  
 O’Donnell, Kieran.  
 O’Mahony, John.  
 O’Sullivan, Jan.  
 Phelan, Ann.  
 Phelan, John Paul.  
 Quinn, Ruairí.  
 Reilly, James.  
 Ryan, Brendan.  
 Spring, Arthur.  
 Stanton, David.  
 Timmins, Billy.  
 Tuffy, Joanna.  
 Twomey, Liam.  
 Wall, Jack.  
 Walsh, Brian.  
 White, Alex.

Tellers: Tá, Deputies Aengus Ó Snodaigh and Seán Ó Fearghaíl; Níl, Deputies Joe Carey and John Lyons.

Amendment declared lost.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** I move amendment No. 5:

In page 7, line 22, after “*section (1)(a)*” to insert the following:

“, save where such an award allowed/allows for a child of a former resident to avail of that which applies in *section 8(1)(c)*, such child of a former resident shall continue to be eligible to avail of that approved service which applies in *section 8 (1)(c)*”.

Amendment put and declared lost.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Amendment No. 6 in the name of Deputy Seán Crowe is out of order because it involves a charge on the Exchequer.

Amendment No. 6 not moved.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** I move amendment No. 7:

In page 8, between lines 40 and 41, to insert the following:

“(i) make arrangements with persons, whether or not they are resident in the State, for the provision of an approved one off payment from the Fund, if requested,”.

The Minister will agree that I am being consistent in bringing forward this amendment which has been suggested to me by persons who have been through the redress process. The argument which we have gone through on Committee Stage is essentially that the people concerned should be allowed to decide for themselves how they will use a payment received from the fund. The Minister referred at the committee to the specific purpose for which the fund was being established. However, many of the people to whom I spoke felt very strongly that the decision should be theirs and that the availability of a once-off lump sum payment would allow survivors the choice and opportunity to spend their compensation as they saw fit, whether on counselling, education or otherwise. They are very much opposed to the State asserting its power by demanding they must operate within the parameters of the fund. Rather than having to use the money for counselling, as prescribed by the State, people who have been through the process, particularly those living abroad, are strongly of the view that there should be more flexible access to moneys.

The Minister referred to a figure of €7,300 when he broke down the fund. He argued that the fund was separate from the redress process as its purpose was to provide supports for former residents of the residential institutions. The survivors argue that they should be free to choose how they spend moneys from the fund.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I support the arguments made by Deputy Seán Crowe on this extremely important amendment. We should listen to those who have been excluded. It is indisputable that a large number of those who have contacted Deputies believe the fund, as constituted, will not meet their needs. The role of the Oireachtas in this matter is to address their needs. Deputies who participated in the Committee Stage debate will have met one or two individuals who broke down during a break in the discussions. I recall one man who took hold of my hand and told me that while he was well — to be honest, he did not look well — and his needs at his advanced age had been met, he worried about what would happen to three of his children who were in wheelchairs. If he could use a payment for the welfare of his children, the fund would meet his needs.

I have received correspondence from people who need educational services for their children and wish to have a choice about how to spend money from the fund. Others have made an equally persuasive case for using the fund to provide some form of pension for victims of the

[Deputy Clare Daly.]

residential institutions. Having a lump sum payment which individuals would be free to administer would be a much more straightforward and faster option than that proposed. One of the major issues to emerge from the correspondence we have received from survivors is that many of them believe the services to which the legislation will give them access are public services that are available to them in any case. While there may be problems with waiting lists for health services and so forth, survivors believe this legislation is an underhand means of investing more money in public services and does not meet their specific needs. Their needs would be met if they had control over the fund. This is an extremely important amendment which I ask the Minister to accept.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** The proposal in amendment No. 7 that a once-off payment be made from the fund is not acceptable, given that there is no apparent linkage between the making of such a payment and the needs of a former resident. The purpose of the fund is not and never was to provide a form of additional compensation — that issue has been dealt with by the redress board — the fund, as advocated in the motion passed by the House in 2009, is intended for the support of victims of abuse.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** While I understand the purpose of the fund is to provide additional services, some of the survivors argue that they should be able to decide the purpose of the fund. That is the point of dispute. The Minister has his view, while many survivors hold a different one.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** While I accept that the purpose of the fund is to support victims, it is the victims who should make the call by defining what support they need. For some of the vulnerable persons in question, being able to care for their children would meet their needs, but the Bill, as constituted, prevents them from doing this.

Amendment put:

The Dáil divided: Tá, 21; Níl, 86.

Tá

Adams, Gerry.  
Broughan, Thomas P.  
Collins, Joan.  
Colreavy, Michael.  
Crowe, Seán.  
Daly, Clare.  
Doherty, Pearse.  
Ferris, Martin.  
Flanagan, Luke 'Ming'.  
Fleming, Tom.  
Halligan, John.

Healy-Rae, Michael.  
Higgins, Joe.  
Mac Lochlainn, Pádraig.  
McGrath, Finian.  
McLellan, Sandra.  
Ó Snodaigh, Aengus.  
O'Brien, Jonathan.  
Ross, Shane.  
Stanley, Brian.  
Wallace, Mick.

Níl

Bannon, James.  
Barry, Tom.  
Browne, John.  
Butler, Ray.  
Buttimer, Jerry.  
Byrne, Catherine.  
Byrne, Eric.  
Calleary, Dara.  
Carey, Joe.

Coffey, Paudie.  
Collins, Áine.  
Collins, Niall.  
Conaghan, Michael.  
Conlan, Seán.  
Connaughton, Paul J.  
Conway, Ciara.  
Coonan, Noel.  
Corcoran Kennedy, Marcella.

Níl—*continued*

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Costello, Joe.        | McFadden, Nicky.         |
| Cowen, Barry.         | McGinley, Dinny.         |
| Daly, Jim.            | McGrath, Michael.        |
| Deasy, John.          | McGuinness, John.        |
| Doherty, Regina.      | McLoughlin, Tony.        |
| Donohoe, Paschal.     | Maloney, Eamonn.         |
| Dowds, Robert.        | Mathews, Peter.          |
| Doyle, Andrew.        | Mitchell, Olivia.        |
| English, Damien.      | Mitchell O'Connor, Mary. |
| Farrell, Alan.        | Mulherin, Michelle.      |
| Feighan, Frank.       | Murphy, Dara.            |
| Fitzpatrick, Peter.   | Murphy, Eoghan.          |
| Flanagan, Charles.    | Nash, Gerald.            |
| Griffin, Brendan.     | Naughten, Denis.         |
| Harrington, Noel.     | Nolan, Derek.            |
| Harris, Simon.        | Ó Cuív, Éamon.           |
| Hayes, Brian.         | Ó Fearghail, Seán.       |
| Hayes, Tom.           | Ó Ríordáin, Aodhán.      |
| Heydon, Martin.       | O'Donnell, Kieran.       |
| Howlin, Brendan.      | O'Donovan, Patrick.      |
| Humphreys, Heather.   | O'Mahony, John.          |
| Humphreys, Kevin.     | Phelan, Ann.             |
| Keating, Derek.       | Phelan, John Paul.       |
| Keaveney, Colm.       | Quinn, Ruairí.           |
| Kelly, Alan.          | Reilly, James.           |
| Kenny, Seán.          | Ryan, Brendan.           |
| Kirk, Seamus.         | Smith, Brendan.          |
| Kitt, Michael P.      | Spring, Arthur.          |
| Kyne, Seán.           | Stanton, David.          |
| Lowry, Michael.       | Timmins, Billy.          |
| Lynch, Kathleen.      | Troy, Robert.            |
| Lyons, John.          | Tuffy, Joanna.           |
| McCarthy, Michael.    | Twomey, Liam.            |
| McConalogue, Charlie. | White, Alex.             |

Tellers: Tá, Deputies Aengus Ó Snodaigh and Clare Daly; Níl, Deputies Joe Carey and John Lyons.

Amendment declared lost.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Amendment No. 8 is out of order.

Amendment No. 8 not moved.

**An Ceann Comhairle:** Amendments Nos. 9 and 18 are related and will be discussed together. I do not think there is much point in proceeding. I understand from the Minister that it is being suggested the order will be changed in order that we continue the debate on the Bill at 9 p.m. I presume the Government will propose an amendment to the Order of Business agreed to earlier.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** As there was no proposal to guillotine the debate on this Bill, the order stands. We can continue after——

**An Ceann Comhairle:** No. The order states that at 9 p.m. we will revert to the Personal Insolvency Bill 2012. If the Minister wishes to change it, we will need to amend it to do so.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** Am I right in anticipating that colleagues opposite would be happy to dispose of the Bill this evening? I will make the necessary arrangements through the Whip's office to allow that to happen.

Debate adjourned.

### **Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill 2012: Second Stage [Private Members]**

**Deputy Pearse Doherty:** I move: "That the Bill be now read a Second Time."

**An Ceann Comhairle:** I understand the Deputy is sharing time with Deputies Brian Stanley, Michael Colreavy, Martin Ferris and Gerry Adams.

**Deputy Pearse Doherty:** Faoin reachtaíocht atá ann san am i láthair níl treoir ar bith leis an ús a bhfuil iasachtóirí ceadaithe a bhaint. Tá cuid des na hiasachtóirí ag baint rátaí bliantúla de 210%. Cén polaiteoir, Teachta Dála nó Aire a bhéadh sásta glacadh le táilli chomh hard seo dá mbeimis féin ag tógáil iasachta? Tá a fhios againn go bhfuil teaghlaigh ag strachailt leis an chostas maireachtála atá ag ardú go leanúnach, le méadaithe ar cháin agus ar tháillí agus le cailliúint ioncain. Tá siad fágtha gan rogha ar bith ach iasachtaí ar chostas árd a thabhairt amach chun billí a íoc ó sheachtain go seachtain. De réir staidéir atá déanta ag Conradh na hÉireann de Chomhair Chreidmheasa, tá 10% de theaghlaigh ag iompú chuig iasachtóirí le billí tí a íoc. Tá cuid des na hiasachtóirí seo ag éirí saibhir ar dhroim theaghlaigh atá faoi chruatan. Ní tharlódh seo murab é go bhfuil an Rialtas ag ligint do rátaí ollmhóra úis tarlú.

Throughout the State low and middle income families are struggling to get by. As each month passes the recession bites deeper and deeper. Unemployment, wage cuts, tax increases, the household charge, cuts to rent supplement and rising mortgage distress are pushing more and more families into severe financial hardship. Hundreds of thousands of people are turning to moneylenders to make ends meet. Only recently I spoke to a constituent who had turned to moneylenders to pay basic household bills while waiting for a social welfare claim to be processed. The interest rates she had to pay on the loan put her into significant financial hardship but since it took several months to process her social welfare claim she took the view that she simply had no choice.

According to Social Justice Ireland, the State's poorest families experienced a disposable income drop of almost 18.7% in 2000 alone. We know that families are having to make impossible decisions on a daily basis, such as whether to pay the gas and electricity bills or pay the mortgage. Faced with these impossible choices, many are getting into even greater levels of debt simply to get by.

The What's Left Tracker 2012, published last week by the Irish League of Credit Unions, provides a graphic picture of the human face behind these figures. The report stated that 1.8 million families are left with €100 or less each month after bills are paid, some 25% of credit card holders rely on their credit cards to make ends meet each month and 40% of people have borrowed to pay household bills in the past 12 months. Astonishingly, 10% of people are using moneylenders. Incredibly, there is no cap on the rates of interest that moneylenders licensed in this State can charge.

Some 46 licensed moneylenders operate in the State and according to some figures they provide credit to more than 300,000 people. Much of this credit takes the form of short-term loans, often offered at high interest rates. Under existing legislation there is no cap on interest charged by licensed moneylenders. Some lenders charge an annual percentage rate, APR, of up to 210%. I have one question for every Member and Minister while we are dealing with this Bill. Can they stand over the imposition of such charges, especially on the poorest in

society, who believe they have no option but to go to these lenders? The only reason these lenders can charge such excessive rates is that the House has not yet placed a cap on interest rates. As a result of the inaction of the Oireachtas over many years some lenders are, without doubt, getting rich on the back of hard-pressed families.

Let us consider the position throughout the European Union. Many EU member states operate interest rate caps on licensed moneylenders. A 2010 European Commission study identified 13 states that operated such a cap. These included Belgium, where the cap ranges from 10% to 19.5% APR, France, where the range is from 5.7% to 21.6% APR, and Spain, where the rate cap is 10% APR. In these and other states politicians have already decided there is a limit to the amount of interest licensed moneylenders can charge, especially when lending to low income families struggling under the weight of household debt.

The Bill tabled by Sinn Féin seeks to bring this State into line with our EU counterparts. Of the 46 moneylenders with licences in this State, 29 charge an APR of more than 100% while 14 charge more than 150% APR. One moneylender charges an APR of 210%. This means it would cost a person who goes to that moneylender and takes out a €500 loan for his family, who may be struggling to pay the bills and get by, a total of €186 if the loan were for six months and €375 if the loan were for 12 months. Given that loans of the same amount from the Credit Union would cost the same family €13 and €25 respectively, there is no justification for this vast mark-up. Such excessive interest rates push hard-pressed families further into financial stress and poverty. It is a vicious cycle and we all know it. There is no moral or economic justification for the absence of a cap on interest rates charges by licensed moneylenders.

The Bill under discussion proposes a cap of 40% APR. This would mean that while some moneylenders would be required to charge less, no lender could breach the 40% cap. What would this mean for the family to which I referred earlier, a member of which went to a moneylender for €500? At a maximum that struggling family would have paid €50 for a loan for six months or €97 for 12 months. This is a fairer level for customers and it would also allow licensed moneylenders to operate on a sound commercial basis.

Some licensed moneylenders in EU member states are significant businesses. The largest moneylender in this State is an organisation called Provident. Bloomberg reported recently that Provident is set to make €1.3 billion in profits next year from its operations in Ireland and other member states.

In 2006 the Polish Government introduced a cap of 20% on licensed moneylenders. As in Ireland, Provident is one of the largest moneylenders in the market in Poland. It has continued to trade profitably in Poland even after the introduction of a cap. An APR of 20% is the maximum charge in Poland whereas in this State the largest moneylender can charge a rate of 187%. It is no wonder the company is set to make €1.3 billion in profits globally. If the Government supports the principle of a cap but is unsure about the figure of 40%, I call on Government Members to let this Bill pass to Committee Stage. At that stage we could tease out the finer details and determine the appropriate level to ensure that moneylenders can continue to exist but people are not being fleeced at the same time. Sinn Féin is open to discussing the level of the cap but of greater importance to the party is that over the course of the debate the Government accepts the notion that there should be a reduction in the APR charged and that we need to follow the example of other European countries and introduce a cap. There is an urgent need for Government to introduce a cap on interest rates and there is also a need for a wide-ranging reform of the regulation of licensed moneylenders and the policing of illegal loan sharks. Last month the Minister for Justice and Equality, Deputy Shatter, in a reply to my party colleague, Deputy Stanley, confirmed there is no record of a successful prosecution

[Deputy Pearse Doherty.]

for illegal money lending in the past seven years. Clearly, there is something wrong and that also needs to be reformed.

Earlier this month I asked the Minister for Finance to consider the issue of an interest rate cap on moneylenders as part of a broader reform of the regulation of licensed moneylenders. He stated that he had no plans to amend the existing regime and he quoted a 2007 research paper from the Central Bank which stated that a cap might not reduce the total cost of credit. I have read that piece of research to which he referred and its conclusion is not based on any empirical evidence. It took two similar loans with different APRs and different durations and from that comparison alone, it drew its conclusion. This is not a sufficient basis for making such an important policy decision.

Níl sa leasú atá molta sa Bhille seo romhainn ach leasú macánta. Is féidir go cinnte le gach Teachta tacaíocht a thabhairt don leasú. Má chuirtear an leasú seo i ndlí, beidh tionchar láidir aige ar an gcruatan airgid atá á fhulaingt ag na céadta mílte teaghlaigh, atá faoi ualach trom. Déanfaidh an leasú seo an saol níos fearr do líon mór daoine ag am nuair atá cuid mhór den tsaoil buailte ar dhrocham agus ar chruatan.

The amendment contained in this Bill is modest. It does not pretend to be anything otherwise. However, it is an amendment that I hope every Deputy in this House can support. It is also an amendment that, if put into law, would have an immediate impact on the financial hardship experienced by tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of hard-pressed families. It is an amendment that would make life better for a large number of people at a time when so much of their lives have been hit with bad news. It is an amendment that is being tabled in the genuine hope it can get cross-party support.

I sincerely hope there is no Deputy in this House who believes it is right or just to charge APRs of 150% or 210%, as is currently happening, on loans, especially those taken out to pay essential household bills. I urge the Minister and Deputies from all parties to stand together and support this Bill. It will not solve the burden of household debt but it will make a real and tangible difference to many of the most financially distressed families in the State.

**Deputy Brian Stanley:** The Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill aims to introduce a cap of 40% on the amount of APR a licensed moneylender can charge a borrower.

To our shame, the State has failed to introduce any cap on interest charged by licensed moneylenders, allowing the 46 licensed moneylenders to charge as they will. The highest rate being charged, at 210%, is scandalous. This is forcing households into spiralling debt that will never be cleared. Households which cannot access credit from the banks or credit unions live in permanent debt. They are always burdened about how they will clear this. What should be enjoyable occasions, such as first communions, Christmas and birthdays, become a nightmare for them and turn into crises in that they worry and torment themselves about how they will find money for them.

The Bill is a reasonable response to a massive crisis. We are dealing with legal money-lending tonight, but I have seen the effects of both legal and illegal moneylenders, particularly on the most vulnerable. We fully understand that if we propose an APR that is too low — Sinn Féin is trying to be reasonable about this — we will force legal moneylenders underground, the sector will become totally unregulated and that will only lead to further and more sinister problems with illegal moneylending.

In County Laois I have witnessed the effects of the crisis, with both legal and illegal moneylenders. I have come across cases where children's allowance books are held as a surety by moneylenders and women are forced to hand over money each month outside the post office.

As I found out in reply to a parliamentary question, there have been no prosecutions in the State in the past seven years for that type of activity by moneylenders.

Moneylending is not done by some small group of shady individuals sneakily driving around the estates. The biggest moneylender, as Deputy Pearse Doherty stated, is a multi-million euro institute called Provident, which is mainly owned by banks and large financial institutions. Provident has the largest share of the moneylending market in the State, yet, because its headquarters is in London, it is under no obligation to publish figures on its trading balance and profit here. All we know is that there are approximately 100,000 doing business with it, if one could call it that. We estimate its Irish profits are high. What we know is that Provident, internationally, is set to make millions of euro in profits again this year and in the coming year.

The Bill does not pretend to solve all of the problems facing families caught up in the awful spiral of debt but by not supporting the Bill, the Government remains out of step with our EU partners. There is much talk in this House about being in step with the rest of Europe and being good Europeans. Let us be good Europeans by supporting this Bill. Thirteen states have a cap on the interest rate moneylenders can charge, with an average APR of 15% to 20%.

One of the longer term solutions is that families which normally do not have access to bank or credit unions would have that. One in six adults are excluded completely from the banking and financial sector which means they have no access to loans or mortgages as those in the mainstream who are working have. The irony of this is that some of the banks which are refusing them permission to open a bank account are owned by the State. The State should use its influence — I appeal to the Minister of State, Deputy Brian Hayes, to bring this to the attention of the Government — to encourage banks to allow those who are poor and those with small amounts of money to be able to open bank accounts. To date, the banks have behaved disgracefully, keeping those on the margins in the grasp of legal and illegal moneylenders. Ultimately, there is a need for a not-for-profit lending institute the sole function of which would be to make small interest-free loans available. The credit unions could play a more active role in this regard.

I urge Deputies from all parties to back this Bill. The Bill is about relieving poverty in the State.

**Deputy Michael Colreavy:** The economic crisis gripping this country has left many in difficult situations. Every one of us in this Chamber has heard the harrowing tales of those who simply do not have enough money to afford the bare necessities. It puts so many people in a difficult situation. What do they choose to spend their little amount of money on? Do they spend it on crippling mortgage payments? Do they spend it on food for their families? Do they spend it on school books and uniforms for their children? There are people willing to sacrifice heating their home just in order that they can afford essential medical services. These must be some of the most difficult questions that any household could face and it is our duty, our responsibility as elected representatives, to help alleviate their suffering in any way we can.

The purpose of this Bill is simple. It is, essentially, to place a cap on the interest rates that legal moneylenders can enforce on those who must borrow from them. The difficult questions people are forced to ask of themselves places many in that difficult situation where they have little choice but to seek money from the easiest, and often only, possible route. When one is not able to obtain a loan from a credit union or from a bank, one is forced to seek a loan from moneylenders. The current legislation means those who find themselves in difficult situations can suffer extortion from moneylenders and extremely high interest rates. This is immoral. Moneylenders are using the suffering of people to make a profit off them, which simply cannot be allowed to continue. A 40% interest rate cap is a necessary step to bring these moneylenders

[Deputy Michael Colreavy.]

into line with reality. We cannot, as legislators, let them extort from the most vulnerable in this society.

We also need a wider debate on the role moneylenders play in our society. First, we must address why people are forced to seek loans from these outlets. It is not a healthy sign for our society that so many people are forced into a situation in which they must go to such lengths to cover essential items. Second, we need to have a discussion as to how we may find an alternative to the current system of moneylenders. There must be an easier and better way for people in difficulty to attain small, short-term loans.

We also need to take cognisance of the recent report by Social Justice Ireland showing the alarming and growing imbalance between the poor and the wealthy in this country. We must re-examine the level of disposable income required to maintain an individual or a family with some dignity, we must put protections in place to support those whose income drops through no fault of their own, we must eliminate the inexcusable delays in deciding on applications or on appeals for social welfare and we must make the supplementary welfare scheme fit for purpose.

Moneylenders, licensed or unlicensed, are an indictment of the State and its failure to protect our people. This Sinn Féin Bill merely seeks to put a cap of 40% on licensed moneylenders' interest. If the Government Deputies oppose this Bill, it will certainly appear to us and, more importantly, it will be obvious to the public that the Government is opposing a very modest but real attempt to make life better for at least 100,000 of our citizens.

**Deputy Martin Ferris:** As I said during my contribution to the debate on the Personal Insolvency Bill last week, we need to take into account the reasons people are resorting to moneylenders, whether of the licensed or illegal variety. In most cases, we are talking about people who have been refused credit from the banks and other high street lenders for mortgages, personal loans or, in some cases, business loans.

On Monday last, a young woman came to my office in Tralee because her single parent payment had been stopped on the pretext that she was residing with her boyfriend, which was not true. For the past four months, she has been living on handouts from her parents, friends and so forth. She is so desperate that she is going to illegal moneylenders to try to feed her three children and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has kept her alive up to this point in time. People are being forced into situations in which they feel they have no recourse but to seek loans from sub-prime lenders or moneylenders who charge much higher rates of interest than the mainstream institutions.

Last week I mentioned the Wise Mortgage Company in this context and specifically asked the Minister to respond to the fact that this company is in clear breach of Central Bank regulations. The Wise Mortgage Company is owned by an American citizen, Mr. Ronald Weisz, who has bankruptcy and convictions against his name both in the United States and in this State. That surely ought to preclude him from being involved in moneylending and providing mortgages, yet there is no legal structure covering companies such as the Wise Mortgage Company in regard to their suitability to operate here. During the debate in the House last week, I noted that the Minister of State, Deputy Perry, appeared to indicate to his Department officials that I had referred to this issue, and I hope there will be a response to the issues I raised. The Wise Mortgage Company came to my attention some eight years ago when a farmer in my constituency was having his land repossessed by this vulture. The fact that he was prepared to pay back the original loan and substantial interest would not suffice. When he got the loan initially it was at 9% interest, but this doubled to 18% if there was a late payment. This

man is still operating. I am dealing with another case in the west in which the Wise Mortgage Company is involved. What is even more criminal is that a solicitor acting on behalf of the Wise Mortgage Company was also acting on behalf of the person borrowing the money. That solicitor was at that point in time on the board of the Wise Mortgage Company, yet there seems to be no regulation that can do anything whatsoever to prevent such people carrying out this type of activity against decent, honourable people who are struggling to make a living.

It is also a fact that while sub-prime and high interest mortgages and loan facilities may be necessary and welcomed by the people initially taking out the loans, in many cases they then find themselves in trouble, and the sub-prime lenders and moneylenders are more likely to take aggressive court action for repossessions on foot of outstanding loans. Of course, in the case of illegal moneylenders, the consequences can be far more serious for people who fall behind on repayments. I note the comments of my two colleagues that it is seven years since there was a conviction against illegal moneylenders, while we all know it is happening in every working class housing estate throughout the country.

While in some cases the mainstream lenders might feel the problems encountered by clients of moneylenders justify their having refused them loans, in many cases they have also driven them into that position. We are all familiar with people, including business people, who were at one time considered to be worthy of loans but are now considered too high a risk. Many, if not most, businesses in the State will attest to the difficulties of securing loans, even when they believe they have presented a viable repayment plan and when the loan requested has been to expand operations and employment. Indeed, there were cases in which businesses were refused loans to expand operations but were instead offered loans to invest in property. Of course, while all of that ended with the collapse of the speculative bubble, it spoke volumes about the attitude of some banks that were central to this madness.

Banks have also placed people in financial difficulties by increasing their credit card limits without applications from the people concerned. Human nature being what it is, most people probably welcomed that and spent accordingly. However, this does not absolve the banks of their responsibility, and the same applies to their role in the issuing of mortgages.

Another problem is that people who formerly found it easy to get loans from credit unions are now being turned down for a variety of reasons. In some cases this has been due to reductions in repayments or missed repayments, but in other cases they have been told they are ineligible for new loans until previous ones have been cleared. In some cases, such applicants have had substantial deposits with the credit union and, therefore, might be considered good risks. The point is that although the criteria have clearly changed, the attitudes of credit unions also appear to differ depending on the branch. One reason I have heard is that the IMF audit of credit union books has led to a tightening of loan criteria, which is generally known, but also that all credit unions are being made to pay for the sins of a few credit unions which were involved in reckless lending. Surely the rogue branches ought to have been taken to task rather than the institution as a whole being hamstrung by the intervention of the Central Bank on the instructions of the IMF.

The point of all this is that the restriction of loans, including from credit unions, is driving more and more people into the hands of high-interest moneylenders, including illegal moneylenders. A small six-month loan from a legal moneylender will typically have an interest rate from 187% upwards. One of the main lenders, Provident, has recently been reported as having 100,000 clients. It offers short-term loans at high rates but, presumably, in the vast majority of cases the people accessing the loans are able to meet whatever weekly repayments are involved in borrowing, say, €500 over three to six months. The real issue, of course, is that when someone is paying back €25 or €30 a week, they do not notice the huge interest being charged, even if

[Deputy Martin Ferris.]

they have been told they will be repaying a much higher amount than borrowed. All they are interested in is the short-term necessity of having €500 or €1,000.

Surely the mainstream institutions have a case to answer in driving people down that avenue when in most cases people, even those with a bad credit rating, would be able to meet repayments on small short-term loans.

Given the reliability of the credit unions, which were always considered to be the poor person's banks, the fact that such stringent criteria are being applied is driving people who find themselves in desperate circumstances — they may be trying to get children ready for first Holy Communion or confirmation or to buy books for children returning to school — into the hands of sub-prime moneylenders or illegal moneylenders. The matter becomes more insidious when one considers that in a high proportion of cases people are borrowing for the short term to deal with emergencies, including paying household bills and putting food on the table, and their mortgage repayments are in arrears.

It must be factored in also that Provident is not some homely corner shop but a massively lucrative company with profits of hundreds of millions of euro in this country and, as we have heard, billions of euro internationally. It is an integral part of the global financial octopus which is sucking the life out of this country. For many people, one of the tentacles is the extraction of more and more of their income. It is truly a vicious circle at every stage.

As with the mortgage and other personal debt issues, moneylending is something that must of necessity be tackled by the State. This Bill is an opportunity for the Minister of State, the Government and all Deputies who support the Government to show courage and stand with the people most in need in our society. They should take a stand against the vultures that are out there, including the Wise Mortgage Company, Provident and illegal moneylenders, by accepting this Bill and creating an opportunity for people to borrow in a reasonable way to feed and clothe their children or get themselves out of extreme difficulty.

**Deputy Gerry Adams:** Ba mhaith liom an Teachta Pearse Doherty a mholadh de bharr an Bille seo. This is an important initiative to introduce a cap on what is paid back to licensed moneylenders. However, we should not forget that many loan sharks are intimidating and extorting exorbitant rates from citizens. Last week saw a mother of five receive a suspended sentence after loan sharks forced her to grow cannabis plants in her children's bedroom.

Every day this Dáil discusses the impact of the Government's savage austerity policies on the lives of citizens. In our constituencies we meet community and voluntary groups and individuals desperately struggling with the consequences of unemployment, austerity, cuts to public services and debt. It is the austerity policies of this Fine Gael and Labour Party  
8 o'clock Government which are driving more and more citizens into the hands of moneylenders. This is evidenced in the ESRI report which found that budget 2012 disproportionately affected citizens on low and middle incomes. Beidh an Rialtas ag pleanáil an chéad bhuiséid eile ó seo ar aghaidh. Tá éileamh á dhéanamh don séú austerity budget seo nach gcuirfead leis an mbochtanas atá ag 1.8 milliún duine atá ag maireachtáil ar €100 nó níos lú. Sin €25 a week. Very few Deputies or Ministers could live on €25 a week. One of the bleakest findings in the report was that 17% of adults — that is, 600,000 people — have absolutely nothing left for discretionary spending once all bills are paid. These are the citizens who are being forced to borrow not to buy drink, luxuries or pleasure but to pay utility bills, make mortgage payments and put food on their tables.

According to the Irish League of Credit Unions, 10% of households are turning to moneylenders to pay household bills, and many find that once caught in the moneylending trap it is

almost impossible to escape. There is no cap currently for licensed moneylenders, and some lenders charge up to 210% APR. These lenders are making super profits on the back of hard-pressed families. They can do that only because the Government has done nothing to tackle excessive interest rates. A 210% APR means that a €500 loan taken out by a struggling family to pay a gas or electricity bill would cost them €186 if the loan was for six months and €375 if the loan was for 12 months. With little prospect of work or increased earnings, families are forced to return to moneylenders even before they have the last debt paid to try to pay the next bill. It is a vicious circle. Given that a €500 loan from a credit union would cost the same family €13 and €25, respectively, the excessiveness of these rates is obvious.

There is undoubtedly a broader issue in regard to the way those on low incomes interact with financial institutions. One in six of the population do not have a bank account, a bank card, or access to an overdraft or other borrowing facilities. These citizens are dependent on cash and credit from legal or illegal moneylenders. Of the 46 licensed moneylenders in this State, 36 offer a doorstep collection service. That means that every week someone calls to collect the money. Of the 46 moneylenders currently operating licences, 29 have APRs of more than 100%. Fourteen of them charge 150%. Sin fiacha ar bharr fhiacha. Tá neart scríofa agus ráite faoi na deacrachtaí atá acu siúd atá faoi riaráistí morgáiste.

Ar an 18 Eanáir bhí tuairim agus 70,019 duine i riaráistí ar feadh 91 lá. Fine Gael and the Labour Party promised a lot for mortgage holders when in opposition. Sinn Féin welcomed the arrival, belatedly, of the Personal Insolvency Bill, but that Bill hands the banks a veto over personal insolvency arrangements. The reality is that 15% of mortgage holders are now in serious distress. The Governor of the Central Bank, Patrick Honohan, has told us that 25% of all mortgages, by value, are in arrears or have been restructured. That is illustrated by the huge increase in claimants of mortgage interest supplement in recent years. That is the payment which provides short-term support to help an individual make mortgage interest repayments. In 2007, in my constituency of Louth, only 75 citizens were in receipt of this payment. By March of this year, that number had leapt to 465. The State-wide figure is 18,000. By any measure, therefore, we have a huge crisis in regard to mortgages. The Taoiseach has stated that this is the single biggest crisis facing our people, but the problems of debt, moneylenders and austerity have more profound implications. Figures show that the number of suicides rose last year to 525 — an increase of 7%. Those are the ones that are reported. Some 439 men and 86 women are recorded as having taken their own lives in 2011. Deputy Dan Neville, President of the Irish Association of Suicidology, acknowledged that these figures were frightening but not surprising given the state of the economy. Yesterday's report made a clear connection between austerity and suicide. It revealed that of the 190 deaths in Cork — that is a huge number of citizens in that city — 31% were unemployed.

The excessive interest rates being charged by licensed moneylenders, and all the other pressures upon pressures, are pushing hard-pressed families further into financial stress, real distress and increased poverty. There is no real moral, economic or political justification for the absence of a cap on interest rates charged by licensed moneylenders. The Bill introduced by Sinn Féin proposes a cap of 40%. This level is fairer to customers while allowing licensed lenders to operate on a sound commercial basis. It may be that the Government did not know the detail or the consequences of all of this. I say that in a very fraternal way. Having heard the facts, there is obviously an urgent need for a cap to be introduced on interest rates and for there to be more wide-ranging reform of the regulation of licensed moneylenders and the policing of illegal loan sharks. I ask all Deputies to support the Bill.

**Minister of State at the Department of Finance (Deputy Brian Hayes):** I wish to share time with Deputies Mary Mitchell O'Connor and Gerald Nash.

**Acting Chairman (Deputy Jack Wall):** Is that agreed? Agreed.

**Deputy Brian Hayes:** I thank Deputy Pearse Doherty for preparing the Bill we are debating tonight and tomorrow night and for presenting it for the information of the House. There is a comprehensive licensing system in place for moneylenders. In that regard, I will outline shortly for the information of the House the main provisions of Part VIII of the Consumer Credit Act 1995 which deal with moneylenders. However, I wish to inform the House that the Government intends to oppose the Bill.

The most likely impact of applying a cap rate of 40% APR — or a lesser rate as is outlined in the explanatory memorandum — is that moneylending would no longer be viable, licence renewals would not be sought and it would effectively close down the industry. The Government is aware of the burden placed on customers because of the high rates charged by moneylenders. However, as Deputies will appreciate, moneylending is an inherently expensive business. Licensed moneylenders serve a high-risk borrower segment, by way of a labour intensive operational model, and through offering loan amounts which are too low effectively to cover the costs of running the business if offered at low interest rates. Given that many customers of licensed moneylenders would have few, if any, other sources of licensed credit available to them, the proposal regarding a cap on the APR would likely increase growth in illegal moneylending. That is one unintended consequence of the Bill and it is something that all of us, I presume, oppose. Pushing more people into the hands of unscrupulous and unregulated moneylenders would make no sense and would further marginalise those who need protection most.

Licensed moneylenders service a varied group of customers but are closely identified with marginalised or vulnerable consumers. Meeting the financial needs of such consumers is a complex multidimensional policy issue. The Government is already engaged in a number of measures, such as the provision of basic payment accounts and the implementation of a national financial education programme, both of which are designed to support persons and families targeted by moneylenders and, more generally, promote financial inclusion and reduce over-indebtedness.

For the information of the House, an EU proposal will shortly come into being, which will provide for a basic payment account. It is crucial to give everyone the right to have an account so that their financial transactions can be carried out. The basic payment account, if properly designed and marketed, provides marginalised consumers with an opportunity to engage with mainstream credit providers, build up a good savings record and ultimately access mainstream credit. I was surprised to hear the information that has been estimated that currently 17% of Irish householders do not have access to a bank account that can make payments through the clearing system. The implications for people are stark if one does not have access to a bank account. The question arises as to how one pays a bill, makes debit payments, and collects and transacts with financial institutions. What is required in this case is a further exploration of the need to have basic payment accounts for all citizens rolled out over a period. Without that, we are not going to make a great difference. It is no surprise that people would call around to one's house to collect money if one does not have a basic bank account because one cannot work through the clearing process. It is a major inequality if people do not have access in the normal way to the banking system that is in place for everyone else. It can have a significant impact on the financial well-being of citizens. As part of the Government's policy to improve financial inclusion levels, a pilot project has commenced to introduce a basic payment account. The project is being tested until the end of this year and it will be evaluated to ensure it is meeting the needs of the target population before a more refined offering will be rolled out on a nationwide basis next year.

Deputy Pearse Doherty referred to a study from 2007, but the House might wish to note that a more recent UK study from 2009 found that a licensed moneylender, to be financially viable, must charge a high cost of credit, even on a not-for-profit basis. Specifically, the study found that a not-for-profit home credit business to break even by year five would require an £18 million subsidy of start-up capital and APR of 123% on an average £288 loan over 56 weeks to be commercially viable. Given the Irish context, in particular the small market size, and taking into account the above findings, it is not likely that many moneylenders would be commercially viable operations by offering loans at rates of credit of substantially less than they are currently authorised.

While licensed moneylenders may be the subject of adverse comment, which I understand, they service a gap in the market not served fully by mainstream lenders, in a manner which is deemed to suit the particular needs of their customers, for example, convenience in payment and collection, speed at which a loan may be granted and a long-standing or family relationship with a particular moneylender. As I indicated, there is a comprehensive licensing system in place for moneylenders. Currently, 46 licensed moneylenders operate in the State. Annually, each must complete and return the appropriate moneylending application form to the Central Bank, together with a number of items for review and consideration. A moneylender's licence granted by the Central Bank is specific to a moneylender, in that each individual moneylender's licence outlines the specific products that the moneylender offers, the APR for each product and the total cost of credit for each product. Before applying for a moneylender's licence, an applicant must give notice of this intention in a local or national newspaper published in Ireland and circulating in the District Court area in which the applicant intends to engage in the business of moneylending. Under section 93(10)(g), of the Consumer Credit Act, the Central Bank may refuse to grant a moneylender's licence if, in the bank's opinion, the cost of the credit to be charged is excessive or, if any of the terms and conditions attaching thereto are, again in the bank's opinion, unfair.

There is provision in the Consumer Credit Act to appeal the decision to the Circuit Court. There is a view that there may be a lack of transparency in how the Central Bank determines the authorised limits of APR and total cost of credit of moneylenders, nor are there guidelines in place to steer the bank in its authorisation-making process. The Minister for Finance proposes to engage with the Central Bank with a view to deciding if the bank can develop guidelines, which will provide greater transparency on the rates charged by moneylenders. The benefits that the introduction of guidelines could achieve include increased transparency for the public, a greater emphasis on the total cost of credit as the primary metric, a better understanding as to why the APR is a poor measure for typical moneylender loans, that is, low value and short-term loans, and greater confidence that licensed moneylenders are not earning big profits as a result of an express linkage between authorised terms and conditions and the underlying cost of providing the service.

The Minister for Finance has also asked the Central Bank to assess the situation in other EU countries, because, as Deputy Pearse Doherty and others have said, a variety of responses is evident. Some countries have a cap while other countries do not. However, one is not comparing like with like because the legislative framework in each of the countries is different. Consequently, on foot of the Bill outlined by Deputy Pearse Doherty and his colleagues, the Minister for Finance proposes to engage with the Central Bank to undertake a thorough assessment of the position across other member states to get the best possible model, albeit at a guideline level, which the bank might propose.

In 2011 the Central Bank published the results of a themed inspection of licensed moneylenders. The Central Bank has advised the Department of Finance that this inspection showed

[Deputy Brian Hayes.]

a high level of compliance with the law among firms. Overall, the inspection found that customers were charged in accordance with the moneylender's authorised annual percentage rates, APRs, and the cost of credit. Members also will be aware of the Central Bank's consumer protection code for licensed moneylenders. The code sets out the general principles with which a moneylender must comply. The code also places requirements on moneylenders in respect of the provision of information to the consumer, preservation of consumer rights, knowing the customer, suitability and unsolicited contact, debt collection and the contents and presentation of advertisements. For example, all advertisements must contain the following warning in large font: "WARNING: This is a high cost loan". In addition to the annual licensing regime, moneylenders are subject to new fitness and probity requirements under sections 20 and 22 of the Central Bank Reform Act 2010.

As I have outlined, the Central Bank is the competent authority with regard to licensed moneylending and in overseeing and regulating this activity. It is an offence under the Consumer Credit Act to engage in the business of moneylending without the appropriate licence granted by the Central Bank. Any suspicion of moneylending activity should be brought to the attention of An Garda Síochána for investigation. As the Minister for Finance pointed out recently in reply to an oral parliamentary question, it is appreciated that enforcement can be difficult when moneylending is carried out on a small scale and the persons to whom the money is lent are reluctant to come forward to assist the Garda in bringing forward proceedings.

Before concluding, I wish to acknowledge the important work of the credit union sector in providing low cost loans for the unbanked and other vulnerable consumers. The Government will continue to support the restructuring of the credit union sector to ensure its continued contribution to communities nationwide. I thank Deputy Pearse Doherty and his colleagues for raising the issue of interest rates charged by licensed moneylenders. The Government is aware of the concerns raised in this debate. However, this issue must be examined carefully to ensure the solution proposed does not adversely affect the most vulnerable members of society. This will be the Government's main aim in considering the findings of the examination to be carried out by the Central Bank and by the officials of the Department of Finance.

**Deputy Michael McGrath:** I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Second Stage debate on the Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill 2012. I commend Deputy Pearse Doherty and Sinn Féin for introducing the Bill. On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party, I confirm we will support it. It echoes a call by the Irish League of Credit Unions, which is at the coalface in respect of dealing with such matters. It is fair to state the question of how to regulate the practices of moneylenders has long challenged legislators. All Members should acknowledge that for the vast majority of people, moneylenders, be they legal or illegal, are the lenders of last resort. Members also should acknowledge it is understandable that a risk premium would be charged with regard to the interest rate. The question posed by this Bill concerns what constitutes an acceptable risk premium to charge to customers who avail of the services of moneylenders. Many such customers have a poor credit history and many of them turned to moneylenders because they are unable to access credit through the conventional routes normally open to people, including the local bank or credit union. Consequently, the Bill takes cognisance of this fact and in allowing for an APR of up to 40%, it recognises the reality that some of the loans being extended by moneylenders are of a risky nature. Members should be fair and should acknowledge this point. Moreover, that is the reason such interest rates are being tolerated, even within the proposals being made by Sinn Féin.

I listened to the Minister of State's speech on the monitor and do not believe anyone is trying to outlaw the practice of moneylending. The question is what represents a fair interest

rate to charge them? The Minister of State referred to the Central Bank's report into the sector of 2007, as in the past has the Minister for Finance, Deputy Michael Noonan. However, it would be reasonable to impose some level of a ceiling to the interest rate being charged by moneylenders. In his opening remarks, Deputy Pearse Doherty asked the Government to accept the principle that a ceiling would be put in place and the finer details with regard to the precise APR could be worked out subsequently. This is a reasonable position and the Bill should have been allowed to proceed to Committee Stage for a more detailed debate. Perhaps the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform could have held hearings, involving groups such as the Irish League of Credit Unions, FLAC and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, at which its members could listen to those who deal with people who are customers of moneylenders on a day-to-day basis. When one deals with a regulator or a Central Bank, one often gets one perspective on an issue but the perspective of individual customers is equally important.

As all Members are aware, many people use moneylenders in the hope it will be a short-term measure to tide them over. However, they end up by getting in deeper and find it hard to extricate themselves from being involved with them. Statistics from the Money Advice and Budgeting Service showed that in a nine month period last year, 830 new clients were indebted to moneylenders, while the equivalent figure for the whole of 2010 was 1,418. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has raised concerns about how moneylenders operate by targeting people at certain times of the year and sending agents door-to-door offering cash. More than 40 years have elapsed since the now infamous "Seven Days" RTE documentary on the practice of moneylending in Ireland was broadcast. The programme caused significant controversy as it alleged there was a scourge of illegal moneylending in Ireland at the time and that moneylenders were using strong-arm tactics to extract payment from customers. The programme's presenters, including current RTE sports presenter Bill O'Herlihy, were condemned at the time for what were believed to be exaggerated claims. The Oireachtas set up a tribunal which to some extent shone a light on the moneylending sector.

While I am sure that some of the worst practices of that era are now behind us, it certainly is the case that the history is not without problems that must be addressed. All Members can agree the Consumer Credit Act 1995 put in place a robust licensing regime in respect of moneylenders. For example, it provided that a customer is entitled to a proper written agreement when borrowing money from a licensed moneylender, that a customer is entitled to a properly filled out repayment book, that it is illegal for a moneylender to charge interest on interest and that it is illegal for a moneylender to grant another loan to clear an existing loan. Moreover, it is illegal for a moneylender to contact one at one's place of work without one's permission and it is illegal for a moneylender to trade without a licence.

Most Members will agree these are sound measures, in so far as they go, and provide a good basis for underpinning the operation of the sector. However, the legislation does not address the question of potentially excessive interest rates. The annual percentage rate allowable under each moneylending licence is set out on the Central Bank website and while no maximum rate of interest is set out in legislation, under section 93 of the Consumer Credit Act, the Central Bank may refuse to grant a moneylender's licence if, in the opinion of the bank, the cost of the credit sought by the moneylender is excessive or if any of the terms or conditions attaching to it are unfair. Consequently, it beggars belief that the Central Bank is approving APRs at present levels and some of the previous speakers put on record the APRs that are being charged by the 46 licensed moneylenders in the country. The true measure is an APR that includes the collection charge because when one examines, as I did today, the schedule of licensed moneylenders, one finds, for example, that one moneylender has a collection charge of 14 cent in the euro. Many of them have collection charges of 10 cent in the euro. By any

[Deputy Michael McGrath.]

measure, these are extremely exorbitant collection charges to be imposing on customers who are, by their very nature, vulnerable and who are accepting loans from moneylenders at a time when they are put to the pin of their collar. When we include the collection charge, the APR can rise as high as 280%. One licensed moneylender, based in Stillorgan, County Dublin, has an APR of 287.72%, including the collection charge. There are many others with an APR in excess of 200%. Any person who has experience of drawing down and trying to repay a loan will know exactly the impact of the interest rate on the amount of money being repaid. It is scandalous that the State is standing over a situation where licensed moneylenders that are complying with all of the rules — I do not wish to suggest otherwise — are in a position where they can charge upwards of 300% APR when the collection charge is included.

I note that in February, the Central Bank published the results of a themed inspection of licensed moneylenders. Inspections were conducted in 11 of the 46 licensed moneylenders currently operating in Ireland. Overall, the inspections found a high level of compliance with the requirements and that consumers were being charged in accordance with the moneylenders' authorised APRs and costs of credit. I have no evidence to the contrary. I am sure the licensed moneylender sector is generally adhering to the rules that govern its operation. This is hardly surprising, given the leeway under which licensed moneylenders can operate. The rules on interest rates are so broad and so generous that it is no surprise they are operating within them. It begs the question: if the Central Bank is approving moneylenders and allowing them to charge an APR of 288%, including the collection charge, then at what level of interest would the Central Bank shout “stop”? At what level will the Central Bank declare that this is not acceptable and will put customers who are already in a difficult financial situation into an even worse situation? How many applications is the Central Bank refusing? Is it refusing applications by moneylenders who want to charge an APR of 400% or 500%? There are moneylenders abroad who charge that level of interest. I cannot understand how it is acceptable for the regulator, the consumer watchdog, to stand over a situation where moneylenders are allowed to charge 288% APR, including the collection charge.

I looked at the list of licensed moneylenders on the Central Bank website today. Some of the charges are truly staggering. In the case of a company called Southside Finance, the APR is 287%, including the collection charge. When we consider the profile of people who go to moneylenders looking for help, this is nothing short of extortionate, but it is entirely legal and entirely licensed. The fact that they are operating within the letter of the law is irrelevant. They are engaged in a predatory practice exploiting very vulnerable citizens. The typical client of a moneylender is a parent who is trying to get money together to pay the electricity or gas bill, or cover a family event like a First Holy Communion or Christmas presents. The vast majority of clients of such firms do not have the time to study APRs across different providers to ascertain the best deal available. The Minister of State acknowledged that much of this activity is focused on disadvantaged areas. We all know from our own constituencies that this is the pattern of activity in the moneylending sector. These consumers need the protection of the law and setting a maximum APR for moneylenders is the obvious way to do it. Even lending at 40% APR would still be a profitable activity for such providers.

Anyone who has ever been at home during the day and put on a UK TV channel will be familiar with the advertising of short term or pay day loans. The advertising is certainly slick and promises people a way out of their financial difficulties with easy access to credit, even if they have previously had an impaired credit record. As with most consumer products, it is likely that the services of legal moneylenders will migrate online. One such provider advertising heavily in Ireland is Provident Financial. I took a look at its website today, which certainly looks good. It offers “money advice, hints and tips” and a budget planner. In addition, it

promises no complicated forms to complete, cash delivered to the client's door within days, and manageable, fixed repayments. The "representative example" cited by the website sets out the cost of a typical loan — other Deputies have referred to this — where essentially the APR is 157%. This is not a small scale problem. This company has thousands of customers throughout the country. An *Irish Examiner* investigation in 2009 revealed that Provident Financial had 75,000 customers here. This rose to 88,000 in 2010 and the firm now lends to 100,000 people. We would simply be failing in our duty to citizens if we did not legislate to outlaw such excessive charges. I am the first to acknowledge that this should have been done sooner, but it is more important now than ever, at a time when people are really struggling. They are struggling to meet their day to day basic financial commitments. This is a golden era for moneylenders, both licensed and unlicensed. They are preying on very vulnerable customers and it has never been more important for the Oireachtas to step in and provide those people with some level of protection on the interest rate that such moneylenders can charge.

In 1988, a report by the Combat Poverty Agency indicated that there were three unlicensed moneylenders for every licensed moneylender. It would be interesting to know the ratio today. We cannot be sure because we have no mechanism for keeping account of the activities of the illegal moneylenders. We can only rely on consumer advocacy groups and others who are directly helping consumers to deal with the consequences of accepting loans from illegal moneylenders. That is a different matter from this debate, but it is equally important. While there is a regulatory regime for licensed moneylenders, there is an unknown number of illegal moneylenders who are using tactics that are entirely unacceptable within the licensed sector. That issue needs to be tackled. The lack of any evidence of enforcement action by the authorities on illegal moneylenders is disturbing.

In respect of legal moneylenders, we should apply a reduced maximum interest rate. Collection charges, whereby money is charged to customers for collecting payment at their home, should be outlawed or strictly limited. Up to 14 cent in the euro is currently charged legally and that is absolutely outrageous. If the Government is not going to accept this Bill, it should find some other mechanism of giving consumers the protection they deserve. The people who are going to moneylenders are the people who can least afford to pay the exorbitant interest rates being charged. I do not think it is fair or reasonable that the Oireachtas would stand over that situation. I know the Central Bank's theory is that introducing a low cap could bring about the end to the sector and that could have unforeseen consequences for those who rely on it at the moment. However, I think we can strike a balance between those issues. I am disappointed the Government is rejecting the Bill, but I hope this issue is tackled at an early date.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** We have a ten minute speaking slot and Deputy Arthur Spring and Deputy Gerald Nash wish to share time. Is that agreed? Agreed.

**Deputy Arthur Spring:** Any licensed business is under great duress to be upstanding to citizens. The reason financial and lending institutions are licensed is because they can cause great stress and harm to people and society. I agree with the sentiments expressed by the non-government parties. As Deputy Michael McGrath stated, the most vulnerable in society are those who are always exploited by moneylenders, licensed or unlicensed. One of the first television programmes I recall was a "Today Tonight" episode from the early 1980s in which Pat Cox chased cars, pointing out extortionate moneylenders who were preying on people, offering loans for communions, Christmas and other family events.

In a proper society, everyone would either have a bank or, more importantly, a credit union account. One priority taught by grandparents in my day was how to set up a credit union account as soon as one could to save the few quid from a first communion or the selling of a

[Deputy Arthur Spring.]

calf. It showed people the benefit of delayed gratification. Every citizen should be encouraged to follow this example.

The transferability of bad loans causes me some concern because a licensed institution could send a bad loan to be chased by a debt collection agency. We have seen these agencies under many guises. Some of them have resorted to violence, taking personal belongings and crystallising unsecured assets to get back loans.

The credit unions must be promoted in society. We have a wonderful credit union tradition, particularly when compared with the United Kingdom. Members of credit unions contribute deposits which, in turn, provide for lending. In times of hardship, I do not believe any credit union would deny people some level of lending. People who use credit unions are also conscious that their credit history will also be impaired if they do not pay back a credit union loan.

There are 40 licensed moneylenders in the country. If a lender is in trouble with one, more than likely he will borrow from another to pay off the original loan, taking from Peter to pay Paul. This kind of show should stop.

The sentiment of the non-government parties, as I like to call them, is correct. However, the specifics may have problems. A 2009 UK study on high credit called for a non-profit payday loan service, funded by a government subsidy of £18 million. To cover operating costs the loans would need to cost at least 123% APR. This is a bad business model that will not serve society, lending or prudent business well.

I am glad the Central Bank will examine this Private Members' Bill and deliver a better form of management in the area of high credit. It will also have to examine, however, the elephant in the room, namely, unlicensed moneylenders. They have put many vulnerable people to the pin of their collars and have acted violently in some cases of non-payment. I thought those days were well and truly over. We are in a credit crisis and the least well-off need to be protected most of all when it comes to accessing credit.

When it comes to the budget I will be saying the most well-off need to take a fair share of the burden and maybe even a little more. When people are stressed financially and emotionally, they will turn to what appears to be the easy option of the moneylender when it is far from it. Licensed lending institutions are obliged to provide a form of business that is beholden to the people. They make money through a banking system that we allow them to carry out. At no stage should their profits or the debt burden on individuals be extraordinary.

I am concerned about the Central Bank's ability to get things right. It needs to be given a specific mandate to examine microlending and educate people on how money works. People should understand why they need to save and how to borrow in ratio to their earnings for items like the family home or a family car. I know people from school in Tralee, with similar intelligence and ambition, who are now in debt to moneylenders because of their lack of knowledge in how to deal with money and borrowing.

While I agree with the sentiments expressed by the non-government parties on this matter, the specifics of the legislation are not accurate and need to be worked on. We need to push moneylenders out of society. That can only be done through education and encouraging credit unions to develop.

**Deputy Gerald Nash:** This is an important issue that needs to be debated not just here but across wider society. The moneylending business is a fact of life and it should be a matter of increasing concern for those of us concerned with those who find themselves on the margins of society. The uncomfortable fact is that moneylenders are often the last port of call for people who are brutalised and worn down by the challenges of just living to exist. This is a business,

whether we are prepared to accept it, that profits from the misery of thousands of people. To say I am uncomfortable with this is an understatement.

I am also deeply uncomfortable that the State is presiding over a regulatory regime that has the effect of often compounding the financial problems of those driven into the arms of moneylenders in the first place. I note the facts outlined by the Minister of State earlier and I very much appreciate the position he proffered on how, if the provisions of this Bill as tabled were adopted, there could be unintended or unforeseen consequences which could exacerbate the horrendous circumstances in which many with relationships with licensed moneylenders and otherwise find themselves.

If we are to accept the *status quo*, however, we need to implement some urgent measures to take moneylending out of the darker recesses of society and the economy. The Central Bank's code of practice and a raft of consumer protection legislation, of which we are all aware, are all well and good. However, the Central Bank's code of practice does not come across the radar of most people struggling to survive and provide for their families in desperate circumstances. We are dealing here with many citizens who have severe literacy and numeracy challenges. We are dealing with people who have no idea whatsoever that they too have rights. We are dealing with dire situations where people have developed a dependency on the local moneylender and may even have an intergenerational relationship with him or her at the level of their own family. These are people who will not and cannot make a complaint because they do not know to whom they should complain or they distrust the institutions whose remit it should be to protect their interests. There could also be a fear of repercussions if complaints are made by those caught in this vicious cycle. That vicious cycle needs to be stopped.

Instead, it should be made easy to permit people to bring their concerns to the relevant authorities in respect of a moneylender, licensed or not. The public should be told repeatedly who these authorities are and awareness of them should be raised. I would prefer if moneylenders and loan sharks did not exist at all. Accepting that they do — human nature determines they always will be there — we need as a society to be much more forceful about bringing the practice of moneylending into the open while shining a light on the dark recesses and grey areas in which it operates.

**Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan:** I wish to share time with Deputy Mattie McGrath.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Is that agreed? Agreed.

**Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan:** There is no doubt some people value doorstep credit, even if it could have severe consequences. It has to be acknowledged there are occasions when people need to quick access to credit. Representing Dublin Central, I know moneylending of the illegal kind has been a fact of life there for many years. Going back to the days of the Monto, the largest red light district in western Europe at the time, moneylending was a feature of life.

Another feature of life in Dublin Central was that people could buy goods “on tick” from various shops. The pawn shops in the constituency used to do a roaring trade but not anymore. There is a need to acknowledge that people need money and we must ensure they can access it easily.

I am concerned, as a result of the economic recession and the number of job losses that have occurred, about people turning to moneylenders and, in particular, those which are unlicensed. Community and voluntary workers have much evidence that this is happening. Deputy Michael McGrath and others have stated these are the lenders of last resort. However, I know people for whom they are the lenders of first resort. This is because those to whom I refer are not in the habit of going to credit unions or banks. I am a strong supporter of credit unions because

[Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan.]

I am aware of the work they have done to assist people in various communities. What is great about credit unions is the tradition on which they are based, namely, that people must save in order to borrow. Credit unions accept the smallest amounts in savings. The credit union in the East Wall area in which I live is one of the oldest in the country. I know young people whose parents encouraged them to join the credit union once they began to earn a few bob. That is how the tradition of saving in order to borrow is maintained.

The banks have fallen down considerably on this matter because they provide people with little or no encouragement to invest small amounts with them. Credit is due to An Post because of the stamp systems it operates. One example in this regard is that a person can purchase a stamp each week and put it towards paying for his or her television licence when it falls due for payment. The Money Advice and Budgeting Service, MABS, is often left to pick up the pieces when people get into difficulties.

A balance must be struck in respect of interest rates which must be capped but not to the extent that they discourage institutions from lending and thus oblige more people to turn to unlicensed moneylenders. A practice has developed whereby people borrow from moneylenders and then obtain a second loan in order to pay off the first. What is happening in this regard must be regulated in some way.

Sinn Féin hosted an interesting briefing on this issue earlier today at which reference was made to the TASC report, which indicates that the poor borrow more than the middle class and that they pay more for their loans. We are aware that some of the most dangerous moneylenders are those who would be termed "legal". These lenders charge high interest rates on loans and fees, for insurance. In addition, they offer multiple loans. I have read a report on one licensed moneylender in which it is indicated that for every €100 borrowed for one year, the company charges €56. This means that the APR on a six month loan is 187.2%. I must emphasise that this is a licensed moneylender. One can only imagine what illegal or unlicensed moneylenders are charging for loans.

The banks currently exclude 20% of the adult population from the services they offer. We are aware that there are people who would like to have bank accounts, but they are not approached by the banks as potential customers. I came across three recent newspaper headlines which read as follows: "Middle class families secretly caught by moneylenders"; "Illegal moneylenders 'instil fear in thousands'"; and "Caught in a trap". The Society of St. Vincent de Paul compares moneylending to a cancer. It states that if one person in a community borrows from a moneylender, the word gets around that there is money to be had. Suddenly, everyone in the community is borrowing from a particular moneylender. People in Dublin Central have been obliged to borrow from illegal moneylenders to pay the drug debts of their family members. This has led to massive intimidation.

I will support the Bill. However, the credit unions' suggestion the interest rate which should apply to loans from moneylenders should not exceed 25% rather than the figure of 40% put forward by Sinn Féin should be considered. After all, there are enough Shylocks about the place charging exorbitant amounts of interest, etc. The banks must take on board the fact that during the Celtic tiger era they sponsored personal recklessness when it came to borrowing.

Debate adjourned.

### Messages from Seanad

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Seanad Éireann has passed the Industrial Relations (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2011, without amendment. It has also passed the Microenterprise Loan Fund Bill 2012, without amendment.

*Sitting suspended at 8.55 p.m. and resumed at 9 p.m.*

### Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Bill 2012: Report Stage (Resumed) and Final Stage

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** I move amendment No. 9:

In page 10, between lines 4 and 5, to insert the following:

“(8) (a) The Board shall make provision for the setting up of an assessment panel consisting of four members of the Board, including the participation of the Chairperson, to examine applications to the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund, made by residents of former scheduled institutions who did not make an application under the Act of 2002 or who will have had a court determination made in an action arising out of their residency within a scheduled institution.

(b) The above assessment panel shall have the power to recommend to the Board the inclusion of former residents of scheduled institutions who qualify under section 7(1) of the Act of 2002, to make awards in accordance with this Act which are fair and reasonable having regard to the unique circumstances of each applicant.”.

This amendment was linked to the earlier debate on eligibility. It arose from discussions on Committee Stage with the Minister. Given that the redress doard is closed, he was asked how he would deal with it. As bureaucracy was mentioned, this is one way of deal with the matter. The Minister referred earlier to the review in two years time and perhaps this could be helpful in that regard. If he does not consider it helpful, I presume he will vote it down. The amendment refers to the function of the board, four of whose members with the chairman, will be empowered to make an assessment.

One of the reasons given for not widening the eligibility criteria was that there were concerns that people who unsuccessfully applied through the redress scheme could re-apply for assistance from the statutory fund. However, the wording of the amendment clearly states that the panel will only examine applications from people who have not applied to the redress board. Anyone else who was turned down after applying to the board would therefore be ineligible.

The amendment is an attempt to deal with the fact that we voted down the widening of eligibility. I presume the Minister will say it is null and void but this is where the amendments arose from.

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I have serious concerns regarding Deputy Seán Crowe’s proposals as set down in amendments Nos. 9 and 18, that an assessment panel comprising four members of the statutory fund board be established to examine applications from persons who did not make an application to the redress board, or who will have a court determination made in an action arising from their residency in a scheduled institution. Recipients of court awards will of course be eligible to apply for the fund under the provisions of the Bill. Because this is Report Stage, I was not able to make that interjection when the Deputy was speaking before. If they have established their bona fides though the award of a court decision, that qualifies them in the same way as somebody who has gone through the process.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

While I do not wish to go over the ground that we have covered earlier in terms of eligibility, I must reiterate my concerns about any proposal to widen eligibility for the reasons stated. There is a finite amount of money available and any extension of eligibility will mean that this money will be used for a greater pool of potential applicants, thus in effect reducing its own effectiveness.

The redress board is the State's vehicle for making awards to those who suffered abuse in residential institutions. That board has made awards that were fair and reasonable in all the circumstances. With respect, I stress again the different role intended for the new board. As I said, it should not get involved in adjudicating on whether or not abuse took place. To allow it to do that would severely compromise its key objective which is to meet the needs of former residents who have been through that entire redress process. Regrettably, I cannot accept the amendments.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** We have gone back and forth on this matter. We discussed eligibility earlier and I firmly believe that we should not block people who clearly went through horrific times in these institutions. We should not close down the criteria or block them off. On that basis, this amendment is an attempt to deal with the issue. On Committee Stage, the Minister said such a process would be cumbersome, over-bureaucratic and a logistical nightmare. This amendment is an attempt to deal with the points he made by simply allowing the board to make an assessment. It is different in that one does not need 100% proof on it. If there is a view that this happened in all probability then the board can make an assessment that such people are entitled to apply for the fund. We may not be talking about huge numbers, but we should not close the door to the individuals concerned. It was on that basis that I tabled this amendment as a genuine attempt to deal with the matter.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** The Minister says he is concerned about the amendments but he did not substantiate his concern, other than to say that it was akin to the earlier debate. I do not accept that. In some ways, this amendment restricts or qualifies the numbers involved by putting in place a procedure which would regulate the numbers seeking redress, in that it would be up to the board to assess them. The amendment must be taken in the context of the decisive and important debate we had earlier about inclusion. We are talking about a very small number and the fact that they would have to go through this system would make the number even smaller. I do not see anything of huge concern about it at all.

We have had the same argument reiterated that the pot of money is fixed and this would eat into it. However, by having such a mechanism it is not a free-for-all, it is a procedure that would in a certain sense control the numbers and cut across that. The whole purpose of the fund is to meet people's needs. They definitely have a need but because of various experiences in their lives they were excluded from seeking redress before now, or may have chosen not to do so owing to the horrendous experiences that other people had. I agree with the points being made by Deputy Seán Crowe that this will regulate matters. It is worthy in the sense that it is a half-way house and should be considered as a step towards more inclusion without provoking a free for all.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** As both Deputies have said, we have had a long discussion on this point. At what stage do we bring this process to a close? I believe we are getting close to that point. I fully respect the bona fides and good intentions both of Deputy Crowe and Deputy Daly in this regard, but €1.4 billion has been spent. We are trying to move on to the next stage now in order to deal with the existing requirements of those who have come through the process. I remind Deputies that the process was kept open for much longer than originally

intended to ensure that people who wanted to make representations to apply were able to do so. I do not believe we can leave that open indefinitely. The effect of the amendment would be to leave that door permanently open.

As regards the operation of this legislation, I repeat that I am prepared within two years from now, having monitored the way it is going, to report back to this House and give some form of review to see how it is working. I will not tie myself down at this point but my commitment to the House is on the record. In two years' time, in the late summer of 2014, we will have a look at where we are and make some kind of progress report by way of a review. Let us not prejudge either the format of that review or its outcome, but I am pretty clear that I will formally come back to the matter in two years.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** We have had the discussion. By broadening the eligibility criteria we would be helping people who have been excluded from society and damaged by the State. That is why I am pressing the amendment and seeking changes in the eligibility clause.

Amendment put and declared lost.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Amendments Nos. 10 and 11 are related and may be discussed together.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I move amendment No. 10:

In page 10, line 32, after “service” to insert the following:

“, which shall be made available to the children and grandchildren of all former residents entitled to apply to obtain assistance from the Fund to advance their educational skills and employment opportunities”.

This proposal was discussed for a fair amount of time on Committee Stage. It is one of the aspects that has drawn most attention in terms of submissions from some of the groups. While there may not be unanimity in that regard, there is an overwhelming desire among most of the survivors that access to the educational fund would be made available to the children and grandchildren of former residents in order for them to advance their educational skills and employment opportunities.

Everyone knows a distinction is being made with this fund, whereas the proposed provision existed previously. We must reiterate some key points. The experience of the last fund tells us that a minority of victims used it. One quarter of applicants were victims and former residents, half of those who received the grant were children and the remaining quarter were grandchildren. The key point is to deal with the transgenerational effects of abuse. The children and grandchildren of abuse victims have also paid a price. It is well established that access to education and training is the route out of poverty. It is a route for breaking the cycle. It has been a positive part of the existing fund and there is a desire for it to be maintained and carried on. I will not read out the many letters we received from people saying that education is no good to those too old to avail of it. They want their children and grandchildren looked after instead. Some of the measures put forward were to introduce an exception in the legislation to allow family members to access the fund or keep the existing trust open.

The amendment extends the provision to include family members for all of the reasons articulated. In order to have a meaningful input in terms of education, those generations will see more of it than the victims because of their age profile. It is a key service and one people should have access to. The appropriate age group is the children and grandchildren.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** In one sense this is controversial because some survivors agree with the approach while others do not. From discussions, it is clear that there was no coming together on the issue. We tabled the amendment on the basis that many people talk about their age and the educational aspects of the Bill were not much use to them at this stage in their lives. They would like to see their children and grandchildren having access to it. People talk about breaking the intergenerational cycle of what they went through. In many cases, they felt the effects continued into their family life and they are trying to make amends. They want to see the opportunities they missed out on going to their children and grandchildren and feel this is one way of allowing the children or grandchildren the opportunity the parents did not have due to circumstances. On that basis, we tabled the amendment.

When the matter was being discussed on Committee Stage, the Minister of State, Deputy Sean Sherlock, referred to the statutory schemes to ensure access to education. There are clear income thresholds in respect of eligibility of children and grandchildren of former residents. I wanted to be inclusive of all people, regardless of income at this stage or income from redress, which should not be taken into account. Mainly, I want to provide support in respect of the Bill.

It is clear that budget constraints are the main reason children and grandchildren of survivors have been denied access to the statutory fund. Ensuring supports for children whose parents qualify under the redress scheme should be a measure provided for in the legislation because access to education can go some way to enhancing an individual's opportunities and life chances. The survivors want to give their children or grandchildren an opportunity.

I talked to one man whose son was in jail. His son went through a lot and had an addiction. He put that down to his lack of parenting skills and how he treated his son. He talked about being bullied in the institution and being a bully as a parent. At this stage, he was a grandparent and wanted to make redress to his son. He asked what he could do and felt this was one of the ways he could provide an opportunity to his son. He hoped his son could take up the opportunity, which is why he approached me. Others totally disagreed with that idea and did not believe the fund should be for grandchildren. Some people to whom I spoke did not have children or grandchildren and were in favour of a lump sum. We all accept that education plays an important role in helping families break the cycle of intergenerational abuse and can be a platform that enhances the life chances of children. On that basis, individuals approached us so that the legislation could provide additional support or a chance to their children.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** Amendment No. 5, in my name, was similar. On Committee Stage, we discussed the value of ensuring every incentive is given to family members to continue higher and further education. Any support system for extra help that can be made available through this fund should be continued. We had conflicting views in representations made to us but any assistance given towards education is of the utmost importance.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I addressed the issue earlier. The effect of the amendment is to extend eligibility of the fund to the children and grandchildren of former residents. It will also include employment opportunities. It remains the Government's position that eligibility for the new fund should be confined to former residents. The Education Finance Board did excellent work in terms of distributing the money that came from the religious congregations under the 2002 indemnity agreement. Former residents and their relatives benefited from the support. It was always clear that the fund would run out of money given that a specific amount was provided to it and it is now virtually exhausted. It remains the function of the Education Finance Board to manage the funds at its disposal. The board has been closely monitoring the funding available to it in the past 12 months. Last year it advised me that it expected its remaining funds would be fully allocated on applications it received by November last year. It is a matter for the

Education Finance Board to plan properly for the orderly wind down and to inform applicants of the facts regarding the funding available to it. I understand this has been done.

I appreciate that the Education Finance Board will not be in a position to support some individuals but it was never the intention that the board would have an open-ended mandate. While I appreciate the concerns expressed, it is open to any individual to apply for maintenance and college fee grants through the student grant scheme. Some 42% of students in undergraduate programmes in our third level system are in receipt of such support. The Education Finance Board has made a significant difference to many former residents and their relatives. The Government is now focused on meeting the needs of former residents across a range of service areas. Having regard to the available moneys and the potential numbers eligible to apply, it must confine itself to the eligible former residents if it is to do this effectively. I cannot accept these amendments and I reiterate my commitment to reviewing the operation of the fund following a period of two years after its establishment.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** The Minister says it should be confined to former residents to meet their needs. Who defines their needs? It is the survivors themselves who are best placed to do so. In many instances, they have used the fund to break the transgenerational problems facing them and their families by, for example, availing of educational and other opportunities for their children. These are people who were left on the margins of society and not listened to when they were in institutions. We have an opportunity to listen to them now and we must avail of it.

Amendment put and declared lost.

Amendment No. 11 not moved.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Amendments Nos. 12 and 13 are out of order because they involve a charge on the Exchequer.

Amendments Nos. 12 and 13 not moved.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I move amendment No. 14:

In page 11, between lines 7 and 8, to insert the following:

“(3) Counselling services shall continue to be available to all former residents and they will be entitled to select their own counsellor, subject to their professional qualifications being recognised by the relevant professional body.”.

The purpose of this proposal, which was discussed on Committee Stage, is to copperfasten the rights of former residents to avail of a counsellor of their choice, subject to the requirement in respect of appropriate professional qualifications. The Bill is structured in such a way as to minimise the amount of money required to fulfil its objectives. It prioritises the use of public services, for instance, with which I have no difficulty, in order to avoid unnecessary wastage. However, the imperative to restrict expenditure as far as possible cannot justify encroaching in any way on the individual’s right to choose a counsellor of his or her choice. I have had a litany of correspondence from individuals recounting how much they benefited from their work with a particular counsellor or how many years they lost through attempting to deal with a counsellor who was not right for them. The ability to choose one’s counsellor should be included in the Bill as a right. The way in which it is currently framed, however, could give rise to a scenario where that right is diluted. Survivors themselves are the best people to ascertain which particular counsellor will best help them to work through their difficulties. Money or other issues

[Deputy Clare Daly.]

should not stand in the way where survivors have developed a good rapport with a particular counsellor. This amendment provides an additional level of protection in that regard.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I do not accept that this additional level of protection is required in the Bill. Counselling services are specifically provided for in section 8 as a class of approved service. While I appreciate the Deputy's concern to ensure former residents' existing counsellors will be retained once the fund is established, I do not see how that position would be threatened simply because the fund is established. People can continue to attend their existing counsellor, with that service being funded under the National Counselling Service, NCS, without recourse to the fund. The Government is committed to continuing the counselling service as recommended in the Ryan report. If individuals are privately attending counsellors and wish to apply to the fund to have that service funded, they can advise the fund of their preference in their application. As long as the counsellor in question meets the criteria specified by the fund in respect of service providers, it is difficult to envisage a situation in which such a request would be denied. These matters should be left to the discretion of the fund, which is, after all, required to act in the interest of former residents. The additional specification proposed in this amendment is not necessary because the safeguards the Deputy is seeking are already built into the legislation.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I hope the Minister is right, but only time will tell. I appreciate his clear statement that survivors will be able to advise the fund of their preference to continue with their current counsellor. I agree that it is difficult to envisage a scenario in which such a request would be denied, but it is not impossible. A decision might be made, for instance, that a particular counsellor is charging too much for his or her services. Where a particular counsellor moves to a different area, it might be argued that the associated travel costs for the client are a strain on the fund. The personal connection between the individual and his or her counsellor should be sacrosanct. However, I must take the Minister at his word on this. I hope he is proved correct in his view that this issue does not require explicit protection, because it is something that deserves protection.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** I tabled a similar amendment on Committee Stage and discussed it, among others, with several of the Minister's officials. Ms Mary McGarry was particularly helpful in clarifying many of the issues that arose. This amendment reflects representations received from survivors in which they expressed a desire to continue working with an individual counsellor with whom they had built a relationship of trust. I agree with Deputy Clare Daly that provided the counsellor in question meets the qualification criteria set out in the Bill, this is something survivors should be able to do.

The Ryan report recommended that counselling and mental health services should continue to be provided to alleviate the effects of childhood abuse and its legacy for the following generation. The Taoiseach accepted all of the recommendations set out in the report and the Government subsequently produced an implementation plan which set out 99 proposals to address each of the 20 recommendations in the report, one of which is to improve services to children. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Deputy Frances Fitzgerald, is chairing the implementation group and two progress reports have been laid before the House. Deputy Clare Daly's amendment is in keeping with the commitments given by the Government in this regard. There must be an assurance that eligible former residents can continue to access counselling via the NCS and in the event of their not wishing to avail of that service or there being delays in accessing it, the fund would provide for counselling services for them, including those living abroad.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I refer Deputy Clare Daly to section 10 under which the Minister of the day is empowered to give directions in writing to the board requiring it to comply with such policies of the Government as are specified in that direction. That power is available to the Minister, and we will be keeping the matter under review. If a scenario such as the Deputy has outlined does arise — she has indicated that it is an unlikely but nevertheless feasible eventuality — then the Minister will have power under section 10 to make those directions.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Is the Deputy pressing the amendment?

**Deputy Clare Daly:** No, I will take the Minister's assurance in the spirit in which it was given.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I move amendment No. 15:

In page 11, line 27, to delete “classes” and substitute “categories”.

This amendment, which we raised on Committee Stage, reflects a minor issue in regard to the use of language. Some survivors have objected to the reference in the Bill to “classes” of former residents. Specifically, there was a feeling, given that most of the people who ended up in these institutions came from disadvantaged backgrounds, that it was reference to their socioeconomic background. As such, they expressed the view that a word such as “categories” would be better than “classes”. The Minister of State, Deputy Sean Sherlock, pointed out at committee that the reference to “classes” might refer to a particular period of time or to some geographic area. I totally accept that there is a basis for categorising groups of former residents in this way. My point, however, in view of the concerns expressed by survivors, is that it would be just as easy to use the word “categories” rather than “classes” in this instance. As well as providing greater clarity, this change would take cognisance of the sensitivity expressed by some survivors. I will not fall out with the Minister on the issue. It is not unimportant, nor is it decisive. It is, however, something which could be easily changed.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I understand the sense behind the Deputy's amendment but I am confident the meaning of the relevant provision is clear. I am tempted to inquire as to whether the Socialist Party would want to reinvent the Marxist dialectic into a category struggle rather than a class struggle in terms of the dialectical evolution of society. The word “classes” is clearly understandable as being in reference to particular groups of people and, as such, I do not propose to change it.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I have tabled the amendment because I wish to redefine the word “classes”. The point is that most of the people who ended up in residential institutions were working class. In that sense, to label them accordingly in legislation is not appropriate. At any rate, we will not fall out on the issue.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** I move amendment No. 16:

In page 12, line 4, to delete “and financial”.

The section introduces means testing for the first time in the redress process. As I stated, this is a new, unnecessary and undesirable approach. The representatives of the groups with whom I spoke have been repeatedly assured that means testing will not apply when people are accessing services. I am sure the vast majority of the intended beneficiaries are not well off. If there are

[Deputy Brendan Smith.]

a small number among the group who have had good luck and are reasonably affluent, I wish them the best of luck. This provision is unnecessary and should be withdrawn.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** The effect of the Deputy's amendment would be to preclude the board from taking account of an applicant's financial circumstances when determining its criteria. The whole purpose of the fund which is not a large sum of money is to allow it to target its resources to meet the needs of former residents. The section requires the board to have regard to the need to take account of the individual circumstances, including the personal and financial circumstances, of applicants when determining its criteria for making decisions on entitlements under the fund. As drafted, it gives the board considerable latitude in setting its criteria which may be revised by it over time. Removing its power to have regard to applicants' financial circumstances when determining its criteria would not allow it to target its resources at those most in need.

I acknowledge the opinion expressed by the Deputy on Committee Stage that it will almost certainly be the case that the overwhelming majority of applicants to the fund will have modest means. This provision is not intended as a way of preventing vulnerable persons from benefiting from the supports that will be available under the fund. I also stress that it is not intended to introduce a general means test application to the fund. Its purpose is to enable the board to have regard, among other things, to the financial circumstances of applicants. It will be a matter for the board to have regard to the need to take account of individual financial circumstances when determining its criteria for making decisions. For his reason, the amendment is unnecessary.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** In establishing the board a clear message and direction must be given that the provision of services under the fund should not be the subject of a means test element. I hope the regulation that underpins the legislation will send that message.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** We will take steps to ensure that is the case.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Amendment No. 17 is out of order as it would impose a charge on the Exchequer. Amendment No. 18 was discussed with amendment No. 9.

Amendment No. 17 not moved.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** I move amendment No. 18:

In page 13, between lines 36 and 37, to insert the following:

“(7) The Minister shall appoint an assessment panel made up of four Board members, including the Chairperson, to assess the eligibility of new applications from former residents of scheduled institutions who did not apply to the Act of 2002 or who have had a court determination made arising out of their residency within a schedule institution.”.

I do not propose to press the amendment as the Minister has made his position on the matter clear.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Amendments Nos. 19 and 20 are out of order.

Amendments Nos. 19 and 20 not moved.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 21:

In page 24, line 26, to delete “terms of” and substitute the following:

“terms, or may be inconsistent with the charitable purposes of,”.

Amendment agreed to.

**An Leas-Cheann Comhairle:** Amendment No. 22 is out of order as it is in the nature of a tax.  
Amendment No. 22 not moved.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 23:

In page 29, line 15, to delete “terms of” and substitute the following:

“terms, or may be inconsistent with the charitable purposes of,”.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 24:

In page 29, line 21, to delete “terms of” and substitute the following:

“terms, or may be inconsistent with the charitable purposes of,”.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 25:

In page 29, line 35, to delete “terms of” and substitute the following:

“terms, or may be inconsistent with the charitable purposes of,”.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 26:

In page 30, line 15, after “purpose” to insert “of the transfer”.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 27:

In page 30, line 18, after “purpose” to insert “of the sale, mortgage or charge”.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 28:

In page 30, line 44, to delete “terms of” and substitute the following:

“terms, or may be inconsistent with the charitable purposes of,”.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 29:

In page 31, to delete lines 9 and 10.

Amendment agreed to.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I move amendment No. 30:

In page 31, between lines 13 and 14, to insert the following:

43.—(1) There shall be set up for the purposes of this section a special account in the name of the Minister for Health and any moneys accepted by the Minister under *section 42(1)* shall be placed in the special account.

(2) The moneys in the special account shall be used only—

(a) for the purposes of making contributions towards building, furnishing and equipping a new national paediatric hospital, or

(b) if purposes referred to at *paragraph (a)* no longer exist, for the purposes of making contributions towards extending, refurbishing, equipping or reequipping the hospital referred to in that paragraph.

(3) The moneys, including interest, in the special account may be used at any time for the purposes referred to in *subsection (2)* and shall be issued out of that account only by the Minister for Health with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

(4) The Minister for Health shall cause to be kept all proper and usual accounts of all moneys received into or payments made from the special account.

(5) In this section, “special account” means the account set up for the purposes of this section which account shall be—

(a) an account with the Central Bank,

(b) operated subject to such terms and conditions as the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform may determine, and

(c) subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.”.

During the Committee Stage debate the Minister of State, Deputy Sean Sherlock, indicated on my behalf that I would table an amendment to provide for the use of further cash contributions over and above the €110 million for the statutory fund for the new national children’s hospital. This amendment which is technical in nature deals with the mechanics of how contributions received will be channelled to the new national paediatric hospital. This is in keeping with the previous stated position that all further cash contributions will be used for the new hospital.

As Deputies are aware, this and the previous Government adopted the position that it is appropriate for the management bodies which ran the scheduled institutions to meet the cost of the response on a 50:50 basis with the State. These costs are now expected to exceed €1.36 billion and may even approach €1.5 billion. The response to date falls well short of the 50:50 target. I have noted the argument expressed by the select committee that those concerned should face up to their responsibilities and share the burden which has, by and large, been carried by taxpayer. I continue to pursue the issue of additional contributions with the congregations.

Section 42(1) provides for the receipt of contributions from congregations towards the costs of redress. It is these contributions that will go towards the cost of the national children's hospital.

Subsection (1) of the new section 43 provides for the placement of such contributions in a special account of the Central Bank in the name of the Minister for Health. Subsection (2) specifies that the moneys in the account may only be used for the purposes of making contributions towards the building, furnishing and equipping of a national paediatric hospital or, if appropriate, the making of contributions towards the extension, refurbishment, equipping or re-equipping of the hospital. Subsection (3) requires that moneys can only be issued from the special account by the Minister for Health with the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The provisions in subsections (4) and (5) are standard provisions which include requirements in respect of the preparation of accounts and audits by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** Everyone who participated in the Second and Committee Stage debates appealed to the religious congregations to make a much greater contribution to the costs of redress. On Second Stage the Minister indicated he was engaged in further communications with the congregations on this matter. A greater contribution must be obtained as soon as possible.

Deputy Brendan Smith: During the Committee and Second Stage debates, the Minister and all Deputies present appealed to the religious congregations to make a much greater contribution. The Minister indicated on Second Stage that he was engaged in further communications with the congregations. It is necessary to ensure such greater contribution is secured as soon as possible.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** When I tabled an amendment on Committee Stage to compel religious orders to make a greater contribution, I was informed that it was not possible to compel them to do so. An amendment I proposed on Report Stage on this matter has been ruled out of order on the basis that it is in the nature of a tax. As Deputy Brendan Smith noted, a requirement on the religious congregations to increase their contribution would enjoy cross-party support. People are angry that the congregations have not lived up to the initial agreement and want the State to vigorously pursue the amounts owed. They will not accept a failure on the part of the State to aggressively seek to recover every penny of the money promised by the religious congregations under what was a very good deal for them. I argue that the deal was wrong and that greater responsibility should have been put on the religious orders rather than where it seems to be falling — on the State. I ask the Minister to do whatever he can to expedite payment of the money owed, on which matter he would have cross-party support.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** I agree fully with those comments. I have a question on the amount of interest, a question which also came up on Committee Stage. On the €110 million ceiling, the interest that has already accrued on the moneys on deposit should be treated separately. Nothing in this amendment should alter that scenario. The fund as it stands now is €110 million plus the interest that is there now. While the amendment refers to interest, I ask the Minister to clarify that it is interest over and above what is available.

**Deputy Ruairí Quinn:** I will clarify the point Deputy Clare Daly has raised. This is in the event that we get more than the €110 million. Anything above the €110 million would go towards the national children's hospital. As Deputy Crowe has said, we are far from that at present. With the mandate I have from this House and again from the debate we have had today, I will continue to maintain the dialogue with the 18 religious congregations to pursue

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

this matter on behalf of the people with the clear understanding that there is cross-party support in this House.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill, as amended, received for final consideration.

Question proposed: "That the Bill do now pass."

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I thank the House for its co-operation. I regret that I was not able to participate in the debate on Committee Stage. I thank all those who contributed. There has been broad consensus. We have all met some of the victims and in any dialogue we have we need to remember that they remain victims. It behoves us to do the best we can within limited resources. We need to understand why in some cases their contribution and dialogue with us has been tortuous because they carry the scars of their victimhood from an early time.

I record my appreciation for the work and commitment of the officials in the Department of Education and Skills towards the finalisation of the legislation in this House.

**Deputy Seán Crowe:** I also thank the officials for the help they gave on the Bill. It was a difficult Bill and it was certainly difficult to deal with the hurt and trauma many of the survivors experienced. I was disappointed that a number of amendments were ruled out of order because they were deemed to place a cost on the Exchequer, namely, those relating to the Magdalene Laundries and Bethany Home. Some of the former residents suggested a housing option, which was also ruled out of order. The Minister felt the eligibility clause could not be opened. The other issue related to a tax on those religious institutions which clearly seem unlikely to pay at this stage. On that basis and particularly given that the fund cannot be opened to those who should have access to it, the Bill is flawed and we have let people down once again.

**Deputy Brendan Smith:** I also thank the Minister and his officials for keeping us informed throughout the process in the House both with the earlier legislation to wind up the redress board and this legislation. I appeal to the Minister to ensure the fund is established as soon as possible and that the services are accessible to the intended beneficiaries at the earliest possible date.

**Deputy Clare Daly:** As the Minister has reiterated on a number of occasions, this fund arose from the cross-party motion and the need for the State to deal with the needs of survivors of residential institutions. The debate we have had has opened many scars for the survivors who have had to deal with many issues. All of us received e-mails and distressed phone calls from many of those people who have been damaged and continue to carry the scars of the damage done. All of us acknowledge that we can never undo that and, as a society, can only acknowledge it and try to make recompense. At the very least we must try to give those people access to the services they require.

The Bill has deficiencies which have been highlighted by many of the groups representing people who feel they have not been listened to yet again. There is a feeling that in some ways much of the money is going to shore up public services which should exist as of right in any case. There may be a desire that, as with the hepatitis C victims, these people should have been given a special card to allow them to access services and so on. As everybody's needs are different and cannot be put in a box, there should have been greater flexibility in the programme. The fund should have provided for access to services in the way in which it does, but

it should also have given the option of a lump sum for those who might decide they want to use it for their families. The issue of a pension should also have been addressed. For those reasons and because a number — albeit a small number — of people, who were eligible to apply for redress but could not do so for whatever reason, are again being excluded, which, sadly, has been the story of their lives, we will be opposing the passage of the Bill. That said, I know we will not win the vote and I hope the fund is established without delay. We will certainly be monitoring the review and other safety valves the Minister agreed to insert.

Question put:

The Dáil divided: Tá, 82; Níl, 13.

Tá

Bannon, James.  
Browne, John.  
Butler, Ray.  
Buttimer, Jerry.  
Byrne, Catherine.  
Byrne, Eric.  
Calleary, Dara.  
Cannon, Ciarán.  
Carey, Joe.  
Conaghan, Michael.  
Conlan, Seán.  
Connaughton, Paul J.  
Conway, Ciara.  
Coonan, Noel.  
Corcoran Kennedy, Marcella.  
Cowen, Barry.  
Creed, Michael.  
Daly, Jim.  
Deasy, John.  
Doherty, Regina.  
Donohoe, Paschal.  
Dowds, Robert.  
Doyle, Andrew.  
Durkan, Bernard J.  
English, Damien.  
Feighan, Frank.  
Fitzpatrick, Peter.  
Flanagan, Charles.  
Griffin, Brendan.  
Hannigan, Dominic.  
Harrington, Noel.  
Harris, Simon.  
Hayes, Tom.  
Heydon, Martin.  
Humphreys, Heather.  
Humphreys, Kevin.  
Keating, Derek.  
Keaveney, Colm.  
Kehoe, Paul.  
Kelly, Alan.  
Kenny, Seán.

Kyne, Seán.  
Lawlor, Anthony.  
Lynch, Ciarán.  
Lynch, Kathleen.  
Lyons, John.  
McCarthy, Michael.  
McConalogue, Charlie.  
McGinley, Dinny.  
McGrath, Michael.  
McHugh, Joe.  
McLoughlin, Tony.  
Maloney, Eamonn.  
Mathews, Peter.  
Mitchell O'Connor, Mary.  
Mulherin, Michelle.  
Murphy, Dara.  
Murphy, Eoghan.  
Nash, Gerald.  
Nolan, Derek.  
Ó Cuív, Éamon.  
Ó Fearghaíl, Seán.  
Ó Ríordáin, Aodhán.  
O'Donnell, Kieran.  
O'Donovan, Patrick.  
O'Mahony, John.  
O'Sullivan, Jan.  
Phelan, John Paul.  
Quinn, Ruairí.  
Reilly, James.  
Ring, Michael.  
Ryan, Brendan.  
Smith, Brendan.  
Spring, Arthur.  
Stagg, Emmet.  
Stanton, David.  
Timmins, Billy.  
Troy, Robert.  
Tuffy, Joanna.  
Twomey, Liam.  
Wall, Jack.  
Walsh, Brian.

Níl

Adams, Gerry.  
Boyd Barrett, Richard.  
Collins, Joan.  
Colreavy, Michael.  
Crowe, Seán.

Daly, Clare.  
Ferris, Martin.  
McLellan, Sandra.  
Murphy, Catherine.  
O'Brien, Jonathan.

*The*

17 JULY 2012.

*Adjournment*

Níl—*continued*

O'Sullivan, Maureen.  
Pringle, Thomas.

Stanley, Brian.

Tellers: Tá, Deputies Emmet Stagg and Paul Kehoe; Níl, Deputies Catherine Murphy and Jonathan O'Brien.

Question declared carried.

The Dáil adjourned at 10 p.m. until 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 July 2012.

## 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 11 answered orally.*

### Departmental Staff

12. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the number of officials in his Department that will be working solely on the presidency for the remainder of 2012; if redeployment has occurred; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34341/12]

**Taoiseach (Deputy Enda Kenny):** Sixteen staff in my Department are working solely on the EU Presidency.

Of these sixteen staff:

- five are members of the EU Division staff of my Department;
- (3 of whom are seconded from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade);
- three are seconded from other Departments for the duration of the Presidency (they have been redeployed with the agreement of their parent Departments);
- eight have been employed on temporary contracts.

### Job Initiatives

13. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Taoiseach the efforts that are being made across Government to tackle unemployment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34342/12]

**Taoiseach (Deputy Enda Kenny):** Since taking office the Government has made tackling unemployment its number one priority. The latest data shows that there are currently 309,000 unemployed and addressing this challenge is central to all of our policy decisions.

For example, the Jobs' Initiative in May 2011, the establishment of NewERA and the Strategic Investment Fund, and the publication of the Government's *Action Plan for Jobs 2012* and

[Deputy Enda Kenny.]

*Pathways to Work* have given effect to the vast majority of the Government's commitments in relation to job creation and reducing unemployment.

Today's announcement of a €2 billion Stimulus Package aimed at creating the maximum number of jobs is further evidence of the Government's commitment in this regard.

Tackling unemployment requires action across many policy areas. The restructuring of the banking system provides the basis for a core banking service that can deliver on the needs of start-up or growing businesses. The establishment of NewERA and the Strategic Investment Fund will develop innovative ways to leverage State assets to ensure long term investment in key infrastructure.

The *Action Plan for Jobs 2012* places tackling unemployment at the centre of Government policy. The Plan ensures that every single Government Department and Agency is aligned around an enterprise growth and jobs objective.

The Plan will improve the operating environment and the State supports for job-creating businesses and remove barriers to employment-creation across the economy.

The 2012 Plan is the first installment in an ambitious multi-year process which aims to:

- Create the environment where the number of people at work will increase by 100,000 net — from 1.8 million to 1.9 million — by 2016, and reach 2 million people by 2020;
- See Ireland become the best small country in which to do business ;
- Get back to a top-5 ranking in international competitiveness;
- Build world-class clusters in key sectors of opportunity; and
- Build up the export market share of Irish companies.

A primary aspect of this Plan is the focus on actions and implementation. The First Progress Report published in April, confirmed that Government is delivering on its commitments under the Action Plan, and this will in turn deliver real improvements in the environment for job-creation. In the first three months of this year, Government Departments and Agencies were to deliver 83 measures relating to 68 of the Plan's 270 actions and the Progress Report showed that 96% were delivered, in full, on time. The Second Progress Report will be published shortly and continued progress on delivery is expected.

### **Industrial Production**

14. **Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the Taoiseach the industrial production in the first quarter of 2012; the same figure for this time in 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [27533/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Deputy Paul Kehoe):** The Central Statistics Office's Monthly Industrial Production Inquiry provides a short term indicator of trends in the volume of Industrial production.

Final results for the first quarter of 2012 show a decrease of 2.7% on the preceding quarter (Q4 2011) and a decrease of 0.4% on the first quarter of 2011.

The information that the Deputy requested is available on the CSO website, and the table below contains the relevant information.

Table 1 Volume Indices of Production Base year 2005=100

All Industries NACE 05-35 Seasonally adjusted

| Period      | Index | % change on preceding period | Annual % change |
|-------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>2010</i> |       |                              |                 |
| Quarter 1   | 107.7 | 11.5                         | 1.9             |
| 2           | 108.4 | 0.7                          | 4.8             |
| 3           | 110.7 | 2.1                          | 11.2            |
| 4           | 109.6 | -1.1                         | 13.5            |
| <i>2011</i> |       |                              |                 |
| Quarter 1   | 107.6 | -1.8                         | -0.1            |
| 2           | 106.7 | -0.8                         | -1.6            |
| 3           | 111.8 | 4.8                          | 0.9             |
| 4           | 110.1 | -1.5                         | 0.5             |
| <i>2012</i> |       |                              |                 |
| Quarter 1   | 107.2 | -2.7                         | -0.4            |

*Questions Nos. 15 to 23, inclusive, answered orally.*

### Social Insurance Fund

24. **Deputy Michael Moynihan** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on the viability of the PRSI fund in terms of social protection costs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34968/12]

59. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will report of the deficit in the Social Insurance Fund; her plans to address this deficit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34335/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 24 and 59 together.

The Social Insurance Fund (SIF) is a pay-as-you-go social insurance scheme that is financed by contributions from employees, employers, the self-employed and by a contribution or 'subvention' from the Exchequer when the cost of the benefits paid from the Fund exceeds the contribution income. The Exchequer is the residual financier of the Fund and such subventions were the norm for over 40 years. For example, in 1967, the State contribution was 38% of SIF expenditure and almost 29% in 1985.

From 1997 to 2007 inclusive, social insurance income exceeded Fund expenditure. In 2008, the current operating balance of the SIF moved into deficit with expenditure exceeding income by €255m. This deficit accelerated in 2009 when it reached €2.49 billion and further rose to €2.75 billion in 2010. In addition, the surplus carried forward from previous years was eliminated during 2010, giving rise to the need for Exchequer subvention for the first time since 1996.

In total, the operating deficit of the Fund over the period 2008 to 2011, inclusive, was very close to €7 billion. The Revised Estimates for my Department provide for a deficit of nearly €1.82 billion in 2012. Significant exchequer subvention will be required to meet ongoing expen-

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

diture requirements in the absence of reductions in expenditure levels or increases in PRSI income.

I am most concerned about the deficit in the SIF and one of my key goals is to reform the system of social protection and to put it on a sounder financial footing for the future. In the context of the SIF, Budget 2011 introduced a number of changes to the PRSI system and, in Budget 2012, my colleague the Minister for Finance announced a further widening of the PRSI base from 2013 to cover rental, investment and other forms of income from 2013.

In addition, I established the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare last year in line with the commitment made in the Programme for Government. The Group will, inter alia, examine and report on issues involved in providing social insurance cover for self-employed persons while the Actuarial Review of the Social Insurance Fund will inform both short to medium term and long term policy development in relation to the social insurance system generally.

Any proposals to address the sustainability of the Fund will have to be considered in a budgetary context.

### **Social Welfare Code**

25. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will introduce provisions to ease the transition from carer's allowance to jobseeker's allowance for persons whose caring duties come to an end. [34944/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Carer's allowance is a means-tested payment for carers who look after people in need of full-time care and attention. In 2011, approximately 50,000 carers were in receipt of carer's allowance at a cost of over €504 million. The maximum weekly rate is €204 for those under 66 with increases for qualified children. In addition, carers receive an annual respite care grant of €1,700 in respect of each person for whom they care. They have free travel and may be entitled to household benefits if they live with the person for whom they are caring. While receiving carer's allowance, carers may work or receive training or education outside the home for up to fifteen hours per week. Twelve organisations have received funding from my Department under the Dormant Accounts arrangement to provide training and support for carers. This includes training associated with caring duties, computer training and personal development which enable carers to upgrade their skills base with a view to returning to work.

If the person being cared for has died, the carer's allowance continues to be paid for a further six weeks. This helps the carer adjust after the time they have spent in caring and to make decisions regarding their future.

If they sign on for jobseeker's allowance, they will have access to the education, training and employment supports available to people on the Live Register, with the time spent caring counted in the qualifying criteria for these supports.

### **Community Employment Schemes**

26. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the financial review of community employment including a date for the publication of the report. [34953/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The number of places available on CE has remained constant at 23,300 including supervisors. The estimated cost of CE programmes

in 2012 is €340 million. The financial review of CE Schemes has now been completed. The Department has contacted schemes to advise them of their revised material and training allocations. The materials and training CE Budget has been increased by €9.5million from the original budget of approximately €11.0 million following transfer from savings identified elsewhere in the DSP budget. The new CE materials and training budget is thus €20.5 million

Under the revised arrangements, schemes will no longer be given universal amounts of financial support but will instead be provided with a specific level of support aimed at meeting the particular costs of CE schemes, having regard to the overall level of funding available for CE nationally. To date, significant savings have already been made to the overheads of CE projects in terms of annual insurance costs and audit fees.

In addition to the training allocation for schemes, CE participants may also access a number of Springboard, VEC and FÁS courses free of charge.

I plan to publish the report on the review in the coming month or so.

*Question No. 27 answered with Question No. 23.*

### **Social Welfare Appeals**

28. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on the case work experiences of free legal advice centres articulated in their latest annual report; and if she has taken any specific steps by way of follow up to prevent the highlighted issues from being repeated. [34942/12]

42. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Social Protection in view of figures produced by FLAC which suggest that 26% of the decisions under appeal are revised by the original deciding officer prior to the involvement of an appeal officer, her plans to streamline the decision making process for applications for payments from her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34346/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 28 and 42 together.

Decisions on statutory social welfare schemes are made by statutorily appointed deciding officers/designated persons. They determine entitlement to social insurance and social assistance payments and liability for Pay Related Social Insurance contributions in accordance with the Social Welfare Consolidation Act, 2005 (as amended) and regulations.

Guidelines are issued by the Department in relation to the legislation concerned to ensure consistency of decision making by officers throughout the Department. In addition, training is provided on statutory obligations and the application of principles of natural justice and fair procedures.

In line with the Department's policy to promote the provision of information, scheme guidelines are also available to members of the public on the Department's website ([www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)) or on request from any social welfare local office.

Decisions on social welfare claims must be set out in writing and, where the decision is unfavourable, the reasons for the decision are included in the notification to the person concerned.

If a person is unhappy with a decision given, s/he has the right to have the decision reviewed, or for administrative schemes, referred for appeal to the Social Welfare Appeals Office.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

A review of an initial decision will be undertaken, if there are new facts or evidence that have not been taken into consideration when the initial decision was made. This provides a means of having an adverse decision reviewed as quickly as possible. It is often the case that when customers seek an appeal they provide new information/ evidence.

### Legislative Programme

29. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans to amend the Civil Registration Act 2004; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34332/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** A Government decision was made recently to approve the drafting of Heads of a Bill to amend and add to the existing provisions contained in the Civil Registration Act 2004. The drafting of the Heads of a Bill will commence shortly. Many of the matters to be addressed in the Bill are complex and will require considerable consultation with other Government Departments and Offices. Following this process, I will be bringing the matter back to Government at the earliest appropriate opportunity, with a view to obtaining approval for the general scheme of a Bill.

### Social Welfare Benefits

30. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting lists for welfare claims in her Department; the measures she has taken to address this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34978/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Department is committed to ensuring that claims are processed as expeditiously as possible. Processing times vary across schemes, depending on the differing qualification criteria. As can be seen from the data in the table below, schemes that require a high level of documentary evidence from the customer, particularly in the case of illness-related schemes, can take longer to process. Similarly, means-tested payments can also require more detailed investigation and interaction with the applicant, thereby lengthening the decision making process.

As part of the Department's programme of service delivery modernisation, a range of initiatives aimed at streamlining the processing of claims, supported by modern technology, have been implemented in recent years. Operational processes, procedures and the organisation of work are continually reviewed to ensure that processing capability is maximised.

In addition, the staffing needs of the Department are regularly reviewed, having regard to workloads and the competing demands arising, to ensure that the best use is made of all available resources. The Department will continue to source available staff to fill critical vacancies by way of redeployment, or transfer from within the Department and other Government Departments, taking account of the employment control framework (ECF) target, as determined by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

I wish to assure the Deputy that prompt processing of claims remains a priority for me.

Table: Claim processing performance, April and May 2012

| Scheme                           | April 2012 Average weeks to Award | May 2012 Average weeks to Award |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| State Pension (contributory)     | 6                                 | 4                               |
| State Pension (transitional)     | 5                                 | 6                               |
| State pension (non-contributory) | 11                                | 12                              |

| Scheme   | April 2012 Average weeks to Award   | May 2012 Average weeks to Award |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Widow(er)'s Pension (contributory)   | 2   | 2                               |
| Widow(er)'s Pension (non-contributory) pension and one parent family payment (widow) | 11  | 9                               |
| One Parent Family  | 17  | 17                              |
| Household Benefits   | 1   | 1                               |
| Bereavement Grant  | 1   | 1                               |
| Invalidity Pension   | 31  | 38                              |
| Family Income Supplement — New Claims  | 17  | 17                              |
| Disability Allowance   | 17*   | 16*                             |
| Carer's Benefit  | 11  | 11                              |
| Carer's Allowance  | 28  | 28                              |
| Jobseeker's Benefit  | 2   | 2                               |
| Jobseeker's Allowance  | 5   | 5                               |
| Illness Benefit  | 1   | 1                               |
| Maternity Benefit  | 2   | 2                               |
| Child Benefit- Domestic  | 3   | 3                               |
| Domiciliary Care Allowance   | 6   | 7                               |
| Back to Education Allowance  | Applicants for BTEA are already in receipt of another social welfare payment before a decision is made on their entitlement to the Allowance. |                                 |

\*Estimated.

### Community Employment Schemes

31. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Social Protection when the community employment consultation seminar referred to by her will take place; and who will be invited. [34949/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I hope to have this seminar around October. Representatives of all the interested parties in employment schemes will be invited, including sponsors of the schemes, social partners, the community and voluntary sector and labour market policy-makers.

### Maternity Benefit

32. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Social Protection in view of the changing age profile of female students and the rising number of women on the live register, if any consideration has been given by her to maternity related supports; and her plans to make any reforms to the maternity benefit scheme. [34940/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Maternity benefit is an income maintenance payment awarded by this Department to eligible women for a 26-week period on foot of a confinement. Entitlement to this benefit for employees is contingent on entitlement to statutory maternity leave. Under the provisions of social welfare legislation, the 26-week period of core statutory maternity leave attracts a payment from this Department — subject to certain social insurance contribution conditions being fulfilled. Maternity leave legislation also provides an option for a woman to take an additional 16-week period of maternity leave that does not attract a benefit payment.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

The right to maternity leave is established under the Maternity Protection Act, 1994, legislation which is the responsibility of the Minister for Justice and Equality. Any changes to current Maternity Leave provisions are a matter for that Minister to consider in the first instance — and entitlement to Maternity Benefit would normally follow suit and would have to be considered by Government in a Budgetary context.

### **Domiciliary Care Allowance**

33. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Social Protection the timeframe for the review of the domiciliary care allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34982/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The review of the domiciliary care allowance scheme commenced last week. The group undertaking the review comprises representatives from a number of Government Departments, the National Disability Authority and other persons with relevant experience.

The terms of reference for the review allows for a consultation process with parents and representative groups to be held.

The group is due to report by the end of December 2012.

*Question No. 34 answered with Question No. 21.*

### **Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare**

35. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she has received any interim report from the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare on her proposal announced and paused last December to cut disability allowance for young persons; and her plans, if any, to re-table this proposal. [34955/12]

37. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the report commissioned by Mandate Trade Union, Decent Work; the impact of recession on low paid workers and if she will request the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare to give specific attention to the issue of precarious work as recommended by that report. [34938/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 35 and 37 together.

Creating jobs and tackling poverty are two of the key challenges that Ireland now faces. It is essential that our tax and social protection systems play their part in addressing these challenges. To this end, I established an Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare last year, with the aim of harnessing expert opinion and experience to examine a number of specific issues. These include making cost-effective proposals for improving employment incentives and achieving better poverty outcomes, particularly child poverty outcomes.

The Group's overall method of working is based on producing modular reports on the priority areas identified in the terms of reference. In their deliberations the Group has been tasked to take into account existing analysis, research and submissions. Where possible, the aim is to provide recommendations that can be acted upon in time for the annual budget, estimates and legislative cycle and to allow the Government to best address its commitments under the EU-IMF Programme of Financial Support.

Among the issues that the Advisory Group is currently progressing is the Budget 2012 proposals concerning disability allowance and domiciliary care allowance. The Group's terms of reference also provides for the examination of the issue of working age income supports, which will be considered as part of its future programme of work.

I am conscious that the Budget 2012 measures concerning disability allowance and domiciliary care allowance gave rise to concerns about the impact on families of people with disabilities, most notably in the case of families of children and young adults with profound disabilities, and these very real concerns are being taken into account by the Advisory Group. The Group will revert to me with its report on these proposals once their examination is completed. At that stage, I, together with my Government colleagues, will reflect carefully on the findings of the Advisory Group.

### **Social Welfare Benefits**

36. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on the fact that 31% of all complaints made to the Ombudsman last year related to her Department; if she has taken any specific steps by way of follow up and response to the issues raised in the Ombudsman's annual report and her response to the Ombudsman's reported contention that public bodies are increasingly using their discretion to refuse access to welfare supports, such as domiciliary care allowance, that were awarded to persons in the past. [34943/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I welcome the publication of the Ombudsman's 2011 annual report and the Department is examining its contents in detail with a view to ensuring issues of concern are addressed. The 1,135 complaints relating to the Department, which represents a slight drop on the 2010 figure of 1,181, must be seen in the context of the scale of the Department's business. Some 1.76 million decisions were made on new claims in 2011. This is in addition to the many decisions made on claims already in payment where there were changes in the claimants' circumstances, for example, changes to earnings or capacity to work or changes in family composition.

The Department has some 7,000 staff in 180 offices and 700 localised clinics; it administers over 50 schemes and makes 85 million payments annually. Given the extent and complexity of the Department's business, unfortunately mistakes can sometimes occur. The Department endeavours to keep errors to a minimum and take corrective action, where necessary, as soon as possible.

It is also noted that the number of complaints received is not an indication of the number of cases resolved — of the 1,395 total cases related to this Department completed in 2011, almost 1,000 (72%) were discontinued or not upheld.

Although the Ombudsman's report provides a case study about a man initially refused carer's allowance, it does not refer to any general dissatisfaction with the Department's administration of its illness/disability schemes or the domiciliary care allowance scheme.

However, some media reports covering the publication of the Ombudsman's report have raised issues in relation to these schemes.

Decisions on claims are made by statutorily appointed Deciding Officers/Designated Persons in accordance with legislation and extensive supporting guidelines. Claimants who meet scheme criteria are awarded payment and those who do not, are refused. Any notion that officers are using discretion to refuse claims to save money is completely unfounded; the only consideration is a person's eligibility under governing legislation.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

Principles of natural justice are adhered to and it is an integral part of the decision making process to supply claimants with the reasons for, and the grounds of, refusal.

Where claimants are dissatisfied with decisions made they are afforded the opportunity of having the decision reviewed by the Department and/or appealed to the independent Social Welfare Appeals Office.

The review of the operation of the domiciliary care allowance scheme that I recently announced has commenced.

*Question No. 37 answered with Question No. 35.*

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

38. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will make provisions for rent supplement to be paid directly to landlords. [34952/12]

46. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider reversing the new rent allowance caps brought in last January in view of the hardship these caps are causing to some of the most vulnerable families and the ineffectiveness of this strategy in reducing rents; if she will consider, instead, introducing rent controls; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34956/12]

47. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of additional persons to whom the new lower rent supplement ceiling was applied in the last month; the number who have been forced to move as a consequence of the new ceiling to date in 2012; her views on the fact that it may be too late for parents who are forced to leave their locality to enrol their children in new schools; and if she will seek to make savings on rent supplement by negotiating directly with landlord representatives instead of placing exclusive responsibility for achieving her Departments savings on individual vulnerable tenants. [34936/12]

49. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans to allow for more flexibility in the setting of upper rent limits on the rent supplement scheme to take into account the large variation in the cost of renting particularly in urban areas such as Dublin; if her attention has been drawn to the fact that recent reforms are creating difficulties for participants in securing accommodation in the area where they currently reside; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34329/12]

60. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she has examined the possibility of varying the maximum rent which her Department is prepared to support in respect of those who are forced to avail of private rented accommodation due to the dearth of suitable local authority housing with particular reference to the need to in some way reflect local market variations; if she will engage with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government with a view to the acquisition of a precise number of houses from the private sector on an annual basis thereby obviating the need for on-going long term rent support for those on the local authority housing lists; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34935/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 38, 46, 47, 49 and 60 together.

There are currently approximately 92,000 persons in receipt of rent supplement, for which the Government has provided €436 million for 2012. New maximum rent limits were introduced

from 1 January 2012 based on a review of the most up-to-date market data available. As part of the review, all major urban population centres (including Dublin) were analysed to ensure that maximum value for money for tenants and taxpayers was achieved whilst ensuring that people on rent supplement are not priced out of the market for private rented accommodation.

The revised limits are applicable to new rent supplement tenancies from January 2012 and existing tenancies on review. Approximately 25,000 rent supplement claims have been awarded in 2012, of which 3,700 were awarded within the last month, indicating that accommodation can be secured within the new limits. Information on the numbers who have secured alternative accommodation is not available.

Officials administering the scheme advise that customers are securing alternative accommodation within their locality. Any customers who may have specific issues in relation to relocating should discuss these issues with Department officials who are continuing to provide support and advice to customers in addressing their accommodation and other needs. There will be no incidence of homelessness due to these changes.

While rent supplement is not generally paid where the rent charged for the accommodation is above the relevant maximum limit, Departmental officials have flexibility around making payments above these limits where there are special housing needs related to exceptional circumstances which may include a person with a disability in specially-adapted accommodation.

Rent supplement is specifically for the benefit of the tenants to assist them with their accommodation needs. The Department does not intend negotiating directly with landlords to reduce rents on behalf of a tenant. Nor does it intend introducing rent controls for landlords.

Policy in relation to the acquisition of properties for social housing is a matter for my colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. Officials in my Department are continuing to monitor the impact of the revised limits; I have no plans to revise the rent limits at this time.

### **Jobseeker's Allowance**

39. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on whether holders of a PSV licence are being informed that they would have to give up the licence altogether in order to qualify for a jobseeker's payment; her views on whether this is counter-productive in view of the fact that it would take some time to replace which may hamper the persons ability to find and take up employment. [34945/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Self-employed people, including taxi drivers, can apply for the means-tested jobseeker's allowance if their business ceases or if they are on low income as a result of a downturn in demand for their services. If a taxi driver has ceased operating in the taxi business completely, the Department requires a letter from the Taxi Regulator confirming that the customer has surrendered his or her PSV licence. This is required, along with other evidence, so that the Department is satisfied that the customer is no longer receiving an income from self-employment in the taxi business. If a self-employed customer is still trading as a taxi driver he or she does not have to surrender the PSV licence in order to claim jobseeker's allowance. Means from self-employment will be assessed to determine the level of jobseeker's allowance paid to the person. It is recognised that the present downturn in the economy is having a significant impact on many self-employed persons and the consequent reduction in their income and activity levels would be reflected in any assessment of their means from self-employment for jobseeker's allowance purposes.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

If a self-employed person's situation changes after they have made an initial claim for job-seeker's allowance, the person can apply to have his or her means reviewed in the light of these changed circumstances.

### Child Care Services

40. **Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 330 and 332 of 3 July 2012, when the inter-departmental sub-group on school age child care will report in view of the timeline outlined in her statement to Dáil Éireann of 18 April 2012 of having a credible, bankable commitment from the Government on the delivery of a Scandinavian style childcare system by the time of this year's budget; if she will engage in a consultation process with groups representing lone parents and other relevant organisations to discuss the proposals put forward by the inter-departmental sub-group; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34998/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The inter-departmental sub-group on school-age child care consists of representatives from the Department of Social Protection, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs — which is the lead Department in relation to child care policy and provision — and the Department of Education and Skills. The role of the group is to explore the best possible model for enhancing the provision of school-age childcare to assist in meeting the childcare needs of the clients of my Department, including lone parents. The model in question will address the child care requirements of children aged between 7 and 12 (inclusive). The model will also address the school-age child care required during both the school-term and the school holidays.

Over the past few months, I and officials in my Department have met with groups representing lone parents and other relevant organisations to discuss their views on the changes to the One Parent Family Payment, which were enacted in the Social Welfare and Pensions Act 2012. My officials have also met with these groups to discuss their views on childcare provision. The views of the groups are being considered as part of the on-going work of the inter-departmental sub group on school-age childcare.

Once completed, the model, and accompanying proposals, will be submitted to Government for their consideration later this year.

### Community Employment Schemes

41. **Deputy Tom Barry** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding the review of FÁS community employment schemes; if CE scheme providers can be included in any reviews seminars regarding the matter; the reason behind having both Tús schemes and FÁS CE schemes. [34331/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The number of places available on CE has remained constant at 23,300 including supervisors. The financial review of CE Schemes has now been completed. The Department of Social Protection have contacted schemes to advise them of their revised material and training allocations.

The materials and training CE Budget has been increased by €9.5m from the original budget of approximately €11.0m following transfer from savings identified elsewhere in the DSP budget. The new CE materials and training budget is thus €20.5m.

Under the revised arrangements, schemes will no longer be given universal amounts of financial support but will instead be provided with a specific level of support aimed at meeting the

particular costs of CE Schemes, having regard to the overall level of funding available for CE nationally. To date, significant savings have already been made to the overheads of CE projects in terms of annual insurance costs and audit fees.

In addition to the training allocation for schemes, CE participants may also access a number of Springboard, VEC and FÁS courses free of charge. Details of the CE Financial review are due to be made available in the coming weeks.

In addition, there is a separate Labour Market Activation Schemes policy review nearing completion. This review will inform the Department's strategic approach in relation to labour market activation including the CE and TUS programme into the future.

This review will be of interest and importance to all the stakeholders involved and, accordingly, the Minister for Social Protection will ensure that stakeholders will be able to respond to it findings ahead of a consultation she will hold with stakeholders in the autumn.

The Department is committed to supporting the CE Programme and the valuable contribution it is making to the provision of services to individuals and communities across Ireland.

*Question No. 42 answered with Question No. 28*

*Question No. 43 answered with Question No. 21.*

### **Child Care Services**

44. **Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 330 and 332 of 3 July 2012, and her reference to the availability of subsidised childcare through the community childcare subvention programme, her views on the reported staffing crisis facing community childcare services as a result of changes to the community employment schemes introduced in Budget 2012; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34999/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** There are also close links between the Department and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in this area. Nationally, there are 276 schemes with ring-fenced places for childcare. There has been no decrease in the number of CE ring fenced places allocated compared to the numbers that were on offer in 2011. A key element in the approval of all CE programmes, including childcare ring-fenced places, is the requirement that such programmes do not displace current jobs or employees or that they are not used to fill vacancies. Following the completion of the CE Financial Review, officials in the Department are advising sponsors of the revised allocations for materials and training for individual CE schemes.

Under the revised arrangements notified to Sponsors, schemes were not given universal amounts of financial support but instead were provided with a specific level of support aimed at meeting the particular costs necessarily incurred by them, having regard to the overall level of funding available for community employment nationally.

### **Carer's Allowance**

45. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she is taking to address the delays in processing carer's allowance applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34333/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Department is committed to delivering the best possible service to its customers. Currently the average time taken to award

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

a carer's allowance application is 28 weeks. I acknowledge that this is not satisfactory but I am satisfied that the Department is taking appropriate action to resolve the situation.

A major service delivery modernisation project is underway to improve the efficiency of administration of the carer's allowance scheme. This involves the deployment of information technology solutions and associated business process re-organisation. Full deployment of the new system for carer's allowance was completed last month. In tandem with the full implementation of the new system, a comprehensive business process improvement exercise has recently commenced, the focus of which is to optimise performance and provide improved customer service. However it is expected to be a number of months before the backlog is reduced to an acceptable level.

*Questions Nos. 46 and 47 answered with Question No. 38.*

### **Legislative Programme**

48. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Social Protection when the heads of the promised Bill on transgender rights and recognition will be published. [34941/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Since the publication of the Report, the Department has been working on developing draft Heads of a Bill. In this context, it has engaged in discussions with the relevant medical health professionals and with representatives from interested NGOs. Officials from the Department also met with officials from the Attorney General's office and external counsel on the matter.

Following these discussions, advice was sought from the Office of the Attorney General on the main issues, namely, Marital and Civil Partnership status and Minors and Capacity. These are sensitive and complex issues and the advice when received from the Office of the Attorney General, will continue to inform the drafting of the Heads of the Bill.

It is not possible to be definitive at this stage about when I will be in a position to introduce legislation to give legal recognition to the acquired gender of transgender persons. Upon receipt of the legal advice sought, the Department will be in a better position to give a timeframe for the completion of the draft Heads of the Bill.

*Question No. 49 answered with Question No. 38.*

### **Social Welfare Benefits**

50. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if through redeployment or by way of transfer of staff from other Departments she will put in place measures to deal with the backlog in respect of applications for carer's allowance, disability allowance, invalidity pension and or other payments which have been the subject of concern and hardship arising from delays with the processing of applications; if her attention has been drawn to the hardship and stress caused to applicants who have had to wait for the outcome of their application over such long periods sometimes without the benefit of supplementary welfare; if she expects an improvement in the situation in the short and medium term; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34934/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Department is committed to delivering the best possible service to its customers. I acknowledge that the time taken to process carer's allowance, disability allowance and invalidity pension claims at present is not

satisfactory but I am satisfied that the Department is taking appropriate action to resolve the situation.

There has been a significant increase in the number of new claims being received in all three schemes over the past 3-4 years. A major service delivery modernisation project has been undertaken to improve the efficiency of administration of the three scheme areas in question and to help to deal with the increased volumes. This involves the deployment of information technology solutions and associated business process re-organisation. Full deployment of the new system for invalidity pension and carer's allowance is now completed. In tandem with the full implementation of the new system, comprehensive business process improvement exercises are underway in both areas, the focus of which is to optimise performance and provide improved customer service. Full deployment of the new system in disability allowance section is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2012, following which a similar business process improvement exercise will be commenced.

However it is expected to be a number of months before the backlogs in the scheme areas in question are reduced to an acceptable level. In the meantime, temporary staff has been assigned to each of the areas and overtime working is being operated as appropriate.

### **Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme**

51. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she or her officials have had discussions with the Department of Education and Skills or others with a view to reducing the cost of school uniforms in order to improve the adequacy of the back to school clothing and footwear allowance payment. [34950/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Officials from the Department of Social Protection have not engaged in discussions with the Department of Education and Skills with regard to reducing the cost of school uniforms as this is primarily a matter for my colleague, the Minister for Education and Skills.

The Department of Education and Skills has encouraged schools to consider, where possible, the use of generic uniforms or any other measures that can reduce the cost for parents of school uniforms. Decisions regarding school uniforms are a matter for the Board of Management of each individual school.

The back to school clothing and footwear allowance scheme provides a one-off payment to eligible families to assist with the cost of uniforms and footwear for children going to school. These payments are currently issuing to approximately 115,000 families with up to an additional 70,000 further payments expected to issue before the commencement of the school year at a cost of €63.7 million.

### **Community Employment Schemes**

52. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection if consideration is being given to reintroducing training grants to some or all community employment schemes; if the capacity for training is sufficient within the other agencies of the State to meet the demand; if there is an inter departmental approach to training and skill requirements; if so will, if she outline what is involved; the training role if any envisaged for Solus; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34603/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Following the completion of the financial review of Community Employment, €5.5m of the 2012 CE Budget has been ring-fenced for training. This equates to a training grant of approximately €250 per place annually. Flexi-

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

bility can be applied to exceed the rate of €250 per place once the overall budget for the region is not exceeded and where added value to the progression of the individual into employment is justified. In allocating the budget to Schemes, the Department takes into account whether training can be accessed at no cost from FÁS or the VECs. In addition, access to the Springboard Programme which provides access to third level courses without incurring fees is now available to CE participants, once a participant satisfies the criteria.

The Department is currently undertaking a training needs analysis of CE participants and is working closely with the VEC sector to ensure adequate capacity to deliver such training.

53. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the policy review of activation measures including specifically community employment and a date for the publication of the report. [34954/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The review is at an advanced draft stage and I expect it to be submitted to me for consideration during the Summer. It is my intention to engage in consultation with stakeholders before deciding on my response to the report. Any proposed significant changes to the operation of programmes will be a matter for Government. The report will be published when this process is complete, which I anticipate will be around October.

#### **Sick Pay Scheme**

54. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on whether her proposal to simultaneously cut the illness benefit scheme and introduce statutory sick pay will precipitate business closures, job losses and pay cuts and make Ireland less competitive. [34946/12]

242. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on whether her proposal to simultaneously cut the illness benefit scheme and introduce statutory sick pay will precipitate business closures, job losses and pay cuts and make Ireland less competitive. [35044/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 54 and 242 together.

A range of complex issues needs to be addressed before any decision could be taken by Government on the possible introduction of such a scheme. These include the extent of coverage; the duration of payment; the rate of payment; compensation mechanisms for employers; and how to ensure such a scheme would be enforced and policed.

Earlier this year, I hosted a consultative forum on the feasibility and implications of introducing a scheme of statutory sick pay, a report of which is on the Department's website. This afforded an opportunity to key stakeholders to discuss the complex issues involved, including those to which the Deputy refers in the question.

I can assure the Deputy that all these issues will be considered and taken into account in the course of the wider process associated with the preparation of Budget 2013 and any decision which might be taken by the Government on the possible introduction of a scheme of statutory sick pay will be considered in that context.

#### **Pension Provisions**

55. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide

known the details of any consultations she may have had with the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation regarding the abolition of the State pension transition; the discussions she had with officials from the Department to the effect that the abolition of the pension entitlement would have an impact on the specific employment rights of persons, specifically with regard to eligibility for redundancy payments from the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34639/12]

323. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the total number of persons aged 65 years and over who have availed of redundancy payments from the State in the past two full calendar years and to date in 2012; the details of any consultations she has had in relation to the forthcoming abolition of the State pension transition; if, in respect of her Department, there are any policy implications in the removal of the support with regard to employment rights; if she anticipates an increase in applications for redundancy support; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34249/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 55 and 323 together.

Increasing retirement age was a key question that was considered in a major consultation exercise conducted as part of the preparation work for the Green Paper on Pensions and the National Pensions Framework. Some 380 individuals and almost 70 organisations made written submissions while over 500 people attended consultation events.

A Steering Group, together with a number of subgroups, was established in my Department, to oversee the implementation of pension reforms. The Steering Group has representation from the Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation.

I can confirm that officials of my Department are in on-going discussions with colleagues in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to any implications arising as a result of the increase in State pension age.

A forum on retirement and working is currently being scheduled where these Departments will also engage with the social partners and other interest groups to further consider and identify the range of issues involved.

In relation to redundancy, the circumstances in which a person is deemed to have been dismissed by reason of redundancy are very specific and are set out in the Redundancy Payments Acts 1967 to 2011. In addition to liquidation, receivership and bankruptcy of the employer these include: the employer having ceased or intending to cease to carry on the business for which the person was employed; the requirements for work of a particular kind having ceased or diminished or being expected to do so; and the employer having decided to carry on the business with fewer or no employees and therefore re-organising or rationalising.

Subject to these and the other requirements of the scheme, a person aged 65 or over can qualify for a redundancy payment on the same basis as any other person. However, a person who retires from their employment would not be considered to have been made redundant and therefore no increase in applications for redundancy support is expected as a result of the changes to State pension age. So far this year, approximately 740 redundancy payments were awarded to people aged 65 or over but in many of these cases the redundancy would actually have occurred in 2011. Unfortunately, as the scheme has only been operating on the Department of Social Protection's systems since October 2011 it is not possible to extract corresponding figures for 2010 and 2011.

In relation to pension reform, as Irish society has changed, pensions policy has evolved to reflect these changes. A key focus of mine has been to ensure that the State pension remains

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

adequate and sustainable in light of demographic changes and the associated increases in pension costs.

This is compounded by the wider need for sustainable public finances. So our primary consideration in making the changes we have made to reform pensions has been to ensure that the system is on a financially sound and sustainable footing.

Because the State pension is the bedrock of the Irish pension system, these reforms are essential to address the challenges of increasing life expectancy and to ensure its sustainability. While the current State pension age of 66 remains, the State pension (transition) which applies for one year for persons of age 65 will cease from 2014. Thereafter, State pension age will increase to 67 in 2021 and 68 in 2028.

For those with an income need, social welfare schemes will continue to be available, for those who fulfil the eligibility criteria.

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

56. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Social Protection her long term plans to reform the rent supplement scheme in view of the current issues that are arising due to recent changes in the upper rent limits and if it will be transferred to local authorities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34330/12]

58. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on the decision to transfer responsibility for the provision of rental assistance to persons with a long term housing need from her Department currently provided through rent supplement to housing authorities using a new housing assistance payment from 1 January 2013; if she will provide an outline of this new HAP; the way it will function; and the way it will differ from rent supplement. [34948/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 56 and 58 together.

There are approximately 92,000 persons in receipt of rent supplement for which the Government has provided a sum of €436 million for 2012. The aim of rent supplement is to provide short term income assistance, and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer.

New maximum rent limits were introduced from 1 January 2012 to ensure value for money for tenants and taxpayers was achieved whilst ensuring that people on rent supplement are not priced out of the market for private rented accommodation.

I welcome the Government decision to transfer responsibility for the provision of rental assistance to persons with a long term housing need from my Department, currently provided through rent supplement, to housing authorities using a new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). This will achieve a key Government commitment of removing barriers to employment and at the same time returning rent supplement to its original purpose of a short-term income support.

A commencement date for the new arrangements of 1st January 2013 has been approved subject to further consideration of the matter by Government. Policy in relation to the HAP scheme is a matter for my colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. A multi-agency steering group has been established to develop proposals to give effect to this transfer. The group is chaired by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and consists of representatives from the Departments of Social Protec-

tion; Public Expenditure and Reform; Office of the Revenue Commissioners; the County and City Managers Association, and the Housing Agency. Latest figures show that over 39,900 rent supplement tenancies have transferred from rent supplement to the Rental Accommodation Scheme and other social housing options since its inception.

### Social Welfare Appeals

57. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she will take, legislative or otherwise, to ensure that the Social Welfare Appeals Office publish its decisions in a suitably anonymised format. [34939/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that publishing Appeals Officer's decisions would require a significant amount of effort as they would need to be suitably edited to ensure the full picture is given and also as details would need to be changed to ensure personal data is not disclosed. Given the large number of appeals decisions given each year, 25,390 in 2011 for example, such a process would impose a significant overhead on the office. However the Office publishes a number of case studies, suitably edited, on its website and also in the Chief Appeals Officer's annual report to the Minister and it is intended to increase the number of these case studies available on the website in 2012.

*Question No. 58 answered with Question No. 56.*

*Question No. 59 answered with Question No. 24.*

*Question No. 60 answered with Question No. 38.*

### Dáil Reform

61. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Taoiseach his plans to review the changes to the way the Oireachtas conducts its business including the changes to Dail and Seanad Standing Orders that have taken place in the current Oireachtas term, the changes to Committees and the new committees; if this review will be carried out on a cross party basis to ensure that the changes are working well; when is it intended to bring in the outstanding changes that are outlined in the Programme for Government; if the matter of reform of the way the Oireachtas does its business will be an ongoing matter of consultation on a cross party basis to ensure there is a genuine shift over the course of this Oireachtas term of power from the Executive to the Dail and the Seanad, and that the changes outlined in the Programme for Government are something to be built upon in future beyond the term of this Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34349/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Deputy Paul Kehoe):** The Programme for Government sets out an ambitious agenda of Dáil Reform, which will continue to be implemented over the lifetime of the Government.

In July 2011, after just four months in office, the Government introduced a package of reforms which included:

- An additional Leaders Questions session, taken by the Tánaiste, on Thursdays;
- Topical Issues Debates, which replaced the adjournment debates and are taken earlier in the day. Under this arrangement, four debates are held each sitting day on issues of both local and national importance and a Minister or Minister of State from the Department concerned must, except where unavoidable, respond to the debate;

[Deputy Paul Kehoe.]

- Special sittings on the first Friday of a month to provide time for TDs to introduce their own Bills, thereby enhancing TD's legislative role;
- A procedure to allow Dáil Deputies raise issues regarding replies to Parliamentary Questions with the Ceann Comhairle. Under this procedure, the Ceann Comhairle can refer a matter back to the Minister with a request for further information;
- Time limits for the Order of Business, to provide more structure to the working format of the Dáil; Streamlining the system of Taoiseach's Questions;
- Section 32 requests no longer being read out unless they are granted by the Ceann Comhairle;
- The Taoiseach briefing the Oireachtas prior to attending European Council meetings.

The Programme for Government also contains a commitment to increasing the number of Dáil sitting days by 50%. The number of Dáil sitting days has been significantly increased since the change of Government by reducing the length of Dáil breaks at Christmas, at Easter, after bank holidays and during the summer and the introduction of regular Friday sitting days. Significant progress has been made in this area. In this Government's first year in office there were 127 Dáil sitting days compared with 88 Dáil sitting days in the previous Government's last year in office

In 2011 a new Oireachtas Committee system was established that included a number of reforms promised in the Programme for Government including:

- The number of Oireachtas Committees was reduced from 25 under the previous Government to 16.
- An Investigation, Oversight and Petitions Committee chaired by a member of the Opposition was established.
- A system was established under which Oireachtas Committees are involved at an early stage in the development of legislation before a Bill is published.
- MEPs can attend Oireachtas Committees.

In June 2012, we further re-structured the Oireachtas Committee system in light of its operation during the first year of the Government's term of office. This re-structuring was carried out following discussions by me with the other Whips; the Chair of the Working Group of Committee Chairs, Deputy David Stanton; the other Oireachtas Committee Chairs; TDs and Senators from across all the political parties who are members of Oireachtas Committees; and the Committee Secretariat.

It is the Government's intention to follow these reform packages with additional reforms in the future. Indeed, I am currently in discussions with the other Whips; the Ceann Comhairle; the Dáil Reform sub-committee of the Dáil CPP; the Chair of the Working Group of Committee Chairs, Deputy David Stanton; and officials in Leinster House regarding a second phase of Dáil reforms to be introduced in the Autumn Session.

I can assure the Deputy that my office continues to monitor the day-to-day working of Dáil Éireann, Seanad Éireann and the Oireachtas Committees, including the impact of the reforms we have already introduced. This process of ongoing review, along with our Programme for Government commitments, will be the basis for further Dáil Reform.

### Regulatory and Poverty Impact Assessments

62. **Deputy Stephen S. Donnelly** asked the Taoiseach with regard to all legislation initiated by him since coming into office, the number of Bills that have completed the legislative process; the number of occasions on which amendments proposed by members of the opposition have been accepted; the number of Bills for which regulatory impact analysis have been published; the number of Bills for which poverty impact analysis have been published; and where a Bill was exempt from the requirements to do poverty impact and regulatory impact analysis, to state same. [34350/12]

63. **Deputy Stephen S. Donnelly** asked the Taoiseach if he will clarify the procedures operating in his Department for identifying when a bill requires a poverty impact and or regulatory impact analysis and when it is exempt; the procedures for conducting and publishing that analysis, when applicable; and if he will identify, by rank or position, the officials responsible for managing and making decisions on this process. [34351/12]

**The Taoiseach:** I propose to take Questions Nos. 62 and 63 together.

My Department has not initiated any legislation since I came into Office.

In the event that legislation is prepared, the officials concerned with the preparation of the legislation would, if required, undertake Regulatory Impact Analyses and Poverty Impact Assessments in accordance with the relevant guidelines.

### Live Register

64. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Taoiseach if he will provide details of the unemployment figures at the end of June 2012 in the Social Protection Office, Tallaght, Dublin 24; and if he will also provide a comparison with the same month in 2010 and 2011. [34761/12]

**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 Jobseeker's Benefit, Jobseeker's 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 June 2012. The table below contains the numbers signing on in the Tallaght local office on the last Friday of June 2010, June 2011 and June 2012.

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 Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance.

### Ministerial Allowances

65. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Taoiseach the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35070/12]

**The Taoiseach:** No untaxed allowances were paid to myself or the Ministers of State in my Department to date.

[The Taoiseach.]

Ministers and Ministers of State are entitled to the same allowances as Members of the Oireachtas with the some exceptions.

As the Deputy will be aware, the legislation providing for Oireachtas expense allowances is exempt from taxation under section 836 of the Taxes Consolidation Act which was inserted into this Act by section 3(7) of the Oireachtas (Allowances to Members) and Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 2009.

Ministers do not receive the Travel and Accommodation Allowance provided to Members of the Oireachtas.

However, Ministers outside the Dublin area who maintain second homes because of their official duties can claim an income tax deduction in maintaining that second home as well as the annual mortgage repayment. The availability of this allowance is determined by the Revenue Commissioners.

Since 1 May 2011 Cabinet Ministers with the exception of myself, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Law Reform now use their own cars on official business. All Ministers are now paid for official mileage up to 96,540 kilometres or 60,000 miles per annum. Ministers of State have used their own cars on official business since 1984.

Ministers are entitled to claim travel expenses for official business in line with guidelines set down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

### Departmental Agencies

66. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Taoiseach the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35321/12]

**The Taoiseach:** No State agencies and bodies within the remit of my Department have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation.

### Appointments to State Boards

67. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Taoiseach if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35612/12]

**The Taoiseach:** Since coming into office on 9 March 2011, I have made appointments to the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO), as set out in the tables beneath. The appointments are made in accordance with the National Economic and Social Development Office Act 2006 and S.I. No. 603 of 2010, National Economic and Social Council (Alteration of Composition) Order 2010.

NESC Board Membership

| Name                                      | Organisation                                     | Date of Appointment |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Mr. Martin Fraser, Chairperson of NESC    | Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach   | August 2011         |
| Mr. John Shaw, Deputy Chairperson of NESC | Assistant Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach | January 2012        |

| Name                   | Organisation   | Date of Appointment |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Prof. Edgar Morgenroth | Associate Research Professor, Economic and Social Research Institute               | June 2011           |
| Prof. John McHale      | Economist, National University of Ireland, Galway                                  | June 2011           |
| Prof. Mary Daly        | Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast | June 2011           |
| Prof. Anna Davis       | Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin                                    | June 2011           |
| Prof. Seán Ó Riain     | Department of Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth                  | June 2011           |
| Dr. Michael O'Sullivan | Head of UK Research and Global Asset Allocation, Credit Suisse, London             | June 2011           |
| Ms Mary Walsh          | Chartered Accountant   | June 2011           |
| Dr. Michelle Morris    | Senior Lecturer, School of Applied Social Science, University College Dublin.      | July 2011           |
| Mr. Shay Cody          | IMPACT   | September 2011      |
| Mr. John Murphy        | Secretary General, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation                   | November 2011       |
| Mr. Seán Ó Foghlú      | Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills                              | February 2012       |
| Mr. John Moran         | Secretary General, Department of Finance   | March 2012          |

#### NESDO Board Membership

| Name                                       | Organisation                                     | Date of Appointment |
|--|--|---------------------|
| Mr. Martin Fraser, Chairperson of NESDO    | Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach   | August 2011         |
| Mr. John Shaw, Deputy Chairperson of NESDO | Assistant Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach | January 2012        |

These appointments were made following careful consideration of the necessary skills, knowledge and expertise relevant to the functions of the NESC and NESDO. The independent nominations to NESC were not advertised last year, as I was satisfied with the quality of nominees already compiled in my Department which are mainly from the academic sector. However, it may be appropriate to advertise the positions in the future and this can be considered when further nominations to NESC need to be made.

In the case of the NESC, I appoint members on the basis of nominations from business and employer interests, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, farming and agricultural interests, the community and voluntary sector and the environmental sector. The question of advertising does not arise. I appointed five public servants of whom one represented the Taoiseach and one represented the Minister for Finance. Historically, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson posts are filled from my Department at Secretary General and Assistant Secretary level.

Finally, I appointed the independents in June and July last year.

#### Departmental Staff

68. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Taoiseach the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36048/12]

**The Taoiseach:** No retired civil servants have been re-employed by my Department.

[The Taoiseach.]

However, one person who previously retired from a different part of the Public Service is employed in an unestablished position by my Department. The employment contract of the person concerned will cease when my term of office as Taoiseach ends.

### Pension Provisions

69. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Taoiseach if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36057/12]

**The Taoiseach:** Under the terms of the Civil Service Pensions Schemes, all retiring Civil Servants are normally entitled to an annual pension and a retirement lump sum based on the final salary and years of service.

The pension arrangements including calculations and payment of same, are a matter for the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The amounts granted to staff retiring from my Department under these entitlements in each of the past three years are detailed in the following table.

Pensions in Payment in Department of the Taoiseach 2010-2012

| Annual Pension Bands | Number of Public Servants |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| €10,000 to €20,000   | 3                         |
| €20,001 to 30,000    | 2                         |
| €30,001 to €40,000   | 1                         |
| €40,001 to €50,000   | 1                         |
| €50,001 to €60,000   | 2                         |
| €60,001 to €70,000   | 0                         |
| €70,001 to €80,000   | 0                         |
| €80,001 to €90,000   | 0                         |
| €90,001 to €100,000  | 0                         |
| More than €100,000   | 1                         |

### Open Government Partnership

70. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if this country will be signing up to the Open Government Partnership. [35156/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an ad hoc international initiative which was launched in 2011 and which is overseen by a multi-stakeholder International Steering Committee involving Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as civil society representatives. The aim of the organisation is to promote progress by participating states in relation to enhanced transparency and anti-corruption measures. To my knowledge, the Government has not been in receipt of any approach by the OGP to join the organisation and the question of possible participation by Ireland has not yet been examined. It would be necessary as part of any such examination to consider, in conjunction with the other relevant Government Departments, the potential added value of membership as well as the resources implications.

Ireland participates at EU level and within the OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe and United Nations frameworks in efforts to promote cooperation on, and improvement in, transparency and anti-corruption measures. We ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption in 2011 and are also a party to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. During the Nineteenth Session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2012, Ireland co-sponsored a resolution on “The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights”, which was adopted by the Council. This encouraged States to ratify the UN Convention Against Corruption and emphasised the role of good governance in the full realisation of human rights, sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger.

### **Ministerial Allowances**

71. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35064/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** No special allowances are paid by my Department to me or the Ministers of State at my Department over and above general travel and subsistence allowances.

### **Northern Ireland Issues**

72. **Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if there are any sensitive and embargoed papers or materials relating to the peace process held in Boston College or other American universities that should be returned to Irish jurisdiction to protect the terms of their confidentiality. [35151/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** The issue of the files transferred to Boston College by the Independent International Commission for Decommissioning is an issue which has been addressed by my colleague the Minister for Justice and Equality. The archived interviews held in Boston College in the context of the Belfast Project have been the subject of legal proceedings under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty between Britain and the United States. These archives are the property of Boston College.

All original material created in Government Departments are filed on appropriate Departmental files. Under the terms of the National Archives Act, 1986 Departments are obliged to make an annual transfer of files and other records which are 30 years old or more to the National Archives, subject to the exceptions provided for in the Act.

### **EU Presidency**

73. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his plans for the EU Presidency next year in so far as Turkey’s accession to the EU is concerned; if he anticipates any significant developments, in particular in relation to the opening or closing of remaining chapters. [35157/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** The enlargement agenda is an important aspect of EU foreign policy still within the purview of the rotating EU Presidency. We have already begun planning to take the process forward in relation to all

[Deputy Eamon Gilmore.]

five candidate countries — Iceland, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of Macedonia. With regard to Turkey, Minister of State Creighton visited Turkey last week in part to discuss areas for possible progress during our Presidency. As the Deputy may be aware, progress on Turkey's EU accession has been very slow of late with the last Chapter in the negotiations opened in 2010. 12 of the 33 negotiating Chapters have been officially opened and one provisionally closed.

Of the remaining 21 Chapters, negotiations on eight of them have been suspended by the Council since December 2006 due to Turkey's failure to meet its obligations under the Ankara Protocol i.e. normalisation of relations with Cyprus. The Council also agreed that it will not decide on provisionally closing Chapters until the Commission verifies that Turkey has fulfilled its commitments related to the Protocol. A further four Chapters remain frozen since 2007 and Cyprus is blocking another six. This leaves three Chapters with a possibility of being opened.

In the absence of movement in the enlargement negotiations, Turkey is still proceeding, nonetheless, with reforms including plans for a new Constitution, in part to bring it more in line with EU standards. The December 2011 General Affairs Council also took "positive note" of the Commission's proposal for a renewed "*positive agenda*" to support the negotiation process which would involve enhanced cooperation with Turkey in parallel with the accession process in an effort to keep momentum behind the negotiations.

We will be working closely with Turkey, with the European Commission, and with our EU partners and will make every effort to move the agenda forward during our Presidency.

### **Diplomatic Representation**

74. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the total amount of education fees paid in 2011 and the estimate for 2012 in respect of the families of ambassadors, diplomats and other staff serving overseas; the maximum amount that has been paid in any particular case; if the dependants of persons serving overseas avail of European schools that may be in the area where they are based; if there is an obligation on them to use these schools or does his Department pay fees in these areas where there is an alternative; the total cost of fees paid in respect of each of the countries where payments were made; if he will provide the guidelines on same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.  
[35177/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade operates a School Fees Assistance (SFA) scheme in respect of the children of staff serving abroad. The rationale underpinning the scheme is that children of an officer serving the State abroad should not be disadvantaged in educational terms relative to children in the Irish school system. Furthermore, a change of school can be traumatic for any child and my Department has a duty to facilitate officers in moving their children with as little disruption as possible between the different education systems of the countries to which they are posted in the service of the State. In general, where language, educational standards and curriculum at accessible local public schools are comparable to Ireland, children of officers attend such schools.

The SFA scheme allows for reimbursement of additional costs which officers incur when, unable to source suitable publicly-funded education for their children abroad, they are required to place their children in local fee-paying schools or at boarding schools in Ireland. Typically, under their conditions of service, officers rotate between 3-4 year postings abroad and assignments of similar duration at Headquarters. In such circumstances, the Department's SFA Scheme supports officers in their efforts to provide continuity of education for their children

in an English language school environment. It allows the Department to fulfil the State's obligation to respect the child's Constitutional right to education.

In the case of officers serving in Brussels, those who are based at the Irish Permanent Representation to the European Union can secure places for their children at the non-fee-paying European Schools. However, those assigned to our other diplomatic missions in Brussels have no automatic eligibility to places in this school and depending on levels of demand for places, may have to seek a place at a fee-paying English speaking school.

The total amount paid under the SFA scheme in 2011 in respect of staff of this Department based abroad was approximately €1,060,000. The breakdown of this amount per country is attached. The maximum amount paid in any particular case was €29,200. Under Data Protection legislation, it would be inappropriate for me to give details in this reply which could lead to the identification of the officer and by extension, the child in question.

The estimated expenditure under the SFA scheme for 2012 is €1,141,000.

Payments under Department of Foreign Affairs School Fees Assistance Scheme for 2011 broken down by country

| COUNTRY                     | AMOUNT in € |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| AUSTRALIA                   | 396.98      |
| AUSTRIA                     | 15,859.10   |
| BELGIUM                     | 113,570.00  |
| CYPRUS                      | 5,487.00    |
| EGYPT                       | 40,894.34   |
| ETHIOPIA                    | 19,039.68   |
| FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA | 11,024.95   |
| FRANCE                      | 8,400.00    |
| GERMANY                     | 7,994.00    |
| GREECE                      | 23,928.60   |
| HUNGARY                     | 6,256.81    |
| INDIA                       | 828.19      |
| ISRAEL                      | 62,531.03   |
| ITALY                       | 12,000.00   |
| LUXEMBOURG                  | 7,777.61    |
| MALAWI                      | 37,196.58   |
| MALTA                       | 4,668.50    |
| MOZAMBIQUE                  | 55,246.16   |
| HEADQUARTERS                | 4,515       |
| NETHERLANDS                 | 54,125.00   |
| PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA   | 59,294.30   |
| POLAND                      | 31,266.61   |
| REPUBLIC OF KOREA           | 42,578.31   |
| ROMANIA                     | 22,320.46   |
| RUSSIA                      | 30,574.30   |
| SAUDI ARABIA                | 8,629.76    |
| SLOVAK REPUBLIC             | 6,728.34    |
| SOUTH AFRICA                | 16,342.48   |
| SPAIN                       | 3,295.33    |
| TANZANIA                    | 55,776.19   |
| UGANDA                      | 46,968.94   |
| UNITED KINGDOM              | 101,531.59  |

[Deputy Eamon Gilmore.]

| COUNTRY       | AMOUNT in €  |
|---------------|--------------|
| UNITED STATES | 141,448.89   |
| VIETNAM       | 197.78       |
| TOTAL SPENT   | 1,058,692.81 |

### Departmental Agencies

75. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35316/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** There are no State agencies or Bodies within the remit of my Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation.

### Good Friday Agreement

76. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the steps the he is taking to compel the British Government to adhere to the wording of Strand 3, Prisoners, paragraph 1 of the Belfast Agreement 1998 (details supplied). [35332/12]

77. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the steps the Irish Government is taking to compel the British Government to legislate for and implement in full, the Weston Park Accord as it was originally agreed by the Irish and British Governments in 2001, prior to the withdrawal of the proposed draft legislation on 11 January 2006 by then Secretary of State Pater Hain (details supplied). [35333/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 76 and 77 together.

The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 put in place measures for accelerated release under licence within two years of more than 500 prisoners — approximately 300 republican and 200 loyalist — mostly in Northern Ireland but some also in this jurisdiction. The provisions of the Good Friday Agreement with regard to the early release of prisoners dealt with those who had already been convicted of offences committed before 1998. Those provisions did not extend to those who had not yet been convicted of offences or indeed those who committed offences after that date.

The various measures included in the package agreed at Weston Park in August 2001 addressed four issues to assist in the successful implementation of the Good Friday Agreement: policing, normalisation, the stability of the institutions and decommissioning.

Proposed draft legislation by the British Government to deal with this specific issue as referred to in paragraph 20 of the Weston Park Accord was formally introduced by the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Peter Hain MP. Those proposals were withdrawn however when the only supporting party, Sinn Féin, could not accept certain aspects of the proposed legislation. In doing so, the British Government said it was mindful of the views of all the political parties, of victim groups and others.

I and my officials continue to raise prisoner issues with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and with the Northern Ireland Executive, which is accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

### Departmental Staff

78. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36042/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** Details are set out in the following table of retired officials of my Department who were temporarily re-engaged or who were already contracted to the Department during 2010 and since:

| Grade                    | Position Held   | Duration  |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <i>2010</i>              |   |   |
| 1 Assistant Secretary    | Passport Appeals Officer  | 3-year contract from 1 January 2009 to deal with appeals as and when they arise   |
| 1 Assistant Secretary    | To assist in the preparation of files for the National Archives                               | Contract for a maximum of 10 weeks spread over the twelve months of 2010          |
| <i>2011/2012 to Date</i> |   |   |
| 1 Assistant Secretary    | Head of Task Force in connection with Ireland's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2012                | Contract from 7 January 2011 to 31 December 2012                                  |
| 1 Deputy Secretary       | Tánaiste's Special Representative in connection with Ireland's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2012 | Contract for a maximum of 30 weeks spread over the twelve months of 2012          |
| 1 Assistant Secretary    | Passport Appeals Officer  | 3-year contract from 20 January 2012 to deal with appeals as and when they arise  |
| 1 Assistant Secretary    | To assist in the preparation of files for the National Archives                               | Contract for a maximum of 10 weeks spread over the twelve months in 2011 and 2012 |
| 1 Counsellor             | Relating to Ireland's Chairmanship of the OSCE, 2012  | Contract from 4 February 2011 to 22 December 2011                                 |
| 1 Counsellor             | To assist in preparations for the Irish Presidency of the European Union in January-June 2013 | From 1 May 2012 until 30 June 2013  |

The Department also occasionally avails of the services of retired civil servants to sit on promotion competition interview boards or to investigate complaints under the *Positive Working Environment* policy.

The policy of my Department regarding the re-hiring of retired officials is to do so to the minimum extent possible. However, for certain once-off or short-duration projects, it is more productive and cost-effective to re-hire retired staff who already have the relevant expertise and experience than to go through a time-consuming and relatively expensive recruitment, induction and training process. Where it occurs, retired staff are usually re-hired on a pension abatement basis, which means in effect that they continue to receive their pensions and are paid correspondingly reduced salaries by the Department.

Temporary Clerical Officers (TCOs) are recruited annually for the Passport Service through the Public Appointments Service and FÁS and, in general, rehired public servants are not

[Deputy Eamon Gilmore.]

disbarred from applying under public sector recruitment guidelines. Nevertheless, I can assure the Deputy that it would be very unusual for the Department to employ a retired public servant as a TCO.

There are no State agencies under the aegis of my Department.

### **Pension Provisions**

79. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36054/12]

**Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore):** With regard to staff of my Department, the calculation and payment of superannuation benefits is a matter for the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. There are no State agencies under the aegis of my Department.

### **National Asset Management Agency**

80. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Finance his views on the strain being put on long established hotelier by National Assets Management Agency operated hotels who are able to offer unrealistically low prices; his plans to review the long term viability of these hotels that are operating at a loss; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34507/12]

81. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Finance the number of hotels here that are operated by the National Assets Management Agency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34508/12]

82. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Finance the number of hotels under the control of the National Assets Management Agency that have closed down recently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34509/12]

83. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Finance his views on the fact that long established hoteliers in the hospitality sector are being put under severe strain by the National Asset Management Agency operated hotels who are able to offer unrealistically low prices in many cases; if he will review the long term viability or not of operating these hotels at a loss; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34550/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 80 to 83, inclusive, together.

NAMA advises that it does not own or operate hotels. NAMA's role in relation to the properties securing its loans is that of a secured lender. Other than properties that have been enforced, all of which are listed on NAMA's website and which are managed by the appointed receivers/administrators, properties including hotels continue to be managed by their existing owners or their professional managers/agents. NAMA, in line with its legislative remit, takes a very close interest in their efficient management and sale with the view to maximum loan repayment in order to protect the position of the taxpayer.

NAMA advises that its debtors and receivers control 121 hotels in Ireland, of which 117 are fully operating; four hotels recently ceased trading. There are over 900 operating hotels in Ireland and, accordingly, NAMA has exposure to only 13% of the sector. Its potential impact

on the overall viability of the sector is overstated. The Deputy may wish to note that NAMA have advised that while the Competition Authority received complaints about NAMA's impact on the hotel sector, the Authority decided not to pursue these complaints after engaging with NAMA.

NAMA further advises that as a secured lender it will not advance funding to hotels that are not commercially viable as there would be no foreseeable return on such funding and, therefore, it would run contrary to NAMA's statutory commercial remit.

### VAT Rates

84. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Finance if he will respond to a matter in relation to VAT (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34357/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The VAT treatment of goods and services is governed by EU law with which Irish VAT law must comply. Although there is merit in the proposal to limit tax abuse in the construction sector through the introduction of a VAT refund for home owners employing VAT compliant builders, enforcement of tax law through tax reductions is not an advisable policy, especially in the current economic climate. The black economy in the construction sector is dealt with, and should continue to be dealt with, through ongoing enforcement procedures by the Revenue Commissioners. I would point out that construction services, including house improvements, are subject to the 13.5% reduced VAT rate instead of the general standard rate of 23%.

### National Asset Management Agency

85. **Deputy Pat Deering** asked the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 50 of 6 June 2012, if he will provide the number of properties owned by the National Assets Management Agency that are rented by the State; and the total amount of rent paid annually on a county basis. [34483/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by NAMA that it does not own nor does it manage properties securing its loans and that the properties to which the Deputy refers are under the control of its debtors and receivers. NAMA advises that the income arising from the rental by state bodies of approximately 82 NAMA debtor and receiver properties is of the order of €30 million per annum. NAMA advises that 48 properties are located in Dublin and the neighbouring counties of Wicklow, Kildare and Meath; these account for 76% of total annual rental income. There are 24 properties located in counties Limerick, Cork and Galway and these account for a further 21% of total income. The residual 10 properties are located throughout the rest of Ireland and account for 3% of rental income. The further breakdown by number and county sought by the Deputy would lead to the identification of specific properties, breaching Sections 99 and 202 of the NAMA Act, under which NAMA is prohibited from disclosing confidential details relating to its debtors or their properties, and the obligation on its debtors and receivers to uphold the confidentiality of agreements entered into with third parties.

### Banking Operations

86. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Finance if he has asked the Financial Regulator to review the contingency plans currently in place to deal with failures of IT systems within the banking sector; if he will report on the role of outsourcing critical IT systems to offshore locations away from Ireland and the UK; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34579/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I have been informed by the Central Bank that it reviews the operational risk frameworks and the assessment processes that are in place in all the banks licensed in Ireland to assess and test for the proper functioning of processes and controls. This ongoing supervision and assessment of operational risk includes an assessment of banks' IT systems and policies and a review of the banks' internal audit programmes. Included in the operational risk framework are business continuity planning and contingency arrangements and the banks' own processes for testing those plans. The Central Bank does not test the operation of the contingency arrangements itself nor does it second guess the technical systems and processing arrangements that the banks have established as this would require technical knowledge of these systems and detailed knowledge of their operation. However, the Central Bank requires that the banks' plans are put through a proper governance process and are reviewed and approved by the relevant risk committees of the licensed banks.

The Central Bank in conjunction with the UK Financial Services Authority is undertaking a review of the situation that arose at Ulster Bank. This review will include a focus on lessons learnt, which will then be used by the Central Bank in its ongoing oversight of operational risks faced by all banks licensed in Ireland, including outsourcing risks.

#### Departmental Staff

87. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the number of whole time equivalent staff working in each division of his Department, in each individual year, between 1997 and 2011 prior to the creation of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. [34593/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** Please find detailed below the number of Whole Time Equivalents (WTE's) employed in my Department from 1999 to end December 2011:

| Date             | No. of WTE's |
|------------------|--------------|
| 31 December 1999 | 531.5        |
| 31 December 2000 | 571.5        |
| 31 December 2001 | 629.5        |
| 31 December 2002 | 622.52       |
| 31 December 2003 | 619.81       |
| 31 December 2004 | 587.39       |
| 31 December 2005 | 587.09       |
| 31 December 2006 | 622.43       |
| 31 December 2007 | 628.70       |
| 31 December 2008 | 612.91       |
| 31 December 2009 | 560.78       |
| 31 December 2010 | 538.46       |
| 31 December 2011 | 271.02       |

#### Tax Reliefs

88. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance the amount of income cumulatively lost to the Exchequer in 2011 due to the various tax reliefs and breaks, grants, credits, expense allowances and exemptions, and double tax agreements available to corporations. [34618/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the total identifiable costs to the Exchequer which are currently available relate to income tax and corporation tax allowances, reliefs, exemptions and tax credits available as set out in the following tables for 2008 and 2009, the most recent year for which the necessary detailed historical information is available. It should be noted that there have been changes since this period, i.e. some schemes have been abolished or modified and others have been introduced. For instance, as the Deputy will be aware, virtually all of the area-based and property tax incentive schemes have ended and this year's Finance Act provided for a cap on property-based Accelerated Capital Allowance Schemes (in line with the tax life of the particular scheme) to be introduced from 1 January 2015. Relevant notes relating to items in the tables are also included.

*Index of Tables and Notes*

(a) Note on the Cost of Tax Credits, Allowances and Reliefs 2008 and 2009,

(b) Table IT 6 showing Cost of Tax Credits, Allowances and Reliefs 2008 and 2009. Figures of cost in relation to corporation tax are included in the “*Income Tax and/or Corporation Tax*” section of this table,

(c) Notes on Table IT6,

(d) Note on Green Paper on Pensions,

(e) Estimate of cost of certain property-based tax incentives and incomes exempt from tax for 2008 and 2009,

(f) Note on reliefs in respect of which costs are not currently quantifiable or are negligible or are not identifiable within total aggregates,

*(a) Cost of Tax Credits, Allowances and Reliefs 2008 and 2009*

The following table IT 6 shows the estimated cost in terms of revenue forgone of the personal tax credits and the main reliefs and deductions allowable under the income tax system. A number of reliefs which apply both to individuals and companies is also included and the cost shown in relation to these reliefs covers income tax and corporation tax.

An adjustment is included in the cost figures applying to income tax to compensate for incomplete numbers of tax returns on record at the time of compiling the estimates.

The tax credits and reliefs listed in the table serve varying purposes. Many are essentially structural reliefs through which individual tax liabilities are adjusted to reflect relative taxable capacity. The main personal tax credits are a good example of this since they may be regarded as part of the progressive income tax structure representing a band of income chargeable at a zero rate. Others, such as relief for interest paid in full or investment in corporate trades, are tax-based incentives in favour of specific groups or activities which are designed to promote certain aspects of public policy.

In computing taxable profits, account needs to be taken in some way of the depreciation of capital assets incurred in earning those profits. To this extent, the figures in the table of the “costs” of capital allowances should not be regarded as measuring a “loss of tax revenue” on profits. To compute such “loss”, regard would have to be had to the excess of the amount of the capital allowances at current rates over the amount of the normal allowances.

The figures shown for the basic personal tax credits (married, single and widowed) are the costs of these tax credits as if all other tax credits and the exemption limits did not apply. They

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

do not include individuals who are not on Revenue records because their incomes are below the income tax thresholds. The cost figures for the exemption limits are based on the excess of the exemption limits over the basic personal tax credits.

The figures of cost are for 2008 and 2009 and all figures are based on tax due in respect of assessments for each year and not on tax receipts within that year.

The figure against each credit or allowance represents the additional tax which would become payable if the tax credit or allowance were withdrawn assuming no consequent change in the behaviour of taxpayers (for example, in relation to the reliefs for savings), or the amounts of payments (for example, interest payable on certain savings schemes might need adjustment to take account of the new tax liability).

The numbers of claimants of each credit or relief are shown for both years to the extent that they are available. The numbers included are the taxpayers who would be adversely affected by the withdrawal of the respective credit or relief.

In the calculations, each tax credit or allowance has been dealt with separately and on the assumption that the rest of the tax system remained unchanged. It would be therefore inaccurate to calculate the effect of withdrawing all the credits, reliefs and allowances by simply totalling the figures. For example, the costs shown for capital allowances and stock relief are also calculated on the basis of separate withdrawal of these reliefs. Their combined cost would be greater than the sum of the separate costs because allowances are not always fully set off against available profits. For instance, a person with €1,000 gross trading profits, €1,000 capital allowances and €1,000 stock relief would pay no tax if either of the reliefs were withdrawn but would pay tax on €1,000 profits if both reliefs were withdrawn. In this case, the cost of each relief separately is nil but the combined cost is tax on €1,000. Basic data is not available to enable an estimate of the combined cost of these reliefs to be made.

The figures for estimates based on tax returns have been grossed up to an overall expected level to adjust for incompleteness in the numbers of returns on record at the time the data was extracted for analytical purposes.

Apart from the artists exemption, these figures do not take account of the application of the restriction of reliefs originally provided for in section 17 of Finance Act 2006, which took effect from 1 January 2007. The restriction was extended by Section 23 Finance Act 2010.

Finally, the estimates shown in many cases are tentative and are subject to revision in the light of later information.

(b) Table IT 6 showing Cost of Tax Credits, Allowances and Reliefs 2008 and 2009

#### INCOME TAX AND CORPORATION TAX

TABLE IT6

Cost of Tax Credits, Allowances and Reliefs 2008 and 2009

| Tax Relief Provision<br>Income Tax     | <sup>(1)</sup> Estimated<br>cost for 2008<br>€m | Numbers | 2009 €m | Numbers |
|--|---|---------|---------|---------|
| <i>Exemption limits:</i>               |   |         |         |         |
| General Exemption <sup>(2)</sup>       | 0.0   | 0       | 0.0     | 0       |
| Child Addition <sup>(2)</sup>          | 0.3   | 900     | 0.2     | 800     |
| Age Exemption <sup>(2)</sup>           | 90.8  | 57,700  | 82.4    | 54,900  |
| Married Person's Credit <sup>(3)</sup> | 2,944.9   | 853,100 | 2,853.2 | 835,000 |

| Tax Relief Provision<br>Income Tax  | ( <sup>1</sup> ) Estimated<br>cost for 2008<br>€m | Numbers   | 2009 €m | Numbers   |
|---|---|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Single Person's Credit ( <sup>3</sup> )   | 2,406.8   | 1,503,300 | 2,088.2 | 1,316,900 |
| Widowed Person's Credit ( <sup>3</sup> )  | 184.3   | 81,100    | 184.8   | 81,100    |
| Additional Credit to Widowed Person in<br>Year of Bereavement   | 4.9   | 4,000     | 4.9     | 4,000     |
| Additional Bereavement Credit to Widowed<br>Parent  | 6.9   | 2,300     | 6.2     | 2,400     |
| Additional Personal Credit for Lone Parent  | 197.4   | 116,700   | 174.1   | 103,600   |
| Homecarer Credit  | 79.5  | 93,100    | 63.9    | 77,500    |
| Additional Credit for Incapacitated Child   | 39.0  | 12,300    | 38.0    | 12,200    |
| Employee (PAYE) Credit  | 3,253.8   | 1,710,200 | 2,995.2 | 1,560,600 |
| Dependent Relative Credit   | 2.0   | 18,700    | 2.1     | 18,200    |
| Person Taking Care of Incapacitated<br>Taxpayer   | 5.8   | 1,260     | 5.9     | 1,470     |
| Age Credit  | 42.3  | 88,100    | 43.7    | 90,700    |
| Blind Person's Credit (incl. Guide Dog<br>Allowance)  | 2.1   | 1,320     | 1.9     | 1,190     |
| Medical Insurance Premiums ( <sup>4</sup> )   | 321   | 1,322,400 | 589.6   | 1,233,900 |
| Health Expenses   | 266.8   | 542,600   | 145.5   | 492,800   |
| Contributions Under Permanent Health<br>Benefit Schemes, after Deduction of Tax<br>on Benefits Received ( <sup>5</sup> )          | 4.0   | 29,200    | 3.9     | 27,300    |
| Employees' Contributions To Approved<br>Superannuation Schemes ( <sup>6</sup> )   | 655.0   | 792,600   | 729.0   | 713,600   |
| Employers' Contributions To Approved<br>Superannuation Schemes ( <sup>6</sup> )   | 165.0   | 362,700   | 153.0   | 342,200   |
| Exemption of Investment Income and Gains<br>of Approved Superannuation Funds ( <sup>6</sup> )*                                    | 685.0   | N/A       | 780.0   | N/A       |
| Exemption of employers' contributions from<br>employee BIK ( <sup>6</sup> )   | 595.0   | 362,700   | 558.0   | 342,200   |
| Tax Relief on "tax free" lump sums ( <sup>6</sup> )   | 140.0   | N/A       | 140.0   | N/A       |
| Retirement Annuity Premiums   | 352.8   | 116,000   | 237.2   | 101,300   |
| Personal Retirement Savings Accounts  | 73.8  | 53,900    | 77.0    | 56,200    |
| <i>Interest paid:</i>   |   |           |         |           |
| Loans relating to Principal Private Residence   | 704.6   | 778,100   | 486.3   | 782,700   |
| Other ( <sup>7</sup> )  | 48.5  | 5,400     | 26.5    | 5,000     |
| Rent Paid in Private Tenancies  | 96.5  | 222,100   | 85.9    | 196,900   |
| Expenses Allowable to Employees under<br>Schedule E   | 75.2  | 835,900   | 73.7    | 744,300   |
| Third Level Education Fees  | 19.9  | 36,000    | 20.6    | 34,700    |
| Exemption of Certain Earnings of Writers,<br>Composers and Artists  | 21.8  | 2,630     | 22.1    | 2,590     |
| Dispositions (Including Maintenance<br>Payments made to Separated Spouses)  | 22.33   | 7,820     | 19.5    | 6,840     |
| Exemption of Interest on Savings<br>Certificates, National Installment Savings<br>and Index Linked Savings Bonds                  | 88.1  | N/A       | 138.2   | N/A       |
| Rent a Room   | 5.6   | 3,600     | 5.6     | 3,770     |
| Exemption of Income of Charities, Colleges,<br>Hospitals, Schools, Friendly Societies, etc.<br>( <sup>8</sup> ) ( <sup>10</sup> ) | 35.8  | N/A       | 40.7    | N/A       |

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

| Tax Relief Provision<br>Income Tax   | ( <sup>1</sup> ) Estimated<br>cost for 2008<br>€m | Numbers | 2009 €m  | Numbers |
|--|---|---------|----------|---------|
| Retirement Relief for certain Sports<br>Persons. <sup>(9)</sup>  | 0.2   | 17      | 0.2      | 15      |
| Exemption of Irish Government Securities<br>where owner not ordinarily resident in<br>Ireland <sup>(10)</sup> *                    | 320.8   | N/A     | 486.7    | N/A     |
| Exemption of Statutory Redundancy<br>Payments <sup>(11)</sup> *  | 85.4  | 29,800  | 147.8    | 77,000  |
| Service Charges  | 27.1  | 455,200 | 26.8     | 452,600 |
| Top Slicing Relief — Reduced Tax Rate for<br>Payments in Excess of Exemption<br>Amounts Made as Compensation for Loss<br>of Office | 44.7  | 3,790   | 47.8     | 6,110   |
| Revenue Job Assist allowance   | 0.2   | 330     | 0.3      | 390     |
| Allowance for seafarers  | 0.3   | 160     | 0.2      | 150     |
| Trade Union Subscriptions  | 26.4  | 341,900 | 26.7     | 345,800 |
| Exemption From Tax of Certain Social<br>Welfare Payments:  |   |         |          |         |
| Child benefit*   | 435.3   | 401,200 | 390.7    | 372,900 |
| Early childcare Supplement*  | 98.3  | 195,200 | 47.5     | 154,300 |
| Maternity allowance *  | 18.2  | 23,420  | 19       | 23,300  |
| Foster Care Payments   | 28.09   | 3,470   | 28.4     | 3,360   |
| Exemption of Income arising from the<br>Provision of Childcare Services  | 0.8   | 440     | 0.8      | 470     |
| Approved Profit Sharing Schemes*   | 99  | 111,190 | 37.6     | 62,900  |
| Savings-Related Share Option Schemes*  | 1.3   | 2,800   | 0.8      | 1,800   |
| Approved Share Option Schemes*   | 0.1   | 280     | 0.5      | 370     |
| Relief for New Shares Purchased by<br>Employees  | 0.3   | 280     | 0.3      | 250     |
| Investment in Corporate Trades (BES)   | 55.7  | 3,200   | 25.6     | 1,640   |
| Investment in Seed Capital   | 1.7   | 56      | 2.9      | 77      |
| Stock Relief*  | 2.0   | N/A     | 2.0      | N/A     |
| Exempt Rental Income from Leasing of<br>Farm Land  | N/A   | N/A     | 4.4      | 2,960   |
| Relief for expenditure on significant<br>buildings and gardens   | 5.9   | 290     | 4.6      | 150     |
| Donation of Heritage items   | 4.7   | 5       | 0.7      | 2       |
| Donation of Heritage property to the Irish<br>Heritage Trust.  | 3.6   | 4       | 0        | 0       |
| <i>Income Tax and/or Corporation Tax <sup>(12)</sup></i>   |   |         |          |         |
| Donations to Approved Bodies   | 52.4  | 131,100 | 54.1     | 155,100 |
| Donations to Sports Bodies. <sup>(9)</sup>   | 0.3   | 850     | 0.7      | 2100    |
| Employee Share Ownership Trusts*   | 8.4   | 29,200  | 1.3      | 16,400  |
| Total Capital Allowances: <sup>(13)</sup>  | 2,176.6   | 270,200 | 2,281.60 | 298,800 |
| of which Energy Efficient Capital<br>Allowances  | N/A   | N/A     | 1.60     | 93      |
| Rented Residential Relief — Section 23 <sup>(14)</sup> *   | 74.7  | 2,429   | 46.9     | 1,620   |
| Effective Rate of 10% for Manufacturing<br>and Certain Other Activities <sup>(15)</sup>  | 160.9   | 1,046   | 340.6    | 1,370   |

| Tax Relief Provision<br>Income Tax                    | ( <sup>1</sup> ) Estimated<br>cost for 2008<br>€m | Numbers | 2009 €m | Numbers |
|---|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Double Taxation Relief                                | 596.5   | 18,000  | 589.1   | 18,900  |
| Investment in Films*                                  | 32.8  | 3200    | 42      | 2,553   |
| Group Relief  | 450.3   | 2430    | 390.5   | 2,507   |
| Research and Development Tax Credit ( <sup>16</sup> ) | 146   | 582     | 216.1   | 900     |

*c) Notes on Table IT 6*

(<sup>1</sup>) Figures accompanied by an asterisk \* are particularly tentative and subject to a considerable margin of error.

(<sup>2</sup>) The cost figures for the exemption limits are based on the excess of the exemption limits over the basic personal tax credits. They include the cost of marginal relief for taxpayers whose incomes are not greatly in excess of the exemption limits.

(<sup>3</sup>) The figures shown for the basic personal tax credits (married, single and widowed) are the costs of these tax credits as if all other tax credits and the exemption limits did not apply. They do not include individuals who are not on Revenue records because their incomes are below the income tax thresholds.

(<sup>4</sup>) Arising from the change over to Tax Relief at Source the figures relate to the number of policies issued. These include policies where subscriptions were paid by businesses on behalf of their employees.

(<sup>5</sup>) Part of the cost of contributions to Permanent Health Benefit Schemes is not identifiable as a result of the move to a “net pay” basis for contributions by PAYE taxpayers from 6 April 2001.

(<sup>6</sup>) See the following note on “Green Paper on Pensions” for background commentary on the basis of the cost figures .

(<sup>7</sup>) “Other” relates to borrowings for purposes such as acquiring an interest in a company or partnership .

(<sup>8</sup>) The income on which the cost of exemption from income tax for charities, colleges, hospitals, schools, friendly societies, etc. is based includes dividend income on which income tax deducted at source has been repaid, other investment income, payments received under covenant, donations by the PAYE sector to approved bodies together with the associated tax relief and donations by the self-employed and corporate sectors to approved bodies and approved sports bodies. Information is not available about other income received gross.

(<sup>9</sup>) The cost figures for relief for certain Sports Persons are based on income tax self assessment returns and for donations to Approved Sports Bodies are based on income tax and corporation tax self assessment returns.

(<sup>10</sup>) In the absence of other information, tax has been assumed at the standard rate of income tax even though a different rate might be more appropriate.

(<sup>11</sup>) The costs and numbers for the Exemption of Statutory Redundancy Payments are based on external data. From 2009 the “numbers” indicate the numbers of claims received in the year and not the numbers of claims approved.

(<sup>12</sup>) The costs included for corporation tax are by reference to accounting periods which ended in the years 2008 and 2009.

(<sup>13</sup>) The cost shown for capital allowances does not include any cost associated with “unused capital allowances”, that is, capital allowances which are not absorbed by a company in the accounting period in which they arise because they exceed the amount of the company’s profits of that accounting period which are available for offset. Unused capital allowances can be offset as losses against taxable profits arising in the previous accounting period and against certain profits arising in future accounting periods and can be offset against the profits of another company in the same group of companies. It is estimated that €3587 million and €5373 million of unused capital allowances were claimed in respect of 2008 and 2009 accounting periods respectively but as the proportion of this item which is included in previous years losses and in group relief is not separately identifiable a reliable estimate of the cost of the capital allowance element cannot be provided.

(<sup>14</sup>) The tax cost shown for section 23 type relief is the estimated ultimate tax cost relating to the total allowable expenditure in respect of claims made in 2008 and 2009 tax returns for the first time. The cost shown is for income tax cases only.

(<sup>15</sup>) the cost shown for manufacturing relief for 2008 is compiled using the basic data available but for technical reasons associated with a system redesign it is understood to be understated by at least €100m.

(<sup>16</sup>) The costs shown for R&D is for claims for R&D on corporation tax returns for accounting periods ending in 2008 and 2009. However, the cost for 2009 includes the amount of credit allowed against 2009 tax together with the amount offset against tax of previous accounting periods and as payable credits.

*d) Note on Green Paper on Pensions — Review of estimates of cost*

As part of the work on the Green Paper on Pensions, a review was carried out of the current regime of incentives for supplementary pension provision with a view to developing more comprehensive and reliable estimates of the cost of reliefs in this area. The review examined, among other things, the current reliefs and incentives for investment in supplementary pensions and the data available on which to base reliable estimates of the costs in revenue foregone to the Exchequer.

The review drew on newly available 2006 aggregate data on contributions to pension schemes by employers and employees arising from a P35 initiative introduced on foot of provisions that

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

were included in Finance Act 2004 with a view to improving data quality. Estimates of the cost of tax for private pension provision updated for 2008 and 2009 are included in table IT6.

The breakdown and make-up of these estimated costs of reliefs differ from presentations of costs in this area for years PRIOR TO 2005 in a number of respects and are not directly comparable. Further details on the cost of tax and other reliefs and the changes in the methodology are contained in pages 106 and 107 of the Green Paper on Pensions which is available at [www.pensionsgreenpaper.ie](http://www.pensionsgreenpaper.ie).

*e) Estimate of cost of certain property-based tax incentives and incomes exempt from tax for 2008 and 2009*

Certain property-based tax incentives and incomes exempt from tax — uptake and estimated potential cost to the Exchequer in terms of income tax and corporation tax forgone based on 2008 and 2009 tax returns

Provisions were included in the Finance Acts of 2003 and 2004 to enable new statistical data on the uptake of tax relief for certain property-based tax incentives and incomes exempt from tax to be obtained from tax returns. This information, derived from changes introduced by the Revenue Commissioners to income tax returns and corporation tax returns for 2008 and 2009, is set out in the following tables.

The figures shown include the amounts claimed in the year but exclude amounts carried forward into the year either as losses or capital allowances, and include any amounts of unused losses and/or capital allowances which will be carried forward to subsequent years.

| Tax Incentive/Income Exemption 2008            | Amount Claimed | Assumed maximum tax cost €m | Number of claimants |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|  | €m             | €m                          |                     |
| Urban renewal                                  | 230.8          | 87.0                        | 3,367               |
| Town Renewal                                   | 61.6           | 24.2                        | 998                 |
| Seaside Resorts                                | 16.1           | 6.4                         | 1,091               |
| Rural Renewal                                  | 88.4           | 35.7                        | 2,803               |
| Multi-storey car parks                         | 16.8           | 6.6                         | 134                 |
| Living Over the shop                           | 6.4            | 2.6                         | 81                  |
| Enterprise Areas                               | 6.3            | 2.5                         | 138                 |
| Park and Ride                                  | 1.8            | 0.7                         | 21                  |
| Holiday Cottages                               | 36.9           | 14.8                        | 844                 |
| Hotels   | 305.5          | 116.4                       | 1,996               |
| Nursing Homes                                  | 48.4           | 19.8                        | 734                 |
| Housing for the Elderly/infirm                 | 7.4            | 3.0                         | 179                 |
| Hostels  | 1.68           | 0.69                        | 22                  |
| Guest Houses                                   | 0.29           | 0.12                        | 10                  |
| Convalescent Homes                             | 1.4            | 0.5                         | 32                  |
| Qualifying Private Hospitals                   | 30.2           | 12.3                        | 342                 |
| Qualifying sports injury clinics               | 4.1            | 1.7                         | 60                  |
| Buildings Used for certain child care purposes | 30.3           | 12.2                        | 519                 |
| Qualifying Mental Health Centres               | 0.1            | 0.0                         | 3                   |
| Student Accommodation                          | 60.0           | 23.5                        | 814                 |
| Caravan Camps                                  | 1.5            | 0.6                         | 10                  |
| Mid-Shannon Corridor Tourism Infrastructure    | 1.8            | 0.7                         | 12                  |

| Tax Incentive/Income Exemption 2008           | Amount Claimed | Assumed maximum tax cost €m | Number of claimants |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|   | €m             | €m                          |                     |
| Exemption of profits or gains from Greyhounds | 0.0            | 0.0                         | 10                  |
| Exemption of profits or gains from Stallions  | 92.3           | 15.1                        | 192                 |
| Exemption of profits or gains from Woodlands  | 51.0           | 13.6                        | 2,492               |
| Exempt Patents (Section 234, TCA 1997)        | 198.3          | 51.7                        | 1,209               |
| Totals  | 1,299.2        | 452.6                       | 18,111              |

| Tax Incentive/Income Exemption 2009            | Amount Claimed | Assumed maximum tax cost €m | Number of claimants |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|  | €m             | €m                          |                     |
| Urban renewal                                  | 233.8          | 93.1                        | 3410                |
| Town Renewal                                   | 45.4           | 18.3                        | 1,001               |
| Seaside Resorts                                | 13.3           | 5.3                         | 875                 |
| Rural Renewal                                  | 70.0           | 28.0                        | 2,653               |
| Multi-storey car parks                         | 13.2           | 5.2                         | 130                 |
| Living Over the shop                           | 4.1            | 1.7                         | 66                  |
| Enterprise Areas                               | 5.4            | 2.1                         | 118                 |
| Park and Ride                                  | 2.0            | 0.8                         | 20                  |
| Holiday Cottages                               | 34.7           | 13.9                        | 786                 |
| Hotels   | 263.2          | 102.1                       | 1,906               |
| Nursing Homes                                  | 54.4           | 21.6                        | 750                 |
| Housing for the Elderly/infirm                 | 6.8            | 2.8                         | 145                 |
| Hostels  | 0.73           | 0.3                         | 14                  |
| Guest Houses                                   | 0.24           | 0.1                         | 8                   |
| Convalescent Homes                             | 1.3            | 0.5                         | 28                  |
| Qualifying Private Hospitals                   | 30.5           | 12.5                        | 346                 |
| Qualifying sports injury clinics               | 3.6            | 1.5                         | 67                  |
| Buildings Used for certain child care purposes | 30.8           | 12.5                        | 527                 |
| Qualifying Mental Health Centres               | 0.1            | 0.0                         | 1                   |
| Student Accommodation                          | 48.3           | 19.1                        | 751                 |
| Caravan Camps                                  | 0.6            | 0.2                         | 2                   |
| Mid Shannon Corridor Tourism Infrastructure    | 0.6            | 0.2                         | 2                   |
| Exemption of profits or gains from Greyhounds  | 0.0            | 0.0                         | 5                   |
| Exemption of profits or gains from Stallions   | 2.0            | 0.4                         | 32                  |
| Exemption of profits or gains from Woodlands   | 48.2           | 14.4                        | 3,570               |
| Exempt Patents (section 234, TCA 1997)         | 260.7          | 71.7                        | 1,268               |
| Other Totals                                   | 52.61,226.6    | 19.5447.8                   | 63519,116           |

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

These figures do not take account of the application of the restriction of reliefs originally provided for in section 17 of Finance Act 2006 and which took effect from 1 January 2007. The restriction was extended by Section 23 Finance Act 2010.

As the Deputy will be aware, virtually all of the area-based and property tax incentive schemes have ended and this year's Finance Act provided for a cap on property-based Accelerated Schemes (in line with the tax life of the particular scheme) to be introduced from 1 January 2015.

*Notes:*

- The figures shown relate to the various reliefs/incentives and exemptions as specified in the 2008 and 2009 form 11 and CT1.
- There were concerns that in some instances the new, separately categorised data on property incentives may not have been correctly entered on the Tax returns. Revenue drew the attention of the relevant tax practitioner bodies to these deficiencies to rectify them in future returns and also increased awareness among its own staff involved in processing tax returns of the need to ensure, through closer examination of the returns, that they are correctly completed.
- The estimated costs have assumed tax foregone at the 41% rate in the case of income tax and 12.5% in the case of corporation tax. This means the figures shown correspond to the maximum Exchequer cost in terms of income tax and corporation tax. However, the actual Exchequer cost could be lower, particularly in relation to the exempt income items, as the income could be subject to deductions for allowable expenses and other costs thereby reducing the level of income that would be actually subject to tax.
- Some of the costs shown above are included in the costs shown for capital allowances and section 23 relief in Table IT6. However, exempt income included above is not part of capital allowances.

*f) Note on reliefs in respect of which costs are not currently quantifiable or are negligible or are not identifiable within total aggregates.*

*Examples of this type of relief would include:*

Relief from averaging of farm profits;

Exemption for income arising from payments in respect of personal injuries;

Exemption of certain payments made by Haemophilia HIV Trust;

Exemption of lump sum retirement payments;

Relief for allowable motor expenses;

Tapering relief allowable for taxation of car benefits in kind;

Reduced tax rate for authorised unit trust schemes;

Reduced tax rate for special investment schemes;

Exemption of certain grants made by Údarás na Gaeltachta;

Relief for investment income reserved for policy holders in life assurance companies;

Relief for various business related expenses such as staff recruitment, rent, legal fees, and other general expenses;

Exemption in certain circumstances on the interest on quoted bearer Eurobonds;

Exemption of payments made as compensation for loss of office;

Exemption of scholarship income

Exemption for income received under Sceim na bhFoghlaimoiri Gaeilge.

### Tax Code

89. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide a break down the €1 billion contribution to the Exchequer provided by the Irelands International Financial Services Centre into corporation tax and payroll taxes, and to break down the payroll tax figures by tax band. [34619/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The €1 billion figure is an estimate based on a corporation tax figure provided by the Revenue Commissioners added to an estimate of payroll taxes which was derived from employment and average salary figures contained in a report which was published by Financial Services Ireland (FSI) in September 2010 — *The IFSC — the international financial services sector in Ireland*. The report estimates that total direct employment in the sector is 32,700 people and that the average salary across the sector is €60,100 per employee. In relation to corporation tax, I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the estimated corporation tax paid in 2011 by companies previously licensed to operate in the International Financial Services Centre is of the order of €466 million. With the change in the corporation tax rate from 10% to the standard rate now applying to international financial services activities, it is generally speaking no longer possible to distinguish between corporation tax paid solely on IFSC activities and on other income. An exception is made in the case of the main associated banks where an estimate of the tax paid by them on their IFSC activities is derived from indicative data available. This estimate is incorporated in the €466 million figure provided above.

The €466 million figure relates only to those companies that were once licensed under the preferential IFSC tax regime which expired in 2005. I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that it is not possible to identify international financial services companies that have been established since the end of that regime and so the corporation tax paid by such companies is not included in the €466 million figure.

I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the detailed data in relation to payroll taxes requested by the Deputy is not readily available and either could not be identified or could not be identified without conducting an extensive investigation of the Revenue Commissioners' records.

In the absence of this data, my Department produced an estimate of payroll taxes based on an average salary figure of €60,100 and total employment figure of 32,700 contained in the FSI report.

The average contribution to the Exchequer per employee (PAYE, USC, Employee PRSI and Employer PRSI) was calculated using the €60,100 average salary figure as an estimate for 2011 for the main categories of income-earners — single, married one-earner and married two-earners.

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

These estimates were then multiplied by the total number of employees in the sector to give an estimated yield of circa €700 million. It should be noted that these figures do not take account of pension contributions.

When the corporation tax figures and the payroll tax estimates are combined, it shows that the sector contributed in excess of €1 billion to the Exchequer in 2011.

### **Financial Services Sector Remuneration**

90. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide a break down of the wages paid to employees in companies in Irelands International Financial Services Centre by income band, €0 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; €100,001 to €125,000; €125,001 to €150,000; €150,001 to €175,000; €175,001 to €200,000; and more than €200,000. [34620/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the information requested by the Deputy is not readily available and either could not be identified or could not be identified without conducting an extensive investigation of the Revenue Commissioners' records. Even if the information in question was available, the Commissioners' would be concerned that that their obligation to observe confidentiality for taxpayers and small groups of taxpayers might preclude them from providing it.

### **Financial Services Regulation**

91. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide some details on where the figure of 33,000 persons employed in Irelands International Financial Services Centre comes from; the way it is compiled and by whom; and the number of persons directly employed by companies within the IFSC. [34621/12]

92. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide a break down the figure of 33,000 persons employed in Irelands International Financial Services Centre by division, that is the number employed in banking, insurance, legal services and accountancy services and so on. [34622/12]

93. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide a break down of the figure of 33,000 persons employed in Irelands International Financial Services Centre by nationality of company. [34623/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 91 to 93, inclusive, together.

Neither my Department nor the Central Bank compiles detailed information in relation to employment in the international financial services sector in Ireland.

The figure to which the Deputy refers was sourced from a report compiled by the Finance Dublin Yearbook which provides a breakdown of international financial services related employment. Details are reproduced in a report compiled by Accenture and Financial Service Ireland (FSI) entitled "The IFSC: the international financial services sector in Ireland" published in September 2010 and which is available on the IBEC website. I understand that the details the Deputy is seeking is available from those sources.

### Tax Collection

94. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide a break down of corporation tax receipts by NACE code. [34624/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the relevant information for 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 is available from the Revenue Statistical Reports which are accessible on the Revenue website at *www.Revenue.ie*. The information is located in Table TR6, under the main chapter heading of Total Revenue. That table provides a percentage breakdown of the net receipt of PAYE, VAT, Income Tax, Corporation Tax and Capital Gains Tax by trade sector. The corresponding figures for 2011 will be included as soon as possible in the Statistical Report for 2011.

95. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide a breakdown of corporation tax receipts from Irelands International Financial Services Centre companies by NACE code. [34625/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that with the change in the corporation tax rate from 10% to the standard rate now applying to IFSC activities it is no longer possible to distinguish on tax records between corporation tax paid solely on IFSC activities and on other income. Arising from this a detailed record specifically identifying companies engaged in IFSC activities is not maintained and accordingly there is no statistical basis on which a precise reply can be provided to the Deputy's question. However, on the basis of more limited indications, it appears that the bulk of corporation tax receipts from IFSC activities are paid by companies who are engaged in financial, insurance and analogous activities.

### Banks Recapitalisation

96. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Finance the details of total cost of the banking collapse in Ireland provided by the Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland to a conference (details supplied) which included costs to foreign banks operating here, costs to shareholders and liability management exercises undertaken by the banks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34630/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I believe the Deputy is referring to a speech delivered by the Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland at the Institute for International and European Affairs (IIEA) on 29 June 2012 entitled — “More Europe” in the Financial Arena: Good for Ireland? The Central Bank has supplied me with the following breakdown of the allocation of banking losses/cost of capital injections that I understand the Governor referred to at the conference:

| Allocation of Losses/ Costs of Capital Injections 2009-2011* | €billion |
|--|----------|
| Liability Management Exercises                               | 14       |
| Write-down of Shareholders Funds in ELG Banks                | 29       |
| Write-down of Shareholders Funds in Foreign Banks            | 28       |
| Government Measures  | 64       |
|  | 125      |

\*Internal Central Bank Estimates as at 1 June 2012.

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

For further details on the cost of banking recapitalisation to the State, please see the table below:

| €bn   | AIB/EBS     | BoI        | IL&P       | IBRC<br>(Anglo/INBS) | Total       |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Government preference Shares (2009) — NPRF  | 3.5         | 3.5*       | —          | —                    | 7.0         |
| Capital contributions (with Promissory Notes as consideration)/Special Investment Shares (2010) — Exchequer** | 0.9         | —          | —          | 30.7                 | 31.6        |
| Ordinary Share Capital (2009) — Exchequer   | —           | —          | —          | 4.0                  | 4.0         |
| Ordinary Share Capital (2010) — NPRF  | 3.7         | —          | —          | —                    | 3.7         |
| <b>Total pre-PCAR 2011 (A)</b>  | <b>8.1</b>  | <b>3.5</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>34.7</b>          | <b>46.3</b> |
| <i>PCAR 2011:</i>   |             |            |            |                      |             |
| Capital from Exchequer***   | 3.9         | —          | 4.0        | —                    | 7.8         |
| NPRF Capital  | 8.8         | 1.2        | —          | —                    | 10.0        |
| <b>Total PCAR (B)</b>   | <b>12.7</b> | <b>1.2</b> | <b>4.0</b> | <b>—</b>             | <b>17.8</b> |
| <b>Total Cost of Recap for State (A) + (B)</b>  | <b>20.7</b> | <b>4.7</b> | <b>4.0</b> | <b>34.7</b>          | <b>64.1</b> |

\*€1.7bn of BoI's government preference shares were converted to equity in May/June 2010 (€1.8bn still left in existence). The government also received €0.5bn from the warrants relating to BoI's preference shares (excluded from table above).

\*\*The IBRC amount is made up of a total capital contribution for Anglo / INBS of €30.6bn and a special investment share of €0.1bn (INBS). The Anglo / INBS capital contribution impacted in full on the GGB in 2010. The consideration for the Anglo / INBS capital contribution was €30.6bn of promissory notes. These Promissory Notes are an amount due from the State to IBRC. Each year, on 31 March, €3.06bn is paid by the Exchequer to Anglo / INBS as part of the scheduled repayments of the promissory notes. The first such repayment was made on 31 March 2010.

\*\*\*The Exchequer cost of the 2011 BoI recap is shown net of share sale to private investors (Completed in October, 2011).

\*\*\*\*€1.3bn of the €4bn used to recapitalise IL&P was invested through the acquisition by the Minister of Irish Life from IL&P. It is expected that the proceeds of an onward sale of Irish Life in due course will reduce the amount the State has committed to the bank recapitalisation.

This recapitalisation table split year by year is:

| Year | Anglo | INBS | AIB  | EBS | BOI | IL&P | Total |
|------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 2008 |       |      |      |     |     |      |       |
| 2009 | 4.0   | 0    | 3.5  | 0   | 3.5 | 0    | 11.0  |
| 2010 | 25.3  | 5.4  | 3.7  | 0.9 | 0   | 0    | 35.3  |
| 2011 | 0     | 0    | 12.7 | 0   | 1.2 | 2.7  | 16.5  |
| 2012 | 0     | 0    | 0    | 0   | 0   | 1.3  | 1.3   |
|      | 29.3  | 5.4  | 19.9 | 0.9 | 4.7 | 4.0  | 64.1  |

### Tax Collection

97. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the amount of income tax paid by persons in 2010 and 2011 who are not domiciled for tax purposes in the State but were resident

for tax purposes in the following ranges, €0 to €25,000, €25,001 to €50,000, €50,001 to €75,000, €75,001 to €100,000, €100,001 to €250,000, €250,001 to €500,000, €500,001 to €1,000,000 and more than €1,000,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34648/12]

98. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the amount of income tax paid by persons in 2010 and 2011 by persons who are domiciled for tax purposes in the State but not resident in the State in the following ranges: €0 to €25,000, €25,001 to €50,000, €50,001 to €75,000, €75,001 to €100,000, €100,001 to €250,000, €250,001 to €500,000, €500,001 to €1,000,000 and over €1,000,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34649/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 97 and 98 together.

I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that, on the basis of the entries to the Form 11 Return of Income for 2010 by persons who indicated that they were resident, but non-domiciled, the following amounts of income tax liability arose:

| Tax range €          | Total tax liability within range € |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 0 to 25,000          | 11,733,327                         |
| 25,001 to 50,000     | 11,755,425                         |
| 50,001 to 75,000     | 8,542,473                          |
| 75,001 to 100,000    | 9,609,279                          |
| 100,001 to 250,000   | 20,297,202                         |
| 250,001 to 500,000   | 9,469,175                          |
| 500,001 to 1,000,000 | 5,997,576                          |
| Over 1,000,000       | 0                                  |

The filing date for the 2011 Return of Income is 31 October 2012 therefore figures in relation to tax paid by resident, non-domiciled persons, for 2011 are not yet available.

I am further informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the only data available in relation to the taxable income of non-residents comes from income tax returns filed in Ireland by those non-resident individuals who have Irish source income or income derived from working in Ireland. The available data does not distinguish between non-resident persons who are domiciled and non-domiciled.

### Tax Reliefs

99. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Finance the value of the revenue forgone to the State as a result of the tax relief on income protection insurance premiums each year for the past five years. [34650/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The position is that income tax relief for contributions paid to permanent health benefit schemes is allowable in accordance with section 471 of the Taxes Consolidated Act 1997. This section provides relief for premiums paid to a permanent health benefit scheme approved by the Revenue Commissioners, which provides for periodic payments to an individual in the event of loss or diminution of income due to ill health. The relief is confined to an amount not exceeding 10% of the individual's total income for any tax year. Information on the cost to the Exchequer and the numbers of claimants availing of the relief in respect of the permanent health benefit schemes is available for the income tax years 2005 to 2009 inclusive, the most recent year for which final data is available. The relevant figures are shown in the following table:

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

| Year Ended 31st December as specified | Estimated Cost of Tax Relief €m |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 31/12/2005                            | 3.2                             |
| 31/12/2006                            | 3.1                             |
| 31/12/2007                            | 3.6                             |
| 31/12/2008                            | 4.0                             |
| 31/12/2009                            | 3.9                             |

Part of the cost of contributions to permanent health benefit schemes is not identifiable as a result of the move to a “net pay” basis for contributions by PAYE taxpayers from 6 April, 2001.

100. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Finance the value of the revenue forgone to the State as a result of the tax relief on contributions to private pensions each year for the past five years. [34651/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The following table provides a breakdown of the estimated cost of tax and PRSI reliefs relating to private pension contributions for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, the latest year for which the most up-to-date data is available together with estimates of the notional or imputed cost of the tax exemption for the investment income and gains of approved superannuation funds. Corresponding estimates of the cost of tax reliefs are also provided for 2005 to the extent that it has been possible to provide them on a consistent and comparable basis. Figures have been rounded where appropriate. I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that while corresponding updates of the cost figures are not yet available for the tax year 2010 the necessary work of assembling the basic data to enable this to be done is ongoing. No data is available for 2011.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that the information imparted by the costing of tax and other reliefs in the pensions area is inherently limited. It may suggest a significant notional loss in terms of tax foregone as compared with the savings that might be expected if the tax relief was not available. However, where tax relief arrangements are of such significance, as in this instance, the removal of the reliefs would represent a fundamental adjustment to the current balance of the tax system and would have very significant implications in terms, among other things, of the economic and behavioural impacts which would ensue. These impacts would be difficult to model in advance. For these reasons, the real informational content of the costings of tax reliefs is limited and should be treated with some caution.

|   | 2005 €m       | 2006 €m | 2007 €m | 2008 €m | 2009 €m |
|---|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Employees' Contributions to approved Superannuation Schemes               | 423           | 540     | 590     | 655     | 730     |
| Employers' Contributions to approved Superannuation Schemes               | 90            | 120     | 150     | 165     | 155     |
| Estimated cost of exemption of employers' contributions from employee BIK | 370           | 510     | 540     | 595     | 560     |
| Retirement Annuity Contracts (RACs)                                       | 358           | 435     | 408     | 353     | 237     |
| Personal Retirement Savings Accounts (PRSAs)                              | 42            | 55      | 61      | 74      | 77      |
| Estimated cost of PRSI and Health Levy relief on employee contributions   | Not available | 220     | 240     | 255     | 230     |

|   | 2005 €m | 2006 €m | 2007 €m | 2008 €m | 2009 €m |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Exemption of investment income and gains of approved Superannuation Funds | 1,050   | 1,200   | 900     | 685     | 780     |

### Tax Credits

101. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide full details regarding the foreign earnings deduction introduced in the Finance Bill 2012; if the cost of air travel will be included in this deduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34656/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The Foreign Earnings Deduction is a deduction from income for income tax purposes for employees who travel abroad to certain countries as part of the duties of their employment. A deduction from salary of up to a maximum of €35,000 will be granted for employees travelling to the so-called BRICS countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as part of the duties of their employment. The individual claiming the deduction must be absent from the State for a minimum of 60 days in a period of 12 months beginning or ending in a relevant tax year. These days can be accumulated from a number of trips. However, in order to qualify each trip must have a minimum duration of four days.

The deduction has been introduced for three years and is scheduled to expire at the end of the 2014 tax year, at which point it will be reviewed.

It is likely that the cost of air travel for relevant journeys would be borne by an employer and therefore it would not be appropriate to include such costs when calculating the amount of income that can be deducted by an individual under the scheme. However, employers may claim a deduction for such costs in the accounts of the business when determining the profits of that business for tax purposes.

I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that an information leaflet on the Foreign Earnings Deduction will be available on their website shortly.

### Tax Code

102. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the capability, if any, he has to levy tax on Irish tax exiles who officially live abroad. [34690/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The Programme for Government indicates that, as part of its fiscal policy, the Government will ensure that “tax exiles” make a fair contribution to the Exchequer. In Budget 2012, I abolished the “citizenship condition” for payment of the Domicile Levy to ensure that “tax exiles” could not avoid the levy by renouncing their citizenship. I also stated that I intend to keep the contentious issue of the tax treatment of “tax exiles” (which is linked to the tax residence rules) under constant review. In line with the position prevailing in many other jurisdictions, the capability to impose Irish taxation on an individual is linked to the residence status (i.e. resident or non-resident) for tax purposes of that individual. In general, an individual who is not resident here for tax purposes is taxable on his or her Irish source income and gains, on income attributable to duties of an employment exercised here, and on gifts and inheritances of Irish situated property.

The Programme for Government update in March 2012 confirms the commitment to undertake a consultation process on residence issues in 2012 to inform preparation for further changes in 2013. Earlier this year, I launched a public consultation on tax residence rules

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

wherein I invited interested parties to make submissions on possible revisions to the current residence rules for the taxation of individuals. I welcome views on:

- whether or not, and how, the current day counting rules should be amended;
- whether or not, and how, the day counting rules should be supplemented with other rules;
- the appropriateness of citizenship as a basis for taxation;
- whether or not, and how, the conditions for and/or the range of application of the Domicile Levy should be changed;
- whether or not the Domicile Levy should continue in place if the rules for determining residence were modified.

Any proposals should have due regard to:

- the need to ensure that Exchequer tax yields are not undermined;
- the continued promotion of Ireland as a location for inward investment;
- their ease of administration;
- their implications for arrangements in place under double taxation agreements with other jurisdictions.

Submissions should be made, at the latest, by 1 August 2012 and may be e-mailed to *residence-consultation@finance.gov.ie* or posted to:

Residence Consultation  
Capital and Savings Taxation Policy Unit  
Fiscal Division  
Department of Finance  
Government Buildings  
Upper Merrion Street  
Dublin 2

### **Tax Credits**

103. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the capacity, if any, he has to reduce tax credits for persons and couples who earn more than €100,000 per annum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34691/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The Programme for Government states that as part of the Government's fiscal strategy we will maintain the current rates of income tax together with bands and credits.

### **Financial Services Regulation**

104. **Deputy Martin Heydon** asked the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking to try and ensure that the recent reduction in ECB lending rates is passed on to Irish consumers by

the Irish banks as was the intention of the ECB; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34706/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The lending institutions in Ireland are independent commercial entities. Ultimately the pricing of financial products, including standard variable mortgage interest rates, is a commercial decision for the management team and board of each lending institution, having due regard to their customers and the impact on profitability, particularly where the cost of funding to each lending institution, including deposit pricing, is under pressure. Neither the Central Bank nor I have any responsibility for the variable mortgage interest rate charged by the financial institutions. I have no powers to compel the institutions to reduce their rates.

### Revenue Documents

105. **Deputy John Deasy** asked the Minister for Finance the procedures in place to allow small businesses to submit their accounts to Revenue other than through the online system, ROS, which may not be suitable for older traders who do not have any computer experience and who prefer to make their own returns without the use of an accountant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34712/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that legislation now obliges taxpayers within certain categories to meet their tax filing and paying obligations in an electronic format using the Revenue On-Line Service, ROS.

ROS was introduced in 2001 and the legislation underpinning mandatory electronic filing was introduced in 2008 on a phased basis, commencing with large companies, and extending to Government Departments, Public Bodies, all other companies and certain self assessed individuals. This progressive approach to mandatory electronic filing was extended to all VAT registered businesses in June 2012.

The mandatory legislation does not oblige non-self assessed individuals, e.g. employees, to engage with Revenue electronically.

There are some small businesses (not companies) that are not obliged to file electronically. These businesses include all non VAT registered businesses (businesses with turnover less than €37,500 for the supply of services, and €75,000 for the supply of goods) and certain self assessed individuals.

The legislation allows Revenue to exclude a taxpayer from their obligation to pay and file electronically, if Revenue is satisfied that the taxpayer does not have the capacity to do so. “Capacity” means sufficient access to the Internet, and in the case of an individual, also means not prevented by reason of age, or mental or physical infirmity from e-filing or e-paying.

Taxpayers who wish to apply for exclusion can do so to their local Revenue office. Where exclusions are granted taxpayers can continue to meet their Revenue obligations in a non electronic format.

For those who do not qualify for exclusion under the Legislation, Revenue has offered, and will continue to offer assistance to all new ROS users. This assistance includes a one to one tutorial on how to use ROS, which will be delivered at the customer’s convenience. This approach ensures that all new ROS users become accustomed to and confident in using the service.

There are many advantages associated with using ROS the main being the tax calculation facility which instantly calculates the tax due providing the user with an accurate tax liability.

### Export Statistics

106. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Finance if he is concerned that exports through Dublin Port fell by 0.8% in the first five months of 2012 and overall trade is down by 1.7% through the port; his views on the impact of this decrease on economic recovery here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34807/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I note the Deputy's concerns regarding exports through Dublin Port, particularly given that exports have been the bedrock upon which Ireland's recovery has been based. However, I would point to the recently published Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) which provides hard data on exports. Exports were 6.1 per cent higher for the first quarter of 2012 than in the corresponding period in 2011. Exports also increased by 2.6 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter basis. These positive figures are testament to Ireland's improving competitiveness. It is important also to note the composition of Irish exports, with exports of services increasing steadily since 2009 and now representing nearly 50 per cent of all exports. This continued growth is reflected in the 11.9 per cent increase in services in Q1 2012 when compared with Q1 of 2011. However, given the nature of services, this will not be reflected in Dublin Port's figures. Encouragingly though, the QNA data also show an increase in the export of goods over the same period of 1.1 per cent.

These figures are consistent with my Department's forecast for export led growth in 2012.

### Bank Guarantee Scheme

107. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Finance if he will outline his key broad objectives during current negotiations on bank debt here and the promissory notes; if he can quantify any overall targets he may have for the reduction of Ireland's interest payments on the national debt for that portion related directly to the blanket bank guarantee and for a cut, elimination or deferment of promissory note payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34808/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** As the Deputy can appreciate, the welcome recent development from the Euro Area summit of 29th June, represents a major shift in European policy in terms of breaking the vicious circle between the banks and the sovereign. The Irish government and its officials have been working extremely hard to secure a deal on the Irish bank debt. This agreement provides an opportunity for the issue of the bank debt to be addressed at an EU level. As part of the 7th Review of the Irish Programme which successfully concluded last week, technical work commenced with the Troika and this work will intensify over the summer in advance of the September Eurogroup meeting. It has been agreed that when an effective single supervisory mechanism is established, involving the ECB, for banks in the euro area, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) could have the possibility to recapitalise banks directly. While the policy position is very positive indeed, it would not be possible at this stage of the process to attempt to quantify the benefits which will accrue to the Irish economy. The details of how to separate banking from sovereign debt must now be discussed in detail.

Nevertheless, preliminary discussions on how to separate Irish banking debt from sovereign debt are underway, with a view to concluding in October. However I do not want to prejudice those discussions at this time by commenting on the likely contents of any agreement. The amount of our banking debt which could be considered under this agreement will be identified during the detailed discussions but I would not want Ireland to be constrained by setting a target figure. As the details have yet to be worked out, it is too early to say what the precise implications will be.

I can assure the House that we will seek to be ambitious in our negotiation and will seek to agree the best deal possible for the Irish taxpayer. As and when further measures are agreed/solutions emerge I will inform the Houses as appropriate.

### **National Pensions Reserve Fund**

108. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Finance the plans he has to rebuild the national pension reserve fund in view of its original national policy purpose; if he has made a case for recovery of any part of the fund to the Euro States as part of his negotiations to extract Ireland from the effects of the bank disaster; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34809/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am informed by the National Treasury Management Agency, as Manager of the National Pensions Reserve Fund (NPRF), that the total value of the Fund at 31 March 2012 was €15.1 billion and that the value of the Discretionary Portfolio was €5.8 billion. In announcing the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) initiative in September 2011, the Government indicated a refocusing of the investments of the National Pensions Reserve Fund from global towards Ireland. Commercial investment will be channeled from the NPRF towards productive investment in sectors of strategic importance to the Irish economy.

A key principle of the Strategic Investment Fund is that the NPRF investment, which is to be solely on a commercial basis, will seek matching investment from third-party investors. In this way the Fund's assets can be used as a catalyst to attract additional capital for investment in the Irish economy. In addition, the Fund has been working closely with NewERA in respect of investment opportunities relating to the commercial semi-state sector.

The NPRF Commission announced in November 2011 a commitment of €250 million to a new Irish infrastructure investment fund which is seeking up to €1 billion from institutional investors in Ireland and overseas and which will invest in infrastructure assets in Ireland, including assets designated for disposal by the Government and commercial State enterprises and also new infrastructure projects.

The NPRF has also committed, subject to certain pre-conditions, €450 million to finance the national roll-out of domestic water meters.

### **Financial Services Regulation**

109. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance the levies paid by money lenders to the Financial Regulator in 2011; the expected revenues to be paid by money lenders to the Financial Regulator for 2012; the rates and method to calculate the rates charges on money lenders in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34874/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I have been informed by the Central Bank that a total of €341,801 was paid in levies by moneylenders to the Financial Regulator in 2011. It is expected that moneylenders will pay levies in the order of €300,000 in 2012. The Central Bank utilises a cost allocation model, developed by external consultants in 2004, to establish the cost of regulating each industry funding category. This model, which is reviewed and updated on an annual basis, allocates costs to industry categories on the basis of detailed estimates from individual supervision divisions of the expected deployment of available resources.

Based on this model, the total amount of levies payable by moneylenders is equivalent to 50 per cent of the budgeted cost of financial regulation of that sector.

### Ministerial Allowances

110. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35063/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I have no official responsibility to the Dail in relation to this matter. Members of the Oireachtas that are office holders in this Department receive their allowances as members of the House. Therefore, the allowances they receive are a matter for the House itself.

### Tax Yield

111. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance the amount of revenue raised by the State on a litre of petrol priced at 136c per litre and a litre of diesel priced at 143c per litre; and if he will provide a breakdown of the revenue raised by revenue type, that is VAT v excise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35075/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the Mineral Oil Tax and VAT content of a litre of Petrol and Diesel, based on the stated prices are as follows:

| Commodity | Price per Litre | Mineral Oil Tax Content | VAT Content | Total Tax Content |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 Litre   | (Cent)          | (Cent)                  | (Cent)      | (Cent)            |
| Petrol    | 136             | 58.771                  | 25.431      | 84.202            |
| Diesel    | 143             | 47.902                  | 26.740      | 74.642            |

The Mineral Oil Tax and VAT content of a litre of Petrol and Diesel, based on today's average prices are as follows:

| Commodity | Price per Litre | Mineral Oil Tax Content | VAT Content | Total Tax Content |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 Litre   | (Cent)          | (Cent)                  | (Cent)      | (Cent)            |
| Petrol    | 159.9           | 58.771                  | 29.900      | 88.671            |
| Diesel    | 149.9           | 47.902                  | 28.030      | 75.932            |

### Tax Credits

112. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Finance the rationale behind the incapacitated child tax credit; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Revenue Commissioner now requires medical evidence of a reasonable belief the child concerned will not be able to care for themselves after the age of 18 years; if his attention has been drawn to the difficulty families face in obtaining and providing this evidence as they seek to avail of therapies that will improve their child's quality of life and their prospects of living independently as adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35102/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** The position is that Section 465 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 provides for an annual tax credit of €3,300 for each qualifying child that a claimant proves is living with him during the year of assessment. For these purposes a qualifying child is—

(a) if under 18 years of age, permanently incapacitated by physical or mental infirmity, or

(b) if over 18 years of age either permanently incapacitated by physical or mental infirmity before reaching the age of 21, or was in full-time education when they became permanently incapacitated.

In the case of a child under the age of 18 years the credit is granted only if there is a reasonable expectation that, if the child were over the age of 18 years, he or she would be incapable of maintaining himself or herself.

The requirement that there be a reasonable expectation that the child concerned would not be able to care for himself or herself after the age of 18 years was introduced in Finance Act 1986.

In general, a permanent incapacity may be taken as a mental or physical infirmity of a permanent nature which significantly reduces the mental or physical capacity of the child, below that which would be enjoyed by a normal child, and which cannot be ameliorated by the use of any treatment, device, medication or therapy. In other words, the child's capacity to lead a reasonably normal life must be permanently impaired.

I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the type of disabilities which are regarded as being permanently incapacitating include Cystic Fibrosis, Spina Bifida, Blindness, severe and permanent deafness that affects both ears, Downs Syndrome, Spastic Paralysis, certain forms of Schizophrenia, and Acute Autism.

If the disability is not one of the above, or where it is not obvious that the child's incapacity is of a serious and permanent nature a doctor's certificate should be submitted with the initial claim.

113. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Finance the reason a person (details supplied) has been repeatedly refused the incapacitated child tax credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35103/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that a claim for the Incapacitated Child Tax Credit for years 2007 to 2010 was received from the person concerned. Section 465(2)(a) states that 'a child under the age of 18 years shall be regarded as permanently incapacitated by reason of mental or physical infirmity only if the infirmity is such that there would be a reasonable expectation that if the child were over the age of 18 years the child would be incapacitated from maintaining himself or herself'. The doctors' certificates that were provided by the person concerned, while stating that the condition is permanent does not give the certification required. Further clarification is required from the child's doctor in order for Revenue to consider granting the credit. The person concerned may wish to contact Revenue Officer, Joan O' Connell, Kildare Revenue District at 059 8643233, regarding this matter.

### House Sales

114. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance if he will explain the reason there have been delays in the provision of house transaction information by the Revenue

[Deputy Pearse Doherty.]

Commissioners to the Central Statistics Office (details supplied); and if he will advise when the Revenue Commissioners will start providing this monthly information to the CSO. [35118/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that they transmit an extensive range of data to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on a regular basis and have well-established, effective systems and liaison arrangements with the CSO for that purpose. The two organisations have been working closely together to secure the transfer of data relating to house transactions from the Revenue Commissioners' e-Stamping system. The Information Technology (IT) systems necessary for this are now built and are currently in advanced testing. Assuming test results are satisfactory, the Revenue Commissioners expect to be in a position to commence transmitting live e-Stamping data to the CSO within a matter of weeks.

### **National Asset Management Agency**

115. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance further to reporting in a Sunday newspaper of documents disclosed under the Freedom of Information legislation, if he will confirm if he or his Department passed on to the National Assets Management Agency, the representations reportedly made in May 2011 to the Government by Mr. Paddy McKillen; if he will confirm if these representations were available to NAMA; and if so, if they were material to the decision announced by NAMA in July 2011 to refrain from acquiring further loans connected to Mr. Paddy McKillen. [35120/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I can remind the Deputy that under the NAMA Act it is a matter for the Board of NAMA, taking account of legal advice available to it, to determine whether certain loans be acquired or not and the procedures to be adopted if it does decide to acquire. In the case identified by the Deputy, I am advised by NAMA that Mr. McKillen's views on the acquisition of his loans were well known to its Board in July 2011 when it decided not to acquire his loans and the loans of companies associated with him. In reaching its decision not to acquire the loans, the Board had regard to section 84 of the NAMA Act 2009. The Board was aware of the content of materials produced by Mr. McKillen and either published, placed before the Courts in his legal actions or submitted by him directly to NAMA or to other parties, including my office, and which were then forwarded to NAMA.

116. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance following the statement by the CEO of the National Assets Management Agency at the Committee of Public Accounts hearing on 5 July 2012, in which he stated that for 2011, the loan balances net of impairment id approximately €25.5 billion and the fair value of approximately €25 billion, if he will explain the reason NAMA's fair value, as a proportion of the carrying value, is considerably higher than the fair value of loans shown by Allied Irish Bank, Bank of Ireland and Irish Life and Permanent in their respective 2011 annual reports. [35125/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by NAMA that further information in respect of the fair value of financial statement assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2011 will be provided in NAMA's 2011 Annual Report which will be published later this month. The fair value of loans shown by Allied Irish Bank, Bank of Ireland and Irish Life and Permanent in their 2011 annual reports is a matter for the directors of each respective company. I may remind the Deputy that any fair value process will be subject to both qualitative and quantitative dimensions that can differ between organisations and for differing assets.

117. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Finance if he will confirm the projected spend by the National Assets Management Agency on its relationship management department for the full year 2012 and 2013; if he will confirm the existing and projected headcount for the department and the purpose and objectives of this department. [35126/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I can remind the Deputy that all NAMA staff are employed by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) and the costs are recharged to NAMA by the NTMA as a service provider. Staff-related costs of the total 2011 recharge from the NTMA will be provided in NAMA's Annual Report which will be published later this month. The staff related costs of the total recharge from the NTMA will be presented on an overall basis. The break out of this information any further into costs or manpower or the provision of separate information in relation to individual units (particularly smaller units) would lead to the identification of specific individuals, which is prohibited by restrictions placed on the release of personal information under the Data Protection Act.

The function of relationship management, which relates to the Agency's engagement with members of the Oireachtas and other key stakeholders, is carried out by the Strategy and Communications Division within NAMA. The Strategy and Communications Division is responsible for strategic analysis of the NAMA Portfolio and for developing strategies to maximise the return on NAMA's acquired bank assets. The Division also has responsibility for managing NAMA's communications activity, including the co-ordination of the Agency's engagement with State agencies, relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies, the media, and the general public.

#### **Tax Credits**

118. **Deputy Billy Timmins** asked the Minister for Finance the position regarding tax in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Wicklow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35149/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that a Tax Credit Certificate for 2012 issued to both the person concerned and his pension provider. The Revenue Commissioners will now provide copies to both parties. In this case the person concerned was in receipt of a DSP Transitory Pension for 2010 and 2011 and a contributory pension from 2011. Details of these pensions were not provided to Revenue and therefore these pensions were not taxed. The person concerned can contact Rita Lahiff from Wicklow Tax District at 01-6316512 if he wishes to further discuss his tax affairs.

#### **Credit Unions Regulation**

119. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Finance if he is satisfied that the process for form of nomination in respect of credit union account has sufficient safeguards to ensure that the best interests of the account holder are protected and they are not subject to undue influence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35161/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** Section 21 of the Credit Union Act 1997 provides that a member of a credit union who is of or over the age of sixteen may, by a signed written statement, nominate a person or persons to become entitled at the member's death to the whole, or such part or parts as may be specified in the nomination, of any property in the credit union (whether in savings, loans, insurances or otherwise) which the member may have at the time of his or her death. There are a number of safeguards in place to prevent abuse of this provision:

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

- The nominee cannot be an officer of the credit union unless that officer is a member the nominator's family.
- The amount that has been nominated is only valid up to a limit of €23,000.
- A nomination by a member may be revoked or varied by a subsequent nomination by him.
- Marriage of the nominator operates as a revocation of any nomination made by that person, as does the death of the nominee before the nominator.

The Commission on Credit Unions undertook a review of the Credit Union Act 1997 as part of its terms of reference; however, the Commission's Final Report made no recommendations for change in respect of Section 21.

### Pension Provisions

120. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Finance if it would be feasible to increase the drawdown of pensions from 25% to a larger sum or increase levels of flexibility in the drawdown system to avoid the current situation whereby an average adult of 64 years with a pension of €70,000 can only drawdown €19,000 on retirement and €2,000 per year thereafter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35232/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** Contributions to supplementary private pension savings are tax-relieved, within limits, at an individual's marginal rate of income tax while the accrued income and gains on those savings are exempt from taxation. These arrangements apply on the basis that the pension benefits when taken at retirement will be subject to tax. In an arrangement of long standing, an individual can, on retirement at normal retirement age (usually between 60 and 65), draw down a retirement lump sum up to a maximum of 25% of the value of his or her pension fund or 1.5 times final salary, depending on the type of pension scheme, the options available and the individual's particular circumstances. The retirement lump sum is tax-free up to an overall life-time tax-free limit of €200,000.

My understanding of the question is that the Deputy is requesting an increase in the amount of retirement benefits that may be taken as a retirement lump sum. I have no plans at this time to increase the levels of retirement benefits that may be taken in this fashion. On the issue of flexibility, provisions in Finance Act 1999 introduced a considerable degree of 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 Budget and Finance Act 2011. The changes made in 2011 have particular relevance for ordinary members of occupational Defined Contribution pension schemes, as up to the passing of Finance Act 2011, the only option available to such individuals in respect of their main scheme benefits had been the purchase of a retirement annuity after taking the retirement lump sum. Subject to meeting the conditions, these individuals now have the choices referred to above. 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.

### Mortgage Interest Relief

121. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Finance when the qualifying mortgage customers of Ulster Bank will benefit from the increase in mortgage interest relief in the Finance Act 2012; if he will confirm the number of customers affected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35251/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** This is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners who are responsible for the administration of mortgage interest relief through the tax relief at source (TRS) system. I am advised by Revenue, that they have had on-going contacts and discussions at a senior level with Ulster Bank towards expediting the necessary software changes by Ulster Bank to their TRS systems so that the 30% rate is applied for appropriate mortgage account holders. There are approximately 37,000 Ulster Bank accounts impacted by the change.

Revenue is currently awaiting clarification and confirmation from Ulster Bank on a number of issues regarding the scheduling and testing of the software changes, including, in the light of those clarifications and confirmation, the envisaged implementation date. As an interim relieving measure a 25% rate already available in the ICT systems was applied to all eligible accounts from January. The software changes to be implemented will allow for the passing on of the remaining 5% to mortgage account holders and the balance of relief due since 1 January.

### Financial Services Regulation

122. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Finance if an agency (detail supplied) is regulated and if there is a maximum rate of interest that it can charge clients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35289/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I can confirm to the Deputy that the firm mentioned by him is regulated as a moneylender by the Central Bank. I refer the Deputy to Part VIII of the Consumer Credit Act 1995, as amended, for detailed information on the licensing procedure with regard to moneylenders. Moneylenders have to apply annually to the Central Bank to have their licences renewed. Section 93 of the Consumer Credit Act 1995 sets out the Central Bank's powers on the grant or refusal of a moneylender's licence.

A moneylender's licence granted by the Central Bank is specific to that moneylender. Each individual licence outlines the specific products that the moneylender offers, the annual percentage rate for each product and the total cost of credit for each product. The Central Bank may refuse to grant a moneylender's licence if, in the Bank's opinion, the cost of credit to be charged is excessive or if any of the terms and conditions attaching thereto are unfair. I have been informed by the Central Bank that the associated maximum rate of APR that the licensed moneylender mentioned by the Deputy is authorised to charge is 187.22%. The register of moneylenders licensed by the Central Bank is available on the Bank's website: [www.centralbank.ie](http://www.centralbank.ie).

### Tax Collection

123. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a company (details supplied) in Dublin 9 have not paid PAYE, USC and other charges and taxes for some employees but were deducting these charges from their pay. [35290/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that, for reasons of taxpayer confidentiality, the Revenue Commissioners are not in a position

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

to comment on the tax affairs of the company mentioned by the Deputy, other than to say that the Deputy can be assured that the matters raised by him will be examined.

### National Drugs Strategy

124. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Finance the budget allocation for and the actual expenditure by Revenue Customs Service and by his Department in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy Unit for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35300/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that they are a fully integrated tax and customs administration. Revenue currently has over 2,000 staff engaged on activities that are dedicated to target and confront non-compliance. These front-line activities include audit, assurance checks, anti-smuggling, investigations, prosecutions and anti-avoidance. Revenue, in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy and other anti-smuggling activities, deploy officers at all key ports and airports in the State. Revenue officers also target the prevention of drug smuggling by carrying out intelligence-based operations and cooperating with other agencies, including the Garda Síochána. In this context the expenditure in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy is applied from Revenue's overall Vote allocation for the administration and collection of taxes and duties, and frontier management.

An estimate of the expenditure figures requested by the Deputy in relation to implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy is reported on an annual basis to the Minister for Drugs. These figures are contained in the following table. The figures are based on a retrospective review of resources deployed on drugs work and a costing applied in accordance with a Department of Public Expenditure and Reform approved formula. The expenditure shown is in respect of all Revenue resources deployed over the years in question to this area of activity such as personnel and equipment, the latter including two Revenue cutters and two mobile scanners.

General Costs

| Year | €uro       |
|------|------------|
| 2007 | 8,481,000* |
| 2008 | 14,987,000 |
| 2009 | 15,867,000 |
| 2010 | 15,797,000 |
| 2011 | 15,470,000 |

\*This figure was submitted without using the formula hence the differential between 2007 and 2008 figures.

### Departmental Agencies

125. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Finance the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35315/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** In response to the Deputy's question details of the bodies within the remit of my department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation are as follows.

### *The Central Bank of Ireland*

The Central Bank of Ireland (“the Bank”) has been granted the power under various provisions of sector-specific legislation (i.e. legislation governing the supervision of different types of regulated financial service provider) to conduct investigations of regulated financial service providers (and entities related to such providers in certain circumstances) in order to assist the Bank in the performance of its statutory functions. While the scope of the Bank’s powers to conduct investigations varies according to the applicable legislation, a power is usually given to the Bank to appoint persons (usually, but not always, referred to as “authorised officers”) to enter and search the premises of regulated financial service providers. Each sector-specific investigation regime provides for the powers of authorised officers when entering and searching premises.

Save for entering a dwelling, there is no general obligation on an authorised officer to obtain a court issued warrant before exercising their powers of entry and search in accordance with their certificate/warrant of appointment. Certain sector-specific investigation regimes provide that where an authorised officer is prevented from entering a premises, he or she may apply to court for a warrant and/or an order of the Court requiring the firm or related party to cooperate. Certain provisions provide explicitly that the power of an authorised officer to enter and search a dwelling can only be exercised with the consent of the occupier or by a court issued warrant.

Pursuant to Part 3 of the Central Bank (Supervision and Enforcement) Bill 2011, most of the provisions governing the appointment and powers of authorised officers across financial services legislation are to be consolidated and the existing provisions repealed or revoked. Section 24 of the published Bill provides for the powers of authorised officers to enter premises, subject to the proviso that entry to a dwelling requires the consent of the occupier or a warrant issued under section 26 of the Bill. Section 26 of the Bill provides, inter alia, that notwithstanding the powers conferred on authorised officer to enter premises, a judge of the District Court may on the sworn evidence of an authorised officer issue a warrant authorising the officer to enter the premises (by reasonable force if necessary).

### *Officers of the Revenue Commissioners*

I have been provided with the following information in by Office of the Revenue commissioners. Officers of the Revenue Commissioners, appropriately authorised by the Commissioners, have statutory powers of entry to premises. These powers do not extend to private dwellings. Where it is intended to enter and search a private dwelling, a search warrant under the appropriate statutory provision must be obtained. The following at A is a list and a brief summary of the statutory powers allowing for entry onto a premises without warrant; and at B a list and brief summary of the statutory provisions for search warrants for premises including private dwellings.

*Legal Provisions: A. Statutory powers of entry without search warrant. Section 136(1) of the Finance Act 2001 as amended.*

Pursuant to s.136(1) of the Finance Act 2001, as amended by s.70 of the Finance Act 2008 and by s.87(a) of the Finance Act 2002, and by the Finance Act 2012, an Officer authorised by the Revenue Commissioners may enter a premises or other place (not including a dwelling) where certain activities are occurring. A search warrant is not required for such entry. The activities are as follows:

- (a) Production/processing/holding/storage/keeping/importation/purchase/packaging/offering for sale/sale/disposal of alcohol products, tobacco products and mineral oil;

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

- (b) Supply of electricity or natural gas;
- (c) Manufacture/distribution/storage/repair/modification/importation/dealing/delivery/disposal of mechanically propelled vehicles;
- (d) Acceptance of bets;
- (e) Provision of postal services or a service for the delivery of foreign packets.

Additionally, an Officer may enter a premises where records relating to the above products or activities are kept or when the Officer has a reasonable belief that they are kept on those premises. Pursuant to s.136(2) of the Finance Act 2001, an Officer may enter a premises or other place (not including a dwelling) in order to examine and to take samples of mineral oil from a fuel tank. They may also enter a premises in order to question a vehicle owner, a person in charge of a vehicle or where the registered owner is not an individual, to question the director, manager or principal officer of the owner. The questioning must relate to mineral oil. The Officer may search the premises also.

*Section 43(10)(a) of the Finance Act 1975 as amended provides:*

For all entry at reasonable times to any public place in which gaming machines are believed to be available for play.

*Section 125 of the Finance Act 1992 provides:*

For entry at all reasonable times to any public place where amusement machines are believed to be available for play.

*Section 108 of the Value Added Tax Consolidation Act 2010 provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place where he or she reasonably believes business is carried on or anything is done in connection with business.

*Regulation 6 of S.I. No. 610/2011 European Communities (Intrastat) Regulations 2011 provides:*

An Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place where he or she reasonably believes records relating to goods to which the Intrastat system applies are kept.

*Section 902B(4) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer when investigating a class or classes of policies and the policy holders to whom they were issued may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of an assurance company to inspect the relevant records held by the assurance company in respect of a sample of policies of that class or those classes and the policy holders of those policies.

*Section 903(2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place in connection with PAYE enquiries and investigations.

*Section 904(2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, as amended, provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place in connection with Relevant Contract Tax.

*Section 904A(2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of a relevant deposit taker for the purposes of auditing for a year of assessment the return made by the relevant deposit taker.

*Section 904C(2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of an assurance company carrying on life business for the purposes of auditing for a financial year the returns made by the company of appropriate tax.

*Section 904D (sub-section 2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of an investment undertaking for the purposes of auditing for a financial year the returns made by the investment undertaking of appropriate tax.

*Section 904E (2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of an authorised insurer for the purpose of auditing for a year of assessment claims made by an authorised insurer.

*Section 904F (2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 provides:*

That an Authorised Office may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of a qualifying lender for the purpose of auditing for a year of assessment claims made by the qualifying lender.

*Section 904G (2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of a qualifying insurer for the purposes of auditing for the year of assessment claims made by the qualifying insurer.

*Section 904H (2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of a qualifying savings manager or a person appointed by a qualifying savings manager for the purposes of auditing compliance.

*Section 904I (2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of an accountable person for the purposes of auditing a return made by an accountable person in connection with dividend withholding tax.

*Section 904J(2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

An Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of an accountable person for the purposes of auditing for year of assessment returns made by an accountable person in connection with tax deduction from payments in respect of professional services by certain persons.

*Section 904K (2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business of a relevant person for the purpose of auditing a return in relation to notices of attachment.

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

*Section 905(2) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 provides:*

That an Authorised Officer may at all reasonable times enter any premises or place of business where there is reason to believe that any trade/profession/activity is carried out therein which is chargeable to tax of any type. Furthermore, they are empowered to enter a premises where they have reason to believe that any property is located there.

*B. Search of Premises Under Warrant. Section 205 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876 as amended by Section 19 of the Finance Act 1936*

provides that an Officer of Customs and Excise may search any house or place under search warrant where there is reasonable suspicion of the presence of uncustomed or prohibited goods.

*Section 3(2) of the Customs and Excise (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1988*

provides that an Officer of Customs and Excise may on reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person is in possession of a controlled drug on any premises or land or documents directly or indirectly relating to transactions or dealing in controlled drugs on any premises or land may obtain a search warrant to search such premises or land.

*Section 5(1) of the Customs and Excise (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1988*

provides that a search warrant may be issued to a named Officer of Customs and Excise where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting the presence of books or documents relating to a smuggling offence at any place.

*Section 12(1) Animals Remedies Act 1993,*

provides that an Officer of Customs and Excise on reasonable suspicion that a person is in possession of a prohibited substance in contravention of the hormone legislation or that such substance or documents relating to them are on any land, premises, vehicle or thing obtain a search warrant to enter and search such land, premises or vehicle.

*Section 136(5) of the Finance Act 2001*

provides that an Authorised Office of the Revenue Commissioners may on reasonable grounds for suspecting that anything liable to forfeiture under the law relating to excise is being kept or concealed on or any premises or place, obtain a search warrant.

*Section 905(2)(A) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997*

provides that an Authorised Officer of the Revenue Commissioners may obtain a search warrant where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- (a) that a person may have failed or fail to comply with any provision of the Acts; or
- (b) such failure is likely to have lead or may lead to serious prejudice to the proper assessment or collection of tax and;
- (c) records material to such assessment or collection are likely to be kept or concealed at a premises or place.

*Section 908C of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended*

provides that an Authorised Officer may apply for a search warrant if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that an offence is being, has been or is about to be committed, and

- (i) that material which is likely to be of value (whether by itself or together with other information) to the investigation of the offence,

(ii) that evidence of, or relating to the commission of, the offence is to be found in any place.

*Section 5 of the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009*

provides that senior officers of the Revenue Commissioners can apply to the Court for authorisation to enter a premises including a dwelling to place or remove a surveillance device.

### Appointments to State Boards

126. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Finance if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35607/12]

127. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Finance the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35620/12]

**Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 126 and 127 together.

In response to the Deputy's question the following are details of appointments made to bodies under the aegis of my Department Since March 2011.

#### Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment | Details                                    |
|---|--|
| Dr. Angela McNamara 07 Nov 2011                         | Dr. McNamara was reappointed to the Board. |

#### Fiscal Advisory Council

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment  | Details  |
|--|--|
| Mr. Sebastian Barnes<br>Professor Alan Barrett<br>Dr. Donal Donovan<br>Professor John McHale<br>Dr. Roisin O'Sullivan<br>Appointed 07 Jul 2012 | As Minister for Finance I announced the establishment of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council on a non-statutory basis on 7 July 2011. The Council is part of a wider agenda of reform of Ireland's budgetary architecture which is envisaged in the Programme for Government and is a requirement of the EU/IMF Programme of Financial Support for Ireland. When establishing the Council, I stated that the Council would be an independent body whose existence and independence would be underpinned by legislation to be brought forward by Government in the Fiscal Responsibility Bill. The Chairman did not undergo interview by Oireachtas Committee but the Fiscal Council appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform on 17 November 2011 to discuss their first fiscal assessment report published in October. I appointed the members having regard to a number of criteria including the desirability of having a mix of appropriate backgrounds (academia, the financial sector/financial markets and public finance), macroeconomic/microeconomic expertise and a strong international dimension, as well as the need to take gender considerations into account. I am satisfied that the appointed members have the mix of skills and experience, including in relation to fiscal affairs, to ensure that the Council will be highly effective in fulfilling its mandate. The Fiscal Responsibility Bill will include provisions for the appointment of members once the Council is on a statutory footing. |

[Deputy Michael Noonan.]

## Board of National Asset Management Agency

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment | Details  |
|---|--|
| Mr. John Mulcahy Appointed 12 Mar 2012                  | He was not appointed under the new procedures for board appointments. His appointment was a National Asset Management Agency Executive Appointment. Mr. Mulcahy is head of Asset Management within the National Asset Management Agency. |

## National Treasury Management Agency Advisory Committee

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment | Details  |
|---|--|
| Mr. John Moran 6 Mar 2012                               | Post was not advertised because it has been the norm to appoint the Secretary General of the Department of Finance to the Advisory Committee since the establishment of the National Treasury Management Agency. |

## National Pensions Reserve Fund Commission

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment | Details   |
|---|---|
| Mr. Maurice Keane Appointed 5 Feb 2012                  | Post was not advertised as it was areappointment. |

## State Claims Agency Policy Advisory Committee

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment  | Details   |
|--|---|
| Dr. Noel Whelan<br>Ms Wendy Thompson<br>Mr. Charlie Hardy<br>Mr. Fachtna Murphy Appointed 1 Jul 2012 | The vacancies were advertised on the websites of the Departments of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform. Dr. Whelan was reappointed as Chairperson. He has not appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee. |

## Irish Bank Resolution Company (IBRC)

| Name of appointee/ Date of appointment or reappointment                                 | Details   |
|---|---|
| Mr. Oliver Ellingham *Appointed 14 Oct 2011<br>Mr. Roger McGreal *Appointed 15 Nov 2011 | As specific skills are required due to the nature of the business model at IBRC it was decided on this occasion not to proceed with the public advertisement of the vacancies. The current chairman was appointed to the Board prior to March 2011.* The Directors of the Irish Bank Resolution Corporation were appointed by the board of the bank with my approval. |

### Higher Education Grants

128. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the grants available to assist a person (details supplied ) in County Kildare with their education application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34425/12]

136. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare is entitled to any grant or financial assistance regarding their third level degree course; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34438/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 128 and 136 together.

The decision on eligibility for new student grant applications is a matter for the central grant awarding authority SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland). Under my Department's student grant scheme, students who are entering approved courses for the first time are eligible for grants where they satisfy the relevant conditions as to nationality, residency, previous academic attainment and means. The Deputy will appreciate that in the absence of all of the relevant details that would be contained in an individual's application in relation to nationality, residency, previous academic attainment and means it would not be possible for me to say whether or not a student would qualify for a grant. The student is advised to submit a fully completed online grant application to SUSI via [studentfinance.ie](http://studentfinance.ie) to have his eligibility for grant assistance assessed. Further information on student grants is available on the [studentfinance.ie](http://studentfinance.ie) website

### Schools Refurbishment

129. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Education and Skills further to Parliamentary Question No. 261 of 14 February 2012, the position regarding an emergency works grant application in respect of a school (details supplied) in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34381/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I am pleased to inform the Deputy that funding was approved in May 2012 for the school in question to carry out fire safety works and the school authorities have been informed.

### Departmental Staff

130. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if, in view of a Labour Court decision (details supplied), he will take immediate action to provide alternative and appropriate employment for the public servant concerned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34400/12]

151. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare, who was found to have been unfairly dismissed by City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee, will be redeployed within the VEC sector or to an appropriate post within his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34738/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 130 and 151 together.

The person referred to by the Deputy was employed as a Junior Certificate School Programme Research and Development Officer with City of Dublin VEC (CDVEC). CDVEC is a statutory body with its own corporate status established under the Vocational Education Acts, 1930 to 2001. The matters raised with regard to the termination of this person's employment

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

are appropriate to CDVEC as the employer. The Deputy may also wish to note that that my Department no longer provides funding to the Junior Certificate Schools Programme for a specialist post in the area of research.

### **Apprenticeship Programmes**

131. **Deputy Joe Higgins** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the selection criteria used to decide which training facilities were no longer required to deliver training in the trades of carpentry and joinery; and if he will consider beginning a process whereby this decision is reversed before irreparable damage is done with Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dublin. [34409/12]

168. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will respond to issues raised in correspondence (details supplied) regarding the reduction by the Higher Education Authority of Training Centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35240/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 131 and 168 together.

The sharp decline in apprentice recruitment and significant levels of redundancies in many apprenticeship trades over the past three years has resulted in a dramatic fall off in the number of apprentices requiring education and training in the institutes of technology and colleges of further education. The requirement for Carpentry and Joinery provision has been particularly affected, having fallen from a high of 168 blocks nationally in 2008 to an expected national requirement for 15 blocks in 2012.

In light of the collapse in demand for this trade and following close consultations with the education providers and FÁS, the Higher Education Authority (HEA) has allocated Carpentry and Joinery provision to a reduced number of colleges on a regional cluster basis for the 2012/13 academic year. All institutes involved in the training of apprentices have access to the equipment needed to support high quality training and the decision to allocate provision on a regional basis was taken in order to ensure that Carpentry and Joinery provision remained available to apprentices in regions across the country. In line with the commitment in the Government's Action Plan for Jobs, a review of the apprenticeship training model is being undertaken during 2012.

### **Special Educational Needs**

132. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding a home tuition grant in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 5. [34421/12]

140. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide an update on early intervention support service in respect of a person (details supplied) [34540/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 132 and 140 together.

Home Tuition was approved for the child referred to by the Deputy for a period up to July 27th 2012. There is no record in my Department of receipt of the claim form for the grant payment. I have arranged for a claim form to be forwarded to the parents of the child in question for completion and return in this regard.

The Deputy will be aware that the National Council for Special Education (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. SENOs are a valuable source of support to parents who are actively sourcing a placement for their children. I have arranged for the SNA issue raised by the Deputy to be forwarded to the NCSE for their direct attention and reply.

### School Transport

133. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the reason children in junior and senior infants who are entitled to school transport are only able to avail of transport to school and are not able to avail of the return journey as they finish school earlier than the other pupils and they still have to pay the full rate of €100; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34422/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** One of the main objectives of the School Transport Scheme is to ensure that, as far as possible, eligible children have a reasonable level of service while at the same time, ensuring that school transport vehicles are fully utilised in an efficient and cost effective manner. In this regard, Bus Éireann generally plan and timetable school transport services for children who are in attendance for the full school day.

Children in infant classes may have a school day that is one hour shorter than the length of the normal school day. This is a concession in the interests of young children and allows for a perceived inability on their part to sustain the work of the full day. It is a matter for the Board of Management of a particular school to decide whether the concession should be applied in the case of the school or not. It is also a matter for the managerial authorities to arrange adequate supervision for children while they are on the school premises. The annual charge for school transport is a contribution towards the overall cost and does not reflect the true cost of providing these services.

### School Enrolments

134. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to ongoing admittance problems at a school (details supplied) in Dublin 7 for children attending primary feeder schools in the local area; if he will raise the issue with the schools board of management; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34424/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The question of enrolment in individual schools is the responsibility of the managerial authority of those schools. My Department's main responsibility is to ensure that schools in an area can, between them, cater for all pupils seeking places. It is the responsibility of the managerial authorities of schools that are not in a position to admit all pupils seeking entry to implement an enrolment policy in accordance with the Education Act 1998. In this regard a board of management may deem it necessary to restrict enrolment to children from a particular age group or to children living in a particular area or on the basis of some other criterion. The selection process and the enrolment policy on which it is based is matter for the individual school authority. In formulating an enrolment policy a school must, however, ensure it is lawful and applied fairly to all applicants.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

The Deputy will be aware that in June last year, I launched a discussion paper on school enrolment. The document, “Discussion Paper on a Regulatory Framework for School Enrolment” contains suggestions on how to make the process of enrolling in schools more open, equitable and consistent. I have made it clear that the paper was not meant to be prescriptive; the purpose of the paper was to lead and provoke debate on enrolment policies and practices. I invited education partners and interested parties to submit their views to my Department by the 28th of October last. The feedback from this consultation will help inform the nature and scope of a new regulatory framework for school enrolment. I intend to bring legislative proposals to Government this year, the primary aim of which will be to ensure that every child is treated fairly and that every child has a place at school.

### **Proposed Legislation**

135. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will consider amending the draft legislation on education and training boards to provide for a designated seat for adult learners on the boards as requested by adult learners and their representatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34437/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** Earlier this year, the General Scheme of an Education and Training Boards Bill was referred to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to the Government for formal drafting. It is hoped that the Bill will be published before the end of the summer. I will consider the issue raised by the Deputy in advance of publication.

*Question No. 136 answered with Question No. 128.*

### **School Transport**

137. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will review school transport arrangements for students who will be attending a school (details supplied) in County Limerick in September 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34446/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Under the terms of my Department’s Post Primary School Transport Scheme children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by my Department/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language. Bus Éireann, which operates the School Transport Scheme on behalf of my Department, determine eligibility by measuring the shortest traversable route from a child’s home to the relevant education centre. Children who are not eligible for school transport may apply for transport to a particular school on a concessionary basis in accordance with the terms of the scheme. The school transport charge for children who are eligible for school transport and for children who are availing of school transport on a concessionary basis remains at €350 for the next school year. This charge is subject to a family maximum of €650 per annum. This charge can be paid in two instalments in July and December.

### **Labour Court Awards**

138. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills when will approval to the payment of an award by the Labour Court which is waiting sanction from his Department be granted (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34521/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The current position is that my Department is in consultation with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the Labour Court's recommendation in this case.

### School Transport

139. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will review school transport catchment boundaries at a location (details supplied) in County Kerry due to exceptional circumstances in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34525/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme were announced in Budget 2011 and derive from recommendations in the Value for Money Review of the School Transport Scheme. The main change to the current scheme means that from the 2012/13 school year, school transport eligibility for all pupils newly entering a post primary school will be determined by reference to the distance they reside from their nearest Post-Primary Education Centre having regard, as heretofore, to ethos and language.

In general, existing eligible and catchment boundary children including those who are not attending their nearest post primary centre will retain their transport eligibility for the duration of their post primary education cycle provided there is no change to their current circumstances. Siblings of these children and other children who are not attending their nearest school may apply for school transport on a concessionary basis only in accordance with the terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme. The changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme will be applied equitably on a national basis.

*Question No. 140 answered with Question No. 132.*

### Schools Refurbishment

141. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the reason schools (details supplied) in County Mayo, were declined emergency funding; if he will provide details of other sources of funding that may be available to the schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34560/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The management authorities of the two schools referred to by the Deputy submitted applications recently for funding under my Department's Emergency Works Scheme to carry out various improvement works at their schools. As the scope of works for which funding is sought is outside the terms of the scheme they cannot be considered for funding. The management authorities of both schools have been informed of this decision. The schools were advised to submit scaled down applications to address the immediate health and safety issues and these revised applications were received yesterday. These applications will now be assessed and the school authorities will be advised of the outcome.

### School Transport

142. **Deputy Michael Lowry** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will review the decision made to refuse subsidised post primary school transport to a student (details supplied) in County Tipperary despite the fact that this school is the closest school of the chosen ethos and beliefs of that student and family; if he will provide information on the cost saving made by refusing subsidised transport in this case; if he will clarify the reason the distance to the

[Deputy Michael Lowry.]

school was calculated based on walking route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34561/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Under the terms of my Department's Post Primary School Transport Scheme children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by my Department/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language. Bus Éireann, which operates the School Transport Scheme on behalf of my Department determine eligibility by measuring the shortest traversable route from a child's home to the relevant education centre. Children who are not eligible for school transport may apply for transport on a concessionary basis in accordance with the terms of the scheme. My Department has requested Bus Éireann to submit a report on the application details submitted by the family in question. When this report is received my Department will be in contact the family.

### School Curriculum

143. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to include a new computer studies course on the second level curriculum, in view of improvements in the IT sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34567/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The curriculum in post-primary schools is devised on the basis that ICT is not a subject but rather a tool to be integrated into the teaching and learning across all subjects. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has developed an ICT framework which sets out a structured approach to ICT in curriculum and assessment. This sets out the types of learning appropriate for students during the period of compulsory education, and provides a guide to teachers for embedding ICT across the curriculum. Therefore, it is not time bound.

The overall implementation of ICT in schools is supported by the National Centre for Technology in Education which provides for extensive training and guidance for schools on the integration of ICT into teaching and learning. I am currently leading the reform of the Junior Cycle. A Framework for the revised Junior Cycle has been prepared. It contains 24 Statements of Learning which students should experience. One of the Statements of Learning aims to ensure that all students "use ICT effectively and ethically in learning and in life". In addition, there are six key skills identified. One of them is "managing information and thinking" and includes "using ICT to access, manage and share knowledge". The reform will also allow for the introduction of optional school developed short courses of 100 hours duration. This will provide a new opportunity for schools to progress the provision of short courses to enhance students' ICT skills which will be embedded in all their learning. Such courses could include software programming and coding, if a school so chooses.

### Departmental Expenditure

144. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the annual budget on IT and Innovation in the education sector; if he will give a full breakdown of the costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34568/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I understand that the question relates to the provision of ICT funding for primary and post primary schools.

My Department funds the ICT in Schools Programme. The programme, which commenced in 1998, delivers strategic investment across the range of interconnected issues which need to

be addressed in order to systematically integrate ICT into teaching and learning and promote the development of pupils' digital literacy.

In line with best practice internationally the programme addresses four key themes:

- internet access for schools (broadband since 2005),
- teacher professional development in ICT,
- ICT infrastructure deployment in schools,
- deployment of curriculum-relevant digital content and software for use in the classroom.

Between 2009 and 2011 inclusive, some €126m has been allocated under the programme, including €92m in ICT Infrastructure Grant funding between November 2009 and December 2010. The main priority under this scheme was the equipping of each classroom with a teaching computer and digital projector. Once the baseline is in place schools can allocate any remaining funding under the scheme to other ICT equipment and software for educational use. A number of key support measures were taken to help schools get best value in the use of these devolved grants — in particular, the inclusion of schools in national purchasing frameworks for desktops, laptops, digital projectors and printers, the delivery of a national series of elearning seminars for school leaders, and the provision of extensive guidance and training on the use of ICT in the classroom. In relation to overall expenditure under the Programme, I have attached a breakdown of expenditure for 2011.

In relation to funding this year, €13.2 million has been earmarked for the ICT in Schools Programme. The increase in the 2012 allocation as compared with the 2011 outturn primarily reflects the ongoing rental costs for the 78 schools connected under the pilot project to provide high speed (100Mbit/s) broadband connections to schools.

The current allocation allows the programme to remain focused on maintaining priority services within reduced staffing and financial resources through 2012. The ICT in Schools programme continues to adapt to the new policy challenges and opportunities arising from major developments in curricular reform, digital publishing, digital content dissemination tools generally, cloud services, portable computing and student devices, and the deployment of high speed broadband at post-primary level.

| ICT in Schools Programme 2011   | Total  |
|---|--------|
| <i>Category</i>   | (€000) |
| 1. Schools Broadband  | 5,522  |
| 2. NCTE activities (NCTE is now integrated with the PDST)   | 3,944  |
| 3. E-twinning initiative- <i>Twinning</i> is an EU-wide initiative whereby schools in Europe can work together using a shared portal. It aims to help schools to bring a European dimension to their activities and to integrate ICT into the classroom. The programme is managed by Léargas. | 46     |
| 4. EUN fee (European Schoolnet is a network of 30 Ministries of Education in Europe and beyond)   | 31     |
| 5. Other  | 23     |
| Totals  | €9,566 |

### School Transport

145. **Deputy Michael Lowry** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will review the

[Deputy Michael Lowry.]

decision to refuse subsidised post primary school transport to a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary despite the fact that this school is the chosen school of that family; if he will review the decision regarding the minimal difference in distance of two schools, the fact that elder family members are already attending the students chosen school and the fact that the pick up point for the eligible school is 4km from the family home; if he will provide information on the cost saving made by refusing subsidised transport in this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34587/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Under the terms of my Department's Post Primary School Transport Scheme children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by my Department/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language.

Bus Éireann, which operates the School Transport Scheme on behalf of my Department, determine eligibility by measuring the shortest traversable route from a child's home to the relevant education centre.

Children who are not eligible for school transport may apply for transport on a concessionary basis in accordance with the terms of the scheme.

While it is the prerogative of parents to send their children to the school of their choice, eligibility for school transport is to the nearest school, having regard for ethos and language.

### Schools Building Projects

146. **Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to roll out further school building projects under the PPP system; and if he has evaluated the outcome for schools already delivered under this programme [34600/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** It is planned to deliver a further bundle of 8 schools through the Department's Public Private Partnership Programme (PPP).

A preferred tenderer (BAM PPP) was appointed by the National Development Finance Agency in September 2011 following which planning applications were made. Grant of planning was received for the last of the sites in May this year. The NDFA is currently involved in negotiations with BAM PPP. Once these negotiations are successfully finalised, it is anticipated that a contract for the construction of the entire bundle of 8 schools will be awarded.

The NDFA is currently carrying out a review of the pilot bundle of PPP schools. This review includes an audit of the schools and an evaluation of the project to date.

### Education Schemes

147. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will confirm that students who started a funded course under the labour market activation scheme have now lost that funding since the termination of that scheme and the advent of the springboard scheme and consequently cannot complete the course; if he will clarify the situation in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 20; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34633/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The Labour Market Activation Scheme (LMA), which was introduced in 2009, provided for 1,500 free undergraduate and 1,000 free postgraduate places for unemployed people on part time courses in universities and institutes of technology across the country.

Only those part time courses approved and selected by an independent evaluation panel were eligible for funding under the LMA initiative. Students who commenced an approved LMA course were funded until completion of that course, subject to continuing to meet requirements of the programme. The course referred to by the Deputy is a full time programme and was not an approved LMA course. Students on this course would therefore not have been eligible for funding through the LMA initiative.

I understand that the student in question has been advised that as he is pursuing a full time course he may be eligible for support under the Student Grant Scheme and that he should contact the relevant grant awarding authority in this regard.

### **Schools Building Projects**

148. **Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills in view of the recent announcement that funding has been secured from the European Investment Bank for the construction of schools, if his Department will be hiring professionals such as architects and quantity surveyors to carry out the works or have these positions already been filled. [34636/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I announced last March details of the 275 large scale building projects that will proceed to construction over the five year period 2012-2016 at a cost of €1.5 billion. The €100m loan being provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB) will assist in the funding of the €1.5 billion investment.

The school projects that will benefit from the EIB investment are included in the press release issued on 6 July 2012. As these projects are expected to be completed by 2014, a Design Team has been in place in respect of each project for some considerable time at this stage. The Design Team consists of an architect, quantity surveyor, structural engineer and mechanical and electrical engineer.

### **Teacher Secondment**

149. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of teachers that are currently on secondment overseas in association with EU programmes or other programmes; the arrangements in respect of these secondments; if the full Irish teachers salary continues to be paid while working overseas; the other payments that are made part of the programme to the person overseas under these programmes; the maximum number of years a person will remain on secondment; if the Irish salary or the salary received in respect of the work overseas is partly funded by the EU or some other programme; if he will outline the cost of this in 2011 and an estimate for 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34669/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** In the school-year 2011/12, 59 Irish teachers (26 primary and 33 post-primary) were on secondment from their schools in Ireland and teaching in European Schools. Any variation in that number from year to year is small. The European Schools are a system of 14 nursery, primary and secondary schools established and maintained by the European Union and its Member States.

The schools serve the needs of children whose parents are officials of the EU Commission, European Parliament and other official European institutions. The schools have been established by an intergovernmental treaty — the Convention of the European Schools — to which Ireland is a signatory.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

The Department is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Convention of the European Schools. It supports the operation of the schools by arranging for the transfer of teachers from Ireland to fill teaching positions in the European Schools and by funding replacement teachers in schools in Ireland.

European posts are advertised and applications sought from interested teachers. Selection is by interview. Secondment is for a maximum of nine years.

While they are on secondment, the salaries of the teachers are paid by the Department and supplemented by the Central Office of European Schools. Such teachers also receive an additional salary payment from the European Union Office of European schools. Allowances to cover various expenses are also payable. On completion of their service in the European Schools, the teachers return to their schools in Ireland, although an Irish base school can recall a teacher before that, if it wants to. Throughout the period of secondment, the Department also pays for temporary replacement teachers.

The cost to the Department in 2011 was €16,000, comprising costs of advertising, interviewing, taster visits to the schools by the teachers and a guidance service. It is expected that the cost to the Department in 2012 will be in the region of €25,000.

The arrangements for such secondment are set out at length in Departmental circular 0009/2007, which can be found on the website of my Department.

### **Departmental Expenditure**

150. **Deputy Brendan Smith** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the expenditure for his Department to the end of June both current and capital; if the expenditure to date is in line with the projected expenditure profile at the beginning of the year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34696/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** Net overall expenditure to end-June 2012 of €4.176 billion on the Education and Skills Vote is €26 million (0.6%) ahead of the profiled figure of €4.15 billion.

Current expenditure of €4.005 billion is €16 million (0.4%) ahead of profile, while capital expenditure of €171 million is €10 million (6%) ahead of profile.

*Question No. 151 answered with Question No. 130.*

### **Schools Building Projects**

152. **Deputy Noel Coonan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding a building project for a school (details supplied) in County Tipperary; the timeframe for completion of works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34758/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The project at the school to which the Deputy refers is at an early stage of architectural planning. The school was recently authorised to instruct its design team to proceed to Stage 2a (Developed Design) of the architectural planning process.

Due to competing demands on the Departments capital budget imposed by the need to prioritise the limited funding available for the provision of additional school accommodation to meet increasing demographic requirements it was not possible to include the project referred to by the Deputy in the 5 year construction programme announced in March.

School building projects, including the project referred to by the Deputy, which have not been included in the five year construction programme, but which were announced for initial inclusion in the building programme will continue to be progressed to final planning stages in anticipation of the possibility of further funds being available to the Department in future years.

153. **Deputy Derek Nolan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the progress made to date on the new school proposed for Claregalway, County Galway; if a patron for the school has been agreed upon; if a site has been identified for the new school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34766/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** As the Deputy will be aware, in June 2011 I announced that 20 new post-primary schools are to be established up to 2017 to cater for increasing demographics across a number of locations. This announcement included for the provision of a new post-primary school in Claregalway, County Galway to commence operation in September 2013. The New Schools Establishment Group has recently submitted its report to me on the assessment of the applications received for patronage of new second level schools to be established in 2013 and 2014. I am currently considering this report and I hope to be in a position shortly to announce my decisions on the patronage of the new schools to be established.

My Department is working closely with the relevant Local Authority in relation to identifying and acquiring a suitable site for the proposed school referred to by the Deputy. My Department is now considering what options are available locally to allow the school to commence operation, pending the delivery of a permanent accommodation solution. In relation to the permanent site, a number of site assessments have been carried out to date which did lead to discussions with a number of land owners. However, due to commercial sensitivities attaching to site acquisitions generally I am not in a position to comment further in relation to the site acquisition process at this time.

### School Transport

154. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a request (details supplied) regarding the school transport scheme in West Cork will be facilitated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34771/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Under the terms of my Department's Post Primary School Transport Scheme children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by my Department/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language.

Bus Éireann, which operates the School Transport Scheme on behalf of my Department, determine eligibility by measuring the shortest traversable route from a child's home to the relevant education centre.

In general, existing eligible and catchment boundary children including those who are not attending their nearest post primary centre will retain their transport eligibility for the duration of their post primary education cycle provided there is no change to their current circumstances.

Siblings of these children and other children who are not attending their nearest school may apply for school transport on a concessionary basis only in accordance with the terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme.

155. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to the fact that Bus Éireann have issued letters withdrawing school transport

[Deputy Niall Collins.]

services previously enjoyed by people across the country including Bruff, County Limerick; if he will reverse this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34772/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme were announced in Budget 2011 and derive from recommendations in the Value for Money Review of the School Transport Scheme.

The main change to the current scheme means that from the 2012/13 school year, school transport eligibility for all pupils newly entering a post primary school will be determined by reference to the distance they reside from their nearest Post-Primary Education Centre having regard, as heretofore, to ethos and language.

In general, existing eligible and catchment boundary children including those who are not attending their nearest post primary centre will retain their transport eligibility for the duration of their post primary education cycle provided there is no change to their current circumstances. Siblings of these children and other children who are not attending their nearest school may apply for school transport on a concessionary basis only in accordance with the terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme.

The school transport charge for children who are eligible for school transport and for children who are availing of school transport on a concessionary basis remains at €350 for the next school year. This charge is subject to a family maximum of €650 per annum. This charge can be paid in two instalments in July and December.

The changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme will be applied equitably on a national basis.

### **Schools Building Projects**

156. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a detailed update on plans for an education campus development in Carrigaline, County Cork, comprising of a new Gaelcholáiste, the relocation of the existing Gaelscoil and Sonas; if he has given the go ahead for these developments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34820/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I can confirm that the education campus referred to by the Deputy is currently being master planned to accommodate the three schools.

As the Deputy may be aware these schools were included in the 5 Year Programme which I announced on the 12th March last to proceed to construction in 2014/2015.

### **School Transport**

157. **Deputy Mattie McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a breakdown of all school transport catchment areas in South Tipperary used for the free transport scheme for medical card holders; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a student living in Grange Village is not eligible for free travel to school in Cahir and is expected to travel to a Clonmel school despite the fact that a school bus for Cahir travels through Grange Village while no bus for Clonmel school travels through Grange Village and that they would have to travel a few miles to get the bus to Clonmel; his views on whether this situation is acceptable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34826/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** The use of catchment areas to determine eligibility for school transport will cease from the commencement of the 2012/13 school year for all children newly entering post-primary school.

From this date these children will be eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by my Department/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language. Eligible children who hold valid medical cards (GMS Scheme) are exempt from paying school transport charges.

Children who are not eligible for school transport may apply for transport on a concessionary basis only in accordance with the terms of the scheme.

### Departmental Funding

158. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide in tabular form the amount of funding provided to primary and secondary schools in County Mayo in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34885/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The capital funding provided to Primary and Post-Primary schools in County Mayo for the years 2008 to 2011 and to date in 2012 is included in table below. Due to the nature of the records available, the funding that issued in respect of the Minor Works Grant to Primary schools is only included in the table below. The Minor Works Grant issued to primary schools in 2008 and 2009 at a school rate of €5,500 plus €18.50 per mainstream pupil and €74 per special needs pupil.

TOTAL SPEND 2008 COUNTY MAYO SCHOOLS: €24,839,613.62

| SCHOOL NAME               | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE            | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT €   |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| PULLATHOMAS NS            | 16283E0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 2,116.45   |
| DRUMSLIDE NS              | 17532E0000  | Small School Scheme '06 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 539,860.00 |
| SN NAOMH SEOSAMH          | 18754E0000  | SWS '05                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 11,115.00  |
| BRACKLOON NS              | 04796R0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 730.84     |
| S N CROI IOSA             | 05215W0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 6,012.68   |
| S N CROI IOSA             | 05215W0000  | Emergency '07           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 47,711.85  |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID          | 07054L0000  | Emergency '07           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 16,854.75  |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID          | 07054L0000  | Emergency '08           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 100,000.00 |
| BEHYMORE NS               | 11725I0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 4,245.86   |
| BEHYMORE NS               | 11725I0000  | Emergency '08           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 14,378.25  |
| CRAGGAGH NS               | 12467R0000  | Radon- Remediation      | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 191.00     |
| INVER NS                  | 12568A0000  | SWS '07                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 13,569.78  |
| SHRAHEEN NS               | 12808R0000  | Emergency '07           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 139,326.72 |
| SHRAHEEN NS               | 12808R0000  | Emergency '08           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 15,480.75  |
| CREGDUFF NS               | 12815O0000  | Small School Scheme '06 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 112,620.00 |
| S N CEATHRU AN CHLOCHAR   | 12816Q0000  | Small School Scheme '07 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 158,400.00 |
| CLOONLYON NATIONAL SCHOOL | 12936D0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 5,242.95   |
| CLOONLYON NATIONAL SCHOOL | 12936D0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 173.60     |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                 | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                               | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|---|-------------|
| CLOONLYON NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 12936D0000  | Small School Scheme '06                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 71,863.00   |
| CLOONLYON NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 12936D0000  | SWS '07                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 14,933.92   |
| TAVNEENA NS                 | 12938H0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 17,542.61   |
| TAVNEENA NS                 | 12938H0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 471.03      |
| TAVNEENA NS                 | 12938H0000  | Small School Scheme '06                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 186,900.00  |
| SN NAOMH COLM CILLE         | 13145A0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 168,000.00  |
| SN GLEANN A CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 3,090.12    |
| SN GLEANN A CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | PAS '06                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 36,000.00   |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS             | 13389F0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 84,000.00   |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS           | 13500R0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 6,148.82    |
| SN FAITCHE                  | 13555T0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 9,960.83    |
| BEACAN MIXED NS             | 13659I0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,500.00    |
| BONNICONLON NS              | 13667H0000  | New School/Building Architectural Planning | Fees Stages 1-6                           | 36,149.56   |
| BEANNCHOR NS                | 13684H0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 5,409.45    |
| BEANNCHOR NS                | 13684H0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 106,716.54  |
| TEMPLEMARY NS               | 13758K0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 230.00      |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN           | 13773G0000  | Small School Scheme '07                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 242,550.00  |
| ST JOHNS NS                 | 13781F0000  | PAS '07                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 504,000.00  |
| S N COILL AN BHAILE         | 14064F0000  | Emergency '07                              | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 30,984.34   |
| BARNATRA NS                 | 14188A0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 781.66      |
| SN DUBH THUAMA              | 14193Q0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,500.00    |
| SN DUBH THUAMA              | 14193Q0000  | SWS '07                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 4,699.93    |
| CILL MHOR IORRAIS           | 14258S0000  | SWS '07                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 15,694.76   |
| RICHMOND NS                 | 14400S0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 10,080.00   |
| GORTJORDAN NS               | 14534Q0000  | Extension on-site 2005                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 1,967.46    |
| DUNKENNELLA NATIONAL SCHOOL | 14873P0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 53,350.00   |
| CORCLOUGH NS                | 15014S0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 8,151.00    |
| CORCLOUGH NS                | 15014S0000  | Small School Scheme '06                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 114,000.00  |
| QUIGNAMANGER NS             | 15257V0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 168,000.00  |
| ST JOHNS NS                 | 15539I0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,422.67    |
| BREAFFY NS                  | 15555G0000  | Extension on-site 2004                     | Fees Final                                | 1,194.28    |
| CLOONFAD N S                | 15557K0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 17,615.00   |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS             | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006           | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 814,186.58  |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS             | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006           | Fees Stages 1-6                           | 5,542.62    |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS             | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006           | Fees Stages 7-8                           | 13,673.70   |

| SCHOOL NAME                                 | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                        | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| LISANISKA NS                                | 16021U0000  | Emergency '08                       | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 2,500.00    |
| SN TOIN NA GAOITHE                          | 16113C0000  | Small School Scheme '07             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 275,000.00  |
| KNOCK NS                                    | 16122D0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 1,093.06    |
| ST JOHNS NS                                 | 16289Q0000  | Small School Scheme '06             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 161,340.00  |
| ST JOHNS NS                                 | 16289Q0000  | SWS '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 4,128.74    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                               | 16984L0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 18,000.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                               | 16984L0000  | PAS '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 150,000.00  |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                               | 16984L0000  | SWS '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 10,197.90   |
| CHOMAIN NAOFA                               | 17082W0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 23,781.59   |
| ARDAGH NS<br>BALLINA                        | 17098O0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 1,263.36    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN                           | 17119T0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 8,793.99    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN                           | 17119T0000  | PAS '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 402,000.00  |
| S N B BALL ALUINN                           | 17119T0000  | SWS '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 9,830.43    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN                           | 17119T0000  | Emergency '08                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 12,365.64   |
| COONEAL NS                                  | 17209U0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,866.95    |
| SN TEACH CAOIN                              | 17301I0000  | Small School Scheme '07             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 333,480.00  |
| S N AN CHOILL MHOR                          | 17321O0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 632.15      |
| S N AN CHOILL MHOR                          | 17321O0000  | Small Schools Initiative            | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 96,000.00   |
| CARROWHOLLY NS                              | 17483R0000  | PAS '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 360,000.00  |
| ST. PAUL'S NS                               | 17562N0000  | Extension on-site 2004              | Fees Final                                | 5,666.16    |
| SN COLM NAOFA                               | 17682A0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 4,500.00    |
| SN COLM NAOFA                               | 17682A0000  | Small School Scheme '07             | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 440,000.00  |
| SN ATHRACHT NFA<br>BUACH                    | 18003F0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 7,493.16    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 7,842.88    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Emergency '08                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 84,000.00   |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG<br>B                      | 18506I0000  | Emergency '08                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 5,423.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Extension on-site 2005              | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 287,624.11  |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Minor Works                         | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 9,897.50    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Minor Works                         | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00    |
| PARKE NS                                    | 18562S0000  | Emergency '07                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 9,202.65    |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS                             | 18712L0000  | Emergency '08                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 119,000.00  |
| CLOONLIFFEN NS                              | 18922W0000  | Emergency '08                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 337,185.00  |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                              | 19248R0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2004    | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 64,155.88   |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                              | 19248R0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2004    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 22,941.80   |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                              | 19248R0000  | Replacement Furniture               | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 1,806.02    |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                              | 19248R0000  | Special Needs Facility Set-up Grant | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 9,543.44    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                        | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS                | 19375B0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,615.09    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL                | 19387I0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006        | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 441,812.38  |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL                | 19387I0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006        | Services-CLOSED                     | 13,345.33   |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL                | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 965,348.20  |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL                | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 153,152.34  |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL                | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 40,853.55   |
| BARNACARROLL NS                    | 19710M0000  | PAS '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 100,350.00  |
| ST NICHOLAS SPECIAL SCHOOL         | 19773N0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 3,954.69    |
| SCOIL RAIFFEIRI NS                 | 19832D0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 290.00      |
| KILTIMAGH CENTRAL SCHOOL           | 19903A0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 800.50      |
| ST. PETERS NS                      | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 268,001.77  |
| ST. PETERS NS                      | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 49,638.42   |
| ST. PETERS NS                      | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 40,539.84   |
| ST. PETERS NS                      | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                  | Other Costs: Percentage of Art      | 4,384.00    |
| SWINFORD NS                        | 19951L0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 2,184.20    |
| GAELSCOIUL UILEOG DE BURCA         | 19972T0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 8,180.00    |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE              | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2007        | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 58,876.93   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                      | 20089H0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 6,354.32    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                      | 20089H0000  | PAS '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 540,000.00  |
| CROSSMOLINA NS                     | 20125I0000  | Extension on-site 2004                  | Services-CLOSED                     | 18,103.25   |
| TOURMAKEADY NS                     | 20256A0000  | Small School Scheme '07                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 345,800.00  |
| SCOIL DAMHNAIT, ACHILL             | 64490G0000  | Special Subjects Grant Current Year     | GRANT PAYMENTS TO PROGRAMMES        | 548.01      |
| BALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBAR  | 64500G0000  | Special Subjects Grant Current Year     | GRANT PAYMENTS TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,851.45    |
| BALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBAR  | 64500G0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                    | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 7,130.00    |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA      | 64510J0000  | Special Subjects Grant Current Year     | GRANT PAYMENTS TO PROGRAMMES        | 2,020.67    |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA      | 64510J0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                    | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 7,600.00    |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA      | 64510J0000  | Woodwork Grant Commitment               | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 12,900.00   |
| ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA | 64520M0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommod | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 189,122.00  |

| SCHOOL NAME   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                           | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|--|--|-------------|
| ST MARYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, BALLINA              | 64520M0000  | Emergency '07                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 21,553.65   |
| ST MARYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, BALLINA              | 64520M0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                 | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 1,853.80    |
| ST MARYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, BALLINA              | 64520M0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,931.00    |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET        | 64570E0000  | Extension Architectural<br>Plannin     | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 85,716.40   |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET        | 64570E0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                 | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 1,334.74    |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET        | 64570E0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,530.55    |
| ST GERALDS<br>COLLEGE,<br>CASTLEBAR                   | 64580H0000  | SWS '06                                | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 43,165.51   |
| ST GERALDS<br>COLLEGE,<br>CASTLEBAR                   | 64580H0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 2,592.36    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL<br>CASTLEBAR        | 64590K0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,693.28    |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | SWS '07                                | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 17,152.43   |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 898.08      |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 9,430.00    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Emergency '07                          | Building Certs: Final<br>Certs         | 24,440.94   |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Emergency '07                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 49,530.05   |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 2,279.58    |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | Emergency '07                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 41,442.62   |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | Emergency '08                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 60,988.50   |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                 | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 667.37      |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,499.08    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                             | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                           | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€  |
|---|-------------|--|--|--------------|
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA      | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007                 | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs       | 2,898,959.88 |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA      | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007                 | Fees Stages 7-8                        | 111,816.10   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA      | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007                 | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 432,921.04   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA      | 64630T0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,838.36     |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA      | 64630T0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 7,130.00     |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Replacement Equipment                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 10,426.50    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,415.61     |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 9,430.00     |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Technology Grant<br>Commitment         | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 17,900.00    |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                 | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 5,190.64     |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,629.40     |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 9,430.00     |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | Technology Grant<br>Commitment         | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 3,600.00     |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                 | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 3,707.60     |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 1,756.19     |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | SWS '07                                | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 21,733.65    |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 930.44       |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 4,530.00     |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment           | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 4,300.00     |
| RICE COLLEGE<br>WESTPORT                | 64700O0000  | Emergency '06                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 51,228.40    |
| RICE COLLEGE<br>WESTPORT                | 64700O0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 2,001.45     |

| SCHOOL NAME                             | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€  |
|---|-------------|---|--|--------------|
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 80,000.00    |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                    | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 5,561.40     |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | Special Subjects Grant<br>Current Year    | GRANT PAYMENTS<br>TO PROGRAMMES        | 2,058.96     |
| MOYNE V S, BALLINA                      | 72020L0000  | Replacement Equipment                     | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 3,978.39     |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension Architectural<br>Plannin        | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 217,497.50   |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs       | 3,725,064.32 |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 91,427.60    |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Fees Stages 7-8                        | 166,617.00   |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                     | 20,328.00    |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Clerk of Works                         | 24,265.61    |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Refurbishment on-site<br>2004             | Fees Final                             | 623.44       |
| ST TIERNAN'S<br>COLLEGE,<br>CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | Refurbishment on-site<br>2004             | Building Certs: Final<br>Certs         | 6,524.66     |
| ST TIERNAN'S<br>COLLEGE,<br>CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | Refurbishment on-site<br>2004             | Fees Final                             | 867.33       |
| ST TIERNAN'S<br>COLLEGE,<br>CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 167,396.60   |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | New School/Building On-<br>Site 2007      | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs       | 1,170,860.32 |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension Architectural<br>Plannin        | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 122,790.80   |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension Enabling<br>Works               | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 72,809.41    |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2006                    | Fees Stages 7-8                        | 11,156.20    |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                    | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs       | 1,487,502.63 |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 1,015,075.90 |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                    | Clerk of Works                         | 16,073.64    |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                    | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 558,736.00   |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs       | 346,799.25   |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2008                    | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 146,652.00   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                             | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2008                   | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 28,229.30   |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA | 72130S0000  | Refurbishment on-site 2005               | Building Certs: Final Certs         | 2,471.34    |
| WESTPORT V.S.                 | 72160E0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 17,388.91   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL  | 91461C0000  | Extension Architectural Plannin          | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 82,231.60   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL  | 91461C0000  | Extension Architectural Plannin          | Surveys-CLOSED                      | 20,459.18   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL  | 91461C0000  | Technology Grant Commitment              | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 18,200.00   |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL   | 91462E0000  | SWS '06                                  | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 20,872.91   |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL   | 91462E0000  | SWS '07                                  | Building Certs: Final Certs         | 20,571.06   |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL   | 91462E0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                     | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 5,050.00    |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL     | 91494R0000  | SWS '06                                  | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 140,110.75  |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL     | 91494R0000  | SWS '06                                  | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 327,512.20  |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL     | 91494R0000  | SWS '06                                  | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                  | 26,801.50   |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL     | 91494R0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                     | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 7,350.00    |
| ST PATRICKS ACADEMY           | T1113C0000  | DCG Grant Current Year                   | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 14,930.00   |
| MAYO VEC, CASTLEBAR           | VEC0021000  | DCG Grant Commitment                     | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 91,640.00   |
| MAYO VEC, CASTLEBAR           | VEC0021000  | Leaving Cert Technology Grant Commitment | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 40,000.00   |
| MAYO VEC, CASTLEBAR           | VEC0021000  | Woodwork Grant Commitment                | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 14,400.00   |

TOTAL SPEND CO MAYO 2009: €17,587,769.87

| SCHOOL NAME    | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE            | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| IRISHTOWN NS   | 14808E0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 182.18      |
| PULLATHOMAS NS | 16283E0000  | SWS '09                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 17,797.86   |
| DRUMSLIDE NS   | 17532E0000  | Replacement Furniture   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 16,910.00   |
| DRUMSLIDE NS   | 17532E0000  | Small School Scheme '06 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 244,468.03  |

| SCHOOL NAME                        | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE                                 | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| SN NAOMH IOSAF                     | 18818E0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 29,983.81   |
| SCOIL IOSA                         | 20275E0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 9,847.50    |
| BALLANDINE BOYS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 01676P0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 8,450.19    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 02912G0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 3,168.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 02912G0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 19,333.35   |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 02912G0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Certs: Disability<br>Building Grant | 23,207.41   |
| BRACKLOON NS                       | 04796R0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 997.20      |
| LEHINCH NATIONAL<br>SCHOOL         | 05120L0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 2,011.33    |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                   | 07054L0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 4,499.01    |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                   | 07054L0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 7,649.90    |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                   | 07054L0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 10,523.83   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN   | 07075T0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 50,000.00   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN   | 07075T0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 37,282.76   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN   | 07075T0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 4,434.56    |
| WESTPORT 2 NS                      | 08302J0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 30,196.76   |
| NEWTOWNWHITE NS                    | 09040K0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 3,178.79    |
| BEHYMORE NS                        | 11725I0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 47,000.00   |
| MEELICKMORE N S                    | 12173A0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 7,713.20    |
| MEELICKMORE N S                    | 12173A0000  | Small School Scheme '06                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 392,939.62  |
| MEELICKMORE N S                    | 12173A0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 3,677.51    |
| S N NA HAILLE                      | 12350T0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 1,980.00    |
| S N NA HAILLE                      | 12350T0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 125,000.00  |
| S N NA HAILLE                      | 12350T0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 9,558.08    |
| AUGHLEAM NS                        | 12373I0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 104,018.92  |
| CRAGGAGH NS                        | 12467R0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 38.98       |
| INVER NS                           | 12568A0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Capital Costs Rental:<br>Removal             | 6,464.09    |
| INVER NS                           | 12568A0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 5,334.50    |
| S N ROS DUMHACH                    | 12569C0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 10,972.50   |
| SHRAHEEN NS                        | 12808R0000  | Emergency '07                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 34,195.25   |
| CREGDUFF NS                        | 12815O0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 2,279.29    |
| TAVNEENA NS                        | 12938H0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 543.32      |
| SN NAOMH COLM<br>CILLE             | 13145A0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 7,015.96    |
| SN NAOMH COLM<br>CILLE             | 13145A0000  | Emergency '08                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 107,000.00  |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                      | 13152U0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 178.97      |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                                  | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| ST JOSEPHS NS                 | 13152U0000  | Small School Scheme '07                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 467,323.50  |
| SN GLEANN A<br>CHAISIL        | 13222P0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 29,468.57   |
| CORMAIC NAOFA                 | 13225V0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 7,123.65    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH | 13383Q0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,099.87    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH | 13383Q0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 13,812.38   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH | 13383Q0000  | Emergency '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 6,900.80    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH | 13383Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 2,110.08    |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS               | 13389F0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 2,063.65    |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS               | 13389F0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommod    | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 201,066.67  |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS               | 13389F0000  | Emergency '08                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 34,362.78   |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS             | 13500R0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 3,744.86    |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS             | 13500R0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 91,247.50   |
| SN FAITCHE                    | 13555T0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,611.89    |
| BEACAN MIXED NS               | 13659I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 9,811.44    |
| BONNICONLON NS                | 13667H0000  | New School/Building<br>Architectural Planning | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 15,048.96   |
| BEANNCHOR NS                  | 13684H0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 12,204.99   |
| BEANNCHOR NS                  | 13684H0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 11,812.02   |
| BEANNCHOR NS                  | 13684H0000  | Emergency '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 45,735.66   |
| TEMPLEMARY NS                 | 13758K0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 230.85      |
| TEMPLEMARY NS                 | 13758K0000  | Emergency '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 7,100.00    |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN             | 13773G0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 6,000.00    |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN             | 13773G0000  | Small School Scheme '07                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 113,950.00  |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN             | 13773G0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 48,450.00   |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN             | 13773G0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 1,241.88    |
| ST JOHNS NS                   | 13781F0000  | PAS '07                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 169,828.00  |
| ST JOHNS NS                   | 13781F0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 13,375.49   |
| BARNATRA NS                   | 14188A0000  | SEC 1A  | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 5,000.00    |
| BARNATRA NS                   | 14188A0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 14,250.00   |
| BARNATRA NS                   | 14188A0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 3,194.00    |
| SN DUBH THUAMA                | 14193Q0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 5,810.80    |
| SN DUBH THUAMA                | 14193Q0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 31,835.61   |
| SN MAINISTIR<br>MUIGHEO       | 14205U0000  | Emergency '08                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 6,219.00    |
| RICHMOND NS                   | 14400S0000  | Emergency '08                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 13,679.08   |
| BOFIELD MIXED NS              | 14418O0000  | Replacement Furniture                         | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,084.39    |

| SCHOOL NAME                    | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---|---|-------------|
| BOFIELD MIXED NS               | 14418O0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 2,005.09    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA NA CRAOBHAIGHE | 14671D0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 1,000.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA NA CRAOBHAIGHE | 14671D0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommod | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 13,300.00   |
| DUNKENNELLA NATIONAL SCHOOL    | 14873P0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 26,000.00   |
| ST. MARYS NS                   | 15030Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 4,627.51    |
| ST JAMES NS SWINFORD           | 15113U0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 51,551.75   |
| QUIGNAMANGER NS                | 15257V0000  | Emergency '08                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 106,000.00  |
| BREAFFY NS                     | 15555G0000  | Extension on-site 2004                  | Building Certs: Final Certs               | 16,102.83   |
| CLOONFAD N S                   | 15557K0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,500.00    |
| CLOONFAD N S                   | 15557K0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 16,220.00   |
| CLOONFAD N S                   | 15557K0000  | Emergency '08                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 220,000.00  |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS                | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006        | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 120,938.51  |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS                | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006        | Building Certs: Final Certs               | 83,916.92   |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS                | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006        | Fees Stages 7-8                           | 8,549.11    |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS                | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006        | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 51,957.73   |
| LISANISKA NS                   | 16021U0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 192,000.00  |
| SN TOIN NA GAOITHE             | 16113C0000  | Small School Scheme '07                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 10,000.00   |
| KNOCK NS                       | 16122D0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 6,664.69    |
| KNOCK NS                       | 16122D0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 4,622.43    |
| KNOCK NS                       | 16122D0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 136,500.00  |
| KNOCK NS                       | 16122D0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 65,765.88   |
| CLOGHAN NS                     | 16170O0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 2,850.00    |
| CLOGHAN NS                     | 16170O0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 7,881.55    |
| KINAFFE NS                     | 16173U0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 118,607.50  |
| KINAFFE NS                     | 16173U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 3,648.00    |
| KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 16269K0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 10,450.00   |
| ST JOHNS NS                    | 16289Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 2,404.21    |
| RATHLEE NS                     | 16492N0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 5,500.00    |
| MYNA NS                        | 16618J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 5,883.95    |
| SN BRIGHDE                     | 16756V0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 4,966.87    |
| CULMORE NS                     | 16780S0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 21,403.50   |
| CULMORE NS                     | 16780S0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 1,342.82    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME               | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| KILLALA NS                | 16811D0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 7,799.40    |
| SN LAINN CILLE            | 16904K0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 2,500.00    |
| SN LAINN CILLE            | 16904K0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommod | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 68,534.20   |
| SN LAINN CILLE            | 16904K0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 7,072.75    |
| LAHARDANE NS              | 16911H0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 1,000.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS             | 16984L0000  | PAS '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 47,400.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS             | 16984L0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 1,724.54    |
| CHOMAIN NAOFA             | 17082W0000  | Small School Scheme '06                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 205,000.00  |
| ARDAGH NS BALLINA         | 17098O0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 782.19      |
| ARDAGH NS BALLINA         | 17098O0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 39,044.47   |
| ARDAGH NS BALLINA         | 17098O0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 5,977.59    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN         | 17119T0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 10,000.00   |
| S N B BALL ALUINN         | 17119T0000  | PAS '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 123,000.00  |
| S N B BALL ALUINN         | 17119T0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 62,656.30   |
| S N B BALL ALUINN         | 17119T0000  | Emergency '08                           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 5,299.56    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN         | 17119T0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 4,562.53    |
| ST PATRICKS NS RATHNAMAGH | 17129W0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 1,944.93    |
| SN REALT NA MARA          | 17176I0000  | Small School Scheme '06                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 4,114.00    |
| COONEAL NS                | 17209U0000  | Mould Remediation-Remediation           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 21,129.16   |
| COONEAL NS                | 17209U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 6,061.00    |
| SN TEACH CAOIN            | 17301I0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 9,530.73    |
| SN TEACH CAOIN            | 17301I0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,005.60    |
| SN TEACH CAOIN            | 17301I0000  | Small School Scheme '07                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 163,454.30  |
| SN TEACH CAOIN            | 17301I0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 32,176.00   |
| SN TEACH CAOIN            | 17301I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 1,742.34    |
| CARROWHOLLY NS            | 17483R0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 15,552.85   |
| CARROWHOLLY NS            | 17483R0000  | PAS '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 46,648.50   |
| CARROWHOLLY NS            | 17483R0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 17,500.00   |
| CARROWHOLLY NS            | 17483R0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 7,500.00    |
| S N BEAL CARADH           | 17585C0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 4,482.79    |
| SN COLM NAOFA             | 17682A0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 10,000.00   |
| GLENCORRIB NS             | 17874J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 3,578.77    |
| DRUMGALLAGH NS            | 18002D0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 2,740.00    |
| SN ATHRACHT NFA BUACH     | 18003F0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 3,361.53    |

| SCHOOL NAME                                 | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE                                 | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| SN ATHRACHT NFA<br>BUACH                    | 18003F0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 57,000.00   |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 6,366.92    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 36,000.00   |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | SWS '09                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 66,500.00   |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Certs: Disability<br>Building Grant | 50,915.00   |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 15,994.95   |
| BANAGHER NS                                 | 18175L0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 2,974.69    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG<br>B                      | 18506I0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 1,940.08    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG<br>B                      | 18506I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 4,619.30    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Extension on-site 2005                    | Building Certs: Final<br>Certs               | 34,221.46   |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Extension on-site 2005                    | Fees Final                                   | 34,116.89   |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Extension on-site 2005                    | Fees PSDS Final                              | 1,174.50    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Extension on-site 2005                    | Other Costs: Percentage<br>of Art            | 12,134.00   |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 1,461.65    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                       | 7,770.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                       | 5,500.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>CASTLEBAR                 | 18542M0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 10,741.75   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS<br>BALLINA                    | 18561Q0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 4,500.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS<br>BALLINA                    | 18561Q0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 100,000.00  |
| ST JOSEPHS NS<br>BALLINA                    | 18561Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 9,981.30    |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS                             | 18712L0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 4,500.00    |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS                             | 18712L0000  | Special Needs Facility Set-<br>up Grant   | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 6,500.00    |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS                             | 18712L0000  | Emergency '08                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 163,000.00  |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS                             | 18712L0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 9,000.00    |
| SN PEADAIR AGUS<br>POL                      | 18848N0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 4,712.37    |
| SN PEADAIR AGUS<br>POL                      | 18848N0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 120,000.00  |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                             | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€  |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| SN PEADAIR AGUS POL        | 18848N0000  | SWS '09                                  | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 6,937.77     |
| SN GORT SCEICHE            | 18880J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009            | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 3,473.21     |
| CLOONLIFFEN NS             | 18922W0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 5,419.32     |
| CLOONLIFFEN NS             | 18922W0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommm   | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 40,000.00    |
| CLOONLIFFEN NS             | 18922W0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009            | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 3,307.70     |
| ST ANTHONYS NS             | 19248R0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2004         | Building Certs: Final Certs         | 5,175.60     |
| ST ANTHONYS NS             | 19248R0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 7,144.18     |
| ST ANTHONYS NS             | 19248R0000  | Replacement Equipment                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 36.98        |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS        | 19375B0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 20,209.08    |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS        | 19375B0000  | Replacement Equipment                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 3,012.25     |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS        | 19375B0000  | Rental (Prefab) — Additional Accommm     | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                  | 4,738.50     |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006         | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 1,952.41     |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                   | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 3,324,273.40 |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                   | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 124,685.04   |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                   | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 69,979.01    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                   | Other Costs: Percentage of Art      | 12,666.00    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                   | Services-CLOSED                     | 385.90       |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,205.56     |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Replacement Equipment                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,734.33     |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL        | 19387I0000  | Relocation (Prefab) — Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 7,360.00     |
| NEWPORT CENTRAL            | 19451O0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 652.30       |
| NEWPORT CENTRAL            | 19451O0000  | Emergency '09                            | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 117,743.20   |
| SCOIL NAOMH FEICHIN        | 19488O0000  | Emergency '09                            | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 36,269.19    |
| SCOIL NAOMH FEICHIN        | 19488O0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009            | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 10,485.10    |
| CARRACASTLE CENTRAL NS     | 19651W0000  | SWS '09                                  | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 68,249.90    |
| ST NICHOLAS SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006         | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 50,234.89    |
| ST NICHOLAS SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006         | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 4,602.05     |
| ST NICHOLAS SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006         | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,990.31     |

| SCHOOL NAME                | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                               | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ST NICHOLAS SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 18,383.15   |
| GEESALA CENTRAL SCHOOL     | 19776T0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 7,561.73    |
| TAVRANE CENTRAL NS         | 19808G0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,515.12    |
| TAVRANE CENTRAL NS         | 19808G0000  | SWS '09                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 81,555.60   |
| FOXFORD CENTRAL NS         | 19812U0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 2,500.00    |
| FOXFORD CENTRAL NS         | 19812U0000  | Emergency '08                              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 290,000.00  |
| KILTIMAGH CENTRAL SCHOOL   | 19903A0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 6,709.74    |
| ST PATRICKS CENTRAL NS     | 19911W0000  | SWS '09                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 26,400.50   |
| ST PATRICKS CENTRAL NS     | 19911W0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 10,186.74   |
| ST. PETERS NS              | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                     | Building Certs: Final Certs         | 60,161.27   |
| ST. PETERS NS              | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                     | Fees Final                          | 9,661.35    |
| ST. PETERS NS              | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006                     | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 44,916.12   |
| ST. PETERS NS              | 19916J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 10,244.36   |
| SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA        | 20037L0000  | Replacement Equipment                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 450.27      |
| SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA        | 20037L0000  | Emergency '09                              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 69,943.00   |
| SCOIL PADRAIG NAOFA        | 20037L0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 4,946.44    |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE      | 20046M0000  | New School/Building Architectural Planning | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 25,959.01   |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE      | 20046M0000  | New School/Building Architectural Planning | Fees PSDS Interim                   | 1,603.80    |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE      | 20046M0000  | New School/Building Architectural Planning | Surveys-CLOSED                      | 1,154.25    |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE      | 20046M0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 56.13       |
| ST JOSEPHS NS              | 20089H0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 19,004.55   |
| CROSSMOLINA NS             | 20125I0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 354.88      |
| CROSSMOLINA NS             | 20125I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 8,750.70    |
| SCOIL IOSA                 | 20142I0000  | Extension Architectural Plannin            | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 4,036.98    |
| MOUNT PALMER NS            | 20217N0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 7,964.86    |
| TOURMAKEADY NS             | 20256A0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 9,000.00    |
| TOURMAKEADY NS             | 20256A0000  | Rental (Prefab) — Additional Accom         | Capital Costs Rental: Removal       | 4,537.00    |
| TOURMAKEADY NS             | 20256A0000  | Small School Scheme '07                    | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 148,200.00  |
| SCOIL DAMHNAIT, ACHILL     | 64490G0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                       | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 4,530.00    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                                    | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                                | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| SCOIL DAMHNAIT,<br>ACHILL                      | 64490G0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment                | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 300.00      |
| BALLA SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>CASTLEBAR        | 64500G0000  | Emergency '09                               | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 121,736.53  |
| BALLA SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>CASTLEBAR        | 64500G0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment                | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 4,000.00    |
| ST MURDEACHS<br>COLLEGE, BALLINA               | 64510J0000  | SWS '09                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 93,551.50   |
| ST MURDEACHS<br>COLLEGE, BALLINA               | 64510J0000  | Emergency '09                               | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 415,743.10  |
| ST MURDEACHS<br>COLLEGE, BALLINA               | 64510J0000  | Leaving Cert Technology<br>Grant Commitment | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 30,000.00   |
| ST MARYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, BALLINA       | 64520M0000  | SWS '09                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 48,089.96   |
| ST MARYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, BALLINA       | 64520M0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                      | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 704.44      |
| ST MARYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, BALLINA       | 64520M0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009            | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 39,700.25   |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | Extension Architectural<br>Plannin          | Fees Stages 1-6                        | 142,944.75  |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | Emergency '09                               | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 15,493.31   |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                      | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 2,966.08    |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                        | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 7,130.00    |
| OUR LADYS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL,<br>BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment                | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 8,000.00    |
| ST GERALDS<br>COLLEGE,<br>CASTLEBAR            | 64580H0000  | SWS '09                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 161,890.00  |
| ST GERALDS<br>COLLEGE,<br>CASTLEBAR            | 64580H0000  | Emergency '09                               | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 56,240.56   |
| ST GERALDS<br>COLLEGE,<br>CASTLEBAR            | 64580H0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment                | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 4,000.00    |
| ST GERALDS<br>COLLEGE,<br>CASTLEBAR            | 64580H0000  | Metal Work Grant<br>Commitment              | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 3,600.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                                 | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 9,671.40    |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 107,730.00  |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | Emergency '09                           | Building Certs: Disability<br>Building Grant | 281,095.50  |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment            | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 4,300.00    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 4,428.67    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                    | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 9,430.00    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment            | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 4,000.00    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009        | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 11,821.14   |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009        | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 37,505.05   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007                  | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs             | 146,818.29  |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007                  | Fees Stages 7-8                              | 52,147.80   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007                  | Other Costs: Percentage<br>of Art            | 25,289.61   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 85,887.60   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment            | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 4,300.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL                     | 64640W0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 24,310.44   |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL                     | 64640W0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 49,000.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL                     | 64640W0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 156,710.00  |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL                     | 64640W0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment            | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 4,000.00    |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH                | 64660F0000  | Extension Architectural<br>Plannin      | Fees Stages 1-6                              | 165,312.90  |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH                | 64660F0000  | Extension Architectural<br>Plannin      | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                           | 2,430.00    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                        | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                  | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€  |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, LOUISBURGH   | 64660F0000  | Replacement Equipment         | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 2,503.12     |
| SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, LOUISBURGH   | 64660F0000  | PLC Grant Current Year        | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 5,561.40     |
| SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, LOUISBURGH   | 64660F0000  | Woodwork Grant Commitment     | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 4,000.00     |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND PADRAIG, SWINFORD  | 64690O0000  | PLC Grant Current Year        | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 3,707.60     |
| COLAISTE MHUIRE, TUAR MHIC EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Replacement Equipment         | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 53,958.66    |
| COLAISTE MHUIRE, TUAR MHIC EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Emergency '09                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 202,591.42   |
| COLAISTE MHUIRE, TUAR MHIC EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 10,832.55    |
| RICE COLLEGE WESTPORT              | 64700O0000  | Replacement Furniture         | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 6,403.50     |
| RICE COLLEGE WESTPORT              | 64700O0000  | Replacement Furniture         | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,834.65     |
| RICE COLLEGE WESTPORT              | 64700O0000  | Woodwork Grant Commitment     | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 900.00       |
| SACRED HEART, WESTPORT             | 64710R0000  | SWS '09                       | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 73,372.30    |
| SACRED HEART, WESTPORT             | 64710R0000  | PLC Grant Current Year        | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 5,561.40     |
| SACRED HEART, WESTPORT             | 64710R0000  | Woodwork Grant Commitment     | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 600.00       |
| MOYNE V S, BALLINA                 | 72020L0000  | SWS '09                       | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 90,238.71    |
| ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET     | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008        | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 1,801,086.11 |
| ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET     | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008        | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 88,248.14    |
| ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET     | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008        | Clerk of Works                      | 34,115.72    |
| ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET     | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008        | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 467,714.00   |
| ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET     | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008        | Other Costs: Percentage of Art      | 25,333.33    |
| ST BRENDANS COLLEGE, BELMULLET     | 72050U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 15,604.62    |
| MC HALE COLLEGE ACHILL             | 72070D0000  | DCG Grant Current Year        | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 18,500.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME                       | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                                  | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ST TIERNAN'S COLLEGE, CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommodations | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 71,743.40   |
| ST TIERNAN'S COLLEGE, CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 44,650.00   |
| ST TIERNAN'S COLLEGE, CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 10,655.44   |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA     | 72130S0000  | Extension Enabling Works                      | Fees Final                          | 21,659.49   |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA     | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                        | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 337,152.69  |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA     | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                        | Fees Final                          | 9,910.05    |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA     | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2007                        | Other Costs: Percentage of Art      | 36,337.77   |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA     | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2008                        | Building Certs: Final Certs         | 22,282.78   |
| ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KILLALA     | 72130S0000  | Extension on-site 2008                        | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 72,757.19   |
| WESTPORT V.S.                     | 72160E0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 47,443.00   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | PE Hall Architectural Planning                | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 23,242.95   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | PE Hall Architectural Planning                | Fees PSDS Interim                   | 2,940.30    |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | PE Hall Architectural Planning                | Fees: Planning Fees                 | 2,000.00    |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | PE Hall on site 2009                          | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 333,666.89  |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | PE Hall on site 2009                          | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 7,807.64    |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | SWS '09                                       | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 56,951.20   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR          | 76060U0000  | Emergency '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 283,450.00  |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL      | 91461C0000  | Extension Architectural Planning              | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 102,005.04  |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL      | 91461C0000  | Emergency '09                                 | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 109,509.78  |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL      | 91461C0000  | Emergency '09                                 | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                  | 15,304.44   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL      | 91461C0000  | Woodwork Grant Commitment                     | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 8,000.00    |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL       | 91462E0000  | SWS '06                                       | Fees Final                          | 4,838.87    |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL       | 91462E0000  | SWS '07                                       | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                  | 8,121.34    |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL         | 91494R0000  | DCG Grant Commitment                          | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 14,200.00   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                     | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                 | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| ST LOUIS<br>COMMUNITY<br>SCHOOL | 91494R0000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 900.00      |
| MAYO VEC,<br>CASTLEBAR          | VEC0021000  | DCG Grant Commitment         | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 6,590.00    |
| MAYO VEC,<br>CASTLEBAR          | VEC0021000  | Woodwork Grant<br>Commitment | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 32,000.00   |

TOTAL SPEND CO MAYO 2010: €15,400,768.00

| SCHOOL NAME                        | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|------------------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| IRISHTOWN NS                       | 14808E0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 70,000.00   |
| IRISHTOWN NS                       | 14808E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| IRISHTOWN NS                       | 14808E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,109.00    |
| KEENAGH NS                         | 14923E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| KEENAGH NS                         | 14923E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 513.00      |
| PULLATHOMAS NS                     | 16283E0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 97.48       |
| PULLATHOMAS NS                     | 16283E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| PULLATHOMAS NS                     | 16283E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,510.50    |
| DRUMSLIDE NS                       | 17532E0000  | Emergency '10                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 30,100.00   |
| DRUMSLIDE NS                       | 17532E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| DRUMSLIDE NS                       | 17532E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 826.50      |
| DOOAGH NS                          | 18082E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| DOOAGH NS                          | 18082E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,795.50    |
| SN NAOMH SEOSAMH                   | 18754E0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 84,000.00   |
| SN NAOMH SEOSAMH                   | 18754E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN NAOMH SEOSAMH                   | 18754E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 852.00      |
| SN NAOMH IOSAF                     | 18818E0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 11,688.85   |
| SN NAOMH IOSAF                     | 18818E0000  | Emergency '09                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 12,850.21   |
| SN NAOMH IOSAF                     | 18818E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN NAOMH IOSAF                     | 18818E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 655.50      |
| SCOIL IOSA                         | 20275E0000  | Radon- Remediation                        | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 20,764.00   |
| SCOIL IOSA                         | 20275E0000  | Emergency '10                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 30,902.00   |
| SCOIL IOSA                         | 20275E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 13,089.00   |
| SCOIL IOSA                         | 20275E0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| BALLANDINE BOYS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 01676P0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| BALLANDINE BOYS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 01676P0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,676.50    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 02912G0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 02912G0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,679.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL      | 02912G0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 9,437.25    |

| SCHOOL NAME                      | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE   | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 3,500.00    |
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Agreed Fees-CLOSED   | 6,015.50    |
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Capital Costs Rental:<br>Delivery/Installation/<br>Crane Hire                    | 3,546.87    |
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Capital Costs Rental: Civil<br>Works /Service<br>Connections/Utility<br>Services | 858.06      |
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Capital Costs Rental: Site<br>Works  | 15,459.00   |
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| BRACKLOON NS                     | 04796R0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 2,080.50    |
| LEHINCH NATIONAL<br>SCHOOL       | 05120L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| LEHINCH NATIONAL<br>SCHOOL       | 05120L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 598.50      |
| BURRISCARRA<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 05756K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| BURRISCARRA<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 05756K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,083.00    |
| GARRACLOON NS                    | 06852L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| GARRACLOON NS                    | 06852L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 855.00      |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                 | 07054L0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 44,928.84   |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                 | 07054L0000  | Emergency '08                             | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 5,000.00    |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                 | 07054L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,868.50    |
| SCOIL NAOMH BRID                 | 07054L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN | 07075T0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 1,525.50    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN | 07075T0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 70,000.00   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN | 07075T0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 8,901.90    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN | 07075T0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH FEICHIN | 07075T0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,425.00    |
| BALLINTUBBER NS                  | 07374G0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| BALLINTUBBER NS                  | 07374G0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,852.50    |
| WESTPORT 2 NS                    | 08302J0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| WESTPORT 2 NS                    | 08302J0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,738.50    |
| NEWTOWNWHITE NS                  | 09040K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| NEWTOWNWHITE NS                  | 09040K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 712.50      |
| GLENISLAND NS                    | 09658H0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 120,284.71  |
| GLENISLAND NS                    | 09658H0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| GLENISLAND NS                    | 09658H0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 712.50      |
| GLENISLAND NS                    | 09658H0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 2,405.65    |
| KILLEENDUFF NS                   | 09691F0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| KILLEENDUFF NS                   | 09691F0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 912.00      |
| BEHYMORE NS                      | 11725I0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 2,499.86    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                          | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------|-------------|
| BEHYMORE NS                          | 11725I0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 140,000.00  |
| BEHYMORE NS                          | 11725I0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 15,500.00   |
| BEHYMORE NS                          | 11725I0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 43,000.00   |
| BEHYMORE NS                          | 11725I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| BEHYMORE NS                          | 11725I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 5,016.00    |
| CLOONDAFF NS                         | 11834N0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| CLOONDAFF NS                         | 11834N0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 684.00      |
| MEELICKMORE N S                      | 12173A0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 5,786.80    |
| MEELICKMORE N S                      | 12173A0000  | Small School Scheme '06                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 49,000.00   |
| MEELICKMORE N S                      | 12173A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| MEELICKMORE N S                      | 12173A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,567.50    |
| SN NAOMH PADRAIG                     | 12206M0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 36,000.00   |
| SN NAOMH PADRAIG                     | 12206M0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| SN NAOMH PADRAIG                     | 12206M0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 4,788.00    |
| S N NA HAILLE                        | 12350T0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 40,332.17   |
| S N NA HAILLE                        | 12350T0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| S N NA HAILLE                        | 12350T0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,508.00    |
| AUGHLEAM NS                          | 12373I0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 59,426.85   |
| AUGHLEAM NS                          | 12373I0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 51,190.24   |
| AUGHLEAM NS                          | 12373I0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 53,652.41   |
| AUGHLEAM NS                          | 12373I0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 33,240.04   |
| AUGHLEAM NS                          | 12373I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| AUGHLEAM NS                          | 12373I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,795.50    |
| CRAGGAGH NS                          | 12467R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| CRAGGAGH NS                          | 12467R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,425.00    |
| INVER NS                             | 12568A0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 2,340.00    |
| INVER NS                             | 12568A0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 97,354.00   |
| INVER NS                             | 12568A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| INVER NS                             | 12568A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,140.00    |
| INVER NS                             | 12568A0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009        | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 3,437.48    |
| S N ROS DUMHACH                      | 12569C0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 4,702.50    |
| S N ROS DUMHACH                      | 12569C0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| S N ROS DUMHACH                      | 12569C0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,111.50    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>COILL A TSIDHEAIN | 12626L0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>COILL A TSIDHEAIN | 12626L0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 741.00      |
| ST MICHAELS NS                       | 12792F0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| ST MICHAELS NS                       | 12792F0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 712.50      |
| SHRAHEEN NS                          | 12808R0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 3,000.00    |
| SHRAHEEN NS                          | 12808R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| SHRAHEEN NS                          | 12808R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 570.00      |
| CREGDUFF NS                          | 12815O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| CREGDUFF NS                          | 12815O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 684.00      |
| S N CEATHRU AN<br>CHLOCHAR           | 12816Q0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME                    | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| S N CEATHRU AN<br>CHLOCHAR     | 12816Q0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 997.50      |
| CLOONLYON<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 12936D0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 1,755.00    |
| CLOONLYON<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 12936D0000  | Small School Scheme '06                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 15,000.00   |
| CLOONLYON<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 12936D0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CLOONLYON<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 12936D0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,166.00    |
| TAVNEENA NS                    | 12938H0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| TAVNEENA NS                    | 12938H0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,938.00    |
| SN NAOMH COLM<br>CILLE         | 13145A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,555.00    |
| SN NAOMH COLM<br>CILLE         | 13145A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                  | 13152U0000  | Replacement Equipment                   | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 9,365.52    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                  | 13152U0000  | Small School Scheme '07                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 235,281.50  |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                  | 13152U0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 19,096.38   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                  | 13152U0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                  | 13152U0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,736.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                  | 13152U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009        | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 13,413.26   |
| SN GLEANN A<br>CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | Replacement Equipment                   | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 3,530.17    |
| SN GLEANN A<br>CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 5,118.77    |
| SN GLEANN A<br>CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 6,000.00    |
| SN GLEANN A<br>CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN GLEANN A<br>CHAISIL         | 13222P0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,927.50    |
| CORMAIC NAOFA                  | 13225V0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 12,128.26   |
| CORMAIC NAOFA                  | 13225V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CORMAIC NAOFA                  | 13225V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,425.00    |
| ST PATRICKS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 13311O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST PATRICKS<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 13311O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 513.00      |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH  | 13383Q0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 60,062.14   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH  | 13383Q0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 7,214.15    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH  | 13383Q0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA AN<br>TSRAITH  | 13383Q0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 712.50      |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS                | 13389F0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 2,047.32    |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS                | 13389F0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 80,478.80   |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS                | 13389F0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST. JOSEPH'S NS                | 13389F0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,337.00    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                             | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE  | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|---|---|-------------|
| ST MARYS NS<br>BALLYHEANE               | 13444K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| ST MARYS NS<br>BALLYHEANE               | 13444K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,624.50    |
| ST MARYS NS<br>BALLYHEANE               | 13444K0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 5,266.51    |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS                       | 13500R0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment                        | 65.98       |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS                       | 13500R0000  | Replacement Equipment                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment                        | 316.18      |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS                       | 13500R0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| MOUNT PLEASANT NS                       | 13500R0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 2,593.50    |
| SN FAITCHE                              | 13555T0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| SN FAITCHE                              | 13555T0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 3,078.00    |
| BEACAN MIXED NS                         | 13659I0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| BEACAN MIXED NS                         | 13659I0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 4,831.50    |
| BONNICONLON NS                          | 13667H0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant  | 10,500.00   |
| BONNICONLON NS                          | 13667H0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 65,945.99   |
| BONNICONLON NS                          | 13667H0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Capital Costs Rental:<br>Delivery/Installation/<br>Crane Hire | 577.13      |
| BONNICONLON NS                          | 13667H0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| BONNICONLON NS                          | 13667H0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 2,308.50    |
| BEANNCHOR NS                            | 13684H0000  | Emergency '10                             | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 31,920.00   |
| BEANNCHOR NS                            | 13684H0000  | Emergency '10                             | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 13,680.00   |
| BEANNCHOR NS                            | 13684H0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| BEANNCHOR NS                            | 13684H0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,681.50    |
| TEMPLEMARY NS                           | 13758K0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment                        | 1,238.14    |
| TEMPLEMARY NS                           | 13758K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| TEMPLEMARY NS                           | 13758K0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,083.00    |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN                       | 13773G0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| SN GORT AN EADAIN                       | 13773G0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 883.50      |
| ST JOHNS NS                             | 13781F0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Furniture Grant  | 17,000.00   |
| ST JOHNS NS                             | 13781F0000  | PAS '07                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 200,000.00  |
| ST JOHNS NS                             | 13781F0000  | PAS '07                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 118,784.00  |
| ST JOHNS NS                             | 13781F0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 12,130.50   |
| ST JOHNS NS                             | 13781F0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| LECANVEY<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL             | 13797U0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| LECANVEY<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL             | 13797U0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 769.50      |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>GLEANN NA<br>MUAIDHE | 13882L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>GLEANN NA<br>MUAIDHE | 13882L0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 741.00      |
| ESKERAGH NS                             | 13945J0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| ESKERAGH NS                             | 13945J0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 513.00      |

| SCHOOL NAME                                | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| S N COILL AN BHAILE                        | 14064F0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N COILL AN BHAILE                        | 14064F0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,111.50    |
| BARNATRA NS                                | 14188A0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 31,000.00   |
| BARNATRA NS                                | 14188A0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| BARNATRA NS                                | 14188A0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 741.00      |
| SN DUBH THUAMA                             | 14193Q0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 34,679.00   |
| SN DUBH THUAMA                             | 14193Q0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN DUBH THUAMA                             | 14193Q0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 798.00      |
| AN GLEANNA MHOIR<br>S N                    | 14195U0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 410.40      |
| AN GLEANNA MHOIR<br>S N                    | 14195U0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| AN GLEANNA MHOIR<br>S N                    | 14195U0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 256.50      |
| SN MAINISTIR<br>MUIGHEO                    | 14205U0000  | Replacement Furniture                     | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,116.34    |
| SN MAINISTIR<br>MUIGHEO                    | 14205U0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 448,000.00  |
| SN MAINISTIR<br>MUIGHEO                    | 14205U0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN MAINISTIR<br>MUIGHEO                    | 14205U0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,396.50    |
| CILL MHOR IORRAIS                          | 14258S0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CILL MHOR IORRAIS                          | 14258S0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,881.00    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG                          | 14290O0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 9,288.00    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG                          | 14290O0000  | Emergency '10                             | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 97,626.93   |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG                          | 14290O0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG                          | 14290O0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,995.00    |
| RICHMOND NS                                | 14400S0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 25,380.00   |
| RICHMOND NS                                | 14400S0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| RICHMOND NS                                | 14400S0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,567.50    |
| BOFIELD MIXED NS                           | 14418O0000  | SWS '10                                   | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 45,338.40   |
| BOFIELD MIXED NS                           | 14418O0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| BOFIELD MIXED NS                           | 14418O0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,140.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS                             | 14497N0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS                             | 14497N0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,221.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS                             | 14497N0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 8,663.28    |
| GORTJORDAN NS                              | 14534Q0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| GORTJORDAN NS                              | 14534Q0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,824.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA NA<br>CRAOBHAIGHE          | 14671D0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 9,519.27    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA NA<br>CRAOBHAIGHE          | 14671D0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA NA<br>CRAOBHAIGHE          | 14671D0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 940.50      |
| ACHILL SOUND<br>CONVENT<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 14863M0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ACHILL SOUND<br>CONVENT<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 14863M0000  | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,168.50    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                                | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                         | PAYMENT TYPE                   | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| ACHILL SOUND<br>CONVENT<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL | 14863M0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009     | Building Grant-CLOSED          | 8,543.39    |
| KILLACRANN NS                              | 14865Q0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| KILLACRANN NS                              | 14865Q0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 541.50      |
| KILLACRANN NS                              | 14865Q0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009     | Building Grant-CLOSED          | 2,932.50    |
| BULLSMOUTH NS                              | 14866S0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED          | 29,463.96   |
| BULLSMOUTH NS                              | 14866S0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| BULLSMOUTH NS                              | 14866S0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 627.00      |
| DUNKENNELLA<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL             | 14873P0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| DUNKENNELLA<br>NATIONAL SCHOOL             | 14873P0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 627.00      |
| PARTRY NATIONAL<br>SCHOOL                  | 15007V0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| PARTRY NATIONAL<br>SCHOOL                  | 15007V0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 1,596.00    |
| CORCLOUGH NS                               | 15014S0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| CORCLOUGH NS                               | 15014S0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 1,710.00    |
| ST. MARYS NS                               | 15030Q0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| ST. MARYS NS                               | 15030Q0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 1,995.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>MUIRE GAN SMAL          | 15032U0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED          | 8,127.99    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>MUIRE GAN SMAL          | 15032U0000  | Emergency '10                        | Building Grant-CLOSED          | 34,811.75   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>MUIRE GAN SMAL          | 15032U0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>MUIRE GAN SMAL          | 15032U0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 883.50      |
| ST JAMES NS<br>SWINFORD                    | 15113U0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| ST JAMES NS<br>SWINFORD                    | 15113U0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 541.50      |
| QUIGNAMANGER NS                            | 15257V0000  | Replacement Furniture                | F&E: Furniture Grant           | 3,437.19    |
| QUIGNAMANGER NS                            | 15257V0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED          | 12,000.00   |
| QUIGNAMANGER NS                            | 15257V0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 7,039.50    |
| QUIGNAMANGER NS                            | 15257V0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOHNS NS                                | 15539I0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOHNS NS                                | 15539I0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 1,681.50    |
| BREAFFY NS                                 | 15555G0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| BREAFFY NS                                 | 15555G0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,412.50    |
| CLOONFAD N S                               | 15557K0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| CLOONFAD N S                               | 15557K0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 3,363.00    |
| RATHKELL NS                                | 15705W0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 6,500.00    |
| RATHKELL NS                                | 15705W0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant         | 342.00      |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS                            | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-<br>Site 2006 | Building Certs: Final<br>Certs | 27,369.27   |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS                            | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-<br>Site 2006 | Fees Final                     | 834.72      |

| SCHOOL NAME               | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                     | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------|
| CARRAKENNEDY NS           | 15866A0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006 | Fees Final                                | 565.04      |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS           | 15866A0000  | Emergency '10                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 9,767.58    |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS           | 15866A0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| CARRAKENNEDY NS           | 15866A0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 912.00      |
| CRIMLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 15967G0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| CRIMLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL   | 15967G0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 826.50      |
| RATHBANE NATIONAL SCHOOL  | 15996N0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| RATHBANE NATIONAL SCHOOL  | 15996N0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,653.00    |
| LISANISKA NS              | 16021U0000  | Replacement Furniture            | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 13,198.26   |
| LISANISKA NS              | 16021U0000  | Emergency '10                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 48,630.00   |
| LISANISKA NS              | 16021U0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| LISANISKA NS              | 16021U0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 2,080.50    |
| LISANISKA NS              | 16021U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 3,675.38    |
| SAULA NS                  | 16052I0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| SAULA NS                  | 16052I0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 855.00      |
| SN TOIN NA GAOITHE        | 16113C0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| SN TOIN NA GAOITHE        | 16113C0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,111.50    |
| KNOCK NS                  | 16122D0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 79,636.09   |
| KNOCK NS                  | 16122D0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 34,129.76   |
| KNOCK NS                  | 16122D0000  | Emergency '10                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 61,720.97   |
| KNOCK NS                  | 16122D0000  | Emergency '10                    | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 38,079.22   |
| KNOCK NS                  | 16122D0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| KNOCK NS                  | 16122D0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 3,874.50    |
| CLOGHAN NS                | 16170O0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 8,000.00    |
| CLOGHAN NS                | 16170O0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| CLOGHAN NS                | 16170O0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 883.50      |
| KINAFFE NS                | 16173U0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 45,500.00   |
| KINAFFE NS                | 16173U0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| KINAFFE NS                | 16173U0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 712.50      |
| KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16269K0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 28,000.00   |
| KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16269K0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16269K0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,026.00    |
| KILLASSER NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16269K0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009    | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 1,740.20    |
| ST JOHNS NS               | 16289Q0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOHNS NS               | 16289Q0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,938.00    |
| SN AN CHORRAIN            | 16295L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |
| SN AN CHORRAIN            | 16295L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 456.00      |
| VALLEY NATIONAL SCHOOL    | 16379R0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 6,500.00    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME            | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------|-------------|
| VALLEY NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16379R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 655.50      |
| RATHLEE NS             | 16492N0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 7,559.65    |
| RATHLEE NS             | 16492N0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| RATHLEE NS             | 16492N0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,337.00    |
| KNOCKANILLO            | 16562I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| KNOCKANILLO            | 16562I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 997.50      |
| KNOCKANILLO            | 16562I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 3,456.32    |
| MYNA NS                | 16618J0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 5,697.89    |
| MYNA NS                | 16618J0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 58,968.44   |
| MYNA NS                | 16618J0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 38,559.11   |
| MYNA NS                | 16618J0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 3,516.80    |
| MYNA NS                | 16618J0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| MYNA NS                | 16618J0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,964.00    |
| CARRA NS               | 16630W0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 8,485.00    |
| CARRA NS               | 16630W0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| CARRA NS               | 16630W0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,168.50    |
| SN BRIGHDE             | 16756V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| SN BRIGHDE             | 16756V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,451.00    |
| CULMORE NS             | 16780S0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| CULMORE NS             | 16780S0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 741.00      |
| KILLALA NS             | 16811D0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| KILLALA NS             | 16811D0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,422.50    |
| KILLALA NS             | 16811D0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 3,343.01    |
| MUIRISK NS             | 16832L0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| MUIRISK NS             | 16832L0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,054.50    |
| SN LAINN CILLE         | 16904K0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 1,806.65    |
| SN LAINN CILLE         | 16904K0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommod | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 34,371.80   |
| SN LAINN CILLE         | 16904K0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 17,200.00   |
| SN LAINN CILLE         | 16904K0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| SN LAINN CILLE         | 16904K0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 1,653.00    |
| LAHARDANE NS           | 16911H0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| LAHARDANE NS           | 16911H0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,080.50    |
| LAHARDANE NS           | 16911H0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009           | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 3,558.34    |
| COOGUE NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16952V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| COOGUE NATIONAL SCHOOL | 16952V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 427.50      |
| ST JOSEPHS NS          | 16984L0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS          | 16984L0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 2,508.00    |
| S N COILL MOR          | 17039V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| S N COILL MOR          | 17039V0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 627.00      |
| CHOMAIN NAOFA          | 17082W0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 6,500.00    |
| CHOMAIN NAOFA          | 17082W0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant | 3,619.50    |

| SCHOOL NAME                  | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| ARDAGH NS<br>BALLINA         | 17098O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ARDAGH NS<br>BALLINA         | 17098O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,365.50    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN            | 17119T0000  | PAS '07                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 74,299.00   |
| S N B BALL ALUINN            | 17119T0000  | SWS '09                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 26,852.70   |
| S N B BALL ALUINN            | 17119T0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N B BALL ALUINN            | 17119T0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 5,035.50    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>RATHNAMAGH | 17129W0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 29,160.00   |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>RATHNAMAGH | 17129W0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST PATRICKS NS<br>RATHNAMAGH | 17129W0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 855.00      |
| SN REALT NA MARA             | 17176I0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 22,663.38   |
| SN REALT NA MARA             | 17176I0000  | Emergency '10                           | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 10,000.00   |
| SN REALT NA MARA             | 17176I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN REALT NA MARA             | 17176I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,023.50    |
| COONEAL NS                   | 17209U0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 906.80      |
| COONEAL NS                   | 17209U0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 41,233.33   |
| COONEAL NS                   | 17209U0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| COONEAL NS                   | 17209U0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,078.00    |
| SN TEACH CAOIN               | 17301I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN TEACH CAOIN               | 17301I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,052.00    |
| S N AN CHOILL MHOR           | 17321O0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 1,036.78    |
| S N AN CHOILL MHOR           | 17321O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N AN CHOILL MHOR           | 17321O0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 769.50      |
| CLOGHER NS                   | 17482P0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CLOGHER NS                   | 17482P0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 997.50      |
| CARROWHOLLY NS               | 17483R0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 4,536.00    |
| CARROWHOLLY NS               | 17483R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CARROWHOLLY NS               | 17483R0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,479.50    |
| ST. PAUL'S NS                | 17562N0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 70,386.00   |
| ST. PAUL'S NS                | 17562N0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST. PAUL'S NS                | 17562N0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,567.50    |
| S N BEAL CARADH              | 17585C0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 88,043.40   |
| S N BEAL CARADH              | 17585C0000  | SWS '10                                 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 53,755.81   |
| S N BEAL CARADH              | 17585C0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N BEAL CARADH              | 17585C0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,334.50    |
| KILROE NS,OWER               | 17615I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| KILROE NS,OWER               | 17615I0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,023.50    |
| MANULLA NS                   | 17678J0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| MANULLA NS                   | 17678J0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 997.50      |
| SN COLM NAOFA                | 17682A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN COLM NAOFA                | 17682A0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,083.00    |
| BEAL AN MHUIRTHID            | 17727T0000  | Replacement Furniture                   | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,380.07    |
| BEAL AN MHUIRTHID            | 17727T0000  | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                                 | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                     | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| BEAL AN MHUIRTHID                           | 17727T0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,163.50    |
| GLENCORRIB NS                               | 17874J0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| GLENCORRIB NS                               | 17874J0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 769.50      |
| CLOGHANS HILL NS                            | 17922R0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 20,000.00   |
| CLOGHANS HILL NS                            | 17922R0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CLOGHANS HILL NS                            | 17922R0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 313.50      |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>BEAL AN<br>MHUIRTHEAD    | 17923T0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>BEAL AN<br>MHUIRTHEAD    | 17923T0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,738.50    |
| DRUMGALLAGH NS                              | 18002D0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| DRUMGALLAGH NS                              | 18002D0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,596.00    |
| SN ATHRACHT NFA<br>BUACH                    | 18003F0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 28,177.03   |
| SN ATHRACHT NFA<br>BUACH                    | 18003F0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SN ATHRACHT NFA<br>BUACH                    | 18003F0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,727.00    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Replacement Furniture            | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,922.15    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | SWS '09                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 28,500.00   |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 130,250.00  |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Emergency '08                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 5,000.00    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 8,436.00    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| MUIRE GAN SMAL<br>CONVENT PRIMARY<br>SCHOOL | 18070U0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 6,854.98    |
| ST. THERESA'S NS                            | 18145C0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST. THERESA'S NS                            | 18145C0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 1,681.50    |
| BANAGHER NS                                 | 18175L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| BANAGHER NS                                 | 18175L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 769.50      |
| S N NAOMH BRID C                            | 18503C0000  | Replacement Furniture            | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 721.22      |
| S N NAOMH BRID C                            | 18503C0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N NAOMH BRID C                            | 18503C0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,166.00    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG<br>B                      | 18506I0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG<br>B                      | 18506I0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 5,550.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME              | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                         | PAYMENT TYPE  | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| S N NAOMH PADRAIG B      | 18506I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009        | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 1,980.60    |
| ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR | 18542M0000  | Replacement Furniture                | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment                                     | 32.98       |
| ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR | 18542M0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 195,000.00  |
| ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR | 18542M0000  | Rental (Prefab) — Additional Accom   | Capital Costs Rental: Civil Works /Service Connections/Utility Services | 998.80      |
| ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR | 18542M0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 101,437.32  |
| ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR | 18542M0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 27,491.50   |
| ST PATRICKS NS CASTLEBAR | 18542M0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 12,000.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA    | 18561Q0000  | Rental (Prefab) — Additional Accom   | Capital Costs Rental: Removal   | 4,138.20    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA    | 18561Q0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 56,000.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA    | 18561Q0000  | Emergency '10                        | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 14,000.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA    | 18561Q0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS BALLINA    | 18561Q0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 5,415.00    |
| PARKE NS                 | 18562S0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| PARKE NS                 | 18562S0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,909.50    |
| SN ACHAIDH AN GHLAISIN   | 18594I0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 19,723.90   |
| SN ACHAIDH AN GHLAISIN   | 18594I0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| SN ACHAIDH AN GHLAISIN   | 18594I0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,054.50    |
| ST ANGELAS NS            | 18694M0000  | Emergency '10                        | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant                               | 22,837.71   |
| ST ANGELAS NS            | 18694M0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 13,290.00   |
| ST ANGELAS NS            | 18694M0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS          | 18712L0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| KNOCKROOSKEY NS          | 18712L0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 4,239.00    |
| SN PEADAIR AGUS POL      | 18848N0000  | SWS '10                              | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 40,369.00   |
| SN PEADAIR AGUS POL      | 18848N0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| SN PEADAIR AGUS POL      | 18848N0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,539.00    |
| SN PEADAIR AGUS POL      | 18848N0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009        | Building Grant-CLOSED   | 1,356.82    |
| SN GORT SCEICHE          | 18880J0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| SN GORT SCEICHE          | 18880J0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 712.50      |
| CLOONLIFFEN NS           | 18922W0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 6,500.00    |
| CLOONLIFFEN NS           | 18922W0000  | Minor Works                          | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 2,565.00    |
| ST ANTHONYS NS           | 19248R0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2004     | Fees Final  | 53,969.16   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                    | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                           | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| ST ANTHONYS NS                 | 19248R0000  | Replacement Furniture                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 6,555.16    |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                 | 19248R0000  | Replacement Equipment                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 623.65      |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                 | 19248R0000  | Replacement Equipment                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 101.00      |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                 | 19248R0000  | SWS '10                                | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 22,950.00   |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                 | 19248R0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| ST ANTHONYS NS                 | 19248R0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 3,276.00    |
| S N TEAGHLAIGH NAOFA           | 19324H0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| S N TEAGHLAIGH NAOFA           | 19324H0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 1,596.00    |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS            | 19375B0000  | Replacement Furniture                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 14,784.57   |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS            | 19375B0000  | Replacement Furniture                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 544.50      |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS            | 19375B0000  | Replacement Equipment                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 964.84      |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS            | 19375B0000  | Replacement Equipment                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 648.01      |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS            | 19375B0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| ST BRIDS SPECIAL NS            | 19375B0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 1,848.00    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                 | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 133,430.79  |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                 | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 5,787.59    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                 | Other Costs: Percentage of Art      | 12,666.00   |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Extension on-site 2006                 | Other Costs: Percentage of Art      | 12,578.90   |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Refurbishment on-site 2006             | GRANT PAYMENTS TO PROGRAMMES        | 4,500.00    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Relocation (Prefab) — Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 1,815.00    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Relocation (Prefab) — Additional Accom | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 1,453.50    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| ST DYMPHNA'S SCHOOL            | 19387I0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 2,352.00    |
| ROBEEN CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL | 19394F0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| ROBEEN CENTRAL NATIONAL SCHOOL | 19394F0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 1,197.00    |
| BALLYVARY NS                   | 19402B0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accom   | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 91,000.00   |
| BALLYVARY NS                   | 19402B0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| BALLYVARY NS                   | 19402B0000  | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 4,606.50    |
| NEWPORT CENTRAL                | 19451O0000  | Replacement Furniture                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 639.87      |
| NEWPORT CENTRAL                | 19451O0000  | Replacement Equipment                  | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 115.98      |

| SCHOOL NAME                   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                          | PAYMENT TYPE   | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| NEWPORT CENTRAL               | 19451O0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| NEWPORT CENTRAL               | 19451O0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 5,833.50    |
| SCOIL NAOMH<br>FEICHIN        | 19488O0000  | SWS '09                               | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 31,154.00   |
| SCOIL NAOMH<br>FEICHIN        | 19488O0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAOMH<br>FEICHIN        | 19488O0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,966.50    |
| CARRACASTLE<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19651W0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| CARRACASTLE<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19651W0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 2,701.50    |
| CARRACASTLE<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19651W0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009      | Building Grant-CLOSED  | 7,507.00    |
| BARNACARROLL NS               | 19710M0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| BARNACARROLL NS               | 19710M0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 3,904.50    |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | New School/Building On-<br>Site 2006  | F&E: Equipment Grant   | 4,500.00    |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | New School/Building On-<br>Site 2006  | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment   | 20,659.93   |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Replacement Furniture                 | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment   | 7,141.33    |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Replacement Furniture                 | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment   | 44.89       |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Replacement Equipment                 | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment   | 4,662.00    |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Replacement Equipment                 | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment   | 2,578.39    |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Rental (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accom | Capital Costs Rental: Civil<br>Works /Service<br>Connections/Utility<br>Services | 777.48      |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| ST NICHOLAS<br>SPECIAL SCHOOL | 19773N0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,428.00    |
| GEESALA CENTRAL<br>SCHOOL     | 19776T0000  | Replacement Furniture                 | F&E: Furniture Grant   | 1,146.15    |
| GEESALA CENTRAL<br>SCHOOL     | 19776T0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| GEESALA CENTRAL<br>SCHOOL     | 19776T0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,453.50    |
| ST COLMANS NS                 | 19798G0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| ST COLMANS NS                 | 19798G0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 855.00      |
| TAVRANE CENTRAL<br>NS         | 19808G0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| TAVRANE CENTRAL<br>NS         | 19808G0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 1,026.00    |
| FOXFORD CENTRAL<br>NS         | 19812U0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 7,465.50    |
| FOXFORD CENTRAL<br>NS         | 19812U0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL RAIFTEIRI NS            | 19832D0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 7,353.00    |
| SCOIL RAIFTEIRI NS            | 19832D0000  | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant   | 6,500.00    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                     | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| KILTIMAGH<br>CENTRAL SCHOOL   | 19903A0000  | Replacement Furniture            | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 3,438.45    |
| KILTIMAGH<br>CENTRAL SCHOOL   | 19903A0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 204,050.00  |
| KILTIMAGH<br>CENTRAL SCHOOL   | 19903A0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 7,123.50    |
| KILTIMAGH<br>CENTRAL SCHOOL   | 19903A0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| KILTIMAGH<br>CENTRAL SCHOOL   | 19903A0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 18,605.03   |
| ST PATRICKS<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19911W0000  | Replacement Equipment            | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 2,392.08    |
| ST PATRICKS<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19911W0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 45,070.10   |
| ST PATRICKS<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19911W0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST PATRICKS<br>CENTRAL NS     | 19911W0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 2,536.50    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH TOLA | 19914F0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 50,854.23   |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH TOLA | 19914F0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH TOLA | 19914F0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,135.00    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH TOLA | 19914F0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 4,126.71    |
| SCOIL NAISIUNTA<br>NAOMH TOLA | 19914F0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 1,768.59    |
| CLAREMORRIS BOYS<br>NS        | 19915H0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| CLAREMORRIS BOYS<br>NS        | 19915H0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,477.00    |
| ST. PETERS NS                 | 19916J0000  | Extension on-site 2006           | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 8,813.64    |
| ST. PETERS NS                 | 19916J0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 6,242.50    |
| ST. PETERS NS                 | 19916J0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 8,566.50    |
| ST. PETERS NS                 | 19916J0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| ST. PETERS NS                 | 19916J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 4,390.44    |
| SWINFORD NS                   | 19951L0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 135,126.71  |
| SWINFORD NS                   | 19951L0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 57,911.45   |
| SWINFORD NS                   | 19951L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SWINFORD NS                   | 19951L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,450.00    |
| GAELSCOIUL UILEOG<br>DE BURCA | 19972T0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 53,750.90   |
| GAELSCOIUL UILEOG<br>DE BURCA | 19972T0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| GAELSCOIUL UILEOG<br>DE BURCA | 19972T0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,106.50    |
| SCOIL PADRAIG<br>NAOFA        | 20037L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 6,500.00    |
| SCOIL PADRAIG<br>NAOFA        | 20037L0000  | Minor Works                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                 | 3,876.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME                       | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                               | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building Architectural Planning | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 12,221.00   |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2006           | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 41,000.00   |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2010           | Building Certs: Interim Certs       | 609,837.15  |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2010           | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 4,345.86    |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2010           | Fees Stages 7-8                     | 10,000.00   |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2010           | Clerk of Works                      | 10,443.93   |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | New School/Building On-Site 2010           | Services-CLOSED                     | 50,000.00   |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| GAELSCOIL NA CRUAICHE             | 20046M0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 5,928.00    |
| GS BHEAL SN ATHA                  | 20084U0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,813.73    |
| GS BHEAL SN ATHA                  | 20084U0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| GS BHEAL SN ATHA                  | 20084U0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 2,166.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                     | 20089H0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 10,587.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS NS                     | 20089H0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| CROSSMOLINA NS                    | 20125I0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment | 1,374.47    |
| CROSSMOLINA NS                    | 20125I0000  | SWS '10                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 28,000.00   |
| CROSSMOLINA NS                    | 20125I0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| CROSSMOLINA NS                    | 20125I0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 4,731.00    |
| CROSSMOLINA NS                    | 20125I0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 3,750.30    |
| SCOIL IOSA                        | 20142I0000  | Extension Architectural Plannin            | Fees Stages 1-6                     | 128,524.35  |
| SCOIL IOSA                        | 20142I0000  | Extension Architectural Plannin            | Fees PSDS Interim                   | 4,999.96    |
| SCOIL IOSA                        | 20142I0000  | Extension Architectural Plannin            | Disability Fees                     | 3,099.00    |
| SCOIL IOSA                        | 20142I0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 9,496.50    |
| SCOIL IOSA                        | 20142I0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| MOUNT PALMER NS                   | 20217N0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| MOUNT PALMER NS                   | 20217N0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 1,539.00    |
| SCOIL PHADRAIG                    | 20230F0000  | Replacement Furniture                      | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 1,584.49    |
| SCOIL PHADRAIG                    | 20230F0000  | SWS '10                                    | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 25,535.48   |
| SCOIL PHADRAIG                    | 20230F0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 8,550.00    |
| SCOIL PHADRAIG                    | 20230F0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| TOURMAKEADY NS                    | 20256A0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 6,500.00    |
| TOURMAKEADY NS                    | 20256A0000  | Minor Works                                | BGS: Minor Works Grant              | 1,624.50    |
| SCOIL DAMHNAIT, ACHILL            | 64490G0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                    | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 3,540.00    |
| BALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBAR | 64500G0000  | Emergency '09                              | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 8,916.38    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                           | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                           | PAYMENT TYPE                        | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| BALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBAR     | 64500G0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 9,100.00    |
| BALLA SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBAR     | 64500G0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 45,246.95   |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 56,000.00   |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | SWS '10                                | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 342,200.00  |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | Emergency '09                          | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 101,674.89  |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | Emergency '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 45,011.96   |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 9,420.00    |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009          | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 44,386.56   |
| ST MURDEACHS COLLEGE, BALLINA         | 64510J0000  | Water Conservation 2010                | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 7,010.50    |
| ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA    | 64520M0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommm | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 280,000.00  |
| ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA    | 64520M0000  | Emergency '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 27,317.50   |
| ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINA    | 64520M0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 13,820.00   |
| OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | Replacement Furniture                  | F&E: Furniture Grant                | 6,023.25    |
| OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | SWS '10                                | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 157,555.07  |
| OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | Emergency '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED               | 159,281.44  |
| OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 7,400.00    |
| OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                 | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 2,966.08    |
| OUR LADYS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BELMULLET | 64570E0000  | Metal Work Grant Commitment            | Grant Payments to Programmes-CLOSED | 14,900.00   |
| ST GERALDS COLLEGE, CASTLEBAR         | 64580H0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                | F&E: Equipment Grant                | 13,800.00   |

| SCHOOL NAME   | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                     | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL<br>CASTLEBAR        | 64590K0000  | Radon- Remediation               | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 32,292.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL<br>CASTLEBAR        | 64590K0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 54,834.45   |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL<br>CASTLEBAR        | 64590K0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010       | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 11,140.00   |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | Replacement Furniture            | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment | 9,286.74    |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | SWS '09                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 43,395.65   |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 14,500.00   |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | Emergency '09                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 105,723.47  |
| ST JOSEPH'S<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL, MARIST<br>CONVENT | 64600K0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010       | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 6,000.00    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | SWS '10                          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 136,327.10  |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010       | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 8,940.00    |
| ST COLMANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>SWINFORD                    | 64610N0000  | Water Conservation 2010          | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 5,173.20    |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | Emergency '06                    | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 7,190.91    |
| MOUNT ST MICHAEL                                      | 64620Q0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010       | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 11,440.00   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007           | Building Certs: Final<br>Certs         | 497,886.88  |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007           | Fees Final                             | 68,316.59   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Extension on-site 2007           | Other Costs: Percentage<br>of Art      | 8,425.00    |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Emergency'10                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 180,647.97  |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010       | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 10,980.00   |
| JESUS AND MARY S.S.<br>CROSSMOLINA                    | 64630T0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009 | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 11,756.43   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                             | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                             | PAYMENT TYPE                           | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|--|--|-------------|
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Replacement Furniture                    | F&E: Furniture Grant                   | 5,000.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accomm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 34,000.00   |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | SWS '10                                  | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 205,161.62  |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010               | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 8,840.00    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009         | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 7,711.30    |
| ST JOSEPHS<br>SECONDARY<br>SCHOOL       | 64640W0000  | Water Conservation 2010                  | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 3,885.10    |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010               | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 7,460.00    |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 5,005.26    |
| SANCTA MARIA<br>COLLEGE,<br>LOUISBURGH  | 64660F0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009         | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 14,429.37   |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accomm | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 238,378.94  |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | Emergency '10                            | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 79,982.90   |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010               | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 10,440.00   |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                   | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 3,707.60    |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | Metal Work Grant<br>Commitment           | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED | 14,900.00   |
| SCOIL MUIRE AND<br>PADRAIG,<br>SWINFORD | 64690O0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009         | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 17,482.51   |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | SWS '10                                  | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 36,205.07   |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Emergency '10                            | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 5,154.98    |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010               | F&E: Equipment Grant                   | 5,320.00    |
| COLAISTE MUIRE,<br>TUAR MHIC<br>EADAIGH | 64691Q0000  | Water Conservation 2010                  | Building Grant-CLOSED                  | 5,915.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME                             | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                                | PAYMENT TYPE                                 | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|---|-------------|---|--|-------------|
| RICE COLLEGE<br>WESTPORT                | 64700O0000  | Replacement Furniture                       | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 4,159.98    |
| RICE COLLEGE<br>WESTPORT                | 64700O0000  | SWS '10                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 25,400.00   |
| RICE COLLEGE<br>WESTPORT                | 64700O0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 12,040.00   |
| RICE COLLEGE<br>WESTPORT                | 64700O0000  | Water Conservation 2010                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 4,266.50    |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | Replacement Furniture                       | F&E: Furniture Grant                         | 831.16      |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 220,000.00  |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | SWS '10                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 39,458.75   |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | Emergency '10                               | Building Certs: Disability<br>Building Grant | 130,000.00  |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 13,120.00   |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | PLC Grant Current Year                      | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 5,561.40    |
| SACRED HEART,<br>WESTPORT               | 64710R0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme<br>2009            | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 30,979.94   |
| MOYNE V S, BALLINA                      | 72020L0000  | SWS '10                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 33,286.33   |
| MOYNE V S, BALLINA                      | 72020L0000  | Emergency '10                               | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 576,454.68  |
| MOYNE V S, BALLINA                      | 72020L0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 5,200.00    |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                      | Building Certs: Interim<br>Certs             | 86,084.08   |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Extension on-site 2008                      | Other Costs: Percentage<br>of Art            | 4,666.67    |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 10,260.00   |
| ST BRENDANS<br>COLLEGE,<br>BELMULLET    | 72050U0000  | Leaving Cert Technology<br>Grant Commitment | Grant Payments to<br>Programmes-CLOSED       | 15,000.00   |
| MC HALE COLLEGE<br>ACHILL               | 72070D0000  | Replacement Furniture                       | F&E: Disability<br>Furniture/Equipment       | 10,729.60   |
| MC HALE COLLEGE<br>ACHILL               | 72070D0000  | Replacement Equipment                       | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 1,384.38    |
| MC HALE COLLEGE<br>ACHILL               | 72070D0000  | SWS '10                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 58,563.32   |
| MC HALE COLLEGE<br>ACHILL               | 72070D0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 5,460.00    |
| ST TIERNAN'S<br>COLLEGE,<br>CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | SWS '10                                     | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 144,000.00  |
| ST TIERNAN'S<br>COLLEGE,<br>CROSSMOLINA | 72100J0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 6,380.00    |
| ST PATRICK'S<br>COLLEGE, KILLALA        | 72130S0000  | PE Equipment Grant<br>2010                  | F&E: Equipment Grant                         | 6,220.00    |
| ROSSPORT V.S.                           | 72140V0000  | Purchase (Prefab) —<br>Additional Accommm   | Building Grant-CLOSED                        | 305,904.00  |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| SCHOOL NAME                  | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE                                 | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT<br>€ |
|------------------------------|-------------|--|---|-------------|
| ROSSPORT V.S.                | 72140V0000  | SWS '09                                      | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 115,557.75  |
| ROSSPORT V.S.                | 72140V0000  | Emergency '10                                | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 177,141.59  |
| ROSSPORT V.S.                | 72140V0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                      | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 2,920.00    |
| WESTPORT V.S.                | 72160E0000  | SWS '10                                      | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 50,947.31   |
| WESTPORT V.S.                | 72160E0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                      | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 2,800.00    |
| WESTPORT V.S.                | 72160E0000  | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009                | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 13,635.00   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | PE Hall on site 2009                         | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 840,256.51  |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | PE Hall on site 2009                         | Fees Stages 7-8                           | 29,943.19   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | PE Hall on site 2009                         | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 65,333.00   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | PE Hall on site 2009                         | Services-CLOSED                           | 2,086.13    |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | Replacement Equipment                        | F&E: Disability Furniture/Equipment       | 1,433.95    |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommodation | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 500,000.00  |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | SWS '10                                      | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 86,400.00   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | Emergency '10                                | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 29,302.73   |
| DAVITT COLLEGE CASTLEBAR     | 76060U0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                      | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 12,640.00   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91461C0000  | SWS '10                                      | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 22,701.48   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91461C0000  | SWS '10                                      | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                        | 3,448.50    |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91461C0000  | Emergency '10                                | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 17,571.16   |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91461C0000  | Emergency '10                                | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                        | 2,480.03    |
| BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91461C0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                      | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 12,560.00   |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  | 91462E0000  | SWS '10                                      | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 41,510.36   |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  | 91462E0000  | SWS '10                                      | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                        | 2,475.19    |
| BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  | 91462E0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010                      | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 11,280.00   |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL    | 91494R0000  | SWS '09                                      | Building Grant-CLOSED                     | 9,500.00    |

| SCHOOL NAME               | ROLL NUMBER | PROJECT TYPE            | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT €  |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91494R0000  | SWS '10                 | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 52,713.01 |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91494R0000  | SWS '10                 | Agreed Fees-CLOSED                        | 3,200.00  |
| ST LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL | 91494R0000  | PE Equipment Grant 2010 | F&E: Equipment Grant                      | 11,680.00 |
| MAYO EDUCATION CENTRE     | B4011O0000  | Emergency '10           | Building Certs: Interim Certs             | 19,355.93 |
| MAYO EDUCATION CENTRE     | B4011O0000  | Emergency '10           | Building Certs: Disability Building Grant | 4,809.78  |
| MAYO EDUCATION CENTRE     | B4011O0000  | Emergency '10           | Disability Fees                           | 907.50    |

€9,701,652.29

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                           | PAYMENT TYPE                               | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|--|--|------------|
| 14808E0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011       | F&E: Furniture Grant                       | 2,500.00   |
| 14808E0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommm | Other Costs: ICT Grant                     | 35,000.00  |
| 14808E0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 63,933.37  |
| 14808E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 14808E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,313.50   |
| 14923E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 14923E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 222.00     |
| 16283E0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011      | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 2,453.88   |
| 16283E0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative               | 28,217.44  |
| 16283E0000 | Emergency '11                          | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 16,279.29  |
| 16283E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 16283E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 869.50     |
| 17532E0000 | Emergency '10                          | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 12,900.00  |
| 17532E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 17532E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 536.50     |
| 18082E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18082E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,128.50   |
| 18754E0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommm | BGS: Temporary Accommm/Additional Accommm  | 103,300.00 |
| 18754E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18754E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 647.50     |
| 18818E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18818E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 425.50     |
| 18818E0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 3,850.00   |
| 20275E0000 | Emergency '10                          | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 13,243.73  |
| 20275E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 10,212.00  |
| 20275E0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                   | PAYMENT TYPE                               | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|--|--|-----------|
| 20275E0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 8,199.53  |
| 01676P0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 01676P0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 2,275.50  |
| 02912G0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 64.00     |
| 02912G0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 190.00    |
| 02912G0000 | Emergency '11                                  | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 5,615.00  |
| 02912G0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 02912G0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,831.50  |
| 02912G0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009                  | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme              | 4,044.53  |
| 04796R0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 41,282.40 |
| 04796R0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 20,566.20 |
| 04796R0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 14,396.34 |
| 04796R0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 13,368.03 |
| 04796R0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 3,084.93  |
| 04796R0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 04796R0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,813.00  |
| 05120L0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 05120L0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 388.50    |
| 05756K0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 05756K0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 610.50    |
| 06852L0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 06852L0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 536.50    |
| 07054L0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 12,481.00 |
| 07054L0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 07054L0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 4,458.50  |
| 07075T0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011               | F&E: Classroom Furniture                   | 2,500.00  |
| 07075T0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 38,643.81 |
| 07075T0000 | SWS '09  | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 4,374.75  |
| 07075T0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 07075T0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 925.00    |
| 07075T0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 1,950.00  |
| 07374G0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 07374G0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,424.50  |
| 08302J0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 08302J0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,054.50  |
| 09040K0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 09040K0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 407.00    |
| 09658H0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 09658H0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 388.50    |
| 09691F0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 09691F0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 610.50    |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE  | PAYMENT TYPE                                  | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|---|---|-----------|
| 09691F0000 | Water Conservation 2010                             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,380.00  |
| 11725I0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accommm      | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accommm   | 89,748.00 |
| 11725I0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accommm      | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 10,000.00 |
| 11725I0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 11725I0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 3,219.00  |
| 11725I0000 | Water Conservation 2010                             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,280.00  |
| 11834N0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 11834N0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 444.00    |
| 12173A0000 | Small School Scheme '06                             | BGS: Small School Scheme                      | 40,000.00 |
| 12173A0000 | Emergency '11                                       | BGS: Emergency Works                          | 10,000.00 |
| 12173A0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12173A0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 980.50    |
| 12206M0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND<br>EQUIPMENT 2011                 | F&E: Classroom Furniture                      | 2,500.00  |
| 12206M0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011                | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 1,001.13  |
| 12206M0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accommm 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accommm   | 70,000.00 |
| 12206M0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12206M0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 3,200.50  |
| 12206M0000 | Water Conservation 2010                             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 5,510.00  |
| 12350T0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12350T0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,609.50  |
| 12373I0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12373I0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,184.00  |
| 12373I0000 | Water Conservation 2010                             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,895.00  |
| 12467R0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12467R0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 925.00    |
| 12568A0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12568A0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 610.50    |
| 12568A0000 | Water Conservation 2010                             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,486.84  |
| 12569C0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12569C0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 703.00    |
| 12626L0000 | Replacement Furniture                               | F&E: Classroom Furniture                      | 1,409.65  |
| 12626L0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12626L0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 407.00    |
| 12792F0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12792F0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 388.50    |
| 12808R0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12808R0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 314.50    |
| 12815O0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12815O0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 407.00    |
| 12816Q0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12816Q0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 740.00    |
| 12936D0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 12936D0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,313.50  |
| 12938H0000 | Minor Works   | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                    | PAYMENT TYPE                               | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|---|--|-----------|
| 12938H0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,054.50  |
| 13145A0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13145A0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 4,199.50  |
| 13152U0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment           | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 1,433.85  |
| 13152U0000 | Small School Scheme '07                         | BGS: Small School Scheme                   | 18,014.05 |
| 13152U0000 | Small School Scheme '07                         | BGS: Small School Scheme                   | 15,000.00 |
| 13152U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13152U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 2,127.50  |
| 13222P0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011               | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 7,393.79  |
| 13222P0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13222P0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,313.50  |
| 13225V0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13225V0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 906.50    |
| 13225V0000 | Water Conservation 2010                         | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 1,795.00  |
| 13311O0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13311O0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 370.00    |
| 13383Q0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                | F&E: Classroom Furniture                   | 5,000.00  |
| 13383Q0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment           | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 1,763.80  |
| 13383Q0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011               | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 1,724.90  |
| 13383Q0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accomm           | BGS: Temporary Accomm/Additional Accomm    | 39,937.86 |
| 13383Q0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accomm           | Other Costs: ICT Grant                     | 5,000.00  |
| 13383Q0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13383Q0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 499.50    |
| 13389F0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative               | 52,093.74 |
| 13389F0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13389F0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,702.00  |
| 13389F0000 | Water Conservation 2010                         | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 905.00    |
| 13444K0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13444K0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,110.00  |
| 13500R0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13500R0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,535.50  |
| 13555T0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                | F&E: Furniture Grant                       | 1,936.30  |
| 13555T0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accomm 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accomm/Additional Accomm    | 60,000.00 |
| 13555T0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13555T0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 2,035.00  |
| 13659I0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 13659I0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 3,015.50  |
| 13659I0000 | Water Conservation 2010                         | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 1,505.00  |
| 13667H0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accomm           | BGS: Temporary Accomm/Additional Accomm    | 28,262.56 |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                    | PAYMENT TYPE                            | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| 13667H0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accomm           | Other Costs: ICT Grant                  | 5,000.00   |
| 13667H0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative            | 31,104.31  |
| 13667H0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13667H0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 1,276.50   |
| 13667H0000 | Water Conservation 2010                         | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme          | 848.00     |
| 13684H0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13684H0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 1,165.50   |
| 13758K0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13758K0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 721.50     |
| 13773G0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13773G0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 499.50     |
| 13781F0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 9,509.00   |
| 13781F0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13797U0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                | F&E: Furniture Grant                    | 2,485.88   |
| 13797U0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accomm 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accomm/Additional Accomm | 100,000.00 |
| 13797U0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accomm 2011 | Other Costs: ICT Grant                  | 5,000.00   |
| 13797U0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                | 51,750.00  |
| 13797U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13797U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 462.50     |
| 13882L0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13882L0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 462.50     |
| 13945J0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative            | 27,674.80  |
| 13945J0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 13945J0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 333.00     |
| 14064F0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14064F0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 684.50     |
| 14188A0000 | Emergency '11                                   | BGS: Emergency Works                    | 44,939.02  |
| 14188A0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14188A0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 499.50     |
| 14188A0000 | Water Conservation 2010                         | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme          | 4,256.25   |
| 14193Q0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14193Q0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 536.50     |
| 14193Q0000 | Water Conservation 2010                         | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme          | 845.00     |
| 14195U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14195U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 148.00     |
| 14205U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14205U0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 925.00     |
| 14258S0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                | 91,002.00  |
| 14258S0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14258S0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 1,128.50   |
| 14290O0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14290O0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 1,258.00   |
| 14400S0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |
| 14400S0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 962.00     |
| 14418O0000 | Minor Works                                     | BGS: Minor Works Grant                  | 5,500.00   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                   | PAYMENT TYPE                               | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|--|--|-----------|
| 14418O0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 740.00    |
| 14497N0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14497N0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,017.50  |
| 14534Q0000 | Extension on-site 2005                         | Equipment Major                            | 635.25    |
| 14534Q0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14534Q0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,184.00  |
| 14671D0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14671D0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 536.50    |
| 14863M0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14863M0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 758.50    |
| 14865Q0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14865Q0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 333.00    |
| 14866S0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14866S0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 388.50    |
| 14873P0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 14873P0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 425.50    |
| 15007V0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15007V0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 980.50    |
| 15014S0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 1,561.38  |
| 15014S0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15014S0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,202.50  |
| 15030Q0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15030Q0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,295.00  |
| 15032U0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15032U0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 555.00    |
| 15032U0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 3,500.00  |
| 15113U0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15113U0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 351.50    |
| 15257V0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 20,000.00 |
| 15257V0000 | Emergency '11                                  | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 47,362.71 |
| 15257V0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15257V0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 4,791.50  |
| 15539I0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 8,682.00  |
| 15539I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15539I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 962.00    |
| 15555G0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15555G0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 4,458.50  |
| 15557K0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative               | 24,413.52 |
| 15557K0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15557K0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 2,238.50  |
| 15705W0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15705W0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 185.00    |
| 15866A0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2006               | Services — Water                           | 1,300.00  |
| 15866A0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00  |
| 15866A0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 703.00    |
| 15967G0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 70,000.00 |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                     | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|--|---|-----------|
| 15967G0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 15967G0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 592.00    |
| 15996N0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 15996N0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,091.50  |
| 16021U0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16021U0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,387.50  |
| 16052I0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16052I0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 610.50    |
| 16113C0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16113C0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 684.50    |
| 16122D0000 | Replacement Furniture                            | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,761.22  |
| 16122D0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                 | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 2,500.00  |
| 16122D0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommm      | BGS: Temporary Accommm/Additional Accommm | 99,974.73 |
| 16122D0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommm      | Other Costs: ICT Grant                    | 5,000.00  |
| 16122D0000 | Emergency '10                                    | BGS: Emergency Works                      | 42,771.51 |
| 16122D0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16122D0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 2,423.50  |
| 16170O0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16170O0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 647.50    |
| 16170O0000 | Water Conservation 2010                          | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme            | 826.00    |
| 16173U0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16173U0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 333.00    |
| 16269K0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16269K0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 629.00    |
| 16289Q0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16289Q0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,221.00  |
| 16295L0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accommm           | BGS: Temporary Accommm/Additional Accommm | 23,298.80 |
| 16295L0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommm      | BGS: Temporary Accommm/Additional Accommm | 3,931.76  |
| 16295L0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16295L0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 277.50    |
| 16379R0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16379R0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 333.00    |
| 16492N0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommm 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accommm/Additional Accommm | 42,000.00 |
| 16492N0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommm 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accommm/Additional Accommm | 10,500.00 |
| 16492N0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16492N0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,295.00  |
| 16492N0000 | Water Conservation 2010                          | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme            | 1,740.00  |
| 16562I0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00  |
| 16562I0000 | Minor Works                                      | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 721.50    |
| 16618J0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                 | F&E: Furniture Grant                      | 3,500.00  |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                 | PAYMENT TYPE                              | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| 16618J0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom | 119,511.56 |
| 16618J0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom | 51,219.24  |
| 16618J0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom | Other Costs: ICT Grant                    | 5,000.00   |
| 16618J0000 | Emergency '10                                | BGS: Emergency Works                      | 34,058.64  |
| 16618J0000 | Emergency '11                                | BGS: Emergency Works                      | 12,409.15  |
| 16618J0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16618J0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 2,183.00   |
| 16618J0000 | Water Conservation 2010                      | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme            | 1,625.00   |
| 16630W0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16630W0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 703.00     |
| 16756V0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16756V0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,702.00   |
| 16780S0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16780S0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 499.50     |
| 16811D0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16811D0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,628.00   |
| 16832L0000 | Purchase (Prefab) Additional<br>Accomm 2011  | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom | 30,000.00  |
| 16832L0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16832L0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 684.50     |
| 16904K0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16904K0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,091.50   |
| 16911H0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16911H0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,313.50   |
| 16984L0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 16984L0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,609.50   |
| 16984L0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009                | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme             | 739.09     |
| 16984L0000 | Water Conservation 2010                      | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme            | 5,185.00   |
| 17039V0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 17039V0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 370.00     |
| 17082W0000 | Small School Scheme '06                      | BGS: Small School Scheme                  | 6,356.00   |
| 17082W0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 17082W0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 2,312.50   |
| 17098O0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom | 131,399.01 |
| 17098O0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom | Other Costs: ICT Grant                    | 5,000.00   |
| 17098O0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 17098O0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 1,517.00   |
| 17119T0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 17119T0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 3,330.00   |
| 17119T0000 | Water Conservation 2010                      | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme            | 937.90     |
| 17129W0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |
| 17129W0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 536.50     |
| 17129W0000 | Water Conservation 2010                      | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme            | 2,193.00   |
| 17176I0000 | Minor Works                                  | BGS: Minor Works Grant                    | 5,500.00   |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                   | PAYMENT TYPE                                  | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|--|---|-----------|
| 17176I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,184.00  |
| 17209U0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17209U0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 2,016.50  |
| 17209U0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 2,500.00  |
| 17301I0000 | Replacement Furniture                          | F&E: Classroom Furniture                      | 565.77    |
| 17301I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17301I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,369.00  |
| 17321O0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17321O0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 499.50    |
| 17482P0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17482P0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 758.50    |
| 17483R0000 | SWS '10  | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                      | 1,944.00  |
| 17483R0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17483R0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,720.50  |
| 17483R0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,030.00  |
| 17562N0000 | Emergency '11                                  | BGS: Emergency Works                          | 53,766.30 |
| 17562N0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17562N0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,554.00  |
| 17585C0000 | Replacement Furniture                          | F&E: Classroom Furniture                      | 3,525.88  |
| 17585C0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accommm | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accommm   | 37,732.88 |
| 17585C0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accommm | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 5,000.00  |
| 17585C0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                  | 18,232.80 |
| 17585C0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17585C0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 2,294.00  |
| 17615I0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011           | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 986.15    |
| 17615I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17615I0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,313.50  |
| 17678J0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17678J0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 592.00    |
| 17682A0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17682A0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 647.50    |
| 17727T0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011           | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 38.97     |
| 17727T0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17727T0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 2,072.00  |
| 17727T0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 4,455.00  |
| 17874J0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17874J0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 536.50    |
| 17922R0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                  | 36,458.89 |
| 17922R0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17922R0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 222.00    |
| 17922R0000 | Water Conservation 2010                        | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,730.00  |
| 17923T0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 17923T0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,091.50  |
| 18002D0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00  |
| 18002D0000 | Minor Works                                    | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 943.50    |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                              | PAYMENT TYPE                               | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|---|--|------------|
| 18003F0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment     | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 1,528.60   |
| 18003F0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18003F0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,739.00   |
| 18070U0000 | Emergency '11                             | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 70,543.64  |
| 18070U0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18070U0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,457.50   |
| 18145C0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18145C0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,128.50   |
| 18175L0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18175L0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 592.00     |
| 18503C0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18503C0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,424.50   |
| 18506I0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18506I0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 4,347.50   |
| 18542M0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011          | F&E: Classroom Furniture                   | 5,500.00   |
| 18542M0000 | SWS '11                                   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative               | 140,001.94 |
| 18542M0000 | Emergency '11                             | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 69,222.16  |
| 18542M0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 11,396.00  |
| 18542M0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18561Q0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accom | BGS: Temporary Accom/Additional Accom      | 144,340.00 |
| 18561Q0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18561Q0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 3,422.50   |
| 18561Q0000 | Water Conservation 2010                   | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 3,679.31   |
| 18562S0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18562S0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,221.00   |
| 18594I0000 | SWS '10                                   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 8,453.10   |
| 18594I0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18594I0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 647.50     |
| 18694M0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment     | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 14,850.25  |
| 18694M0000 | Emergency '10                             | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 9,787.59   |
| 18694M0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 8,732.00   |
| 18694M0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18712L0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011         | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 723.60     |
| 18712L0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18712L0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 3,071.00   |
| 18848N0000 | SWS '10                                   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 17,301.00  |
| 18848N0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18848N0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,017.50   |
| 18848N0000 | Water Conservation 2010                   | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 5,275.00   |
| 18880J0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18880J0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 425.50     |
| 18922W0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00   |
| 18922W0000 | Minor Works                               | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,831.50   |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                            | PAYMENT TYPE                                    | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|---|---|-----------|
| 19248R0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011       | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 15,826.52 |
| 19248R0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19248R0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 3,330.00  |
| 19248R0000 | Water Conservation 2010                 | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                  | 2,390.00  |
| 19324H0000 | SWS '11                                 | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                    | 89,753.18 |
| 19324H0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19324H0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 999.00    |
| 19375B0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment   | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 1,506.25  |
| 19375B0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011       | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 6,961.29  |
| 19375B0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19375B0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 1,480.00  |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Building Certs: Final Certs                     | 62,104.33 |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Building Certs: Additional Works Major Projects | 34,521.25 |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Architect Major Fees                            | 21,708.23 |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Architect: Agreed Fees Major                    | 5,690.03  |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees                    | 5,357.74  |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Mechanical AND Electrical Major Fees            | 6,865.10  |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                  | Structural Engineer Major Fees                  | 6,773.57  |
| 19387I0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011       | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 289.86    |
| 19387I0000 | Relocation (Prefab) — Additional Accomm | BGS: Temporary Accomm/Additional Accomm         | 2,178.00  |
| 19387I0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19387I0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 2,220.00  |
| 19394F0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19394F0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 740.00    |
| 19402B0000 | SWS '11                                 | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                        | 28,529.55 |
| 19402B0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19402B0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 3,145.00  |
| 19451O0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011       | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 257.44    |
| 19451O0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19451O0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 3,755.50  |
| 19451O0000 | Water Conservation 2010                 | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                  | 2,497.00  |
| 19488O0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19488O0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 1,184.00  |
| 19651W0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19651W0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 1,776.00  |
| 19710M0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19710M0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 2,627.00  |
| 19773N0000 | Special Needs Furniture AND Equipment   | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 3,081.36  |
| 19773N0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011       | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment      | 11,699.54 |
| 19773N0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 5,500.00  |
| 19773N0000 | Minor Works                             | BGS: Minor Works Grant                          | 1,332.00  |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                      | PAYMENT TYPE                                  | AMOUNT €     |
|------------|---|---|--------------|
| 19776T0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19776T0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,073.00     |
| 19776T0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009                     | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme                 | 3,240.74     |
| 19798G0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19798G0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 610.50       |
| 19808G0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19808G0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 777.00       |
| 19812U0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19812U0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 4,847.00     |
| 19812U0000 | Water Conservation 2010                           | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 3,770.00     |
| 19832D0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 70,000.00    |
| 19832D0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 35,000.00    |
| 19832D0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19832D0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 4,440.00     |
| 19903A0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 1,691.58     |
| 19903A0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19903A0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 4,366.00     |
| 19903A0000 | Water Conservation 2010                           | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 3,770.00     |
| 19911W0000 | SWS '10   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                      | 19,315.76    |
| 19911W0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19911W0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,591.00     |
| 19911W0000 | Water Conservation 2010                           | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 2,405.00     |
| 19914F0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 6,693.45     |
| 19914F0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19914F0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 1,998.00     |
| 19914F0000 | Water Conservation 2010                           | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 1,702.00     |
| 19915H0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19915H0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 2,294.00     |
| 19916J0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,679.50     |
| 19916J0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19916J0000 | Water Conservation 2010                           | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 3,325.00     |
| 19951L0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                      | 162,260.00   |
| 19951L0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19951L0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 4,144.00     |
| 19972T0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 280,000.00   |
| 19972T0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 19972T0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 2,127.50     |
| 20037L0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 577.97       |
| 20037L0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 5,500.00     |
| 20037L0000 | Minor Works                                       | BGS: Minor Works Grant                        | 2,608.50     |
| 20037L0000 | Water Conservation 2010                           | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                | 6,692.00     |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010                  | Building Certs: Interim Certs                 | 1,154,541.29 |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010                  | Clerk of Works                                | 21,844.21    |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                          | PAYMENT TYPE                               | AMOUNT €     |
|------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Other Costs: Percentage of Art             | 14,899.99    |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Architect Major Fees                       | 9,848.37     |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees               | 10,779.52    |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Mechanical and Electrical Major Fees       | 17,120.57    |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Furniture Major                            | 29,810.88    |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Disability Access Cert                     | 800.00       |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Conservation Report                        | 726.00       |
| 20046M0000 | New School/Building On-Site 2010      | Services — ESB                             | 3,709.18     |
| 20046M0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00     |
| 20046M0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 3,570.50     |
| 20084U0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00     |
| 20084U0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 1,498.50     |
| 20089H0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011      | F&E: Furniture Grant                       | 2,500.00     |
| 20089H0000 | PAS '07                               | BGS: Permanent Accommodation Scheme        | 4,700.00     |
| 20089H0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 7,233.50     |
| 20089H0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00     |
| 20089H0000 | Water Conservation 2010               | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 2,780.25     |
| 20125I0000 | Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment | 245.43       |
| 20125I0000 | SWS '10                               | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                   | 12,000.00    |
| 20125I0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00     |
| 20125I0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 3,034.00     |
| 20125I0000 | Water Conservation 2010               | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme             | 4,475.00     |
| 20142I0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin       | Architect Major Fees                       | 6,982.56     |
| 20142I0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin       | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees               | 3,200.34     |
| 20142I0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin       | Mechanical and Electrical Major Fees       | 2,816.29     |
| 20142I0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin       | Structural Engineer Major Fees             | 2,583.56     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Building Certs: Interim Certs              | 1,115,750.40 |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Clerk of Works                             | 5,815.20     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Architect Major Fees                       | 7,545.29     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees               | 6,051.95     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Mechanical and Electrical Major Fees       | 3,043.25     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Structural Engineer Major Fees             | 2,791.76     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011               | Other Costs: ICT Grant                     | 20,000.00    |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2012               | Architect Major Fees                       | 4,962.36     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2012               | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees               | 3,980.22     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2012               | Mechanical and Electrical Major Fees       | 2,001.49     |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2012               | Structural Engineer Major Fees             | 1,836.07     |
| 20142I0000 | Replacement Furniture                 | F&E: Classroom Furniture                   | 2,236.08     |
| 20142I0000 | Emergency '11                         | BGS: Emergency Works                       | 1,589.00     |
| 20142I0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 7,640.50     |
| 20142I0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00     |
| 20217N0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 5,500.00     |
| 20217N0000 | Minor Works                           | BGS: Minor Works Grant                     | 925.00       |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                           | PAYMENT TYPE  | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| 20230F0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 5,809.00   |
| 20230F0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 5,500.00   |
| 20230F0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 9,230.00   |
| 20256A0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 5,500.00   |
| 20256A0000 | Minor Works                            | BGS: Minor Works Grant  | 1,091.50   |
| 64500G0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative  | 183,566.85 |
| 64500G0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009          | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme   | 19,391.55  |
| 64500G0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 9,370.00   |
| 64510J0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Summer Works Scheme  | 237,000.00 |
| 64510J0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 3,004.50   |
| 64520M0000 | Emergency '10                          | BGS: Emergency Works  | 11,707.50  |
| 64520M0000 | Emergency '11                          | BGS: Emergency Works  | 49,630.00  |
| 64520M0000 | Emergency '11                          | BGS: Emergency Works  | 49,569.00  |
| 64520M0000 | Emergency '11                          | BGS: Emergency Works  | 27,349.21  |
| 64570E0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin        | Disability Access Cert  | 1,600.00   |
| 64570E0000 | REPLACEMENT FURN AND EQUIP 2011        | F&E: Classroom Furniture  | 12,006.23  |
| 64570E0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN and EQUIP 2011      | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment                              | 13,098.25  |
| 64570E0000 | Rental (Prefab) Additional Accomm 2011 | Capital Costs Rental: Delivery/Installation/Crane Hire                  | 681.00     |
| 64570E0000 | Rental (Prefab) Additional Accomm 2011 | Capital Costs Rental: Civil Works /Service Connections/Utility Services | 24,388.88  |
| 64570E0000 | Rental (Prefab) Additional Accomm 2011 | Capital Costs Rental: Professional Fees                                 | 6,655.00   |
| 64570E0000 | Special Needs Facility Set-up Grant    | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment                              | 6,500.00   |
| 64570E0000 | Emergency '11                          | BGS: Emergency Works  | 48,995.86  |
| 64570E0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009          | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme   | 6,866.14   |
| 64570E0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 5,185.00   |
| 64590K0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011       | F&E: Specialised Rooms i.e Woodwork / Metalwork                         | 6,756.60   |
| 64590K0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative  | 127,399.07 |
| 64590K0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 6,990.80   |
| 64600K0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 3,315.00   |
| 64610N0000 | SWS '10                                | BGS: Summer Works Scheme  | 58,425.90  |
| 64610N0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 2,217.09   |
| 64630T0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative  | 70,543.61  |
| 64630T0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 7,150.00   |
| 64640W0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Summer Works Scheme  | 52,332.85  |
| 64640W0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 1,665.05   |
| 64660F0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative  | 84,352.00  |
| 64660F0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 7,755.00   |
| 64691Q0000 | Emergency '09                          | BGS: Emergency Works  | 86,824.90  |
| 64691Q0000 | Water Conservation 2010                | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme  | 2,535.00   |
| 64700O0000 | Replacement Furniture                  | F&E: Classroom Furniture  | 5,000.00   |
| 64700O0000 | Purchase (Prefab) — Additional Accomm  | BGS: Temporary Accomm/Additional Accomm                                 | 125,000.00 |
| 64700O0000 | SWS '11                                | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative  | 18,340.00  |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                        | PAYMENT TYPE   | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------|
| 64700O0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 1,828.50   |
| 64710R0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011   | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment             | 10,045.59  |
| 64710R0000 | SWS '11                             | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                           | 18,500.00  |
| 64710R0000 | Emergency '11                       | BGS: Emergency Works                                   | 29,400.00  |
| 64710R0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 6,260.00   |
| 72020L0000 | SWS '11                             | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                               | 46,778.08  |
| 72020L0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 10,860.00  |
| 72050U0000 | Extension on-site 2008              | Other Costs: Percentage of Art                         | 6,500.00   |
| 72050U0000 | SWS '11                             | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                           | 49,380.49  |
| 72050U0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 5,695.00   |
| 72070D0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011   | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment             | 10,059.96  |
| 72070D0000 | Rental (Prefab) — Additional Accomm | Capital Costs Rental: Delivery/Installation/Crane Hire | 1,209.75   |
| 72070D0000 | Rental (Prefab) — Additional Accomm | Capital Costs Rental: Site Works                       | 13,790.25  |
| 72070D0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 3,850.00   |
| 72100J0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 5,056.82   |
| 72130S0000 | Extension on-site 2007              | Building Certs: Final Certs                            | 74,813.01  |
| 72130S0000 | Extension on-site 2007              | Architect Major Fees                                   | 22,273.43  |
| 72130S0000 | Extension on-site 2007              | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees                           | 8,304.82   |
| 72130S0000 | Extension on-site 2007              | Mechanical and Electrical Major Fees                   | 4,511.56   |
| 72130S0000 | Extension on-site 2007              | Structural Engineer Major Fees                         | 5,238.68   |
| 72130S0000 | Extension on-site 2008              | Structural Engineer Major Fees                         | 45.00      |
| 72130S0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 3,440.00   |
| 72160E0000 | SWS '11                             | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                           | 15,749.50  |
| 72160E0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 4,730.00   |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Building Certs: Interim Certs                          | 173,860.28 |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Building Certs: Additional Works Major Projects        | 1,021.50   |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Architect Major Fees                                   | 15,340.96  |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Architect: Agreed Fees Major                           | 20,570.00  |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees                           | 11,616.00  |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Mechanical and Electrical Major Fees                   | 11,974.67  |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | ME: Agreed Fees Major                                  | 7,260.00   |
| 76060U0000 | PE Hall on site 2009                | Structural Engineer Major Fees                         | 3,025.00   |
| 76060U0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011    | F&E: Specialised Rooms i.e Woodwork / Metalwork        | 15,749.69  |
| 76060U0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009       | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme                          | 35,029.75  |
| 76060U0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 8,085.00   |
| 91461C0000 | SWS '10                             | Architect: Agreed Fees Minor                           | 181.50     |
| 91461C0000 | SWS '10                             | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                               | 1,194.81   |
| 91461C0000 | Emergency '10                       | M&E: Agreed Fees Minor                                 | 4,471.95   |
| 91461C0000 | Emergency '10                       | BGS: Emergency Works                                   | 70,218.95  |
| 91461C0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 11,310.00  |
| 91462E0000 | Emergency '11                       | BGS: Emergency Works                                   | 19,492.85  |
| 91462E0000 | Water Conservation 2010             | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme                         | 6,909.00   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                  | PAYMENT TYPE                   | AMOUNT €  |
|------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 91494R0000 | SWS '10                                       | Architect: Agreed Fees Minor   | 800.00    |
| 91494R0000 | SWS '10                                       | BGS: Summer Works Scheme       | 2,772.60  |
| 91494R0000 | SWS '11                                       | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative   | 49,998.76 |
| 91494R0000 | Leaving Cert Technology Grant<br>Current Year | GPP: Curriculum Grants         | 30,000.00 |
| 91494R0000 | Water Conservation 2010                       | BGS: Water Conservation Scheme | 4,910.00  |
| B4011O0000 | Emergency '10                                 | Architect: Agreed Fees Minor   | 907.50    |
| B4011O0000 | Emergency '10                                 | BGS: Emergency Works           | 19,432.23 |

€2,862,500.01

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                      | PAYMENT TYPE                                  | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                      | PAYMENT TYPE                                  | AMOUNT     |
| 02912G0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS<br>FURN—EQUIP 2012                  | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 175.00     |
| 07075T0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 46,561.63  |
| 07075T0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 5,000.00   |
| 07075T0000 | SWS '10   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                      | 3,815.10   |
| 12206M0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 30,000.00  |
| 12206M0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 5,000.00   |
| 13222P0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 789.77     |
| 13225V0000 | Replacement Furniture                             | F&E: Furniture Grant                          | 1,749.74   |
| 13555T0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS<br>FURN—EQUIP 2012                  | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 66.97      |
| 13667H0000 | New School/Building Architectural<br>Planning     | Architect: Agreed Fees Major                  | 615.00     |
| 14205U0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 192,000.00 |
| 14205U0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 15,000.00  |
| 14534Q0000 | Extension on-site 2005                            | Furniture M19,432.23ajor                      | 5,725.35   |
| 15555G0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS<br>FURN—EQUIP 2012                  | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 1,303.80   |
| 15967G0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS<br>FURN—EQUIP 2012                  | F&E: Furniture Grant                          | 2,500.00   |
| 15967G0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 30,000.00  |
| 15967G0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | Other Costs: ICT Grant                        | 5,000.00   |
| 16295L0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 11,644.53  |
| 16492N0000 | NEW<br>FURNITURE—EQUIPMENT<br>2012                | F&E: Furniture Grant                          | 2,500.00   |
| 16492N0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 18,000.00  |

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE   | PAYMENT TYPE  | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| 16492N0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommodation 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 4,500.00   |
| 16492N0000 | Emergency '12  | BGS: Emergency Works                                  | 23,762.42  |
| 16618J0000 | Emergency '12  | BGS: Emergency Works                                  | 13,058.00  |
| 17098O0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                       | F&E: Classroom Furniture                              | 2,500.00   |
| 17562N0000 | Emergency '11  | BGS: Emergency Works                                  | 23,042.70  |
| 17678J0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN—EQUIP 2012                          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 65.98      |
| 17923T0000 | Purchase (Prefab) Additional Accommodation 2011        | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 10,000.00  |
| 18175L0000 | Energy Efficiency Scheme 2009                          | BGS: Energy Efficiency Scheme                         | 1,274.86   |
| 18503C0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011                      | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 98.97      |
| 18506I0000 | Radon- Remediation                                     | GPP: Remediation                                      | 4,113.78   |
| 18506I0000 | Emergency '11  | BGS: Emergency Works                                  | 26,970.00  |
| 18542M0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN—EQUIP 2012                          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 87.98      |
| 18561Q0000 | NEW FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT 2011                       | F&E: Classroom Furniture                              | 3,500.00   |
| 18561Q0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommodation      | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 61,860.00  |
| 18561Q0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommodation      | Other Costs: ICT Grant                                | 5,000.00   |
| 18562S0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommodation 2012 | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 77,000.00  |
| 18712L0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommodation 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 225,000.00 |
| 18712L0000 | Permanent Build Option — Additional Accommodation 2011 | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 10,000.00  |
| 19248R0000 | Special Needs Furniture and Equipment                  | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 141.99     |
| 19248R0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN and EQUIP 2011                      | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 14,281.41  |
| 19248R0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN—EQUIP 2012                          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 4,928.53   |
| 19375B0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND EQUIP 2011                      | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 1,773.63   |
| 19375B0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN—EQUIP 2012                          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 3,765.47   |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                                 | Building Certs: Additional Works Major Projects       | 1,816.91   |
| 19387I0000 | Extension on-site 2006                                 | Architect: Agreed Fees Major                          | 304.43     |
| 19387I0000 | Relocation (Prefab) — Additional Accommodation         | BGS: Temporary Accommodation/Additional Accommodation | 819.75     |
| 19451O0000 | Multi-Sensory Grant                                    | F&E: Specialised Rooms i.e Woodwork / Metalwork       | 7,000.00   |
| 19451O0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN—EQUIP 2012                          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 705.74     |
| 19773N0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN—EQUIP 2012                          | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and Equipment            | 2,550.93   |
| 19911W0000 | SWS '11  | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                          | 27,132.16  |
| 19951L0000 | Water Conservation 2010                                | BGS: WCS (set up as a liability account in error)     | 2,440.00   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| ROLL NO    | PROJECT TYPE                                      | PAYMENT TYPE                                  | AMOUNT €   |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| 20037L0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 70,000.00  |
| 20037L0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 42,000.00  |
| 20084U0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS FURN AND<br>EQUIP 2011              | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 6,363.75   |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Building Certs: Interim Certs                 | 831,722.51 |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Clerk of Works                                | 12,599.60  |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Architect Major Fees                          | 4,114.56   |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees                  | 3,300.23   |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Mechanical and Electrical Major<br>Fees       | 1,659.55   |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Structural Engineer Major Fees                | 1,522.38   |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Furniture Major                               | 16,000.00  |
| 20142I0000 | Extensions On-Site 2011                           | Services — ESB                                | 2,447.06   |
| 20230F0000 | New School/Building Architectural<br>Planning     | Site investigation                            | 5,635.52   |
| 20230F0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin                   | Site investigation                            | 5,658.00   |
| 64520M0000 | Emergency '11                                     | BGS: Emergency Works                          | 11,720.79  |
| 64570E0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin                   | Architect Major Fees                          | 113,598.17 |
| 64570E0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin                   | Quantity Surveyor Major Fees                  | 54,441.99  |
| 64570E0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin                   | Mechanical and Electrical Major<br>Fees       | 40,861.28  |
| 64570E0000 | Extension Architectural Plannin                   | Structural Engineer Major Fees                | 39,755.04  |
| 64570E0000 | NEW<br>FURNITURE—EQUIPMENT<br>2012                | F&E: Classroom Furniture                      | 1,760.55   |
| 64570E0000 | Emergency '11                                     | BGS: Emergency Works                          | 24,970.74  |
| 64590K0000 | Radon- Remediation                                | GPP: Remediation                              | 113.16     |
| 64590K0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                  | 54,599.61  |
| 64610N0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                  | 54,945.80  |
| 64640W0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Summer Works Scheme                      | 22,305.49  |
| 72160E0000 | SWS '11   | BGS: Capital Jobs Initiative                  | 6,750.50   |
| 76150V0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom      | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 433,980.53 |
| 76150V0000 | Permanent Build Option —<br>Additional Accom 2011 | BGS: Temporary<br>Accomm/Additional Accom     | 54,198.87  |
| 91461C0000 | Emergency '09                                     | M&E: Agreed Fees Minor                        | 98.69      |
| 91461C0000 | Emergency '10                                     | M&E: Agreed Fees Minor                        | 1,238.50   |
| 91494R0000 | SPECIAL NEEDS<br>FURN—EQUIP 2012                  | F&E: Special Needs Furniture and<br>Equipment | 7,194.61   |

### Services for People with Disabilities

159. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to improve services to autistic children and their families in the Ballymun area of Dublin. [34907/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The Deputy will be aware of the Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring that all children with special educational needs, including those with autism, can have access to an education appropriate to their needs preferably in school settings through the primary and post primary school network. This facilitates

access to individualised education programmes, fully qualified professional teachers, special needs assistants and the appropriate school curriculum.

Many children with autism are fully integrated into mainstream classes. The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) provides additional resource teaching hours and special needs assistant support to schools in respect of fully integrated enrolled students with autism.

Some students with autism require further support in school. The establishment of a network of autism-specific special classes in schools across the country to cater for these children with autism has been a key educational priority in recent years. My Department supports provision in mainstream schools, some 540 special classes for autism attached to mainstream and special schools and 18 special schools for children with autism throughout the State which cater for the educational needs of over 5,000 children with autism. These figures include 101 classes for autism in Co. Dublin. The NCSE will continue to establish more classes as required.

Children in these classes benefit from having a reduced pupil-teacher ratio of 6:1. Class teachers are required to be fully-qualified and have access through the Special Education Support Service to training in a range of autism-specific interventions, including Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA), the Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH) and the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). A minimum of 2 special needs assistants are provided for each class. Other special needs assistant posts may be allocated in line with the needs of the enrolled children. These students have the option, where appropriate, of full or partial integration and interaction with other pupils. Funding is also provided for assistive technology and specialist equipment as required and special school transport arrangements may also be put in place.

My Department's home tuition scheme provides a grant to parents to facilitate the provision of 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 with special educational needs awaiting an educational placement and provide early education intervention for pre-school children who have been assessed as having autism. The grant provides for ten hours' home tuition per week for each child with autism aged between 2.5 and 3 years of age.

The Deputy will be aware that the NCSE is responsible, through its network of local Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs), for processing applications from primary, special and post primary schools for special needs supports on the basis of applications in respect of individual pupils. The SENOs operate within the policy outlined in my Department's circulars for allocating such support.

Each SENO works in an assigned local area with parents, schools, teachers, psychologists, health professionals and other staff who are involved in the provision of services in that area for children with special educational needs. All schools have contact details of their local SENO. It is also open to parents to contact their local SENO directly to discuss their child's special educational needs.

### **Third Level Admissions**

160. **Deputy John Perry** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will again review a persons (details supplied) in County Leitrim higher education access route application in view of the fact that her parents are not employed and she resides in a marginally below average area: and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35006/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) is a third-level admissions scheme for students from socio-economically dis-

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

advantaged backgrounds. The scheme is operated by a number of higher education institutions and not by my Department. Admissions to the institutions under this programme are regulated by the institutions themselves. Further details are available at [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie).

### Ministerial Allowances

161. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35061/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The payment of subsistence allowance while tending to official duties is not subject to income tax. During the period in question I received a total of €2,005.05 in respect of subsistence for official duties at home and abroad. My colleague, Deputy Ciaran Cannon, T.D., Minister of State, received a sum of €2,953.69 in respect of subsistence for duties he tended to abroad.

### Teachers' Remuneration

162. **Deputy Brendan Smith** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if figures recently provided by him on teachers pay in response to a Parliamentary Question on 4 July 2012 take into account reductions in public sector pay in recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35094/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I can confirm to the Deputy, the information supplied in the Parliamentary Question on 4 July 2012 takes into account all relevant pay reductions in public sector pay in recent years.

### Student Grant Scheme

163. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a person (details supplied) in County Kerry is entitled to continue to receive his student grant from Kildare VEC and not have to reapply to Student Universal Support Ireland as a new applicant, considering the course that he initially commenced was dropped by Tralee IT; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35144/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The decision on eligibility for new student grant applications is a matter for the central grant awarding authority SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland).

Under my Department's student grant scheme, students who are entering approved courses for the first time are eligible for grants where they satisfy the relevant conditions as to nationality, residency, previous academic attainment and means.

As the student referred to by the Deputy is commencing a new course in the academic year 2012/13 he is required to submit his grant application to SUSI via [studentfinance.ie](http://studentfinance.ie) to have his eligibility for grant assistance assessed. Further information on student grants is available on the [studentfinance.ie](http://studentfinance.ie) website.

### School Transport

164. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the position

regarding school transport (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35173/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Under the terms of my Department's Post Primary School Transport Scheme children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 4.8 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by my Department/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language.

Bus Éireann, which operates the School Transport Scheme on behalf of my Department, determine eligibility by measuring the shortest traversable route from a child's home to the relevant education centre.

In general, existing eligible and catchment boundary children including those who are not attending their nearest post primary centre will retain their transport eligibility for the duration of their post primary education cycle provided there is no change to their current circumstances.

Siblings of these children and other children who are not attending their nearest school may apply for school transport on a concessionary basis only in accordance with the terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme.

The changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme will be applied equitably on a national basis.

165. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will outline the changes in relation to the catchment areas for school transport for the 2012/2013 academic year and the implications this will have on families who currently have transport and their children are attending one school and his Department are now saying that those new entrants to school may not be able to get a bus pass to those schools and may have to go to a different school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35181/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon):** Changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme were announced in Budget 2011 and derive from recommendations in the Value for Money Review of the School Transport Scheme.

The main change to the current scheme means that from the 2012/13 school year, school transport eligibility for all pupils newly entering a post primary school will be determined by reference to the distance they reside from their nearest Post-Primary Education Centre having regard, as heretofore, to ethos and language.

In general, existing eligible and catchment boundary children including those who are not attending their nearest post primary centre will retain their transport eligibility for the duration of their post primary education cycle provided there is no change to their current circumstances. Siblings of these children and other children who are not attending their nearest school may apply for school transport on a concessionary basis only in accordance with the terms of the Post Primary School Transport Scheme.

The school transport charge for children who are eligible for school transport and for children who are availing of school transport on a concessionary basis remains at €350 for the next school year. This charge is subject to a family maximum of €650 per annum. This charge can be paid in two instalments in July and December.

The changes to the Post Primary School Transport Scheme will be applied equitably on a national basis.

### School Curriculum

166. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to include

[Deputy Jerry Buttimer.]

physical education as part of the second level examination curriculum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35195/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** It is my belief that a well planned Physical Education programme has a vitally important role to play in a broad and balanced curriculum for all students.

In accordance with the Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools, all second level schools should provide Physical Education as part of the curriculum. The junior cycle and senior cycle programme that each school plans and delivers should be based on my Department's approved syllabuses and the teaching hours should be registered on the school timetable. The Rules and Programme provide that a basic minimum of two hours per week is required to implement the programme.

As part of the revised Junior Cycle framework, there are 24 statements of learning which set out what students should learn in Junior Cycle. One of the statements of learning provides that, at the end of Junior Cycle, students should be able to participate in physical activity confidently and competently.

In addition, as part of the Junior Cycle Review there will be an opportunity for schools to provide short courses which can be assessed as part of the Junior Certificate. Short courses will generally be locally developed, of 100 hours duration and will be assessed by means of a portfolio. There will be scope under these arrangements for schools to extend the provision for sports and PE, including it as part of the Junior Certificate qualification, should they wish to do so.

### Schools Building Projects

167. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills when the planning application for the construction of a school (details supplied) in County Tipperary will be lodged having regard to the fact that the application was to be lodged within two years of the transfer of the site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35218/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** As the Deputy will be aware, it is intended to deliver a 16 classroom school on this site which will involve the construction of an extension and the reuse of part of the existing listed building. As the existing building is listed, a Declaration under Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 is required. A declaration under Section 57 indicates what work a planning authority considers will not materially affect the character of a structure.

My officials have requested such a declaration from the planning authority and I understand that it is currently being prepared by the planning authority. When this declaration has been received, my Department will then be in a position to finalise the proposed planning application for the project and submit it, along with the other heritage reports which the planning authority has requested in pre-planning discussions with my officials.

*Question No. 168 answered with Question No. 131.*

### School Staffing

169. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if it is now the responsibility of school boards of management to submit to the Department of Finance the yearly accounts of persons who are employed by the school but not paid by his Department; and if the

boards of management will be liable for penalties resulting from the submission of inaccurate accounts. [35247/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** My Department is not aware of any requirements of the nature referred to in the question. If the Deputy could provide further details in this regard, I will arrange for the matter to be examined further.

### School Closures

170. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will address the issues raised in correspondence regarding a school (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35262/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I have already made clear to the House on a number of occasions that school communities should have no reason to feel that there will be a forced closure of their local school. No school closes because it loses a teacher. Schools close because of a loss of pupils. Small primary schools that have had to close in recent years are those that are no longer viable due to falling enrolments. The enrolment in such schools had typically fallen below a total of 8 pupils for two consecutive school years. The staffing of the school referred to by the Deputy is remaining unchanged at two mainstream classroom posts for the coming school year 2012/13.

The Government recognises that small schools are an important part of the social fabric of rural communities. They will continue to be a feature of our education landscape. However, this does not mean that small schools can stand still or never have their staffing levels changed to something that is more affordable and sustainable for these difficult and challenging times.

A Value for Money examination of small schools has been carried out and I expect the report should be available after the summer recess. The review will take account of diversity of provision, ethos of schools, parental choice, the language of instruction, travel distances, transport costs and the impact of schools on dispersed rural communities. I hope that this report will foster constructive engagement both in the Oireachtas and among all interested parties in looking at the challenges ahead and how best to make provision for primary education in rural and dispersed communities. How best to sustain provision for widely dispersed and small Protestant communities will present as a particular challenge particularly in any locality where enrolment in their schools is declining to single figures and amalgamation is not an option because there is no other school nearby. The Government is intent in fostering pluralism in school provision. Supporting minority churches in maintaining their schools is part of that policy and will inform how the Government approaches the outcome of the Value for Money Study.

### Pupil-Teacher Ratio

171. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide a detailed explanation for the increase in the pupil-teacher ratio at a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35269/12]

172. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his views on whether it is acceptable to notify a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22 of changes to their pupil teacher ratio on 26 June giving them less than three months to make the necessary arrangements for the 2012/2013 school year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35270/12]

173. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will confirm that during the 1990s a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22 was acknowledged as catering in the main for pupils who were multiply disabled and as a result was informed to alter their pupil teacher ratio accordingly to 6:1; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35271/12]

174. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his views on whether the pupils attending a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22 should in the majority of cases be classified as multiply disabled as they experience physical and learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35272/12]

175. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will review the definition of multiply disabled currently in operation by the National Council for Special Education to ensure that the definition in operation fully meets the needs of all pupils who have multiple disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35273/12]

176. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will review the decision to increase the pupil teacher ratio and consequent cuts in teaching staff at a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35274/12]

177. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his views on whether the increase in the pupil teacher ratio and consequent cuts in teaching staff at a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22 will have detrimental impact on the education of the pupils concerned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35275/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 171 to 177, inclusive, together.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is an independent agency with responsibility for determining the appropriate staffing levels in relation to the support of pupils with special educational needs in mainstream and special schools. The NCSE operates within my Department's policy in allocating this support.

Circular 0042/2011 provides information to schools regarding the staffing arrangements which apply in special schools in the current school year and for the 2012/13 school year.

The Circular sets out that, for the 2012/13 school year, schools will be staffed based on their pupil profiles and the disability category of the pupils enrolled as opposed to being based principally on school designation. It is intended that staffing levels will reflect the complexity of need that exists within schools rather than being determined solely by a school's designation, as many Special Schools now enrol students from disability categories other than from those provided for by their school designations.

The NCSE will, in future, suppress posts in schools which have excess teaching posts in order to create a post in a school which does not have excess posts and which has growing pupil numbers. The NCSE has identified that the school in question had a surplus teaching post in accordance with the school's pupil profile and therefore suppressed a post in the school.

The NCSE has confirmed that the school has an appropriate level of teaching staff to cater for all of the children enrolled in the school from September.

### **Emergency Works Scheme**

178. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Education and Skills further to Parliamentary Question No. 154 of 10 July 2012, in relation to a school (details supplied) in County Kerry where he states that no record of application exists, if he will raise a reply and confirm that he

has indeed two such applications on hand; if he will grant this school by approving these applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35276/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I can confirm that in response to Parliamentary Question No. 154 of the 10th of July last, the position is as was stated, that my Department had not received an application for funding under the Emergency Work Scheme.

The school authorities have however been in contact with my Department regarding funding for refurbishment works to an adjacent building which the school authority has recently acquired.

My Department is considering the school's request and my Officials have been in recent contact with the Principal in this regard. A decision will be conveyed to the school authorities as soon as the matter has been considered.

### National Drugs Strategy

179. **Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the budget allocation for the actual expenditure by his Department in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy Unit for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35296/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** My Department is making a significant contribution in support of the prevention pillar of the National Drugs Strategy through funding projects in local drugs task force areas.

In the period 2007 to 2010, my Department provided funding for a significant number of projects in local drugs task force areas. In the context of difficult fiscal circumstances, the global allocation available for these projects in 2010 was reduced by 32%, as compared to the allocation for 2009.

During 2010, my Department carried out a review of projects, a number of which overlapped significantly with projects in the Youth Work area funded by the then Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and also with the School Completion Programme funded by this Department's Social Inclusion Unit. The review, therefore, focused on whether the projects could more appropriately and more efficiently be funded through these funding streams. Following the review, 21 projects, by agreement and with appropriate funding, transferred to the then Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, from January 2011. Also, two projects, with funding, merged with the School Completion Programme which, during 2011, became the responsibility of the new Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Five projects continue to receive allocations from my Department.

Having regard to the above explanation, my Department's expenditure for projects in the years 2007 to 2011 is as follows:

2007 — €3,621,000,

2008 — €3,651,000,

2009 — €3,643,000,

2010 — €2,461,000,

2011 — €411,000.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

The reduction in budget allocation in 2011 was because the majority of projects were transferred to other Departments.

### **Bullying in Schools**

180. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to the bullying and suicide prevention programme (details supplied); his views on the merits of the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35304/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The Deputy may be aware that an Anti-Bullying Forum was held on Thursday 17th May bringing together a range of experts, support groups and representatives of the schools sector including parents and students.

I was very pleased to open this important Forum and to provide an opportunity to explore with all the relevant stakeholders how best to tackle bullying in schools and to consider what changes or updating of existing practices and procedures are required to achieve this having regard to what is feasible to implement in the current financial climate.

The range of speakers on the day of the Forum included contributions from my Department, Professor Mona O'Moore of the Anti-Bullying Centre, Trinity College, representatives of the National Anti-Bullying Coalition (NABC), and contributors from the school sector from the various perspectives of school principal, parent and pupil. The Forum also gave other stakeholders an opportunity to give their views.

The proceedings of the Forum were broadcast live over the internet and recordings of the day's events can be now viewed by accessing the Anti-Bullying Forum webpage of my Department's website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). The presentations of the various speakers can also be viewed and downloaded from this page.

As a follow on to holding the Forum itself, I invited the stakeholders and any other interested parties, including those unable to attend the event on the day, to submit their views on this important topic to my Department by 29th June 2012. I understand that the individual concerned has made a submission as have many other interested parties. The Deputy will be aware that Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) is a mandatory part of the curriculum in primary schools and in junior cycle since 2003. SPHE provides particular opportunities to foster the personal development, health and well-being of the child and to help him/her to create and maintain supportive relationships and become an active and responsible citizen in society. SPHE aims to foster self-worth and self-confidence and places a particular emphasis on developing a sense of personal responsibility for one's own behaviour and actions. The Deputy will also be aware that I recently established a working group to address the issue of tackling bullying in schools. During the course of its work, the working group will be considering the outcomes from the Forum together with the submissions from stakeholders and other interested parties. This includes the submission received from the individual referred to by the Deputy.

### **Departmental Agencies**

181. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35313/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** None of the bodies under the aegis of my Department have powers to enter premises in order to conduct searches in the course of an investigation.

### Third Level Fees

182. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills is his attention has been drawn to recent reports that a university intends to provide loans to students parents in an arrangement with a bank; if he has any oversight in relation to this arrangement to ensure that students are protected from incurring long term debt and interest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35341/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** I understand that this refers to a loan scheme arrangement agreed between the university and a bank in respect of the cost of the student contribution charge.

As the Deputy will be aware a new student contribution charge of €2,000 was introduced in higher education by the previous Government with effect from the 2011/2012 academic year. This charge replaced the previous student services charge and applies to all students who currently benefit under the “free fees” scheme. The charge is due to increase to €2,250 for the next academic year.

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) has written to higher education institutions requesting that they show flexibility and consideration to students awaiting a decision on their grant application and/or payment of grants for the current academic year. At my Department’s request the HEA have recently sent a reminder to institutions again requesting that flexibility be shown to students for the next academic year and to request that students be allowed pay the charge in two instalments if required.

The Higher Education institutions are autonomous institutions and my Department does not have any function in their day to day operational affairs, for which the Governing Bodies and the management staff of the institutions are responsible. The loan arrangements entered into is a matter for the university concerned and accordingly I do not have a role in this matter.

It should be noted that the charge is paid by the Exchequer in respect of students who qualify under my Department’s student grant scheme. Tax relief is also available for second and subsequent siblings to help alleviate the cost for families.

### Irish Language

183. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if there are any plans to review the teaching of Irish at secondary level; if consideration will be given to the development of a new subject which would place a greater emphasis on the acquisition of conversational skills; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35384/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** This Government is committed to supporting the overall thrust of the 20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030, and to the delivery of the goals and targets proposed. As part of this, a thorough reform of the Irish curriculum and the way Irish is taught at primary and second level will be undertaken.

A revised Leaving Certificate curriculum in Irish began in all schools in September 2010 for first examination this June, 2012. The revised programme provides for an increase in the proportion of marks available for oral assessment to 40%, and is aimed at promoting a significant shift in emphasis towards Irish as a spoken language, where students can communicate and interact in a spontaneous way, and where Irish is spoken every day in schools. This revised

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

programme should place greater emphasis and provide rewards to students who acquire proficiency in conversation skills.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has been asked to review this syllabus in the light of the experiences of students in the first examination which happened this June.

The review of the Junior Cycle will allow not only full subjects but also short courses. Some of these short courses could be in different aspects of Irish, if a school made such a choice.

### Appointments to State Boards

184. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35605/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The table below provides the relevant details of all appointments (and re-appointments) made to bodies under the aegis of my Department since my appointment as Minister on the 9th of March, 2011.

In accordance with Government policy, expressions of interest have been sought through the Public Appointments Service (PAS) from suitably qualified and experienced persons for consideration for appointment to the following boards of Bodies operating under the aegis of my Department.

Leárgas Ltd — The Exchange Bureau The Higher Education Authority The Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland (to be newly established) The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) The State Examinations Commission (SEC) The Teaching Council.

To date appointments have not been made to the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland.

Vacancies on other boards of Bodies under the aegis of my Department that arise during 2012 will continue to be advertised on my Department's website. The Deputy should note that in making any direct Ministerial appointments, I am not necessarily confined to those who make such expressions of interest but will ensure that all of those appointed have the relevant skills and competencies for the positions.

Breakdown of appointments since March 2011

| Agency Name   | Number Appointments /re-appointments | Names   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) | 2 appointments                       | Kevin De Barra<br>Daithi Sims   |
| Education Finance Board   | 2 re-appointments<br>7 appointments  | Mr. Sean Benton (Chairperson)<br>Mr. Peter Ormond<br>Mr. Stephen McCarthy<br>Ms Norah Gibbons<br>Ms Inez Bailey<br>Ms Bernadette Fahy<br>Ms Marian Dunnington<br>Mr. James Quinn<br>Ms Dolores Rooney |

| Agency Name   | Number Appointments<br>/re-appointments             | Names   |
|---|---|---|
| Foras Áiseanna Saothair                               | 1 appointment                                       | Mr. Michael Moriarty  |
| Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) | 11 re-appointments<br>(See Note 1)                  | Mr. Donal O'Rourke (Chairperson)<br>Dr. Pádraig Walsh<br>Ms Margaret O'Connell<br>Mr. Rory O'Sullivan<br>Mr. Joseph O'Leary<br>Ms Deirdre Keyes<br>Ms Bridie Daly<br>Ms Margaret Mernagh<br>Mr. John Mulcahy<br>Mr. Tony Petit<br>Ms Shira Mehiman                            |
| Grangegorman Development Agency                       | 4 appointments (See<br>Note 2)                      | Mr. John Monahan (Chairperson)<br>Mr. Damien Kilgannon<br>Mr. Jim Curran<br>Councillor Aine Clancy  |
| Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC)  | 2 appointments<br>8 re-appointments (See<br>Note 1) | Dr. Maria Hinfelaar (1st appointed 9/6/2011)<br>Mr. Aengus Ó Maoláin (1st appointed 1/7/2011)<br>Prof. Séamus Smyth (Chairperson)<br>Dr. Finola Doyle-O'Neill<br>Dr. Marion Palmer<br>Dr. Íde Ní Fhaoláin<br>Ms Mary Mc Glynn<br>Dr. Diarmuid O'Callaghan                     |
| Higher Education Authority                            | 7 appointments<br>3 re-appointments                 | Mr. John Logue<br>Prof. Anthony Staines<br>Ms Siobhan Harkin<br>Mr. Gordan Ryan<br>Ms Kathleen Lough (re-appointed)<br>Mr. Paddy Cosgrave<br>Dr. Brian Thornes<br>Dr. Mary Canning (re-appointed)<br>Mr. Bahram Bekheradnia<br>Dr. Jim Mountjoy                               |
| Irish Research Council                                | 12 appointments                                     | Dr. David Lloyd (Chair)<br>Prof. John Brewer<br>Mr. Ivan Coulter<br>Prof. Anita Maguire<br>Prof. Orla Feely<br>Prof. Alan Smeaton<br>Dr. Thomas Cooney<br>Prof. Caroline Fennell<br>Prof. Rowena Pecchenino<br>Prof. Sheila Greene<br>Prof. Sean Ryder<br>Dr. Eucharia Meehan |
| Léargas   | 7 appointments<br>1 re-appointments                 | Mr. Michael McLoughlin (Chair)<br>Ms Fidelma Collins<br>Mr. Hugh MacConville<br>Mr. Stephen Goulding<br>Ms Gillian Boyle<br>Ms Geraldine Skelly<br>Mr. Cormac Doran<br>Ms Catherine Hazlett   |

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| Agency Name                                    | Number Appointments<br>/re-appointments         | Names  |
|--|---|--|
| National Council for Curriculum and Assessment | 25 appointments                                 | Brigid McManus (Chairperson)<br>Declan Kellehen, (Vice Chairperson)<br>Michael Redmond (Vice Chairperson)<br>Clive Byrne<br>Deirbhile Nic Craith<br>Marie Griffin<br>Nóirín Hayes<br>Christina Henehan<br>Philip Irwin<br>Bernie Judge<br>Dr. Daire Keogh<br>Marie Therese Kilmartin<br>Mary Lillis<br>Pádraig MacFhlannchadha<br>Dr. Rose Malone<br>Hilary McBain<br>Patricia McCrossan<br>Dr. Kara McGann<br>Jim Moore<br>Michael O'Brien<br>Seán Ó Coinn<br>Bryan O'Reilly<br>Sr. Betty O'Riordan<br>Bríd Uí Riordán<br>Eileen Salmon |
| National Council for Special Education         | 1 appointment                                   | Ms Maureen Costello  |
| National Qualifications Authority of Ireland   | 1 appointment<br>5 re-appointments (See Note 1) | Mr. John Logue<br>Prof. Anne Scott<br>Ms Marie Bourke<br>Mr. Eamon Devoy<br>Ms Audry Deane<br>Mr. Tony Donohue   |
| State Examinations Commission                  | 5 Appointments                                  | Mr. Richard Langford (Chair)<br>Mr. Joe Harrison (Deputy Chair)<br>Mr. Martin Carney<br>Dr. Brian Fleming<br>Dr. Caroline Hussey   |
| Skillnets Ltd                                  | 1   | Mr. Mícheál Ó Fiannachta   |

| Agency Name      | Number Appointments<br>/re-appointments | Names   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Teaching Council | 37                                      | Michael Ó Gríofa (Chair)<br>Dympna Mulkerrins<br>Eimear Marie Cole<br>Brid Ní Raghallaigh<br>John Conlon<br>Catherine O'Connor<br>Milo Walsh<br>Derbhile De Paor<br>Diarmuid Ó Murchú<br>Ms Anne McElduff<br>Mr. Declan Kelleher<br>Lily Cronin<br>Christopher Maginn<br>Noel Buckley<br>Bernadine O'Sullivan<br>Fergal McCarthy<br>Marie Humphries<br>Kieran Christie<br>Mr. Michael Barry<br>Ms Elaine Devlin<br>Mr. Bernie Ruane<br>Mr. Michael Gillespie<br>Prof Michael Hayes<br>Ms Marie McLoughlin<br>Dr. Andrew McGrady<br>Dr. Joe O'Hara<br>Ms Eileen Flynn<br>Dr. Ken Fennelly<br>Ms Joan Russell<br>Mr. Patrick McVicar<br>Ms Áine Lynch<br>Eleanor Petrie<br>Marie Clarke<br>Frank Turpin<br>Dr. Séan Rowland<br>Deirdre Matthews<br>Brendan McCabe |

*Note 1:* The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) are to be merged to form a new body to be known as the Qualifications and Quality Assurance Authority of Ireland (QQAAI) in the coming months.

*Note 2:* Mr. John Monahan was a current board member appointed to the position of Chairperson of the Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA) on the 10/7/2012

### Appointments to State Boards

185. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter.  
[35618/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The table below provides the relevant details of all appointments (and re-appointments) of Chairpersons made to bodies under the aegis of my Department since my appointment as Minister on the 9th of March, 2011.

The relevant Oireachtas Joint Committee has been informed of these appointments and that the Chairpersons will make themselves available to the Joint Committee to discuss the approach which they will take to their role as Chairperson and their views about the future contribution of their Body to the education sector.

[Deputy Ruairí Quinn.]

| Agency Name   | Names                          |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Education Finance Board                               | Mr. Sean Benton (Chair)        |
| Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) | Mr. Donal O'Rourke (Chair)     |
| Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC)  | Prof. Séamus Smyth (Chair)     |
| Irish Research Council                                | Dr. David Lloyd (Chair)        |
| Léargas   | Mr. Michael McLoughlin (Chair) |
| National Council for Curriculum and Assessment        | Brigid McManus (Chair)         |
| State Examinations Commission                         | Mr. Richard Langford (Chair)   |
| Teaching Council                                      | Michael Ó Gríofa (Chair)       |
| Grangegorman Development Agency                       | Mr. John Monahan (Chair)       |

### Departmental Staff

186. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36041/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The position in relation to staff employed by my Department is that none of those who have retired in 2012 have been re-employed.

The data in my Department's databases in respect of teachers in Primary, Secondary and Community/Comprehensive schools indicated that four teachers who retired in February 2012 were re-employed in a temporary capacity in primary schools after the 1st March 2012. The periods of their employment varied.

Two hundred and fifty four teachers who retired in February 2012 were re-employed in the period March to May in Secondary and Comprehensive schools. These teachers were employed on a casual basis. The Deputy will be aware that the managerial authorities of second level schools were allowed to re-employ teachers of examination classes who retired in February 2012 from the 1st March until the end of the 2011/12 school year to minimise disruption to examination students.

The data also indicates that sixty primary teachers who retired in February 2012 were re-employed in a casual basis between March and May, 2012.

The data in relation to teachers employed by VECs is not readily available.

A circular (Circular 31/2011) governing the recruitment of teachers was issued in May 2011. This circular sets out to ensure, as far as possible, that people appointed to teach are registered teachers with qualifications appropriate to the sector and suitable to the post for which they are employed and that unemployed teachers are offered employment in preference to those who have retired.

### Pension Provisions

187. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36052/12]

**Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn):** The information sought by the deputy is being compiled and will be forwarded to her.

### Departmental Properties

188. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the Office of Public Works owns or rents any apartments in a complex (details supplied) in Dublin 14; if so, the number of apartments owned or rented; the dates of commencement of ownership or renting; the price paid for each apartment if purchased; the initial and current rent paid if apartments are rented in this complex; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34676/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** The Office of Public Works do not own or rent any apartments in the complex located at Loreto Abbey, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.

### Departmental Expenditure

189. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide an analysis of the State's lease expenditure on property on calendar year 2011 showing the property address, the landlord, lease payment and Government Department and State agency. [35119/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** The data requested in respect of lease expenditure by the Office of Public Works in 2011 is currently being collated and will be made available to the Deputy shortly.

### Proposed Legislation

190. **Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will consider amending legislation with regard to Lottery winners to allow that any prize in excess of €100,000 will be paid in the form of 90% cash with the remaining 10% being paid to the prize-winner's designated charity, an organisation in good standing with the Revenue Commissioners and in possession of certificates of charitable exemption and authorisation as an eligible charity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35349/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** As the Deputy is aware, I announced on 4th April 2012 that the Government has decided to hold a competition for the next National Lottery licence.

Since April, my Department has carried out a considerable amount of preparatory work for the competition. It will be necessary to revise the National Lottery Act which was enacted in 1986. My Department is currently carrying out the necessary preparatory work on the legislation in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General. I expect to be in a position to submit draft Heads of a Bill for Government approval in the near future.

I note the Deputy's proposal as outlined in her question. The implications of any proposals in relation to the National Lottery will need to be carefully considered in the context of the revision of the National Lottery Act 1986.

### Sport and Recreational Development

191. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason tag rugby groups are prevented from using the Phoenix Park as a place to train in advance of tournament matches; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34416/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** The Phoenix Park, although being the largest urban park in Dublin, is a finite resource. Provision is made for both active and passive recreation in the twenty seven dedicated sports grounds already fully allocated to many sporting bodies under licence, for example, Gaelic football, camogie, soccer, cricket, polo, etc.

It is open to tag rugby groups to liaise directly with the licensed sporting bodies to see if they can be facilitated within their allocated sporting grounds.

#### Flood Prevention Measures

192. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will put in place an anti-flooding scheme at the Dublin 5 area that are experiencing flooding and sewerage difficulties with the recent extensive rainfall (details supplied). [34463/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** I am advised that the River Naniken is conveyed by way of a culvert for a substantial part of its entire length and forms an integral part of the urban storm drainage system. Therefore, the responsibility for addressing flooding problems at the location in question rests with Dublin City Council not with the Office of Public Works.

#### Appointments to State Boards

193. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34488/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** In response to the Deputy's question one chairperson appointed by me to a State Board has appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee.

On 22 November 2011, I re-appointed Mr. Donal Connell as Chairman and Director of An Post National Lottery Company with effect from 6 November 2011 until 28 February 2012. Mr. Connell appeared before the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform on 14 December 2011. He was subsequently re-appointed with effect from 29 February 2012 until 30 June 2013.

194. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34489/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** In response to the Deputy's question the following appointments were made to bodies under the aegis of my Department:

#### An Post National Lottery

| Name of Appointee  | Date Appointed                                       |
|--|--|
| Mr. Donal Connell — Chairman<br>Mr. Peter Quinn — Director | re-appointed February 29th 2012.<br>16 February 2012 |

The position to which Mr. Connell was re-appointed by me as Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform was not advertised as under the National Lottery Act 1986, the majority shareholder of the National Lottery Company (i.e. An Post) nominates the person to fill this position.

On 22nd November 2011, I re-appointed Mr. Connell as chairman until 29th February 2012 in order to allow him time to appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance Public Expenditure and Reform. Mr. Connell appeared before the Committee on 14th December 2011 and his re-appointment as Chairman has been ratified with effect from the 29th February 2012.

Mr. Quinn was nominated by An Post and appointed by myself hence the position was not advertised on the Department's website.

Civil Service Arbitration Board

| Name of Appointee   | Date Appointed        |
|---|-----------------------|
| Mr. Turlough O'Donnell, S.C. (Chair)<br>Mr. Gerard Barry<br>Mr. Tom Wall<br>Mr. George Maybury<br>Mr. Hugh O'Flaherty | Appointed 1 July 2011 |

In the case of the Civil Service Arbitration Board the conciliation and arbitration scheme for the Civil Service, the Permanent Defence Forces, the Gardaí and Teachers sets out the nomination process for the Board and its appointment by Government

Public Appointments Service

| Name of Appointee  | Date Appointed/Re-appointed                                   |
|--|---|
| Mr. Eddie Sullivan, Chairman<br>Mr. Des Dowling, Assistant Secretary — Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government<br>Dr. Deirdre O'Keeffe, Assistant Secretary — Department of Justice and Equality<br>Ms Patricia Coleman, Director — Department of Public Expenditure and Reform<br>Mr. Seán McGrath — National Director of HR in the HSE (has since resigned)<br>Ms Judith Eve — former Chairperson the Civil Service Commissioners, Northern Ireland<br>Dr. Eddie Molloy — Management Consultant<br>Mr. Dan Murphy, former General Secretary of the PSEU<br>Mr. Bryan Andrews as CEO of the PAS holding office on an <i>ex officio</i> basis.<br>Replaced by Ms Fiona Tierney, CEO, PAS | 1st September 2011<br>20th March 2012 — on appointment as CEO |

Eight external board members were appointed to the Board of PAS in September 2011. The posts were not advertised on the PAS website.

The Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 states that I, as Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (in consultation with Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence) should appoint members of the Board of the Public Appointments Service.

The Board is meant to be representative of our client base. The majority of the board is therefore civil or public servants, nominated by the relevant Minister. There is also a union

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

representative nominated by ICTU. I reappointed the outgoing Chairman and the two external members were appointed by me because of their expertise in strategic change and public service recruitment respectively.

### Oireachtas Members' Salaries

195. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann who are in receipt of their full salary entitlements, that is the number of members of both Houses who take their full allowance of salary paid and provided for by virtue of their office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34518/12]

196. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the arrangements made with his Department by those members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann who have indicated that they take a salary equivalent to the average industrial wage or some other reduced sum; if he will confirm that each Member concerned has entered into arrangements to surrender to the Exchequer that portion of their salary and furthermore if they have entered into separate agreements to surrender that proportion of their superannuation or other future payments pro rata; if he will indicate the names of those members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34519/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 195 and 196 together.

Section 483 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, provides for a gift on an annual basis to be made to the Minister for Finance to be applied for any purpose for or towards the cost of which public moneys are provided. Gifts are accepted by the Minister for Finance and facilitated and managed by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in respect of public servants.

From the information available to my Department, there are two gifts in respect of salary currently in place for 2012 in respect of members of the Dáil and Seanad. One gift representing 50% of salary less pension contribution from a member of Dáil Éireann, and one gift representing full salary less pension contribution from a member of Seanad Éireann. Additionally two members of Dáil Éireann who attract allowances under S.I. No. 530 of 2011 — Oireachtas (Allowances) (Chairpersons of Oireachtas Committee) Order 2011 have made gifts of €8930 and €8160 respectively for 2012. I do not propose to name any individual who has chosen to make a gift under Section 483.

My Department is not aware that any member of the current Dáil and Seanad has made arrangements to date to forego their entitlements in respect of their current service in the Oireachtas under the relevant superannuation or severance schemes available to members.

### Outdoor Events

197. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the Department of Public Works is aware of all aspects of planning of large outdoor public events before it gives permission for such events especially when they are held on publicly owned amenity lands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34580/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** The Office of Public Works is aware of all aspects of planning of large outdoor public events and liaises closely with relevant Statutory Bodies before permissions are given.

### Flood Relief

198. **Deputy Seán Conlan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the position regarding a funding application for flood relief works (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34646/12]

199. **Deputy Seán Conlan** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the position regarding a funding application for flood relief works (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34647/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 198 and 199 together.

The Office of Public Works is currently considering funding applications received from Monaghan County Council under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme for flood alleviation measures at the locations concerned.

These applications are being assessed in accordance with the scheme eligibility criteria, including cost benefit criteria, and having regard to the overall availability of resources for flood risk management. It is hoped to reply to Monaghan County Council on these applications in the coming weeks.

### Postal Services

200. **Deputy Willie O’Dea** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he has had a request for a meeting with the Postmasters Union; if so, if he intends to meet them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34654/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** I have not received a request to meet with the Postmasters Union.

### Departmental Staff

201. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide in tabular form the number of persons employed in each Government Department in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of persons employed in all of the agencies under the aegis of each Government Department in those years in a separate tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34933/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** The Deputy should note that summary information on Public Service Numbers is available on my Department’s website <http://databank.per.gov.ie/>.

The latest available data on Public Service numbers, with covers the period 2009 to the end of the first quarter 2012 will be forwarded to the Deputy as requested.

Ireland is committed under the EU-IMF programme to reducing the overall size of the public service. This is also a key element of the Programme for Government. Delivering this reduction will require continued implementation of the moratorium on recruitment with exceptions being limited to only essential posts and the utilisation of redeployment as the primary mechanism to fill posts which have been approved. In order to protect frontline services, the Government is committed to making fundamental changes to the way the public service operates. This will inevitably mean changes in the way in which services to the public are delivered.

The Government is committed to reducing public service numbers to 282,500 by the end of 2015 as part of its Reform Agenda. The overriding objective is to have a more customer

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

focused, leaner, more efficient and better integrated public service which delivers maximum value for money.

It should be noted that significant progress is being made in reducing the numbers employed in the Public Service. The numbers working in the public service have continued to fall, with the provisional outturn for Quarter 1 2012 standing at 292,000. This is 28,000 below the peak numbers level of 320,000 in 2008.

### **Ministerial Allowances**

202. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

[35068/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** Ministers and Ministers of State are entitled to the same allowances as Members of the Oireachtas with some exceptions.

As the Deputy will be aware, the legislation providing for Oireachtas expense allowances is exempt from taxation under section 836 of the Taxes Consolidation Act which was inserted into the this Act by section 3(7) of the Oireachtas (Allowances to Members) and Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 2009.

Ministers do not receive the Travel and Accommodation Allowance provided to Members of the Oireachtas.

However, Ministers outside the Dublin area who maintain second homes because of their official duties can claim an income tax deduction of €6,500 in maintaining that second home as well as the annual mortgage repayment. The availability of this allowance is determined by the Revenue Commissioners.

Since 1 May 2011 Cabinet Ministers with the exception of Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Law Reform now use their own cars on official business. All Ministers are now paid for official mileage up to 96,540 kilometres or 60,000 miles per annum. Ministers of State have used their own cars on official business since 1984.

Ministers including Ministers of State may appoint two civilian drivers the salaries for whom are paid by the Minister's respective Department.

Ministers do not receive overnight payments while in Dublin. Ministers on official overnight business away from their home or headquarters may claim the vouched cost of a hotel room including tax and up to 15% in respect of any service charge. They may also claim an overnight subsistence allowance of €72.66.

Taxation is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners in the first instance however, I understand that where office holders and employees necessarily incur expenses of travel and subsistence relating to that travel in the performance of the duties of their office or employment, the reimbursement of such expenses may, in certain circumstances be made tax-free.

Where a Minister participates in a visit abroad an allowance of up to a maximum limit of €190.46 may be claimed to cover additional costs that may arise such as, for example, the purchase of a gift for the Minister's counterpart.

There are limits on what may be spent on official entertainment by Ministers and other civil servants. For Ministers the limit per person is €64 for dinner, €51 for lunch and €13 for a reception. These figures have not been amended since 2000.

I can confirm to the Deputy that apart from Oireachtas expenses which are provided to all Members the only expenses I have claimed for the period specified is mileage of €13,964.02.

### Flood Risk Assessments

203. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason a preliminary flood risk assessment map of an area (details supplied) was released in to the public domain before the relevant information was finalised and the public consultation completed; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that insurance companies are now using this draft map as a basis to adjust insurance premiums, if he will direct the withdrawal of these maps until the process is finalised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35129/12]

204. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the policy for the publication of draft flood maps on floodmaps.ie; the level of information the OPW must possess before publishing such maps; if they must complete site visits before publishing such maps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35130/12]

205. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform when the draft preliminary flood risk map process for an area (details supplied) in County Mayo will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35131/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 203 to 205, inclusive, together.

The Office of Public Works has published two catalogues of maps in relation to flood risk management in the recent past. The location of Swinford, Co. Mayo features in both catalogues.

The older website *www.floodmaps.ie* was developed as a key recommendation of the 2004 Flood Policy Review Report to inform future planning and development processes and was launched in October 2006.

These flood hazard maps have been used to indicate areas of land or property subject to historical or recorded flooding. Historic flood mapping is the mapping of observed flood events and extents as recorded by survey, photography, video, press, memory, etc. Historic flood maps are dependent on the availability of information captured about historic floods, and on the quality of that information.

The disclaimer on the website states that the information provided is intended only as a general guide and is not designed to be accurate at the individual property level.

The town of Swinford, Co. Mayo is marked on the Flood Hazard Mapping website with a flood point symbol marking the approximate location of a flooded area. No information is available on the extent or the area flooded.

In 2011, under a public consultation process, the OPW published on the national website for the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, *www.cfram.ie*, a national catalogue of draft maps as part of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The publication of the PFRA maps is provided for in the 2010 Assessment and Management of Flood Risk Regulations (SI 122/2010). These maps form the first stage of the CFRAM Programme, which is designed to assess and map the country's river systems to identify areas at risk of significant flooding.

[Deputy Brian Hayes.]

The objective of the PFRA is to designate areas for further assessment (AFAs), where more detailed assessment on the extent and degree of flood risk is applied under the CFRAM Studies.

Swinford, Co Mayo was indicated on the draft PFRA maps as a Probable Area for Further Assessment and, following completion of the PFRA in March 2012, Swinford has been included in the designated list of AFAs as part of the Western CFRAM Study.

As with the Historic Flood Hazard Mapping, the scale of the PFRA maps is only to a level of detail at townland or conurbation scale and is not accurate and does not apply at the individual property level.

At a recent meeting with the Irish Insurance Federation (IIF), the OPW indicated to that body that any use of the PFRA maps by insurance companies to assess and decide on flood risk at the level of individual properties was inappropriate. The OPW will be writing to the IIF shortly to affirm this point and to forward a copy of guidelines issued to local authorities on the use of the PFRA maps and seeking assurances from the industry that the practice will cease.

### **Departmental Staff**

206. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will investigate a protocol across the public service whereby when retired employees return to the public service as agency staff they are asked on a voluntary basis to take an abatement of their public service pension entitlement in a manner equivalent to the amount that would be applied if they were re-hired directly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35160/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** Agency staff are employed from time to time in the public sector to meet particular service needs.

In general, the agency will be retained on a specific contract by the public service body to carry out the tasks required. In the light of that contract, the staff involved will be recruited and paid by the agency in the normal way. In short, the staff are legally employees of that company rather than the public service body itself.

In some cases, these agency staff may be in receipt of a public service pension arising from previous employment either in that particular body or elsewhere in the public service. However, as the employment relationship is between the agency and the individual employee rather than between the individual and the public service body itself, there is no means of identifying employees in receipt of a public service pension and of applying the standard public service abatement rules. As the use of agency staff by the public service is most common in the health system, I have asked my Department to raise the issue with the Department of Health and to request that an examination be carried out by that Department of how it might be dealt with in the light of the employment relationship I have outlined above. I agree with the principle involved in the Deputy's proposal.

### **Pension Provisions**

207. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [35238/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** In replying, I will refer to the number of civil service pensioners. The number of pensioners in each sector of the public service is a matter for each sector. The number of civil service pensioners in the requested pension bands is as follows:

Table — Distribution of main scheme civil service pensions

| Bands             | Total  |
|-------------------|--------|
| Less than €10,000 | 5,155  |
| €10,000-€20,000   | 2,550  |
| €20,001-€30,000   | 4,017  |
| €30,001-€40,000   | 1,443  |
| €40,001-€50,000   | 1,232  |
| €50,001-€60,000   | 769    |
| €60,001-€70,000   | 57     |
| €70,001-€80,000   | 171    |
| €80,001-€90,000   | 23     |
| Over €90,000      | 85     |
| Total             | 15,502 |

### Departmental Agencies

208. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35319/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** With regard to the agencies and bodies within the remit of my Department the following outlines who has the power to enter or search a premises and whether a search warrant is required. The Information Commissioner may enter a premises occupied by a Public Body and require it to provide any information required during the course of an investigation or review. The Commissioner for Environmental Information may enter a premises occupied by a Public Authority to obtain environmental information as may be reasonably required. The Commission for Public Service Appointments may issue a warrant permitting the holder to enter the premises of a public body and require it to provide information as it may reasonably require in the course of an investigation. The Office of Public Works has powers to enter lands for the purpose of maintenance of drainage works under Section 38 of the 1945 Arterial Drainage Act. It does not have powers to enter premises.

### Departmental Staff

209. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [35344/12]

**Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin):** In response to the Deputy's question regarding the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years I can supply the Deputy with information in respect of offices and bodies under the aegis of my Department only. It would be a matter for other departments to answer in respect of the offices and bodies under

[Deputy Brendan Howlin.]

their aegis. In the Office of Public Works, the following table shows the number of staff who were retained under the abatement principle under temporary contracts in the past few years:

| Year            | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|
| Number retained | 6    | 7    | 11*  |

\*5 of which are currently retained.

### Flood Prevention Measures

210. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform when he expects the Office of Public Works catchment risk assessment and management study to commence; the areas within the jurisdiction of Dublin City Council that will be included as part of this study; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35440/12]

211. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the funding requests he has received from Dublin City Council to date in 2012 in respect of the flood risk management allocation 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35441/12]

212. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide a report into the discussions he has had to date with representatives from the Irish Insurance Federation; if these discussions have included areas of inner city Dublin where residents are unable to acquire home insurance, or flood insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35442/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 210 to 212, inclusive, together.

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMs) are now underway with engineering consultancy firms appointed to undertake the studies in six catchment areas covering the whole country. The Eastern CFRAM, which covers Dublin City, is currently being progressed by the consultants. The study will examine the following areas within the jurisdiction of Dublin City Council:

(1) Areas that flood from the following rivers: Liffey; Camac; Poddle; Santry; Lower reach of Nanekin; Lower reach of Elm Park Stream; Furry Glen stream and the Zoo Stream.

(2) Areas that flood from the coastline, including the Liffey Estuary and Dublin Bay. In addition to the above areas in Dublin City, the following areas will also be examined: Clontarf; Lucan to Chapelizod; Raheny and Santry. The study will also review the outputs of the Dodder and Tolka CFRAM studies which also cover parts of Dublin City Council's area.

To date in 2012, one funding application has been received from Dublin City Council under the Office of Public Work's (OPW) Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme. The application sought funding of €225,000 to undertake works to alleviate flooding from the Camac River at Lady Lane, Carrickfoyle Terrace and Millbrook Terrace. Following an assessment of the application, the funding sought was approved in May, 2012. The progression of the works is a matter for the Council.

In relation to the difficulties some people may be experiencing in obtaining insurance cover for flood risk, I and officials in the OPW have had discussions on this with the Irish Insurance Federation (IIF) and some of the larger insurance companies. The focus of the discussions to

date has been on agreeing a general format for providing information on flood defence works rather than looking at specific areas.

The industry has indicated to me that the incidence of households or businesses being refused cover or being charged excessive premiums is marginal and that where it arises the causes are complex with each case being assessed in light of the particular circumstances applying. The OPW and the IIF are keen to establish a sustainable means of sharing information on areas vulnerable to flooding and on identifying flood defence works carried out or funded by the OPW and the impact of those works in reducing the risk of flooding in areas where flooding previously occurred. The OPW has provided some information to the IIF but work is ongoing to clarify a number of issues with a view to agreeing with the IIF a viable basis on which information can be provided. There are complex technical issues involved concerning the design standards and risk levels of defence works and maintenance arrangements. My officials will continue to work with the IIF to finalise matters as soon as possible.

### **Enterprise Support Services**

213. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if any financial supports are available to persons in receipt of social welfare who are starting a business and have secured 50% funding from an enterprise or development partnership but cannot access credit for the other 50% from any financial institution; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34470/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I am currently in the process of introducing a Microenterprise Loan Fund that will facilitate the growth and expansion of viable microenterprises from all industry sectors across the country, that have been refused access to credit from the banks. The Fund has a significant entrepreneurship focus to encourage all would-be entrepreneurs across the country who may be unemployed, but have the potential to generate employment for themselves and others. It will form an important complementary element to funding supports provided by enterprise agencies or Local Area Partnerships, where credit is required for the sustainability of the project. It will also add value to other Government schemes of support for entrepreneurs and unemployed persons, such as the Back to Work Allowance or the Seed Capital Scheme.

Support will be in the form of loans for up to €25,000, available to start-up, newly established, or growing microenterprises, with viable business propositions, that do not meet the conventional risk criteria applied by banks. The potential viability of the business proposal will be the dominant factor in all credit decisions. The €10m allocation, supplemented by €15m borrowing from other sources in tranches of €5m over years 2, 3 and 4, of the life of the Fund will generate €40m in additional lending for microenterprises. More detail on a variety of supports for companies is now available at [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie).

### **Health and Safety Regulations**

214. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will respond to a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34670/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** The Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons at work, for the enforcement of the statutory provisions and the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work. The Act imposes duties on employers, employees, and persons in control of places of work as well as general duties on

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers or articles and substances. For any employer who undertakes work activity it is that employer's responsibility to ensure that they have a safety statement and risk assessment that addresses the relevant risks associated with their work.

Within the Act protective and preventative measures are identified. These are central to the proper management of health and safety to protect employees at their place of work. Section 19 of the Act requires every employer to identify the hazards in the place of work under his or her control, assess the risks presented by those hazards and to document this process in a written risk assessment. Under Section 20 of the Act every employer must prepare or cause to be prepared a Safety Statement based on the risk assessment carried out under Section 19 and specifying the manner in which the safety, health and welfare of his or her employees is to be secured and managed. In relation to occupational health and safety, the legislation applies to all work enterprises and includes the self-employed.

Under the aforementioned 2005 Act, the Health and Safety Authority has a range of functions relating to occupational health and safety. In delivering its statutory mandate, the Authority has prioritised those sectors which are known to be the highest risk to employee safety and health. This risk based approach to its interventions is targeted to ensure that the standard of health and safety management is improved and appropriate controls implemented in these high risk sectors. In addition, the Authority also prioritises serious occupational accidents for investigation, and all occupationally related complaints are addressed.

The relevant economic sector relating to the management of apartment complexes is that of 'Real Estate' (NACE Code: L). An assessment of the accident and injury statistics for this economic sector as published in the Authority's "Summary of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics 2010-2011" indicated the following:

- The Real Estate Sector has the second lowest rate of injury resulting in any days lost, and the second lowest illness rate per 1,000 workers based on the most recent CSO figures (2010).
- There is a duty on employers to report workplace injury which results in an employee being unable to perform their normal work for more than three consecutive days. In 2011 the Authority received 6,956 such notifications, of these less than 0.1% related to the Real Estate Sector.
- An analysis of the fatal accident incidents from 2008-2011 shows that there were no fatalities recorded within this sector.

On this basis the work activity associated with the management of real estate cannot be assessed as high risk. In fact, the statistics would indicate that the sector is one of the lowest risk sectors and has not therefore been prioritised for proactive inspection within the Authority's programme of work. However, the Authority also carries out "reactive" interventions based on accident notification or receipt of complaints. In 2011, the Authority received 37 such complaint contacts relating to employers involved in the management of real estate, all of which were addressed. In addressing these complaints the Authority had to engage with 24 employers through inspection or investigation. In this limited degree of interaction, 65% of employers had prepared a Safety Statement as required and 92% of the employers were aware of their duties under the legislation.

In conclusion, I should stress that it is for employers, employees and those in control of workplaces in the first instance to ensure that workplaces are safe and healthy for all workers.

The Health and Safety Authority provides advice and assistance to all involved in workplace health and safety to help them meet their obligations. The Authority also undertakes investigations and enforcement actions where appropriate. If the Deputy has concerns regarding the health and safety aspect of any workplace, he or any constituent can make a complaint to the Authority's Workplace Contact Unit (tel: 1890 289 389, email: [wcu@hsa.ie](mailto:wcu@hsa.ie)) and the Authority will examine the issues raised and determine the appropriateness of follow-up action.

### Departmental Funding

215. **Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the reasons Enterprise Ireland invested in the Pilot Training College in view of what has now transpired. [34358/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** Enterprise Ireland approved funding support in the form of repayable preference shares to the company in 2009, which was drawn down in 2010. The funding was provided as a contribution to the capital requirements of the company, to help it grow its business through increased exports as well as to sustain and create employment in Ireland. It was approved at a time when many viable Irish companies with robust business models were experiencing difficulties in accessing finance as a result of the economic environment. The support was approved following a comprehensive due diligence process, which included a detailed examination of the company's accounts and business plans at that time.

### Job Creation

216. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will address the rising unemployment figures in County Kerry by requesting Enterprise Ireland to increase their efforts in attracting jobs to the County; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34426/12]

218. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of Enterprise Ireland supported jobs created in County Kerry in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34428/12]

219. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he is satisfied with the number of Enterprise Ireland supported jobs created in County Kerry in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34429/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 216, 218 and 219 together.

The achievement of balanced regional growth continues to be a core objective of Government. Promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating the key infrastructural needs of Irish enterprise across all regions is vital to ensuring a vigorous pipeline of new business leaders, new business ideas and entrepreneurial activity. Enterprise Ireland (EI) activity in Co. Kerry is focussed on the creation of new jobs through supporting entrepreneurs to set up new High Potential Start-Up Companies, on the retention and creation of new jobs in existing companies through support of company development plans, and in enhancing the innovation capability of Ireland at a national and regional level through support of research in companies and third level institutions.

There are 124 Enterprise Ireland client companies in Co. Kerry employing more than 3,000 people in full time jobs. The number of full time new jobs created in Enterprise Ireland client

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

companies in Co Kerry 2011, exceeded jobs lost for the first time in the past decade. This positive outcome in Co. Kerry in 2011 reflects the national picture, where employment in Irish exporting companies stabilised. In 2011, Enterprise Ireland paid almost €2.6m in financial support to its client companies in Co. Kerry. Additionally, Enterprise Ireland has provided funding of over €2.2m, as well as other supports, for the development of incubation facilities at the Institute of Technology, Tralee. The Tom Crean Business Centre also provides incubation space for Enterprise Ireland clients in the start-up phase of their business. Enterprise Ireland co-funded the support of a Development Manager for the Centre for two years.

The agency is also supporting the Institute of Technology and the Tom Crean Centre in the delivery of the “*New Frontiers*” Programme, which is currently underway in the Institute of Technology, Tralee with nine local companies participating on the Programme. This programme provides companies with a package of supports to help accelerate their business development and to equip them with the skills and contacts that are needed to successfully start and grow an export driven company. Enterprise Ireland has also approved funding totalling more than €1.7m towards the construction and development of several Community Enterprise Centres in Co. Kerry over the past number of years, including Killarney Technology Innovation Centre, Iveragh Coop Farmers Mart Society Ltd, and Kenmare Mart Enterprise Coop Society Ltd. The figures in respect of jobs created in Enterprise Ireland client companies in Co. Kerry from 2008-2011 are set out in the table accompanying this reply. As the figures are compiled on an annualised basis, the figures for 2012 will be available in the early part of 2013.

No. of Enterprise Ireland supported jobs in County Kerry

| County | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kerry  | 3,412 | 3,145 | 3,078 | 3,123 |

217. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will address the rising unemployment figures in County Kerry by requesting the Industrial Development Agency to increase their efforts in attracting jobs to the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34427/12]

220. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he is satisfied with the number of Industrial Development Agency jobs created in County Kerry in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34457/12]

221. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of Industrial Development Agency jobs created in County Kerry in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34458/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 217, 220 and 221 together.

The Forfás Annual Employment Survey reports on job gains and losses in companies that are supported by the enterprise development agencies. Data is compiled on an annualised basis.

The survey shows that in the four year period 2008 to 2011 a total of 332 jobs were created in IDA Ireland’s client companies in County Kerry. The number of jobs created in each of these years is shown in the attached tabular statement. While corresponding data for 2012 will

not be available until the end of the year, IDA Ireland has informed me that it currently has 12 client companies in County Kerry who employ almost 1,500 people.

One of the high level goals of IDA Ireland's Strategy document "*Horizon 2020*" is that, in the period 2010 to 2014, 50% of investments will be located in areas outside of Dublin and Cork. The Strategy also highlights that IDA Ireland will work with its existing client companies to transform the existing foreign direct investment (FDI) base in order to develop, retain and grow employment in these companies. There is intense and continual international competition to win FDI. One of the challenges that IDA encounters in encouraging investment into regional locations is the desire of investors to locate in areas with large population bases, typically in excess of 1 million people. Ireland has one such Metro Region, the Greater Dublin area. In order to achieve balanced regional development IDA Ireland focuses on promoting Gateway locations within each Region as the areas of critical mass (population/skill base/infrastructure/utilities/business services etc.) and highlights the opportunities provided by Hub locations which are within commuting distances of these Gateways. There are 7 Gateway locations outside of Dublin and Cork.

With regard to Co Kerry, IDA Ireland has explained that it markets the linked hub locations of Killarney in South Kerry and Tralee in North Kerry for new inward investment. In addition, the agency promotes other locations as part of its marketing efforts in response to specific client requirements. Whilst IDA Ireland seeks to influence the selection of a location, the final decision on where to locate is taken in all cases by the investor.

Table showing the number of new jobs created in IDA client companies in County Kerry in the period 2008 to 2011

|                            | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of New Jobs created | 73   | 24   | 69   | 166  |

*Questions Nos. 218 and 219 answered with Question No. 216.*

*Questions Nos. 220 and 221 answered with Question No. 217.*

### **Information and Communications Technology**

222. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his strategy in relation to IT, IT development here, and job creation in the IT sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34565/12]

223. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the value of the IT sector in Ireland; the number of jobs created in this area; if he will provide a breakdown by county in relation to value and jobs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34566/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 222 and 223 together.

Ireland remains a very successful centre for ICT operations with almost 97,000 people employed in ICT firms in Ireland. Of these, almost 74,000 are employed in ICT companies that are clients of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Shannon Development and Údarás na Gaeltachta. These client companies exported goods and services to the value of almost €50 billion in 2010, representing 30% of national exports. The tabular statement, which is taken from the most recent Forfás Employment Survey, provides a breakdown of these jobs on a county basis. It is important to note that these figures, which are the only ones I have available on a county

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

basis, relate only to agency-supported companies. Naturally other ICT companies and jobs may be located in these counties.

While the ICT sector was adversely affected by a number of high profile companies downsizing in the area of PC manufacturing over the past decade, the sector that we have today in Ireland is one based on advanced manufacturing in areas such as microelectronics, semiconductors and telecommunications equipment and devices. Indeed, ten of the top ICT companies in the world have substantial operations here.

The Government's Action Plan for Jobs has identified the ICT sector as having potential for further significant growth in job creation. The Action Plan acknowledges that, for Ireland to achieve its potential, its labour force must be appropriately skilled and our education system must remain responsive to the needs of the ICT sector as a whole. It calls for action to address the range of high level ICT skills recruitment difficulties identified in 2011 by Forfás through the work of the Expert Group on Future Skills. The findings of this study and the resulting action plans are documented in the Joint Government-Industry ICT Action Plan, which the Minister for Education and Skills and I launched in January this year. The Plan outlines a range of short, medium and long term measures to develop a sustainable domestic supply of high quality ICT graduates to support the further expansion and development of the ICT sector and support innovation and growth across other sectors of the economy. As part of the Plan, 750 places have been made available on new Higher Diploma Level 8 Conversion ICT Programmes which began rolling out in higher education institutions across the country from last March. Access is free of charge to participants who will obtain a level 8 Higher Diploma. Graduates of these programmes will be available for recruitment in early 2013. In addition, 530 people with a qualification at level 8 or Masters level in ICT are now due to graduate from the first phase of Springboard. A further 2,200 places on ICT programmes from certificate to Masters degree level are now open for applications as part of Springboard 2012.

The Action Plan for Jobs identifies a number of other challenges that must be addressed in order for Ireland to realise the potential for future growth in the ICT sector:

- Maintaining cost competitiveness in the midst of intensifying competition globally, especially in manufacturing, *vis-à-vis* low cost economies where more mature sectoral activities continue to be outsourced.
- The need to ensure ongoing availability of competitively priced high speed broadband networks.
- The limited scope for software SME's to engage in public procurement initiatives from which strong reference clients and partnerships can emerge.
- Supporting and fostering digital innovations and the emergence of digital start up companies.

The Action Plan identifies a range of actions to be taken in 2012 by my Department and its agencies; the Department of Education and Skills and its agencies; the Department of An Taoiseach; and, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to address these challenges. Implementation of these actions is ongoing and is being monitored on a quarterly basis.

Jobs by County in ICT Companies supported by IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Shannon Development and Údarás Na Gaeltachta

|                        | 2002   | 2003   | 2004   | 2005   | 2006   | 2007   | 2008   | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Permanent Jobs</i>  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| All Regions            | 61,523 | 59,597 | 59,241 | 60,149 | 64,062 | 65,064 | 65,740 | 59,764 | 62,006 | 65,640 |
| Carlow                 | 76     | 66     | 71     | 63     | 77     | 65     | 101    | 106    | 138    | 129    |
| Kilkenny               | 37     | 31     | 31     | 26     | 12     | 10     | 27     | 29     | 33     | 33     |
| Tipperary South Riding | 231    | 233    | 203    | 126    | 90     | 157    | 137    | 108    | 114    | 116    |
| Waterford              | 762    | 921    | 973    | 1,065  | 1,355  | 1,931  | 1,889  | 2,053  | 2,228  | 1,754  |
| Wexford                | 231    | 218    | 195    | 174    | 192    | 232    | 219    | 223    | 205    | 178    |
| Cavan                  | 181    | 181    | 175    | 172    | 171    | 169    | 164    | 168    | 168    | 187    |
| Donegal                | 755    | 949    | 980    | 1,286  | 1,263  | 1,450  | 1,563  | 1,418  | 1,390  | 1,597  |
| Leitrim                | 478    | 978    | 1,136  | 965    | 879    | 868    | 905    | 894    | 804    | 607    |
| Louth                  | 290    | 324    | 347    | 358    | 398    | 424    | 460    | 463    | 477    | 493    |
| Monaghan               | 66     | 72     | 65     | 62     | 68     | 77     | 76     | 90     | 88     | 82     |
| Sligo                  | 81     | 85     | 80     | 102    | 285    | 286    | 303    | 263    | 148    | 160    |
| Clare                  | 1,084  | 1,040  | 1,041  | 966    | 1,087  | 1,112  | 1,092  | 1,003  | 899    | 899    |
| Limerick               | 4,476  | 4,183  | 4,175  | 4,301  | 4,953  | 5,023  | 4,528  | 2,531  | 2,221  | 2,171  |
| Tipperary North Riding | 45     | 47     | 46     | 42     | 31     | 32     | 28     | 20     | 21     | 21     |
| Cork                   | 4,752  | 4,724  | 5,030  | 5,231  | 5,759  | 5,918  | 6,404  | 6,085  | 6,486  | 7,126  |
| Kerry                  | 453    | 494    | 482    | 485    | 444    | 533    | 606    | 536    | 555    | 483    |
| Dublin                 | 40,002 | 37,108 | 36,089 | 37,034 | 39,661 | 39,021 | 39,810 | 37,091 | 37,834 | 40,631 |
| Galway                 | 2,075  | 2,220  | 2,250  | 2,444  | 2,495  | 2,680  | 2,761  | 2,350  | 2,747  | 3,394  |
| Mayo                   | 597    | 583    | 613    | 524    | 527    | 585    | 600    | 566    | 494    | 542    |
| Roscommon              | 59     | 66     | 76     | 76     | 60     | 103    | 94     | 67     | 54     | 53     |
| Kildare                | 1,858  | 1,830  | 1,842  | 1,896  | 1,918  | 1,864  | 1,738  | 1,521  | 2,691  | 2,681  |
| Meath                  | 699    | 641    | 722    | 822    | 794    | 763    | 556    | 570    | 579    | 594    |
| Wicklow                | 1,452  | 1,759  | 1,625  | 888    | 699    | 759    | 685    | 652    | 599    | 609    |
| Laois                  | 44     | 37     | 35     | 40     | 38     | 36     | 17     | 34     | 49     | 19     |
| Longford               | 62     | 94     | 82     | 65     | 89     | 76     | 47     | 33     | 32     | 27     |
| Offaly                 | 24     | 20     | 43     | 38     | 37     | 57     | 106    | 47     | 34     | 32     |
| Westmeath              | 588    | 650    | 791    | 868    | 661    | 822    | 814    | 833    | 906    | 1,010  |

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

|                              | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>Other Jobs</i>            |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| All Regions                  | 7,239 | 8,306 | 9,324 | 8,555 | 9,101 | 8,772 | 8,031 | 7,594 | 8,460 | 8,643 |
| Carlow                       | 7     | 9     | 9     | 9     | 7     | 5     | 5     | 3     | 15    | 10    |
| Kilkenny                     | 3     | 3     | 2     |       | 1     | 3     | 17    | 6     | 11    | 13    |
| Tipperary South Riding       | 33    | 31    | 39    | 25    | 21    | 57    | 62    | 57    | 58    | 25    |
| Waterford                    | 337   | 394   | 263   | 287   | 91    | 254   | 522   | 522   | 479   | 207   |
| Wexford                      | 24    | 54    | 68    | 93    | 61    | 44    | 41    | 34    | 33    | 24    |
| Cavan                        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 30    | 33    |
| Donegal                      | 53    | 72    | 116   | 159   | 146   | 163   | 133   | 163   | 229   | 177   |
| Leitrim                      | 16    | 37    | 31    | 74    | 91    | 12    | 104   | 91    | 94    | 97    |
| Louth                        | 114   | 181   | 287   | 259   | 304   | 223   | 258   | 173   | 165   | 281   |
| Monaghan                     | 1     | 1     | 1     |       |       | 7     | 2     | 4     | 4     | 5     |
| Sligo                        | 15    | 18    | 17    | 17    | 48    | 67    | 72    | 64    | 15    | 13    |
| Clare                        | 64    | 156   | 40    | 100   | 45    | 50    | 57    | 75    | 74    | 91    |
| Limerick                     | 625   | 780   | 1,304 | 1,262 | 1,543 | 1,839 | 478   | 174   | 221   | 229   |
| Tipperary North Riding       | 1     |       |       |       |       | 2     | 6     | 5     | 4     | 4     |
| Cork                         | 569   | 711   | 724   | 610   | 832   | 949   | 872   | 1,085 | 1,466 | 1,170 |
| Kerry                        | 58    | 43    | 16    | 36    | 54    | 54    | 44    | 37    | 46    | 41    |
| Dublin                       | 4,304 | 4,578 | 5,035 | 4,705 | 4,867 | 4,103 | 4,356 | 4,415 | 4,501 | 5,216 |
| Galway                       | 445   | 449   | 724   | 314   | 292   | 391   | 447   | 176   | 439   | 550   |
| Mayo                         | 94    | 224   | 151   | 74    | 94    | 85    | 76    | 70    | 103   | 79    |
| Roscommon                    | 11    | 13    | 16    | 16    | 10    | 12    | 13    | 7     | 11    | 11    |
| Kildare                      | 76    | 126   | 91    | 184   | 212   | 90    | 92    | 98    | 165   | 77    |
| Meath                        | 183   | 98    | 153   | 143   | 128   | 143   | 114   | 133   | 144   | 164   |
| Wicklow                      | 142   | 259   | 168   | 115   | 180   | 136   | 149   | 130   | 81    | 67    |
| Laois                        | 7     | 7     | 10    | 8     | 9     | 9     | 6     | 6     | 5     | 5     |
| Longford                     | 16    | 6     | 7     | 12    | 8     | 8     | 4     | 5     | 3     | 5     |
| Offaly                       | 2     | 2     | 3     | 3     | 5     | 9     | 9     | 9     | 8     | 5     |
| Westmeath                    | 38    | 54    | 48    | 49    | 52    | 57    | 92    | 52    | 56    | 44    |
| <i>Job Gains (Full Time)</i> |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| All Regions                  | 6,788 | 5,589 | 6,566 | 7,697 | 8,598 | 7,471 | 6,828 | 4,023 | 7,774 | 7,689 |
| Carlow                       |       | 5     | 7     | 3     | 15    | 1     | 50    | 13    | 32    | 12    |

|                          | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Kilkenny                 | 4     | 4     | 4     | 2     |       | 4     | 17    | 5     | 7     | 1     |
| Tipperary South Riding   | 77    | 6     | 1     |       | 14    | 68    |       | 4     | 8     | 15    |
| Waterford                | 216   | 178   | 132   | 106   | 292   | 602   | 62    | 224   | 203   | 149   |
| Wexford                  | 43    | 21    | 1     | 2     | 18    | 40    | 10    | 12    | 10    | 1     |
| Cavan                    |       |       | 1     |       |       |       |       | 8     | 1     | 19    |
| Donegal                  | 172   | 224   | 83    | 318   | 81    | 234   | 171   | 63    | 120   | 218   |
| Leitrim                  | 119   | 502   | 158   | 8     | 4     | 7     | 37    | 6     |       | 3     |
| Louth                    | 14    | 47    | 58    | 26    | 51    | 58    | 71    | 47    | 46    | 63    |
| Monaghan                 |       | 8     | 1     |       | 6     | 9     | 7     | 15    | 1     | 2     |
| Sligo                    | 19    | 17    | 7     | 26    | 190   | 18    | 39    | 26    | 27    | 23    |
| Clare                    | 173   | 101   | 119   | 98    | 199   | 77    | 91    | 42    | 42    | 65    |
| Limerick                 | 165   | 74    | 297   | 214   | 763   | 368   | 163   | 95    | 109   | 92    |
| Tipperary North Riding   | 5     | 6     | 3     | 16    |       | 1     | 4     |       | 1     |       |
| Cork                     | 532   | 544   | 640   | 558   | 910   | 1,063 | 1,045 | 634   | 790   | 1,004 |
| Kerry                    | 17    | 69    | 92    | 70    | 44    | 106   | 105   | 31    | 68    | 60    |
| Dublin                   | 4,266 | 2,751 | 4,109 | 5,264 | 5,442 | 3,905 | 4,361 | 2,285 | 4,330 | 4,872 |
| Galway                   | 365   | 374   | 274   | 378   | 337   | 409   | 288   | 154   | 542   | 735   |
| Mayo                     | 78    | 27    | 104   | 13    | 37    | 61    | 48    | 74    | 18    | 58    |
| Roscommon                | 1     | 9     | 16    | 6     | 1     | 44    | 3     | 7     |       |       |
| Kildare                  | 118   | 88    | 64    | 146   | 79    | 39    | 47    | 31    | 1,207 | 81    |
| Meath                    | 71    | 47    | 90    | 104   | 13    | 2     | 51    | 103   | 48    | 30    |
| Wicklow                  | 286   | 370   | 103   | 214   | 49    | 95    | 62    | 40    | 57    | 51    |
| Laois                    | 9     | 1     | 1     | 10    |       |       |       | 17    | 15    | 1     |
| Longford                 |       | 32    | 3     | 1     | 24    |       |       |       |       |       |
| Offaly                   | 4     |       | 23    | 2     | 4     | 20    | 53    | 2     | 2     |       |
| Westmeath                | 32    | 76    | 170   | 108   | 25    | 238   | 43    | 85    | 88    | 134   |
| <i>Job Gains (Other)</i> |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| All Regions              | 2,526 | 3,099 | 3,750 | 2,561 | 2,375 | 2,465 | 2,786 | 2,195 | 2,894 | 2,655 |
| Carlow                   |       | 2     | 1     |       | 1     | 5     | 2     |       | 12    | 6     |
| Kilkenny                 | 1     |       |       |       | 1     | 3     | 14    | 1     | 7     | 3     |
| Tipperary South Riding   | 6     | 2     | 13    | 2     | 8     | 36    | 5     | 9     | 6     | 1     |
| Waterford                | 170   | 105   | 10    | 56    | 4     | 165   | 279   | 17    | 27    | 8     |

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

|                        | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Wexford                | 10    | 33    | 18    | 28    |       | 5     | 7     | 2     | 6     | 1     |
| Cavan                  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       | 30    | 3     |
| Donegal                | 2     | 52    | 78    | 90    | 29    | 38    | 18    | 56    | 99    | 9     |
| Leitrim                |       | 21    |       | 45    | 18    |       | 92    |       | 3     | 3     |
| Louth                  | 44    | 67    | 113   | 9     | 50    | 12    | 50    | 8     | 15    | 130   |
| Monaghan               |       |       | 1     |       |       | 7     | 2     | 4     |       | 1     |
| Sligo                  | 10    | 8     | 3     | 4     | 34    | 24    | 13    | 16    | 4     | 5     |
| Clare                  | 48    | 107   | 18    | 73    | 15    | 24    | 24    | 30    | 13    | 34    |
| Limerick               | 255   | 195   | 630   | 130   | 431   | 441   | 58    | 34    | 85    | 35    |
| Tipperary North Riding | 1     |       |       |       |       | 2     | 5     | 4     |       |       |
| Cork                   | 74    | 303   | 183   | 228   | 390   | 366   | 216   | 492   | 637   | 190   |
| Kerry                  | 20    | 13    | 9     | 27    | 34    | 26    | 17    | 10    | 19    | 8     |
| Dublin                 | 1,604 | 1,609 | 2,044 | 1,524 | 1,071 | 1,012 | 1,642 | 1,343 | 1,410 | 1,922 |
| Galway                 | 135   | 169   | 356   | 123   | 91    | 161   | 187   | 62    | 339   | 214   |
| Mayo                   | 50    | 137   | 118   | 37    | 28    | 38    | 13    | 19    | 43    | 22    |
| Roscommon              | 5     | 6     | 4     | 2     |       | 4     | 4     |       | 5     | 3     |
| Kildare                | 16    | 97    | 8     | 95    | 41    | 11    | 24    | 26    | 84    | 15    |
| Meath                  | 18    | 23    | 59    | 29    | 22    | 24    | 14    | 32    | 17    | 27    |
| Wicklow                | 26    | 131   | 55    | 42    | 90    | 37    | 41    | 13    | 12    | 1     |
| Laois                  | 7     | 1     | 6     |       | 1     | 2     |       |       |       | 1     |
| Longford               | 8     |       | 3     | 6     | 2     |       |       | 3     |       | 2     |
| Offaly                 |       |       | 1     |       | 2     | 5     | 3     | 2     | 2     | 1     |
| Westmeath              | 16    | 18    | 18    | 10    | 12    | 17    | 56    | 12    | 19    | 10    |

### Job Creation

224. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his views on whether the net operating costs of Enterprise Ireland are appropriate and provide value for money in view of the overall allocation of funds and jobs delivered by the organisation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34581/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** The total of funds allocated by Enterprise Ireland (EI) in 2011 was €336m. Direct funding for enterprise development totalled €197m, with an additional €55m either administered on behalf of third parties, or disbursements to other state agencies. The net cost of operating the agency (i.e. the costs associated with providing services to client companies, and the administration of the organisation) was €84m in 2011 (this was a reduction of 6% over 2010).

Net operating costs relate to the pay and non-pay costs of the agency (see table 1 below), including the expenditure relevant to operating a client support network (effectively the business development executives which work with companies to assist them to grow sales and employment), a network of regional offices for service delivery, overseas offices which seek to promote internationalisation of Irish enterprises, and science and innovation support. Of the net operating costs, corporate services support (i.e. the costs associated with administration of the Agency) totalled €9.8m in 2011 (a reduction of 16% over 2010).

In relation to its regional, overseas, science and innovation and client development networks, Enterprise Ireland utilises skilled personnel with extensive expertise relevant to a range of areas including markets, sectors, technologies, business functions, and commercial assessment (often with industry specific experience). Enterprise Ireland, through the provision of a range of programmes and services, is aggressively supporting and incentivising companies to invest more, employ more, and know more in the context of winning sales overseas.

EI receives budgetary funding from the Exchequer reflecting national priorities in the support of industry and the development of the knowledge economy. Value for Money (VFM) and generating economic return are key principles in the work of the Agency, necessarily supported by effective targeting and performance monitoring. Enterprise Ireland actively works with viable companies to help them to both sustain and create jobs. A total of more than 141,000 people were employed in EI client companies at the end of 2011. Enterprise Ireland's Annual Report and Accounts 2011, which was published on 27th June, highlighted that EI client companies achieved record levels of exports of €15.2bn in 2011. This exceeds the pre-recession record levels of 2008 and is the highest ever annual export gain achieved by Enterprise Ireland client companies.

Table 1

Breakdown of Enterprise Ireland Net Operating Costs

|                                | 2011 €m | 2010 €m | Variance % |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|------------|
| Client Services Network        | 32.4    | 32.3    | 0%         |
| Overseas Office Network        | 21.0    | 21.6    | -3%        |
| Regional Office Network        | 5.5     | 6.2     | -11%       |
| Science and Innovation Support | 15.4    | 17.4    | -11%       |
| Corporate Services Support     | 9.8     | 11.7    | -16%       |
| Total                          | 84.1    | 89.2    | -6%        |

### Industrial Development

225. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will report on his recent announcement of an expert group to formulate a new industrial policy for the manufacturing sector; if, as of yet, there are any objectives in relation to the delivery of new jobs in the manufacturing sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34806/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** The Action Plan for Jobs included a list of actions to be pursued for the Manufacturing sector. One of the key actions was that a Manufacturing Development Forum be established to assist the Government in identifying the needs of manufacturing enterprises and to progress a transformation agenda. To this end I recently established a Manufacturing Development Forum whose membership comprises key industry players to help drive this process. There are also representatives from Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Forfás. The first meeting of the Forum took place in my Department on 29th June last.

As part of its terms of reference the Forum will provide expert insights into the development of the Long-term Vision and Strategic plan for Manufacturing which is being led by Forfás, and the prioritisation of specific actions aimed at addressing the key challenges facing the manufacturing sector, and provide input to the Action Plan for Jobs. As a first step I have asked the Forum to consider the biggest impediments to job creation in manufacturing in Ireland and the immediate areas of opportunities for job creation in the sector. The feedback from the Forum on these issues will form the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum which I expect to take place within two months.

### Information and Communications Technology

226. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will outline his plans to fill the estimated 20,000 current and expected vacancies in the technology sector; if he will agree that the prompt filling of these vacancies would bring a measurable knock-on benefit in terms of generating other employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35053/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** On 22 June Forfas published a study, *Key Skills for Enterprise to Trade Internationally*, which sets out the skills and talent needed to drive Ireland's trade and export performance in both existing and emerging overseas markets. The study provides a detailed blueprint for adjustments to our education, training and professional development to align skills with the needs of exporting businesses. The report makes a range of specific recommendations to ensure that our education, training and professional development meets the needs of our exporting companies. It recommends boosting the supply of foreign language skills (both numbers and proficiency) at third level including German, French, Spanish and Italian as well as Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Arabic. It also highlights the need to increase formal international sales training at third level, including compulsory modules on international sales in business courses and the introduction of a degree and post-graduate diploma in international sales with foreign languages.

The study has identified 2,200 potential job opportunities arising within exporting companies which could be filled through tailored skills conversion courses, developed in partnership with industry — in the areas of ICT computing, customer sales and service support with foreign languages. The Government's Action Plan for Jobs has identified the ICT sector as having potential for further significant growth in job creation. The Action Plan acknowledges that, for Ireland to achieve its potential, its labour force must be appropriately skilled and our education

system must remain responsive to the needs of the ICT sector as a whole. It calls for action to address the range of high level ICT skills recruitment difficulties identified in 2011 by Forfás through the work of the Expert Group on Future Skills.

The findings of this study and the resulting action plans are documented in the Joint Government-Industry ICT Action Plan, which the Minister for Education and Skills and I launched in January this year. The Plan outlines a range of short, medium and long term measures to develop a sustainable domestic supply of high quality ICT graduates to support the further expansion and development of the ICT sector and support innovation and growth across other sectors of the economy. As part of the ICT Action Plan, 750 places have been made available on new Higher Diploma Level 8 Conversion ICT Programmes which began rolling out in higher education institutions across the country from last March. Access is free of charge to participants who will obtain a level 8 Higher Diploma. Graduates of these programmes will be available for recruitment in early 2013. In addition, 530 people with a qualification at level 8 or Masters level in ICT are now due to graduate from the first phase of Springboard. A further 2,200 places on ICT programmes from certificate to Masters degree level are now open for applications as part of Springboard 2012.

I understand from my colleague, the Minister for Education and Skills, that a number of other initiatives are being taken across the education sector to ensure that vacancies in the ICT sector can be filled by appropriately qualified personnel. The Masters in Applied Software Technology (MAST), which is delivered by ICT Ireland Skillnet, aims to equip unemployed computing graduates and those from an engineering background with high-level skills in a sector which continues to experience difficulty filling vacancies. Delivery is by means of blended learning, mixing academic input from DIT, interspersed with in-company placements throughout the academic year. The Masters level course commenced for the first time last September and is due to finish this August. I understand that the programme has been described as being a great success and due to the significant input of employers to the course and its work placement elements, a high job achievement rate following successful completion of the course is expected.

I am informed that FÁS plans to deliver up to 75,000 training places in 2012. To underpin its new training strategy, FÁS has reclassified and regrouped its existing course category framework into a career-themed approach to training (career training clusters), which will evolve on an on-going basis as new skills and occupations emerge. As part of that process, the current 'computer applications' course category and the 'computer hardware/networks/programming' category will be merged into the IT training cluster. Under the Labour Market Education and Training Fund, which will be managed by FÁS and will provide up to 6,500 targeted training places, funding will be utilised to provide training and education solutions to the needs of both unemployed individuals and employers within the context of four themes, targeted at sectors where vacancies are likely to arise. One of these themes relates specifically to the IT Sector.

Furthermore, Skillnets, which is an enterprise-led body funded through the National Training Fund to provide companies with new opportunities to develop relevant, effective answers to their training and development needs, was set ambitious targets for 2011 to train 40,000 persons, of whom up to 8,000 were unemployed. Similar targets to 2011 have been set for 2012 which will target the long term unemployed. In addition to all of the above it is important to point out that Irish employers also have access to the EU and EEA labour force in accordance with EU law on freedom of movement of labour. Ireland remains a very successful centre for ICT operations with almost 97,000 people employed in ICT firms in Ireland. In addition to the meeting the challenge posed by the high level of vacancies in the ICT sector, the Action Plan for Jobs identifies a number of other challenges that must be addressed in order for Ireland to

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

realise the potential for future growth in the ICT sector. Specific actions are outlined in the Plan, for implementation in 2012, to ensure that these challenges are addressed.

### Ministerial Allowances

227. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

[35066/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** Ministers and Ministers of State are entitled to the same allowances as Members of the Oireachtas with the some exceptions. No additional untaxed allowances are paid to either of the Ministers of State or myself by my Department in respect of our official duties. As the Deputy will be aware, Oireachtas expense allowances are exempt from taxation under section 836 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (which was inserted into this Act by section 3(7) of the Oireachtas (Allowances to Members) and Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 2009).

Ministers and Ministers of State do not receive the Travel and Accommodation Allowance provided to Members of the Oireachtas. However, Ministers and Ministers of State outside the Dublin area who maintain second homes because of their official duties can claim an income tax deduction in respect of maintaining that second home as well as the annual mortgage repayment. The availability of this allowance is determined by the Revenue Commissioners. Ministers are entitled to claim travel expenses for official business in line with guidelines set down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The amounts paid by my Department in respect of such expenses from 9th March 2011 to date are set out in the table below.

Travel And Subsistence Expenses paid to all Ministers March 2011 to 17 July 2012

|                   | Mileage Expenses | Home Subsistence Expenses | Foreign Subsistence Expenses | Total     |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Minister Bruton   | 8,749.33         | 280.00                    | 315.16                       | 9,344.49  |
| Minister Sherlock | 28,060.00        | 125.11                    | 1,284.77                     | 29,469.88 |
| Minister Perry    | 41,291.93        | 0.00                      | 1,613.21                     | 42,905.14 |

### Work Permits

228. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he is considering the introduction of a new, dedicated visa for citizens of other countries to come to Ireland to take up employment in the technology sector; if his Department has engaged in any research on the possible multiplier effect on domestic employment that such a facility might create; his views on the benefit to technology research and development here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35083/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** Ireland remains a very open and welcoming country for non-Irish nationals in our Labour Force. Quarter 1 2012 labour market statistics show there are 274,000 non-Irish nationals in our labour force of just

over 2 million. Ireland remains a very attractive location for Foreign Direct Investment. Favourable demographics and consistent investment in education ensure a plentiful supply of highly qualified workers with excellent technical, language and customer services capabilities, as well as a reputation for flexibility and innovation. In addition, Irish employers have access to the EU and EEA labour force in accordance with EU law on freedom of movement or Accession Treaties.

While there are currently no Government plans to introduce a special technology visa it is current Government policy to issue new employment permits in respect of jobs requiring key skills and where there is a recognised scarcity of suitably skilled workers. With regard to the specific issue of employment permits for specified highly skilled and strategically important occupations, where a skills shortage exists, Green Card employment permits may be issued. ICT professionals, professional engineers and technologists are specifically catered for under this scheme. The criteria required to meet the conditions of green cards are less than for other employment schemes. The Department also operates an Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) scheme. This scheme is designed to facilitate the transfer of senior management, key personnel or trainees who are foreign nationals from an overseas branch of a multinational corporation to its Irish branch.

I should add that the Government is also guided by the Expert Group for Future Skills Needs and keeps its permit policy under review and can adapt to changing circumstances. The research undertaken by the Group, the Secretariat to which is provided by Forfás, indicates that the global ICT market is expected to grow by 5% between 2009 and 2014/15 with potential growth rate as high as 20% per annum over the next decade. In order to exploit these opportunities, however, it is crucial to ensure that Ireland's labour force is appropriately skilled. In this context the Group's report found that there are a range of skills and recruitment difficulties within the ICT sector with the result that, as at December 2011, there were approximately 1,800 vacancies in the sector. These vacancies arose mainly due to the lack of graduates with high-level ICT Honours Degrees and above which are required to fill such positions as Computer Software Engineers, ICT Network Specialists and Engineers, ICT Security Experts, ICT Telecommunications, ICT Project Managers and IT Sales and Marketing / Foreign Languages Skills Personnel. The report points out that this challenge is not unique to Ireland as such high level ICT skills are also in short supply globally.

In order to address these challenges from domestic sources I, along with my colleague, Deputy Ruairi Quinn, T.D., Minister for Education and Skills, subsequently launched the ICT Action Plan: Meeting the High Level ICT Skills Needs of Enterprise in Ireland. The Action Plan establishes an overreaching target of doubling the annual output from honours degree ICT undergraduate programmes to 2,000 graduates by 2018 and outlines a number of actions that will be implemented to ensure an increased output of appropriately skilled graduates in the medium term 2015-2018.

With regard to the points raised by the Deputy regarding research and development Ireland currently operates a scheme for admission of Third Country Researchers to Ireland. This arises from Ireland's implementation of Council Directive 2005/71/EC which was jointly transposed by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform in October, 2007. The purpose of the Council Directive is to facilitate the admission of third country researchers to EU Member States for the purpose of carrying out research. The mobility of researchers is one of the elements of the Europe 2020 Strategy and implementation of the European Research Area. Ireland's ability to attract high quality researchers is a key element of our strategy for Science Technology and Innovation.

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

The Irish Universities Association's (IUA) — EURAXESS office manages the day to day administration of the scheme that enables the fast tracking of non-EU researchers and their families to Ireland. The scheme has been very successful since it first commenced operation with, to date, over 1100 Hosting Agreements issued in respect of foreign researchers wishing to come to Ireland. Over 30 research organisations have so far been accredited by the Department with 60 countries currently being represented. These include the Irish universities, Institutes of Technology, other research institutions, and a number of private sector companies.

Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) includes among its portfolio of programmes a number of internationally focused programmes targeted at attracting top-class researchers to Ireland. This investment helps Ireland to develop a scientific research base that is internationally recognised for its standards of excellence. In addition, the Department of Justice has been open to accept applications under the Immigrant Investor Programme and the Start-up Entrepreneur Programme since 16 April of this year. My officials in Enterprise Ireland provide assistance in relation to this scheme.

### Trade Relations

229. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his plans to expand Ireland's trade relationship with Turkey. [35158/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** Turkey is a significant market for Irish goods and services. Merchandise exports to Turkey have been developing strongly in recent years and in 2011 were worth over €457 million. In 2010 our services exports increased by 23% over the previous year and were worth €374 million. Trade Missions are a key instrument to promote growing trade opportunities in Turkey. In March of this year, Minister Costello led a delegation of 25 Enterprise Ireland companies to Istanbul and Ankara. Companies participating in this mission were drawn from sectors with particular growth potential in Turkey, in particular, ICT and telecoms, engineering, energy, financial services and life sciences. The trade mission also involved an intensive schedule of meetings with leaders of both public and private sector organisations, sectors that offer rich opportunities for Irish companies.

On a day to day basis, Enterprise Ireland actively supports Irish companies with a range of initiatives to build market awareness and accelerate sales growth into Turkey. The agency brokers relationships between Irish companies and key contacts in Turkey, and supports and encourages companies to recognise that market as an increasingly important destination for exports. In addition, Enterprise Ireland has built up an extensive network of local contacts and has developed a team of highly experienced pathfinders who work with their clients on a one to one basis to give specialised and company specific advice to individual exporters.

### Job Creation

230. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the action he has taken to create employment in the Tallaght region, Dublin 24; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35207/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** Job creation is at the top of the Government's agenda. The Action Plan for Jobs outlines the Government's plan to rebuild the economy and create jobs. The Enterprise Development agencies will be at the forefront of implementing the Action Plan for Jobs and will ensure that local enterprises can maximise their contribution to economic and jobs growth. In 2011, Enterprise Ireland paid over €5.4m in financial support to its client companies in South County Dublin and there were

12,641 people in full time employment in those companies. The New Frontiers programme, which focuses on developing a person's entrepreneurial abilities and is co-ordinated by Enterprise Ireland, is providing €4.25 million in funding to enable the Institutes of Technology, including Tallaght IT, to deliver the programme at a local level. So far this year, 23 people participated in Phase 1 of New Frontiers at Tallaght IT and 15 applicants have recently been offered a place on Phase 2, which is due to commence on 18th July next. A new Community Enterprise Centre Development Programme was launched this year for the maintenance or establishment of a strong business development function in the Community Enterprise Centres that are funded by Enterprise Ireland. Three Community Enterprise Centres in the Tallaght Area were successful in securing this funding in 2012. These were Partas, Brookfield Enterprise Centre and Partas, Killinarden Enterprise Centre, both in Tallaght and Action Community and Enterprise, Bawnogue Enterprise Centre in Clondalkin. Action Community and Enterprise also received support for the refurbishment and expansion of Neilstown Enterprise Centre, under the Community Enterprise Centre Scheme 2007/09.

The South Dublin County Enterprise Board provides support for small businesses with 10 employees or fewer in the start-up and expansion phases, to develop indigenous micro-enterprise potential and to stimulate economic activity and entrepreneurship at local level. In 2011 the Board paid out €357,682 in grant assistance to 38 microenterprise projects in the county. This year, the Board will continue to be actively involved in economic development in the area and will ensure that available funds are targeted to maximise entrepreneurial development.

Tallaght benefits from being part of Ireland's only Metro City Region and is well equipped to compete for potential foreign direct investment, with superb infrastructure facilities at City West and Grange Castle. Announcements in 2012 include Xilinx and SAP in Citywest, Microsoft in Grange Castle, and Digital Realty Trust in Profile Park, Dublin.

I am confident that the measures outlined in the Action Plan for Jobs, together with the initiatives being pursued by the State Agencies will ensure the creation of employment opportunities for the Tallaght area.

### **Sick Pay Scheme**

231. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation his views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding sick pay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35263/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I am aware of the concerns raised in the correspondence to the Deputy that transferring responsibility for the payment of employees' sick pay to employers will add to the cost of doing business. I have received similar views from a number of Chambers of Commerce and individual business people on the matter.

The Government is concerned about the extent of dependence on State-funded sickness benefit schemes and we need to examine ways in which to reduce this. The Minister for Social Protection, Deputy Joan Burton, who has policy responsibility for the sick pay scheme, held a consultative meeting earlier this year to discuss potential changes to the scheme in Ireland. However, no decision has yet been taken on the matter.

Proposals for a statutory sick pay scheme would impact on competitiveness and employment. The evidence of this impact will need to be weighed against the potential for savings in terms of reduced absence due to sickness. I will therefore carefully scrutinise any proposals which

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

develop from this consultation phase and their impact on jobs and competitiveness, and I will contribute fully to the Budgetary process within Government.

In the meantime, I am actively addressing a number of the specific cost issues outlined in the correspondence to the Deputy. For example, the system of Employment Regulation Orders and Registered Employment Agreements — including the removal of the Sunday premia payments from the scope of EROs — is being reformed through the Industrial Relations (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill which is being progressed through the Oireachtas. Upon enactment, the Bill will radically overhaul the system to make it fairer and more responsive to changing economic circumstances and labour market conditions.

Costs of professional services are being addressed through the Legal Services Bill and through actions to encourage professionals to supply price quotations to businesses in advance of providing services. I have also been examining the potential for Government Departments and agencies to reduce or freeze their charges to business. A number of Departments and agencies have agreed to reduce or freeze a range of charges arising from this exercise. A range of additional measures are being taken across Government through the Action Plan for Jobs to improve the operating environment for business.

### Work Permits

232. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the conditions governing the granting of employment permits visas to South African nationals who wish to come and work in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35288/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** Employment Permit structures and procedures have been designed and maintained to protect the Irish labour market while ensuring that key specific skills are available that will enable the Irish economy to expand and develop. Within this context Ireland still remains a very open and welcoming country for non-Irish nationals in our Labour Force. Quarter 1 2012 labour market statistics show there are 274,000 non-Irish nationals in our labour force of just over 2 million. Favourable demographics and consistent investment in education ensure a plentiful supply of highly qualified workers with excellent technical, language and customer services capabilities, as well as a reputation for flexibility and innovation. In addition, Irish employers have access to the EU and EEA labour force.

Under the terms of the Employment Permits Acts 2003 and 2006 all non EEA nationals seeking employment, including South African nationals, are required to hold a valid employment permit. In this regard 34 permits have issued to South African nationals in 2012. 201 such permits issued in 2010 and 122 issued in 2011.

It is current Government policy to issue new employment permits only in respect of the following criteria:

- highly skilled, highly paid positions or;
- non-EEA nationals who are already legally resident in the State on valid employment permits or;
- positions requiring specialist or scarce skills, expertise or qualifications which cannot be filled otherwise.

Furthermore permits are issued in respect of employment where it is established that a minimum salary of €30,000 per annum is on offer, based on a 39 hour week. Further details regard-

ing employment permits and procedure are available at my Department's website at [www.djei.ie](http://www.djei.ie).

### Departmental Agencies

233. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35318/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** The information requested by the Deputy is set out in tabular form below:

| Agency / Office of Department                   | Powers to Enter and Search Premises? (Yes / No)   | Is a Search Warrant Required? (Yes / No)  |
|---|---|---|
| National Standards Authority of Ireland         | Power to enter  | No  |
| Competition Authority                           | Yes   | Yes   |
| National Consumer Agency                        | Yes   | An authorised officer may enter a business premises at all reasonable times without a warrant. If entry is refused a warrant may be sought. An authorised officer may not enter a private dwelling without a warrant unless the occupier so consents. |
| Registrar of Friendly Societies                 | No such powers in relation to Industrial and Provident Societies generally, or in the case of Friendly Societies and Trade Unions. However, the Registrar has certain powers in relation to entering premises for the purpose of inspecting documents of societies incorporated before 4 October 1978 which had accepted and held deposits which on that date exceeded £25,000. | No  |
| Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement | Yes   | Yes   |
| Health and Safety Authority                     | Yes   | Not in relation to a place of work, however, in relation to a domestic dwelling an Inspector must have the consent of the occupier or a warrant from a District Court Judge.  |
| Labour Court                                    | Yes   | No, unless it is a private dwelling   |
| National Employment Rights Authority            | Yes   | No, unless it is a private dwelling   |

### Enterprise Support Services

234. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the criteria that was applied in determining that for feasibility grants for micro enterprise firms in County Kerry, it is 50% of the investment is the maximum grant whereby in border midland and western region it is 60% of the investment; his views on whether this is job creation discrimination to local entrepreneurs and that it is a follow on to the policy re grant aid for foreign direct investment which is nationally variable and nil grant aid category to County Kerry; if he

[Deputy Tom Fleming.]

will review the system which is anti job creation for County Kerry re micro enterprise and FDI. [35323/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** The rate at which the County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs) can provide feasibility grants to micro-enterprises is determined in the first instance by the location of the business entity i.e. whether the applicant is in the BMW region (60% rate applies) or the S&E region (50% rate applies). The different rates that apply between the two regions have been set down by the European Commission under the respective co-funded Operational Programmes for the period 2007-2013.

In relation to FDI a different funding or grant aid regime applies. The grant limits are determined by the European Commission Regional Guidelines 2007 to 2013. The Guidelines govern the areas in which Member States may grant regional aid, more commonly known as investment aid. Investment aid is intended to promote the economic development of certain disadvantaged areas within the European Union in order to redress regional disparities. The current Regional Aid Map for 2007-13 was drawn up in accordance with the Commission's Regional Aid Guidelines.

Following the expiry of transitional arrangements at the end of 2008, Kerry no longer qualifies for regional aid for large investment projects. However, it does continue to qualify for regional investment aid to SMEs at a rate of 20% for medium sized companies (50 to 249 employees) and 30% for small companies (under 50 employees). The process of Member States agreeing the 2014-2021 Regional Aid Guidelines has begun. The Commission are due to forward proposals to Member States in the coming months documenting the structure and provisions that will form the basis of the revised Guidelines. For the 2014-2021 Regional Aid Map, economic data for all counties will once again be analysed afresh. My Department is actively engaged in this process in close consultation with stakeholders.

### Work Permits

235. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if an application for an employment permit will be considered for positions offering a salary of more than €20,000 for a post of work that has limited qualified applicants to choose from domestically; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35354/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** It is current Government policy to issue new employment permits only in respect of:

- highly skilled, highly paid positions or;
- non-EEA nationals who are already legally resident in the State on valid employment permits or;
- positions requiring specialist or scarce skills, expertise or qualifications which cannot be filled elsewhere.

Furthermore permits are issued in respect of employment where it is established that a minimum salary of €30,000 per annum is on offer, based on a 39 hour week.

The policy reflects the need to ensure that every opportunity for employment is afforded to those in the national labour market and in determining this policy the Government is also mindful that employers have access, without restriction, to the wider EU and European Economic Area labour market.

### Appointments to State Boards

236. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35609/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** *Health and Safety Authority (HSA)* Mr. John Newham, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation was appointed to the Board of the Health and Safety Authority on the 10th April 2012. This appointment was a direct replacement for a former Principal Officer in the Department who retired from the Civil Service in February 2012.

*Shannon Development.* Mr. Stephen Curran, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation was appointed to the Board of Shannon Development on 23 February 2012. This appointment was a direct replacement of Mr. Bob Keane, also a Civil Servant from my Department.

*Forfas.* Mr. John Murphy, Secretary General of the Department was appointed to the Board of Forfas with effect from 18th January 2012. The Industrial Development legislation provides that the Director General of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) serves on the board of Forfas. Professor Mark Ferguson therefore became a member of the Forfas Board on taking up his position with SFI with effect from 18th January 2012. The SFI post is an ex officio appointment provided for in legislation. It has been the custom to appoint the Secretary General of the Department to the board of Forfas for reasons of policy cohesion and corporate governance.

*National Standards Authority of Ireland Board. (NSAI).* Ms Barbara O'Leary and Mr. Terry Landers were appointed to the Board of NSAI on 6th March 2012. Both appointments were publicly advertised and Ms O'Leary and Mr. Landers both applied through the expressions of interest process. Two Staff Representatives, Ms Anne Clarke and Mr. Kieran Cox, were also appointed by Minister Bruton following an open election within the agency.

*Competition Authority.* While it does not have a typical board structure, the Competition Authority consists of a Chairperson and up to four other members who act as an executive board. The Competition Acts 2002 to 2010 set out the requirements pertaining to appointments to the Authority. I re-appointed Mr. Declan Purcell as Chairperson of the Competition Authority on 1st July 2011 and following his retirement, I subsequently appointed Ms Isolde Goggin as Chairperson on 1st October 2011 following her selection by the Public Appointments Service (PAS) who publicly advertised this position. I appointed Ms Noreen Mackey and Mr. David McFadden as temporary members of the Authority in July 2011 and I subsequently re-appointed both from 1st October. On 9th August 2011, I re-appointed Mr. Ciarán Quigley as a temporary member of the Authority. These temporary appointments were made in accordance with the Competition Acts 2002 to 2010 and did not require to be publicly advertised.

Advertisements for three full time members of the Competition Authority were published in June 2011 and following the completion of the PAS selection process for these posts I appointed Mr. Stephen Calkins and Mr. Gerald FitzGerald from December 2011 and Mr. Patrick Kenny from January 2011.

*Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority.* Seven appointments were made to the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA). Mr. Dave Martin and Mr. Kevin O'Donovan were both appointed as nominees of the Prescribed Accountancy Bodies on the 26 May 2011. Ms Sylvia McNeece of the Irish Pension Board, Ms Deirdre Behan of the Revenue Commissioners, Ms Mairead Devine of the Central Bank, Ms Marie Daly of the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and Mr. Sean Hawkshaw of the Irish Association of Investment Managers were all appointed as nominees of the Designated Bodies on the 3rd

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

January 2012. As these appointments were made in compliance with the Companies (Auditing and Accounting) Act 2003 it was not appropriate to advertise the posts. One vacancy, recently advertised on the Public Appointments Service website, has not yet been filled.

*National Consumer Agency.* Ms Isolde Goggin was appointed to the Board of the National Consumer Agency in November 2011.

Ms Goggin's appointment as Chairperson of the Competition Authority and Chairperson designate of the new body which will be established on foot of the merger of the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency reflects the Government's commitment to the rationalisation of State agencies. Mr. Stephen Costello, Chairman and Mr. Robin O'Sullivan were both reappointed to the Agency with effect from 1st May 2012 and 6 May 2012 respectively. Ms Colleen Savage and Mr. Eugene Gallagher were appointed to the Board of the National Consumer Agency on 6th May 2012. Both appointments were publicly advertised and Mr. Gallagher applied through the expressions of interest process.

*PIAB.* Two appointments were made to the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) since March 2011. One was the re-appointment of Ms Ann Fitzgerald in her capacity as Chief Executive of the National Consumer Agency, which is a statutory position on the Board.

In the case of the second appointment, it was considered appropriate to have a representative from the Department on the Board and Ms Breda Power, Assistant Secretary, was appointed. Given the nature of this appointment, the post was not advertised.

Two vacancies on the Board which became vacant in April this year were advertised last month on the Public Appointments Service website ([publicjobs.ie](http://publicjobs.ie)). No Appointments have yet been made in respect of these vacancies.

*Science Foundation Ireland.* Dr. Rita Colwell and Professor Martina Newell-McGloughlin were both reappointed to the Board of Science Foundation Ireland with effect from 26th of July 2011. Dr. Colwell and Professor Newell-McGloughlin are internationally renowned scientific experts in the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sectors. Professor Mark Ferguson was appointed to the Board of Science Foundation Ireland on 16th January 2012 on commencement in the post of Director General of the Foundation. The Director General is appointed in an *ex-officio* capacity to the Science Foundation Ireland Board in accordance with the Industrial Development (Science Foundation Ireland) Act 2003.

*InterTrade Ireland.* The InterTradeIreland Board expired on the 12th December 2011. The Minister, Deputy Richard Bruton nominated four new members to that Board. These members included the following:

Mr. Martin Cronin Chairman

Mr. John Corbett

Mr. Kevin Norton

Ms Mairead Sorenson

These four members were subsequently appointed to the Board on the 13th December, 2011 by the North South Ministerial Council.

Both Mr. Brendan Butler and Ms Patricia McKeown who served on the last Board were reappointed on the 13th December, 2011.

*IDA.* I recently made the following appointments to the Board of the IDA: Dermot Curran, Alan W. Gray, Peter Cassells and Mary Campbell. Ms Mary Campbell was identified following

consultations with IDA Ireland to nominate a person with relevant financial expertise for my consideration for appointment to the Board.

*Enterprise Ireland.* There have been no new appointments to the Board of Enterprise Ireland since March 2011, however, the expression of interest campaign for Enterprise Ireland closed on 1st of June.

A total of 12 Board vacancies have been advertised on the website of my Department and that of the Public Appointments Service since my appointment. I intend to shortly seek expressions of interest in respect of further Board vacancies that have arisen or are due to arise over the coming months. In this respect, my overriding focus is to find the best people for particular board appointments. In making appointments I will have regard to the expertise and experience of individuals, the balance of skills and attributes in terms of the overall composition of the board, the gender balance of the board and the availability and commitment of people to serve on the board.

### **Appointments to State Boards**

237. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35622/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I can advise the Deputy that the only new appointment to the position of Chairperson to any Agency under my Department since March 2011 has been to the Competition Authority. The Chairperson, Ms Isolde Goggin is scheduled to attend before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation on 24 July 2012.

### **Departmental Staff**

238. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36044/12]

**Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton):** I appointed two former public servants to act as Civilian Drivers at my Department.

The following retirees were also rehired by my Department on a part-time basis in recent years:

- Mr. John Walsh — A former Assistant Secretary in this Department is serving on the NERA Advisory Board. The cost to the Exchequer for 2011 was €514.58.
- Ms Julie O'Neill — A former Secretary General at the Department of Transport, is currently Chair of the Department's Audit Committee. In line with centrally agreed procedures for external audit committee members in the Civil Service, she is paid a fee of €450 per meeting, subject to a maximum of €1,800 per annum.
- Mr. Martin Lynch — A former Principal Officer is the Irish Government representative and Deputy Chair of the Board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) based in Helsinki, Finland. He is engaged as an expert and is paid on a fee per day basis in respect of each Board meeting that he attends and also for attending meetings of the Board Sub-Committee which he chairs. The cost for 2011 was €7,474.00 in

[Deputy Richard Bruton.]

fees and €4,407.30 in Travel and Subsistence. Following refunds from the European Chemicals Agency, the net cost to the Exchequer was €8,030.30.

- Ms Eveta Brezina — A former Assistant Principal, is a Member of the Employment Appeals Tribunal. She is paid the appropriate “sitting fee” of €193.24 per diem in addition to any travel and subsistence costs. She was paid a total of €6,243.04 gross in respect of fees in 2011 and €375.75 in respect of travel and subsistence. Fees are subject to Schedule E tax, Universal Social Charge, PRSI and pension-related deduction where appropriate.
- Paul Appleby, the former Director of Corporate Enforcement was re-appointed to the post of Acting Director of Corporate Enforcement for a period of up to six months. His pension is abated for the period that he has agreed to remain on in his post in an acting capacity.

Also, at the request of the Chairman of the *Inter-Departmental Committee to establish the facts of State involvement with the Magdalen Laundries*, my Department re-engaged, on a part-time basis, estimated to involve 10 working days, 1 Principal Officer who retired in February 2012 and who had represented the Department on the Committee prior to his retirement. An all-inclusive fee of €1,500 was sanctioned by the Department of Public Expenditure to cover the cost of completing this work and was based on the understanding that the work in question will entail no more than 10 working days. Any travel and subsistence costs incurred in fulfilling this role will be reimbursed by my Department.

No retirees were re-hired to replace staff on term-time.

There have been no appointments to term-time posts since 2008. At that time replacements for term-time staff were recruited through the Public Appointments Service.

As this is a day to day matter for the Agencies, I have asked the Agencies under the aegis of my Department to respond directly to the Deputy.

### **Maternity Benefit**

239. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will initiate a review into the entitlements for maternity benefits currently available to students who, despite having the correct number of PRSI credits, are ineligible for the payment of maternity benefits; and her view on whether the current qualifying criteria for availing of maternity benefits acts as a barrier for many mature students wishing to upskill by availing of higher education and training. [34591/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Maternity benefit is an income maintenance payment awarded by this Department to eligible women for a 26-week period on foot of a confinement. Entitlement to this benefit for employees is contingent on entitlement to statutory maternity leave.

Under the provisions of social welfare legislation, the 26-week period of core statutory maternity leave attracts a payment from this Department — subject to certain social insurance contribution conditions being fulfilled. Maternity leave legislation also provides an option for a woman to take an additional 16-week period of maternity leave that does not attract a benefit payment.

The right to maternity leave is established under the Maternity Protection Act, 1994, legislation which is the responsibility of the Minister for Justice and Equality. Any changes to

current maternity leave provisions are a matter for that Minister to consider in the first instance — and entitlement to maternity benefit would normally follow suit and would have to be considered by Government in a Budgetary context.

*Question No. 240 withdrawn.*

### **Pension Provisions**

241. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on the issues raised in correspondence (details supplied) regarding defined benefit pension schemes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35305/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Government agreed to the drafting of legislation to provide for a change in the way the assets of a pension scheme are disbursed following wind-up of an under-funded scheme. This is a complex and sensitive issue that requires any proposed solution to achieve the desired level of equity for all scheme members.

Officials from my Department are currently undertaking a detailed examination of possible alternative options. Further technical expertise is also being sought and, following consultations with stakeholders, I will consider bringing forward proposals for inclusion in a forthcoming Social Welfare and Pensions Bill.

*Question No. 242 answered with Question No. 54.*

### **Invalidity Pension**

243. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline the status of applicants, who are married or have partners, waiting on a decision in relation to an invalidity pension to access community welfare officer support in the interim period; her plans to allow such support; the supports available; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34365/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme is the safety net within the overall social welfare system in that, subject to qualifying conditions, it provides assistance to any persons in the State whose means are insufficient to meet their needs and those of their dependants.

Apart from a number of excluded categories, anyone in the State who satisfies a habitual residency condition and a means test, has registered for employment, unless they have a physical or mental disability, and can prove unemployment or are pending a decision on a social welfare claim, may qualify for a weekly payment of SWA.

A person making an application for SWA should contact the local Departmental representative administering the SWA scheme who will make an assessment of their entitlements based on their individual circumstances.

### **Community Welfare Services**

244. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline the role of community welfare officers, eligibility of applicants for support to community welfare officers; her future plans for the position; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34366/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** On 1 October 2011, the community welfare service transferred from the Health Service Executive to the Department of Social

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

Protection. Former community welfare officers (CWOs) are known as ‘Designated Persons’ for the purposes of the administration of the supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme.

The purpose of the transfer was to provide a streamlined, consistent and enhanced service to the customer. The process of integration is ongoing and significant progress has already been made with preparations for an integrated service almost complete in four offices and ten further offices due to be developed before the end of the year. However, the assignment and integration of functions, and full transformation and integration of staff and skills is a programme of work which will take a number of years to complete.

The Department fully recognises the skills, competencies and experience of former Community Welfare Officers. One of the projects underway as part of the transformation programme is to conduct an audit of skills and competencies so that the organisation can maximise its resources to meet requirements and address skill gaps and overlaps where they exist.

The supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme is the safety net within the overall social welfare system in that it provides assistance to eligible people in the State whose means are insufficient to meet their needs and those of their dependants.

Designated officers play a vital role within the overall social welfare system in providing a responsive and flexible approach to meeting the needs of the disadvantaged. The role of the community welfare service and the objectives of the SWA scheme are compatible with the goals and objectives of this Department having regard to income support, social inclusion and integration of services.

The need for a flexible and responsive approach to meet the needs of members of the public experiencing disadvantage continues to remain central to the community welfare service following its integration to the Department. The community welfare service will continue to remain a community based service providing key information, advice, advocacy and referral links between agencies.

### **Carer's Allowance**

245. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an application for carer's allowance will be approved in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Laois; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34367/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The application for carer's allowance from the person in question was refused on the ground that the care recipient is not in need of full-time care and attention as laid down in the regulations.

The person in question has requested a review of this decision and has submitted further medical evidence in support of the application. Once the review is completed, they will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Illness Benefit**

246. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare regarding illness benefit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34370/12]

**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. The person concerned was notified of the Appeals Officer decision on 11th July 2012.

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.

### **Carer's Allowance**

247. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on carer's allowance will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34380/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Domiciliary Care Allowance**

248. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on a matter regarding domiciliary care allowance (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34383/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The review of the domiciliary care allowance (DCA) scheme, as recently announced will commence shortly. The group undertaking the review will be comprised of representatives from a number of government Departments, the National Disability Authority and other persons with relevant experience.

Three representatives from a working group established by Downs Syndrome Ireland, Inclusion Ireland, Irish Autism Action, Special Needs Parents Association, the Carers Association and Midlands Regional Forum of People with Disabilities have been invited to be part of the review group. It is considered that this broad representation will reflect the issues and views of the vast majority of parents on the matter.

Officials from the Department recently met with representatives from the DCA Warriors to discuss how they can be facilitated in making a positive contribution to the review process and they have also been invited to nominate a representative to the review group.

The terms of reference for the review allows for a consultation process with parents and representative groups to be held. This will allow for all parents and groups not directly represented on the working group to input their concerns and suggestions to the review process.

### **Carer's Allowance**

249. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a review of an application for carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34386/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The application for carer's allowance from the person in question was refused on the ground that the care recipient is not in need of full-time care and attention as laid down in the regulations.

The person in question has requested a review of this decision and has submitted further medical evidence in support of the application. Once the review is completed the person in question will be notified directly of the outcome.

250. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on a carer's allowance application will be made in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 24; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34394/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

#### **Disability Allowance**

251. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will expedite an appeal for disability allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34402/12]

**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 10th May 2012. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the appeal in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on the documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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.

#### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

252. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will expedite an appeal for rent supplement in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34404/12]

**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 25th July 2012. 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.

#### **Community Employment Schemes**

253. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person who is unemployed and signing for credits is ineligible for the community employment scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34408/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Community Employment (CE) is an active labour market programme with the emphasis on progression into employment and/or further education and training. The core eligibility criterion for CE is that the person is in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment and is either long term unemployed or socially marginalised.

At present persons signing for credits or who are otherwise ineligible for a social welfare payment, do not meet the eligibility requirements for participation on the CE Scheme. They may, however, be eligible for participation on other Departmental programmes or FÁS programmes, although they may not qualify for payment of an allowance.

Such persons are advised to contact their local DSP Employment Services Office where an Employment Services Officer will be happy to discuss the employment and training options that are open to them.

There are no proposals currently under consideration in regard to making changes to the national operation of the Community Employment programme. Within the current very difficult budgetary constraints, the number of places on Community Employment have been maintained in 2012.

### Illness Benefit

254. **Deputy Tom Barry** asked the Minister for Social Protection the total number of illness benefit claims in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2010 and to date in 2012; if she will distinguish those claimants who were working in the public sector in each of those years. [34410/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Illness benefit is a payment for insured people who cannot work due to illness. A person may qualify for illness benefit if they are unable to work due to illness, satisfy the pay-related social insurance (PRSI) conditions and are under age 66.

The table below sets out the number of illness benefit claims processed in the years 2008-2011 inclusive and 2012 (to end June).

Illness Benefit Claims Processed

| Year  | Number of Claims Processed |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 2008  | 308,989                    |
| 2009  | 312,468                    |
| 2010  | 287,846                    |
| 2011  | 298,644                    |
| 2012* | 150,154                    |

\*Note that provided figures for 2012 are for the up to end June 2012.

The Department does not maintain data on “sector of economy” of illness benefit claims. As a result it is not possible to distinguish between claimants working in different sectors of the economy, including the public sector.

### Social Insurance

255. **Deputy Tom Barry** asked the Minister for Social Protection the total number of persons paying full rate PRSI in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if she will distinguish those working in the public sector in each of those years. [34411/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Details on the number of people paying PRSI contributions in each of the years concerned are set out in the table below. While it is not possible to distinguish between those working in the public and private sectors based on the class of contribution paid, the table identifies public servants who entered the service before 1995 and who pay modified rates of PRSI (classes B, C, D and H). All employees who have entered the public service since 1995 pay PRSI at class A and are not identified as a separate

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

category on the Department's systems. Figures on the numbers paying PRSI in the current year are not yet available.

Number of Contributions paid by PRSI Class

| Year | Class A       | Class B, C, D and H |
|------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2012 | Not Available | Not Available       |
| 2011 | 1,764,546     | 95,689              |
| 2010 | 1,827,446     | 101,729             |
| 2009 | 1,921,749     | 110,389             |
| 2008 | 2,132,622     | 114,779             |

### Jobseeker's Allowance

256. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider giving full social welfare payment of €188 per week to homeless young persons who are in emergency accommodation and who are now in a position to leave the accommodation with the support of tenancy support services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34412/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The €100 rate of jobseeker's allowance was introduced for claimants aged under 20 in April 2009, and this rate was applied to claimants aged up to 21 from December 2009. The €100 rate does not apply to certain categories of claimant including:

- claimants with a qualified child;
- those transferring to Jobseeker's Allowance immediately after exhausting their entitlement to Jobseeker's Benefit;
- those making a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance where that claim is linked to a Jobseeker's Allowance claim made within the previous 12 months to which the maximum personal rate applied;
- those transferring directly to Jobseeker's Allowance from Disability Allowance;
- certain people who were in the care of the HSE during the period of 12 months before he or she reached the age of 18.

A rate of €144 applies to claimants aged 22-24. The adoption of these measures reflected the need to encourage more young jobseekers to improve their skills by either pursuing further study or accessing a labour market programme.

Receiving the full adult rate of a jobseekers payment without a strong financial incentive to engage in education or training can lead to welfare dependency. While many young people with low levels of education and training were able to get work in construction and other areas when the economy was doing well, they are likely to find it much harder to get work over the course of the next few years. The measures encourage young jobseekers to improve their skills and remain active in the labour market in order to avoid the risk of becoming long-term unemployed and will help them to progress into sustainable employment on a long-term basis. Where a person is in receipt of a rate of jobseeker's allowance described above and he or she participates in a course of education, training, Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme

or Tús, the full normal rate of payment applicable to that course or scheme applies without any reduction for persons aged under 25.

I understand that Deputies have been contacted with regard to these measures following a campaign by Focus Ireland. My officials met with Focus Ireland in May, 2012 in relation to their concerns. These are being examined and further discussions are planned.

More generally, it may be noted that my Department's role with regard to persons who are homeless is mainly income maintenance. Under the social welfare system, homeless people have entitlements to the full range of social welfare schemes, including supplementary welfare allowance and associated supplements, subject to the normal qualifying conditions. My Department, through its work in the Homeless Persons Unit and the Asylum Seekers and New Communities Unit provides assistance to people in sourcing the most appropriate accommodation available. In addition, prison and hospital in-reach services are provided to explore accommodation options and, where necessary, liaise with local authorities to identify and source the most appropriate accommodation available for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This ensures that where possible, people are diverted away from homeless services and towards community-based supports.

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

257. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding options available to a person (details supplied) in Dublin 3. [34420/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person in question applied for and is now receiving Rent Supplement which has been retrospectively awarded from 30th March 2012, the date on which he took up tenancy. The first payment issued on 10th July 2012.

### **Invalidity Pension**

258. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Social Protection if an appeal for invalidity pension will be expedited in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Carlow; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34431/12]

**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, 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 agreed to review the case. The person concerned will be contacted when the review of her appeal has been finalised.

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.

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

259. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Social Protection the supports available to persons applying for rent supplement, to help them pay their first months rent or to help with the deposit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34447/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Rent supplement is available to provide short-term income support, to eligible people living in private rented accommodation whose

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

means are insufficient to meet their accommodation costs and who do not have accommodation available to them from any other source. The aim is to provide short term assistance, and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer. There are approximately 92,000 persons in receipt of the scheme for which the Government has provided a sum of €436 million in 2012.

Under the supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme, an exceptional needs payment (ENP) may be made to help meet an essential once-off cost, such as a payment of a rent deposit, which the applicant is unable to meet out of his/her own resources.

There is no automatic entitlement to this payment and each application is determined by the person administering the scheme based on the particular circumstances of the case, taking account of the nature and extent of the need. Such payments are confined to occurrences which the officer considers to be unexpected, unforeseen or exceptional.

Multiple rent deposits are not generally paid to the same person and every effort is made to ensure that only one payment is made. If the landlord or tenant terminates the tenancy the tenant can use the returned deposit to secure a new tenancy.

#### **Domiciliary Care Allowance**

260. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a domiciliary care application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Limerick. [34453/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** An application for domiciliary care allowance in respect of the person concerned was received on the 30th June 2011. The application was referred to one of the Department's Medical Assessors, who, having examined all the information supplied, found that the child was not medically eligible for the allowance. A letter issued on the 15th September 2011 advising of the decision.

In the case of an application which is refused on medical grounds, the applicant may submit additional information and/or ask for the case to be reviewed by another medical assessor. Alternatively, they may appeal the decision directly to the Social Welfare Appeals Office within twenty one days.

The person concerned requested a review of the decision and the case was forwarded to another of the Department's Medical Assessors for further consideration. This Medical Assessor also found that the child was not medically eligible for the allowance. A letter issued on the 6th December 2011 advising of the decision and of the right to appeal within 21 days.

The person concerned did not lodge an appeal against this decision and the decision/appeal process for this application is now complete. If she has additional information which was not available when the decision was made, it is open to her to re-apply.

261. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding domiciliary care allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Limerick and if she will expedite payment of arrears; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34454/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person concerned was notified on the 11th July 2012 that her domiciliary care allowance appeal was successful. Payment of the allowance and arrears due will issue to her on the 17th July 2012.

### Rent Supplement Scheme

262. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in the Dublin City Council, South Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Fingal County Council areas respectively that are in receipt of rent supplement at present. [34476/12]

263. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in the State in receipt of rent supplement at present and if he will provide a breakdown of local authority areas. [34477/12]

299. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for mortgage interest supplement; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34790/12]

305. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for rent supplement; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34796/12]

319. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of recipients in receipt of rent allowance in Cork City and County; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34931/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 262, 263, 299, 305 and 319 together.

The purpose of the rent supplement scheme is to provide short-term income support, to eligible people living in private rented accommodation whose means are insufficient to meet their accommodation costs and who do not have accommodation available to them from any other source. The aim is to provide short term assistance, and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer.

Statistics on the number of rent supplement recipients by local authority or city/county council areas are not available. However, I attach the most recently compiled breakdown of rent supplement recipients per county in the attached tabular statement.

The timescale for determining applications is dependent, among other things, on the availability of the required information, such as details of the applicant's income, bank statements etc. In addition, some aspects of the application are inevitably time consuming and delays can occur where investigations such as home visits or third party evidence are required. Delays can also arise if the applicant is slow to respond to requests for additional information.

The provision of a prompt service is a major objective for the Department's staff dealing with applications. However, this is tempered by the necessity to ensure that every case is fully investigated and that all cases are dealt with in a consistent and fair manner. While statistics are not available on the numbers of applicants awaiting a decision on rent and mortgage interest supplement applications or the average length of time taken to assess these claims, I am satisfied that the Department's staff dealing with these applications make every effort to ensure claims are processed in an efficient manner.

Rent Supplement Recipients by County and Dublin Postal District

| County | Recipients |
|--------|------------|
| CARLOW | 1,339      |

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

| County          | Recipients |
|-----------------|------------|
| CAVAN           | 641        |
| CLARE           | 1,888      |
| CORK            | 10,610     |
| DONEGAL         | 2,712      |
| DUBLIN (COUNTY) | 6,115      |
| DUBLIN 1        | 1,457      |
| DUBLIN 2        | 274        |
| DUBLIN 3        | 1,285      |
| DUBLIN 4        | 390        |
| DUBLIN 5        | 745        |
| DUBLIN 6        | 1,828      |
| DUBLIN 6W       | 457        |
| DUBLIN 7        | 3,065      |
| DUBLIN 8        | 2,570      |
| DUBLIN 9        | 1,414      |
| DUBLIN 10       | 414        |
| DUBLIN 11       | 1,793      |
| DUBLIN 12       | 1,141      |
| DUBLIN 13       | 828        |
| DUBLIN 14       | 349        |
| DUBLIN 15       | 3,904      |
| DUBLIN 16       | 486        |
| DUBLIN 17       | 455        |
| DUBLIN 18       | 501        |
| DUBLIN 20       | 257        |
| DUBLIN 22       | 1,671      |
| DUBLIN 24       | 2,503      |
| DUBLIN TOTAL    | 33,902     |
| GALWAY          | 4,553      |
| KERRY           | 2,233      |
| KILDARE         | 4,416      |
| KILKENNY        | 1,547      |
| LAOIS           | 1,122      |
| LEITRIM         | 401        |
| LIMERICK        | 3,656      |
| LONGFORD        | 540        |
| LOUTH           | 2,679      |
| MAYO            | 2,767      |
| MEATH           | 2,584      |
| MONAGHAN        | 418        |
| OFFALY          | 1,288      |
| ROSCOMMON       | 1,207      |
| SLIGO           | 603        |
| TIPPERARY       | 2,468      |
| WATERFORD       | 1,968      |

| County    | Recipients |
|-----------|------------|
| WESTMEATH | 1,611      |
| WEXFORD   | 3,998      |
| WICKLOW   | 2,667      |

### Community Employment Schemes

264. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Social Protection if the review of community employment schemes conducted a needs assessment or a financial assessment of projects involved in the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34480/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The CE Review was a financial review of the CE scheme with the following terms of reference.

- To examine the income and funding of sponsoring organisations in terms of their ability to continue the programme with reduced funding from DSP.
- To quantify the expenditure on training provided and the qualifications achieved by participants.
- Alternative sources of support will be examined particularly with reference to funding from other state agencies to avoid duplication.
- To establish if income is generated by scheme activity and the potential for utilisation of these funds to cover project costs.

The financial review has now been concluded and schemes are being advised of the material and training grants approved for them in respect of 2012.

265. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that projects have to close down following the changes to community employment schemes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34481/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The number of places available on CE has remained constant at 23,300 including supervisors. The financial review of CE Schemes has now been completed. The Department of Social Protection have contacted schemes to advise them of their revised material and training allocations.

The materials and training CE Budget has been increased by €9.5m from the original budget of approximately €11.0m following transfer from savings identified elsewhere in the DSP budget. The new CE materials and training budget is thus €20.5m.

Under the revised arrangements, schemes will no longer be given universal amounts of financial support but will instead be provided with a specific level of support aimed at meeting the particular costs of CE Schemes, having regard to the overall level of funding available for CE nationally. To date, significant savings have already been made to the overheads of CE projects in terms of annual insurance costs and audit fees.

To date there are no indications that any CE scheme will close as a result of the CE financial review. However, in any year a number CE schemes may decide to close or amalgamate and in such cases the Department of Social Protection make every effort to secure alternative sponsors to ensure that the participants and the essential services that they deliver are maintained. The matter will be kept under review and, notwithstanding the increased funding now

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

available, should a limited number of CE sponsors withdraw from Community Employment, the Department will ensure that the participants and services are (so far as possible) supported.

266. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Social Protection if there is an appeals mechanism for projects following decisions made as part of the review of community employment schemes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34482/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** An appeals mechanism has been put in place within the Department of Social Protection in relation to the materials and training allocations. Where a Sponsor has sought to appeal the allocation of funds by the Department of Social Protection under the materials and training grants, the sponsor may avail of an Appeals Mechanism taking account of the following parameters that apply to the allocation:

1. No scheme will receive more than a €1,000 for materials and training per place per annum.
2. Some schemes may receive less than €500 per place per annum.
3. Schemes must demonstrate that savings have been secured vis a vis 2011 expenditure, with particular reference to the areas of insurance and audit fees.
4. No scheme may exceed the materials grant drawn down in the preceding year of operation.
5. No scheme will receive more than it indicated it needed in the course of the financial review.

The process is as follows:

(i) The Sponsor shall in the first instance write a letter of appeal, clearly outlining the grounds for appeal, to the Divisional Manager of the Department of Social Protection, within seven working days of notification of the allocation of funds.

(ii) The appeal shall be reviewed by the Divisional Manager and within 14 working days from the date of receipt of the written appeal, a reasoned decision will be issued to the Sponsor.

(iii) In the event that the Sponsor is dissatisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision in writing to the Principal Officer, Employment Schemes, within seven working days of notification of the decision. Any such written appeal shall clearly state the grounds for appeal of the original decision and the decision of the Divisional Manager.

(iv) Upon receipt of an appeal, the Principal Officer, Employment Schemes will consider the matter. Where practicable, the consideration of the appeal should be completed within one calendar month of the date of receipt of the written appeal to the Principal Officer and a reasoned decision will be issued. This decision will be final.

### **Carer's Allowance**

267. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an application for carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Donegal; her views on the current processing time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34515/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

The Department is committed to delivering the best possible service to its customers. Currently the average time taken to award a carer's allowance application is 28 weeks.

I acknowledge that the time taken to process carer's allowance claims at present is not satisfactory but I am satisfied that the Department is taking appropriate action to resolve the situation.

A major service delivery modernisation project is under way to improve the efficiency of administration of the carer's allowance scheme. This involves the deployment of information technology solutions and associated business process re-organisation. Full deployment of the new system for carer's allowance was completed last month. In tandem with the full implementation of the new system, a comprehensive business process improvement exercise has recently commenced, the focus of which is to optimise performance and provide improved customer service. However it is expected to be a number of months before the backlog is reduced to an acceptable level.

It is expected that the necessary investigations in this case will be completed shortly and a decision will be made. The person in question will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

268. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Social Protection if rent allowance will be approved as a matter of urgency in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny. [34536/12]

**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 12 June 2012. 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. When received, the appeal in question will be referred in to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on the documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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.

### **Illness Benefit**

269. **Deputy David Stanton** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reasons a decision was reached following a medical assessment to remove a person (details supplied) in County Cork from illness benefit despite documentation from a consultant expressing the view that the person was incapable of resuming work; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34541/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Eligibility to illness related benefit is determined by its severity and expected duration of the illness. This case was assessed by a Departmental Medical Assessor all of whom are trained in disability evaluation. The medical assessment is made in accordance with the Departments evidence based medical guidelines and protocols.

In this case guidelines and protocols were followed and the Medical Assessor concerned was of the opinion that the person concerned was fit for work after reviewing all medical evidence

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

including evidence from Professor Michael G Molloy dated 20 March 2012 and after carrying out a clinical medical assessment.

### Social Insurance

270. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No 347 of 3 July 2012, with regard to the four year time limit governing the refund of PRSI contributions, the reason, in this instance, no similar time limit was imposed vis-a-vis the amount of Illness benefit claimed by this person since 2001; if she will outline the way such an error occurred over a very extensive period of time; and if she will reconsider the decision to rescind this persons entitlement to class A entitlements. [34543/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** As stated in reply to question No 347 on 3 July 2012, new arrangements relating to PRSI for public and civil servants came into operation with effect from 6 April 1995. Public and civil servants who had been in employment before 6 April 1995 and continued to be so employed without a break in service were insured at the modified rate of PRSI contribution, Class D, whereas new entrants paid PRSI Class A.

Following on from the 6 April 1995 changes, a number of different departments and Boards applied the incorrect rate of PRSI in certain situations. This resulted in an overpayment of PRSI contributions and an underpayment of pension contributions in respect of the employees concerned.

Where the incorrect class of PRSI has been paid the Department of Social Protection refunds the PRSI contributions where the conditions for refund are met. When a PRSI refund is being calculated any benefits paid to the person on foot of the class A PRSI contributions are deducted from the amount of refund due. There is no time limit in respect of the deduction of benefit from the refund due.

The position in relation to the person concerned is that her employer contacted the Department in November 2011 to clarify the correct PRSI contribution class for her employment. It was confirmed that she had been paying the incorrect PRSI class since she was made permanent in 1999. No refund is due to the individual concerned in this case as illness benefit paid out exceeds the amount of PRSI refund available.

As outlined above class D is the correct PRSI class payable in respect of the person concerned. It is not possible to rescind this decision.

### Child Care Services

271. **Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the way FAS make decisions in relation to ring fenced community childcare community employment places (details supplied). [34545/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Childcare provision is a major government priority and one to which the Department of Social protection has made a significant response through the development and provision of a range of quality training and qualification measures on Community Employment. There are 2,200 places ring-fenced for childcare on Community Employment schemes. These places are delivered through dedicated CE childcare projects and through the allocation of places to childcare services as part of the approval process of CE schemes. CE Schemes make an application to DSP on an annual basis for support under the Community Employment Programme. The application provides details of the work to be undertaken by the scheme and how the scheme proposes to support and progress job seekers and other eligible groups for CE. This application is then assessed by the CE

Monitoring Committee against criteria laid down by my Department. Nationally there are 276 schemes with ring-fenced places for childcare. There is no decrease in the number of Community Employment ring-fenced places allocated in 2012.

A key element in the approval of all CE programmes, including childcare ring-fenced places, is the requirement that such programmes do not displace current jobs or employees or that they are not used to fill vacancies. All applications for CE must be accompanied by letters from local Union representatives that such displacement or replacement is not occurring. The programme is managed by DSP at a regional and local level, subject to the availability of budget and the needs of participants and the community.

### Fuel Allowance

272. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Social Protection in view of the fact that there is a complete failure to save turf this year, which will put an undue burden on elderly persons in particular who used to buy turf locally and now will have to choose more expensive options of fuel for the winter, his plans to enhance the fuel allowance for the winter months to assist these vulnerable persons; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34551/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The fuel allowance was paid to some 400,000 people at a cost of €265 million in 2011. Between 2005 and 2011 the numbers in receipt of fuel allowance rose by almost 50%. For the same period the cost of the scheme rose from €82 million to almost €265 million, an increase of over 200%.

The scheme was envisaged as a way of providing some additional support for people on long-term welfare payments during the winter season but is not intended to provide for all their heating costs. I have no plans to enhance the fuel allowance.

All of the schemes operated by my Department, including fuel allowance, were examined in the context of the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure and continue to be kept under review given the on-going need for savings. The Review continues to inform me in my decisions on future spending.

### Social Welfare Offices

273. **Deputy Brendan Ryan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the planned social welfare office for Balbriggan in North County Dublin; if there is a timeline in which the process will be completed; if a National Employment and Entitlement Service will be based in the town and the timeline for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34554/12]

274. **Deputy Brendan Ryan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the planned social welfare office for Swords in North County Dublin; the timeline in which the process will be completed; if the National Employment and Entitlement Service will be based in the town and the timeline for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34555/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 273 and 274 together.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for the acquisition of new office accommodation for the Department. I can confirm that my officials are working closely with OPW to identify and progress new offices in Balbriggan and Swords as a matter of high priority. The new office in each location will be capable of providing a fully integrated service to the public; comprising all employment and benefit support services in line with the Programme for

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

Government and the National Employment and Entitlement Service. OPW is actively negotiating with a number of landlords and developers in and around both towns with a view to delivering the new offices as soon as possible. The Deputy will appreciate that until these negotiations are concluded, it is not possible to give a definite timescale for the provision of new offices in the two centres.

### **Carer's Allowance**

275. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will issue on a review for a carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34586/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The application for carer's allowance from the person in question was refused on the ground that the care recipient is not in need of full-time care and attention as laid down in the regulations. The person in question has requested a review of this decision and has submitted further medical evidence in support of the application. Once the review is completed in this case the person in question will be notified directly of the outcome.

276. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on an appeal for carer's allowance will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34598/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person concerned was refused carers allowance on the ground that the care recipient is not so disabled as to require full time care and attention as prescribed in regulations. She was notified of this decision, the reason for it and of her right of review or appeal. Additional medical evidence was received and forwarded to the Department's medical assessor for further consideration. However, this information did not alter the opinion of the medical assessor and the decision of the deciding officer remained unchanged.

The person concerned appealed this decision to the Social Welfare Appeals Office and submitted further medical evidence in support of the appeal. An appeals officer, having fully considered all the evidence, disallowed the appeal. The decision of an appeals officer is final and may only be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new facts not already presented at the time of appeal.

277. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the progress made to date in the determination of eligibility for carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34599/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Community Employment Schemes**

278. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) in County Cavan who is unable to claim social welfare because of their partners means is unable to go on a community employment scheme when they demonstrably wants to work and when an offer is there; the reason FÁS cannot provide an eligibility from

when they are out of work and the only reason they cannot claim social welfare is because of their partners means; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34602/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Community Employment (CE) schemes provide a very important and valued contribution to social employment, training and progression for unemployed people. The primary objective of CE is the progression of participants into the open labour market by equipping the long-term unemployed through identified worthwhile work and training, with the skills that will allow them to enter the labour force.

In order to be eligible to participate on CE, a person must be unemployed and currently in receipt of one of a range of identified State payments for a minimum period of 12 months. While the person in question is unemployed, he is not in receipt of a state payment and therefore does not qualify for Community Employment.

### National Internship Scheme

279. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline any discussions she has had with the arts community to explore ways in which the jobbridge scheme will focus on providing opportunities to young persons to engage in internships in support of the network of arts festivals across the country; if it is her intention to promote the jobbridge scheme in this way; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34608/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The National Internship Scheme was launched on 1st July 2011. It provides internship opportunities of either 6 or 9 months for unemployed individuals at all skills levels. The aim of JobBridge is to assist individuals in breaking the cycle where they are unable to get a job without experience. It provides them with an opportunity to gain valuable experience, relevant knowledge and skills within a working environment. The Scheme is open to organisations in the private, public and community or voluntary sectors.

The Scheme has made significant progress to-date. 8,588 internship placements have commenced since the launch of the Scheme in July 2011. There are currently 4,946 interns undertaking internship placements. In addition, there are in excess of 2,100 internship posts currently advertised on the JobBridge website *www.jobbridge.ie*.

I wish to advise that I met with the Arts Council recently to examine appropriate supports to the network of arts festivals around the country under the JobBridge scheme. The Department of Social Protection and the Arts Council are jointly progressing proposals in this area.

I wish to further advise the Deputy that there has been a significant number of JobBridge placements within the Arts sector to-date. These include internships in the following areas; Arts Office Assistant and Promotion, Heritage Research, Theatre Management, Museum Cataloguing, Exhibitions Curator, Film Production, Contemporary Gallery. The Department of Social Protection will continue to work closely with the Arts Council to support the provision of high quality internships on a nationwide basis within the Arts sector.

### Rent Supplement Scheme

280. **Deputy Billy Timmins** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding rent allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Wicklow; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34645/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person concerned has made an application for rent supplement and has been requested to provide further information in order

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

to process his claim. The request for further information was sent on the 10th July 2012. A decision will be made on his application when the necessary information has been provided.

### **Carer's Allowance**

281. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on carer's allowance will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare [34662/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

282. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a carer's application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34663/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Pension Provisions**

283. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Social Protection the changes she intends to make to State pensions; and the timeframe for same. [34674/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I want to take this opportunity to again explain why we are making changes to State pension provision. As Irish society has changed, pensions policy has evolved to reflect these changes. A key focus of mine has been to ensure that the State pension is sustainable in light of demographic changes and the associated increases in pension costs.

This is compounded by the wider need for sustainable public finances. So our primary consideration in making the changes we have made to reform pensions has been to ensure that retirement income remains adequate and is on a financially sound and sustainable footing

Under the pensions reform programme, the following reform measures are underway:

- With effect from April 2012, the number of paid contributions required has increased from 260 contributions to 520 paid contributions.
- While the current State pension age of 66 remains, the State pension (transition) which applies for one year for persons of age 65 will cease from 2014.
- Thereafter, State pension age will increase to 67 in 2021 and 68 in 2028.
- From September 2012, additional rates bands for State pension (transition) and State pension (contributory) will be introduced to more fairly reflect the attachment to the workforce by the claimant.
- The maximum rate will remain unchanged and the rate payable to people with an average of between 40 and 47 contributions per year will also remain unchanged. However, those who have fewer contributions will receive a lower rate of pension.

This change moves somewhat closer to the total contribution approach where those who pay more, benefit more. The new rate bands are outlined below:

In the future, a ‘total contributions approach’ to State pension will be adopted to replace the current averaging system. Under this system, the level of pension paid will be directly proportionate to the number of social insurance contributions made by a person over his or her working life.

The State pension is the bedrock of the Irish pension system, and these reforms are essential to address the challenges of increasing life expectancy and to ensure its sustainability.

All information relating to the changes that I have outlined here and the table are available on my Department’s website.

Current State Pension (Contributory) Rates of payment

| Yearly average contributions | Personal Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged under 66 years Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged over 66 years Rate per week |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| 48 or over                   | €230.30                | €153.50  | €206.30   |
| 20-47                        | €225.80                | €153.50  | €206.30   |
| 15-19                        | €172.70                | €115.10  | €154.70   |
| 10-14                        | €115.20                | €76.80   | €103.20   |

New State Pension (Contributory) Rates of payment

| Yearly average contributions | Personal Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged under 66 years Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged over 66 years Rate per week |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| 48 or over                   | €230.30                | €153.50  | €206.30   |
| 40-47                        | €225.80                | €146.00  | €196.00   |
| 30-39                        | €207.00                | €139.00  | €186.00   |
| 20-29                        | €196.00                | €130.00  | €175.00   |
| 15-19                        | €150.00                | €100.00  | €134.00   |
| 10-14                        | €92.00                 | €61.00   | €83.00  |

Current State Pension (Transition) Rates of payment

| Yearly average contributions | Personal Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged under 66 years Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged over 66 years Rate per week |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| 48 or over                   | €230.30                | €153.50  | €206.30   |
| 24-47                        | €225.80                | €153.50  | €206.30   |

New State Pension (Transition) — Rates of payment

| Yearly average contributions | Personal Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged under 66 years Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged over 66 years Rate per week |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| 48 or over                   | €230.30                | €153.50  | €206.30   |
| 40-47                        | €225.80                | €146.00  | €196.00   |

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

| Yearly average contributions | Personal Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged under 66 years Rate per week | Increase for Qualified Adult aged over 66 years Rate per week |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| 30-39                        | €207.00                | €139.00  | €186.00   |
| 24-29                        | €196.00                | €130.00  | €175.00   |

### Rent Supplement Scheme

284. **Deputy Billy Timmins** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding rent allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Wicklow; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34683/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person concerned has made an application for rent supplement and on 11 April 2012 was requested to provide further information in order to process her claim. A decision will be made on her application when the necessary information has been provided.

### Social Welfare Benefits

285. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Social Protection the plans she has to make access to social welfare easier for self-employed people who become unemployed when their businesses fold. [34688/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Self-employed persons are liable for PRSI at the Class S rate of 4% which entitles them to access long-term benefits such as State pension (contributory) and widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's pension (contributory). Ordinary employees who have access to the full range of social insurance benefits pay Class A PRSI at the rate of 4%. In addition, their employers make a PRSI contribution of 10.75% in respect of their employees, resulting in the payment of a combined 14.75% rate per employee under full-rate PRSI Class A. (For employees earning less than €356 per week, the rate of employer's PRSI is 4.25%).

Any changes to the PRSI system to extend the full range of social insurance benefits to self-employed persons would have significant financial implications and would have to be considered in the context of a much more significant rise in the rate of contribution payable. I established the Advisory Group on Tax and Social Welfare last year to meet the commitment made in the Programme for Government. The Advisory Group will, inter alia, examine and report on issues involved in providing social insurance cover for self-employed persons in order to establish whether or not such cover is technically feasible and financially sustainable.

In addition, the Actuarial Review of the Social Insurance Fund which was completed in June 2012 also examined this matter. The findings of this report are currently being examined.

Self-employed workers may establish eligibility to assistance-based payments such as jobseeker's allowance and disability allowance. In the case of jobseeker's allowance they can apply for the means-tested jobseeker's allowance if their business ceases or if they are on low income as a result of a downturn in demand for their services. In general, their means will take account of the level of earnings in the last twelve months in determining their expected income for the following year and, in the current climate, account is taken of the downward trend in the economy. As in the case of all claimants for jobseeker's allowance or disability allowance, the means of husband/wife, civil partner or co-habitant will be taken into account in deciding on entitlement to a payment.

### Invalidity Pension

286. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on an invalidity pension appeal will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34729/12]

**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 28th April 2012. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the case in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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.

### Carer's Allowance

287. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on a carer's allowance will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34734/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### Emergency Accommodation

288. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the amount the provision of emergency accommodation is costing for persons aged 18 to 25 years; the longest period of time a person is currently in emergency accommodation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34736/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Responsibility for provision of emergency accommodation is a matter for my colleague the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government.

### Invalidity Pension

289. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on invalidity pension will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34747/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an oral hearing of the appeal of the person concerned took place on 28th May 2012 and the Appeals Officer is now considering the appeal in the light of all the evidence submitted, including that adduced at the hearing. The person concerned will be notified of the Appeals Officer decision when the appeal has been determined. 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.

### Carer's Allowance

290. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on carer's allowance will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34748/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

291. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if and when payment will issue of an application for carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34752/12]

**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 on 2nd August 2012. The person concerned has been notified of the arrangements for the 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.

### Invalidity Pension

292. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an appeal for an invalidity pension in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Laois; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34753/12]

**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 10th January 2012. 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 16th May 2012 and the case will be referred to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on the documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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.

### Domiciliary Care Allowance

293. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection when domiciliary care allowance will be granted in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Laois; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34755/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person concerned was notified on the 4th July 2012 that his domiciliary care allowance appeal was successful. Payment of the allowance and arrears due will issue to him on the 17th July 2012

### Carer's Allowance

294. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been

made on a carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34756/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question. On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### Invalidity Pension

295. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to an application for invalidity pension in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34760/12]

**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. In order to determine a person's entitlement, an application form must be completed. To date, an application for invalidity pension has not been received from the person concerned. An application form has been issued to the person in question. On receipt of the duly completed application form, the person's entitlement will be examined, and the person concerned will be notified of the outcome.

### Departmental Staff

296. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide a breakdown of the staff in the carer's allowance department in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the breakdown of staffing resources in each unit of the carer's allowance section; the role of each staff member in processing applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34776/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The information requested in relation to the number of staff in carer's allowance section over the years in question is contained in the table. The numbers refer to whole time equivalents.

| Year                    | Total |
|-------------------------|-------|
| @ 31/12/2009            | 74.5  |
| @ 31/12/2010            | 79.25 |
| @ 31/12/2011            | 74.5  |
| @ 13/7/2012 (currently) | 82.2  |

The section is broken into two main areas, the claims area and the payments/maintenance area.

The staff in the claims area is mainly dedicated to processing new claims. The staff in that area is responsible for the end to end processing of new claims which includes examining entitlements, requesting outstanding information if necessary, completing medical referrals, deciding on claims, dealing with overlaps with other social welfare schemes and the issuing of any arrears. The claims area also encompasses an appeals/revised decisions team that deals with requests for reviews and/or appeals on new claims awarded and disallowed.

The staff in the payments/maintenance area deal with a variety of different maintenance roles and responsibilities relating to the approximately 51,300 carer's allowance claims that are in payment. These functions include updating customer details (addresses, Post Office details, Bank account details, etc.), processing allowances such as free fuel, etc., adding and removing

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

increases for qualified children, issuing of statements for tax and other purposes, dealing with terminations and control work. The payments / maintenance area also deals with general correspondence and document management, Parliamentary Questions and representations from TDs and man the TD enquiry phone lines. They also deal with routine control review work and manage overpayments and debt recovery.

The breakdown of staffing resources in each unit of the carer's allowance section is continuously reviewed. The available staff resources are deployed flexibly within the section in accordance with work volumes and priority. For this reason, it is not possible to give you a breakdown of the staffing numbers between the two sub-areas for previous years as such records are not maintained. I can tell you that, at present, of a total of 82.2 staff members, 38.2 are assigned to the claims area and 44 to the payments/maintenance area.

In addition, both areas assign staff as required on a rota basis to deal with telephone enquiries from the general public, from other areas within the Department and from public bodies.

A major service delivery modernisation project is underway to improve the efficiency of administration of the carer's allowance scheme. This involves the deployment of information technology solutions and associated business process re-organisation. Full deployment of the new system for carer's allowance was completed last month. In tandem with the full implementation of the new system a comprehensive business process improvement exercise has recently commenced, the focus of which is to optimise performance and provide improved customer service.

### **Jobseeker's Allowance**

297. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for jobseeker's benefit; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34788/12]

298. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for jobseeker's allowance; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34789/12]

302. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for one parent family payment; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34793/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 297, 298 and 302 together.

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 and customers must also satisfy the habitual residence condition. In the case of the insurance based schemes, it may be necessary to ascertain details of foreign insurance records. It should also be noted that many factors outside the Department's control can impact upon claim processing times, e.g. the supply of relevant information by the customer, employers or other third parties.

The average processing time for claims decided in June 2012 was 1.7 weeks for jobseekers benefit, 4 weeks for jobseekers allowance and 14.9 weeks for one parent family payment. This is the average time nationally and there are fluctuations between offices.

The number of claims pending at the end of June was 8,018 jobseeker benefit, 21,990 jobseeker allowance and 3,365 one parent family payment.

*Question No. 299 answered with Question No. 262.*

### **Child Benefit**

300. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for child benefit; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed. [34791/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Applications for Child Benefit may be dealt with either under domestic legislation or EU legislation.

Claims made under domestic legislation are processed on average within three weeks of receipt. At the end of June 2012, a total of 1,186 domestic claims were pending under domestic legislation, of which 429 were awaiting further information from customers.

Claims made under EU legislation are processed within six months on average. This is due to the need for correspondence with other EU countries, which takes time. A total of 2,218 EU claims were pending at the end of June 2012, of which 1,785 are awaiting further information from the customer or other institutions.

### **Family Income Supplement**

301. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for family income supplement; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34792/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Department is committed to providing a quality service to all its customers. This includes ensuring that applications are processed and that decisions on entitlement are made as quickly as possible.

The average waiting time for new family income supplement (FIS) claims at the end of June was 19 weeks. At the end of June, there were approximately 6,686 new FIS applications and approximately 7,811 renewal applications awaiting decision. The volume of FIS claims on hands and the delays in processing are a consequence of continued strong claim intake.

The Department has introduced a number of measures to address the efficiency of claim processing for FIS in light of the current waiting times, including the assignment of temporary staff and the facility to assign overtime working where appropriate. It is intended to commence in the near future a comprehensive business process improvement initiative in the FIS area, the focus of which will be to optimise performance and provide improved customer service.

These measures will, over time, lead to a reduction of the number of claims on hand. The position is being closely monitored and kept under review by the Department.

*Question No. 302 answered with Question No. 297.*

### **Illness Benefit**

303. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for illness benefit; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34794/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The average time to process a claim for illness benefit is one week.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

As of 12 July 2012 there were 3,566 claims pending decision.

### **Invalidity Pension**

304. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for invalidity pension; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34795/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** At the end of June 2012 there were 6928 Invalidity Pension (IP) claims registered and awaiting decision. Average time to award is currently 37 weeks, this includes the time taken to decide EU and bilateral cases which have a significantly longer processing time.

Since the introduction of the two year expiration of illness benefit there has been a significant increase in the number of IP claims received in the Department. A high percentage of these applicants are not suitable for the invalidity pension scheme as they are not assessed as being permanently incapable of work.

The processing time for individual IP claims may vary in accordance with their relative complexity in terms of the qualifying criteria. In addition, factors outside the Department's control can have an impact, for example, insufficient information received from claimants at time of application and delays in claimants furnishing the information requested.

This Department is continually reviewing its processes in an effort to improve processing times and customer service. Many improvements have already been introduced in IP section. These improvements include the introduction of a new IT platform under the Department's service delivery model project which has led to further efficiencies in processing and an increase in the number of claims processed. Additional temporary staff has been assigned to the IP area to help to reduce the backlog and waiting time. Overtime has been made available and is utilised on a judicious basis.

In June 2012, a business process improvement project was carried out which resulted in significant changes to the operations in the section. Staff have been reallocated from other duties to focus on claim processing, a phone bank has been introduced and processes have been streamlined to improve processing times. Already improvements are being experienced but it will be a number of months before the backlog are reduced to an acceptable level.

Customers waiting on a decision on their IP claim, who have urgent income support needs, can apply for the means tested supplementary welfare allowance (SWA).

*Question No. 305 answered with Question No. 262.*

### **Redundancy Payments**

306. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for redundancy payment; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34797/12]

320. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Social Protection the delays in issuing redundancy payments, the steps she is taking to reduce the delays; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35003/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 306 and 320 together.

There are currently approximately 11,000 statutory redundancy claims on hand. These claims fall into different processing streams.

A new computerised system was introduced in October 2011. On-line claims submitted correctly through this system which were received in April 2012 are currently being processed. Manual claims submitted since October 2011 take longer to process due to the need to enter the information onto the new system. The Department is currently processing such claims received in January 2012.

Claims submitted prior to the introduction of the new system require more clerical intervention and so take longer to process. The Department has finalised the processing of the vast majority of redundancy lump sum claims in this category. Redundancy rebate claims in this category which were received in September 2011 are currently being processed.

With regard to claims received via the Employment Appeals Tribunal the Department is currently processing claims received in March 2012.

There are currently 32 staff involved in processing statutory redundancy applications or, in full-time equivalent terms, 30.5 staff. A number of months ago, the appointment of 10 temporary clerical officers was sanctioned specifically to target the processing of applications received prior to the implementation of the new system and it is expected that all of these claims will be finalised in the near future.

### **National Internship Scheme**

307. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the current waiting time for an application for the jobbridge programme; the number of participants on the programme who have gone on to obtain full time employment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34798/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The National Internship Scheme was launched on 1 July 2011. It provides internship opportunities of either 6 or 9 months for unemployed individuals at all skills levels. The aim of JobBridge is to assist individuals in breaking the cycle where they are unable to get a job without experience. It provides them with an opportunity to gain valuable experience, relevant knowledge and skills within a working environment. The scheme is open to organisations in the private, public and community or voluntary sectors. The Scheme has made significant progress to-date. 8,588 internship placements have commenced since the launch of the Scheme in July 2011. There are currently 4,946 interns undertaking internship placements. In addition, there are in excess of 2,100 internship posts currently advertised on the JobBridge website *www.jobbridge.ie*.

As you may appreciate, JobBridge staff receive a large volume of applications from Host Organisations. However, I would point out that the average waiting time for processing of applications is one day from receipt of such applications.

Preliminary data from the interns who ended their placements in recent months indicates that 39% of those who have completed internships to-date have gone directly into employment with either their JobBridge Host Organisation or another company on the immediate completion of their internship. It is also important to note that this does not take into account of interns who may have secured employment in the subsequent weeks or months after completing their internship.

The above represents very significant progress in a short period of time. Further information on outcomes will be ascertained following the independent evaluation of the scheme which is currently being undertaken by Indecon International Economic Consultants. This evaluation

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

will assess the design, delivery and impact of the JobBridge Scheme. It will provide details of the nature of the work experience of the participants; a measurement of the relevance of that experience to the labour market and progression into employment.

### **Money Advice and Budgeting Service**

308. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of staff currently employed by the money advice and budgeting service in South Tipperary; the number that left the service in 2011 and to date in 2012; if they have been replaced and if she will ensure that the offices in Clonmel and Tipperary town are fully staffed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34815/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** There are six staff currently employed by South Tipperary Money Advice and Budgeting Service. No staff left the service in 2011 or to date in 2012.

Staffing levels to meet customer demand are kept under constant review. There are no plans to reduce staff numbers in South Tipperary MABS.

### **Community Welfare Services**

309. **Deputy Ciara Conway** asked the Minister for Social Protection her plans to use the investigating experience and decision making powers of the community welfare officers to ensure that all claims will be processed in a timely manner; the reason they must wait 20 weeks for a decision for a family income supplement where a person leaves the register to work full time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34819/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The purpose of the transfer of Community Welfare Service and staff to the Department from the HSE last October, was to provide a streamlined, consistent and enhanced service to the customer. The process of integration is ongoing and significant progress has already been made with preparations for an integrated service almost complete in four offices and ten further offices due to be developed before the end of the year. However, the assignment and integration of functions, and full transformation and integration of staff and skills is a programme of work which will take a number of years to complete.

The Department fully recognises the skills, competencies and experience of former CWOs. One of the projects underway as part of the transformation programme is to conduct an audit of skills and competencies so that the organisation can maximise its resources to meet requirements and address skill gaps and overlaps where they exist.

With regard to Family Income Supplement (FIS), the average waiting time for new family income supplement (FIS) claims at the end of June was 19 weeks. At the end of June, there were approximately 6,686 new FIS applications and approximately 7,811 renewal applications awaiting decision. The volume of FIS claims on hands and the delays in processing are a consequence of continued strong claim intake.

The Department has introduced a number of measures to address the efficiency of claim processing for FIS in light of the current waiting times, including the assignment of temporary staff and the facility to assign overtime working where appropriate. It is intended to commence in the near future a comprehensive business process improvement initiative in the FIS area, the focus of which will be to optimise performance and provide improved customer service.

The position is being closely monitored and kept under review by the Department.

### **Invalidity Pension**

310. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection the status of an invalidity pension appeal for a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34870/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the Invalidity Pension 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 28 March 2012 and in accordance with the statutory procedures the relevant department papers and the comments of the Deciding Officer 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.

*Question No. 311 withdrawn.*

### **Carer's Allowance**

312. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection when carer's allowance will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Laois; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34911/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Disability Allowance**

313. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on a disability allowance review will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34921/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an oral hearing of the appeal of the person concerned took place on 3 July 2012 and the Appeals Officer is now considering the appeal in the light of all the evidence submitted, including that adduced at the hearing. The person concerned will be notified of the Appeals Officer decision when the appeal has been determined.

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.

### **Carer's Allowance**

314. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on carer's allowance will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34922/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

315. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision on carer's allowance will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34923/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Domiciliary Care Allowance**

316. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a domiciliary allowance appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34924/12]

**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 allowed the appeal of the person concerned by way of summary decision. The person concerned was notified of the Appeals Officer decision on 12 July 2012.

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.

### **Supplementary Welfare Allowance**

317. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a supplementary welfare allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34929/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an oral hearing of the appeal of the person concerned took place on 4 July 2012 and the Appeals Officer is now considering the appeal in the light of all the evidence submitted, including that adduced at the hearing. The person concerned will be notified of the Appeals Officer decision when the appeal has been determined.

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.

### **Carer's Allowance**

318. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an application for carer's allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34930/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

*Question No. 319 answered with Question No. 262.*

*Question No. 320 answered with Question No. 306.*

321. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a carer's allowance application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Donegal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35011/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

322. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will examine the case of persons (details supplied) who have been living in the same house for 14 years and now face homelessness as they cannot find a new home within the rent allowance caps and their landlord cannot reduce their rent any more than he already has. [35019/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The person concerned has been awarded rent supplement up until the expiry date of his lease on 30 April 2013. This provides sufficient time to allow him to renegotiate the rent with his landlord within the rent limits set. If he cannot secure a reduction, he must secure alternative accommodation within the prescribed limits. The new maximum rent limits came into force on 1 January 2012 and are in line with the most up to date market data available. The purpose of the rent limit review is to ensure that maximum value for money for tenants and the taxpayer is achieved whilst at the same time ensuring that people on rent supplement are not priced out of the market for private rented accommodation.

*Question No. 323 answered with Question No. 55.*

### **Ministerial Allowances**

324. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to her and Ministers of State in her Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2010 to her and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35069/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Under the previous Government unvouched expenses were paid to Ministers at a rate of €459.95 per fortnight. This allowance ceased to be payable in 2010 and consequently, no tax free allowance of that nature is available to me nor have any been available to me since taking up my post as Minister.

As the Deputy will be aware, Oireachtas expense allowances are exempt from taxation under section 836 of the Taxes Consolidation Act. Ministers and Ministers of State are entitled to the same allowances as Members of the Oireachtas with the some exceptions.

Ministers do not receive the Travel and Accommodation Allowance provided to Members of the Oireachtas. Since 1 May 2011 Cabinet Ministers with the exception of Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Law Reform now use their own cars on official business.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

All Ministers are now paid for official mileage up to 96,540 kilometres or 60,000 miles per annum. Ministers of State have used their own cars on official business since 1984.

Ministers do not receive overnight payments while in Dublin but when on official overnight business away from their home or headquarters may claim the vouched cost of a hotel room including tax and up to 15% in respect of any service charge. They may also claim an overnight subsistence allowance of €72.66.

Where a Minister participates in a visit abroad an allowance of up to a maximum limit of €190.46 may be claimed to cover additional costs that may arise such as, for example, the purchase of a gift for the Minister's counterpart.

Taxation is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners in the first instance. However, I understand that where office holders and employees necessarily incur expenses of travel and subsistence relating to that travel in the performance of the duties of their office or employment, the reimbursement of such expenses may, in certain circumstances be made tax-free.

### **Carer's Allowance**

325. **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 carer's allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35089/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

326. **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 carer's allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35090/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Invalidity Pension**

327. **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 invalidity pension appeal and if an oral hearing will be held; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35091/12]

**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 1 June 2012. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the appeal in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on the documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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.

328. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Mayo will receive a decision on a review for invalidity pension; if this person will be seen by a medical assessor; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35092/12]

**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 on 16 August 2012. The person concerned has been notified of the arrangements for the 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.

### **Pension Provisions**

329. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Social Protection in respect of the proposed increase in the minimum qualifying State pension age to 68, if she will specify the transitional arrangements that will be in place for persons who may, for example, have a contract of employment which specifies they must retire at 65 or who may have an income continuance plan under which payments cease on reaching the age of 65; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35093/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Deputy will be aware of the sustainability issues regarding pensions in Ireland and the pension reform measures under way to try to address some of these issues including the raising of State pension age which has already been provided for in primary legislation.

While the current State pension age of 66 remains, the State pension (transition) which applies for one year for persons of age 65 will cease from 2014. Thereafter, State pension age will increase to 67 in 2021 and 68 in 2028. A Steering Group, together with a number of subgroups, was established in my Department, to oversee the implementation of pension reforms. The Steering Group has representation from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Officials of my Department are in on-going discussions with colleagues in the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to any implications arising as a result of the increase in State pension age.

A forum on retirement and working is currently being scheduled where these Departments will also engage with the social partners and other interest groups to further consider and identify the range of issues involved.

We will always continue to provide the normal supports to those who cannot, for whatever reason, continue working or find themselves in financial difficulty. In this regard, the Deputy may wish to note that in 2011, almost half of those who received State pension were already on a social welfare payment before they reached pension age. For those who are unable to work past age 65 or for those whose income continuance plans cease at age 65 and who have an income need, Social Welfare schemes will continue to be available for those who fulfil the eligibility criteria.

As Irish society has changed, pensions policy has evolved to reflect these changes. A key focus of mine has been to ensure that the State pension is sustainable in light of demographic

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

changes and the associated increases in pension costs. This challenge is compounded by the wider need for sustainable public finances. Our primary consideration in making the changes we have made to reform pensions has been to ensure that the system is on a financially sound and sustainable footing.

### **Social Welfare Benefits**

330. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process supplementary welfare allowance appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35097/12]

332. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process jobseeker's benefit appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35100/12]

334. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process one parent family payment appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35105/12]

336. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process contributory pension appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time [35107/12]

338. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process non contributory pension appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35109/12]

339. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process jobseeker's allowance appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time [35111/12]

343. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process family income supplement appeals; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35121/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 339 and 343 together.

I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that, from about early 2009 the number of appeals received by that Office has increased dramatically and by 2011 had more than doubled from an average of 15,000 pa to 32,000. A further 18,826 have been received for the first half on this year. The pressure placed on the office by this rapid increase in workload has resulted in unacceptable delays for our customers.

In an effort to reduce the processing times for all appeals, the Department has appointed 13 additional Appeals Officers since 2010. In addition, a further 10 Appeals Officers, formerly employed by the Community Welfare Services (CWS) of the Health Services Executive joined the Office as part of the integration of the CWS appeals services into the Social Welfare

Appeals Office, bringing the total number of Appeals Officers now serving in the Office to 40. In addition to this the Office has improved its business processes and IT support.

I am assured by the Chief Appeals Officer that she is keeping the methods of operation by which the Social Welfare Appeals Office conducts its business under constant review, and that the processes are continuously being enhanced to reduce the backlogs in the Office and, overall, to reduce the processing times for dealing with appeals.

### **Supplementary Welfare Allowance**

331. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process supplementary welfare allowance applications; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35098/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** More than 95% of basic supplementary welfare allowance applications are decided on and paid within a week. The timescale for determining applications is dependent, among other things, on the availability of the required information, such as details of the applicant's income, bank statements, etc.

The provision of a prompt service is a major objective for the Department's staff dealing with applications. However, this is tempered by the necessity to ensure that every case is fully investigated and that all cases are dealt with in a consistent and fair manner.

My Department is committed to delivering the best possible service to its customers through continuous business process improvement supported by modern technology. I am satisfied that Departmental staff administering the supplementary welfare allowance makes every effort to ensure claims are processed in an efficient manner.

*Question No. 332 answered with Question No. 330.*

*Question No. 333 withdrawn.*

*Question No. 334 answered with Question No. 330.*

### **Pension Provisions**

335. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process contributory pension applications; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35106/12]

337. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the steps she has taken to improve the length of time it takes to process non contributory pension applications; if she is satisfied with the current turn around time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35108/12]

373. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for contributory old age pension received and refused in each of the past three years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35375/12]

374. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for non-contributory old age pension received and refused in each of the past three years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35376/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 335, 337, 373 and 374 together.

The Department is committed to delivering the best possible service to its customers and to ensuring that claims are processed as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Processing times vary across schemes, depending on the differing qualification criteria. Means-tested payments such as State pension (non-contributory) can require more detailed investigation and interaction with the applicant, thereby lengthening the decision making process.

Through ongoing business process improvement projects, the operational processes, procedures and the organisation of work in all scheme areas are continually reviewed to ensure that processing capability is maximised. As part of the Department's programme of service delivery modernisation, a range of initiatives aimed at streamlining the processing of claims and improving claim processing times, supported by modern technology, have been implemented in recent years. The State pension (non-contributory) scheme transferred to a new technology platform in 2011, and this will ensure that the scheme is operated more efficiently and that processing times will improve incrementally.

In addition, the staffing needs of the Department are regularly reviewed, having regard to workloads and the competing demands arising, to ensure that the best use is made of all available resources. The Department will continue to source available staff to fill critical vacancies by way of redeployment, or transfer from within the Department and other Government Departments, taking account of the employment control framework (ECF) target, as determined by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

I wish to assure the Deputies that prompt processing of claims remains a priority for me.

The information requested by the Deputies is set out in the tables below:

Table 1: State pension (contributory/transition) and State pension (non-contributory) — New claims average processing times in weeks

| Average weeks to award           | 2010 | 2011 | May 2012 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|----------|
| State Pension (Contributory)     | 8    | 5    | 4        |
| State pension (transition)       | 4    | 4    | 6        |
| State pension (non-contributory) | 9    | 10   | 11       |

Table 2: State pension (contributory) claims received and disallowed (under Irish SW legislation)

| State pension contributory | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012 (Jan-June) |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Received                   | 34,737 | 28,936 | 32,193 | 16,867          |
| Disallowed                 | 8,486  | 9,688  | 7,170  | 3,329           |

Table 3: State pension (contributory) claims received and disallowed (under EC Social Security Regulations)

| State pension contributory | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012 (Jan-June) |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Claims Received            | 6,215 | 4,398 | 4,088 | 1,555           |
| Claims Disallowed          | 946   | 951   | 608   | 224             |

Table 4: State pension (non- contributory) claims received and disallowed

| State pension non-contributory | 2009   | 2010  | 2011  | 2012 (Jan-June) |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Claims Received                | 10,950 | 9,916 | 9,838 | 3,009           |
| Claims Disallowed              | 2,961  | 2,641 | 2,398 | 641             |

*Question No. 336 answered with Question No. 330.*

*Question No. 337 answered with Question No. 335.*

*Questions Nos. 338 and 339 answered with Question No. 330.*

### Social Welfare Appeals

340. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35112/12]

**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. The person concerned was notified of the Appeals Officer decision on 13th July 2012.

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.

### Invalidity Pension

341. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will indicate the progress made to date in respect of an application for invalidity pension in the respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; if this inquiry will be taken as grounds for appeal and or referral for oral hearing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35113/12]

**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.

This department received a claim for invalidity pension for the person concerned. The medical evidence provided by the claimant in support of her claim was examined by a medical assessor who was of the opinion that the person concerned is not eligible for invalidity pension as she does not satisfy the medical criteria. The application for invalidity pension was disallowed by a deciding officer. The person in question was notified of this decision and the reason for it.

Further medical evidence was subsequently submitted by the claimant. This additional evidence, along with the original information, was evaluated by a different medical assessor who expressed the opinion that the person concerned does not satisfy the medical criteria. Accordingly, the deciding officer has confirmed the original decision and the claimant was notified of the outcome on 26 June 2012.

The person concerned has been advised of her right to appeal the decision. Should she wish to do so, she has been advised that she should appeal it in writing to the Social Welfare Appeals

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

Office, D'Olier House, D'Olier Street, Dublin 2, as soon as possible, clearly stating the grounds for her appeal.

### **Social Insurance**

342. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will indicate the number of contributions paid by a person (details supplied) in County Kildare in each year in respect of her application for State pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35116/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** A statement of the contributions paid and credited on behalf of the person concerned, as shown in the records of the Department, has been issued to the Deputy's office. The statement, which should now be with the Deputy, provides a breakdown of her record by year and shows the number of contributions paid in each year.

*Question No. 343 answered with Question No. 330.*

*Question No. 344 withdrawn.*

### **Carer's Allowance**

345. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a determination will be made regarding a carer's allowance application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35137/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

346. **Deputy Tom Hayes** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a carer's allowance claim in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35146/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Invalidity Pension**

347. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an invalidity allowance appeal by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35148/12]

**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 13th April 2012. It is a statutory requirement of the appeals process that the relevant Departmental papers and comments by the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal be sought. When received, the case in question will be referred to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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.

### Disability Allowance

348. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons within the appeals process with regards disability allowance applications and all other social protection allowances; the average wait time for these appeals; the longest wait times; and if the practice of giving updates on decisions of the appeals to TD's has changed. [35162/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The number of appeals on hands for all scheme types at the end of June 2012 is listed in Table 1. At the end of June 2012 there were 4,122 appeals of Disability Allowance pending.

The current processing times for all scheme types are listed in Table 2. Generally the vast majority of cases fall within average times but extenuating factors, often outside of the control of the Social Welfare Appeals Office, will cause greater delays in some cases.

In light of this, the attached table showing the current processing times (based on figures at the end of June 2012) shows the overall average for each scheme along with the average when the older appeals are excluded.

These processing times are calculated from the registration date of the appeal to the date of its finalisation. They include all activities during this period including time spent in the Department for comments by the Deciding Officer on the grounds of appeal put forward by the appellant, and any further investigation, examination or assessment by the Department's Inspectors and Medical Assessors that is deemed necessary. A considerable period of time is added to the process when an oral hearing is required because of the logistics involved in this process.

In an effort to reduce the processing times for all appeals, the Department has appointed 13 additional Appeals Officers since 2010. In addition, a further 10 Appeals Officers, formerly employed by the Community Welfare Services (CWS) of the Health Services Executive joined the Office as part of the integration of the CWS appeals services into the Social Welfare Appeals Office, bringing the total number of Appeals Officers now serving in the Office to 40. In addition to this the Office has improved its business processes and IT support.

There has been no change in the practice of giving updates on decisions of appeals to TDs. TDs can request updates on progress of appeals by calling a dedicated phone line or by sending in a request for update to *TDREPS.Appeals@welfare.ie*.

I am assured by the Chief Appeals Officer that she is keeping the methods of operation by which the Social Welfare Appeals Office conducts its business under constant review, and that the processes are continuously being enhanced to reduce the backlogs in the Office and, overall, to reduce the processing times for dealing with appeals.

Table 1: Appeals on hand at 1 July 2012

| Scheme            | Number on hand at 1 July 2012 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adoptive Benefit  | 4                             |
| Bereavement Grant | 52                            |
| Blind Pension     | 22                            |
| Carers Allowance  | 1,606                         |
| Carers Benefit    | 78                            |

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

| Scheme                                | Number on hand at 1 July 2012 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Child Benefit                         | 615                           |
| Disability Allowance                  | 4,122                         |
| Domiciliary Care                      | 1,498                         |
| Deserted Wives Benefit                | 11                            |
| Deserted Wives Allowance              | 3                             |
| Farm Assist                           | 174                           |
| Family Income Supplement              | 125                           |
| Homemakers                            | 1                             |
| Illness Benefit                       | 2,366                         |
| Invalidity Pension                    | 2,989                         |
| Liabile Relatives                     | 58                            |
| Lone Parent                           | 1                             |
| One Parent Family Payment             | 715                           |
| Maternity Benefit                     | 15                            |
| State Pension (Contributory)          | 91                            |
| State Pension (Non-Cont)              | 181                           |
| State Pension (Transition)            | 22                            |
| Occupational Injury Benefit           | 13                            |
| Occupational Injury Benefit (Medical) | 23                            |
| Disablement Pension — OIBDIS          | 342                           |
| Incapacity Supplement                 | 20                            |
| Guardian's Payment (Con)              | 27                            |
| Guardian's Payment (Non-con)          | 15                            |
| Pre-Retirement Allowance              | 1                             |
| Jobseeker's Allowance (Means)         | 2,434                         |
| Jobseeker's Allowance                 | 2,000                         |
| Jobseeker's Benefit                   | 853                           |
| JA/JB Fraud Control                   | 3                             |
| Respite Care Grant                    | 138                           |
| Insurability of Employment            | 127                           |
| Supplementary Welfare Allowance       | 2,655                         |
| Treatment Benefits                    | 1                             |
| Survivor's Pension (Con)              | 27                            |
| Survivor's Pension (Non-con)          | 24                            |
| Widows Parent Grant                   | 2                             |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>23,454</b>                 |

Table 2: Appeals processing times by scheme 1/1/2012-30/6/2012 — Summary and Oral

|                  | Average processing times (weeks) Summary Decisions | Average processing times (weeks) Summary Decisions (Excluding appeals registered before 1.1.2011) | Average processing times (weeks) Oral Hearings | Average processing times (weeks) Oral Hearing (Excluding appeals registered before 1.1.2011) |
|------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Adoptive Benefit | 15.6   | 15.6  | 40.4   | 40.4   |

|                                       | Average processing times (weeks) Summary Decisions | Average processing times (weeks) Summary Decisions (Excluding appeals registered before 1.1.2011) | Average processing times (weeks) Oral Hearings | Average processing times (weeks) Oral Hearing (Excluding appeals registered before 1.1.2011) |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Blind Pension                         | 22.2   | 22.2  | 30.4   | 30.4   |
| Carers Allowance                      | 32.1   | 30.7  | 45.3   | 38.7   |
| Carers Benefit                        | 32.7   | 24.4  | 35.4   | 34.0   |
| Child Benefit                         | 53.1   | 37.5  | 58.5   | 42.8   |
| Disability Allowance                  | 31.3   | 29.4  | 40.8   | 36.1   |
| Illness Benefit                       | 38.4   | 36.5  | 51.1   | 43.7   |
| Domiciliary Care                      | 28.6   | 28.2  | 41.8   | 37.2   |
| Deserted Wives Benefit                | 19.8   | 14.6  | 47.2   | —  |
| Deserted Wives Allowance              | 14.6   | 19.8  | —  | 47.2   |
| Farm Assist                           | 20.3   | 17.3  | 44.9   | 35.6   |
| Bereavement Grant                     | 29.7   | 25.5  | —  | —  |
| Family Income Supplement              | 18.8   | 18.7  | 30.2   | 27.4   |
| Invalidity Pension                    | 36.6   | 33.5  | 57.6   | 37.8   |
| Liable Relatives                      | —  | —   | 72.8   | 30.4   |
| One Parent Family Payment             | 25.6   | 23.2  | 46.3   | 38.5   |
| Maternity Benefit                     | 32.3   | 29.4  | 40.0   | 40.0   |
| State Pension (Contributory)          | 30.8   | 21.8  | 58.6   | 35.2   |
| State Pension (Non-Cont)              | 28.0   | 27.2  | 51.3   | 40.4   |
| State Pension (Transition)            | 20.0   | 20.0  | 61.8   | 61.3   |
| Occupational Injury Benefit           | 0.3  | 0.3   | 56.0   | 44.6   |
| Occupational Injury Benefit (Medical) | 78.7   | —   | 87.4   | —  |
| Disablement Pension                   | 46.1   | 39.3  | 51.4   | 37.0   |
| Incapacity Supplement                 | 7.7  | 7.7   | 52.1   | 36.8   |
| Guardian's Payment (Con)              | 24.5   | 24.5  | 56.3   | 37.3   |
| Guardian's Payment (Non-con)          | 27.1   | 27.1  | 82.9   | 41.7   |
| Pre-Retirement Allowance              | 54.6   | 54.6  | —  | —  |
| Jobseeker's Allowance (Means)         | 20.1   | 18.2  | 40.5   | 34.0   |
| Jobseeker's Allowance                 | 24.6   | 19.4  | 35.9   | 29.8   |
| Jobseeker's Benefit                   | 16.7   | 15.3  | 29.3   | 28.0   |
| JA/JB Fraud Control                   | —  | —   | —  | —  |
| Respite Care Grant                    | 25.8   | 25.8  | 38.7   | 36.1   |
| Insurability of Employment            | 52.0   | 41.7  | 81.8   | 48.8   |
| Supplementary Welfare Allowance       | 14.7   | 14.6  | 19.1   | 19.0   |
| Treatment Benefits                    | 18.9   | 18.9  | —  | —  |
| Survivor's Pension (Con)              | —  | —   | 75.0   | 55.5   |
| Survivor's Pension (Non-con)          | 28.6   | 28.6  | 44.6   | 34.2   |
| Widows Parent Grant                   | 23.2   | 23.2  | —  | —  |
| All Appeals                           | 26.0   | 22.0  | 40.4   | 38.0   |

### Rent Supplement Scheme

349. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will expedite an

[Deputy Patrick Nulty.]

application for rent allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 15; when the claim will go into payment and arrears issue; the reason for the delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35169/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The family concerned were evicted from their rented accommodation at which point the rent supplement payment ceased. They were advised to seek alternative accommodation provided it was within the rent limit for this area of €900 per month. They should send their rent supplement application as soon as possible to the Rent Supplement Unit, P.O.Box 11758, Dublin 24 and/or phone 1800 201 698 for information as the Rent Unit based in Tallaght deals with applications for this accommodation address. The policy of the Department is that it does not assist with the payment of rent in advance, except in very exceptional circumstances. The Department can assist with payment of the deposit using an emergency needs payment from the community welfare service at the local health centre.

350. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection the system of protection in place when announcing the reductions in rent supplement in January 2012, to prevent benefit recipients being given notice to vacate their existing accommodation; the system of record-keeping her Department has in place to monitor the effect of the reductions in rent supplement, in particular the number of forced accommodation moves as a result of landlords not accepting the reduced supplement. [35191/12]

351. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of households and persons in receipt of rent supplement that have vacated their accommodation since the implementation of cuts to rent supplement, announced in January 2012; if she will confirm the number of these moves which have been as a result of landlords refusing to agree to a lower rent as a consequence of benefit reductions. [35198/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 350 and 351 together.

The purpose of the rent supplement scheme is to provide short-term income support, to eligible people living in private rented accommodation whose means are insufficient to meet their accommodation costs and who do not have accommodation available to them from any other source. The aim is to provide short term assistance, and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer. There are approximately 92,000 persons in receipt of rent supplement for which the Government has provided a sum of €436 million for 2012.

The revised rent limits are applicable to new rent supplement tenancies from January 2012 and existing tenancies on review. Approximately 25,000 rent supplement claims have been awarded in 2012, representing over 27% of total claims in payment, indicating that accommodation can be secured within the new limits.

Where a claim is under review and the rent is above the maximum limit the customer is being asked to contact the landlord to renegotiate the rent. Where a landlord does not agree to reduce the rent to the new rates departmental officials will discuss the options open to the tenant up to and including seeking alternative accommodation. Departmental guidance to the officers administering rent supplement states that where negotiation with the landlord fails then rent supplement may continue to be paid for a period of up to thirteen weeks at the higher rate. Officials administering the scheme advise that customers are securing alternative

accommodation in such cases. However, data on the numbers who have secured alternative accommodation is not available.

The Department is continuing to monitor on a weekly basis the availability of rental properties within the revised limits across the country.

*Question No. 352 withdrawn.*

### **Disability Allowance**

353. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a domiciliary care allowance claim in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 15; the reason for the delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35216/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Domiciliary care allowance (DCA) can be paid in respect of a child with a severe disability until the child reaches 16 years. As the child concerned will be 16 years in October 2012, her carer was notified by correspondence dated 28th June 2012 that DCA would be paid up to and including October 2012. At that point, she may apply for disability allowance (DA) in her own right. Details of the eligibility criteria for DA and how to apply have been provided to the carer in this case.

### **Child Benefit Eligibility**

354. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will end the three month child benefit review system in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary. [35219/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Department contacts parents who receive child benefit (CB) payments on a regular basis as part of its on-going customer service and control work. Parents are asked to verify that they continue to reside in Ireland, that they satisfy the conditions for receipt of CB while also confirming that all details held by the Department are correct.

The frequency with which review certificates issue to this customer has been extended from a quarterly basis to every six months. The person concerned is due to receive their next eligibility certificate in December 2012.

*Question No. 355 withdrawn.*

### **Invalidity Pension**

356. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will issue on an invalidity pension appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35246/12]

**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 30 May 2012. 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. When received, the appeal in question will be referred in to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on the documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an oral hearing.

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

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.

### **Pension Provisions**

357. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Social Protection the actions she will take to protect the pensions of persons who deferred pension and were employees of a company (details supplied) but were made redundant before the age of 65 years but who are unable to find employment now. [35248/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The pension rights of scheme members are protected through trust law and by provisions in the Pensions Act 1990. Under trust law, trustees of occupational pension schemes have the principal responsibility for ensuring that the entitlements of the members are adequately protected and that they receive the pensions due to them.

In addition to the safeguards provided by trust law, the Pensions Act 1990 also provides for the regulation of pension schemes in Ireland. Under the Act, defined benefit pension schemes must meet a minimum funding standard which requires that schemes maintain sufficient assets to enable them discharge accrued liabilities in the event of scheme winding up.

The Pensions Act 1990 also provides for the preservation of pension benefits for a member of a scheme whose service in relevant employment terminates before normal retirement age. The payment of preserved pension benefit shall be payable in accordance with, and subject to, the rules of the scheme as at the date of the termination of the relevant employment. In accordance with section 33 of the Act preserved benefit shall be revalued annually in line with the consumer price index. Preserved benefits were revalued by 2.6 per cent for 2011.

While is not possible to comment on a particular scheme, the Government is aware of the financial challenge faced by many pension schemes. A number of changes have been made to the Pensions Act in recent years to assist the trustees of scheme meet these challenges.

It is also important for an individual who is currently not in employment to maintain their social insurance record so as to maximise their social welfare entitlements.

### **Departmental Agencies**

358. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Social Protection the State agencies and bodies within the remit of her Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35320/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Under Section 18 of the Pensions Act 1990, the Pensions Board has the power to enter the premises of any employer, trustee, registered administrator, personal retirement savings account (PRSA) provider or agent and make such examination or inquiry as may be necessary to determine whether the provisions of the Pensions Act are being complied with. Where the premises is a private dwelling (e.g. where the employer carries on his business from home) a search warrant from the District Court is required to authorise such an entry. Otherwise there is no requirement to have a search warrant.

In addition, Social welfare inspectors of the Department are empowered under section 250 of the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act 2005, to enter any place where a business is being

carried out to check if the business has employed persons, these persons are recorded as employed persons and the employer is complying with the Social Welfare Acts.

### **Redundancy Rebates**

359. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Mayo will receive a decision and payment for their redundancy rebate; the reason for the delay in processing this application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35330/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** A redundancy lump sum claim in respect of the person concerned has been awarded and payment is due to issue in the coming weeks.

### **Rent Supplement Scheme**

360. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Social Protection if any monitoring is taking place regarding local caps on rent allowance by local authorities to ensure that the rental cap is not lowered to a level whereby tenants will be priced out of the rental market; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35345/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The purpose of the rent supplement scheme is to provide short-term income support, to eligible people living in private rented accommodation whose means are insufficient to meet their accommodation costs and who do not have accommodation available to them from any other source. The aim is to provide short term assistance, and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer. There are approximately 92,000 persons in receipt of rent supplement for which the Government has provided a sum of €436 million for 2012.

The new maximum rent limits were set after an analysis of the most up to date market data available. The emphasis of the rent limit review was to ensure that maximum value for money for tenants and the taxpayer was achieved whilst at the same time ensuring that people on rent supplement are not priced out of the market for private rented accommodation.

The revised limits are applicable to new rent supplement tenancies from January 2012 and existing tenancies on review. Approximately 25,000 rent supplement claims have been awarded in 2012 indicating that accommodation can be secured within the new limits. The Department is continuing to monitor rent levels throughout the country but at this stage there are no plans to revise the existing rent limits.

Responsibility for Local Authority rents is a matter for, the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government.

### **Departmental Staff**

361. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Social Protection if prior approval was obtained from the Department of Finance for each internal promotional competition; the cost incurred by her Department in holding them; if any of the competitions gave rise to complaints under the Code of the Commission for Public Service Appointments; the date on which new promotional competitions are likely to be held; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35355/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** As the Deputy will be aware there is currently a moratorium on recruitment and promotion in the public service. As an exception to the moratorium, the Department has been given a limited sanction, subject at all times to

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

Employment Control Framework targets set by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, to fill critical vacancies by way of promotion in instances where all efforts to fill such vacancies by way of redeployment or transfer have been exhausted.

Competitions to establish appropriate promotional panels have been held in house, or run on behalf of the Department by the Public Appointments Service (PAS). In this regard, there are no direct costs incurred by the Department in relation to these competitions. All competitions are conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice titled Appointment to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service, published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments. A small number of complaints were received and they have been investigated in accordance with the Code of Practice. In all cases where investigations have been completed, the complaints have not been upheld.

On foot of arbitration findings relating to the transfer of the Community Welfare Service from the Health Service Executive and the Employment Support Service from FÁS to the Department, competitions to establish panels in respect of these staff are to be arranged. The panels to be established will run parallel to existing panels within the Department and will provide for promotions on a pro rata basis as agreed. In light of the number of potential candidates, it is expected that one of the competitions will be facilitated shortly in house while 3 other competitions will require the assistance of the Public Appointment Service (PAS). Suitable dates for the competitions are currently being arranged with PAS.

Following the expiry date of the existing panels it will be necessary to seek sanction from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to hold any further competitions.

*Question No. 362 was withdrawn.*

### **Jobseeker's Allowance**

363. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection her views on a matter (details supplied); her plans to provide the adult rate of a social welfare payment to young persons who find themselves in this situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35359/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The €100 rate of jobseeker's allowance was introduced for claimants aged under 20 in April 2009, and this rate was applied to claimants aged up to 21 from December 2009. The €100 rate does not apply certain categories of claimant including:

- claimants with a qualified child;
- those transferring to Jobseeker's Allowance immediately after exhausting their entitlement to Jobseeker's Benefit;
- those making a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance where that claim is linked to a Jobseeker's Allowance claim made within the previous 12 months to which the maximum personal rate applied;
- those transferring directly to Jobseeker's Allowance from Disability Allowance;
- certain people who were in the care of the HSE during the period of 12 months before he or she reached the age of 18.

A rate of €144 applies to claimants aged 22-24. The adoption of these measures reflected the need to encourage more young jobseekers to improve their skills by either pursuing further study or accessing a labour market programme.

Receiving the full adult rate of a jobseekers payment without a strong financial incentive to engage in education or training can lead to welfare dependency. While many young people with low levels of education and training were able to get work in construction and other areas when the economy was doing well, they are likely to find it much harder to get work over the course of the next few years. The measures encourage young jobseekers to improve their skills and remain active in the labour market in order to avoid the risk of becoming long-term unemployed and will help them to progress into sustainable employment on a long-term basis. Where a person is in receipt of a rate of jobseeker's allowance described above and he or she participates in a course of education, training, community employment, rural social scheme or Tús, the full normal rate of payment applicable to that course or scheme applies without any reduction for persons aged under 25.

I understand that the Deputy has been contacted with regard to these measures following a campaign by Focus Ireland. Officials from the Department met with Focus Ireland in May 2012 in relation to their concerns. These are being examined and further discussions are planned.

More generally, it may be noted that the Department's role with regard to persons who are homeless is mainly income maintenance. Under the social welfare system, homeless people have entitlements to the full range of social welfare schemes, including supplementary welfare allowance and associated supplements, subject to the normal qualifying conditions. The Department, through its work in the Homeless Persons Unit and the Asylum Seekers and New Communities Unit provides assistance to people in sourcing the most appropriate accommodation available. In addition, prison and hospital in-reach services are provided to explore accommodation options and, where necessary, liaise with local authorities to identify and source the most appropriate accommodation available for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This ensures that where possible, people are diverted away from homeless services and towards community-based supports.

### **Carer's Allowance**

364. **Deputy Noel Coonan** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an application for carer's allowance will be finalised in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35363/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I confirm that the Department is in receipt of an application for carer's allowance from the person in question.

On completion of the necessary investigations relating to all aspects of the case a decision will be made and the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

### **Social Welfare Appeals**

365. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a rent allowance appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35365/12]

**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 15 March 2012. 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 11 May and the case will be referred to an Appeals Officer who will make a summary decision on the appeal based on the documentary evidence presented or, if required, hold an 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**

366. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will indicate to what extent she has managed to reduce backlogs relating to various payments made by her Department, if any particular areas continue to require special attention; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35368/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The Department is committed to ensuring that claims are processed as expeditiously as possible. Processing times vary across schemes, depending on the differing qualification criteria. Schemes that require a high level of documentary evidence from the customer, particularly in the case of illness-related schemes, can take longer to process. Similarly, means-tested payments can also require more detailed investigation and interaction with the applicant, thereby lengthening the decision making process.

As part of the Department's programme of service delivery modernisation, a range of initiatives aimed at streamlining the processing of claims, supported by modern technology, have been implemented in recent years. Operational processes, procedures and the organisation of work are continually reviewed to ensure that processing capability is maximised.

Backlogs have built up in some scheme areas, specifically carers allowance and invalidity benefit and every effort is being made to speed up the processing of these claims. In addition to the deployment of new systems, the Department is allocating additional resources in the form of overtime working and temporary staff to help reduce backlogs that have built up. However, it is expected to be a number of months before the backlog is reduced to an acceptable level.

In an effort to reduce appeal processing times, the Department appointed 12 additional Appeals Officers since between 2010 and 2011. In addition, a further 10 Appeals Officers, formerly employed by the Community Welfare Service (CWS) of the Health Services Executive joined the Office as part of the integration of the CWS appeals services into the Social Welfare Appeals Office. This brought the total number of Appeals Officers to 39. In addition to this, the Office has improved its business processes and IT support.

I wish to assure the Deputy that prompt processing of claims remains a priority for me.

### **Departmental Expenditure**

367. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she is satisfied that she and her Department will work within the budgetary constraints imposed and arising from the Memorandum of Understanding entered into by her predecessors, if she will endeavour to protect the most vulnerable in such circumstances; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35369/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** This Government is committed to tackling Ireland's economic crisis in a way that is fair, balanced, and which recognises the need for social solidarity. The appropriate level of overall expenditure by my Department will be

considered by the Government in the context of Budget 2013 and subsequent Budgets. This consideration will be informed by the commitment in the Programme for Government to maintain social welfare rates.

Sustainable public finances are a pre-requisite for future economic stability and growth, as well as being a pre-requisite for maintaining and developing our social protection system. The Government's priority is to secure economic recovery, promote growth and employment and to enhance international credibility. The Government's target is to return to the 3% General Government Deficit over a period of time as required by the Stability and Growth Pact. To this end, the State must pursue a determined deficit reduction strategy. Accordingly, there will be an on-going requirement to curtail expenditure in 2013 and in later years. There are, therefore, considerable challenges ahead including the need to protect, as far as possible, the key income supports and services operated by my Department. These services and supports impact in some way on the lives of almost every single person in the State. The scope and scale of this expenditure plays a key role in the wider economy and helps to partially offset the effect of the downturn.

Looking ahead to Budget 2013, I will be holding a pre-Budget forum in the autumn to which I will be inviting a wide range of welfare organisations. I will listen carefully to their submissions in relation to the next Budget.

368. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she expects to be in a position to divert funding to target particularly sensitive areas of social or economic deprivation arising from economies imposed by measures or steps taken by her predecessors; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35370/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The appropriate level of overall expenditure by my Department in 2012 was considered in the context of Budget 2012 and having regard to the various expenditure reductions introduced by the previous Government since 2009. In the last Budget, I prioritised the maintenance of primary weekly rates of social welfare in line with the commitment in the Programme for Government. As a result, these rates are unchanged in the Budget despite the requirement to make savings in my Department's overall expenditure.

In relation to funding to target particularly sensitive areas of social or economic deprivation, I would like to draw the Deputy's attention to the exceptional and urgent needs payments made by my Department under the supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme and in respect of which €51.6 million has been made available this year.

This Government is committed to tackling Ireland's economic crisis in a way that is fair, balanced, and which recognises the need for social solidarity. This approach will continue to inform decisions on funding for social protection.

*Question No. 369 was withdrawn.*

### **Pension Provisions**

370. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will review an application for contributory old age pension in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35372/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** In order to qualify for a State pension (contributory), a claimant must have entered insurable employment before attaining the age of 56 years, have a minimum number of (full-rate) paid PRSI contributions, and satisfy a yearly-

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

average contributions test. The person concerned was aged 66 years on 1st October 1994. An application for State pension (contributory) was received from her on 14th January 2002. Her claim was disallowed on the grounds that she did not commence paying PRSI prior to reaching age 56.

The person concerned has a total of 156 paid contributions only, in respect of a consecutive three year self-employment period up to 1994. Her entitlement to a special half-rate self-employed State pension (contributory) was also examined in a subsequent review of her pension claim. This pension was introduced in April 1999 for self-employed people who were already aged over 56 years in 1988, when the standard rate self-employment State pension (contributory) was introduced, and who have at least 260 full-rate contributions paid since starting to pay S-class contributions. However she does not qualify for this pension as she has only a total of 156 paid contributions.

The person concerned has been advised, in 2010, of the procedure for having the status of a commercial partnership recognised, should she wish to pursue this.

371. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will review an application for contributory old age pension in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35373/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The application for State pension (contributory) has been reviewed. The person concerned does not satisfy the qualifying conditions for State pension (contributory) which applied on the date that the person concerned reached pension age (66):

- have entered insurable employment before attaining the age of 56 years.
- have at least 156 paid contribution weeks since entry into insurance, from employment or self-employment.
- have a yearly average of at least 48 paid and/or credited full-rate contributions from 1979 to the end of the tax year preceeding her 66th birthday, or
- have a yearly average of at least 10 paid-credited contributions from the date of her entry into insurable employment, to the end of the tax year preceding her 66th birthday (to qualify for the maximum rate, a yearly average of 48 is required).

The person concerned, according to the records of the Department, has a yearly average of 4 contributions from 1952 to 1996. She does not therefore satisfy the qualifying conditions for State pension (contributory) as outlined, and her claim was disallowed on this basis. Section 110(1)(a) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 stipulates that in order to be eligible for a State pension (contributory), at least one year's self-employment contributions must be paid prior to the person reaching pension age. The person concerned had applied to this Department, in 2010, for recognition of a commercial partnership with her husband and recognition of the partnership has been granted. All outstanding PRSI was paid by the person concerned in November 2010 which was after her 66th birthday. In this case, as all of the self-employment contributions due were paid after the person concerned reached the age of 66 years, and insufficient class S PRSI had been paid by her husband to cover both of their liabilities for at least one single tax year prior to her 66th birthday, the person concerned does not satisfy the first eligibility condition as outlined above.

### Rent Supplement Scheme

372. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she has been in a position to initiate a study of the number of cases wherein the fathers of children to whom the court have given partial custody or caring rights or obligations find it difficult to obtain rent support thereby preventing them from compliance with orders of the courts arising from the fact that their rent support relates to maximum available for a single person only, if she will attempt to determine how the issues can be addressed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35374/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** The purpose of the rent supplement scheme is to provide short-term support to eligible people living in private rented accommodation whose means are insufficient to meet their accommodation costs and who do not have accommodation available to them from any other source. The overall aim is to provide short-term assistance and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer. There are currently approximately 92,000 persons in receipt of rent supplement for which the Government has provided €436 million in 2012.

Every claim for rent supplement is determined having regard to the particular circumstances of the applicant. Persons seeking a rent supplement must first satisfy the Department that they have a housing need which they are unable to meet from their own resources. In addition, the Department must be satisfied that the residence is reasonably suited to the residential and other needs of the claimant. The Department must also be satisfied that the rent payable is reasonable having regard to the nature, character and location of the residence.

Where parents have joint custody of a child, the needs of both parents to have adequate accommodation are taken into account when an application for a rent supplement is being determined, including any obligations placed by the courts. In such cases, documentation is normally required showing that a joint custody arrangement is in place and being availed of before a decision can be made. The fact that one parent is in receipt of rent supplement would not, in itself, preclude the other parent from being entitled to assistance towards their rent. Statistics are not available on the outcome of decisions made in these circumstances.

*Questions Nos. 373 and 374 were answered with Question No. 335.*

### Invalidity Pension

375. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for invalidity pension received and refused in each of the past three years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35378/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):**

|               | Claims received | Claims Cleared | Claims Disallowed |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2009          | 7,475           | 7,513          | 2,933             |
| 2010 (total)  | 8,774           | 7,614          | Not available     |
| 1 Jan-30 Nov  | 7,596           | 6,856          | 3411              |
| 1 Dec-31 Dec  | 1,178           | 758            | Not available     |
| 2011 (total)  | 14,621          | 10,508         | Not available     |
| 1 Jan-31 May  | 6,155           | 3,704          | Not available     |
| 1 June-31 Dec | 8,466           | 6,804          | 4,697             |

[Deputy Joan Burton.]

|                   | Claims received | Claims Cleared | Claims Disallowed |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2012:1 Jan-30 May | 5,475           | 6,487          | 4,259             |

Due to the fact that claims were being processed on two separate computer systems prior to migration of all invalidity pension claims to the new computer platform in May 2011, a breakdown of claims disallowed in 2010 is available only for the period 1 January 2010 to 30 November 2010 and, for 2011, from 1 June-31 December 2011.

### Community Employment Schemes

376. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Social Protection with regard to community employment schemes surely there should be some way of reducing the insurance costs and also the cost of providing audited accounts on a yearly basis for community employment schemes. [35379/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Department of Social Protection Staff have met with insurance providers to agree reduced rates for CE schemes. The Department is also benchmarking audit fees for CE schemes to ensure value for money. Significant savings in insurance costs and audit fees have already been achieved on CE projects.

It is anticipated that the overall potential savings in respect of insurance, audit fees and bank charges will be approximately €3m in a full year.

### Appointments to State Boards

377. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of her Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on her Department's website; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35611/12]

378. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35624/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 377 and 378 together. 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.

#### *Social Welfare Tribunal*

The Social Welfare Tribunal consists of a Chairperson and four ordinary members, two on the nomination of Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) and two nominated by Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC). One of the ICTU members of the Tribunal resigned in 2011 and on the nomination of ICTU, a replacement member, Ms Chris Rowland was appointed commencing 24 October 2011.

The vacant position on the Board was not advertised on the Departments website as the positions of the four ordinary members are subject to nomination by ICTU and IBEC.

#### *Citizens Information Board*

I have made two appointments to the Citizens Information Board since coming into office.

Mr. Eugene McErlean was appointed with effect from 7 September 2011. This followed a public request for expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals which was advertised on the Department of Social Protection website in July 2011. On foot of this request, 172 applications were received and his appointment was made following a rigorous selection process in accordance with the legislation governing appointments to such a board.

On 1 November 2011, I appointed Ms Fiona Ward as a member and as she is the Department's representative on the board, the vacancy was not publically advertised.

There are currently two vacancies on the Citizens Information Board and appointments will be made following consideration of the responses received following the public request for expressions of interest in July 2011.

#### *Pensions Board*

I have made no appointments to the Pensions Board since coming into office. There are currently two vacancies on the Pensions Board. No decision has been made on advertising these vacancies, pending the completion of the Critical Review of the amalgamation of the regulatory function of the Pensions Board with the Financial Regulator, under the Public Service Reform programme.

The chairpersons of these Boards were all in place before I came into office in March 2011 and therefore, the matter of newly appointed chairpersons appearing before the relevant Oireachtas Committee has not arisen in the case of bodies operating under the aegis of the Department of Social Protection.

### **Departmental Staff**

379. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36047/12]

**Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton):** Eight retired former public servants were recruited on short term contracts in the Department from June 2010. These officers were employed on a part time basis as Appeals Officers and their contracts terminated at the end of December 2011.

One of the Department's Medical Assessors was retained beyond the normal retirement age on a temporary contract which ended in January 2012. The acting Deputy Chief Medical Advisor is currently retained, on a temporary basis, beyond his normal retirement age.

The Chief Medical Advisor in the Department has been rehired on a temporary contract.

The decision to re-employ or retain this small number of staff was taken due to their specific skills and experience, the difficulty and long lead-in time for replacing such skills, and the critical importance of ensuring continuity and a high level of service to customers of the Department.

The Pensions Board which is under the aegis of my Department has employed, on temporary contracts, two people who were previously employed by An Garda Síochána.

### **Commemorative Events**

380. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide an update on plans for centenary commemorations of 1916; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34347/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** On behalf of the Government, I am developing a national commemorative programme for the period from 1912 to 1922. Centred on the Easter Rising, this commemorative programme will seek to reflect the political, economic, social and cultural issues of this most historic decade.

So far in 2012, a number of commemorative events — both North and South — have been held, the principal ones of which are listed in the following table:

| Table           |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8 March         | Belfast — Lecture Series                                   |
| 12 March        | London Houses of Westminster 3rd Home Rule Bill exhibition |
| 28/29 March     | Carson Lecture — Iveagh House                              |
| April — October | NLI Lecture Series on Home Rule and the Covenant.          |
| 11 April        | Waterford Redmond Memorial Lecture                         |
| 19 April        | Belfast — Presbyterian Event “Christ Church and Covenant”  |
| May             | Hugh Lane- 3rd Home Rule Bill Exhibition                   |
| 8 July          | National Day of Commemoration                              |

Further events are in planning for the Autumn.

My Department is engaged with the national cultural institutions on their contributions to the commemorative programme. I have also written to certain national associations in relation to their participation and support for the programme. I intend to consult further as the programme develops.

I would be grateful also to receive any suggestions that the Deputy may wish to offer in this regard.

### **Turbary Rights**

381. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the plans he will put in place to help farmers and contractors who have been unable to save turf this year as their livelihoods are being put in jeopardy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34506/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** The Government has put in place a compensation scheme for those affected by the cessation of turf cutting on raised bog special areas of conservation. This entails payment of €1,500 per year, index linked, for 15 years or, where feasible, relocation of turf cutters to non-designated bogs where they can continue to cut turf. Those wishing to relocate can avail of the financial payment or the delivery of 15 tonnes of cut turf per annum while relocation sites are identified and prepared. The costs of acquiring and preparing relocation sites will be met by the State. An additional once-off payment of €500 for qualifying turf cutters will be provided where legal agreements are signed with me, as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Over 2,250 applications for compensation have been received under this scheme and some 840 payments have been made to date.

While turf contractors do not, generally speaking, own legal rights in terms of freehold ownership and/or turbary rights in raised bog special areas of conservation, the Peatlands Council provides a forum for contractors to put forward their ideas and views for consideration. There may also be a potential role for contractors in the relocation of turf cutters to non-designated bogs and in restoration of sites.

Earlier this year, at the request of the Government, Mr. Conor Skehan, Chair of the Peatlands Council, convened a Peatlands Forum, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice John Quirke, and involving my Department, the IFA, the Turf Cutters and Contractors Association, Bord na Móna, and representatives of turf cutting and environmental groups. This Forum allowed each community affected by the cessation of turf cutting to put forward their views on the issues and follow-up steps were identified for each bog. The report on the Forum from Justice Quirke also recommended that a national plan should be prepared to examine how the 53 raised bog special areas of conservation are to be protected. This recommendation was agreed to by Government and Dáil Éireann also gave unanimous support to a Private Members' Motion, which called for such a national plan to be put in place. On the 3rd of April last, a delegation led by Minister Hogan and I met with EU Environment Commissioner Potočnik in Brussels, where we secured the support of the European Commission for developing a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan.

The Plan will be wide-ranging, looking at the practical aspects of conserving, restoring and managing the affected bogs and will allow solutions for turf-cutters to be explored in detail. In the context of such a Plan, it may be possible to bring some flexibility, within the terms of the Habitats Directive, that could allow limited cutting within a small number of sites. The Plan will be progressed both at local level for each site and at national level through the Peatlands Council.

### Commemorative Events

382. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the funding provision he has set aside for the 2016 centenary arts related events. [34396/12]

396. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the consultations that have been held with cultural or arts groups regarding the forthcoming centenary of commemorations. [35212/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 382 and 396 together.

My Department is engaged with the national cultural institutions on the development of an appropriate commemorative programme for the Decade of Centenaries, the period from 2012 to 2022. I have also written to certain national cultural associations with a view to developing the commemorative programme. I intend to consult further and more widely as the programme develops.

The initiatives of cultural and arts groups will be an important element of the commemorative programme. I believe the programme under development would be enhanced by drawing on the art and literature of the period to enhance our understanding of the time. Contemporary artistic expression could be an important element of our reflections on the enduring significance of the events of this historic decade.

I would, of course, be grateful to receive any suggestions that Deputies may wish to offer in this regard.

With regard to the issue of funding, commemorative initiatives to date, including arts related events, have been resourced from within the approved allocations for Departments and State services. Future funding for these matters will fall to be considered by Government in due course in the context of annual estimates.

### Turbary Rights

383. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the position

[Deputy Jack Wall.]

regarding an application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34459/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** The Government has put in place a compensation scheme for those affected by the cessation of turf cutting on raised bog special areas of conservation. This cessation of turf cutting compensation scheme now comprises a payment of €1,500 per year, index linked, for 15 years or, where feasible, relocation of turf cutters to non-designated bogs where they can continue to cut turf. Those wishing to relocate can avail of the financial payment or the delivery of 15 tonnes of cut turf per annum while relocation sites are identified and prepared. The costs of acquiring and preparing relocation sites will be met by the State. An additional once-off payment of €500 for qualifying turf cutters will be provided where legal agreements are signed with me, as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

One of the qualifying criteria for the cessation of turf cutting compensation scheme is that the claimant must have been cutting turf on the lands in question in the relevant five year period. If, however, an individual has a legal interest in one of the 53 designated raised bog sites and had not been extracting turf in the relevant five year period, my Department is willing to examine the feasibility of relocating such interests to alternative non-designated bogs. It is not proposed to make the financial payment in such cases.

I understand that the individual referred to in the Deputy's Question had not been extracting turf from the site in the relevant five year period and has not expressed an interest in relocation to an alternative non-designated bog. My Department will be writing to him in relation to his position in due course.

### **Merger of Cultural Institutions**

384. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the cost benefit analysis or impact assessment he has carried out in relation to this plan to merge the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Crawford Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Ireland. [34770/12]

387. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the steps he has taken to address wide-spread public concern regarding the undermining of the arms length principle in cultural decision making and funding across our national cultural institutions and Culture Ireland in view of his plans to abolish or amalgamate cultural institutions or absorb the functions into his Department; if he has met with the cultural organisations in relation to this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34821/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 384 and 387 together.

As the Deputy will be aware, the Government's Public Service Reform Plan, which was published on 17 November last, included the following actions in respect of my Departmental remit:

- Combine the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Crawford Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Ireland, while retaining separate identities;
- Merge the National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission into the National Library while maintaining separate identities; and

- Examine the Board structure and the issue of shared services at the National Library and the National Museum.

The Plan also commits to a critical review of Culture Ireland with a view to its function being merged into my Department.

The National Cultural Institutions are vitally important components of Ireland's academic, cultural, documentary and archaeological heritage and each of the institutions has a unique and significant role to play. The National Cultural Institutions also play a very significant role in Ireland's cultural tourism product through their collections, staffing and contribution to scholarship.

Against this background, I am acutely aware that any proposals that change the current status of the institutions must ensure that their unique standing and role is reinforced. However, I am equally aware that the institutions face a number of challenges at this time. Clearly, the greatest challenges relate to resources and funding. In this context, it is very important that the institutions operate in the most effective and efficient way possible and are seen to provide value for money. It is my intention to ensure that our cultural institutions will emerge stronger with a more certain future following the review process, so that for the present and future generations they can continue as custodians of our past, the chroniclers of our present and the arbiter of our cultural future.

My Department has been examining the complex issues involved in these proposals. This process has involved consultations with each of the institutions involved, as well as an examination of other models of governance internationally. I have also met with the Chairs of the Boards of the institutions. These consultations have taken place in a positive atmosphere and all concerned have seen this process as an opportunity to examine how the institutions can best address the considerable challenges that exist, while retaining and maintaining their unique and distinct identities.

I am currently consulting with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform with a view to these matters being considered by Government in due course.

### Offshore Islands

385. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will outline the funding given to infrastructure programmes on our offshore islands in tabular form for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34781/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** The total expenditure on infrastructure programmes on the offshore islands in the years mentioned is outlined in the following table:

| Year           | Capital Expenditure |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 2009           | 19,732,000          |
| 2010           | 10,803,000          |
| 2011           | 3,556,000           |
| 2012 (to date) | 19,000              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>34,110,000</b>   |

### Departmental Bodies

386. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will outline the mechanisms in place to ensure adequate representation on Udaras na Gaeltachta for the offshore islands in view of the new Gaeltacht Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34782/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** As the Deputy is aware, the Gaeltacht Bill 2012 is before the House at present.

The Bill provides, inter alia, for changes to the size, composition and method of appointment to the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta. These changes include dispensing with elections to the board and a reduction in the size of the board from 20 to 12 members. In accordance with the provisions of the Bill, 7 members, including the chairperson, are to be appointed by the Minister, with the remaining 5 members to be nominated by relevant county councils. It may be expected that nominees from councils that include offshore Gaeltacht islands in their jurisdictions will be representative of the Gaeltacht in its entirety, including the islands.

*Question No. 387 was answered with Question No. 384.*

### Arts Funding

388. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide in tabular form the amount of funding, outlining each organisation funded and area of funding, provided to arts facilities and organisations in County Mayo in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34877/12]

389. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide details of the amount of funding provided to an arts facility (details supplied) in County Mayo in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34878/12]

390. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide the amount of funding provided to an arts facility (details supplied) in County Mayo in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34879/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 388 to 390, inclusive, together.

The table below details the capital funding provided by my Department to arts facilities in County Mayo for the period 2008 to 2011. No funding has been provided to date in 2012.

Table: Capital Funding to Arts Projects in Co Mayo

| Project                     | 2008     | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Kiltimagh Town Hall Theatre | €261,810 | €27,567  | 0        | 0        |
| Linenhall Arts Centre       | €28,017  | €21,983  | 0        | 0        |
| Ballina Arts Centre         | 0        | €300,000 | €807,514 | €357,896 |
| Knock Shrine Museum         | 0        | 0        | €1,380   | 0        |
| Michael Davitt Museum       | 0        | 0        | €17,191  | 0        |

As the Deputy will be aware, however, primary responsibility for the promotion of the arts at all levels throughout the country is devolved to the Arts Council. The Council is funded by

my Department and is statutorily independent in its day-to-day operations, including funding decisions. The allocation to the Arts Council for 2012 is €63.241 million. Details of all funding provided by the Arts Council to arts practitioners, arts groups and venues are available on the Council's website at [www.artscouncil.ie](http://www.artscouncil.ie).

### Merger of Cultural Institutions

391. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he has engaged with the National Campaign for the Arts in relation to his plans to merge some Cultural Institutions together and to absorb them into his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35049/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** As the Deputy will be aware, the Government announced a series of rationalisation measures in the Public Service Reform Plan on 17th November 2011. A number of amalgamations, mergers and critical reviews of bodies funded from my Department's Vote Group are currently being progressed, as required under the Reform Plan. Details of these are reflected in the Plan, which can be accessed on the website of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform at [www.per.gov.ie](http://www.per.gov.ie).

In advancing the Government's agenda in relation to amalgamations, mergers and critical reviews of certain cultural institutions/entities listed in the Public Service Reform Plan, my Department has met and consulted with a range of stakeholders. In that context, both I and my officials have met the National Campaign for the Arts on a number of occasions.

### Arts Council Funding

392. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the total level of funding of the Arts council each year since 2007 in tabular form. [35050/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** The table below sets out Government funding to the Arts Council for the years 2007 to 2012.

Arts Council Funding 2007-2012

| Year | Funding (€m) |
|------|--------------|
| 2007 | 83.000       |
| 2008 | 82.102       |
| 2009 | 73.350       |
| 2010 | 68.649       |
| 2011 | 65.200       |
| 2012 | 63.241       |

### Ministerial Allowances

393. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35057/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** Ministers and Ministers of State are entitled to the same allowances as Members of the Oireachtas with the some exceptions. No additional untaxed allowances are paid by my Department to me or to the Minister of State in respect of our official duties. As the Deputy will be aware, the legislation providing for Oireachtas expense allowances is exempt from taxation under section 836 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, which was inserted into that Act by section 3(7) of the Oireachtas (Allowances to Members) and Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 2009.

Ministers do not receive the Travel and Accommodation Allowance provided to Members of the Oireachtas. However, Ministers outside the Dublin area who maintain second homes because of their official duties can claim an income tax deduction in maintaining that second home, as well as the annual mortgage repayment. The availability of this allowance is determined by the Revenue Commissioners. Since 1 May 2011, Cabinet Ministers, with the exception of the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Law Reform, now use their own cars on official business. Ministers of State have used their own cars on official business since 1984. In this context, Ministers and Ministers of State can claim travel expenses for official business in line with guidelines set down by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The amounts claimed in respect of such expenses from 9th March 2011 to 30th June 2012 are set out in the table below:

|                   | Travel and Subsistence | Mileage    |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Minister          | €1,551.52              | €31,673.29 |
| Minister of State | €5,983.26              | €20,363.08 |

### Architectural Heritage

394. **Deputy Seán Conlan** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide the record of all listed buildings in County Monaghan; the category in which they are listed; the date on which they were listed; who recommended or authorised that they were listed; if the owners were notified that their property was being listed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35101/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** Under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, regarding architectural heritage, each planning authority is required to include in its development plan a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), which includes all structures or parts of structures in their functional areas which, in their opinion, are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. This record forms part of a planning authority's development plan. Inclusion on the RPS places a duty of care on the owners and occupiers of protected structures and gives planning authorities powers to deal with development proposals affecting them in order to safeguard their future. Provisions for the notification of owners of the proposed inclusion of their property on the RPS are also detailed in Sections 12 and 55 of the 2000 Act.

My role in relation to protected structures is to ensure that there are appropriate legislative and policy frameworks in place in relation to the built heritage. Operational issues are generally a matter for planning authorities under these frameworks. My Department's Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) provide statutory guidelines with regard to the implementation of Part IV (Architectural Heritage) of the Act.

My Department also has responsibility for the National Inventory for Architectural Heritage, which provides a basis for me to recommend structures to local authorities for protection. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage county survey for Monaghan is currently underway and I expect to make recommendations to Monaghan County Council within the next 12 months for inclusion of structures to their RPS based on this survey.

For the information of the Deputy, the list of structures included in the RPS for County Monaghan are detailed at Appendix 5 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007-2013 in effect since 17 April 2007.

### Departmental Staff

395. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he intends to begin the process for the recruitment of a new CEO for Culture Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35211/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** As the Deputy will be aware, the position of CEO of Culture Ireland has recently been filled on an acting basis for a period of 15 months. The Deputy will also be aware that in the Government's *Public Service Reform Plan* of 17 November 2011, Culture Ireland is listed as one of the entities to be critically reviewed — in its case with a view to its functions being merged into my Department. My Department is consulting with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in this regard, with a view to the matter being considered by Government at the appropriate time.

*Question No. 396 answered with Question No. 382.*

### Offshore Islands

397. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the position regarding the proposed helipad for Toraigh Island, County Donegal; if funding will be made available for this long awaited infrastructure for the island community; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35252/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Dinny McGinley):** My Department understands that Donegal County Council has now located a preferred site for the development of a helipad on Toraigh island and that it is in the early stage of the design process. My Department has not yet received an application for funding for this project from Donegal County Council. However, I can assure the Deputy that any such application will be considered positively, having regard to the funds available.

398. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the amount of funding that was made available to upgrade road infrastructure on County Donegal's populated off-shore islands in 2012; if he will be making a fund available to County Donegal's island roads infrastructure upgrades in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35258/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Dinny McGinley):** An amount of almost €6m has been expended on infrastructure projects directly related to the Donegal islands in the period from 2002 to date. While my Department was unable to make funds available for a works programme on the offshore islands in 2011 and 2012, my Department will, however, continue to fund smaller targeted projects on all the inhabited offshore islands, subject to availability of finance. It should be noted that no decision has as yet been made with regard to funding in 2013.

### Departmental Agencies

399. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35309/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** There are no State agencies or bodies within the remit of my Department that have powers to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation. The Deputy may wish to note, however, that staff who work in the National Parks and Wildlife Service of my Department may be authorised under wildlife legislation to exercise certain powers of entry and search in pursuance of their statutory functions.

### Local Authority Funding

400. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the reason Dalkey Island an important asset to the heritage of Dublin, remains closed to the public; if he will ensure that the necessary funding is available to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to allow visitors to this Island; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35450/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** The Deputy will appreciate that the provision of funding to local authorities is primarily a matter for the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

### Appointments to State Boards

401. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35601/12]

402. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35614/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 401 and 402 together.

The information sought by the Deputy in relation to board appointments since March 2011 is provided in the table below:

| State Body/Agency | Board members appointed since March 2011   | Chairpersons appointed since March 2011 | Board vacancies advertised on Department's website | Chairpersons appearing before Oireachtas Committee |
|-------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Heritage Council  | Ciara Breathnach<br>Kieran O'Connor<br>Ted Creedon<br>Catherine Heaney<br>Fidelma Mullane<br>Michael Parsons | None                                    | Yes  | N/A  |

| State Body/Agency                  | Board members appointed since March 2011   | Chairpersons appointed since March 2011 | Board vacancies advertised on Department's website    | Chairpersons appearing before Oireachtas Committee  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Arts Council                       | Eimear O'Connor<br>Ciaran Walsh<br>Mark O'Regan<br>John Fanning  | None                                    | Yes   | N/A   |
| National Gallery of Ireland        | Fred Krehbiel  | None                                    | No — appointment under way prior to new arrangements. | N/A   |
| National Concert Hall              | Kieran Tobin (Chair)<br>Dearbhla Collins<br>John McGrane<br>Laurie Cearr<br>Gina Menzies<br>Bruce Arnold<br>Margaret Ryan<br>Ray Bates<br>Alma Hynes<br>Artemis Kent<br>Deborah Kelleher<br>Peter McEvoy<br>Pat Heneghan<br>Rachel Holstead<br>Patricia Slavin   | Kieran Tobin                            | Yes   | Mr. Tobin appeared before the Joint Committee on Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht. |
| Crawford Art Gallery               | John Bowen (Chair)<br>Sheila Maguire<br>Noel O'Keefe<br>Úna Feely<br>Jim Corr<br>Tim Brosnan<br>Tim Lucey  | John Bowen (re-appointment)             | No — all of the appointments were re-appointments.    | N/A (re-appointment)  |
| Chester Beatty Library             | Patricia Donlon<br>Declan Downey   | None                                    | Yes   | N/A   |
| Irish Manuscripts Commission       | James McGuire (Chair)<br>Nicholas Canny<br>David Dickson<br>David Edwards<br>Chris Flynn<br>Greta Jones<br>James Kelly<br>Michael Kennedy<br>Máire Mac Conghail<br>John McCafferty<br>Aileen McClintock<br>Deirdre McMahon<br>Donal Moore<br>Thomas O'Connor<br>Dáibhí Ó Cróinín<br>Ruan O'Donnell<br>Mary O'Dowd<br>Jane Ohlmeyer<br>Fiona Ross | James McGuire (re-appointment)          | No — all of the appointments were reappointments.     | N/A (re-appointment)  |
| National Archives Advisory Council | Paul Rouse<br>Mary McAuliffe   | None                                    | No-appointments under way prior to new arrangements.  | N/A   |

For completeness, the table below sets out appointments to the boards of Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency, which comprise An Foras Teanga, a North South Implementation Body. Appointments to the boards of such bodies are made by the North South Ministerial Council arising from nominations on a 50:50 basis from each jurisdiction.

[Deputy Jimmy Deenihan.]

| Body/Agency         | Board members appointed since March 2011  |
|---------------------|---|
| Foras na Gaeilge    | Liam Ó Maolmhichíl (Chair)<br>Eoghan Mac Cormaic (Vice Chair)<br>Pól Callaghan<br>Colm CavanaghÁine Ní Chiaráin<br>Bríd Ní Chonghóile<br>Liam Kennedy<br>Seosamh Mac Donnchadha<br>Tomás Mac Eochagáin<br>Marcus Mac Ruairi<br>Seán Mícheál Ó Dómhnaill<br>Dónal Ó hAiniféin<br>Therese Ruane<br>Tomás Sharkey<br>Cáitríona Ní Shúilleabháin<br>Éamonn Ó Gribín |
| Ulster-Scots Agency | Tom Scott (Chair)<br>Tony Crooks (Vice Chair)<br>Ida Fisher<br>William Leatham<br>Val O'Kelly<br>Hilary Singleton<br>Sharon Tracey-Dunne<br>Trevor Wilson   |

### Departmental Staff

403. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36037/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** I am advised that, since the establishment of my Department in July 2011, two retired public servants in total have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in bodies under the aegis of my Department.

### Pension Provisions

404. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36049/12]

**Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan):** The information requested by the Deputy in relation to pensions payable to public servants from bodies within my Department's ambit is set out in tabular form hereunder.

| Amount €      | Numbers |
|---------------|---------|
| 10,000-20,000 | 83      |
| 20,001-30,000 | 37      |
| 30,001-40,000 | 23      |
| 40,001-50,000 | 24      |
| 50,001-60,000 | 14      |
| 60,001-70,000 | 6       |

| Amount €          | Numbers |
|-------------------|---------|
| 70,001-80,000     | 4       |
| 80,001-90,000     | 0       |
| 90,001-100,000    | 0       |
| More than 100,000 | 0       |

### Fisheries Protection

405. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the position regarding maintenance of the fish counter on the river Maine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34513/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Fergus O'Dowd):** I am advised by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), that the presence of low volumes of algal growth on resistivity strips does not cause a pronounced attenuation of the electrical signal nor does it adversely affect a counters operation. The build-up of such algal material is common on all in-stream structures. The routine maintenance of fish counters usually includes the removal of such material when and where feasible, however this is more for health and safety reasons for the staff involved (weir access/prevention of slips and falls) rather than for operational ones.

The River Maine fish counter suffered a number of episodic flood events in 2011 and it was these events that caused the counter to malfunction. The counter is currently operational and counting salmon. Some further upgrades are planned which should prevent flood events causing counter outages in the future.

### Better Energy Homes Scheme

406. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will review a decision on a Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland BER grant application that was declined on the grounds that the grant date had expired in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34784/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** The Better Energy Homes scheme is administered by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) on behalf the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and provides financial assistance to householders who wish to improve the energy performance of their homes while saving money, improving comfort and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Fixed grants are provided towards the cost of a range of measures including attic insulation, wall insulation, heating systems upgrades, solar thermal panels and accompanying Building Energy Rating (BER).

Since commencement in March 2009 the scheme has disbursed over €138m in grants and supported the installation of over 320,000 such measures in 127,000 homes. The scheme operates on a rules basis. The grant offer, once accepted, remains valid for six months from the date of issue. All grant works along with a BER must be completed and paperwork received by SEAI within the six month grant offer period. A reminder is sent to every applicant two months before the expiry of the grant offer. In the specific case noted the position remains that payment cannot be made on the grant application measure(s) concerned as the BER was published outside the six month timeframe. The case has been unsuccessfully appealed by

[Deputy Pat Rabbitte.]

the applicant on two prior occasions. In both instances the SEAI found a lack of mitigating circumstances to warrant payment of the grant.

### **Departmental Expenditure**

407. **Deputy Thomas Pringle** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will provide a breakdown of all moneys spent on the MMV Ostrea since its procurement. [34520/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Fergus O'Dowd):** The costs associated with the purchase and operation of the MMC Ostrea since its procurement is a day to day operational matter for the Loughs Agency and I have no function in the matter. However, in order to assist the Deputy I asked my officials to contact the Lough's Agency to request the details he has sought. I will advise the Deputy as soon as the Agency's response is received.

### **Renewable Energy**

408. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources when the final offshore renewable energy development plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34526/12]

409. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the EU funding support that is available and has been used to support the development of grid connected wave testing here; the results of the wave testing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34528/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 408 and 409 together.

Wave energy technology is still at the research, development and demonstration stage globally. Whilst EU funding has not been directly provided to support wave testing through my Department or the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), I understand that there are a number of Irish partners, including the Hydraulics and Maritime Research Centre (HMRC) based at University College Cork, who have participated in EU wave energy projects.

Additionally, the Ocean Energy Development Unit (OEDU) in SEAI is working to take forward Ireland's ocean energy programme, in line with the Government's commitment to realise the long term economic potential of Ireland's wave and tidal energy resources.

The Ocean Energy Development Programme has been allocated €2.9 million in 2012 of which €1.6 million capital is allocated to the Ocean Energy Prototype Development Fund. This supports the Galway Bay test site, the preliminary development work on the Mayo test site at Belmullet and industry technical support services and participation in EU and International Energy Agency activities in the ocean energy sphere.

To date funding has been provided for 32 projects with some of the funding multi-annual in nature. There are 11 projects with funding commitments of €1.3million in 2012, subject to the individual projects reaching the required project development milestones. My Department is also finalising an offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan underpinned by a Strategic Environmental Assessment of Irish waters, which is due to be completed shortly.

### **Electric Vehicle Grants**

410. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural

Resources if new incentives are being planned for electric vehicle owners as the current renewable energy rate in transport was documented at 2.4% in 2010 and EU regulations demand a 10% sub-target by 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34529/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** The EU Renewable Energy Directive places a legal obligation on all Member states that by 2020 10% of energy in the transport sector must come from renewable energy sources. Ireland intends to meet this requirement mainly through the increased use of biofuels, but also by the deployment of electric vehicles (EVs).

In April 2011, I introduced the EV Grant Scheme to incentivise and support, through grants of up to €5,000, the early deployment of electric and other low emission vehicles in Ireland. These grants are in addition to the Accelerated Capital Allowances and VRT reliefs that currently apply to electric vehicles. I have no plans to introduce any further supports for electric vehicles.

### Alternative Energy Projects

411. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the progress that has been made in communicating with Northern Ireland groups and agencies in the future coordination of an all-island approach to the development of bioenergy resources; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34530/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive sets Ireland a binding 16% target for the penetration of renewable energy across the electricity, heat and transport sectors by 2020 and bioenergy will have a major role in helping to meet this target.

My Department, along with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is currently finalising a Bioenergy Strategy, which will be published in the next few months. This will set out in detail the actions required to optimise the bioenergy sector's contribution to the 2020 renewable energy targets.

The Government, through its Departments and their agencies have ongoing communication with our counterparts in Northern Ireland. In one such example of all-island cooperation, relevant to bioenergy, Teagasc, along with the Research Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Northern Ireland, have produced sets of guidelines for farmers in growing miscanthus and willow for use as energy crops.

### Fisheries Protection

412. **Deputy Noel Greally** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in view of the decision in 2009 to stop issuing eel fishing licences and prohibit eel fishing, Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-Law No. C.S 303, 2009 and Conservation of Eel Fishing (Prohibition on Issue of Licences) Bye-Law No. 858, 2009, his plans to compensate eel fishermen for loss of income; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34614/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Fergus O'Dowd):** Following scientific research conducted by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) indicating that the European eel stocks are in a critical state, the EU introduced Council Regulation 1100/2007, the objective of which is to achieve recovery of the stocks to previous high levels. The Regulation required that all Member States prepare a national Eel Management Plan (EMP). Ireland's plan was approved by the European Commission in July, 2009.

[Deputy Fergus O'Dowd.]

Bye-laws, Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-law No. C.S. 303, 2009 and Conservation of Eel Fishing (Prohibition On Issue Of Licences) Bye-law No. 858, 2009, were signed by the then Minister in 2009 prohibiting the capture of eels. There was no provision for compensation for those who previously engaged in this fishery on a commercial basis.

The then Central and Regional Fisheries Boards (now Inland Fisheries Ireland — IFI) engaged with the eel fishermen representatives to investigate possible diversification schemes; however, no specific funding was identified for diversification. I understand that a number of former eel fishermen have been contracted by the ESB to undertake Trap and Transport operations to mitigate the impact of hydropower schemes as part of the eel management plan.

There is no property right attaching to public eel licences and consequently the issue of compensation does not arise, given that the closure of the fishery was applied for conservation reasons under the Fisheries Acts. Given that context and having regard to National economic circumstances, no provision has been made for compensation payments.

The National EMP is currently being updated following the provision of three additional years of scientific research and monitoring of the status of eels stocks. The latest independent Standing Scientific Committee report on eels is available on the IFI website and a link to this web page is also available on my Department's website. IFI's three-year eel monitoring report is also available online.

Ireland's EMP Implementation report, which details progress on Ireland's 2009 EMP, is due to be submitted to the EU shortly. In relation to the information contained in these reports and prior to consideration of the continuation of existing measures, a public consultation period has been undertaken. The closing date for receipt of submissions to be considered as part of the review of eel plans for Ireland was set as Monday 2nd July 2012. However, on foot of presentations made to stakeholders as part of the consultation, I extended the closing date to 11th July to facilitate the receipt of submissions from as many stakeholders as possible. Submissions made during the public consultation period, which included a number of public meetings/seminars, will be considered in formulating proposals for the management of the eel fishery for the coming years. Three public meetings on the EMPs have been held in Clonmel, County Tipperary on 19th June, in Athlone, County Westmeath on 20th June and in Carrick on Shannon, County Leitrim on 21st June. Copies of all relevant documents (EU Report, Scientific Report and Monitoring Report) were available at the public meetings and on IFI's website ([www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)) or through the link on my Department's website ([www.dcenr.gov.ie](http://www.dcenr.gov.ie)).

### Postal Services

413. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the position regarding the introduction of a national post code system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34732/12]

415. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will report on the current status of the review of the postal code system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34804/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 413 and 415 together.

A procurement process for a national postcode system is currently under way. The process commenced last year with the publication of a pre-qualification questionnaire on the e-tenders

website [www.etenders.gov.ie](http://www.etenders.gov.ie) for the appointment of a postcode management licence holder. Since then intensive work has taken place on the procurement process on what is an extremely complex national project.

The final decision on whether to proceed with the implementation of a national postcode will be one for Government and will be based on appropriate financial, technical and operational considerations. This decision will be made later this year.

### **Rural Broadband Scheme**

414. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will appoint a senior technical official to liaise with a person (details supplied) in County Cork with regard to providing them with broadband under the rural broadband scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34786/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** The person to whom the Deputy refers is in receipt of a broadband service through the National Broadband Scheme (NBS).

By way of background, my Department entered into a contract with 3, a Hutchison Wham-poa company, for the delivery of the NBS in late December 2008, following the conclusion of a competitive dialogue procurement process. The objective of the NBS is to deliver broadband to certain target areas in Ireland in which broadband services were deemed at the time to be insufficient. Since October 2010, broadband services are available in all of the 1,028 Electoral Divisions (ED) designated to be covered under the Scheme.

A further Government initiative, namely the Rural Broadband Scheme (RBS), was launched last year in recognition of the fact that despite the widespread availability of broadband throughout Ireland, there still remained individual premises that were unable to receive broadband provision, due to technical difficulties such as line of sight issues. This Scheme, which is being rolled out this year, is aimed at making a basic broadband service available to those individual un-served premises in rural non-NBS areas who wish to avail of such services. Since the person to whom the Deputy refers resides in a designated NBS area, they are not eligible for consideration under the RBS.

With regard to service quality under the NBS, my Department has well-established monitoring arrangements in place to ensure that the NBS delivers the minimum specified service or better to all users. Under the NBS contract, specific service level agreement (SLA) standards are in place, which define the service and support levels to be provided by 3 to NBS subscribers. The NBS contract imposes a service credit regime on 3, with financial consequences in the event that minimum specification service levels are not met. It also provides that where NBS customers do not receive the minimum guaranteed service as set out in the terms and conditions of their contract, they are entitled to service rebates. My Department liaises very closely with 3 to ensure that any issues relating to service performance, which are brought to its attention are addressed as quickly as possible. It operates a dedicated NBS mailbox, which NBS customers who have fully utilised 3's established complaints process can contact by email at [nationalbroadbandscheme@dcenr.gov.ie](mailto:nationalbroadbandscheme@dcenr.gov.ie) with any comments or complaints they may have about their NBS service.

The individual concerned has not previously contacted my Department in relation to any complaints relating to their NBS service but my officials have now made contact with them and are liaising with 3 on their behalf to assist in the speedy resolution of these service issues.

*Question No. 415 answered with Question No. 413.*

### Television Reception

416. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will consider providing financial assistance to people who are in Saorview black spots and will incur the added costs of installing Saorview satellite; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35052/12]

420. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if all dwellings in County Donegal will be able to avail of saorview; the measures being put in place to ensure that all areas of County Donegal will be able to secure connection; if he will provide a list of regions that are having difficulty securing coverage in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35268/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 416 and 420 together.

I am very much aware of the challenges digital switchover brings, in particular for households that are reliant on the existing free to air analogue TV network. The necessary assistance and support for everyone but in particular for those households who need to make the switch to digital is being provided through a substantial national information campaign. In addition there is a community outreach programme aimed at providing local assistance to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in society. As I have stated in reply to previous questions, I do not propose to introduce grant schemes for this purpose.

The Outreach programme is managed by the Wheel and has been working to address the particular information and assistance needs of vulnerable households as they prepare to go digital. The aim of the Outreach Programme is to ensure that all vulnerable households are made aware of the switchover and that no TV viewers are left without a TV service once analogue TV switches off on 24 October. Local help is available through local Champions and information on these champions is available from the Departments dedicated website *www.goingdigital.ie*.

Experience from other European countries indicates that the cost of set top boxes and other digital receivers reduces as the date for digital switchover approaches, and as competition increases in the market. There is clear evidence that this is now happening in Ireland with affordable set top boxes on the market, as well as a wide range of suitable digital televisions. A small SAORVIEW TV costs approximately €120 and SAORVIEW set top boxes are now retailing from €60 or less. SAORSAT set top boxes are now available from around €90.

RTÉ through its subsidiary company RTÉNL has built, owns and controls the SAORVIEW TV network and is responsible for the roll-out, coverage and operation of that network. This is in accordance with Part 8 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, which provides that the development of the RTÉ network is an operational matter for RTÉ and, therefore, not one in which I, as Minister, have a function. Specifically, the Act requires RTÉ to provide digital coverage to the same extent as analogue coverage i.e. 98% population coverage. SAORVIEW will actually reach in excess of 98% population coverage so by itself exceeds RTÉ's legislative obligations for a national digital TV network to replace the analogue TV network which is switching off on 24 October.

The development and provision of the SAORSAT satellite platform was undertaken by RTÉ on its own initiative and is not a matter in which I have a function. RTÉ has introduced SAORSAT to provide a free to air TV service to the circa 2% of the population who cannot receive SAORVIEW. With the launch of SAORSAT, Ireland has 100% coverage of RTÉ and TG4 for the first time in the history of the State and everyone can chose to migrate to a free

to air Digital TV service either through SAORVIEW or SAORSAT. I commend RTÉ for this initiative.

Ireland is not the only country to have introduced a national TV network on both a terrestrial and satellite platform. Many countries including the UK have developed their digital networks on both the traditional terrestrial platform and also over satellite. The reason for this is simple. It is technically, practically and financially impossible to provide 100% coverage using a terrestrial TV platform. On 21st June I hosted a special digital switchover briefing session to which all Oireachtas members were invited. At this meeting SAORVIEW and RTÉNL joined us and delivered clear and concise information to those who attended in relation to the monies spent by RTÉNL in rolling out SAORVIEW and SAORSAT, coverage issues and the costs for TV households. During this meeting they also announced their intention to rollout some additional transmitter sites at Carlingford, Dingle and Ennistymon; Glenties and Clonmany in Donegal, areas of West Cork such as Leap, Bandon, Timoleague, Rosscarbery, Drimoleague, and Mount Gabriel, Kilmacthomas in Waterford and Ballina, County Tipperary. RTÉ expects that the new sites will be on air in early October. Information on these sites is available from SAORVIEW and RTÉNL.

### **Act na dTeangacha Oifigiúla**

417. D'fhiafraigh **Peadar Tóibín** den Aire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha ag féachaint don dualgas atá ar Electric Ireland faoi Act na dTeangacha Oifigiúla seirbhís a thabhairt trí Ghaeilge cén fáth nach bhfuil an tseirbhís sin ag feidhmiú (sonraí tugtha). [35055/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** Feidhm oibríochtúil ó lá go lá don chomhlacht ar leith atá ann agus níl ról nó feidhm agam ann. Déanfaidh mé socrú leis an chomhlacht a chur ar an eolas faoi.

### **Ministerial Allowances**

418. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35059/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** The Houses of the Oireachtas is the primary body administering allowances payable to members, including Ministers and Ministers of State, and publishes a list of these allowances on its website [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie). Any request for details of actual amounts claimed and paid should, in the first instance, be directed to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

### **Telecommunications Services**

419. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the position regarding the availability of high speed broadband in Tuam, County Galway; the current status in relation to fibre optic broadband in Tuam; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35243/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** The telecommunications market throughout Ireland has been liberalised since 1999 and thus the delivery of broadband services in any particular region is a matter, in the first instance, for private sector commercial operators who are regulated by the independent regulator, the Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg). Information regarding broadband services on a county basis is available using ComReg's callcosts service, accessible at [www.callcosts.ie](http://www.callcosts.ie), which also allows users to compare the costs of home phone, broadband, mobile and combined packages.

My Department has intervened in the open market on occasions where the open market has failed to deliver adequate communications network capacity in particular areas or regions. The Metropolitan Areas Networks (MANs) programme is one such intervention, which provides optic fibre networks in designated towns. They are operated on the Department's behalf by elnet. The installation of telecommunications ducting in Tuam, capable of supporting an optical fibre telecommunications network, is almost complete. The ducting was installed in parallel with a major water distribution and drainage project in the town to take advantage of savings on construction costs. I have asked my officials to liaise directly with elnet to discuss the potential benefits of completing this infrastructure and bringing it into use.

The Government also accepts that the widespread availability of high speed broadband is a key requirement to delivering future economic and social development. This is reflected in a commitment in the Programme for Government to co-invest with the private sector and commercial Semi State sector to provide next generation broadband customer access to every home and business in the State.

The report of the Next Generation Broadband Taskforce (NGBT), which I launched on 2 May last and responses to a public consultation which I commenced at the same event, will have an important role to play in this regard. The public consultation closed in early June and more than 50 responses were received. Building on the NGBT report and the public consultation responses received, it is my intention to bring proposals for a National Broadband Plan to Government shortly with a view to agreeing a comprehensive set of policy actions to underpin the provision of high speed services on a national basis.

*Question No. 420 answered with Question No. 416.*

### **Inland Fisheries**

421. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources further to Parliamentary Question No. 325 of 10 July 2012, if he will confirm his plans for the re-instatement of Reendonegan Lake, Bantry, County Cork (details supplied); the timetable for the work to be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35278/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Fergus O'Dowd):** This matter originally came to the attention of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and only more recently was the matter raised with my department for action.

From the information that has become available since this issue was raised, I am informed that Reendonegan Lake was created in and around the late 1950s and was stocked as a put and take fishery by the Inland Fisheries Trust. When originally created the lake had the ability to discharge to the sea with non-return valves which allowed freshwater to exit the lake but prevented the saltwater from re-entering. It was primarily fresh-water with some salt water influences around the end closest to the sea. In or around March 2011 following some works

to alleviate a gravel build-up on the seaward side of the outfall undertaken by the local interests — the entire outfall gave way and allowed the sea to tidally enter the lake. The lake is currently salt water. I have asked Inland Fisheries Ireland to assess the feasibility and practicalities of restoring the barrage — including the appropriate consents, co-operation and agreement of the local interest groups including the Rowing Club and adjacent landowners and costs and revert to me with a plan of action over the next few months.

### Departmental Agencies

422. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35311/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** Details of State agencies and bodies under the auspices of my Department that have power to enter premises in the course of their investigations are set out in the table below:

| Body    | Powers   |
|---------|--|
| An Post | Section 146 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, authorises an officer of an issuing agent to enter at any reasonable time any premises or specified place for the purposes of ascertaining whether there is a TV set there and a television licence is for the time being in force in respect of the premises or specified place authorising the keeping of a television set at the premises or specified place. An Post is the only authorised issuing agent at present. Section 69 of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act 1983 and Section 142 of the Stamp Duties Management Act 1983 empower authorised persons, on foot of a warrant issued by the District Court, to enter, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., into any house, room, shop, or building of or belonging to the suspected person.  |
| BGÉ     | BGÉ officers have powers to enter premises in relation to gas safety under Section 2 of the Gas (Amendment) Act 1987 which empowers the Minister to make an order conferring powers on BGÉ to enter and inspect premises and take appropriate measures for the purpose of ensuring public safety and safety of property, and Section 9I of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (as amended) authorises BGÉ to appoint a gas emergency officer to enter on to lands subject to a warrant of appointment. The purpose is to allow the officer to inspect lands and take such measures as appropriate to protect life and property from any danger arising from natural gas or LPG.   |
| CER     | Section 9EA of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended, empowers the Commission to appoint a person to be an electrical investigation officer for the purposes of investigating safety related matters. The officer has powers to enter on any land or premises at any reasonable time.  |
| ComReg  | ComReg officers are authorised to enter premises under 3 pieces of legislation. Section 39 of the Communications Regulation Act 2002, as amended, empowers authorised officers to enter and search premises at any reasonable time in the course of an investigation. If the officer is prevented from doing so, s/he can apply, under section 39(4) for a warrant to authorize such entry. Authorised officers may not enter dwellings houses without a warrant. Section 40 of the Act provides that a judge may issue such a warrant in this regard. Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1926, as amended, authorised officers, in possession of warrants, are permitted to enter premises as part of their investigations. Regulation 15 of the European Communities (Radio Equipment and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment) Regulations, 2001 empowers authorised officers enter any premises but they may only enter a private dwelling where they have a warrant granted by a District Court judge, under Regulation 16. |
| ESB     | Section 16 of the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995, as amended by the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2012, empowers an authorised officer to apply to the District Court for a search warrant to enter premises and carry out such inspections as he/she deems fit for the purpose of determining whether or not an offence has been committed. In very limited circumstances a search warrant is not required under Section 16 but this only arises where an authorised officer has reasonable cause to suspect that before a warrant could be obtained evidence will be destroyed or disposed of.   |

[Deputy Pat Rabbitte.]

| Body | Powers  |
|------|---|
| IFI  | Section 301 of the Fisheries (Consolidated) Act 1959, as amended, empowers authorised officers to enter premises such as fish shops and restaurants. Authorised officers may not enter dwelling houses without a warrant issued in accordance with section 297 of the 1959 Act.   |
| NORA | Under sections 46 to 48 of the National Oil Reserves Agency Act 2007, as amended, an authorised officer (which includes any officer of Customs and Excise, an auditor appointed by NORA with the consent of the Minister, or any other person appointed by the Minister (including officers of DCENR or NORA)) may enter and inspect premises for the purpose of obtaining any information necessary for the performance by the Minister or NORA of their functions under the 2007 Act. Where an authorised officer is prevented from entering any premises an application may be made for a search warrant. An authorised officer can not enter a private dwelling without a search warrant. |

### Appointments to State Boards

423. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Communications; Energy and Natural Resources if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35603/12]

424. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Communications; Energy and Natural Resources the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35616/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 423 and 424 together.

I wish to advise the Deputy that on the 3rd of June 2011 I invited Expressions of Interest from persons wishing to be considered for appointment to vacancies on State Boards under the aegis of my Department, which were expected to occur up to the end of 2011. On 9th February 2012 I invited further expressions of interest from persons wishing to serve on any of the Boards under the aegis of my Department. The Deputy will appreciate that appointments to State Boards are made in accordance with the relevant governing statute and the Minister is not obliged to make appointments from tendered expressions of interest but has the discretion to do so if he or she considers it appropriate.

There have been 37 appointments made to State Boards under the aegis of my Department since the 9th of March 2011. The Chairperson appointed to the Board of TG4 has appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee. The following table sets out details of all appointments.

| Body         | Appointee  |
|--------------|--|
| An Post      | Mr. Donal Connell<br>Mr. James Wrynn<br>Mr. Paul Henry |
| Bord na Móna | Ms Denise Cronin<br>Mr. John Horgan                    |

| Body                                    | Appointee  |
|---|--|
| EirGrid                                 | Dr. Gary Healy<br>Ms Regina Moran<br>Mr. Liam O'Halloran<br>Ms Bride Rosney<br>Ms Doireann Barry   |
| ESB                                     | Ms Noreen Wright<br>Mr. Seamus Mallon  |
| Irish National Petroleum Corporation    | Mr. Sean Fitzgerald<br>Mr. Vincent Caffrey<br>Ms Aoife MacEivilly  |
| National Oil Reserves Agency            | Ms Aoife MacEivilly  |
| Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland | Ms Julie O'Neill<br>Mr. Michael Conlon<br>Mr. Edgar Morgenroth<br>Ms Anne Farrell<br>Mr. Declan Waugh<br>Ms Michelle Green<br>Mr. Brian Carroll                              |
| TG4                                     | Siún Ní Raghallaigh, Chairperson<br>Mr. Micheál Seoighe<br>Mr. Joe Connolly<br>Ms Andréa Ní Éalaithe   |
| Digital Hub Development Agency (DHDA)   | Mr. Paul Holden<br>Mr. Seamus Ratigan  |
| Ordnance Survey Ireland OSI             | Mr. Ronan O'Reilly, Chairperson<br>Ms Anne Butler<br>Mr. Robin Simpson<br>Dr. Enda Howley<br>Dr. Denis Keliher<br>Mr. Justin Gleeson<br>Mr. Padraic Jordan<br>Ms Sandra Ryan |

### Departmental Staff

425. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36039/12]

**Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte):** Since its formation in 2007, my Department has re-employed two former members of staff. One was a Principal Geologist who was re-employed during 2008, 2009 and 2010. The other was a Petroleum Exploration Specialist who was re-employed for a short period in 2012. My Department has not replaced any staff member availing of the term time / shorter working year scheme since 2008.

The Department has occasionally used, on a very limited basis, the expertise of civil servants who have retired from other Departments.

[Deputy Pat Rabbitte.]

Information in respect of bodies and agencies under the aegis of my Department is a day to day matter for those organisations and my Department does not have the information sought by the Deputy. I will, however, request the relevant Agencies and bodies under the aegis of my Department to respond directly to the Deputy in the matter.

### **Job Protection**

426. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will intervene to save 70 jobs at a company (details supplied). [34348/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Local authorities have statutory responsibility for issuing waste facility permits under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2007, as amended, and for the enforcement of conditions applying to such permits. The enforcement actions of local authorities in such matters are subject to oversight by the Office of Environmental Enforcement within the Environmental Protection Agency and, where a complainant is dissatisfied with the actions of a local authority, the matter may be referred to that Office.

Under Section 60 (3) of the Waste Management Act the Minister is specifically precluded from exercising any power or control in relation to the performance by a local authority, in particular circumstances, of a statutory function vested in it.

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme**

427. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to allow persons on the housing list who are currently in private rented accommodation to avail of the rental accommodation scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34689/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** The Rental Accommodation Scheme is a core part of the range of social housing supports provided by housing authorities. The scheme is specifically targeted at households who are in receipt of Rent Supplement from the Department of Social Protection, generally for over 18 months, and who have been assessed as having a long-term housing need.

There are no plans to alter the qualifying conditions for eligibility for the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

### **Emergency Accommodation**

428. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide details of the numbers of persons aged 18 to 25 years in emergency accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34736/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Responsibility for provision of emergency accommodation is a matter for my colleague the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government.

### **Outdoor Events**

429. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will outline the licensing procedures that are in place for the promoters of large music, sporting and cultural events; if he is considering reviewing the licensing arrangements in place for the promotion of all large events catering for thousands of people including

large sporting, music, cultural and political events; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34805/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** Section 230 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, which came into operation on 11 March 2002, provides that a licence is required in respect of the holding of an event, or class of event, prescribed under Part 16 of the Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations, 2001. These Regulations, which received the positive approval of both Houses of the Oireachtas, include requirements such as:

- (a) publication of a notice of intention to apply for a licence;
- (b) notification of prescribed persons or bodies;
- (c) form and content of an application for a licence;
- (d) plans, documents and information to be submitted with an application;
- (e) bodies to be consulted in relation to a licence;
- (f) enabling submissions and observations to be made within a prescribed time;
- (g) requiring an applicant to submit further information in respect of their application; and
- (h) the time within which a decision on an application must be made.

The prescribed bodies required to be consulted are:

- (a) the relevant Chief Superintendent of An Garda Síochána;
- (b) the relevant Health Board; or
- (c) any county council, county borough corporation, borough corporation or urban district council (other than the local authority to whom the application is made), the area of which will be affected by the event.

The regulations also provide that a local authority may consult any other body, not being a prescribed body, in relation to an application where it considers it appropriate, and that the local authority may take whatever measures it considers necessary, including the convening of meetings or taking of oral submissions, to seek the views of any person in regard to the application.

Section 231 provides that where an application is made in accordance with the regulations, the local authority may decide to grant the licence, grant the licence subject to such conditions as it considers appropriate or refuse the licence. Conditions subject to which a licence is granted may relate to, inter alia, the following:

- (i) securing the safety of persons at the place in connection with the event;
- (ii) the provision of adequate facilities for the health and welfare of persons at the place in connection with the event;
- (iii) the maintenance of public order; and
- (iii) the display of notices for persons attending the event as to their obligations and conduct at the event.

[Deputy Jan O'Sullivan.]

Following events at the recent concert in the Phoenix Park, I anticipate that the relevant licensing authority, Dublin City Council, will be reviewing this event, in consultation with the promoters and other bodies as appropriate, to see what lessons should be learned and whether changes to the licensing system are necessary. My Department will be in contact with the council in this regard.

### **Waste Management**

430. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when he will introduce a national waiver scheme for low income households in relation to waste management charges; if his attention has been drawn to the fact the Fingal County Council waiver system now operated by a company (details supplied) expires in October next; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35842/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Programme for Government contains a commitment to introduce competitive tendering for household waste collection, under which service providers would bid to provide waste collection services in a given area, for a given period of time and to a guaranteed level of service, a system otherwise known as 'franchise-bidding'.

I expect to be in a position very shortly to finalise the waste policy development process, including household waste collection. All policy proposals will be carefully considered by Government and will take account of the full range of issues and perspectives, including the impact of waste charges on low income households.

### **Traveller Accommodation**

431. **Deputy John Paul Phelan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the funding provided by his Department in 2012 for the Traveller Accommodation Programme; if he will provide a breakdown of the amounts provided to each local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35486/12]

465. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when the planned announcement will take place in relation to the €251.5 million in funding for local authorities for housing capital allocations announced on 20 March 2012, in particular the allocation amount for traveller specific accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34765/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 431 and 465 together.

The Social Housing Investment Programme capital allocations announced on 20 March 2012 related to a range of measures including social housing supply, regeneration, estate-wide remedial works, energy efficiency and retrofitting works, Traveller-specific accommodation, extensions/adaptations to housing stock, etc.

Some €5.670 million was allocated for capital works relating to the provision or improvement of Traveller-specific accommodation. In addition, some €3.948 million in current funding was allocated towards a range of Traveller support initiatives.

Details of these allocations are set out in the following table:

| County Council           | Capital Allocation | Current Allocation |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Carlow                   | —                  | 64,360             |
| Cavan                    | —                  | 34,533             |
| Clare                    | 300,000            | 168,756            |
| Cork County              | 300,000            | 88,262             |
| Donegal                  | 300,000            | 67,200             |
| South Dublin             | 250,000            | 217,009            |
| Fingal                   | 150,000            | 149,404            |
| Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown | 313,150            | 111,138            |
| Galway                   | 500,000            | 224,129            |
| Kerry                    | 23,249             | 88,699             |
| Kildare                  | 30,000             | 110,448            |
| Kilkenny                 | 60,000             | 89,596             |
| Laois                    | 530,000            | 45,652             |
| Leitrim                  | —                  | 42,805             |
| Limerick                 | 134,400            | 122,840            |
| Longford                 | —                  | 52,134             |
| Louth                    | 150,000            | 172,680            |
| Mayo                     | 136,850            | 129,317            |
| Meath                    | 78,133             | 151,964            |
| Monaghan                 | —                  | 73,529             |
| North Tipperary          | 139,508            | 105,633            |
| Offaly                   | —                  | 94,597             |
| Roscommon                | 373,587            | 38,055             |
| Sligo                    | 18,090             | 111,162            |
| South Tipperary          | 27,641             | 57,133             |
| Waterford                | —                  | 49,251             |
| Westmeath                | 46,452             | 41,395             |
| Wexford                  | 285,000            | 124,307            |
| Wicklow                  | 550,000            | 63,893             |
| <i>City Council</i>      |                    |                    |
| Cork                     | 62,000             | 298,963            |
| Dublin                   | 50,000             | 370,547            |
| Galway                   | 360,000            | 172,464            |
| Limerick                 | 250,000            | 147,827            |
| Waterford                | 252,240            | 69,219             |
| Total                    | 5,670,300          | 3,948,901          |

### Local Electoral Areas

432. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will report on the timing and consultation period for the revision of the local authority wards; if his attention has been drawn to continuing local sentiment that the Howth/Sutton/Baldoyle district of the Fingal Howth/Malahide Road Ward should be restored to the administrative area of Dublin City Council where the district was located up to the new Dublin Bay North Dáil constituency which includes the district in question; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35843/12]

484. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the timelines around the review of the Local Election Boundaries and if he anticipates much change on the Northside of Dublin. [35145/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 432 and 484 together.

I am giving consideration to arrangements for the review of local electoral areas having regard to the recommendations on Dáil constituencies in the Constituency Commission Report 2012 and to the final results of Census 2011. I will also have regard to any decisions by the Oireachtas on the Constituency Commission Report and to Government decisions on local government reform including the establishment of unified local authorities in Limerick and Tipperary.

I am not in a position to define timelines for the review but it will be completed in good time before the 2014 local elections.

### Waste Management

433. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if consideration is being given to establishing a new independent regulatory authority for the waste management sector which would provide a greater transparency in the sector and which would have a remit to decide on the charging structure for waste services. [34364/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Programme for Government contains a commitment to introduce competitive tendering for household waste collection, under which service providers would bid to provide waste collection services in a given area, for a given period of time and to a guaranteed level of service, a system otherwise known as ‘franchise-bidding.’

A public consultation designed to inform the policy development process concluded in September 2011. A large number of responses were received from a broad spectrum of interests. A consensus is not apparent and, on almost all of the relevant issues, a considerable breadth of opinion was expressed. All of the responses received, in addition to a summary document, are available on my Department’s website, [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie).

I expect to be in a position to finalise the policy development process in relation to household waste collection shortly. All policy proposals will be carefully considered by Government and will take account of the full range of issues and perspectives, including the matter of regulation of the sector.

### Water Services

434. **Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if, in the context of the abstraction of water from the River Barrow and the development of ground water services for wide-spread commercial and domestic usage, Kildare County Council has sought funding for water softening systems as part of their overall water infrastructure programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34432/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The River Barrow Abstraction Scheme, including the contract to construct a new water treatment plant at Srowland, is being funded under my Department’s *Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2013* and I understand that work is progressing satisfactorily on this contract.

One of the aims of the River Barrow Scheme is to improve the security of water supply capacity in the Greater Dublin Region. In view of the water hardness levels of the River Barrow, Kildare County Council has written to my Department outlining the position and seeking additional funding to help in maximizing the water output from the new plant. This application is under consideration at present and a decision on the matter will be made as soon as possible.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme

435. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of persons on the rental accommodation scheme here; and if he will provide a breakdown based on local authority area. [34472/12]

502. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of tenants transferred from rent supplement to the rental accommodation scheme by local authorities; if he will provide a breakdown by county or local authority and in particular regarding an area (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35350/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 435 and 502 together.

Since the scheme commenced in 2005 and up to the end of May 2012, local authorities had transferred a total of 39,910 households from Rent Supplement. Of these 23,269 were housed directly under the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and a further 16,641 were accommodated under other social housing options.

Good progress is being made in implementing the RAS and to date authorities have accommodated close to 40,000 households nationally.

The following table sets out the position by local authority since 2005.

| Local Authorities (Housing) | Total RS transfers to Voluntary, Unsold Afford. and Private to end May 2012 | Total No. of RS cases socially housed to end May 2012 | Total RS cases transferred to Private/Voluntary/Unsold Affordables and socially housed to end May 2012 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Carlow Co. Cl.              | 518   | 213   | 731  |
| Cavan Co. Cl.               | 429   | 329   | 758  |
| Clare Co. Cl.               | 498   | 254   | 752  |
| Cork City Cl.               | 1,064   | 1,021   | 2,085  |
| Cork County Cl.             | 1,323   | 1,301   | 2,624  |
| Donegal Co. Cl.             | 631   | 1,471   | 2,102  |
| Dublin City Cl.             | 2,564   | 705   | 3,269  |
| Dublin South Co. Cl.        | 1,517   | 1,191   | 2,708  |
| Dun/Rathdown Co.Cl.         | 640   | 585   | 1,225  |
| Fingal Co. Cl.              | 1,103   | 891   | 1,994  |
| Galway City Cl.             | 886   | 377   | 1,263  |
| Galway Co. Cl.              | 579   | 302   | 881  |
| Kerry Co. Cl.               | 844   | 645   | 1,489  |
| Kildare Co. Cl.             | 571   | 611   | 1,182  |
| Kilkenny Co. Cl.            | 743   | 355   | 1,098  |
| Laois Co. Cl.               | 280   | 185   | 465  |
| Leitrim Co. Cl.             | 135   | 103   | 238  |

[Deputy Jan O’Sullivan.]

| Local Authorities (Housing) | Total RS transfers to Voluntary, Unsold Afford. and Private to end May 2012 | Total No. of RS cases socially housed to end May 2012 | Total RS cases transferred to Private/Voluntary/Unsold Affordables and socially housed to end May 2012 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Limerick City Cl.           | 769   | 167   | 936  |
| Limerick Co. Cl.            | 518   | 273   | 791  |
| Longford Co. Cl.            | 400   | 103   | 503  |
| Louth Co. Cl.               | 323   | 885   | 1,208  |
| Mayo Co. Cl.                | 1,041   | 348   | 1,389  |
| Meath Co. Cl.               | 362   | 333   | 695  |
| Monaghan Co. Cl.            | 318   | 189   | 507  |
| Nth Tipperary Co. Cl.       | 502   | 258   | 760  |
| Offaly Co. Cl.              | 317   | 267   | 584  |
| Roscommon Co.Cl.            | 473   | 366   | 839  |
| Sligo Co. Cl.               | 579   | 213   | 792  |
| Sth Tipperary Co. Cl.       | 720   | 461   | 1,181  |
| Waterford City Cl.          | 732   | 380   | 1,112  |
| Waterford Co. Cl.           | 334   | 287   | 621  |
| Westmeath Co. Cl.           | 442   | 205   | 647  |
| Wexford Co. Cl.             | 661   | 974   | 1,635  |
| Wicklow Co. Cl.             | 453   | 393   | 846  |
| Total                       | 23,269  | 16,641  | 39,910   |

On the whole, I am satisfied that the Rental Accommodation Scheme is meeting its objectives. My Department meets regularly with housing authorities and continues to emphasise the importance of promoting the scheme.

### Leader Programmes

436. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding an appeal in relation to a rural development leader funding application for a feasibility study to develop a recreational facility for County Kerry in respect of a club (details supplied) that has been rejected by the eligibility review group in the rural development division of his Department on the grounds that it is located in a hub town; if he will take into consideration the significance of this project and the fact that 80% of the special Olympic athletes are from outside the hub area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34473/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** For the purposes of implementing Axes 3 and 4 (LEADER) of the Rural Development Programme 2007-13 (RDP), the following areas are excluded:

- The City Council boundaries of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford and Limerick.
- The Borough Council boundaries of Kilkenny, Sligo and Wexford.
- The Town Council boundaries of Athlone, Ballina, Castlebar, Cavan, Dundalk, Ennis, Killarney, Letterkenny, Mallow, Monaghan, Mullingar, Tralee, Tuam and Tullamore.

During negotiations in respect of the RDP, the European Commission indicated that the OECD definition of rural areas should be used to define the rural areas that would be covered by the Programme. The OECD defines rural areas as those with a population density of less than 150 persons per square kilometre. However, it was considered, in the Irish context, that a more appropriate course of action would be to remove the urban areas defined as hubs and gateways in the National Spatial Strategy from coverage under the Programme.

The use of this definition, rather than a population density calculation, ensures that Axes 3 and 4 RDP funding is available to a more significant number of rural areas, which would otherwise not receive funding under the Programme. This approach was adopted following detailed negotiations with the European Commission and is the best possible outcome in relation to Programme coverage. The positive impact on rural areas outweighs any potential loss in hubs and gateways and, in overall terms, the level of investment resulting from the RDP is a significant boost to the country as a whole.

In very exceptional circumstances, and with the prior written approval of the Department projects may be eligible in hub towns, where the service is being delivered to the rural population in their homes/area. Furthermore, such projects are only allowed where it is not feasible or technically possible to provide the service in the rural area. One of the aims of the RDP is to encourage the development of such facilities in the areas covered by the Programme. In the case of this project, no rationale or evidence was provided that supported the determination that it was not feasible or technically possible to situate the facility in an area covered by the RDP.

### **Mortgage to Rent Scheme**

437. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide details regarding the new mortgage to rent scheme; the number of families that are expected to benefit from this scheme over the next five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34474/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** On foot of the recommendations of the Keane Report on mortgage arrears, the Government launched a mortgage to rent scheme on a pilot basis in February 2012. This scheme was extended nationally in June 2012, targeting those low income families whose mortgage situation is unsustainable and where there is little or no prospect of a significant change in circumstances in the foreseeable future. The scheme ensures that the family remains in their home, while ownership is transferred to an approved housing body who in turn rent it to the original owners.

Householders seeking to avail of the mortgage to rent scheme must meet the following criteria:

- have had their mortgage deemed unsustainable under a Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process as provided for under the Central Bank’s Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears;
- agree to a voluntary repossession of their home;
- be eligible for social housing support; and
- not have significant positive equity in the property.

[Deputy Jan O’Sullivan.]

Limits on household income, property value and applicant assets also apply. Borrowers wishing to avail of this scheme may access further information on the Housing Agency website, [www.housing.ie](http://www.housing.ie).

More than sixty cases are currently being processed under this scheme, with an expected take-up of approximately one hundred families in 2012.

The scheme will run for a period of three years, after which it will be reviewed.

### Unfinished Housing Developments

438. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of unfinished estates currently in the Dublin City Council, South Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Fingal County Council areas respectively. [34478/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** The most recent figures on the numbers of unfinished housing developments in the Dublin region are in my Department’s National Housing Development Survey 2011, published in October 2011, which can be found at [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie). As part of the process of preparing this survey, local authorities provided details of developments in their areas which remain unfinished. The following breakdown outlines the number of incomplete developments in the Dublin area:

| Local Authority                       | No. Unfinished Developments |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Dublin City Council                   | 95                          |
| Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council | 60                          |
| Fingal County Council                 | 149                         |
| South Dublin County Council           | 50                          |

The National Housing Development Survey 2012 was commenced by my Department in June and will be completed over the summer months. I anticipate the publication of this survey in the autumn once the results have been collated.

439. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will instruct local authorities to compare the recently published list of ghost estates with the lists drawn up for exemption from the household charge earlier this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34487/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Local Government (Household Charge) Act 2011 provides the legislative basis for the household charge. Under the Act, an owner of a residential property on the liability date of 1 January 2012 is liable to pay the household charge, unless otherwise exempted or entitled to claim a waiver. The household charge is on a self-assessment basis and it is a matter for an owner of a residential property on the liability date to determine if he or she has a liability and, if so, to declare that liability and pay the household charge.

Section 4(4)(b) and section 4(6) of the Act provide that a waiver from the charge applies in 2012 and 2013 to properties in certain unfinished housing estates specified in a list prescribed by the Minister. As part of the process of preparing the National Housing Development Survey 2011, published by my Department in October 2011, local authorities provided details of all

unfinished housing developments in their areas. Unfinished housing developments were divided into four categories as follows:

- Category one, where the development is still being actively completed by the developer, or where no serious public safety issues exist;
- Category two, where a receiver has been appointed;
- Category three, where a receiver has not been appointed and the developer is still in place but effectively inactive; and
- Category four, where the development has been effectively abandoned and is posing serious problems for residents.

Other relevant factors for the purposes of the categorisation process include, *inter alia*:

- the state of completion of roads, footpaths, public lighting facilities, piped water and sewerage facilities and open spaces or similar amenities within the development;
- the extent to which the development complies with the terms of applicable planning permission;
- the extent to which it complies with the provisions of the Building Control Acts 1990 and 2007;
- the provisions of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 as they pertain to dangerous places and dangerous structures within the meaning of the Act;
- the extent to which facilities within the development have been taken in charge by the local authority concerned; and
- where there is an agreement regarding the maintenance of such facilities, the extent to which this agreement has been complied with.

In some cases a local authority may have found that conditions in respect of a certain phase of a development were relatively good and that, for example, no serious public safety issues could be identified. This phase of the development may have been categorised under category 1 or 2. Conversely, safety issues may have been identified in another phase of the same overall development, or development in that second phase may have been abandoned altogether, implying a category 3 or 4 identification for that phase.

This categorisation formed the basis for the list of those unfinished developments eligible for a waiver on the annual household charge.

Only households in developments in categories three and four are eligible for the waiver from payment of the household charge. The list of developments in which households are eligible for the waiver in 2012 is set out under the Local Government (Household Charge) Regulations 2012 and forms the complete list of such developments for this year. A revised list of estates will be prescribed for 2013 after which time the waiver for unfinished housing developments will end.

Throughout this period it is anticipated that the numbers of categories 3 and 4 developments will decrease as my Department continues to work with local authorities and other stakeholders to resolve outstanding issues, including through the Public Safety Initiative.

### Appointments to State Boards

440. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the date on he made the most recent appointments to the board of the Housing Finance Agency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34490/12]

441. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the amount that each board member of the Housing Finance Agency is paid along with the details of expenses and allowances which they can claim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34491/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 440 and 441 together.

The following table outlines the membership of the board of the Housing Finance Agency and relevant information.

In line with the recommendation of the Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Service, 5 of the 11 directors do not receive a fee, as they are currently employed as public servants.

Where a director performs duties while temporarily away from his/her normal place of work/home, the HFA pays subsistence expenses in accordance with my Department’s guidelines.

| Position | Name             | Date Appointed | Gross Fee Paid to June 2012 | Annual Fee | Expenses Paid |
|----------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|
|          |                  |                | €                           | €          | €             |
| Chairman | Michelle Norris  | 22/02/2012     | Nil                         | Nil        | 176.75        |
| Director | Colm Brophy      | 13/03/2012     | 2,312.70                    | 7,695.00   | —             |
| Director | Pádraic Cafferty | 21/03/2012     | 2,144.51                    | 7,695.00   | —             |
| Director | Jim Miley        | 30/04/2012     | 1,303.52                    | 7,695.00   | —             |
| Director | Michelle Murphy  | 30/04/2012     | 1,303.52                    | 7,695.00   | 555.23        |
| Director | Gerry Leahy      | 30/04/2012     | 1,303.52                    | 7,695.00   | —             |
| Director | Michael Murray   | 13/03/2012     | 2,312.70                    | 7,695.00   | —             |
| Director | John Hogan       | 22/02/2012     | Nil                         | Nil        | —             |
| Director | Jackie Maguire   | 30/03/2012     | Nil                         | Nil        | —             |
| Director | Philip Nugent    | 22/02/2012     | Nil                         | Nil        | —             |
| Director | Mary Lee Rhodes  | 21/03/2012     | Nil                         | Nil        | —             |
|          | Total            |                | 10,680.47                   | 46,170.00  | 731.98        |

442. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in view of the fact that Operating Rules for Axes 3 and 4 of the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007-2013 state: on the issue of Appointment and Rotation of Directors under Article 5.7 In addition, the Chair of the Board shall be rotated every three years, if he will clarify, if it is the case that the Chair of a Local Development Company will have to vacate the position and cannot seek re-election to the position as Chair for a further term of three years, or may the Chair seek re-election for a further term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34517/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** In line with the guidelines on the governance of integrated local development companies and urban based partnerships and the operating rules of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, the chairperson of the Local Development Company will have to vacate the position at the end of the term but may seek re-appointment to the Board as a director and may subsequently be re-elected for a further term.

Every chairperson appointed holds office until the end of the third Annual General Meeting following his or her appointment, whereupon he or she must retire from office as both chairperson and as a director and also cease to be a member of the company.

A chairperson who retires in accordance with this may, if willing to act and if re-nominated by any pillar or sector, be re-appointed as a director for a further term provided that no person is re-appointed as a director more than twice and provided that no person holds the office of director for more than two consecutive terms. The directors elect one of their number to be the chairperson of the company.

### Legislative Programme

443. **Deputy Arthur Spring** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when he plans to introduce the planned foreshore legislation which would provide for new offshore licensing and permitting regime in relation to renewable technologies specifically the market of ocean technologies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34527/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Work on the general scheme of a Bill to modernise the foreshore consent system and integrate it within the wider planning system is being progressed by my Department. The aim is to complete this work in the second half of the year and to arrange, subject to Government approval, for the drafting of the Bill as quickly as possible thereafter.

### Harbours and Piers

444. **Deputy John Deasy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding an application by Waterford County Council for the provision of a foreshore licence to carry out repairs to the pier (details supplied) in County Waterford; if he will ensure that every effort is made to progress the application as repairs are needed to ensure that the RNLI will continue to launch their lifeboat from the slip; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34562/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Processing of the application by Waterford County Council for a foreshore lease in respect of an extension to the slipway at Helvick Head for use by the RNLI is at an advanced stage. A determination on the application will be made in the near future.

### Pyrite Remediation Programme

445. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when the report of the pyrite panel will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34569/12]

479. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he expects to publish the pyrite panel report before the summer recess; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35079/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 445 and 479 together.

It is my intention to publish the report very shortly, following its consideration by Government.

### Drainage Schemes

446. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will report on the Greater Dublin drainage project; when a decision on Phase 2 of the consultation process will be concluded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34570/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Planning for the Greater Dublin Regional Drainage Project — North Dublin Treatment Plant and Orbital Sewer is being progressed by Fingal County Council.

Under the Alternative Sites Assessment and Route Selection Report (Phase 2) for the scheme, three sites had been identified by the Council as emerging preferred site options and an 8 week non-statutory public consultation period commenced on Monday, 14 May 2012, and ran until 6 July 2012. As part of this process, 4 Open Days were arranged by the Council where the public could meet with the Project Team and discuss the Report.

I understand that the Council and the Project Team are now assessing the submissions made and would hope to complete their deliberations as quickly as possible and preferably by end 2012.

When the preferred site is identified the Council will prepare detailed plans and complete an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposal. This EIS, together with a planning application under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure Act) 2006, will, in due course, be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. An Bord Pleanála will carry out its own statutory public consultation on the project.

### Security of the Elderly

447. **Deputy Regina Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government If he will provide statistical details in tabular form for the years 2007 to 2011, on the implementation of the senior alert alarm scheme for older persons in County Meath; the voluntary and community organisations that have been funded for this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34597/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** My Department manages the Seniors Alert Scheme which encourages and assists the community's support for older people by means of a community-based grant scheme to improve the security of people over 65 years of age and of limited financial means. The Scheme is administered by local community and voluntary groups with the support of my Department. Details of the funding provided to community and voluntary groups under the Seniors Alert Scheme is provided on my Department's website at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Community/SeniorsAlert/>.

The Seniors Alert Scheme replaced the Community Support for Older People Scheme in May 2010. The table below gives the figures requested in the question.

| Name of Group                           | 2007     | 2008     | 2009     | 2010     | 2011     |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ashbourne District Senior Citizen Assoc | 2,150.00 | 3,950.00 | 4,710.00 | 1,950.50 | 2,183.75 |
| Balrath Community Alert                 |          |          | 2,380.00 |          |          |

| Name of Group                                  | 2007      | 2008      | 2009      | 2010     | 2011      |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Boardsmill Community Alert                     | 450.00    |           |           |          |           |
| Bohermeen Active Retirement Association        | 680.00    | 1,953.00  |           |          | 771.60    |
| BREDA Ltd                                      | 30,600.00 | 28,283.00 |           |          | 10,594.70 |
| Broomfield and District Residents Assoc        |           |           |           |          |           |
| Cairde   | 6,400.00  |           | 4,575.25  | 4,121.59 |           |
| Carnaross Active Retirement                    |           | 1,400.00  | 383.75    | 720.00   |           |
| Castletown Ladies Committee                    | 1,540.00  |           |           |          |           |
| Clonard Community Alert                        |           | 3,550.00  |           |          |           |
| Drumconrath Meathill Active Retirement         |           |           |           | 273.50   |           |
| Dunboyne South West Neighbourhood Watch        |           |           |           |          | 4,730.00  |
| Duleek Community Centre                        |           | 3,820.00  |           |          |           |
| Duleek ICA                                     |           | 4,012.80  |           |          |           |
| Dunshaughlin and District Senior Citizens Club |           |           |           |          | 564.35    |
| East Meath Active Retirement Assoc             | 1,575.50  |           | 951.25    | 2,980.00 | 820.50    |
| Kells Active Retirement Association            |           |           |           | 2,370.00 | 1,028.80  |
| Kentstown Community Alert                      |           |           | 3,700.00  | 1,308.00 |           |
| Kildalkey Community Alert                      |           |           | 2,800.00  | 2,795.00 |           |
| Killyon Community Development Assoc            | 5,130.88  | 11,926.93 |           |          |           |
| Kilmessan Social Club                          |           |           |           |          |           |
| Loreto Day Care Centre                         |           |           |           | 4,765.00 |           |
| Moynalty Community Alert                       | 885.30    | 2,050.60  |           |          |           |
| Moynalvey Community Alert                      |           |           |           | 1,220.00 |           |
| Mullagh/Cross Community Alert Group            | 375.10    | 3,791.23  |           |          |           |
| Navan Active Retirement Assoc                  | 28,161.17 | 2,029.20  | 2,324.20  | 885.00   | 4,734.10  |
| Ninch I C A                                    |           |           |           |          | 4,648.00  |
| Nobber Friendship Club                         |           |           |           | 7,010.50 | 477.20    |
| Nobber Parish Community Alert                  |           |           |           |          |           |
| Oldcastle Active Retirement                    | 2,555.00  | 1,655.00  |           | 728.80   | 257.20    |
| Oristown Gibbstown Community Alert             | 996.00    |           |           |          |           |
| People's Resource Centre                       |           |           |           |          | 5,007.50  |
| Rathkenny Community Alert                      |           | 3,556.00  |           | 1,641.00 |           |
| Skryne Community Alert                         |           |           |           | 787.00   | 3,492.80  |
| Slane Active Retirement Association            |           | 1,575.50  |           | 1,001.25 |           |
| Stamullen Community Alert                      |           |           |           |          | 564.40    |
| SVDP Athboy                                    | 3,050.92  |           | 3,505.00  |          |           |
| SVDP Drumconrath                               |           |           |           |          | 1,872.15  |
| SVDP Dunboyne                                  |           |           |           | 6,999.50 | 5,395.00  |
| SVDP Kells                                     | 4,420.00  |           | 13,329.60 |          |           |
| SVDP Kilskyre Ballinlough                      |           |           |           | 1,810.00 |           |
| SVDP Lobinstown                                |           | 690.00    | 395.00    | 676.00   |           |
| SVDP Navan                                     | 3,730.53  | 9,097.00  | 4,804.40  | 6,332.90 | 5,632.50  |
| SVDP Oldcastle                                 | 900.00    | 725.20    |           |          |           |
| SVDP Rathoath                                  | 690.20    |           | 2,528.90  |          | 1,096.90  |

[Deputy Phil Hogan.]

| Name of Group                           | 2007       | 2008       | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| SVDP Dunshaughlin St Brigids Conference |            | 3,000.00   | 2,110.00  |           |           |
| SVDP Batterstown St Oliver's Conference |            | 10,803.60  |           |           |           |
| SVDP Trim                               |            | 1,000.00   | 1,300.00  | 2,020.00  | 1,877.50  |
| Third Age Foundation                    | 10,555.80  | 22,462.35  |           | 6,300.00  | 7,301.60  |
| Trim Family Resource Centre             |            |            |           |           | 10,426.65 |
| Wilkinstown Active Retirement Group     | 2,270.00   |            | 2,980.00  | 1,637.50  | 2,081.00  |
| Totals                                  | 107,116.40 | 121,331.41 | 52,777.35 | 60,333.04 | 75,558.20 |

### Housing Adaptation Grants

448. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the level of take up by local authority for the home adaption grant for older people and people with disabilities for 2012; if the take up is limited because of available funds from his Department or the ability of the local authorities to provide matching funds; if it is intended to continue the scheme in 2013; if an assessment has been done with the local authorities in relation to their ability to provide matching funds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34606/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** Exchequer allocations for 2012 in respect of the Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability, totalling some €54.2 million, were notified to local authorities on 28 February. To date some €22.3 million of this has been drawn down by local authorities, facilitating the payment of over 4,300 grants. In assessing the demand for grants each year local authorities are requested to set out the amount of matching funding being provided to meet the authority's 20% share of the grant payments. Collectively local authorities indicated that some €18.65 million in matching funds is available in 2012. This is more than adequate to meet the own resources contribution and is significantly greater than the €15.4 million contribution by local authorities to the grant schemes in 2011.

I will make every effort to ensure that funding for the suite of grants continues to receive priority in 2013, notwithstanding the constraints on the public capital programme. My Department will be contacting local authorities later this year to ascertain the position with regard to funding requirements for 2013 and the amount of available matching funding to support the grant schemes.

### Local Authority Charges

449. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the reason a person (details supplied) in County Mayo who has deregistered their second home with the non principal private residence section has not received confirmation on this; when the NPRN will confirm this home is unregistered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34610/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009, as amended, broadened the revenue base of local authorities through the introduction of the charge on non-principal private residences (NPPR). The charge is set at €200 and is being levied and collected by local authorities. The Act places the onus on an owner of a residential property which is situated in the State to assess his or her liability for the charge in the first instance.

The Act defines “residential property” as a “... building that is situated in the State and that is occupied, or suitable for occupation, as a separate dwelling . . . ” There are a number of indicators as to what makes a property suitable for occupation for the purposes of determining liability for the NPPR charge. These include the structure of the property, whether or not it has a roof, whether or not it is so affected by dampness as to render it unsuitable for habitation, and whether or not it has sanitary facilities, including a water closet and water supply. A property that is not suitable for occupation should not be regarded as a residential property within the meaning of the Act.

There is no provision in the legislation to opt out or “de-register”. The Act places the onus on an owner of a residential property to assess his or her liability to the charge on the liability date and, if liable, to declare that liability and to pay the charge in respect of that property by the due date. If a property does not meet the criteria for the charge, there is no liability.

The Act places collection of the charge under the care and management of the relevant local authority.

### **Noise Pollution**

450. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the maximum noise levels that are permitted in apartments; the authority to whom a complaint should be made regarding excessive noise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34628/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Currently, a person experiencing noise nuisance may contact their local authority, which may initiate proceedings on grounds of noise nuisance under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992. This Act also provides for any person, or group of persons, to seek an order in the District Court to have noise giving reasonable cause for annoyance abated. The procedures involved have been simplified to allow action to be taken without legal representation.

A public information leaflet *A Guide to the Noise Regulations*, outlining the legal avenues available to persons experiencing noise nuisance, is available on my Department’s website [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie).

### **Postal Services**

451. **Deputy Willie O’Dea** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he has had a request for a meeting with the Postmasters Union; if so, if he intends to meet them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34653/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I received a request for a meeting with the Irish Postmasters’ Union and my private office acknowledged the request on 26 March 2012. My Department and my Special Adviser met with representatives of the Irish Postmasters Union on 3 July 2012.

### **Building Regulations**

452. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will respond to a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34658/12]

453. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will respond to a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34661/12]

454. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will respond to a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34665/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 452 to 454, inclusive, together.

Legal proceedings in relation to various aspects of the situation at Priory Hall remain before the courts and it would be inappropriate to anticipate the outcome of those proceedings at this stage.

The recent adjournment of the appeal by Dublin City Council against an order of the High Court in relation to the accommodation and ancillary charges of vacated residents to allow for a conciliation process chaired by Mr. Justice Finnegan provides an appropriate context for the parties concerned to work together towards identifying a way forward in relation to this complex problem. The outcome of this process is awaited and it is important that all concerned afford Mr. Justice Finnegan the opportunity to complete the task which he has agreed to undertake.

Dublin City Council has made significant efforts to provide for the needs of residents to date and will continue to work proactively on their behalf towards achieving the much needed resolution of the issues at Priory Hall. Annual Fire Prevention Statistics are published on my Department's website *www.environ.ie*. The statistical returns for 2009, the most recent year for which returns are currently available, show that 12 prosecutions took place in that year alone. It is the case that the legal proceedings at Priory Hall arose from enforcement action undertaken under the Fire Service Acts of 1981 and 2003. This is in complete contrast to the situations at Belmayne and The Laurels where the respective parties concerned have both faced up to their responsibilities and are cooperating fully with the relevant local authorities in relation to planning and executing the necessary remediation works, and bearing the full costs of such works together with the costs of alternative temporary relocation for affected residents.

Local authorities have extensive powers of inspection and enforcement under the Building Control Acts, the Fire Services Acts and the Planning and Development Acts and have already used such powers on a number of occasions in recent times where concerns in relation to a number of developments have arisen. While neither I, nor my Department, have any direct role in relation to such inspection and enforcement activity, I urge local authorities to continue to use all of the powers currently available to them to address issues of building standards compliance, including in relation to fire safety, on behalf of affected residents in buildings where concerns arise.

### **Building Regulations**

455. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will comment on the fire safety issues at an apartment block in Dundrum, Dublin 14, that is mentioned in the media and to advise as to the progress been made regarding the Building Control (Regulations) 2012; if new legislation will be introduced in relation to fire safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34667/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** On 3 July 2012 Dublin Fire Brigade, as the relevant Fire Authority, was notified that construction defects giving rise to fire safety concerns had come to attention in relation to a development at Dundrum View, also known as the Laurels, in Dublin 16. The development consists of three apartment blocks with a total of 80 apartments, 68 of which are let to private tenants.

It is understood that the concerns came to light while repairs were being carried out to the development, which led to the receiver in charge of the development becoming aware that the development as constructed was not in compliance with the relevant Fire Safety Certificate.

It is understood that the receiver, acting responsibly in consultation with fire consultants, has undertaken to revert to the Fire Authority with proposals to arrive at a workable and manageable solution for necessary remediation works. The receiver has also confirmed that the residents will be moved to alternative accommodation pending and during remediation works. While this is obviously a stressful and distressing situation for the residents it is understood that they will not be required to meet rent or utility charges while in temporary accommodation, which is expected to be for a period of at least three months.

The statutory responsibility for compliance with the Building Regulations rests with designers, builders and building owners. In this context the party with legal responsibility for the development at Dundrum View has acted responsibly by declaring the problem to the Fire Authority on the understanding that it will be remediated to the satisfaction of the Fire Authority with the costs being fully met by the receiver.

The Chief Fire Officer has engaged, and will continue to engage, in detailed discussions with each of the other parties involved in the process, namely Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council as Building Control Authority, the receiver and their consultants, with the objective of ensuring that all necessary remedial action can be taken in the shortest possible timeframe. I have also asked my Department to continue to liaise with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in relation to the evolving situation at Dundrum View.

In relation to the proposed Building Control (Amendment) Regulations which will provide for mandatory certification of compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations and for the submission of drawings demonstrating how the building concerned has been designed and built to comply with all parts of the Building Regulations, including Part B (Fire Safety), the position is that the proposed regulations were released for public consultation earlier this year. The public consultation period has now concluded and my Department is currently reviewing the submissions received with a view to having a definitive set of Building Control (Amendment) Regulations agreed and signed into law in the coming months.

Mandatory certification and the submission of drawings are key reforms which I believe will have the capacity to improve the quality of buildings and will lead to a further strengthening of the regulatory regime.

#### **Local Authority Staff**

456. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide in tabular form the number of staff who retired from local authorities in each year since 2009; the total gratuity payments made to retiring staff in each of these years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34679/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The information requested in relation to the number of staff and total gratuity payments made to local authority staff who retired since 2009 is provided in the table below:

| Year | Number retired (local authorities) | €          |
|------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 2009 | 1,722                              | 88,653,808 |
| 2010 | 951                                | 46,381,325 |
| 2011 | 1,037                              | 52,246,291 |

### Charities and Voluntary Organisations

457. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide details of funding opportunities provided by his Department and statutory agencies under the aegis of his Department to community and voluntary sector organisations working with older persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34682/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** My Department is responsible for a range of programmes and initiatives to support communities, including older people. In particular it manages the Seniors Alert Scheme which assists the community's support for older people by means of a community-based grant scheme to improve the security of people over 65 years of age. The Scheme is administered by local community and voluntary groups with the support of my Department.

My Department also implements a Scheme to Support National Organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector. This Scheme provides multi-annual funding to national organisations towards core costs associated with the provision of services and it includes a number of organisations dealing with the elderly, such as Active Retired Network Ireland and Age Action Ireland. The Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government/agencies and people in disadvantaged communities. Older people are amongst the groups targeted for support under the LCDP.

Under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative, approved housing bodies, including those working with older people, can submit proposals to my Department for accommodation costs for housing units where the proposed tenants have been deemed by the local authority as being in need of housing support. To date, a number of voluntary bodies have availed of this initiative and have provided accommodation for older persons.

Under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS), funding of up to 100% of the approved cost is provided to approved housing bodies for the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of persons with specific categories of housing need, including older people. The administration of the scheme is the responsibility of the relevant housing authority.

### Voluntary Housing Sector

458. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he has given approval to Monaghan County Council and a housing association (details supplied) to seek planning permission for the development of a group home for women with physical and sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan; the projected timeframe for the completion of this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34698/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** My Department's involvement with voluntary and co-operative housing 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. Monaghan County Council submitted a funding proposal under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) to my Department in December 2009 for the provision of a group home for people with physical and sensory disabilities at Drummond Otra, Carrickmacross. Provisional approval for the project issued in July 2010 subject to certain cost and design issues being

addressed. The Council recently submitted revised proposals for the scheme to my Department. These are being examined at present and a decision will be made as soon as possible.

### **Water and Sewerage Schemes**

459. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding a sewer extension (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34703/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2013, provides for the development of a comprehensive range of new water services infrastructure in County Kerry. The Programme includes contracts under construction and to commence to the value of over €92 million in Kerry during the period of the Programme. However, the Castleisland Sewerage Scheme was not amongst the priority contracts and schemes selected for inclusion in the current Programme.

The Programme aims to prioritise projects that target environmental compliance issues and support economic and employment growth. A key input to the development of the Programme was the assessment of needs prepared by local authorities, including Kerry County Council, in response to my Department's request to the authorities in 2009 to review and prioritise their proposals for new capital works in their areas. These were subsequently appraised in the Department in the context of the funds available and key criteria that complemented those used by the authorities. Inevitably, through this process, certain projects that had been proposed had to give way to others that were more strategically important at that time.

Progress under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2013 was reviewed in mid-2011 and through this process consideration was given to any newly emerging priority contracts and schemes submitted by local authorities for addition to the Programme. No proposal for the Castleisland Sewerage Scheme was received from Kerry County Council in response to the review process.

### **Departmental Correspondence**

460. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding correspondence sent to his office (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34704/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** As noted in the correspondence referred to in the question, consideration of the issue raised was contingent on finalisation of the Pyrite Panel's report which I have now received. I intend to publish the pyrite report very shortly, following its consideration by Government, and I will then respond further to the correspondence.

### **Local Authority Housing**

461. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when local authorities plan to implement proposals of the Keane report published last year on mortgage to rent from county councils; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34710/12]

491. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will permit local authorities to operate schemes such as interest only, mortgage to rent and others to support local authority mortgage holders who are finding themselves

[Deputy Seamus Healy.]

in serious difficulties trying to repay mortgages to local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35221/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 461 and 491 together.

Local authorities have long been the lenders of last resort servicing the housing loans needs of less affluent members of society. In the present economic circumstances it is to be anticipated that the ability of some borrowers to service housing loans may become restricted and that a number of loans may fall into arrears. Section 34 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 provides local authorities with powers to deal flexibly with distressed borrowers, and they have demonstrated sensitivity over the years in dealing with such cases. In March 2010 my Department issued guidelines to local authorities, based upon the Central Bank’s first Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears, which continued the tradition of handling arrears in a manner that is sympathetic to the needs of the particular household, while also protecting the position of the local authority concerned.

To reflect the content of the Central Bank’s revised Code of Conduct — which replaced the previous code from 1 January 2011 and was informed by the deliberations of the Expert Group on Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt — my Department recently issued updated guidance to local authorities in consultation with the County and City Managers Association. This will further enable local authorities to provide a range of flexible repayment options for households in difficulty.

In particular, the introduction of a Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP), which closely mirrors the suite of options available in the commercial sector, will present borrowers in difficulty with a range of alternative payment agreements, which can be accessed to ease the particular circumstances of each case. This process will feature a standard set of options including, in cases of certain unsustainable mortgages, the facility of mortgage-to-rent. Local authorities have been restructuring loans for some time using their own internal practices. The introduction of these revised guidelines will standardise the approach across the whole sector, introduce a systematic structure to this area and provide borrowers with a transparent and accessible model for arrears resolution.

I expect that the adoption of these revised guidelines will serve simultaneously to help resolve mortgage difficulties for both local authorities and their borrowers.

### **Electoral Divisions**

462. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in the legislation to be brought forward to implement the recent Constituency Commission Report, if any changes are to be made to the Constituency Commission Report, either in a substantive way, or at a technical level, for example, proposed names for new constituencies. [34727/12]

470. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in the legislation to be brought forward to implement the recent Constituency Commission Report, if he will amend the Constituency Commission Report 2012 to amend the proposed name of the Galway West constituency to Galway West South Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34886/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 462 and 470 together.

An independent Constituency Commission was established on 27 July 2011 and it presented the Constituency Commission Report 2012 to the Chairman of the Dáil on 21 June 2012. In accordance with section 9(3) of the Electoral Act 1997 the Constituency Commission stands dissolved on the presentation of its report. I have no responsibility for the content of the report.

Following the publication of the Constituency Commission report the next step in accordance with accepted practice is for the preparation of a Bill in my Department to give statutory effect to the Commission's recommendations. The final determination of the constituencies for Dáil Éireann is a matter for the Oireachtas to prescribe in legislation. I will bring the necessary legislation forward in the coming months.

### **Foreshore Licences**

463. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if a decision has been made on an application for a foreshore licence in respect of a club (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34733/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I refer to the reply to Question No. 489 of 22 May 2012 which sets out the position in this matter.

### **Air Pollution**

464. **Deputy Nicky McFadden** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the environment, health and other rationales for the ban on smoky coal; if businesses and residents in the towns affected by the extension of the ban will be notified of the details; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34742/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous fuel (or 'smoky coal ban' as it is commonly known) was first introduced in Dublin in 1990 in response to severe episodes of winter smog that resulted from the widespread use of smoky coal for residential heating. The ban proved effective in reducing particulate matter and sulphur dioxide levels and was subsequently extended to other urban areas. The ban now applies in twenty towns and cities around the country.

Inhalation of particles can increase the risk or severity of cardiovascular disease and respiratory illness. Air quality monitoring carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shows that the ban has reduced pollutant emissions very significantly in areas where it has been applied. Reductions of black smoke emissions range from a minimum of 45% in the smaller cities and towns to a high of 70% in Dublin. This has resulted in greatly improved ambient air quality in these areas with consequent health benefits. Research has indicated that the ban in Dublin in 1990 resulted in up to 350 fewer deaths from winter mortality, with an estimated value of these benefits in monetary terms put at over €20 million. The EPA has recommended the extension of the ban to all urban areas in order to deliver further improvements to air quality.

In April 2012, my Department undertook a public consultation to inform and assist a review of the smoky coal ban regulations to ensure that they remain fit for purpose in safeguarding air quality by limiting harmful emissions of air pollutants arising from the use of residential fuels. A total of 49 submissions were received, including submissions from the industry representative Solid Fuel Trade Group (SFTG) as well as individual fuel suppliers.

[Deputy Phil Hogan.]

On 9 July, following the review of submissions received under the public consultation process, I announced the extension of the ban to the use of smoky coal within ban areas to complement the existing ban on the marketing, sale and distribution and amendments to the boundaries of existing ban areas to take account of recent population growth and development. In addition, the ban will be extended to six new towns with populations greater than 15,000 people, as per Census 2011, with effect from May 2013: these towns are Greystones, Letterkenny, Mullingar, Navan, Newbridge and Portlaoise. Wicklow Town will also be included among the new towns subject to the ban, following requests from Wicklow County Council and local representatives. The lead-in period for these new towns will allow local authorities and fuel retailers time to familiarise themselves with the new regulatory requirements in preparation for the switch-over to smokeless fuels.

My Department is currently consulting with relevant local authorities to finalise the proposed boundaries for the ban areas in these new towns. The boundaries will be based on Census 2011 data and will also include appropriate areas in the vicinity of these towns where the premises of solid fuel retailers supplying the local residential market are located. This will ensure that the provisions of the ban are applied evenly to all local retailers and will support the effective implementation of the ban. A set of maps showing the new ban areas is being prepared and will shortly be made available to the public to view and download on my Department's website, [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie).

*Question No. 465 answered with Question No. 431.*

### **Library Projects**

466. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide in tabular form the funding allocated to the Library Service in Donegal County Council for 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34777/12]

467. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he is satisfied that the funding allocated to the Library Service in Donegal County Council is adequate to meet the staffing requirements of the Library Service given the reduction in staff from 51 in 2009 to 38 at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34778/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 466 and 467 together.

Day to day operations, including staffing levels, in the public library service are a matter for each local authority in its capacity as a library authority under Section 78 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Under section 159 of the Local Government Act 2001, each City and County 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. Under the terms of the ongoing moratorium each local authority must seek sanction from my Department to fill any vacancies. My Department works closely with local authorities to ensure that critical posts are filled while overall numbers reductions are achieved in line with budgetary and employment control constraints.

My Department provides capital funding towards approved refurbishment and renovation, and new library projects carried out by local authorities, subject to availability of resources.

Under the Library Capital Programme 2010-2011, €600,000 was provided by my Department towards the new Leabharlann Phobail Ghaoth Dobhair. Under the Library Capital Programme 2012, €5 million is fully committed towards previously approved library projects and there are no additional funds available to me.

The library service provides very valuable social, educational and cultural services to communities around the country and my Department will continue to work with local authorities to ensure that every effort is made to continue the delivery of appropriate services within budgetary constraints.

### **Homelessness Strategy**

468. **Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to address youth homelessness in view of the fact that many young persons once they turn 18 years find their income is too low for them to move into private accommodation and away from emergency accommodation, to live in self sustainable conditions which support their determination to gain income and job security; his further plans to help young persons move away from homelessness and emergency accommodation towards gaining housing security and job security; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34818/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** Responsibility for welfare payments is a matter for my colleague the Minister for Social Protection.

My Department's role in relation to homelessness involves the provision of a national framework of policy, legislation and funding to underpin the role of housing authorities in addressing homelessness at local or regional level. Statutory responsibility in relation to the provision of accommodation and related services for homeless persons rests with the housing authorities and the implementation of the homeless strategy at local and regional level is being carried out through the framework of statutory homelessness action plans adopted by housing authorities.

The Programme for Government is committed to reviewing and updating the national adult Homeless Strategy including a specific focus on youth homelessness, and to implementing a housing led approach to homelessness. Work is now almost complete on updating the strategy and the review will take account of demands on existing housing, assess how best to continue providing services and seek to ensure more effective prevention strategies.

There is no single solution to increasing the level of social housing supply for the homeless, and maximising delivery will require flexible and diverse approaches. The initial emphasis will necessarily be on the Dublin region, where homeless numbers are most acute, by moving away from the current over reliance on emergency accommodation provision to a more permanent accommodation solution. This is to be achieved through a number of measures including:

- directly linking the provision of funding with specific targets and outcomes;
- making better use of the existing available accommodation units in the local authorities and in the voluntary sector;
- additional social housing provision through acquisitions and remedial works/upgrading of vacant local authority housing stock and a leasing programme;
- ongoing engagement with NAMA to secure properties;
- targeted use of the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS);

[Deputy Jan O’Sullivan.]

- an enhanced role for the private rental sector;
- better co-ordination with the voluntary and cooperative housing sector; and
- the establishment of Homeless Action Teams across all regions.

My Department’s current funding provision for the running costs of homeless accommodation and related services for 2012 is €50 million, which, together with 10% provided from housing authorities’ own resources, brings the total available funding to €55.55 million in 2012. This level of funding means that there will be no reduction in the provision of essential frontline support services.

Responsibility for the new Youth Homeless Strategy rests primarily with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in view of the HSE for the care and welfare of children and young people (up to age 18) who can no longer remain at home. I intend to work closely with Minister Fitzgerald in the interests of joined up service provision and proper care and discharge procedures to ensure that 18 year olds moving on from child-care services have appropriate follow-up care and accommodation arrangements in place to prevent homelessness.

#### **Rural Development Programme**

469. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the position regarding funding in respect of an organisation (details supplied) in County Meath. [34822/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Meitheal Forbartha na Gaeltachta (MFG), the group contracted by my Department to deliver Axes 3 and 4 (LEADER) of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) in Irish Language Areas, went into liquidation on 7 September 2011. Progress, in the context of the legal “winding up” process, is currently ongoing. Local Action Groups in contiguous geographical areas have been engaged to implement an interim system to facilitate grant payment to projects that were at an advanced stage of development. Many of these project files have now been sent to the relevant Local Action Groups who are contacting the promoters directly to facilitate payment going forward. I can confirm that the file for the project referred to in the question is with my Department, as, following a project review, a letter was issued to the promoter on 12 August 2011 indicating that the project is ineligible under the rules of the Rural Development Programme 2007-13. The promoter was given one month in which to lodge an appeal; my Department has no record of having received such an appeal.

*Question No. 470 answered with Question No. 462.*

#### **Non-Principal Private Residence Charge**

471. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of persons that are paying the non principal private residence charge who own one house only. [34910/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009, as amended, broadened the revenue base of local authorities through the introduction of the charge on non-principal private residences (NPPR). The charge is set at €200 and is being levied and collected by local authorities. The Act places

the onus on an owner of a residential property which is situated in the State to assess his or her liability for the charge in the first instance.

The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009, as amended, exempts certain types of property and owners from the charge. The most important exemption under the Act is for a person's sole or main residence. However, any one individual can have only one such residence. Where a property is not occupied by the owner, it falls liable for the levy, even if it is the only property that person owns.

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) administers the NPPR charge system on a shared service/agency basis for all county and city councils. The LGMA does not have the details of ownership sought in the question.

### **Waste Management**

472. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government further to Parliamentary Question No. 318 of 10 July 2012, the Minister that is responsible for the legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34914/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has responsibility for the development of road safety policy and legislation. The Road Safety Authority also operates under the aegis of his Department.

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). The NSAI is responsible for a number of schemes which enhance the safety and environmental aspects of vehicles on the road in Ireland.

### **Unfinished Housing Developments**

473. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will list the 211 ghost estates where restoration work has been completed; if he will list the 523 estates where restoration plans are in place or where work has already commenced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35000/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** I am chairing the National Co-ordination Committee on Unfinished Housing Developments (NCC) to oversee implementation of the Report of the Advisory Group on Unfinished Housing Developments, together with the Government's response to the recommendations. The NCC includes representatives from the Irish Banking Federation, local authorities, the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency, NAMA and the construction sector 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.

As part of the work of the NCC, my Department initiated a pilot project for the resolution of sites using the Site Resolution Plan (SRP) process, and issued a working template in order to establish best practice in this area. I intend that the process, which is pivotal to the resolution of problem sites, will be used more extensively in the coming year. Ultimately, the initiation of the SRP process in respect of a particular development is a matter for the local authority concerned. However, progress by local authorities in ensuring that developers complete and/or resolve unfinished housing developments is continuing, by means of quarterly status reports to the NCC.

SRPs are a key tool in resolving issues associated with unfinished housing developments. Such plans enable developers to work with local authorities, financial institutions, NAMA and

[Deputy Jan O’Sullivan.]

residents in determining how best to pursue resolution of problematic sites. The process also entails working with stakeholders in identifying the best long-term solution for developments in terms of their configuration, use of vacant buildings and ownership. Such solutions should also take account of the best interests of residents. The first Annual Progress Report of the NCC, published by my Department on 5 July, confirmed that, through the use of the SRP process, 211 estates have now been completed and issues are now resolved. On a further 523 estates, plans are now in place and in many of these cases work has commenced and significant progress will be achieved over the coming months. I anticipate that this progress will be reflected in the 2012 National Housing Development Survey now underway. Details of individual Site Resolution Plans are kept by the individual local authorities concerned, and my Department does not collate information in this regard.

In addition, under the Public Safety Initiative, my Department has made allocations totalling some €3.21 million to 21 local authorities from the funding made available to address immediate public safety issues in 2011. The types of works that have been approved to date include the fencing off of unsecured and hazardous areas, capping of pipes, installation of street lighting and other works to secure sites.

A provision of €2m has been made for 2012 and my Department will be making further allocations as applications are received from local authorities and assessed. To date, a total of €1.726 million has been drawn down by local authorities.

### **Rural Development Programme**

474. **Deputy John Perry** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the progress on the status of an application (details supplied) in County Leitrim as the project has been approved for funding at county level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35008/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The project referred to in the question, the Ballroom of Romance in Glenfarne, Co. Leitrim was submitted for approval to my Department for funding in excess of €150,000, the grant amount requested was €485,349.37. The project was assessed using the relevant system and approval was given for a grant amount of €200,000.

EU State Aid rules dictate that any project which involves economic activity can only be funded to a maximum of €200,000, known as the de minimis limit. This project was considered under the Basic Services measure of the Rural Development Programme 2007-13 (RDP) which has a State Aid exemption for projects that do not involve economic activity and allows the RDP to fund such projects to a maximum grant of €500,000. The Ballroom of Romance project involves a significant level of economic activity and as such does not conform to the State Aid exemption for this measure. In this context it was not possible to approve the €485,349.37 funding requested.

The Local Development Company in this instance, Leitrim Local Development, has notified the Department of its intention to appeal this decision. When it is received the appeal will be dealt with in due course.

### **Housing Statistics**

475. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the total number of vacant housing units in the Dublin City Council area and if he will give a breakdown by ward. [35010/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** My Department collates and publishes a wide range of housing statistics that inform the preparation and evaluation of housing policy and those data are available on my Department’s website *www.environ.ie*. Data on vacancy levels are not among that range as they are collected by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) as part of its Census work. The 2011 Census is published on the CSO website *www.cso.ie* and it enumerates the number of vacant properties, broken down by county and city.

### Household Charge

476. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will clarify an issue (details supplied) in regard to the household charge. [35016/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Local Government (Household Charge) Act 2011 and the Local Government (Household Charge) Regulations 2012 provide the legislative basis for the household charge.

Under the legislation, an owner of a residential property in the State on the liability date of 1 January is liable to pay the household charge by 31 March, unless otherwise exempted or entitled to claim a waiver. The Act places the onus on an owner of a residential property which is situated in the State to assess his or her own liability.

A person who is ordinarily resident abroad and owns a property in the State would be liable for the charge in the same manner as a person resident in the State.

### Local Authority Housing

477. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he is aware of the difficulties posed to separated parents by the housing policies of some local authorities that assess the non-custodian parent as a single applicant for the purpose of housing; if there is a reason for the disparity amongst the local authorities in relation to this policy; if he is aware that policies that assess a parent as a single parent for the purpose of housing, are having a negative impact on that parents ability to secure access to their child or children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35046/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** Decisions on the eligibility of specific households for social housing support and the allocation of that support are a matter solely for the housing authority concerned.

It is a matter for individual housing authorities to decide on the type and size of dwellings to be allocated to applicants on their waiting lists. This policy is decided in their Allocation Schemes, the making of which is a reserved function of the housing authority. I understand, however, that some authorities make provision for an extra bedroom space when making an allocation to single or separated parents with children for whom they have joint custody.

### Ministerial Allowances

478. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011

[Deputy Sean Fleming.]

to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35062/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Other than normal travel and subsistence expenses, no allowances along the lines suggested have been paid to me, or to Ministers of State at my Department, since 9 March 2011.

*Question No. 479 answered with Question No. 445.*

### **Public Private Partnerships**

480. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will confirm that it is Government policy, in accordance with the guidance documentation provided with sample public private partnership contracts, that contracts concluded to implement public private partnerships should be published and made publicly available, with the exception of those elements of such contracts containing commercially sensitive financial information; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35084/12]

481. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in respect of public private partnerships in which the public partner is a local authority, if and in what circumstances the period of a planning permission may be extended, and if so what are the time limits on such extensions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35085/12]

482. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in respect of public private partnerships in which the public partner is a local authority, if there is an independent body whose function it is to oversee the PPP in order to uphold and protect the public interest; and if that body is a Government Department, the section or branch of that Department that are responsible for upholding the public interest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35086/12]

483. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in respect of public private partnerships in which the public partner is a local authority and where the PPP project has been established to have the potential for deleterious effects on the environment, the agency responsible for ensuring that conditions of the planning permission or planning approval for the project which are aimed at protecting the environment are implemented by the public and private partners; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35087/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 480 to 483, inclusive, together.

Policy and guidance in relation to Public Private Partnerships generally are matters for the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Local authorities are independent statutory bodies, with democratically elected councils and their own management system. Section 63(3) of the Local Government Act 2001 provides that, subject to law, a local authority is independent in the performance of its functions. The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government's role in relation to local authorities is primarily to provide the policy, financial and legislative framework within which local authorities perform their functions. Local authorities may enter into and implement Public Private Partnerships pursuant to the State Authorities (Public Private Partnership Arrangements) Act

2002. As with other public authorities, local authority actions are subject to review by way of audit, by the Ombudsman in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements and by the courts.

Where development is proposed to be carried out on behalf of or in partnership with a local authority in its own functional area pursuant to a contract with the authority, for example by way of Public Private Partnership, section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 apply, under which the development must be approved by the elected members, following a public consultation process. Where, however, the development would require environmental impact assessment or appropriate assessment, it must be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval under section 175 or section 177AE, respectively, of the 2000 Act. Neither the approval given by the elected members under Part 8 of the Regulations nor the approval given by the Board under section 175 or section 177AE normally contains a time limit, so the question of the extension of the duration of the approval would not arise.

Part VIII of the 2000 Act provides that the enforcement of planning control is a matter for individual local planning authorities. Under section 30 of the 2000 Act, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government is specifically precluded from exercising any power or control in relation to any particular case, including an enforcement matter, with which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is or may be concerned.

*Question No. 484 answered with Question No. 432.*

### **Planning Issues**

485. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will clarify a matter regarding planning in County Clare (details supplied). [35170/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** On 6 July 2012, I issued a notice of intent to issue a Direction, together with a draft Direction, to Clare County Council relating to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as adopted by the elected members on 11 June 2012. I formed the provisional opinion to issue such notice on the basis that the Planning Authority had ignored or not taken account of a submission made on my behalf in April 2012 in respect of the proposed material alterations to the draft Local Area Plan and that the Plan is not in compliance with the requirements of section 19, 20 and 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) has been fully transposed into Irish law by means of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, as amended, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Clare County Council as the competent authority, as appropriate, for the purposes of Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, published in September 2011 a Natura Impact Report (or Habitats Directive Assessment) for the purposes of Article 6 of the Directive on the implications of the draft South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018 on any Natura 2000 sites. In addition, the Council published, in March 2012, a Natura Impact Report for the proposed material alterations to the draft Plan. The Habitats Directive Assessment undertaken by Clare County Council, as the competent authority, on the proposed material alteration of the site in question, required that the lands remain zoned as per the draft South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018. Both reports are available to download from the Council's website [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie).

### Water and Sewerage Schemes

486. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the funding from his Department under the national rural water programme and the funding provided to County Laois under this programme for each of the years from 2005-2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35184/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Responsibility for the administration of the Rural Water Programme has been devolved to local authorities since 1997. The selection and approval of individual schemes for advancement and funding under this programme, within the overall priorities set by my Department and subject to the block grant allocations provided is, therefore, a matter for the local authorities.

Funding from my Department under the national rural water programme and the funding provided to County Laois under this programme for each of the years from 2005-2012 is set out hereunder.

#### National Rural Water Programme — Block Grant Allocations (2005-2012)

| 2005        | 2006        | 2007        | 2008        | 2009        | 2010       | 2011       | 2012       |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| €           | €           | €           | €           | €           | €          | €          | €          |
| 118,990,930 | 130,026,400 | 129,998,828 | 105,000,000 | 100,000,000 | 88,000,000 | 79,000,000 | 40,000,000 |

#### County Laois — Block Grant Allocations (2005-2012)

| 2005      | 2006      | 2007      | 2008      | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012    |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| €         | €         | €         | €         | €         | €         | €         | €       |
| 3,185,037 | 3,274,043 | 3,449,960 | 2,420,163 | 2,051,858 | 1,274,618 | 1,728,608 | 259,000 |

### Social and Affordable Housing

487. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to rescind the clawback clauses that apply in respect of affordable home contracts in view of the collapse in property prices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35189/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** To take account of the current housing market conditions, the Government's housing policy statement, published in June 2011, announced the standing down of all affordable housing schemes in the context of a full review of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000. That review is now underway and it is expected to conclude later in the year. Any future changes to legislation governing affordable housing schemes will be informed by the review. The claw-back provision is intended to prevent short-term profit taking on the resale of the house to the detriment of the objectives of the schemes. However, where a person is selling and the clawback amount payable would reduce the proceeds of resale below the initial price actually paid, the legislation provides for the amount of the clawback payable to be reduced to the extent necessary to avoid that result.

### Rental Accommodation Scheme

488. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local

Government the number of households and persons that have applied for inclusion in the rental accommodation scheme operated by local authorities in calendar years 2010 and 2011, and in the first six months of 2012; the number of households and persons for which housing was sourced under the rental accommodation scheme operated by local authorities in calendar years 2010 and 2011, and in the first six months of 2012; the number of households and persons presently registered on the rental accommodation scheme operated by local authorities that are awaiting the provision of rented accommodation. [35200/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** While information on the number of persons who have applied for RAS is not held by my Department, it should be noted that the main qualifying criterion for the scheme is that a person should be in receipt of rent supplement for a period of 18 months or more. From information in relation to the operation of the Rent Supplement Scheme, which is a matter for my colleague, the Minister for Social Protection, I understand that at end

March 2012, 53,935 rent supplement supported households met the 18 month criterion.

Since the beginning of 2010 and up to May 2012, which is the latest date for which figures have been compiled, 15,097 households have been transferred from Rent Supplement to RAS and other social housing options: 6,609 in 2010; 6,337 in 2011 and 2,151 between January and May this year.

#### **Dormant Accounts Fund**

489. **Deputy Maureen O’Sullivan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if his attention has been drawn to recently published research participation, expenditure and regressively in the Irish Lottery; if he will take these findings on board on developing systems for the disbursement from the Dormant Accounts Fund, now that the Dormant Accounts Board has been abolished; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35209/12]

490. **Deputy Maureen O’Sullivan** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if his attention has been drawn to recently published research Participation, expenditure and regressively in the Irish Lottery; if he will take this example of best practice on board in developing systems for the disbursement from the Dormant Accounts Fund, now that the Dormant Accounts Board has been abolished; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35210/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 489 and 490 together.

The Dormant Accounts legislation allows for the disbursal of Dormant Accounts funding under the following themes:

- To improve the quality of life and reduce isolation for people who are economically or socially disadvantaged (Category A — Economic and Social Disadvantage)
- To improve opportunities for individuals who are economically or socially disadvantaged to overcome the impediments arising from such disadvantage through deriving appropriate benefit from education (Category B — Educational Disadvantage);
- To enhance the potential for persons with a disability to play a more active role in society and increase their level of independence (Category C — Supports for people with Disabilities).

[Deputy Phil Hogan.]

These categories remain the focus under the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act, 2012, signed into law on 11 July 2012.

Given the special nature of dormant accounts funds which effectively are made up of private citizens' money, not Exchequer funding, there is a legitimate public expectation that the disbursement process should be transparent and equitable. The 2012 Act strengthens Government and Oireachtas oversight of the area, while at the same time simplifying administrative arrangements and the associated processes in respect of grants awarded from the Dormant Accounts Fund. Details of proposed schemes, actions plans, the listing of all approved measures and projects, and the annual report will be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas. Particular care is taken in the new legislation to ensure Oireachtas/public scrutiny of these processes, and ongoing reviews will be available to the public.

Given its focus, as set down in the legislation, a significant proportion of the funding disbursed to date from the Fund has been channelled through community and voluntary groups with a particular focus on socially excluded communities. This is in addition to the other supports provided by my Department to that sector annually through other programmes and schemes. The intention has always been to provide for a broad and balanced range of potential beneficiaries from dormant accounts disbursements and this remains the focus under the new Act.

*Question No. 491 answered with Question No. 461.*

### **Climate Change Policy**

492. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when the overview analysis of the responses to the public consultation on climate change policy will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35239/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The consultation attracted a very strong response, within excess of 600 submissions received. My Department is at an advanced stage in working through these submissions and the overview will be made available online as soon as possible.

493. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the date in the fourth quarter of 2012 on which he will issue heads of a proposed climate bill for consideration by the Joint Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht; if he expects any delay beyond the end of 2012 in respect of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35241/12]

498. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if the heads of the Climate Change Bill will be published in 2012 as outlined in the road map; if he expects the drafted legislation to then be published in early 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35291/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 493 and 498 together.

While I have not fixed a date at this stage, I do not envisage any delay in meeting the commitment to issue heads of a Climate Bill by the end of 2012.

I foresee a central role for the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht in the policy development process, most importantly on the critical issue of coming to a clear national understanding of how to meet our binding EU and wider international mitigation commitments, as well as pursuing national objectives in a low-carbon global economy. In the *Programme for the development of national climate policy and legislation*, I have allowed time in the first half of 2013 for the Joint Committee to complete and submit a report on national policy development and appropriate legislation, following consultation with stakeholders. I hope to receive the report by the end June 2013 and will consider it carefully before deciding on the final approach to legislation.

### Water and Sewerage Schemes

494. **Deputy Paul J. Connaughton** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if Galway County Council can be requested to carry out a preliminary report into the necessity for a sewerage scheme in Creggs, County Galway as the village is greatly in need of such a scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35245/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** I refer to the reply to Question No. 358 of 6 March, 2012, which sets out the position in this matter.

### Social and Affordable Housing

495. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of housing units that have been secured in County Donegal under the long term leasing scheme; if he will provide the uptake by electoral area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35265/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** To the end of June 2012, 129 housing units have been secured under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative in County Donegal. The breakdown of these by Housing Authority is set out in the table below:

| Authority                | No of Units |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Donegal County Council   | 55          |
| Letterkenny Town Council | 42          |
| Buncrana Town Council    | 31          |
| Bundoran Town Council    | 1           |
| Overall Donegal          | 129         |

### Tenant Purchase Scheme

496. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of applicants that availed of the 2011 tenant purchase scheme in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35266/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** To date there have been 7 completed transactions under the 2011 Tenant Purchase scheme in Co. Donegal. My Department understands that there are a number of outstanding expressions of interest under the scheme where sales will have to be finalised by 31 December 2012 when the scheme expires.

### Social and Affordable Housing

497. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his plans to re-establish the special instance housing scheme for rural areas, in view of the fact that this scheme proved the most cost efficient process of providing social housing in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35267/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** In submitting proposals for funding under my Department’s Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP), it is a matter for each local authority to determine the nature, location and relative priority of individual projects, including projects for meeting housing need in rural areas. There is no separate funding stream for one-off rural houses and local authorities may submit such proposals as part of their overall social housing funding requirements under SHIP.

*Question No. 498 answered with Question No. 493.*

### Drugs Strategy Budget

499. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the budget allocation for the actual expenditure by his Department in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy Unit for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35295/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O’Sullivan):** During the period in question my Department provided mainstream funding for five drugs projects. These projects were Ballyfermot Star, Canal Communities, Clondalkin Safety Forum, Tallaght Killinarden and Tallaght Fettercairn.

Details of the funding involved are as follows:

| Year | Funding  |
|------|----------|
| 2007 | €481,000 |
| 2008 | €496,000 |
| 2009 | €461,000 |
| 2010 | €461,000 |
| 2011 | €400,000 |

### Departmental Agencies

500. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35314/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Section 28 of the Radiological Protection Act 1991 provides for the appointment of inspectors by RPII for the purposes of the Act. Section 29 sets out the powers of those appointed inspectors. In particular, Section 29(3)(a) provides that in pursuance of those powers the inspector has the power, inter alia, to enter at all times any building, land or other place, aircraft, marine vessel, lorry or other vehicle. There is no requirement for a search warrant.

Section 252 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 provides members of the Board of An Bord Pleanála and inspectors authorised by the Board under the section power to enter land in connection with the carrying out of functions under the Act. All of the Board's inspectors, and consultants engaged by the Board on casework, are appointed by the Board to be authorised persons under Section 252.

Section 13 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 provides that an authorised person may enter a premises at reasonable times, for purposes connected with that Act. Where that premises is a private dwelling, 24 hours written notice must be provided or the consent of the occupier must be received. Where an authorised person in the exercise of his powers under this section is prevented from entering any premises, or where he has reason to believe that evidence related to a suspected offence under this Act may be removed or destroyed, the authorised person or the person by whom he was appointed may apply to the District Court for a warrant authorising such entry. The Environmental Protection Agency also has powers of entry under the Water Pollution Act 1977, European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for protection of Waters) Regulations 2010, the Dumping at Sea Act 1996 and the Water Services Acts 2007 and 2012.

Section 111 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 provides that a mediator, adjudicator or member of the Rent Tribunal or the Private Residential Tenancies Board dealing with a dispute under Part 6 of the Act may enter and inspect a dwelling to which the dispute relates for the purposes of their functions under that Part. There is no provision for making an application for a search warrant under the section.

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme**

501. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the steps he is expecting local authorities to take to assist those tenants on rent supplement that wish to move to the rental accommodation scheme, the onus not just being left on the tenant to source a landlord willing to enter this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35346/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan):** The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is an initiative to cater for the accommodation needs of certain persons in receipt of rent supplement, normally for more than 18 months and who are assessed as having a long-term housing need. Since 1 April 2011 formal legislative recognition has been given to the scheme.

Data supplied quarterly to my Department by the Department of Social Protection enable local authorities to identify all those persons in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months or more who are eligible to transfer to RAS. At the end of March 2012 there were 53,935 individuals on rent supplement for 18 months or longer.

While the list of individuals who are on rent supplement for more than 18 months is the main source of transfers to RAS, housing authorities seeking to source additional accommodation use a range of methods to encourage landlords to provide accommodation including local advertising and direct contact.

*Question No. 502 answered with Question No. 435.*

### **Water and Sewerage Schemes**

503. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will consider including Falcarragh Waste Water Treatment Plant in Capital funding Programme for 2013, considering full planning permission has been obtained for the

[Deputy Pearse Doherty.]

project and estimated costs indicate the project costing €1.6m, this would elevate the severe pollution of Ballyness Bay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35389/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** The Falcarragh Sewerage Scheme is included in my Department's *Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2013* as a scheme to advance through planning.

Donegal County Council's Preliminary Report for this scheme was recently submitted to my Department. This report is under examination at present and a decision on the matter will be made as soon as possible.

### Appointments to State Boards

504. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35606/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Up to 3 July 2012, the latest date for which information is available, the position is as follows:

| Agency / Board                          | Name of Appointee(Chairperson highlighted)         | Position Advertised |
|---|--|---------------------|
| An Bord Pleanála                        | Dr. Mary Kelly (Chairperson)                       | Yes                 |
|   | Mr. Conall Boland (Deputy Chairperson)             | No                  |
|   | Ms Mary MacMahon                                   | No                  |
|   | Mr. Michael Leary                                  | No                  |
|   | Mr. Nicholas Mulcahy                               | No                  |
|   | Mr. Gabriel Dennison                               | No                  |
|   | Mr. Paddy Keogh                                    | No                  |
| Building Regulation Advisory Board      | Mr. Aidan O'Connor (Departmental representative)   | No                  |
|   | Mr. Paul Kelly                                     | No                  |
|   | Mr. Conor Taaffe                                   | No                  |
| Dormant Accounts Board                  | Mr. Michael Morley (Chairperson)                   | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Mr. Des Gunning                                    | No (reappointed)    |
| Dublin Docklands Development Authority* | Dr. Niamh Brennan                                  | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Mr. Niall Coveney                                  | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Mr. Dónall Curtin                                  | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Ms Yvonne Farrell                                  | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Mr. Mark Griffin (Departmental Representative)     | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Mr. Brendan Malone                                 | No (reappointed)    |
|   | Ms Catherine Mullarkey                             | No (reappointed)    |
| Dublin Docklands Development Authority* | Mr. John Tierney (Chairperson) Dublin City Manager | No                  |
|   | Mr. Gerry Grimes                                   | No                  |
|   | Mr. Philip Matthews                                | No                  |
|   | Ms Lucy McCaffery                                  | No                  |

| Agency / Board  | Name of Appointee(Chairperson highlighted)                                       | Position Advertised   |    |
|---|--|---|----|
| Environmental Protection Agency<br>Housing Finance Agency | Mr. Charlie Murphy   | No  |    |
|   | Ms Imelda Reynolds   | No  |    |
|   | Mr. Michael Stubbs   | No  |    |
|   | Mr. Frank Walsh  | No  |    |
|   | Ms Laura Burke (Director General)  | Yes   |    |
|   | Dr. Michelle Norris (Chairperson)  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. John Hogan (Department of Finance nominee)                                   | No  |    |
|   | Mr. Phillip Nugent (Departmental representative)                                 | No  |    |
|   | Ms Jackie Maguire (CCMA Representative)  | No  |    |
|   | Mr. Colm Brophy  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Michael Murray   | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Padraic Cafferty   | Yes   |    |
|   | Dr. Mary Lee Rhodes  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Jim Miley  | No  |    |
|   | Ms Michelle Murphy Lawless   | No  |    |
| Irish Water Safety  | Mr. Gerry Leahy  | No  |    |
|   | Ms Breda Collins (Chairperson)   | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. John Considine   | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Michael Cuddihy  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Tom Doyle  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Brendan McGrath  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Paul Murphy  | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Seamus O'Neill   | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Martin O'Sullivan  | Yes   |    |
|   | Ms Anne Ryan   | Yes   |    |
|   | Ms Lola O'Sullivan   | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Christy McDonagh   | Yes   |    |
|   | Mr. Tim O'Sullivan (Departmental representative)                                 | No  |    |
|   | Mr. Rich Howlin (Chairperson)  | No  |    |
|   | Mr. John O'Connor  | No  |    |
| Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency                | Mr. Eddie Lewis (Departmental representative)                                    | No  |    |
|   | Ms Marie McLaughlin (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Representative) | No  |    |
|   | Mr. Peter Carey County Manager Laois County Council                              | No  |    |
|   | Ms Ann McGuinness Retired County Manager, Westmeath County Council               | No  |    |
|   | Local Government Computer Services Board   | Mr. Eddie Breen (Chairperson) County Manager Wexford County Council | No |
|   |  | Mr. Michael Malone County Manager Kildare County Council            | No |
|   |  | Mr. Barry Quinlan (Departmental representative)                     | No |

[Deputy Phil Hogan.]

| Agency / Board  | Name of Appointee(Chairperson highlighted)                                      | Position Advertised |
|---|---|---------------------|
| Local Government Management Services Board              | Mr. Enda Holland (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Representative)   | No                  |
|   | Mr. Eddie Breen (Chairperson) County Manager Wexford County Council             | No                  |
|   | Mr. Donal Enright (Departmental representative)                                 | No                  |
|   | Mr. Michael Malone County Manager Kildare County Council                        | No                  |
| National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee | Mr. Barry Quinlan (Departmental representative)                                 | No                  |
|   | Mr. Tom Coughlan County Manager Clare County Council                            | No                  |
| Private Residential Tenancies Board                     | Mr. Tim Ryan  | Yes                 |
|   | Ms Tricia Sheehy Skeffington  | Yes                 |
|   | Ms Paula O'Reilly (Departmental representative)                                 | No                  |
| Radiological Protection Institute Ireland               | Professor William Reville (Chairperson) Professor of Biochemistry UCC (Retired) | Yes                 |
|   | Dr. Paraic James Senior Lecturer, DCU   | Yes                 |
|   | Dr. Maurice Fitzgerald Dental Council   | No                  |
|   | Dr. Patricia Cunningham Consultant Radiologist                                  | No                  |

\*The board of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority was reappointed from 1 May 2012 and replaced by a new board from 1 June 2012 which will continue in place until 31 December 2013.

A notice was placed on my Department's website on 19 July, 2011 seeking expressions of interest, from suitably qualified and experienced persons, for consideration as members or chairpersons of the boards of state bodies under the aegis of my Department. The notice is updated regularly as specific vacancies arise. However, expressions of interest can be made at any time and are kept on file in my Department for consideration as vacancies occur.

All appointments are made in accordance with the appropriate legislation governing appointments to each body. In considering applications due regard is had to Government policy regarding gender balance on State Boards.

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. 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 Public Expenditure and Reform.

The Boards of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and An Bord Pleanála are executive in nature and members are employed on a full time salaried basis. The appointments as Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála and Director General of the EPA were made by Government following competitions held by the Public Appointments Service.

The Chair of the Board for the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (HSCA) has been re-appointed on an interim basis pending the imminent, formal establishment of the Agency under the Local Government Services (Corporate Bodies) Acts 1971 to 2012.

The Dormant Accounts Board has now been dissolved under the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act, 2012.

The following members were appointed to the Board of Pobal, a not-for-profit company under the aegis of my Department, by Government:

- Mr. Séamus Boland (Chair)
- Mr. Thomas Maguire
- Mr. Liam Keane
- Ms Siobhan McLoughlin
- Ms Jennifer McHugh
- Ms Marie Hurley

Article 3 of the Articles of Association of Pobal requires the Minister to consider nominations received from a list of stakeholders and the Social Partners defined by Government in 2005. The list comprises:

- National Social Partners,
- Social Partners party to the Sustaining Progress Agreement; and Stakeholders,
- Area and Community Partnership,
- County Childcare Committees, and
- City and County Managers Association.

A consultation process was conducted and 22 nominations received from the Stakeholders and the National Social Partners were considered for purposes of the Government appointments to the vacant positions on the board.

505. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35619/12]

**Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan):** Since my appointment in March 2011 ten Chairpersons have been appointed or re-appointed to state boards under the aegis of my Department. To date three Chairpersons have met the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht.

Arrangements are being made for the Chairperson of An Bord Pleanála to appear before the Committee when the Annual report of that agency is formally published.

The Chairperson of the Dormant Accounts Board was re-appointed in January 2012 and this Board has now been dissolved under the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act, 2012.

Arrangements are currently being made for the Chairpersons of The Dublin Docklands Development Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency to meet the Committee.

[Deputy Phil Hogan.]

An interim Board was established for the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (HSCA). The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2012 was enacted in June 2012, with the Establishment Order for the HSCA to follow as soon as possible and the interim Board will remain in place in the meantime. It is the intention that the Chair of the HSCA will attend the Joint Committee following the formal establishment of the Agency.

The Local Government Management Services Board and the Local Government Computer Services Board have a common board, pending the establishment of a merged body — the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) — on a statutory basis. The Chair of the LGMA, when appointed, will also be available to meet the Committee.

Chairs of State bodies are in general available to appear before the relevant Oireachtas Committees when so requested.

### **Pension Provisions**

506. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36053/12]

**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.

### **Northern Ireland Issues**

507. **Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if the Decommissioning Papers held in the Burns library at Boston College will be returned to Irish jurisdiction where they will be kept confidential as mandated by their 30 year embargo. [35150/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Following the making of Orders by both Governments on 30 March 2011 dissolving the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning, a decision was made by the Commission to lodge certain documents with Boston College. The decision is subject to an agreement that they will not be disclosed for 30 years.

As an independent body the Commission itself decided on these arrangements and consulted with both the Irish and UK Governments on the issue. The Commission's final report, submitted to the Government on 28 March 2011, detailed the arrangements which it had made for the storage of its documentation, including the most sensitive documentation relating to the inventory of decommissioned material. This latter was not among the material lodged with Boston College and is subject to other arrangements. The material lodged with Boston College is of a general nature.

The Commission made the relevant arrangements to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of its archive in the public interest and in the interests of the peace process. The documentation in question is, as I have already said, part of the records of an independent body. That body decided to lodge certain of its records with Boston College and it is not within my power to seek to have them returned to this jurisdiction.

### **Garda Stations**

508. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will respond to concerns raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34401/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The details referred to by the Deputy have also been sent to me and I will respond directly to the authors of the correspondence.

Notwithstanding this, the Deputy will be aware that under the Garda Síochána Acts 2005 — 2007, the Commissioner is required to submit, before November of each year, a policing plan for the forthcoming year. Any proposals for the closure of Garda stations or the altering of Regional or Divisional boundaries must be set out in that plan. While the Policing Plan for 2013 has not yet been submitted to me, I expect that it will contain measures to address the ongoing issue of rationalisation of the Garda station network. It would therefore be premature to speculate on specific measures which this might involve.

In making his assessments on these matters the Garda Commissioner has asked each Divisional Officer to assess the level of activity in each Garda Station in their area. It must be stressed that the key objective of any station closure is to promote the more efficient and effective deployment of resources rather than secure specific cash saving.

The Deputy will also be aware that the Commissioner is responsible for the detailed allocation of resources, including personnel, throughout the organisation and I have no function in the matter. This allocation of resources is constantly monitored in the context of crime trends, policing needs and other operational strategies in place on a District, Divisional and Regional level to ensure optimum use is made of Garda resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public. Kildare Garda Division and indeed the area referred to by the Deputy will be subject to this same level of monitoring to ensure that optimum use is made of Garda resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public.

### **United Nations Committees**

509. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the date by which he will provide the United Nations Convention Against Torture with his Department's comprehensive follow up information in response to the Committee's recommendations noting that the deadline has already expired. [34423/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** As requested in the Concluding observations of the UN Committee against Torture, comprehensive follow up information will be provided in response to the Committee's recommendations in paragraphs 8, 20, 21 and 25 of those observations. As the Deputy is aware, these four recommendations impact on the remit of a number of Government Departments. My Department, with the assistance of the other relevant Departments, is currently finalising the follow-up information requested by the Committee and it is expected that this information will be sent to the Committee in the near future.

### **Garda Vetting of Personnel**

510. **Deputy Eric Byrne** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will confirm when a garda clearance certificate will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 8; if this case will be expedited as quickly as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34430/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am informed by the Garda authorities that the Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU) has no record of a vetting application on behalf of the individual concerned. In the circumstances, I can only suggest that the person concerned seek clarification from the organisation submitting the application.

### Cash for Gold Trade

511. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to introduce legislation that cash for gold outlets will be obliged to adhere to similar regulations that apply to pawnbrokers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34485/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can inform the Deputy that on 19 June 2012 I published a report on the criminal justice aspects of the cash for gold trade which was prepared by my Department. I have stated that while the relevant criminal justice law is adequate to deal with the transactions in question, it is arguably inconsistent that there are rules and regulations that apply to pawnbrokers for the protection of the public and that similar rules do not apply to cash for gold outlets.

I have formally requested the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality and Defence to consider the content of the report, that it considers holding hearings on the issues raised in the report, that it obtains the views of all relevant interested parties and that it makes such report and recommendations to the Houses of the Oireachtas and to Government as it deems proportionate and appropriate in the public interest.

### Garda Strength

512. **Deputy Noel Grealish** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide the number of gardaí based in each station in the Galway Division; the number of these gardaí that are members of the garda reserve; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34524/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am informed by the Garda authorities that the personnel strength, together with the Garda Reserve strength, of each Garda station in the Galway Division on the 31 May 2012, the latest date for which figures are readily available, was as set out in the table below.

Galway Division

| District    | Station       | Gardaí | Reserve |
|-------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| BALLINASLOE | BALLINASLOE   | 42     | 4       |
|             | BALLYGAR      | 1      | —       |
|             | CREGGS        | 1      | —       |
|             | KILCONNELL    | 1      | —       |
|             | MOUNT BELLEW  | 8      | —       |
|             | MOYLROUGH     | 1      | —       |
| CLIFDEN     | AN MÁM        | 2      | —       |
|             | CARNA         | 2      | —       |
|             | CLIFDEN       | 29     | —       |
|             | CLOCH NA RÓN  | 1      | —       |
|             | LETTERFRACK   | 1      | —       |
| GALWAY      | SRAITH SALACH | 1      | —       |
|             | ATHENRY       | 5      | —       |
|             | GAILLIMH      | 212    | 31      |

| District | Station         | Gardaí | Reserve |    |
|----------|-----------------|--------|---------|----|
| GORT     | KILTULLAGH      | 1      | —       |    |
|          | LOUGH GEORGE    | 5      | —       |    |
|          | MONIVEA         | 1      | —       |    |
|          | ÓRÁN MÓR        | 32     | —       |    |
|          | ARDRAHAN        | 1      | —       |    |
|          | CRAUGHWELL      | 5      | —       |    |
|          | GORT            | 30     | 2       |    |
|          | KILCHREEST      | 1      | —       |    |
|          | KILCOLGAN       | 1      | —       |    |
| LOUGHREA | KINVARA         | 2      | —       |    |
|          | EYRECOURT       | 1      | —       |    |
|          | KILRICKLE       | 1      | —       |    |
|          | LOUGHREA        | 40     | 6       |    |
|          | PORTUMNA        | 8      | —       |    |
|          | TYNAGH          | 1      | —       |    |
|          | WOODFORD        | 1      | —       |    |
| SALTHILL | AN CHEATHRÚ RUA | 6      | —       |    |
|          | AN SPIDÉAL      | 3      | —       |    |
|          | CILL RÓNÁIN     | 3      | —       |    |
|          | INDREABHÁN      | 1      | —       |    |
|          | LEITIR MÓIR     | 1      | —       |    |
|          | MAIGH CUILINN   | 2      | —       |    |
|          | ROS MUC         | 1      | —       |    |
|          | SALTHILL        | 53     | 6       |    |
|          | UACHTARARD      | 5      | —       |    |
|          | BARNADERG       | 1      | —       |    |
| TUAM     | COROFIN         | 2      | —       |    |
|          | DUNMORE         | 6      | —       |    |
|          | GLENAMADDY      | 1      | —       |    |
|          | HEADFORD        | 4      | —       |    |
|          | MILLTOWN        | 1      | —       |    |
|          | TUAM            | 53     | 9       |    |
|          | WILLIAMSTOWN    | 1      | —       |    |
|          | Total           |        | 582     | 58 |

### United Nations Conventions

513. **Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when the Government will publish its next report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in view of the fact that the report is now seven years overdue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34547/12]

514. **Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the reasons for the delay by Government in submitting its next report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; when he plans to publish this report; if he will enter into a consultation process with civil society organisations in relation to any draft report and give them sufficient time to make comments, observations and contributions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34548/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 513 and 514 together.

The procedure attached to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Violence against Women asks State Parties to submit a bi-annual report, although the examining CEDAW Committee only has the capacity to review fewer than 25 reports each year. There are 187 Parties to the Convention. As a result, a number of State Parties submit combined reports covering two and three reporting periods to alleviate the work load of the examining committee and their own work load.

My Department is working on the next report to CEDAW at present but has also been undertaking a comprehensive review of the implementation of the National Women's Strategy 2007 — 2016 which is providing invaluable information for incorporation into the CEDAW report and which is approaching completion.

Preparation of the CEDAW Report requires us to address all aspects of women's human rights, in an "all of Government" context. In preparing the CEDAW Report, and in completing the Review of the National Women's Strategy, consultation takes place with civil society, including representatives of the trade unions, the employers' organisations, the community and voluntary sector and the National Women's Council of Ireland. A further consultation with civil society will take place before the final report is completed. It is also open to civil society to submit shadow reports.

The Department continues to work on this wide-reaching task and will invite the Department of Foreign Affairs to submit the next combined CEDAW Report to the Secretary General of the United Nations at the earliest opportunity.

#### **Asylum Seeker Accommodation**

515. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding accommodation centres; if consideration will be given to the appointment of a visiting committee; if a review of the workings of the inspection company will be considered; his views regarding maintaining standards at this facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34559/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) of my Department is charged with responsibility for the accommodation of asylum seekers while their applications for protection are being processed. Currently, there are over 5,000 persons accommodated in 37 RIA centres located throughout the State.

I should firstly say that the correspondence supplied seems be only part of a longer piece from the Newbridge Asylum Support Group and relates to recent issues in the Eyre Powell Asylum Accommodation Centre in Newbridge which is under contract to RIA for the accommodation of asylum seekers.

Before dealing with the broader issues raised here, I want to explain that on 10 April, 2012 a detailed written complaint listing 12 areas of concern, signed by a number of residents, was sent to the manager of the Eyre Powell centre through the aforementioned support group. The concerns revolved around food, hygiene and the attitude of management towards residents. The complaint was simultaneously copied to, among others, the media, local TD's, various official bodies and other NGO's.

RIA is confident that the independent company contracted to carry out inspections, QTS, which won the contract following an open tender competition, has carried out its functions properly. I am informed by RIA that some of the issues raised by the residents in their letter

of 10 April, 2012 had already been highlighted by QTS and that steps were already in train to address them. Following receipt of the complaint of 10 April, RIA issued a notice to residents acknowledging their complaints and said that they would be fully investigated. Subsequently, in addition to inspections by RIA, the centre was subject to two inspections by QTS, which focussed in particular on the operation of the kitchen and dining area as well as on general safety and health standards at the centre. On 5 July, 2012 the most senior official in RIA wrote to the residents of the centre informing them of the outcomes of the engagement which had taken place. These outcomes centred around improvements in cleaning and food provision in the centre. The notice recorded the positive feedback from residents and the improved atmosphere in the centre.

In relation to the broader issues raised by this case, the rights of residents in RIA centres are, put simply, protected in three ways:

(a) RIA's House Rules and Procedures which set out the type and standard of service that an asylum seeker should expect whilst residing in direct provision accommodation. The Rules set out the entitlements and obligations placed on centre management and on residents and, in the event that these aren't being met, a complaints procedure to be invoked by either party. This complaints system is considered by RIA to be broadly in line with the guidelines set out by the Office of the Ombudsman for 'internal complaints systems'.

(b) Over and above the House Rules themselves, the interests of asylum seekers are protected through regular 'clinics' in centres where residents can speak directly to RIA headquarters staff without local centre management being present.

(c) Inspections take place in centres, by RIA staff and by QTS, to ensure that centres are adhering to their contractual obligations. It cannot be emphasised enough that all inspections are unannounced. Inspections are not to be confused with ordinary day-to-day visits to centres by RIA staff in connection with operational, health or educational matters where management would know of their arrival in advance.

Issues of concern are also brought to the attention of RIA by representatives of statutory or voluntary agencies working with asylum seekers, as was the case here.

The thrust of the various processes described above is that problems, which inevitably arise in a system as complex and diverse as the Direct Provision system, are 'surfaced' quickly and dealt with. What is intended is a continuous interaction between residents and management with a mutually supported aim of maintaining and improving standards. I am not convinced that visiting committees can add to this objective. It would be mistaken to draw an analogy between asylum accommodation centres and prisons. The latter are places of detention and the circumstances which require visiting committees there are not present in the former. The various processes described above are intended to empower individual asylum seekers. Whilst local support groups are entitled to interact with residents, it is neither appropriate nor effective in the long run that residents are encouraged to believe that any issues they may have with centre management can only be intermediated through such groups.

As a learning organisation, RIA believes that there is always room for improvement. RIA accepts that issues arising in the centre were neither surfaced nor addressed as quickly as they might have been. As a consequence, RIA in its notice to residents on 5 July, 2012 reiterated the importance of using the House Rules complaints system and stressed the benefits of raising issues one-to-one with RIA staff during clinics. RIA has already improved the presentation of its advance 'clinic' notices in centres encouraging residents to raise confidentially issues of concern. The problems which arose at this centre reinforced the need for another development

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

which was already under way. That is, QTS has been asked to redesign the template form used by RIA staff in their inspections and to provide more detailed guidelines and training for its completion by RIA staff in respect of each inspection. This latter development has two purposes: firstly, to train RIA staff to identify more accurately issues of concern and, secondly, to allow RIA by the end of this year, or early next year, to publish completed inspection processes for each centre directly to its website — *www.ria.gov.ie*.

### **Citizenship Applications**

516. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding an application for citizenship in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 7; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34564/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am advised by the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that an application for a certificate of naturalisation was received from the person referred to by the Deputy in October, 2010.

The application is currently being processed with a view to establishing whether the applicant meets the statutory conditions for the granting of naturalisation, such as good character and lawful residence.

It is recognised that all applicants for citizenship would wish to have a decision on their application without delay. Considerable resources are deployed to process applications and these resources together with the necessary administrative arrangements are kept under review.

As well as being a significant event in the life of its recipient, the granting of Irish citizenship through naturalisation as provided for in law is also a major step for the State 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.

Queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to INIS by e-mail using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. This service enables up to date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek information by way of the Parliamentary Questions process. The Deputy may consider using the e-mail service except in cases where the response from INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited

### **Garda Operations**

517. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on the high level of violent incidents at recent large music events; if he has raised this issue with An Garda Síochána; if he is reviewing the arrangements for future events of this kind; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34571/12]

518. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if An Garda Síochána were fully consulted and approved of security arrangements at a recent large music event; and if the promoter was interviewed by the Gardai following same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34572/12]

520. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on the security arrangements that are currently in place on public transport services when large music, sporting or other events are taking place in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34574/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 517, 518 and 520 together.

I want to assure the Deputy that I share the widespread public concern at the disturbing incidents at the recent Phoenix Park concert. Since there have been relatively trouble free events held at that venue in the past, it therefore important to scrutinise whether there were particular circumstances surrounding this concert which may have given rise to difficulties.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that in preparing for the concerts which took place over the weekend of 5 to 8 July, a series of planning meetings took place between a range of stakeholders, including An Garda Síochána and the concert organisers from early in 2012. The meetings involved site inspections, major emergency planning, training and other issues. A full operational policing plan and event management plans were prepared by An Garda Síochána and the organisers. Traffic management plans were also prepared for each event, details of which were circulated for the information of all road users.

An Garda Síochána is reviewing what happened at the concerts, including the implementation of the plans which had been in place. An initial meeting was held with the concert organisers last week and it was agreed that both organisations will carry out a more in depth review regarding all aspects of the event. The fact is that the arrangements which were in place on the Saturday night did not prevent the type of behaviour which took place.

The Garda Commissioner has undertaken to let me have a report following that review and I can assure the Deputy that I am determined any lessons will be taken fully into account in future planning and risk management of such events.

I am further informed by my colleague, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport that the Railway Procurement Agency, Dublin Bus, Iarnród Éireann, Bus Éireann and Veolia regularly liaise with An Garda Síochána in relation to transport planning and associated security issues for all major upcoming events. In addition, the companies divert resources including private security to supplement normal staffing levels as appropriate.

### Departmental Agencies

519. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when he will publish the new regulations to allow the Private Security Authority to license contractors and personnel working in the event security industry; the date on which these new regulations will come into force; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34573/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** As the Deputy is aware, the Private Security Authority (PSA) is the independent agency under the aegis of my Department who is responsible for the regulation of the private security industry in the State. Since the Authority was established, it has adopted a phased approach to the licensing of the sector and currently licences approx. 750 contractors and over 27,000 individuals in a range of sectors including the Door Supervisor (Licensed Premises) and Security Guard (Static) sectors.

The Authority propose to licence contractors working in the event security area later this year. Licensing of individuals working in the sector would then follow. Regulations to enable the licensing of these contractors to commence are currently with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. As soon as that process is completed, the Regulations will be signed into effect.

*Question No. 520 answered with Question No. 517.*

### Crime Levels

521. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he is con-

[Deputy Thomas P. Broughan.]

sidering new measures to tackle knife crime in cities and towns here; if he is considering new legislation regarding same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34575/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can inform the Deputy that legislation on the use of knives and similar weapons is robust and heavy penalties are already in place for breaches of the law. Following the enactment of the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, there is now a maximum penalty of five years for possessing a knife in a public place without good reason or lawful authority. An Garda Síochána also has an extended power of search without warrant in relation to knives and offensive weapons. While no further legislative changes are planned at this time, the matter is being kept under continuous review.

At an operational level, An Garda Síochána pro-actively targets public disorder and anti-social behaviour, including knife related crime. In this regard it is worth noting that the number of incidents recorded by the Gardaí in which a knife was used fell from 1,855 in 2010 to 1,637 in 2011 and has remained broadly at that level to date in 2012 (883 such incidents to 11 July 2012). Areas identified as public order hot-spots by local Garda Management are the subject of additional foot and mobile patrols. Incidents of public disorder and anti-social behaviour reported to the Garda authorities are the subject of investigation and are dealt appropriately in accordance with the law. It should be noted, however, that a substantial proportion of all knife crime occurs in domestic settings and often with a degree of spontaneity which greatly increases the challenges for policing and enforcement.

### **Garda Operations**

522. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will report on the recent Garda Operation Slowdown; the number of motorists that were found to be speeding during the course of this operation; his plans to repeat the operation on an ongoing basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34576/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am informed by the Garda authorities that Operation Slowdown was put in place nationally by An Garda Síochána with other relevant stakeholders, including the Road Safety Authority, for a 24 hour period commencing at 7 am on Friday, 6 July. The aims of the initiative were to raise general awareness of speeding and to encourage drivers to reduce speed at all times, not just for the 24 hour period of Operation Slowdown.

I am further informed that statistics are not yet available in relation to all detections made during the course of Operation Slowdown. However, changes in driver behaviour were evident to those managing the initiative. In particular, 75,000 vehicles were monitored by safety camera vans during the period of the initiative and out of this number 154 motorists were detected speeding. I understand that this is approximately 50% less than would otherwise be expected for a similar period.

While this particular initiative has concluded, An Garda Síochána continues to carry out speed enforcement initiatives and awareness campaigns to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Irish roads.

### **Road Traffic Offences**

523. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of motorists caught for speeding offences in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34577/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** In the time available it has not been possible for the Garda authorities to supply the information requested by the Deputy. I will be in contact with the Deputy when the information is to hand.

### Cash for Gold Trade

524. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he is considering new legislation to target potential illegal gold trading operations on foot of the recent Departmental review of the cash for gold sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34578/12]

530. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on measures being considered to regulate the marketing and operation of money for gold outlets and agents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34685/12]

598. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to introduce legislation to regulate the operation of businesses which offer cash for gold services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35194/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 524, 530 and 598 together.

I can inform the Deputies that on 19 June 2012 I published a report on the criminal justice aspects of the cash for gold trade which was prepared by my Department.

I have formally requested the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality and Defence to consider the content of the report, that it considers holding hearings on the issues raised in the report, that it obtains the views of all relevant interested parties and that it makes such report and recommendations to the Houses of the Oireachtas and to Government as it deems proportionate and appropriate in the public interest.

### Crime Levels

525. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to incidents in an area (details supplied) in County Meath; his plans to tackle this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34583/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** All crime trends are monitored closely by Garda management, with intelligence led initiatives put in place to target burglary and other criminality. In that regard, I am informed by the Garda authorities that, to date in 2012, there have been four recorded incidents of burglary in the townlands corresponding to the area referred to by the Deputy as compared to a total of six such incidents in 2011.

The Deputy will be aware that the Garda Commissioner has put in place a wide range of measures aimed at tackling gangs involved in burglaries. These measures are encompassed in *Operation Fiacla*, which is particularly focused on identifying and targeting mobile gangs involved in burglaries around the country so as to disrupt their activities and bring them before the Courts. Specific burglary related initiatives are being implemented in each Garda Region in support of *Operation Fiacla*. In the area referred to by the Deputy, the regional burglary initiative *Operation Obair* continues to be conducted, including by means of an increase in the number of checkpoints and crime patrols in the area.

The Deputy will also be aware that the National Crime Prevention Unit (NCPU) and Crime Prevention Officers at Divisional level provide advice, information and support to organisations, businesses and individuals aimed at reducing burglary crime and the opportunity to

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

commit burglary. These specially trained officers are skilled at identifying environmental design risks and advise on ways to reduce opportunities to commit burglary and other property crime.

Furthermore, during 2012, the national ‘Garda Supporting Safer Communities Campaign’ will continue to highlight key issues, in particular burglary prevention. The first such campaign was launched by the Garda Commissioner on 2 May and a second campaign will take place in September.

I share the Deputy’s concerns about the incidence of burglary and therefore welcome the fact that the Garda authorities are taking robust measures to respond to this type of criminality.

### **Crime Statistics**

526. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons who have been arrested for burglary in County Meath in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the numbers of these that were prosecuted in the courts; the average sentence handed down; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34590/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Regarding the number of persons arrested for burglary in County Meath, the Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the compilation and publication of crime statistics by the Central Statistics Office, as the national statistical agency, and the CSO has established a dedicated unit for this purpose.

I have requested the CSO to provide statistics directly to the Deputy.

With regard to the number of prosecutions and the average sentence handed down by the courts, under the provisions of the Courts Service Act 1998, management of the courts is the responsibility of the Courts Service. The Act provides that the Service is independent in the performance of its functions, which includes the provision of statistics.

However, I have made enquiries and the Courts Service has provided me with figures which show that in County Meath, for the period 2008 to date in 2012, there have been 261 defendants before the courts charged with burglary and aggravated burglary.

I am further informed by the Courts Service that it is not in a position to provide information on the average sentence handed down within the time available. The Courts Service has indicated that it will provide this additional information and I will contact the Deputy again when it is to hand.

### **Naturalisation Applications**

527. **Deputy Noel Grealish** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons that have applied for naturalisation on the basis of being married to an Irish citizen since it was no longer possible to make a post nuptial declaration of citizenship, 29 November 2005; the number of those applicants since 29 November 2005 that have been deemed acceptable to be naturalised and eligible to apply for citizenship; the number of applicants since 29 November 2005 that have been refused as eligible to apply for citizenship; the number of applications now pending for spouses of Irish citizens since 29 November 2005; the logistics of interdepartmental checks that take place for this process; what the departmental checks entail; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34613/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The number of persons that have applied for a Certificate of Naturalisation under section 15A of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act, 1956 as amended for the period from 29 November 2005 to 30 June 2012 is

approximately 7,300. This section refers to the circumstances in which spouses of Irish citizens may become naturalised.

In the period in question the approximate number of applications approved, including a small number lodged before the 29 November 2005, is approximately 4,300, the number deemed to be ineligible was 400 and the total number refused was 160. The number of applications awaiting decision is some 2,800, almost 80% of which were lodged in 2011 and 2012 to date.

The Deputy will appreciate that naturalisation applications must be processed in a way which preserves the necessary checks and balances to ensure that citizenship is not undervalued and is given only to persons who satisfy the necessary qualifying criteria. The processing procedures, which I am satisfied are necessary to maintain the integrity of the naturalisation process, have been developed and refined over a number of years.

The procedures employed to assess an applicant for naturalisation include an initial examination upon receipt of each application to determine if the statutory application is completed fully. Incomplete application forms are returned to the applicant for further attention. Valid applications are then examined to determine if the applicant meets the statutory criteria set out in the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act such as good character and lawful residence, and, as appropriate, enquiries are made with the relevant Departments and agencies to establish if the applicant meets the requirements for the granting of naturalisation. Once these processes are completed, the application is submitted to me for a decision which I make in my absolute discretion by assessing the entirety of the information available to me.

### **Garda Transport**

528. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the procurement of new vehicles for An Garda Síochána, is there a maximum of 300,000 kilometres referred to in the procurement document at which point the warranty may expire resulting in the cars having to be taken off the road; if this figure can be eliminated and some other mechanism put in place for example, cars that are in good roadworthy condition can continue to be used; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34668/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Decisions in relation to the provision and deployment of Garda transport are matters for the Garda Commissioner.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that it is a priority that all Garda operational vehicles fully meet the safety requirements of both Garda personnel and members of the public. This is a function which is undertaken in accordance with strict standards set by the vehicle manufacturers.

I understand from the Garda authorities that new vehicles are purchased on the basis that they will have a warranty period of not less than three years or 300,000 kilometres, whichever comes first. However, the relevant manufacturers have also indicated that, for safety reasons, patrol cars should be withdrawn from service when the odometer reading reaches 300,000 kilometres and, accordingly, this is the operational policy that is applied by the Garda authorities.

### **Departmental Properties**

529. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he or any State agencies under the aegis of his Department owns or rents any apartments in a complex (details supplied) in Dublin 14; if so, the number of apartments owned or rented; the dates of commencement of ownership or renting; the price paid for each apartment if purchased; the initial

[Deputy Peter Mathews.]

and current rent paid if apartments are rented in this complex; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34678/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I inform the Deputy that neither my Department or any State agencies under the aegis of my Department owns or rents any apartments in the complex referred to by the Deputy.

*Question No. 530 answered with Question No. 524.*

### **Drug Courts**

531. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if it will be possible to extend the operation of the Drug Treatment Court Programme to the Clondalkin and Lucan area in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34695/12]

541. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the resources allocated to the drugs court; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34832/12]

599. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update in relation to the review of the Drugs Treatment Courts; when the review will become available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35197/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 531, 541 and 599 together.

In February 2012, I requested the Support and Advisory Committee for the Drug Treatment Court to undertake a detailed evaluation of the court's operation and potential and I expect the Committee will furnish a report to me in the autumn. The Committee was established following a recommendation in the 2010 Report on the operation of the Court and comprises representatives of each of the agencies involved with the Court.

The Committee has met regularly to progress and monitor the programme's throughput and effectiveness and oversaw the expansion with effect from July 2011 of the catchment area served by the Drug Treatment Court. The Court is now in a position to deal with offenders from a much wider area including offenders who are resident in all areas of Dublin city north of the river Liffey and to offenders receiving treatment in the Castle Street Drug Treatment Centre which provides services to people residing in Dublin 2,4,6 and 8. This welcome initiative was undertaken with cooperation from the Health Services Executive in the provision of vital testing and treatment support services. An evaluation of the potential for further expansion of the programme forms part of the ongoing review. Therefore no decisions will be taken regarding further expansion until the report currently being prepared has been considered in full.

### **Liquor Licensing Laws**

532. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if the late night permit to serve alcohol cost €410 per night; if a special rate applies for bars or nightclubs which serve alcohol until 2.30am each weekend; if so, the price of same; if bars or nightclubs have to apply each week for a permit to serve alcohol until 2.30am at the weekends; if not, how often do they need to apply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34699/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The holder of a Publicans Licence can extend opening hours by way of an application for a Special Exemption Order. The court

fee for such an application is €300. Excise Duty of €110 per application is also payable to Revenue. An application must be made in respect of each occasion as set out below.

Under section 5 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 1927 (as amended), holders of an on-licence or theatre licence may apply to the District Court for Special Exemption Orders which permit extended opening hours for special occasions. A licensee applying for a Special Exemption Order must serve on the officer in charge of the Garda Síochána for the licensing area concerned a notice of intention to apply for the order at least forty-eight hours before making the application. The District Court may grant the order if it thinks fit to do so having heard the officer concerned but shall not grant an order unless it is satisfied that the special occasion concerned will be conducted in a manner that will not cause undue inconvenience or nuisance to persons residing in the locality or create an undue risk of public disorder there.

Section 5(5) of the 1927 Act provides that a Special Exemption Order shall expire at 2.30 a.m. (1.00 a.m. where it extends to a Monday that is not a public holiday) unless the court, for stated reasons, grants the order for a shorter period. Section 7 of the Intoxicating Liquor Act 1962 (as amended) allows a further thirty minutes drinking-up time.

### Public Order Offences

533. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he plans to have more offences covered under the fixed penalty notice order for public order offences where alcohol is involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34700/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Section 184 of the Criminal Justice Act 2006, which came into operation on 1 August, 2006, inserted into the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 provision for a fixed charge procedure in relation to the offences of intoxication in a public place and disorderly conduct in a public place. While these provisions are kept under ongoing review, I have no plans for their extension at present.

An Garda Síochána use these powers, as well as other provisions of the Public Order Acts and the Intoxicating Liquor Acts to keep our streets as safe as possible, including bringing of prosecutions where appropriate. I am in regular contact with the Garda authorities about these matters and the efficacy of the powers available to them in this regard.

### Residency Permits

534. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding a stamp 4 visa in respect of persons (details supplied). [34724/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am advised by officials in the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that the persons referred to by the Deputy sought permission to remain in the State on Stamp 4 conditions under the Long Term Residency scheme in May 2012.

Long Term Residency is granted on the basis that a non-EEA national has completed five years (60 months) legal residency in the State on work permit/work authorisation/working visa conditions. Residency is calculated from the corresponding Stamp 1 or Stamp 4 endorsements in an applicant's passport and not by the dates of commencement and expiry of each work permit. Periods of time where a person has not had legal residency or where they have been resident in the State on student conditions (Stamp 2) are not reckonable for an application for Long Term Residency.

In the case of the persons referred to by the Deputy, I wish to advise him that the persons concerned did not satisfy the residency criteria for Long Term Residency and accordingly their

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

applications were not approved. The two persons concerned were advised of this decision by letter dated 21/05/2012.

The persons concerned may write to the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) of my Department seeking a change of immigration status. Further details are available on the INIS website *www.inis.gov.ie*.

Queries made in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to INIS by e-mail using the Oireachtas Mail facility which has been specifically established for this purpose. This service enables up to date information on such cases to be obtained without the need to seek information by way of the Parliamentary Questions process. The Deputy may consider using the e-mail service except in cases where the response from INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited.

### **Public Order Offences**

535. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to the increase in public order offences, public drinking, drug abuse and anti-social behaviour in the Temple Bar area, Dublin, a significant cultural and tourist centre; and the actions being taken to address this growing problem. [34728/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am informed by the Garda authorities that policing measures are in place to address the difficulties referred to by the Deputy. These include the designation of certain areas as hotspots for such criminality and additional high visibility patrols being directed by local Garda management. Incidents of public disorder and other anti-social behaviour are dealt with by way of juvenile or adult caution, fixed charge penalty notice or by initiating criminal proceedings.

In particular, a high visibility policing initiative has recently been reintroduced by Assistant Commissioner Dublin Metropolitan Region, including within the Dublin city catchment area. Dedicated high visibility patrols are conducted in key thoroughfares at strategic times, as dictated by crime trends and foot fall for these areas. These measures will be subject to close monitoring by local Garda management and will be continually reviewed to ensure they target prevailing trends.

In addition, I am also informed that there are a number of specific initiatives in place in the Temple Bar area. These include Operation Pier involving the deployment of plain-clothes Garda personnel as well as high visibility uniform personnel from the local Community Policing Unit, supplemented by additional patrols conducted by District and Division uniform personnel. The initiative has had a significant impact in combating and reducing incidents of public order and anti-social behaviour in the area.

The Garda authorities use a collaborative approach in addressing anti-social behaviour issues in the area including ongoing liaison with local business associations and other stakeholders.

The Gardaí also make effective use of CCTV in the city centre, with 44 CCTV cameras, monitored by Garda personnel from the Garda Camera Office on O'Connell Street, and a further 33 CCTV cameras monitored from Pearse Street Garda Station on a 24 hour basis. CCTV systems have proved to be of significant assistance to the Garda Authorities in the prevention and detection of incidents of crime since their introduction.

Local Garda management closely monitors the allocation of all resources in the context of crime trends, policing needs and other operational strategies in place to ensure optimum use is made of Garda resources, and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public.

I am further informed that situation is being kept under ongoing review and I can assure the Deputy that I am in regular contact with the Garda Commissioner with a view to ensuring that our streets are safe for all.

### **Departmental Properties**

536. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will confirm he has been contacted by South Dublin County Council in respect of the council designating a site in Tallaght west, Dublin, for a new Garda station; and the consultations that will take place on the matter. [34757/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** In accordance with the provisions of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, decisions in relation to the opening of Garda stations are a matter, in the first instance, for the Garda Commissioner.

I have not had any contact with South Dublin County Council in relation to this matter.

### **Temporary Release of Prisoners**

537. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of prisoners currently participating in the community return programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34828/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Community Return Programme is an incentivised scheme introduced in line with the recommendations of the Thornton Hall Project Review Group which provides for earned temporary release for offenders who pose no threat to the community, to engagement in supervised community service work. The type of work involved is intended to assist the community and the scheme is involved with a large number of charitable organisations and local community groups. The work takes place in a supervised group setting and involves practical tasks such as painting, gardening or graffiti removal.

The scheme is applicable to suitably assessed prisoners who are serving sentences of between one and eight years. Those participating are granted reviewable temporary release having served at least 50% of their sentence.

The following factors are taken into account in considering the suitability of a prisoner for temporary release to participate in the scheme:

- the nature and gravity of the offence to which the sentence being served by the person relates;
- the sentence concerned and any recommendation made by the Court in relation to the sentence imposed;
- the potential threat to the safety and security of the public should the person be released;
- the person's previous criminal record;
- the risk that the person might commit an offence during any period of temporary release;
- the risk of the person failing to comply with any of the conditions of temporary release;

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

- the extent of the prisoner's engagement with therapeutic services while in custody and the likelihood of period of temporary release enhancing his/her reintegration prospects; and
- conduct while in custody.

As announced with the launch of its new three year strategic plan, the Prison Service, in conjunction with the Probation Service, intends to increase the number of prisoners benefitting from this structured form of release over the course of the next three years. The Prison Service will work towards the placement of 400 prisoners per annum serving sentences of 1 to 8 years. It is envisaged that there would be no more than 150 prisoners participating in this scheme at any one time and all prisoners will be carefully assessed before being approved for the scheme.

There have to date been 220 participants on the scheme with 87 offenders currently engaged in community service work. 105 offenders have already completed the programme successfully with a small percentage of prisoners returned to custody for non-compliance. The reports to date from the Community Site Supervisors have been very positive and many of the participants have been commended for their work ethic, punctuality and commitment. Initial feedback from the participants has also been positive with many commenting on the supports and structure that it gives them on their release and how it has assisted in their transition back into the community.

### **Prison Committals**

538. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to figures that show that the prison population increased to 4,493 as of 14 June 2012, up from 4,288 on 22 June 2011; his plans to decrease the prison population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34829/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I have been informed by the Irish Prison Service that the number of prisoners in custody on 14 June 2012 was 4,493 while the numbers in custody on 22 June, 2011 was 4,433.

As the Deputy will appreciate, the Irish Prison Service must accept all prisoners committed by the Courts into its custody and does not have the option of refusing committals. It should be noted that this is the busiest time of the year for committals prior to the courts being in recess for the summer.

The average number of prisoners in custody in Ireland has risen in the last 5 years, from 3,321 during 2007 to 4,389 during 2011, an increase of over 32%. Likewise the total number of committals to prison has also risen sharply during the same period, from 11,934 in 2007 to 17,318 in 2011 — an increase of over 45%.

Rising prisoner numbers have placed enormous strain on the prison system across the board from accommodation to the provision of services including work training/education, healthcare and drug treatment services. During this period, as a result of the increase in the prison population, a number of prisons are operating well in excess of their stated bed capacities.

There does appear, however, to be a stabilising or levelling off in the increase in prisoner numbers being committed annually with 2011 recording only a 0.8% increase on the previous year. This compares to increases of 13.6%, 13.8% and 11.4% respectively year on year for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

As outlined in the recently published Irish Prison Service Three Year Strategic Plan, it is intended to align the capacity of our prisons in line with the guidelines laid down by the Inspector of Prisons by 2014 in so far as this is compatible with public safety and the integrity of the criminal justice system. In 2012 and the first quarter of 2013 priority will be given to reducing the chronic overcrowding in Mountjoy, Cork, Limerick Prisons and the Dóchas Centre.

Significant investment has taken place in our prison estate in recent years with in excess of 900 new prison spaces having been constructed and brought into use since 2007. A new accommodation block at the Midlands prison which will provide a potential 300 additional spaces as well as additional work training and education facilities is due to become operational in late 2012.

I am also committed to pursuing alternatives to custody. In conjunction with the Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service has commenced the roll out of the Community Return Programme, an incentivised scheme for earned temporary release under which offenders who pose no threat to the community are offered early temporary release in return for supervised community service. On 16 July 2012, 220 prisoners had participated in the scheme with 105 having completed their required periods of community service.

### Commencement of Legislation

539. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the date on which the Fines Act with the necessary ICT systems in place will commence. [34830/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Substantial parts of the Fines Act 2010 are already commenced including the indexation of fines and the requirement that the courts take into account a person's financial circumstances when imposing a fine. The provisions that remain to be commenced relate mainly to the collection of fines.

I am currently preparing amendments to the Fines Act 2010 to give effect to the commitment in the Programme for Government to introduce attachment of earnings to improve the collection of fines and reduce the number of persons committed to prison for the non-payment of fines. The introduction of attachment of earnings requires that the architecture of the Fines Act is reviewed to ensure that all the various elements work together harmoniously. Work on this review is well advanced, and any necessary amendments to the 2010 Act will be dealt with, along with the introduction of attachment of earnings, in a Fines (Amendment) Bill that I hope to have enacted during 2013.

### Community Service Orders

540. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to resource the community service schemes and the resources currently allocated. [34831/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Probation Service of my Department prioritises its workload and allocates its resources in such a way as to maximise its efficiency and effectiveness. This prioritisation includes particular focus on the delivery of front-line services and the supervision of Community Service Orders.

The Probation Service has restructured the delivery of Community Service nationally under the governance of a dedicated Community Service Unit. Besides the 9 dedicated administrative and probation staff, there are 78 Probation Officers working nationally with a range of duties including community service.

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

The Probation Service also engages community service supervisors to manage offenders undertaking community service on work projects. There are currently 40.4 community service supervisor posts nationwide, with sanction recently obtained to recruit an additional 4 supervisors.

*Question No. 541 answered with Question No. 531.*

### **Mental Health Services**

542. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the resources allocated to the Cloverhill Mental Health Prison Inreach and Court Liaison Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34833/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Prison Inreach and Liaison Service has been delivered by the Health Service Executive at Cloverhill Prison since 2006. The service ensures as far as possible that those people presenting before the courts where the infraction is a reflection of an underlying mental illness are referred and treated appropriately.

This approach has reduced the number of mentally ill people committed to prison. The number of diversions from prison to Community Mental Health Services has grown from 41 in 2006 to 132 in 2011. The service at Cloverhill Prison is provided by the National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS) which includes 1 Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, 1 Senior Registrar, 1 Registrar, and 3 Community Psychiatric Nurses supported by the healthcare team in Cloverhill Prison. The NFMHS team attend Cloverhill Prison daily. NFMHS staff also attend court to present reports on patients on whom they have conducted detailed assessments.

### **Sentencing Policy**

543. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to respond to the recent Law Reform Commission Consultation Paper on mandatory sentencing; if his Department has reviewed the effectiveness of current laws relating to sentencing for drugs offences; if he intends to repeal or amend the statutory provisions on mandatory and presumptive sentencing. [34834/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** As the Deputy is aware, the Law Reform Commission published its Consultation Paper on Mandatory Sentences in January 2012. The Commission invited submissions on the Consultation Paper from interested parties and will publish its Final Report in due course.

I intend to await the publication of the Final Report before deciding what, if any, action to take on foot of its recommendations.

### **Prison Building Programme**

544. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on renovation plans for Cork, Mountjoy in Dublin and Limerick prisons; his plans to ensure that overcrowding in those prisons is not exacerbated during renovation work. [34835/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can advise the Deputy that I have received a detailed business case from the Irish Prison Service recommending the replacement of Cork Prison with a new facility on the adjacent car-park and green-field site. While planning

for the project is at a preliminary stage, it is not possible at this juncture to give a definite timeline for delivery. Cork prison will remain fully operational until then.

The “C” Wing in Mountjoy prison has been fully refurbished including the provision of in-cell sanitation and is now fully operational. The “B” Wing is currently undergoing a similar refurbishment and will be completed in early November 2012. Tenders are currently being finalised for similar programmes of work in the “A” and “D” Wings with the “A” Wing commencing in early December 2012 and the “D” Wing scheduled for mid-2013.

The Irish Prison Service will be providing me with a full business case in September 2012 for a significant re-development in Limerick Prison. This will involve the replacement of the early 19th century “A” and “B” Wings with modern cellular accommodation including full in-cell sanitation, showers and a range of ancillary facilities. Following the necessary approval, planning and tender processes it is hoped that construction will commence in May/June 2013 with completion/commissioning in early 2015.

The new Midlands block due to open in late 2012, offering a potential 300 additional spaces, will ensure that overcrowding will not be exacerbated during the works in Mountjoy and Limerick prisons.

### **Prison Accommodation**

545. **Deputy Jonathan O’Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his plans to ensure that replacement of outdated accommodation must not be used to expand overall prison capacity. [34836/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Irish Prison Service has informed me that the proposed development of a new prison in Cork on the site of the current car park and adjacent green-field site is designed to replace the existing outdated prison with modern cellular accommodation containing in-cell sanitation and showering facilities supported by a full range of ancillary services. The new prison will have an average daily capacity of circa 275 prisoners which is broadly similar to the current daily average.

The proposed demolition of the early 19th century “A” and “B” blocks in Limerick and replacement with modern accommodation and related facilities will eliminate the practice of “slopping-out” and alleviate the current overcrowding difficulties. I am informed that these developments will not increase the present capacity of Limerick prison.

The recent refurbishment of “C” Wing, the ongoing works in “B” Wing and the proposed refurbishment of the “A” and “D” Wings will finally eliminate “slopping-out” in Mountjoy prison. The re-commissioning of long disused cellular accommodation across these wings will assist in alleviating the current overcrowding in Mountjoy but is not intended to increase the current capacity of the prison.

### **Inspector of Prisons**

546. **Deputy Jonathan O’Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if the new Inspector of Prisons will have the powers to compel witnesses to give evidence; the level of involvement the family of a deceased prisoner will have; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34837/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I presume the Deputy is referring to my announcement in April 2012 that the death of any prisoner in the custody of the Irish Prison Service will be the subject of an independent investigation by the Inspector of Prisons.

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

There is already a statutory obligation on persons employed in prisons to provide information as requested by the Inspector in the performance of his functions. I am looking at the question of enhancing his powers in this area in future legislation.

The conduct of an individual investigation is a matter for the Inspector who is independent in the performance of his functions. He has advised me that he does intend to consult with the family of deceased prisoners in the context of such investigations.

### **Prisoner Complaints Procedures**

547. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will establish an office of a prisoner's ombudsman. [34838/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** One of the obligations imposed by the Prisons (Visiting Committee) Act 1925 on such committees is to hear any complaints which may be made to them by a prisoner. I intend in due course in legislation to provide for a link between Visiting Committees and the Inspector of Prisons. I have also decided that a new complaints procedure should be introduced under the oversight of the Inspector of Prisons.

In the circumstances I am not convinced that there is any added value in establishing a prisoner's ombudsman and have no plans to establish such an office.

### **Juvenile Offenders**

548. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the interim measures in place to improve the regime at St. Patrick's Institution, Dublin, during the two year period while the new facility is being built at Oberstown, Lusk, County Dublin. [34839/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Irish Prison Service has committed in its Three Year Strategic Plan 2012-2015 to develop and implement a strategy which will seek to end the detention of 16 and 17 year old boys in St Patrick's Institution and relocate this cohort of offenders into appropriate child-friendly facilities by December, 2013. Progress has already been made as regards 16 year old male offenders and shortly there will be no such offenders held in St. Patrick's Institution.

The Prison Service is working in partnership with relevant key agencies to achieve this goal. Partner agencies include the Department of Children and Youth Affairs/Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), the Probation Service and the Health Service Executive.

It is envisaged that the following actions will be taken as part of the Strategy:

- In the period up to the end of 2013, the Irish Prison Service, in co-ordination with other relevant agencies, will risk assess and profile boys currently in detention and all new committals to St. Patrick's.
- For boys remaining in St. Patrick's, the Irish Prison Service will work with their partners and other agencies to ensure that their regime is age-appropriate and that best practice is observed.
- The Irish Prison Service will work closely with IYJS to ensure early development of the necessary facilities with a view to moving to end the detention of 17 year olds in St. Patrick's as soon as possible.

- The Irish Prison Service will set up an oversight group with their partners and additional external representation to oversee implementation of these plans and monitor progress.

Over the lifetime of the Strategy, the Prison Service will also review the overall approach taken to the placement of 18-21 year olds.

### **Prison Committals**

549. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will ensure that the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service bring forward a strategy for diverting women offenders away from prison as a matter of urgency; if he will give increased consideration to open facilities and residential therapeutic centres for women offenders. [34840/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am advised by the Director General that the recently published Irish Prison Service Strategic Plan 2012-2015 contains a commitment to develop a specific action plan to address the particular needs of women offenders.

The strategic plan for women offenders and those at risk of coming into custody is being prepared in collaboration with the Probation Service and will address the issues highlighted by the Deputy including diversion from custody as well as measures that could be adopted to improve the outcomes for those women for whom the courts determine that a custodial sentence is warranted due to the nature of the offence. The Irish Prison Service recognises the important role that the statutory and voluntary sector plays in assisting women offenders reintegrate back into society and recently held a multi-agency meeting with the various service providers to draw on this knowledge and expertise in relation to the development of its strategic plan and also to explore how co-operation across the various agencies might be improved and strengthened in the interest of women offenders.

Both the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service are committed to developing a new strategy for the sentence management of women offenders. This commitment is reflected in both organisation's 3 year Strategy Statements. A joint Steering Group has met and has charged a subgroup to draw up an implementation strategy which will be presented by the end of August. All matters, including open prison facilities and residential therapeutic centres, are available for consideration by the Steering Group.

### **Penal Policy Review Group**

550. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the proposed Penal Policy Review Group. [34841/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am finalising details regarding membership and terms of reference and I expect to make an announcement shortly.

### **National Crime Strategy**

551. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on the development of a national crime strategy. [34842/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can inform the Deputy that work on the development of a White Paper on Crime, incorporating a National Framework Anti-Crime Strategy, is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed this year.

### Prisoner Privacy

552. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to a recent court case where prisoner correspondence was found to have been leaked to a national newspaper; the steps that have been taken to investigate breaches of prisoner privacy; the steps taken to ensure against future breaches such as this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34843/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Irish Prison Service conducted an investigation into the alleged leaking of the private correspondence of a prisoner. However, the investigation could not determine the source of the leak or whether it had originated within the prison system. A separate investigation was also carried out by the Data Protection Commissioner.

### Irish Prison Service

553. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of prisoners on protection in each prison; the number of these prisoners locked up for 23 hours or more and the prisons they are in for 22 to 23 hours, for 20 to 22 hours, for 18 to 20 hours in a normal day, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34844/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The information requested by the Deputy is not readily available. This information is being collated by the Irish Prison Service. I will forward a reply to the Deputy as soon possible

554. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the length of time prisoners are being held on 23 hour lock up regime; the longest period in which they may be held like this; if there are any limits on the period for which a prisoner can be held on 23 hour lock up; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34845/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am to advise the Deputy that the status of each and every prisoner subject to a restricted regime within the prison system is regularly reviewed. Prisoners who have been removed from general association because of them being a significant threat to the maintenance of good order (Rule 62 of the Prison Rules 2007) are subject to regular reviews during which the reason or reasons for their removal from general association are provided to the prisoner. The prisoners are allowed an opportunity to express their views, which are also recorded, and are then taken into consideration. There is no limit on the period for which a prisoner can be held under rule 62 of the Prison Rules 2007. However the Director General is required to consider the facts associated with these cases every 7 days and must give approval if this type of restricted regime is to continue.

Persons under protective custody (Rule 63) must be interviewed and reviewed by prison management each month. The findings and comments of the prisoners are recorded each and every month along with the decision of the Governor and the reasons why this Rule is being applied. The Deputy will appreciate the overriding responsibility that the Prison Service has in relation to the provision of safe and secure custody and that there are a small number of prisoners who must serve their sentence or part thereof without contact from other prisoners for very specific reasons.

### Prison Accommodation

555. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of prisoners still slopping out; the number of these prisoners in shared cells; the locations of these

prisoners; and the number of prisoners who still have to use the toilet in the presence of other prisoners. [34846/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The information is being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as possible.

#### **Irish Prison Service**

556. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of children and adults that were held in special observation cells in 2011; the duration of time they were held in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34847/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The information is being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as possible.

#### **Prison Medical Service**

557. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the policies in place with regard to prescription drugs in each prison; the number of prisoners being prescribed benzodiazepines in each prison; the names of medicines not available to prisoner patients under the current model for delivery of medical service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34848/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** All prescription drugs dispensed in the Irish Prison Service are prescribed as appropriate by the clinician, following clinical assessment, and the responsibility for prescribing lies with the medical practitioner/dentist. To ensure the safe, appropriate and cost-effective use of medication, the Irish Prison Service Drug and Therapeutics Committee reviews current medication policies and develops new up-to-date guidance and policies on the use of prescribed medication in the Irish Prison Service. The recently revised Irish Prison Service Drug Treatment Clinical Policy includes policies and guidance on the use of prescription drugs in the treatment of addiction and related conditions.

All Irish Prison Service policies are prepared with reference to published national and international expert guidance and advice, including, inter alia, advice from the Department of Health and Children, the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the Irish Medicines Board, the National Medicines Information Centre, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, The Cochrane Library and the British National Formulary.

The prescribing of benzodiazepines in the Irish Prison Service is limited to situations where the use of such medication is deemed clinically necessary, for short term treatment of specific conditions, as per national guidelines (Ref Benzodiazepines: Good Practice Guidelines for Clinicians, DoHC 2002). As the requirement for benzodiazepines varies according to the clinical needs of an ever-changing prison population, it is not possible to give an exact number of patients in prison currently prescribed benzodiazepines.

The Irish Prison Service aims to provide a level of healthcare equivalent to that available to those entitled to General Medical Services in the community. Therefore all medicines available in the community via the community drugs schemes are available, as prescribed, to patients in prison. In addition, all specialist, hospital only prescriptions (such as medication for the treatment of Hepatitis C or Human Immunodeficiency Virus), are available and supplied as clinically indicated to patients in prison.

#### **Drugs in Prisons**

558. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of

[Deputy Jonathan O'Brien.]

prisoners on waiting lists for drug treatment services, counselling services, in each prison; the method by which the prison service ensure continuity of care for drug using prisoners.

[34849/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** There are a range of drug rehabilitation programmes available for prisoners which involve a significant multidimensional input by a diverse range of general and specialist services provided both by the Irish Prison Service and visiting statutory and non-statutory organisations. The programmes seek to reduce the demand for drugs within the prison system through education, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug-addicted prisoners. Particular initiatives include, inter alia, the provision of detoxification, methadone maintenance, education programmes, addiction counselling and drug therapy programmes.

The delivery of these services is being achieved in partnership with community based services and has brought a significant improvement in the range, quality and availability of drug treatment services in the prisons. It is the policy of the Irish Prison Service that where a person committed to prison gives a history of opiate use and tests positive for opioids, they are offered a medically assisted symptomatic detoxification, if clinically indicated. There is no waiting list for a detox as there is no dependency on community place availability.

There is no waiting period for methadone maintenance. The Irish Prison Service ensures the seamless transition of prisoners established on drug treatment from our care into community drug treatment settings as agreed in the protocol developed with the HSE. If the prisoner is on a community programme prior to committal to prison, the maintenance programme is continued during the prison term. Prior to a patient being commenced on methadone maintenance in prison, a drug treatment place in the community must be secured to ensure continuation of treatment upon release. Methadone substitution treatment is available in 9 of the 14 prisons and places of detention (accommodating over 80% of the prison population).

Merchants Quay Ireland are contracted to provide addiction counselling services in prisons and deliver approximately 1,500 prisoner contacts per month. The service is delivered by 21 counsellors. In 2011, there were 2,792 referrals to the service. There are currently approximately 200 on waiting lists across the system awaiting assessment and treatment. All those referred are assessed initially by a counsellor to identify the person's addiction and agree a treatment plan.

There are currently Drug Free Units in Mountjoy Prison, Wheatfield Prison, Cloverhill Prison and St. Patrick's Institution. In addition, the Training Unit, Arbour Hill, Loughan House and Shelton Abbey are regarded as drug free institutions. As part of the enhancement of the drug treatment services in prisons a standard Drug Free Programme has been developed for implementation in all closed prisons (with the exception of Arbour Hill). This programme will support any prisoner who is drug free, has drug free status and/or is stable on methadone. It is intended that by the end of 2012 all closed prisons will operate this Programme in dedicated drug free areas.

### **Prisoner Medical Records**

559. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of prisoners with long term illnesses in each of the prisons. [34850/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** It is not possible to provide the requested figures to the Deputy as this would require the manual examination of records. Such an examination would require a disproportionate and inordinate amount of staff time and

effort and could not be justified in current circumstances where there are other significant demands on resources.

### **Prison Medical Service**

560. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if qualified medical staff are available in prisons at all times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34851/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Primary care is the model of care through which healthcare is delivered; it is the linchpin of the prison healthcare system. The primary care service is provided using a multi-disciplinary model and intra-disciplinary working processes and strives to provide proactive healthcare with a focus on health awareness and preventative medicine.

Each prison has a complement of nurses and/or medical orderlies and attendance by a prison doctor. Doctors attend prisons on a daily basis Monday to Friday, they are also available on call outside of their contracted hours of attendance. Weekend cover is also provided by doctors in all closed prisons. A complement of nursing staff and medical orderlies are on duty on a 24 hour basis in all closed prisons.

### **Prison Dental Services**

561. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality with regard to dental care, where a prisoner requires treatment beyond the cost limit set by the Health Service Executive, the options that are available to that patient. [34852/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The range of dental services available to prisoners reflects those available in the community under the GMS Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS). This is entirely consistent with the objective of the Irish Prison Service to provide equivalence of care in relation to the provision of healthcare services comparable to that available to medical card holders in the community.

The DTSS allows one check up annually and permits two fillings annually. Additional routine fillings are approved if the patient has a significant medical history. Emergency care is provided for, which allows for extraction and repair of dentures. Where other treatment which falls outside the scope of the DTSS is required arrangements are in place where such a case can be reviewed and adjudicated by a consultant dental clinician.

### **Prison Regulations**

562. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the policies in place to ensure that the needs of prisoners with special dietary requirements, for example diabetics, are met. [34853/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Section 23 of the Prison Rules, 2007 (S.I.No. 252 of 2007) provides that the Governor shall ensure that, where the prison doctor so advises, special provision is made in relation to the dietary needs of a prisoner who suffers from a medical condition the treatment, prevention or alleviation of the symptoms of which necessitates adherence to a special diet. The Irish Prison Service operates a 28 day menu cycle which was reviewed and updated in October 2011. The menu provides a wide variety of wholesome and nutritious food and drink each day, properly prepared and well presented. All prisoners, in particular those with medical needs, are encouraged to make healthy choices from the menu provided.

### Deaths in Prison

563. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of deaths in prison custody that occurred in 2011; the number of deaths in prison custody in the first six months of 2012; and if he will provide a breakdown of the types of deaths in custody in each prison. [34854/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** All deaths in custody are the subject of a Garda investigation and an inquest held in a Coroner's Court. The cause of death is determined by a jury on the basis of the information presented to the Coroner's Court. The Inspector of Prisons, Judge Michael Reilly has recently been given responsibility to also investigate all deaths in custody. Such investigations will apply to prisoners who are in the custody of the Irish Prison Service, whether or not the death actually occurs within the prison walls, and to prisoners who have recently been let out on temporary release.

Furthermore, the circumstances of each death in custody are also examined by a suicide prevention group in each institution. The groups are chaired by Governors and include representatives from various services i.e. Doctors, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Chaplains, Probation Officers, Education and Prison staff. They are required to meet quarterly or more often if necessary. Their examinations cover fully the background and circumstances of each death. Their objective is to identify, where possible, measures which might be implemented to contribute to a reduction in the risk of deaths in the future.

There were 6 deaths in custody in 2011 and 4 to date in 2012. Of the 10 deaths since 2011, the cause of death has been determined as death by misadventure in 2 cases. Inquests are pending in the remaining 8 cases. A breakdown by prison is set out in the table below.

| Prison     | 2012 | Cause of Death (determined in a Coroner's Court) | 2011 | Cause of Death (determined in a Coroner's Court) |
|------------|------|--|------|--|
| Castlerea  |      |  | 1    | Inquest Pending                                  |
| Cloverhill |      |  | 1    | Inquest Pending                                  |
| Limerick   | 1    | Inquest Pending                                  |      |  |
| Midlands   | 1    | Inquest Pending                                  | 1    | Inquest Pending                                  |
| Mountjoy   | 2    | Inquests Pending                                 | 1    | Death by misadventure                            |
| Wheatfield |      |  | 2    | 1 — Death by misadventure<br>1 — Inquest Pending |
| Total      | 4    |  | 6    |  |

### Prison Committals

564. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of women currently in prison custody; the number of those women on remand; the number of those women serving a sentence of less than one year. [34855/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I wish to inform the Deputy that as of Monday 16th July, there were a total of 163 women in custody, with 29 on remand. 38 women are serving a sentence of less than one year.

### Prisoner Transfers

565. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of

transfers that were effected within the prison system in 2011; the number of these that were involuntary; and the circumstances in which an involuntary transfer may take place. [34856/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can advise the Deputy that the number of transfers that were effected within the prison system in 2011 was 9,060.

It is not possible to provide the Deputy with the breakdown of information requested in relation to the number of transfers that were involuntary, as this would require the manual examination of records. Such an examination would require a disproportionate and inordinate amount of staff time and effort and can not be justified in current circumstances where there are other significant demands on resources.

As a guiding principle the Irish Prison Service attempts to place prisoners in the location nearest to their family home. This principle is, of course, subject to appropriate security considerations, operational and legislative requirements. Common reasons for prisoner movements include court appearances, disruptive behaviour, conflict with other prisoners, to assist family contact, to participate in a particular training or educational course, to assist in reintegration or to alleviate overcrowding. Factors taken into account include length of sentence, nature of offence, medical needs, drug dependency, behaviour while in custody, the age of the prisoner, previous criminal record, engagement with the various services and the availability of accommodation.

Prison transfers take place on foot of administrative decisions made on my behalf. It would not be possible to operate the prison system if such transfers only took place on foot of requests from prisoners. To do so would inevitably lead to excessive overcrowding in some prisons, vacancies in others and circumstances which could lead to avoidable violent or dangerous incidents.

### Prisoner Transfers

566. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the highest number of transfers for an individual prisoner during sentence or in a year for each of the past four years; the number of prisoners transferred more than five times; and the number of prisoners transferred more than ten times. [34857/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The information requested by the Deputy is set out in the table below:

|   | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Highest Individual Transfers per prisoner       | 24   | 26   | 18   | 25   |
| Number of prisoners with more than 5 transfers  | 165  | 197  | 277  | 244  |
| Number of prisoners with more than 10 transfers | 18   | 23   | 30   | 35   |

Common reasons for prisoner movements include court appearances, disruptive behaviour, conflict with other prisoners, to assist family contact, to participate in a particular training or educational course, to assist in reintegration or to alleviate overcrowding. Factors taken into account include length of sentence, nature of offence, medical needs, drug dependency, behaviour while in custody, the age of the prisoner, previous criminal record, engagement with the various services and the availability of accommodation.

Prison transfers take place on foot of administrative decisions made on my behalf. It would not be possible to operate the prison system if such transfers only took place on foot of requests from prisoners. To do so would inevitably lead to excessive overcrowding in some prisons,

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

vacancies in others and circumstances which could lead to avoidable violent or dangerous incidents.

### Prisoner Safety

567. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if seat belts are routinely provided to prisoners during transfers; and the safety measures in place to ensure prisoner safety during transport. [34858/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** While seat belts are provided in passenger vehicles operated by the Irish Prison Service, they are not provided in cellular vehicles for operational and security reasons. This is to minimise the access of prisoners to materials which could be used to cause harm to themselves or others.

The Irish Prison Service have a number of safety measures in place to ensure prisoner safety during transport which are:

- The prisoner is handcuffed in a way that helps prevent an injury during slight jolts.
- Soft head rests are provided.
- The design of vehicle cell is plastic resin with no sharp edges to help prevent injury.
- There is a footwell that is designed to prevent leg injury.

### Prison Committals

568. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons imprisoned for fine default during 2011; the number of persons imprisoned for fine default during the first six months of 2012. [34859/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** A breakdown of the number of committals imprisoned for non-payment of fines for the year 2011 and the first six months of 2012 is set out in the following table:

| Year                          | Committals for non — payment of fines |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2012 (inclusive of 30th June) | 4,470                                 |
| 2011                          | 7,514                                 |

\*The 2011 figures are provisional pending the publication of the Irish Prison Service Annual Report.

I can advise the Deputy that the number of such persons held in custody at any one time is a tiny fraction of the overall prisoner population. To illustrate this point, on 30th June, 2012 there were 22 prisoners or 0.5 percent of the numbers in prison custody that fell into this category.

### Prisoner Gratuity Payments

569. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality in view of the proposed reduction in the standard prisoner gratuity, the steps he will put in place to ensure that no prisoner is exposed to undue hardship, particularly when the prisoner does not have family or other external financial support. [34860/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can advise the Deputy that a review of the prisoner gratuity payments and allowances system has been completed by the

Irish Prison Service. The review covered all aspects of the current scheme including the daily allowance and approved work allowance.

On foot of this review it is proposed that three different levels of daily gratuity be introduced, with the rates being paid dependent on behaviour and level of engagement in structured activities and sentence plans. Under the proposal prisoners who are well behaved and engage actively with services should not see any substantive reduction in their gratuity payments. It is also proposed to regularise the payment of working gratuities across the prison estate and only activities where prisoners provide services, which would otherwise result in a cost to the prison service, such as catering and laundry, would qualify for the payment. I expect that the new scheme will be finalised shortly.

Prisoners, or their families, may be eligible for consideration for assistance from the Prisoner Assist Programme Fund, on hardship grounds.

### **Prison Visiting Regulations**

570. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of prisoners that had family visits withdrawn as punishment in 2011. [34861/12]

571. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of visitors who were excluded from visits or offered a screened visit in 2011; the current procedures in place for families to make a complaint regarding visits and or to challenge the refusal of a visit. [34862/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 570 and 571 together.

The number of visitors excluded from visits or offered a screened visit in 2011 was 306. Section 36(9) of the Prison Rules makes provision for the Governor, where he or she believes it to be necessary in order to: (a) prevent the entry into the prison of controlled drugs or other prohibited articles or substances, (b) prevent a conspiracy to commit a criminal offence, or (c) otherwise maintain good order and safe and secure custody, may refuse to permit a visit to a prisoner by a person or persons.

Some of our prisons, e.g. Cloverhill and St Patrick's have screened visits facilities as the norm and others, e.g. Cork and Mountjoy may provide "open visits". There is no automatic right to an open visit and the Governor may insist on screened visits on occasions for security reasons. Reasons why screened visits may be applied include previous attempts to retrieve contraband, evidence of drug misuse, previous attempts by the visitor to pass contraband and/or positive indications on the visitor by the drug dogs. These triggers could reasonably lead the Governor to believe there would be a risk in relation to contraband if an open visit was to take place.

Any visitor who is refused a visit or is subject to screened visits has the option of appealing the decision to the Governor of the prison. The Governor ultimately makes the final decision on any visitor access to the prison as referred to above. The number of prisoners that had visits withdrawn as punishment in 2011 was 1, 252. However, it is not possible to provide a further breakdown specific to family visits.

### **Prison Staff**

572. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if prison officers receive any specialist training with regard to family visits. [34863/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am advised by the Director General of the Irish Prison Service that Prison Officers working in visiting areas, gates, security, screening units, external posts or any other area where there may come into contact with prisoners' families, receive 'area specific' training. All of these training programmes highlight the critical necessity for prison staff to behave in a professional, courteous, polite manner to all visitors.

The training emphasises the inherent human rights and dignity of every member of the prison community which includes all visitors to our prisons. In addition to this 'area specific training', all prison officers are provided with training in order to equip them with the necessary skills and attributes to meet their obligations to the prisoners in their care, visitors to prisons and to the wider community.

The Irish Prison Service training, higher education programmes, policies and procedures are designed to increase prison personnel's understanding of human behaviour, familiarise them with the interactions and processes of different groups within society in order to ensure that they share and promote the core values espoused in the Irish Prison Service mission and vision statements. To further strengthen this approach the Irish Prison Service is currently drafting a Dignity at Work Charter and a prison wide dignity and respect awareness programme for all prison personnel. The programme highlights the requirement to treat all members of the prison community, including visitors, prisoners' families, staff and management with dignity, respect, courtesy and in a professional manner.

#### **Prisoner Complaints Procedures**

573. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of complaints made by prisoners in each prison during 2011; the number of these which were upheld; the number of these that were appealed; and the subject matter of these complaints. [34864/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The information requested is not readily available and requires a manual examination of records. The information is however being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon possible.

#### **Prison Staff**

574. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the training provided to staff on the way to support prisoners making a complaint. [34865/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Irish Prison Service Training and Development Centre (IPSTDC) supports the operation of the Irish Prison Service through the development of training for prison staff. The IPSTDC training programmes emphasise the inherent human rights and dignity of every member of the prison community which includes persons in custody and prison staff. All prison officers are provided with training in order to equip them with the necessary skills and attributes to meet their obligations to the prisoners in their care.

#### **Prison Regulations**

575. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to the fact that foreign national prisoners held in prisons here are not allowed to write or telephone family members in languages other than English; the way this policy can be reconciled with the right to respect for family life of those prisoners; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34866/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can inform the Deputy that all prisoners are allowed to make telephone calls and write correspondence in their chosen language.

### **Prison Religious Services**

576. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the level of access to religious services provided in each prison; and the level of access to minority religious services that is provided. [34867/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can inform the Deputy that a chaplaincy service is available in each prison. Full-time Roman Catholic Chaplains are attached to all prisons in the Archdiocese of Dublin, in addition to Limerick, Castlerea, Portlaoise, and Midlands Prisons. Part-time Roman Catholic Chaplains are attached to Cork, Loughan House and Shelton Abbey.

Chaplains of other Churches, such as the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Church, attend the prisons on either a part-time or visiting basis as necessary. In addition to offenders from the various Christian Churches, the needs of Muslim prisoners are met by local Muslim religious leaders. Prison Governors are very aware of the importance of religious practice in the life of prisoners and every effort is made to facilitate this to the fullest extent possible within the prison environment.

### **Prisoner Rehabilitation Programmes**

577. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of children who have a parent in prison; the policies within the prison service that are in place to facilitate the child parent relationship; if parenting courses are available in every prison; and the number of prisoners who avail of these courses in each prison. [34868/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I have been advised that the Irish Prison Service does not specifically record details from prisoners regarding their number of children. It has been estimated, however, that approximately 200,000 adult family and friend visits to prisoners take place every year and about 80,000 children visits. Based on these estimates, and the age profile of prisoners, the number of children who have a parent in custody is likely to be a substantial figure.

International research has found that good family ties can significantly reduce a prisoner's risk of re-offending. Every effort is accordingly made by the Irish Prison Service to encourage and support prisoners in maintaining positive relationships with their families. As I have already stated, the Irish Prison Service facilitate a very significant number of visits by families to prisoners every year. Prisoners are also entitled to regular telephone and correspondence contact with their families.

The IPS also contributes funding to a number of projects, such as Dillons Cross in Cork and Bedford Row in Limerick, which provide supportive programmes to the families of prisoners in the community.

A range of parenting courses are also available to prisoners, primarily through the Education Units in prisons. There are no figures available on the number of participants involved in these modules as, in many cases, the parenting skills are included in broader personal development courses.

### Prisoner Transfers

578. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the procedures in place to ensure that families are informed of the transfer of their family member; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34869/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I wish to inform the Deputy that every effort is made to inform the prisoner's family if the prisoner is transferred.

It should be noted that all prisoners have an allocated amount of phone calls per week and have the option of contacting family members if they so wish. As is the current practice in relation to the prisoner visitor system all persons nominated to the prisoner's visitor panel are asked to provide a contact number whereby they can be informed of events that may see the prisoner transferred from that prison. Not all panel members will provide these details.

The Director General of the Irish Prison Service is currently exploring the possibility of implementing a formal protocol in the near future to deal with this issue.

### Sex Offender Treatment Programme

579. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of sex offenders serving sentences of imprisonment; the number in each prison; the number in prison who have to date completed treatment programmes related to the offences committed by them; and the nature of the programme or programmes completed. [34887/12]

580. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of sex offenders in prison who will complete their sentences within the next 18 months or who have applied to the parole board for release who have undertaken and completed treatment programmes related to the offences committed by them; and the nature of the programme or programmes completed. [34888/12]

581. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of sex offenders imprisoned participating in a treatment programme relating to the offence or offences committed by them; when such programme will be completed; and the qualifications and numbers of persons employed by the prison service to provide such programmes [34889/12]

582. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of convicted sex offenders released from prison during the past five years who have neither undertaken nor participated in any treatment programme provided by the prison service related to the offence or offences for which they were convicted. [34890/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 579 to 582, inclusive, together.

It is not possible, in the time available, to collate the information requested by the Deputy. I will furnish the information to the Deputy as soon as possible.

### Garda Operations

583. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of warrants that are outstanding in each Garda division; the breakdown of the outstanding warrants for each division in terms of bench warrants, committal warrants and penal warrants. [34891/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** It is, of course, inevitable that at any given time there will be a significant number of warrants awaiting execution. Unavoidably, even in the most straightforward cases there must be some lapse of time between the issue of a warrant by the court and its execution by An Garda Síochána. Apart from the huge volume of warrants which are issued, there can be a multiplicity of reasons why warrants can take time to execute and, in some cases, they can prove ultimately unenforceable. It is the case that many individuals can be subject to multiple warrants and a number of the subjects of the warrants are taking every step open to them to try to avoid arrest through moving from address to address and so on.

While it is clearly important that An Garda Síochána take all possible action to ensure that warrants are executed as quickly as possible, it should be borne in mind that the vast majority of warrants do not relate to violent or the more serious categories of offence. In fact, most of the warrants which are recorded as unexecuted are penal warrants, which relate to the payment of fines with imprisonment arising as a consequence of failure to pay. 93% of penal warrants are associated with Road Traffic Acts, public order and theft offences.

Moreover, I have been assured by the Garda Commissioner that An Garda Síochána give priority to the execution of warrants in respect of serious crime and will continue to do so.

I have been advised in respect of executed warrants that 46% were executed within three months, 70% within 6 months, 87% within 12 months and 13% after 12 months.

Subject to the caveats I mention below, I am informed that on 13 July 2012 PULSE recorded 124,209 bench, penal and committal warrants as unexecuted. For comparison purposes, I am advised that in May 2008 a similar number of warrants were recorded by PULSE as unexecuted: 117,756. It seems clear, therefore, that despite the constraints under which An Garda Síochána have had to operate arising from the difficult economic circumstances, the situation in relation to unexecuted warrants has not deteriorated.

In relation to the figures provided by An Garda Síochána, I should say that I have been advised that they are operational and liable to change.

Of its nature, the figure for outstanding warrants recorded by PULSE at any given time reflects an accumulation of old warrants which has arisen over the years. I set out below a separate table which shows warrants outstanding for the years 2000 to 2011. It will be clear from that table that the vast majority of unexecuted warrants relate to 2010 and before. Warrants will continue to show on PULSE until such time as they are recorded as being finally disposed of and, given that some of the warrants in question are outstanding for many years, I am concerned that the total figure for outstanding warrants as shown on PULSE may not be a reliable indicator of the number of 'live' warrants which are enforceable which are on hand.

In the circumstances, I have asked the Garda Commissioner to consider whether there may be a better way of maintaining statistics which gives a more realistic indication in relation to any backlog of warrants that arises. I have also asked him to report to me again in six months time on the situation in relation to unexecuted warrants and indicated that if he has any recommendations in relation to legislative or administrative action open to me as Minister which would assist in this area I will, of course, consider them.

While genuine difficulties can arise where it does not prove possible to enforce a warrant, it is obviously important that systems are in place to ensure that warrants are enforced as quickly as possible. I have been advised by the Garda Commissioner that at present there is an Inspector in each Garda District in the Dublin Metropolitan Region and each Division outside the DMR tasked with managing the execution of warrants, and other issues relating to them. In addition, specific members of the Force are tasked with their execution. An Garda Síochána

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

continually liaises with other agencies, including Government Departments, to locate individuals sought on warrant. This has resulted in the provision of addresses, other than those provided on the warrants, for many persons sought. In particular, Garda warrants personnel regularly liaise with the Irish Prison Service and the Courts Service to ensure the timely exchange of relevant information regarding persons sought for the service of warrants.

I am also advised that there is a warrants working group in place which facilitates liaison between the various stakeholders, including the Court Service and the Prison Service and which works to identify, address and prevent difficulties in the warrants process. The work of the group is ongoing and relevant recommendations for the improvement of systems are being implemented on an ongoing basis.

The Garda Commissioner has assured me that both he and his senior management team are closely monitoring the situation with a view to ensuring that warrants are executed as expeditiously as possible.

There seems little doubt that the outstanding warrants figures for previous years reflected partly the situation which then obtained in relation to the use of imprisonment in cases of non-payment of fines, a practice which I think most people now regard as highly undesirable. Since the commencement of section 14 of the Fines Act 2010, a Court is now obliged to take into account the means of the person before imposing a fine. This measure combined with other provisions such as the use of community service, payment by instalment and use of attachment of earnings should, when fully operational, have very beneficial effects on the number of warrants which the Gardaí are called on to enforce.

Number of Bench, Committal and Penal Warrants Unexecuted By Garda Division

| Division           | Bench Warrants | Committal Warrants | Penal Warrants | Total  |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| Cavan/Monaghan     | 743            | 51                 | 672            | 1,466  |
| Clare              | 258            | 47                 | 605            | 910    |
| Cork City          | 922            | 492                | 5,685          | 7,099  |
| Cork North         | 328            | 87                 | 1,069          | 1,484  |
| Cork West          | 179            | 36                 | 909            | 1,124  |
| DMR East           | 707            | 40                 | 2,326          | 3,073  |
| DMR North          | 1,001          | 388                | 9,711          | 11,100 |
| DMR North Central  | 15,890         | 375                | 7,883          | 24,148 |
| DMR South          | 1,338          | 262                | 13,825         | 15,425 |
| DMR South Central  | 278            | 132                | 3,675          | 4,085  |
| DMR West           | 1,436          | 364                | 12,103         | 13,903 |
| Donegal            | 344            | 21                 | 988            | 1,353  |
| Galway             | 976            | 128                | 4,828          | 5,932  |
| Kerry              | 587            | 38                 | 1,286          | 1,911  |
| Kildare            | 995            | 184                | 3,953          | 5,132  |
| Kilkenny/Carlow    | 395            | 37                 | 1,599          | 2,031  |
| Laois/Offaly       | 479            | 158                | 1,786          | 2,423  |
| Limerick           | 609            | 82                 | 1,804          | 2,495  |
| Louth              | 455            | 20                 | 815            | 1,290  |
| Mayo               | 354            | 70                 | 1,284          | 1,708  |
| Meath              | 653            | 83                 | 3,366          | 4,102  |
| Roscommon/Longford | 254            | 24                 | 772            | 1,050  |

| Division      | Bench Warrants | Committal Warrants | Penal Warrants | Total   |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| Sligo/Leitrim | 105            | 4                  | 370            | 479     |
| Tipperary     | 430            | 29                 | 1,709          | 2,168   |
| Waterford     | 303            | 14                 | 1,873          | 2,190   |
| Westmeath     | 329            | 139                | 1,696          | 2,164   |
| Wexford       | 338            | 27                 | 1,187          | 1,552   |
| Wicklow       | 448            | 160                | 1,804          | 2,412   |
| Total         | 31,134         | 3,492              | 89,583         | 124,209 |

Number of Unexecuted Warrants by Year of Issue 2000-2011

| Year  | Number of Unexecuted Warrants |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 2011  | 24,635                        |
| 2010  | 15,152                        |
| 2009  | 16,014                        |
| 2008  | 16,898                        |
| 2007  | 10,954                        |
| 2006  | 9,169                         |
| 2005  | 8,913                         |
| 2004  | 8,716                         |
| 2003  | 4,061                         |
| 2002  | 2,038                         |
| 2001  | 1,262                         |
| 2000  | 1,142                         |
| Total | 118,954                       |

### Citizenship Applications

584. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for citizenship by naturalisation processed by his Department between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011; the number of applications that were approved; the number refused; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34899/12]

585. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation were granted between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, disaggregated by the applicants previous nationalities, age and sex; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34900/12]

586. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation refused between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 disaggregated by the applicants nationalities, age and sex; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34901/12]

587. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation refused between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011, disaggregated by the reasons for the refusal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34902/12]

588. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation refused between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 on the basis that the applicant had come to the adverse attention of the Garda Síochána; and if he will disaggregate the data by the applicants nationalities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34903/12]

589. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation were refused between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 on the basis that the applicant had come to the adverse attention of a member of the Garda Síochána in situations where the applicant has not had a conviction recorded against them; and if he will disaggregate the data by the applicants nationalities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34904/12]

590. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation approved between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011 in cases where the applicants had come to the adverse attention of a member of the Garda Síochána; if he will disaggregate the data by the applicants previous nationalities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34905/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 584 to 590, inclusive, together.

The number of applications processed for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2011 was approximately 15,000. The number approved was approximately 13,000 and refused was approximately 600. In addition, almost 1,200 applications were deemed to be ineligible.

The primary aim since I was appointed Minister in March 2011 has been to reduce the large volume of cases on hand as swiftly as possible which has now been achieved in the majority of cases and I am confident that significant inroads will also be made with the remaining cases by year end. I can also inform the Deputy that from June 2012, in the generality of cases i.e. around 70%, persons applying for a certificate of naturalisation will be given a decision on their application within six months.

For the information of the Deputy the situation in March 2011 was that there were over 22,000 cases on hand and applications were taking an average time of over two years to process and many were waiting 3 to 4 years. Through the measures I introduced enormous progress has been made, notwithstanding a substantial increase in the volume of valid applications received in 2011, during which a total of 18,500 valid applications were received compared to 12,500 in 2010. As stated above, approximately 15,000 valid applications were determined in 2011. By contrast, in 2010, a decision was reached in just under 7,800 cases. In 2012 to date, I have made a decision in approximately 15,600 cases.

The Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act, 1956, as amended, provides that the Minister may decide to grant or refuse an application in his absolute discretion on a case by case basis by assessing the entirety of the available information. Where an application is refused the applicant is generally given reasons for that decision insofar as the explanation given cannot be interpreted as a fettering of the absolute discretion given to the Minister in the Act. I would make the general comment that this issue has been tested before the Courts and found to be in accordance with the law. The Deputy will therefore appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me to provide the information sought in respect of the reasons for refusing applications for naturalisation. In any event, I am advised by the Citizenship Division of my Department that the retrieval and compilation of this and other information requested by the Deputy for the

period in question would necessitate a disproportionate use of time and resources which could not be justified in circumstances where the priority is to deal with the cases on hand.

### **Garda Investigations**

591. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will support the case of a person (details supplied) as there is a lack of action on this urgent matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35014/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I have requested a report from the Garda authorities in relation to the matter referred to by the Deputy. I will contact the Deputy again when the report is to hand.

### **Garda Transport**

592. **Deputy Pat Deering** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 105 of 14 June 2012, of the nine Garda cars that are currently assigned to Carlow district the number marked, unmarked and traffic corps; the number of the nine cars that have such kilometres on the clock that will deem them unusable in six months and 12 months from now, approximate as exact predictions cannot be made. [35045/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am advised by the Garda authorities that there are four marked and five unmarked Garda cars currently assigned to the Carlow District. Two of these cars are assigned to traffic duty.

With regard to the relevant cars, one is projected to be decommissioned by 31st December 2012 and two are projected to be decommissioned by 30th June 2013.

### **Ministerial Allowances**

593. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35067/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Since 1 March 2010, in common with other Departments, members of the Oireachtas that are office holders in this Department receive a Parliamentary Standard Allowance through the Houses of the Oireachtas. The details of this allowance are a matter for the Houses of the Oireachtas.

There have not been any expenses in respect of either domestic or foreign travel claimed by Ministers attached to this Department since March 2011.

### **Garda Stations**

594. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will protect rural Garda stations in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35073/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Deputy will be aware that under the Garda Síochána Acts 2005-2007, the Commissioner is required to submit, before November of each year, a policing plan for the forthcoming year. Any proposals for the closure of Garda stations or the altering of Regional or Divisional boundaries must be set out in that plan. While the Policing Plan for 2013 has not yet been submitted to me, I expect that it will

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

contain measures to address the ongoing issue of rationalisation of the Garda station network. It would therefore be premature to speculate on specific measures which this might involve.

In making his assessments on these matters the Garda Commissioner has asked each Divisional Officer to assess the level of activity in each Garda Station in their area. It must be stressed that the key objective of any station closure is to promote the more efficient and effective deployment of resources rather than secure specific cash saving.

The Deputy will also be aware that the Commissioner is responsible for the detailed allocation of resources, including personnel, throughout the organisation and I have no function in the matter. This allocation of resources is constantly monitored in the context of crime trends, policing needs and other operational strategies in place on a District, Divisional and Regional level to ensure optimum use is made of Garda resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public. Kerry Garda Division will be subject to this same level of monitoring to ensure that optimum use is made of Garda resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public.

### **Garda Policing Plan**

595. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the impact that the assessment process being undertaken on the demands placed on each Garda District and station in the country will have on two stations within a Garda Division (details supplied); if he will outline the likely date for the conclusion of these assessments; if there will be any public consultation on this process;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35175/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Garda Commissioner is currently engaged in an assessment of the potential for improved efficiencies in the structure and organisation of the Garda Síochána as part of the preparation of the draft policing plan for 2013, which under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 is due to be submitted to me by the end of October this year.

While I expect that the policing plan for 2013 will contain proposals for the further rationalisation of Garda stations and Districts, it would be premature, in advance of its submission, to speculate on specific measures which it might contain.

### **Garda Operations**

596. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the cost incurred by An Garda Síochána, including overtime costs, in providing services for the recent Eucharistic Congress; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35192/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I have sought information from the Garda authorities in relation to the matters raised in this Question and I will respond further to the Deputy as quickly as possible.

597. **Deputy Jerry Buttimer** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the cost incurred by An Garda Síochána, including overtime costs, in providing services for the recent visit of Aung San Suu Kyi; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35193/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I have sought information from the Garda authorities in relation to the matters raised in this Question and I will respond further to the Deputy as quickly as possible.

*Question No. 598 answered with Question No. 524.*

*Question No. 599 answered with Question No. 531.*

600. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he is satisfied that there are sufficient policing numbers for the O'Connell Street area; if his attention has been drawn to any increase in public order offences or anti social behaviour; his views on whether the area is safe for tourists and those working there, and if any specific actions are being considered for the area. [35201/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Deputy will be aware that the Commissioner, in consultation with his senior management team, is responsible for the detailed allocation of resources, including personnel, throughout the organisation and I have no function in the matter.

I am informed by the Garda Commissioner that a range of policing measures are in place to address crime, including public order offences, and anti-social behaviour in the area concerned, including any changes in crime trends. These include regular patrols by uniform and plain-clothes units, as well as additional high-visibility patrols directed by local Garda management and a number of targeted operational initiatives. Incidents of public disorder and anti-social behaviour are dealt with by way of juvenile or adult caution, fixed charge penalty notice or by criminal proceedings.

The Garda also make effective use of CCTV in the city centre, and these have proved to be of significant assistance in the prevention and detection of incidents of crime since their introduction.

Garda management keep all of these measures under continuing review with the aim of delivering an efficient and effective policing service and promoting the safety of residents and visitors alike.

### **Medical Negligence Cases**

601. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality in cases of deaths caused by gross medical negligence that require a full ECHR Article 2 type investigation and noting the restrictions imposed on a Coroner by section 30 and 31 of the Coroners Act 1962 and also noting that it is not in Health Information and Quality Authority's remit to investigate individual cases, if he will confirm the manner in which the State fulfils its investigative obligations pursuant to Article 2 in order to identify those responsible and to establish if there has been systemic failures leading to the death; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35203/12]

602. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the reason the Coroners Bill 2007, a purpose of which is to take into account the Jurisprudence of our Courts and the European Courts of Human Rights has not been enacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35204/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 601 and 602 together.

I would refer the Deputy to my reply to Questions Nos. 504 and 505 of 3 July 2012 which was as follows:

“The coroner is an independent officer charged with the investigation of certain reportable deaths. The primary public expression of that investigation is the inquest which

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

seeks factually to discover the circumstances of the person's death. It provides accessibility to the deceased's family and affords a sufficient element of public scrutiny.

In a case such as the Deputy mentions as potentially arising, I am satisfied that the inquest meets the State's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, and in particular Article 2 of the Convention.

I would also mention in this regard, the Coroners (Amendment) Act 2005, which ended the restriction on the coroner from summoning more than 2 medical witnesses to give evidence at an inquest, increased sanctions on witnesses and jurors who failed to attend or cooperate at an inquest and increased powers of compellability for the coroner in regard to the attendance of witnesses and jurors at an inquest.

The Coroners Bill 2007 is before the Seanad having been restored to the Order Paper on my initiative. The Bill is in the course of being reviewed in my Department with a view, among other matters, to making it as cost-effective as possible. The Bill, as published, provides for the comprehensive reform of the existing legislation and structures relating to coroners and provides for the establishment of a new Coroner Service.

The Bill incorporates many of the recommendations made by the Coroners Review Group in 2000 and the Coroners Rules Committee in 2003. It also has regard to developments since in terms of jurisprudence both in our own courts and the European Court of Human Rights and to ongoing reform of coroner services in other common law jurisdictions.

The Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 provided for some early reforms in coronial matters.”

I have nothing further to add to that reply.

### **Citizenship Applications**

603. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the granting of an Irish passport to a child born in Ireland in 2006 of parents from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35225/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Section 6A of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended by section 4 of the Act of 2004, provides that a person born in the island of Ireland shall not be entitled to be an Irish citizen unless a parent of that person has, during the period of 4 years immediately preceding the person's birth, been resident in the island of Ireland for a period of not less than 3 years or periods the aggregate of which is not less than 3 years.

Where a child did not at birth have an entitlement to Irish citizenship as indicated above an application should be completed by a parent/guardian on behalf of the child born in the State for naturalisation as an Irish citizen. The parent/guardian must have 5 years reckonable residence since the birth of the child i.e. the child should be a least 5 years of age when the application is made.

### **Departmental Staff**

604. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of clerical officers, executive officers, higher executive officers and assistant principal officers

who replied to the advertisement to work in the Dublin office of his Department dealing with work associated with Ireland holding the EU presidency in 2013; if he will detail the criteria and other aspects of the selection process used to select the successful candidates; when the interviews were held; the expected durations of these appointments; the number of appointments that have been made by grade to date; if he expects further appointments to be made; if the staff members selected will receive additional salary and or pay; if so, he will detail the nature of the payments involved for each grade; his views on whether the selection process was carried out according to the various codes issued by the Commission for Public Appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35253/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The disposition of staff in my Department is a matter for the Secretary General and is executed through the Human Resources Division.

The numbers of staff in the various grades who expressed an interest in the work referred to is as in the table below:

|                                   | Assistant Principal Officer | Higher Executive Officer/<br>Administrative Officer | Executive Officer | Clerical Officer |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|
| Number of expressions of interest | 25                          | 38  | 83                | 86               |

The Deputy should note that any staff assignments arising from the expressions of interest in this case would represent lateral transfers of staff in cases where the Human Resource Division of my Department sought to effect such transfers. Staff of my Department transfer within their own grade as a matter of course and this is routine. Therefore, no selection process, interviews or time bound assignments arise in the fashion referenced by the Deputy. The staffing requirement to discharge an effective Presidency is being kept under review and appropriate transfers will arise accordingly consistent with meeting the full range of demands on the Department.

I can confirm for the sake of clarity that where staff transfer in this fashion no additional payments arise.

Finally, I am also advised that the Commission for Public Service Appointments code does not apply to transfers of staff as would be the case herein.

### Departmental Bodies

605. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his views on the merger of the Equality Tribunal and the Employment Appeals Tribunal; if this will result in a redeployment of staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35285/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The purpose of the Equality Tribunal is to deal with all complaints of discrimination in employment and access to goods and services under the terms of equality legislation. Reform of the workplace relations institutions will involve the Equality Tribunal in a merger with the Labour Relations Commission, Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT) (first instance functions) and National Employment Rights Authority to form a single agency for dealing with first instance complaints. The Labour Court will deal with all appeals (including those currently dealt with by the EAT).

The aim is to deliver a world-class Workplace Relations service and framework that serves the needs of employers and employees and provides maximum value for money. This is a reform that I fully support. The drafting of legislation to give effect to this merger and related

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

practical implementation issues, such as staffing, are as the Deputy will be aware a matter for my colleague, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation who is currently considering the staffing requirement of the bodies. As is the norm, existing staff of the Equality Tribunal will transfer with the Tribunal to the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation.

The Deputy will be aware that the radical streamlining of State bodies is a key deliverable of the Public Service Reform Plan, which was published in November 2011. While the reforms will deliver savings to the taxpayer, the real benefits lie in the simplification of the administrative landscape, thereby ensuring greater effectiveness, less duplication of effort and more coherent and better quality public service delivery.

### **Compensation Awards**

606. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the payment of an award to a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35287/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can inform the Deputy that under the terms of the Scheme of Compensation for Personal Injuries Criminally Inflicted the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal is entirely independent in the matter of individual applications under the Scheme and, as an independent Public Body, is also responsible for the administration of the Scheme. However, in order to be of assistance in the matter I have had enquiries made with the Tribunal.

I am informed that, during 2011, the overall amount awarded by the Tribunal in compensation was significantly in excess of the budget for the year and that a payment liability was carried forward to 2012. I am further informed that, as result, some amounts awarded in 2011 are currently being paid during 2012 and that such payments are processed chronologically by date of acceptance of the award.

I understand that the Tribunal has put in place arrangements in respect of payments in order to best manage its resources and to make compensation available in 2012 to the greatest possible number of victims. Arising from these arrangements the payment of awards will proceed on a phased basis in chronological order by date of acceptance during the year. I also understand from the Tribunal that payment of the award referred to by the Deputy will take place during the last quarter of 2012.

While the Tribunal regrets any inconvenience caused by these arrangements to the person referred to by the Deputy, the Tribunal has indicated that the above-mentioned arrangements will in fact allow payment of that person's award to proceed during the current financial year, which would not otherwise be the case.

### **National Drugs Strategy**

607. **Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the budget allocation for and the actual expenditure by An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service, the Probation Service and by his Department in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy Unit for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35299/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I can assure the Deputy that my Department, An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service all continue to actively participate in the framework established under the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016 and in the progression of the Strategy actions.

With regard to the data sought by the Deputy concerning the specific budget allocation and expenditure, as set against each of the Strategy actions, I am informed that such data it is not currently collated and its collation may not, in any event, be feasible with regard to all of the Strategy actions.

However, what may be of assistance to the Deputy is the expenditure data which is periodically collated by the Department of Health, in its capacity as the lead Department with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy.

This exercise is undertaken for the purpose of determining the estimated overall expenditure by Government Departments and agencies which can be deemed to be directly attributable to drugs programmes.

The table set out below provides details of the expenditure data, as provided to the Department of Health, for the period 2008-2011 inclusive. Expenditure in respect of 2007 is not available.

As the Deputy will appreciate, it is difficult to provide figures that would be any more precise than an estimate of total expenditure as all of the relevant bodies will, as part of their day to day work, spend time and resources dealing with drugs issues.

| Department/Agency                  | 2008<br>Expenditure | 2009<br>Expenditure | 2010<br>Expenditure | 2011<br>Expenditure |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                                    | €m                  | €m                  | €m                  | €m                  |
| Department of Justice and Equality | 10.192              | 12.575              | 12.350              | 17.025              |
| Probation Service                  | 2.148               | 2.226               | 2.128               | 1.643*              |
| An Garda Síochána                  | 44.400              | 45.004              | 44.500              | 45.014              |
| Irish Prison Service               | 5.000               | 5.000               | 5.200               | 5.200               |

*\*Please note that as of 1 January 2011 a number of community based projects previously under the auspices of the Probation Service were transferred to be under the remit of the Irish Youth Justice Service with an accompanying transfer of funding.*

### Sexual Offences

608. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 587 of 12 January 2011, the progress made to date on the provision of information to parents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35342/12]

**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 Gardai have reason to believe a particular high risk 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

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

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 the review, I expect to seek Government approval for legislative proposals, including amendments to the Sex Offenders Act 2001 to provide a statutory basis for necessary disclosure, in the coming months.

### **Sex Offenders Notification Requirements**

609. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons registered with the Gardai who must comply with Part 2 of the Sex Offenders Act 2001; the number actually complying with Part 2 of the Act of 2001; the steps being taken to trace those who are not in compliance with the Act; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35343/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The Sex Offenders Act 2001 contains a comprehensive series of provisions aimed at protecting children and other persons. Part 2 of the Act makes persons convicted of a range of sexual offences subject to notification requirements. The provisions of the Act also extend to any offenders convicted abroad of the same range of sexual offences who enter the State.

All offenders subject to the notification requirements are monitored by the Sex Offender Management and Intelligence Unit (SOMIU) at the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The Unit is supported by Garda Inspectors nominated in each Garda Division throughout the State. I am informed that the nominated Inspector in each Division has access to all necessary resources within his/her Division to assist him/her in carrying out his/her duties.

Where An Garda Síochána becomes aware that an offender subject to the notification requirements has breached those requirements, appropriate action is taken, including circulation through PULSE of their information, as well as inquiries to identify their current whereabouts. I am confident that the appropriate level of monitoring is carried out by An Garda Síochána and that all breaches of the requirements which come to notice are pursued.

In this regard, I am informed by the Garda authorities that, to 12 July, 2012, there were 1,204 persons subject to the requirements of Part 2 of the Act. I am further informed that there have been 33 prosecutions for offences contrary to Part 2 of the Act to date in 2012.

I am also informed that when the Garda authorities become aware that a convicted sex offender has left or is intending to leave the State, the Sex Offender Management and Intelligence Unit ensures that the relevant law enforcement agency in the country of destination is advised via Interpol.

### **Departmental Staff**

610. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the date on which the internal promotion competitions were last held for the following grades, promotion to principal officer, promotion to assistant principal officer, promotion to higher executive officer and promotion to staff officer or executive officer; the number of applications for each grade and the numbers placed on panels for possible appointments; the numbers from each panel that has been appointed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35356/12]

611. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will detail for each internal promotional competition whether prior approval was obtained from the Department of Finance; if he will detail for each competition the costs incurred by his Department in holding them; if any of the competitions gave rise to complaints under the code of the Commission for Public Service Appointments; when new promotional competitions are likely to be held; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35357/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 610 and 611 together. In respect of internal promotion competitions for the grades identified by the Deputy the following table provides the relevant details:

|                                 | Promotion to Principal Officer | Promotion to Assistant Principal Officer | Promotion to Higher Executive Officer | Promotion to Executive Officer | Promotion to Staff Officer          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Competition last advertised     | 19 May 2010                    | 26 October 2010                          | 21 May 2010                           | 12 August 2010                 | 12 August 2010                      |
| Number of Applications received | 74                             | 123                                      | 59                                    | 450                            | 430                                 |
| Number placed on panels         | 16                             | 20                                       | 20                                    | 20                             | 21                                  |
| Number appointed to date        | 5                              | 3  | 1                                     | None                           | None                                |
| Costs incurred                  | €4,170.00                      | €2,229.80                                | €243.80                               | €12,238.                       | 10 total cost for SO/EO competition |

The costs set out above relate to payments to external interview board members, refreshments for interview boards and in relation to the Staff Officer/Executive Officer competitions the Department's contribution to Public Appointments Service costs.

As the Deputy will be aware in March 2009 the Government introduced a moratorium on the filling of vacancies in the public service, either by way of recruitment or promotion. Normally sanction is not received from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to run internal competitions, however sanction has to be obtained to effect any promotions. I am advised the necessary sanctions to make the above promotions were obtained.

In respect of the five competitions held above no complaints arose in respect of four of them, three complaints were made in respect of the promotion to Assistant Principal Officer competition.

It is not envisaged that any internal promotion competitions will be held any sooner than 30 June 2013 as the present panels for all grades are in place until then.

### Proposed Legislation

612. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide an update on the progress of the new mental capacity legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35386/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Drafting of the Mental Capacity Bill is being finalised with a view to submitting the text of the Bill to Government to approve its publication before the start of the next Dáil session. The Bill will reform the law on mental capacity taking into account the Law Reform Commission's Report on Vulnerable Adults and the Law. The Bill will replace the Wards of Court system with a modern statutory framework to support and enable decision-making by persons who lack capacity. The enactment of new

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

mental capacity legislation is one of the core elements of the remaining work to be completed towards ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### **Appointments to State Boards**

613. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35610/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I wish to inform the Deputy that details of appointments made to State boards within my Department's remit since March 2011 are set out below:

*1. Children Detention Schools Board of Management*

Member Mr. Dan Kelleher was appointed on 20 September 2011.

*2. Courts Service Board*

Member

Mr. Shane Browne

Mr. Pat Doyle

Ms Deirdre O'Keeffe

The above were appointed on 5 December 2011.

*3. Equality Authority* I have re-appointed the following members of the outgoing Board of the Equality Authority until the end of July 2012.

Chairperson Dr. Angela Kerins

Vice-chairperson Mr. Christy Lynch

Ordinary Members

Ms Rhona Murphy

Ms Salome Mbugua

Ms Ellen Mongan

Ms Betty O'Leary

Mr. Peter White

Mr. Séan Fogarty

Mr. Kieran Rose

Mr. Nigel Brander

Ms Lynn Jackson

Mr. Paddy Maguinness

All of the above were re-appointed on 7 March 2012.

In addition the following were also re-appointed on 13 April 2012: Annette Dolan David Joyce

As already announced, I intend to move very shortly to initiate the process of selection of members of the new Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

Once the persons for appointment to the Commission have been identified, the intention is to arrange for their appointment to both existing bodies (the Human Rights Commission and the Equality Authority) in the interim. This will ensure that the two organisations can start to operate as a cohesive whole, with a transition programme being prepared and put in place, so that the two boards operating as one unit can commence preparing a Strategic Plan for the new body and that work can be taken forward rapidly on the staffing review and other preparatory work envisaged in the Working Group report.

#### *4. Judicial Appointments Advisory Board*

Ordinary Members

Dr. Simon Boucher

Ms Karen Dent

Dr. Valerie Bresnihan

All of the above were appointed with effect from 7 June 2011.

#### *5. Legal Aid Board*

Chairperson Ms Muriel Walls

Ordinary Members

Ms Oonagh Buckley

Ms Mary Dalton

Ms Kate Hayes

Ms Joy McGlynn

Ms Oonagh Mc Phillips

Mr. Mícheál O'Connell

Mr. Donncha O'Connell

Mr. John O'Gorman

Mr. Philip O'Leary

Ms Michelle O'Neill

Mr. Ger Power

Mr. Rob Reid

All of the above were appointed on 14 December 2011.

Mr. David Garvey was appointed on 18 January 2012.

#### *6. Mental Health (Criminal Law) Review Board*

Chairperson Judge Brian McCracken was re-appointed as Chairperson with effect from 27 September 2011.

Ordinary Members

Ms Nora McGarry

Dr. Michael Mulcahy

Both of the above were appointed with effect from 27 September 2011.

#### *7. Parole Board*

Chairperson Mr. John Costello was appointed with effect from 26 July 2011.

Ordinary Member Ms Ciairín de Buis was appointed with effect from 26 July 2011.

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

*8. Property Registration Authority*

Ordinary Members

Mr. Frank Branigan was appointed on 29 April 2011.

Ms Teresa Pilkington was appointed on 27 May 2011.

Ms Deirdre Fox was appointed on 4 August 2011.

*9. Property Services Regulatory Authority*

Chairperson Ms Geraldine Clarke

Ordinary Members

Ms Carol Boate

Mr. Edward Carey

Mr. Patrick Davitt

Mr. James Doorley

Ms Deirdre Fox

Mr. Martin Hanratty

Ms Josephine Henry

Mr. Paul Mooney

Mr. Myles O'Reilly

Ms Regina Terry

All of the above were appointed on 3 April 2012.

I also wish to inform the Deputy that on 7 December 2011 my Department advertised on its website for expressions of interest from persons who wished to be considered for appointment to the Property Services Regulatory Authority.

614. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35623/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I wish to inform the Deputy that the Chairperson of the Property Services Regulatory Authority (PSRA) appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on Tuesday 27 March 2012.

### **Departmental Staff**

615. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36045/12]

**Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The vast majority of staff availing of the Shorter Working Year Scheme are not replaced during their absence. In the last two years, my Department appointed 53 temporary staff on short term contracts as a consequence of staff availing of the scheme. None of these individuals were retired public servants.

It should be noted that on occasion, retired public servants may be engaged mainly on a short term basis because of their particular knowledge and expertise in a particular area, for example, to serve on interview boards, complete investigations, etc.

### **Defence Forces Re-organisation**

616. **Deputy Noel Grealish** asked the Minister for Defence if he will give a firm commitment that he will not amalgamate the Army Western Brigade and the Army Southern Brigade; if he will give a firm commitment that he will make no change to the 1st Brigade of the Irish Battalion (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34523/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Arising from the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure, the Government stabilised the strength ceiling of the Permanent Defence Force at 9,500 personnel. In response, I initiated a major re-organisation of the Defence Forces both permanent and reserve. It is not viable to retain a three brigade structure within a strength ceiling of 9,500 personnel. Accordingly, the re-organisation encompasses a reduction in the number of Army Brigades from the current three to two. The re-organisation builds upon and complements the efficiencies arising from recent barrack closures. Although the organisational structures are being revised there is no requirement for further barrack closures as part of this process. There will, of course, be movement of functions and personnel within and between barracks, as provided for in the Croke Park Agreement.

The purpose of the re-organisation is to ensure that the operational effectiveness of the Permanent Defence Force is prioritised within available resources. This will be achieved through consolidating under-strength Units, rationalising headquarters, administrative and support functions and re-balancing force elements in favour of “front-line” operational Units.

I tasked the Chief of Staff and the Secretary General of the Department of Defence to bring forward detailed proposals relating to the new organisational structures for my consideration. I will not be commenting on any speculation regarding the re-organisation in advance of my announcing the full details.

### **Illegal Traveller Encampments**

617. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Defence his views on a submission (details supplied) regarding the Curragh; if a review of the regulations governing the area to ensure its protection will be considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34558/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Under Section 19C of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 as inserted by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002 it is an offence for a person to enter on and occupy property without the consent of the owner. Under the provisions of the Act An Garda Síochána have the power without warrant to arrest a person who fails to leave when requested and seize anything they bring onto the property in question e.g. caravans. Penalties for persons found guilty of an offence under this Part of the Act include fines not exceeding €3,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month or both.

The Gardaí confirmed at a recent meeting with officials from my Department that they are currently dealing with the illegal parking and camping on the Curragh under this legislation.

Having reviewed the situation there appears to be adequate provision for dealing with the issues under current legislation therefore I do not at this time see any benefits in producing additional legislation to handle this issue.

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

As part of the on-going management of the Curragh my Department officials liaise with various Departments and State Agencies including the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the Chief State Solicitors Office to ensure that best practice is adhered to in relation to the development and up keep of the Curragh Plains. While you will appreciate that it can prove difficult to fully prevent such activities every effort is being taken to address the situation and protect the valuable amenity that is the Curragh.

618. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Defence his views on the impact of the growing incidents of traveller encampments, some of which are extremely large, on the environs of the Curragh Plains; if his attention has been drawn to public concerns regarding this matter; if he will bring forward proposals to prevent such encampments recurring; the costs incurred by his Department in environmental clean ups after such incursions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34595/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am fully aware of the ongoing problems of illegal camping and the misuse of the Curragh Plains. Over the last twelve months my Department has spent approximately €72,000 on clean-up operations following illegal camping and dumping. Under Section 19C of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994 as inserted by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002 it is an offence for a person to enter on and occupy property without the consent of the owner. Under the provisions of the Act An Garda Síochána have the power without warrant to arrest a person who fails to leave when requested and seize anything they bring onto the property in question e.g. caravans. Penalties for persons found guilty of an offence under this Part of the Act include fines not exceeding €3,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month or both.

The Gardaí confirmed at a recent meeting with officials from my Department that they are currently dealing with the illegal parking and camping on the Curragh under this legislation.

Having reviewed the situation there appears to be adequate provision for dealing with the issues under current legislation therefore I do not at this time see any benefits in producing additional legislation to handle this issue. While you will appreciate that it can prove difficult to fully prevent such activities every effort is being taken to address the situation and protect the valuable amenity that is the Curragh.

### **Defence Forces Property**

619. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Defence his plans for the future of the 4th Infantry Battalion in Collins Barracks, Cork, in view of reports that it will be disbanded. [34731/12]

620. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Defence his plans for the future of the 4th infantry battalion based at Collins Barracks in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34750/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 619 and 620 together.

Arising from the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure, the Government stabilised the strength ceiling of the Permanent Defence Force at 9,500 personnel. In response, I initiated a major re-organisation of the Defence Forces. It is not viable to retain a three brigade structure

within a strength ceiling of 9,500 personnel. Accordingly, the re-organisation encompasses a reduction in the number of Army Brigades from the current three to two.

The re-organisation builds upon and complements the efficiencies arising from recent barrack closures. Although the organisational structures are being revised there is no requirement for further barrack closures as part of this process. There will, of course, be movement of functions and personnel within and between barracks, as provided for in the Croke Park Agreement.

The purpose of the re-organisation is to ensure that the operational effectiveness of the Permanent Defence Force is prioritised within available resources. This will be achieved through consolidating under-strength Units, rationalising headquarters, administrative and support functions and re-balancing force elements in favour of “front-line” operational Units.

I tasked the Chief of Staff and the Secretary General of the Department of Defence to bring forward detailed proposals relating to the new organisational structures for my consideration. I will not be commenting on any speculation regarding the re-organisation in advance of my announcing the full details.

### Departmental Properties

621. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Defence the procedure in place in his Department for the employment of security services for his Department’s facilities; if these procedures were adhered to in appointing security services to a barracks (details supplied) in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34813/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Following the closure of Kickham Barracks Clonmel a company was contracted to provide security on a temporary basis at the barracks. These arrangements were put in place pending the installation of additional security measures in the barracks. These security measures have recently been completed and a review of security needs is now underway. If it is decided that a more permanent security arrangement is required a tender competition for the provision of such services will be held.

### Defence Forces Medicinal Products

622. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Defence the number of Doxycycline tablets issued to members of the Defence Forces annually since 2000. [34872/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I am informed by the Military Authorities that a total of 27,392 Doxycycline capsules were purchased by the Brigade Medical Services (BMS) since 2006. The Military Authorities have advised that BMS records are only available from 2006 onwards. A breakdown is provided in the following table:

| Year/Dosage | 2006  | 2007  | 2008 | 2009  | 2010  | 2011 | 2012  |
|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| 100mg       | 4,800 | 5,600 | —    | 8,000 | 4,000 | 200  | 3,840 |
| 50mg        | 56    | —     | —    | —     | —     | —    | —     |
| 20mg        | —     | —     | —    | 896   | —     | —    | —     |
| Total       | 4,856 | 5,600 | —    | 8,896 | 4,000 | 200  | 3,840 |

Grand total of Doxycycline tablets purchased by the BMS from 2006 to 2012: 27,392.

Doxycycline is licensed for use by the Irish Medicine Board. The choice of chemoprophylaxis medication depends on the risk of malaria in the destination, resistance to particular drugs, the profile of the traveller (contra-indications, underlying health conditions, purpose of travel), the duration of travel and finally adherence issues. Doxycycline has to be taken in the absence of

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

dairy products. It has a daily dosage regime. While it can cause minor but troublesome, mainly gastrointestinal side effects, it can also produce sun-sensitivity skin rashes (akin to severe sun burn) in some individuals. This is particularly significant when used in very sunny climates. For this reason it is not recommended for first line use by the Defence Forces in sub-Saharan Africa. It is the anti-malaria chemoprophylaxis of first choice by the Defence Forces in some geographic regions, e.g. Afghanistan. Information is currently being compiled on the number of tablets issued and I will forward this collated information to the Deputy when it becomes available.

### **Defence Forces Transport**

623. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the number of times Defence Forces helicopters were used to transport Government Ministers in Ireland for 2011 and to date in 2012 in tabular form. [34892/12]

625. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the pick-up point and destination, the person or persons carried on board and the cost relating to each of the trips in 2011 and to date in 2012 in which Defence Forces helicopters were used to transport Government Ministers here in tabular form. [34894/12]

626. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the use by Government Ministers of the Government jet or other aircraft in 2011 and to date in 2012; the person or persons carried, the pick up point and destination and the estimated cost for each journey in tabular form;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34895/12]

627. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the estimated cost of flying a helicopter on Government business per hour; and if he will compare this to the comparable charges from commercial companies in tabular form. [34896/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 623, 625 to 627, inclusive, together.

The Ministerial Air Transport Service (MATS) is primarily provided by the Gulfstream IV and Learjet 45 aircraft, which were specifically acquired for that purpose. The CASA maritime patrol aircraft have been used infrequently for Ministerial Air Transport missions where no MATS aircraft has been available for operational or technical reasons. Helicopters have also been used on occasion for Ministerial Air Transport in situations where, for operational reasons, fixed wing aircraft may not have been available or suitable for a particular mission.

Details of usage of the Ministerial Air Transport Service for 2011 to date in 2012 are set out in the tabular statement attached, and include details of the requesting Minister(s), dates of travel, mission route and Ministerial time on board.

My Department follows the normal practice in the aviation business of costing aircraft by reference to the cost per flying hour under each of two headings:

- The direct cost, which includes costs which are additional to those associated with having the aircraft and which only arise when the aircraft is flown including maintenance, fuel and support services such as catering costs, cleaning services and airport handling charges.
- The total cost, which is the direct cost plus the costs associated with having the aircraft including depreciation and personnel costs.

Details of the hourly costs under each heading, which are applicable to both 2011 and 2012, for each aircraft are contained in the tabular statement below:

|            | Average Direct Cost Per Hour € | Average Total Cost Per Hour € |
|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gulfstream | 3,270                          | 3,790                         |
| Learjet    | 1,940                          | 4,200                         |
| CASA       | 2,800                          | 4,210                         |
| AW139      | 1,410                          | 3,410                         |

It is important to note that these are average costs which take a number of variables into account. It is not possible to assign an exact cost to any particular mission.

My Department does not have comparable charges from commercial helicopter companies as my Department has no requirement to use commercial helicopters.

GULFSTREAM IV (From 1 January 2011 to date)

| Date       | Return Date | Ministerial Time On Board (Minutes) | Route  | Minister  |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 04/02/2011 | 04/02/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                   | An Taoiseach / MOS Foreign Affairs  |
| 10/03/2011 | 12/03/2011  | 185                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Knock — Baldonnel                           | An Taoiseach  |
| 15/03/2011 | 18/03/2011  | 825                                 | Baldonnel — Washington — Baldonnel                                 | An Taoiseach / Tánaiste Foreign Affairs   |
| 24/03/2011 | 25/03/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                   | An Taoiseach  |
| 12/04/2011 | 12/04/2011  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel                                 | Tánaiste Foreign Affairs / Justice and Equality / MOS Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| 17/04/2011 | 18/04/2011  | 120                                 | Baldonnel — Northolt — Baldonnel                                   | An Taoiseach  |
| 04/05/2011 | 06/05/2011  | 810                                 | Baldonnel — Teteboro — White Plains — Teteboro — Knock — Baldonnel | An Taoiseach  |
| 09/06/2011 | 10/06/2011  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel                                 | Justice and Equality  |
| 19/06/2011 | 19/06/2011  | 100                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel                                 | Tánaiste Foreign Affairs and Trade  |
| 21/06/2011 | 22/06/2011  | 300                                 | Baldonnel — Vienna — Baldonnel                                     | Tánaiste Foreign Affairs and Trade  |
| 20/06/2011 | 20/06/2011  | 120                                 | Baldonnel — Northolt — Stansted — Baldonnel                        | An Taoiseach / Communications, Energy and Natural Resources                     |
| 23/06/2011 | 24/06/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                   | An Taoiseach / MOS Taoiseach  |
| 21/07/2011 | 21/07/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                   | An Taoiseach / MOS Taoiseach  |
| 25/09/2011 | 26/09/2011  | 420                                 | Baldonnel — Algiers — Oran — Baldonnel                             | Agriculture, Food and the Marine  |
| 29/09/2011 | 30/09/2011  | 330                                 | Baldonnel — Warsaw — Baldonnel                                     | An Taoiseach  |

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

| Date       | Return Date | Ministerial Time On Board (Minutes) | Route  | Minister  |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 12/10/2011 | 13/10/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach / Communications, Energy and Natural Resources       |
| 22/10/2011 | 23/10/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Dublin  | An Taoiseach / MOS Taoiseach                                      |
| 06/11/2011 | 07/11/2011  | 455                                 | Baldonnel — Moscow — Baldonnel   | Tánaiste Foreign Affairs and Trade                                |
| 16/11/2011 | 16/11/2011  | 275                                 | Baldonnel — Berlin — Frankfurt — Baldonnel                             | An Taoiseach  |
| 30/11/2011 | 30/11/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | Defence   |
| 07/12/2011 | 07/12/2011  | 345                                 | Baldonnel — Vilnius — Baldonnel  | Tánaiste Foreign Affairs and Trade                                |
| 09/12/2011 | 09/12/2011  | 90                                  | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach / MOS Taoiseach                                      |
| 12/01/2012 | 12/01/2012  | 120                                 | Baldonnel — Northolt — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach  |
| 25/01/2012 | 27/01/2012  | 240                                 | Baldonnel — Zurich — Baldonnel   | An Taoiseach  |
| 30/01/2012 | 30/01/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach / MOS Taoiseach                                      |
| 08/02/2012 | 09/02/2012  | 790                                 | Baldonnel — Teteboro — Whiteplains — Teteboro — Dublin                 | An Taoiseach / Enterprise / Trade and Innovation                  |
| 15/02/2012 | 17/02/2012  | 835                                 | Baldonnel — Teteboro — White Plains — Teteboro — Boston — Baldonnel    | An Taoiseach  |
| 23/02/2012 | 24/02/2012  | 385                                 | Baldonnel — Berlin — Rome — Baldonnel                                  | An Taoiseach  |
| 29/02/2012 | 02/03/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach / Finance / MOS Taoiseach                            |
| 15/03/2012 | 21/03/2012  | 1050                                | Baldonnel — Chicago — Southbend — Whiteplains — Washington — Baldonnel | An Taoiseach  |
| 12/03/2012 | 12/03/2012  | 120                                 | Baldonnel — Northolt — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach  |
| 26/04/2012 | 27/04/2012  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel                                     | Agriculture, Food and the Marine / Justice and Equality           |
| 23/05/2012 | 24/05/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach /Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)                |
| 11/06/2012 | 14/06/2012  | 840                                 | Baldonnel — Yerevan — Tbilisi — Batumi — Baku — Baldonnel              | Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)                              |
| 22/06/2012 | 22/06/2012  | 185                                 | Baldonnel — Edinburgh — Cork — Baldonnel                               | An Taoiseach / Communications, Energy and Natural Resources       |
| 25/06/2012 | 25/06/2012  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)                              |
| 28/06/2012 | 29/06/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                                       | An Taoiseach, Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade), MOS Taoiseach |

## LEARJET 2011(From 1 January 2011 to date)

| Date       | Return Date | Ministerial Time On Board (Minutes) | Route   | Minister  |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 17/01/2011 | 17/01/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 14/02/2011 | 15/02/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 01/03/2011 | 01/03/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Agriculture, Fisheries and Food                       |
| 13/03/2011 | 14/03/2011  | 230                                 | Baldonnel — Shannon — Brussels — Baldonnel            | Finance / Environment, Community and Local Government |
| 21/03/2011 | 21/03/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance / MOS Foreign Affairs                         |
| 07/04/2011 | 09/04/2011  | 330                                 | Baldonnel — Budapest — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 16/05/2011 | 17/05/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance / MOS Taoiseach                               |
| 20/05/2011 | 20/05/2011  | 80                                  | Baldonnel — Cork — Baldonnel                          | An Taoiseach  |
| 07/06/2011 | 07/06/2011  | 100                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel                    | Agriculture, Food and the Marine                      |
| 11/07/2011 | 12/07/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 15/09/2011 | 17/09/2011  | 290                                 | Baldonnel — Wroclaw — Baldonnel                       | Finance   |
| 22/09/2011 | 23/09/2011  | 360                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Wroclaw — Brussels — Baldonnel | Defence / Justice and Equality                        |
| 03/10/2011 | 04/10/2011  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel                    | Finance   |
| 21/10/2011 | 22/10/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 26/10/2011 | 26/10/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | An Taoiseach / MOS Taoiseach                          |
| 07/11/2011 | 08/11/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 24/11/2011 | 25/11/2011  | 280                                 | Baldonnel — Poznan — Baldonnel                        | Public Expenditure and Reform                         |
| 29/11/2011 | 30/11/2011  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 11/01/2012 | 12/01/2012  | 300                                 | Baldonnel — Vienna — Baldonnel                        | Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)                  |
| 18/01/2012 | 18/01/2012  | 250                                 | Baldonnel — Berlin — Baldonnel                        | Finance   |
| 23/01/2012 | 24/01/2012  | 250                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Frankfurt — Baldonnel          | Finance   |
| 26/01/2012 | 29/01/2012  | 725                                 | Baldonnel — Naples — Tel Aviv — Naples — Baldonnel    | Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)                  |
| 09/02/2012 | 09/02/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | Finance   |
| 20/02/2012 | 21/02/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel                      | MOS Finance   |

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

| Date       | Return Date | Ministerial Time On Board (Minutes) | Route                              | Minister                                    |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 24/02/2012 | 24/02/2012  | 385                                 | Baldonnel — Tunis — Baldonnel      | Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)        |
| 08/03/2012 | 09/03/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel   | Environment, Community and Local Government |
| 12/03/2012 | 13/03/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel   | Finance                                     |
| 29/03/2012 | 30/03/2012  | 240                                 | Baldonnel — Copenhagen — Baldonnel | Finance                                     |
| 23/04/2012 | 23/04/2012  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel | Tánaiste (Foreign Affairs and Trade)        |
| 01/05/2012 | 02/05/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel   | Finance                                     |
| 06/05/2012 | 07/05/2012  | 330                                 | Baldonnel — Warsaw — Baldonnel     | Finance                                     |
| 14/05/2012 | 15/05/2012  | 180                                 | Baldonnel — Brussels — Baldonnel   | Finance                                     |
| 21/06/2012 | 22/06/2012  | 200                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel | Finance                                     |

CASA (From 1 January 2011 to date)

| Date       | Return Date | Ministerial Time On Board (Minutes) | Route                              | Minister             |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 27/10/2011 | 27/10/2011  | 330                                 | Baldonnel — Luxembourg — Baldonnel | Justice and Equality |

AW139 (From 1 January 2011 to date)

| Date       | Return Date | Aircraft | Min. Time On Board | Route  | Minister     |
|------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|--|--------------|
| 10/02/2011 | 10/02/2011  | AW139    | 125                | Baldonnel — Tullamore — Cork Airport — Baldonnel | An Taoiseach |

624. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the number of times Defence Forces helicopters were used to transport dignitaries, excluding Government Ministers, in Ireland for 2011 and to date in 2012 in tabular form. [34893/12]

628. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the cost relating to each of the trips in 2011 and to date in 2012 in which Defence Forces helicopters were used to transport dignitaries, excluding Government Ministers here, in tabular form. [34897/12]

629. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Defence the use by dignitaries excluding Government Ministers of the Government jet or other aircraft in 2011 and to date in 2012; and the estimated cost for each journey in tabular form. [34898/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 624, 628 and 629 together.

Air Corps aircraft have been used on one occasion only in the period in question to transport dignitaries, excluding Government Ministers. This was to provide transport for the British Ambassador and support staff during the State visit of Queen Elizabeth II in May 2011. Details of usage are set out in the tabular statement below:

AW139 (From 1 January 2011 to date)

| Date       | Aircraft | Time On Board | Route  | Passengers                            |
|------------|----------|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 20/05/2011 | AW139    | 125           | Farmleigh — Cashel — Coolmore —<br>Cork — Baldonnell | British Ambassador and support staff. |

In relation to costs, my Department follows the normal practice in the aviation business of costing aircraft by reference to the cost per flying hour under each of two headings:

- The direct cost, which includes costs which are additional to those associated with having the aircraft and which only arise when the aircraft is flown including maintenance, fuel and support services such as catering costs, cleaning services and airport handling charges.
- The total cost, which is the direct cost plus the costs associated with having the aircraft including depreciation and personnel costs.

Details of the hourly costs under each heading, which are applicable to both 2011 and 2012, for the aircraft in question are contained in the tabular statement below:

|       | Average Direct Cost Per Hour € | Average Total Cost Per Hour € |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AW139 | 1,410                          | 3,410                         |

It should be noted that these are average costs which take a number of variables into account. It is not possible to assign an exact cost to any particular mission.

*Question Nos. 625 to 627, inclusive, answered with Question No. 623.*

### Defence Forces Reserve

630. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Defence the number of members there are in the Reserve Defence Forces in the Western Brigade and a breakdown of the number of members in each branch of the Western Brigade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35048/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** The number of members serving in the Reserve Defence Force (RDF), 4 Western Brigade, on 31 May 2012, the latest date for which figures are available, is set out in the following table:

| Unit                    | Members |
|-------------------------|---------|
| HQ 4 W Bde RDF          | 17      |
| Brigade Training Center | 18      |
| 51 Res Inf Bn           | 386     |

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

| Unit             | Members |
|------------------|---------|
| 56 Res Inf Bn    | 339     |
| 58 Res Inf Bn    | 416     |
| 54 Res Arty Regt | 176     |
| 54 Res Cav Sqn   | 98      |
| 54 Res Engr Coy  | 59      |
| 54 Res CIS Coy   | 57      |
| 54 Res MP Coy    | 52      |
| 54 Res Logs Bn   | 121     |
| Total            | 1,739   |

A Value for Money Review (VFM) of the Reserve Defence Force is ongoing and I anticipate its completion by the end of September. In addition, I have initiated a major re-organisation of the Defence Forces in response to the outcome of the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure. This will encompass a reduction in the number of Army Brigades from three to two and will necessarily impact the Reserve Defence Force.

The Steering Committee undertaking the VFM review are considering the way ahead in light of the wider re-organisation. Clearly any recommendations regarding the future organisation of the Reserve must dovetail with those for the overall Defence organisation. The recommendations arising from this review will inform future plans for the Reserve.

631. **Deputy Michelle Mulherin** asked the Minister for Defence the number of new recruits in the Reserve Defence Forces in the Western Brigade in 2012; if he will provide a breakdown of the new recruits in each branch of the Western Brigade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35051/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** To date in 2012 a total of 87 new recruits have been recruited into the Reserve Defence Force (RDF) in 4 Western Brigade. The following table provides a breakdown of the units within 4 Western Brigade into which these 87 recruits have been enlisted.

| Unit             | New Recruits |
|------------------|--------------|
| 51 Res Inf Bn    | 27           |
| 56 Res Inf Bn    | 21           |
| 58 Res Inf Bn    | 19           |
| 54 Res Arty Regt | 4            |
| 54 Res Cav Sqn   | 2            |
| 54 Res Engr Coy  | 2            |
| 54 Res CIS Coy   | 2            |
| 54 Res Logs Bn   | 10           |
| Total            | 87           |

Recruitment to the Reserve Defence Force (RDF) is ongoing but limited due to resource constraints. The current budgetary provision provides for approximately 30,000 paid training mandays. In 2011 and 2012, I sanctioned paid training mandays to include support for the training of new recruits to the RDF. This was sufficient to train approximately 400 recruits during 2011 and 2012. The military authorities manage recruitment in this context.

### Ministerial Allowances

632. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Defence the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35060/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** It has not been possible in the time available to prepare a complete response to the queries raised by the Deputy. A detailed response will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as possible.

### Departmental Agencies

633. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Defence the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35312/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** Amongst the roles assigned to the Defence Forces in the White Paper on Defence (2000) is to provide Aid to the Civil Power (ATCP) which, in practice, means to assist An Garda Síochána when requested to do so. This role may occasionally involve assisting Gardaí in carrying out searches. Separately, in the course of an investigation the Military Police may enter or search premises that are the property of the Department of Defence. No search warrant is required for a search by Military Police personnel of such premises. In addition, the Naval Service has powers to unilaterally intervene at sea. These powers include the right to board ships, to inspect ships and their cargos, and to seize goods.

### Appointments to State Boards

634. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Defence if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35604/12]

635. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Defence the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35617/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 634 and 635 together.

The State Boards under the aegis of the Department of Defence are the Civil Defence Board and the Army Pensions Board. The Civil Defence Act 2002 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. Legislation is currently being drafted to dissolve the Civil Defence Board and transfer the functions of the Board back into the Department of Defence. I appointed the current Board as an interim measure from 2011. In this context, none of the positions were advertised, nor was the chairperson interviewed by an Oireachtas committee.

Membership of the interim Board appointed from 2011 is set out in the following table:

[Deputy Alan Shatter.]

| Name   | Nominating Bodies   |
|--|---|
| <i>Civil Defence Board Chairperson</i>                       |   |
| Mr. Brian Spain — Director, Department of Defence            | Nominated by Minister for Defence   |
| <i>Civil Defence Board Members</i>                           |   |
| Mr. Cathal Duffy — Principal Officer, Department of Defence  | Nominated by the Minister for Defence                                     |
| Ms Clare Tiernan — Principal Officer, Department of Defence  | Nominated by the Minister for Defence                                     |
| Mr. Robert Mooney — Principal Officer, Department of Defence | Nominated by the Minister for Defence                                     |
| Mr. Bill Smith — Director General, Civil Defence Board       | Appointed as Director General, Civil Defence Board                        |
| Mr. Ned Gleeson — County Manager, Limerick City Council      | Nominated by City and County Managers Association                         |
| Mr. Keith Leonard — Assistant Fire Advisor                   | Nominated by the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government |
| Dr. Barbara Rafferty   | Nominated by Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland                 |
| Ms Becci Cantrell  | Nominated by the Environmental Protection Agency                          |
| Ms Veronica Forde — Assistant Civil Defence Officer          | Nominated by the Civil Defence Officers Association                       |
| Lt. Col. Tony Kelly — SSO, Defence Forces                    | Nominated by the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces                     |
| Chief Superintendent Orla Mc Partlin — An Garda Síochána     | Nominated by the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána                        |
| Mr. Fergal Conroy  | Elected volunteer member of Civil Defence                                 |
| Ms Eileen Joyce  | Elected staff member of the Civil Defence Board                           |

The Army Pensions Board is an independent statutory body established under the Army Pensions Act 1927. The Act specifies that the Board shall consist 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 Public Expenditure and Reform. The Army Medical Corps ordinary member is appointed by the Minister for Defence on the recommendation of the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces.

The position of Army Medical Corps ordinary member became vacant due to retirement in 2011, and I have since appointed Commandant Adam Lagun to the Board on the recommendation of the Chief of Staff. As the Army Pensions Act 1927 specifies that one of the ordinary members must be an officer of the Army Medical Corps, this position could not be advertised on the Department's website. Details of Commandant Lagun's appointment to the Army Pensions Board were published in the *Iris Oifigiúil*. All appointments to Boards under the aegis of my Department are in accordance with the relevant legislation or regulations.

### Departmental Staff

636. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Defence the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36040/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** In the period since 1 January 2010 two retired public servants have been engaged on a temporary basis as civilian employees. One of the

persons concerned was engaged initially in 2008 under a fixed-term contract following an open recruitment competition. This person's contract was extended for a further period in 2011. The other person was engaged on a part-time basis under a fixed-term contract to fill a key position pending the recruitment of a permanent appointee. This person's contract has now expired.

### Pension Provisions

637. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Defence if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36051/12]

**Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter):** In relation to former members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF), the information requested is shown in tabular form beneath. As regards retired civil servants from the Department of Defence and retired civilian employees formerly employed with the PDF, I understand that the requested information is being provided by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

| Annual retirement pension (reflecting impact of Public Service Pension Reduction effective from 1 January 2011 where applicable) | Numbers      |
|--|--------------|
| Less than €10,000  | 283          |
| €10,001 to €20,000   | 7,234        |
| €20,001 to €30,000   | 1,394        |
| €30,001 to €40,000   | 474          |
| €40,001 to €50,000   | 323          |
| €50,001 to €60,000   | 42           |
| €60,001 to €70,000   | 52           |
| €70,001 to €80,000   | 0            |
| €80,001 to €90,000   | 0            |
| €90,001 to €100,000  | 6            |
| In excess of €100,000  | 0            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>9,808</b> |

### Agri-Environment Options Scheme

638. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when payment of an agri-environment option scheme will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34925/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named has been informed in writing that he was approved for participation in the 2011 Agri-Environment Options Scheme with effect from 1st September 2011. Under the EU Regulations governing the Scheme and other area-based payment schemes, a comprehensive administrative check of all applications, including cross-checks with the Land Parcel Identification System, must be completed before any payment can issue. This process is under way with a view to commencing payments very shortly. In the event of any queries arising from these checks my Department will be in direct contact with the person named.

### Grant Aid

639. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the current situation regarding the grants for dairy equipment including the number of applicants, the number of applications received and the number of successful applicants who will be offered grant aid; the criteria used to select successful applicants including details of the scoring system used on applications; the current situation regarding an application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34382/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** A total of 2,275 applications have been received under the Dairy Equipment Scheme since its introduction. Applications are examined and grants are approved on a phased basis up to the limit of funding available under various ‘tranches’. To date, approximately 1,000 applications have been selected to proceed to the approval stage. A further selection will take place shortly as a result of my recent decision to transfer funding to this Scheme from the Rainwater Harvesting Scheme. The criteria used to select successful applications are set out in the provisions of the Scheme. The provisions of the Scheme and the marking sheet used for the purposes of the selection process are both available on my Department’s website.

Insofar as the person named is concerned, his application for grant-aid under the Scheme has not yet been chosen to proceed to the approval stage and it will, therefore, be included in the next selection process resulting from the transfer of funds mentioned above.

### Common Agricultural Policy

640. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide an update on the common agricultural policy negotiations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34441/12]

669. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans for the single farm payment, at what stage are the common agricultural policy negotiations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34916/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 640 and 669 together.

Since their publication, the EU Commission’s proposals for reform of the CAP have undergone detailed examination at Council Working Groups, the Special Committee on Agriculture and the Council of Agriculture Ministers. At last month’s Agriculture Council, the Danish Presidency presented a progress report outlining the current status of the negotiations. The Cyprus Presidency has continued the negotiating process with debates at the Agriculture Council earlier this week on rural development and market support issues. Negotiations on the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the EU budget for the period 2014 to 2020 are being progressed in parallel, primarily through the General Affairs Council, although the final decisions will be taken by the European Council. Many of the CAP issues, including the key issue of distribution of funds between Member States, are being discussed in the MFF negotiations and will ultimately be agreed as part of these negotiations. These proposals are also being discussed in the European Parliament and draft reports from EP rapporteurs on each of the Commission’s proposals have recently issued. These will be the subject of substantial discussion and amendment over the coming months and there will be ongoing contact at informal level between the Presidency, Commission and Council as they are developing their positions.

My key concerns as regards the reform proposals arise in four areas. These are the overall CAP funding, the method for distributing CAP funds between Member States, the method for distributing direct payment funds within Member States and the overarching need for simplification in the reformed CAP.

On the budget, the funding proposals in the MFF maintain CAP spending at current levels in nominal terms post-2013. The agriculture heading is the one showing the greatest restraint, and in my view the amount proposed by the Commission is the minimum required. However, there are continuing, and intense, pressures for reductions in the proposed overall EU budget, with obvious implications for proposed CAP allocations. The Irish Government will continue to resist any pressure for reductions in the CAP budget.

As to the allocation of CAP funds between Member States, the current Commission proposals for Direct Payments in Pillar 1 take a pragmatic approach to redistribution and are broadly satisfactory albeit with some loss to Ireland, estimated at around 1.4%. The Commission has yet to table a specific proposal for allocation of pillar 2 (rural development) funds. I have concerns that the basis on which they propose to do so could reduce our allocation. However I am vigorously defending our Pillar 2 funds, and will continue to do.

As to the distribution of direct payments within Member States, the Commission proposal is to gradually move towards a system of uniform per hectare payments, or flat rates, by 2019, in each Member State or region of a Member State. Many Member States already have such flat rates or are evolving towards them. I recognise that we cannot continue to base our payments on outdated historic production references. Nevertheless, I have major difficulties with the pace and extent of convergence in the Commission's proposal.

Under a national flat rate, although the overall allocation to Ireland would not change, around 76,000 Irish farmers would gain an average of 86% on their current payments, while around 57,000 would lose an average of 33%. These are average percentages, and some of the gains and losses would be far larger than this. For example, in the extreme case of those on very high payments of over €1000 per hectare, the loss would be well over 70%. In general the losses would be incurred by more productive farmers. This would have undesirable consequences at a time when Ireland is trying to encourage sustainable intensification in the agri-food sector, as we strive to achieve the objectives in the Food Harvest 2020 strategy.

I have accordingly been pressing for the maximum possible flexibility to be given to Member States to design payment models that suit their own farming conditions. I also want a more gradual, back-loaded transition process. The 'approximation' approach, by which all payments could gradually move towards, but not fully to, the average, is one alternative that I believe should be considered in this regard. The Commission's "pragmatic" proposal for redistribution between Member States is, in effect, an approximation approach and provides a useful precedent. Modelling in my Department suggests that the application of this system to the distribution of funds between farmers in Ireland would lead to much smaller gains and losses to individual farmers than a flat rate system. However the precise level of transfers depends on the details of the methodology used.

I have been very active in seeking allies for this position, and I have been making significant progress, particularly with a group of Member States with somewhat similar concerns. However, it should also be understood that a majority of Member States have no difficulty with the idea of flat rate payments, although they have concerns about other aspects of the proposals.

The negotiation process on CAP is a complex and difficult one, but all of my efforts are focused on achieving the best possible outcome for Ireland. These efforts will be continued

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

over the coming months as the process evolves, and will further intensify during our Presidency in 2013.

### **Agri-Environment Options Scheme**

641. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the percentage of 2011 agri environment options scheme payments that have issued to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34444/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** Under the EU Regulations governing the Agri-environment Options Scheme (AEOS) and other area-based payment schemes, a comprehensive administrative check, including cross-checks with the Land Parcel Identification System, must be completed before any payment can issue.

Payments under the AEOS 2010 scheme in respect of the 2011 scheme year are issuing on an ongoing basis and all applications that which have cleared the administrative checking process have been paid. A total of 5,443 participants (66% of the applicants of the applicants remaining in the scheme) have now received their full entitlement for the 2011 scheme year. A further 177 applicants have received their 75% payment in respect of 2011 and the balancing payment will issue at the earliest opportunity. The issues arising on unpaid cases relate, in the main, to invalid capital investment claim details submitted by applicants. My Department continues to process the outstanding cases on an ongoing basis in correspondence and contact with the scheme participants and payments will continue as outstanding queries are resolved.

Payments under the AEOS 2011 scheme are also subject to the comprehensive administrative checks. This process has now been completed and I expect payments to commence very shortly. Every effort is being made to ensure that participants receive their initial payments under the scheme as quickly as possible. In the event of any queries arising from these checks my Department will be in direct contact with the applicants concerned as soon as possible. Payments to both AEOS 2010 and 2011 scheme participants in respect of 2012 will commence later in the year.

### **Sale of State Assets**

642. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding Coillte as a State asset being considered for sale; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34452/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The Government has decided, in the context of the State asset disposal programme, that consideration would be given to the sale of Coillte, excluding the land. Work has been undertaken in the interim by NTMA/NewERA to determine the valuation of Coillte. While an indicative valuation has been received, further work is required to refine this.

### **Drainage Schemes**

643. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will consider implementing a land drainage scheme for farmers in areas of particularly poor soil, such as the north west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34466/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I have no plans at this time to introduce a land drainage scheme. I am fully aware of the impact of the very difficult weather conditions of recent weeks on farmers and of the potential impact on farm incomes. I have sought EU approval for the advance payment of the 2012 Single Payment

Scheme. If approved, this will enable payment to issue immediately following 15 October and will represent early payment of substantial funding to farmers. The submission has already issued to the Commission and my aim is to obtain an early response.

I also fully appreciate the value and importance of the other scheme payments to farmers and I remain committed to ensuring that the maximum numbers are paid at the earliest possible date, while mindful, of course, of the over-riding necessity to ensure compliance with the governing EU requirements. REPS payments in respect of 2011 are up to date and AEOS payments are well advanced and continue to issue as quickly as possible. My intention is to ensure that payments in respect of 2012 which are due later in the year are brought forward to the earliest possible date.

### **Agri-Environment Options Scheme**

644. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will confirm the date on which the agri environment options scheme is being launched; the amount of investment the scheme will entail; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34467/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I am aware of the importance of agri environment payments to the agriculture sector and am actively considering the possibility of re-opening the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) to allow for the submission of applications this year either on an amended basis from the existing scheme and/or on a limited scale. However, there are strict budgetary constraints in place and, as a result, the management of the limited resources represents a very challenging situation involving difficult choices. The full year cost of any new scheme will have to be met in 2013 and any decision to re-open AEOS will be taken in the context of consideration of the resources available and the need to remain within the agreed expenditure ceiling for my Department in 2013. I will make an announcement as soon as I have reached a decision on the situation.

### **Adverse Weather Conditions**

645. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the Government has considered making an emergency application to the EU for assistance for the farming community to compensate for the bad weather and the fact that feed bills will be up enormously during this coming winter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34499/12]

657. **Deputy Seán Conlan** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in view of the hardship being caused to farmers as a result of the unprecedented weather conditions, if he will bring forward the date of payment for farmers in the severely disadvantaged areas and also to petition the EU to bring forward date of payment of the single farm payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34709/12]

665. **Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will bring forward comprehensive proposals for a compensation package for farmers that had been adversely affected by recent bad weather; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34811/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 645, 657 and 665 together.

I am fully aware of the impact of the very difficult weather conditions of recent weeks on farmers and of the potential impact on farm incomes. For that reason I have sought EU

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

approval for the advance payment of the 2012 Single Payment. If approved, this will enable payment to issue at the earliest possible date after 15th October and will represent the early payment of very substantial funding to farmers. I will press the Commission for an early response.

I also fully appreciate the value and importance of the other scheme payments to farmers and I remain committed to ensuring that the maximum numbers are paid at the earliest possible date, mindful, of course, of the over-riding necessity to ensure compliance with the governing EU requirements. REPS payments in respect of 2011 are up to date and AEOS payments are well advanced and continue to issue as quickly as possible. My intention is to ensure that all payments due in respect of 2012 are discharged at the earliest possible date.

In a bilateral meeting with the Commissioner yesterday I addressed the issue of advance payment in view of the effects of the weather on farming and asked if the Commission would consider going beyond the 50% to a 70% advance. However, the Commissioner raised some practical concerns around doing so.

### **Sugar Industry**

646. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to reopen the Irish sugar beet industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34500/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):**

#### *Background*

The EU Sugar Regime underwent a radical reform in 2005 and Greencore, the holder of the entire Irish sugar quota availed of the sugar restructuring scheme, dismantled all its facilities and ceased production in 2006. Post reform production is now concentrated in 18 Member States. The present regime runs from 1 September 2006 to the 30 September 2015.

The total compensation package negotiated in the context of the reform of the EU sugar regime was worth a total of €353million to Ireland. This sum was made up of €220million to beet growers, €6 million to machinery contractors and €127 million to Greencore. The beet growers' share was made up of restructuring aid of €53 million, diversification aid of €44 million and €123 million via the Single Farm Payment. All elements of the Restructuring Scheme have now been implemented, not just within Ireland but across the EU.

#### *Current Position*

There is no mechanism under the current EU Regulations which would allow for the reinstatement of the sugar quota for the growing of sugar beet in Ireland for the production of sugar. In 2011 I met with two separate groups who had conducted feasibility studies, into the possibility of establishing a sugar/bioethanol facility here. At both meetings, I stated that any venture to develop a combined sugar/bioethanol production facility would have to be a commercial proposition, financed in total by investors and interested parties and make sound economic sense in order to be viable. I also further suggested to both groups the desirability of there being only one single proposition in play, as both studies had indicated a potential for only one such viable project and both groups had appeared to accept the reasonableness of this position at the time.

I have strongly supported the abolition of sugar quotas from 30 September 2015, as part of the ongoing CAP reform discussions and at each Council of Ministers meeting since October 2011, which has addressed this issue, I have intervened to fully support the Commission proposals for full quota abolition. During the course of Commissioner Ciolos's visit to Dublin in

January 2012, I informed him of the growing momentum in Ireland for the revival of the sugar industry.

I also informed the Commissioner that while Ireland supports quota abolition in 2015, if the regime continues beyond that date, Ireland does not want to be deprived in the interim period of the option to recommence production. I am actively involved in CAP reform negotiations concerning the EU sugar regime, which are continuing.

### **Agri-Environment Options Scheme**

647. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will confirm that a new agri environment option scheme will be open in September 2012; the number of farmers to whom it will be open; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34501/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I am aware of the importance of agri environment payments to the agriculture sector and am actively considering the possibility of re-opening the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) to allow for the submission of applications this year either on an amended basis from the existing scheme and/or on a limited scale. However, there are strict budgetary constraints in place and, as a result, the management of the limited resources represents a very challenging situation involving difficult choices. The full year cost of any new scheme will have to be met in 2013 and any decision to re-open AEOS will be taken in the context of consideration of the resources available and the need to remain within the agreed expenditure ceiling for my Department in 2013. I will make an announcement as soon as I have reached a decision on the situation.

### **Farm Retirement Scheme**

648. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to make available a farm retirement package; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34510/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** Following the suspension of the Early Retirement Scheme on 14 October, 2008, due to budgetary constraints, it became apparent that there was a number of farmers who had their preparations to apply for the Scheme completed or close to completion at that point. The Scheme was re-opened temporarily on 23 September 2009 with limited additional funding with a view to accepting as many as possible of the applications that fell into this category. I have no plans to re-open this Scheme or introduce another Scheme at this time.

### **Installation Aid Scheme**

649. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will introduce an installation aid programme for young farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34511/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The Young Farmers' Installation Scheme was closed to new applicants on 14 October 2008 and I have no plans to reopen the Scheme at this time. A number of tax measures were contained in the 2012 Budget in order to assist young farmers to pursue a career in farming.

### **Agricultural Scheme Payments**

650. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he

[Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív.]

will confirm the years since 1995 where agriculture payments were made to a person (details supplied) in County Galway on a parcel of land; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34531/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** Applications under the Area Aid/Single Payment/Disadvantaged Area Schemes have been received from the person named since 1997. All of the aforementioned applications submitted have included the land parcel referred to by the Deputy.

### Single Payment Scheme

651. **Deputy Tom Hayes** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when payment under the single farm scheme 2009 will issue in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34556/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** An application under the Single Payment Scheme/Disadvantaged Areas Scheme was received from the person named on the 1st May 2009.

This application was selected for a Ground Eligibility/Cross Compliance Inspection. During the course of this inspection discrepancies were recorded in relation to a parcel in Kerry that resulted in the parcel being rejected as it was not stockproof and there was no evidence that it was being farmed. This decision resulted in a claimed area of 66.43 ha being reduced to a found area of 29.85 ha. If the total area found is insufficient to support the number of entitlements held, penalties will be applied per the Terms and Conditions of the scheme. In this case the number entitlements held by the person named is 66.43. As the difference between the area declared and the area found was greater than 20%, under EU Regulations, no payment would issue.

The person named was informed of this decision on the 5th of February 2010 and of his right to seek a review. Such a review was requested on the 2nd of March 2010 and a letter, upholding the original decision issued on the 23rd of July 2010. An appeal was lodged in the Agriculture Appeals Office on the 8th of October 2010 and an oral hearing was held on the 27th of September 2011.

As a result of this appeal the parcel in Kerry was deemed to be eligible for the 2009 Single Payment Scheme but a 3% Cross Compliance penalty for the failure to maintain a stockproof boundary was to be applied. A letter detailing this decision issued on the 5th of December 2011. Following the appeal decision the outcome of the inspection has been amended on the Department's systems and payment issued to the person named on the 9th of July 2012.

652. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason a request has issued to a person (details supplied) in County Galway to refund part of their 2011 single farm payment; the way this amount was calculated and which specific parcels of land his Department have deemed unfarmable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34585/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The amendments referred to arose from the findings of a eligibility inspection of the holding of the person named under the Agri- Environment Option Scheme, I have arranged for an official of my Department to forward a copy of the report to the person named, which details the exact deductions that were applied to the land parcels declared by the applicant.

653. **Deputy Michael Lowry** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine he will review the penalties imposed on a person (details supplied) in County Tipperary further to an on-farm inspection in relation to single farm payment; his views on the fairness of the imposition of such; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34594/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named was one of the joint registered herd-owners along with two others when the debt arose on their 2010 Single Payment Scheme application, following the imposition of a penalty as a result of a Cross Compliance farm inspection. Each of the registered herd owners in 2010 is, therefore, liable for share of the total debt in their own right. My Department will now make arrangements for recovery of the debt from each of the parties.

#### **Agri-Environment Options Scheme**

654. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding an agri environment protection scheme payment in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34616/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named was approved for participation in the Agri-Environment Options Scheme with effect from the 1st September 2010. 75% payment, totalling €5.00 has issued in respect of 2010.

Under the EU Regulations governing the Scheme and other area-based payment schemes, a comprehensive administrative check, including cross-checks with the Land Parcel Identification System, must be completed before any payment can issue. The person named was selected for a ground inspection which took place on 13th May 2011. During this inspection, areas of non-compliance with the terms and condition of the scheme were noted in relation to Tree Planting Standard Option which resulted in a penalty being imposed. A letter issued to the person named informing him of this penalty and giving him the option to appeal the decision. My Department received an appeal from the person named, dated 11th January 2012. This appeal is currently under review and once a decision has been reached the applicant will be notified of the outcome.

Payments in respect of the 2011 scheme year are subject to a similar administrative checking process which includes verification of capital investment through checks on receipts. During these checks a number of issues were identified. A letter will issue shortly to the person named regarding these queries and once satisfactorily resolved the application will be further processed.

#### **Suckler Welfare Scheme**

655. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding a suckler welfare scheme in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34631/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named registered thirty five animals under the 2009 Suckler Welfare Scheme. Payment has already issued in respect of seven animals and payment for a further eleven animals will issue this week. Errors were identified with three of the animals but clarification has now been received and payment will issue in the coming weeks if no more errors are identified in relation to these animals.

Errors have also been identified on the remaining fourteen animals and letters have issued today to the applicant advising him that these animals are not eligible for payment.

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

The person named registered fourteen animals in the Suckler Welfare Scheme during 2010. Payment has already issued in respect of six of these animals while errors have been identified for the remaining eight. Letters issued to the applicant in relation to these matters on 23rd January 2012 and to date no reply has been received.

A total of twenty animals were registered in the Suckler Welfare Scheme during 2011. To date payment has issued in respect of seventeen of these animals while errors have been identified in respect of two animals. Letters have issued recently advising the applicant of these errors and they may be considered for payment pending an appropriate reply.

The remaining animal can be considered for payment following receipt of the necessary weaning information and subject to the required validations.

### **Agri-Environment Options Scheme**

656. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to reopen the agri environment options scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34641/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I am aware of the importance of agri environment payments to the agriculture sector and am actively considering the possibility of re-opening the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) to allow for the submission of applications this year either on an amended basis from the existing scheme and/or on a limited scale. However, there are strict budgetary constraints in place and, as a result, the management of the limited resources represents a very challenging situation involving difficult choices. The full year cost of any new scheme will have to be met in 2013 and any decision to re-open AEOS will be taken in the context of consideration of the resources available and the need to remain within the agreed expenditure ceiling for my Department in 2013. I will make an announcement as soon as I have reached a decision on the situation.

*Question No. 657 answered with Question No. 645.*

658. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding an agri environment protection scheme payment in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34713/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named was approved for participation in the Agri-Environment Options Scheme with effect from the 1st September 2010 and full payment totalling €628.28 issued in respect of 2010.

Under the EU Regulations governing the Scheme and other area-based payment schemes, a comprehensive administrative check, including cross-checks with the Land Parcel Identification System, must be completed before any payment can issue. During these checks an issue was identified in relation to claimed areas on the Traditional Hay Meadow action. My Department is currently investigating this issue and once satisfactorily resolved the application will be further processed. Payment will issue at the earliest opportunity once all validations have been successfully completed.

### **Forestry Grants**

659. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a person (details supplied) in County Mayo will receive their forestry grant payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34730/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The contract listed for the person named was under the Reconstitution Scheme which provides for payment of a grant payable in two instalments, the first payable on satisfactory completion of the planting amounting to 75% of the grant due with the balance payable after four years. The first grant was paid in April 2011 to the applicants registered forester in accordance with a mandate instruction provided by the applicant with the second due four years later. There are no outstanding payments due to the person named in respect of this contract.

However, the reconstitution contract listed was in respect of the client's plantation under his main afforestation contract; the plantation having been damaged by fire in 2009. Under the main contract, the 2nd instalment grant and one annual forestry premium are outstanding. The outstanding premium can only be paid after the 2nd instalment grant has been paid. The application for the grant (*Form 3*) was received on 10th July 2012 and this has not been fully processed yet. On the Form 3, the applicant's forestry company declared that there is poor growth with trees in one of the plots; that plot equals about 20% of the plantation area. On this basis, an inspection will be undertaken by the Forest Service to ensure that the plantation is up to the standard required under the scheme. Payments cannot be made until the plantation has been deemed up to the required standard. It is expected that the inspection will be carried out by the Forest Service in the coming weeks.

### Single Payment Scheme

660. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding single farm payment in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry. [34763/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named submitted an application for an allocation of entitlements from the 2012 National Reserve. The 2012 National Reserve caters for farmers who commenced farming after 17th May 2010. Applicants are required to submit a 2012 Single Payment application form detailing all lands which they are currently farming. In addition, applicants are required to meet certain criteria with regard to income limits and educational qualifications. Off-farm income cannot exceed €30,000 and total income, including farm income, cannot exceed €40,000. Applicants must have obtained a FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture or its equivalent. The green certificate in farming is regarded as equivalent for this purpose.

National Reserve entitlements can only be allocated on eligible land which is free of entitlements and declared on the 2012 Single Payment application form.

Processing of the 2012 National Reserve Scheme is ongoing. My Department will be in touch with individual applicants as soon as their applications are fully processed. A formal letter setting out the details of the decision will issue at that stage.

### Bovine Disease Controls

661. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on the implications for herds contiguous of a TB risk breakdown whereby neighbours of a person who has two or more reactors are now also restricted from trading unless they themselves had a herd test in the previous four months; if he has any plans to extend the period to six months in order that normal trading will continue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34769/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The bovine TB eradication programme includes a comprehensive range of measures aimed at eradicating TB

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

from the cattle population in Ireland through testing and the control of cattle movements in order to prevent the spread of disease. More specifically, the programme provides for the mandatory annual testing of all cattle in the national herd, the implementation of a range of supplementary tests and the restriction of herds where TB is disclosed or suspected.

With regard to restrictions on holdings which adjoin a holding containing a herd which has disclosed TB, my Department has implemented what is known as a Contiguous testing programme for the past 30 years. Under this programme, herdowners whose herds are adjoining a holding where a high risk TB breakdown has been disclosed, usually involving more than one reactor, are required to have their herd tested if it has not been tested within the preceding 4 months.

The eradication programme is reviewed on an ongoing basis by my Department in light of experience and research. Following a review conducted on the programme last year, my Department introduced a number of changes in order to ensure that the programme addressed all potential sources of infection and to prevent the spread of disease from infected herds to clear herds. These changes, which were made following a number of consultation meetings with the farming organisations, are, firstly, based on research which demonstrate that there are increased risks attached to the movement of certain animals and, secondly, are designed to protect clear herds from buying in high risk animals.

With regard to the changes to the arrangements relating to the testing of neighbouring or contiguous herds, I would like to emphasise that the only change which my Department has made is that herds adjoining a high risk breakdown are now being trade restricted, except to slaughter, pending a TB test. They will, however, be permitted to buy in cattle for a short period while awaiting a test. Previously, such herds were permitted to sell cattle on the open market prior to carrying out the test and research had shown that this posed a risk to clear herds. Research has shown the TB risk relating to animals that move out of herds which have been identified as contiguous to a herd experiencing an active high risk TB breakdown is almost 3 times greater than the risk in the case of herds tested on a round test. The objective of the restriction is to protect clear herds from buying in infected animals from these herds and thereby avoid the situation where a clear herd that buys in infected cattle is required to carry out a minimum of 2 herd tests and is restricted for 4 months.

I have clarified that herd owners will be contacted by my Department prior to restriction and only those herds which, on a case by case consideration, are identified as genuinely relevant to the breakdown will be restricted. Those farmers whose herds are restricted can minimise any impact by arranging to have their herds tested as soon as possible. Any herd which tests clear will be immediately de-restricted.

With regard to the four month testing interval, the choice of four months as the benchmark period under this programme is not new and has been part of the contiguous testing programme for the past 30 years. The four month period is related to the time interval from when an animal may be exposed to infection and the expectation that a test will give a positive result, if the animal is infected. In line with the new procedures relating to overdue tests, it is open to herd owners who have a genuine reason for delaying the contiguous test to get in contact with my Department and the test can be deferred for up to one month without penalty. I would also emphasise that staff in my regional offices will always be available to discuss, with any affected herd owner, the particular circumstances relating to their herd. I would finally underline that the primary objective of the initiative is to reduce the risk that farmer purchasers of animals will unknowingly buy a potentially infected animal from a higher risk herd.

Finally, I believe that the restriction on contiguous herds pending a test should have a very limited effect on trade in cattle. In effect, it is only those herds in which TB is disclosed that will be restricted for any significant period of time.

### **Aquaculture Licences**

662. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason there is a delay in the processing of aquaculture licenses and the steps that are being taken to rectify the situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34783/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The delay in the processing of aquaculture licences largely arises because the majority of areas for which aquaculture licences are sought are located in Special Areas of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive and/or Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive (Natura 2000 sites). An additional factor is that all aquaculture applications now undergo Environmental Impact pre-screening assessment which requires significant input from my Department's scientific and technical advisors.

All applications in 'Natura 2000 areas' are required to be appropriately assessed for the purpose of environmental compliance with the EU Habitats/Birds Directives. My Department, in conjunction with the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, is engaged in a comprehensive programme to gather the necessary baseline data appropriate to the conservation objectives of 'Natura 2000' areas. This data collection programme is substantially complete. Analysis of the data, together with the setting of appropriate conservation objectives by the NPWS, will enable all new, renewal and review applications to be appropriately assessed for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. This work represents a significant financial, administrative and scientific investment by the State in resolving this issue. The Appropriate Assessment of aquaculture applications is being dealt with on a bay-by-bay basis.

My Department continues to make every effort to expedite the determination of all aquaculture applications having regard to the complexities of each case and the need to comply fully with all national and EU legislation.

### **Suckler Welfare Scheme**

663. **Deputy James Bannon** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding the suckler welfare scheme in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Westmeath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34785/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named is not registered by my Department as a herd owner or keeper. If the Deputy provides my Department with the additional information required to identify the person, I will make arrangements to have the case fully examined.

### **Single Payment Scheme**

664. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding an application for single farm payment in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34810/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named submitted an application under the 2012 Single Payment Scheme. The person named also submitted an application for an allocation of entitlements from the 2012 National Reserve. The

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

2012 National Reserve caters for farmers who commenced farming after 17th May, 2010. Applicants are required to submit details of all the lands which they are currently farming on the 2012 Single Payment application form. In addition, applicants are required to meet certain criteria with regard to income limits and educational qualifications. Off-farm income cannot exceed €30,000 and total income, including farm income, cannot exceed €40,000. Applicants must have obtained a FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture or its equivalent. The green certificate in farming is regarded as equivalent for this purpose.

Processing of the 2012 National Reserve Scheme is ongoing. My Department will be in touch with individual applicants as soon as their applications are fully processed. A formal letter setting out the details of the decision will issue at that stage.

*Question No. 665 answered with Question No. 645.*

### **Bovine Disease Controls**

666. **Deputy Michael Moynihan** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason payment of TB reactor compensation has not been made to a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34816/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** On 16th October 2008, the person named was informed that he would not be receiving reactor compensation for the 41 animals removed for slaughter under the TB Eradication Programme as the evidence compiled during an investigation carried out by the Department's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) and An Garda Síochána indicated that the TB test conducted on 27th September 2007 had been interfered with. The person named subsequently appealed this decision. His appeal was unsuccessful and the initial decision was upheld. He subsequently lodged a further appeal to the Agriculture Appeals Office, which partly allowed his appeal. However, the Department requested a review and the review officer overruled the original decision and reinstated the 100% penalty. The person named has been advised that he may appeal the decision of the Agriculture Appeals Office to the Office of the Ombudsman, 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

### **Fur Farming**

667. **Deputy Maureen O'Sullivan** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the date on which the submissions made and sent to his Department at the end of 2011 regarding fur farming will be assessed; when he will comment on the findings of the submissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34817/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The Review Group set up in my Department to review all aspects of fur farming has considered all the submissions made on the matter and has concluded its report, the contents of which I am now considering.

### **Milk Quota**

668. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when his Department will be notifying successful applicants under the category A quota application, new entrance scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34912/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** In February 2012 my Department announced details of the 2012 Scheme for the Allocation of Milk Quota to New Entrants to Dairying, with a closing date of 4th May 2012. About 270 applications were

received in my Department before this deadline. These applications were subject to a preliminary examination to ensure compliance with the eligibility criteria as set out in the detailed rules of the scheme. All valid applications have been submitted to the Assessment Panel for examination and it is expected that the Panel will have completed its work by mid August, at which time I intend to announce the results of the scheme.

*Question No. 669 answered with Question No. 640.*

### Agriculture Scheme Payments

670. **Deputy Dominic Hannigan** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the payments that have been made to farmers in County Meath in the past 12 months; under what schemes have these payments been made; the amount paid out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34917/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The information requested is only readily available on a calendar year basis. Accordingly, the following table sets out the schemes and total amount paid under each to some 3,823 farmers with addresses in Co Meath in respect of the year 2011:

| Scheme Description                          | Total Paid     |
|---|----------------|
| Arable Aid                                  | €14,176.30     |
| Agri-Environment Options Scheme             | €350,243.46    |
| General Disease Control and Eradication     | €7,704.00      |
| Area Based Compensatory Allowance Scheme    | €2,523,594.63  |
| Suckler Cow Animal Welfare Scheme 2008-201  | €917,575.77    |
| BioEnergy Scheme                            | €8,494.13      |
| Dairy Compensation Scheme                   | €2,360.00      |
| Dairy Efficiency Scheme                     | €150,774.00    |
| Ewe and Goat Premium                        | €3,034.08      |
| Extensification Premium                     | €2,158.40      |
| Forestry NDP Support Schemes Forest Owners  | €81,532.14     |
| Grassland Sheep Scheme                      | €547,809.94    |
| Housing/Handling for Alternative Enterprise | €26,356.90     |
| NDP-Farm Waste Management                   | €1,344,916.63  |
| RDP Afforestation Programme                 | €2,146,093.53  |
| Agri -Environment Programme                 | €5,679,032.71  |
| Special Beef Premium                        | €2,452.98      |
| SCRAPIE COMPENSATION                        | €5,208.00      |
| Single Farm Payment                         | €54,257,931.50 |
| SINGLE FARM PAYMENT / ENERGY CROP           | €450.15        |
| Single Farm Payment / Protein Crop Premium  | €10,200.84     |
| Slaughter Premium                           | €1,370.19      |
| TB Grants to Herdowners                     | €800,574.02    |
| Total                                       | €68,884,044.30 |

### Ministerial Allowances

671. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available

[Deputy Sean Fleming.]

to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

[35056/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** No allowances which are subject to income tax are available to me or to the Minister of State in my Department.

### **Tuberculosis Incidence**

672. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on whether the granting of a licence to acquire stock from restricted stock (details supplied) satisfies good practice and that he is assured that it will not have a detrimental impact on surrounding farms, livestock and livelihood; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35076/12]

673. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will cease the granting of any licences for the purposes of restricted stock purchase until such time as a full evaluation of the process, risk to neighbouring livestock and livelihoods as well as the need for consultation with persons of interest in such endeavours has been undertaken; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35077/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 672 and 673 together.

In general, cattle may only be moved under a movement permit issued by my Department from a TB restricted herd direct to a slaughter plant. However, a movement permit may be issued, in exceptional cases, for the movement of non-infected cattle to another pre-identified and assessed holding where there are sound animal welfare reasons for such movement e.g. where there are insufficient facilities or feed for the remaining animals, particularly calves, which cannot be disposed of in accordance with the normal trading pattern of the herdowner. In practice, such movements are extremely rare and are only permitted where the Department is satisfied that it will not have a detrimental impact on surrounding farms, livestock and livelihood.

The specific case for which details were supplied by the Deputy was initially allowed in 2011 and has since been used to relieve stress on facilities, feed or resources for other similar cases. The farm to which calves move is restricted. The calves are confined to one fragment of the farm that is bounded by a canal at one side, by roads and by housing on the others and is therefore not contiguous to and does not pose a risk to any livestock. They are required to pass two tests before the herd is declared officially TB free. While the calves are then eligible for sale on the open market, the practice is that they subsequently only move to other fragments of the same holding or to another fattening holding for finishing or slaughter.

My Department is satisfied that a full evaluation of the process has been conducted and that any movement permits issued under these exceptional circumstances have not posed a risk to the neighbouring herds of the person concerned or to the farming community generally.

### **Suckler Welfare Scheme**

674. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he

has received a request for a review of a decision regarding an application under the 2012 animal welfare recording and breeding scheme and in view of the circumstances outlined in the appeal if he will approve this application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35088/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The person named applied for the 2012 Suckler Welfare Scheme on 2 March 2012 as a new entrant. However, the person named had beef breed animals born in his herd in 2011 and, therefore, should have applied for the Scheme in 2011. The application for 2012 was deemed ineligible and the person named was notified of the position in a letter dated 18th May 2012. The person named sought a review of this decision, the matter was re-considered by my Department and the applicant was deemed eligible to participate in the 2012 Scheme.

675. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he has plans to continue to support productive farming through the cow suckler scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35135/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The Animal Welfare Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds, commonly referred to as the Suckler Welfare Scheme, is a five year Scheme for beef breed animals born during the years 2008 to 2012 and is fully funded until then. Budgetary decisions regarding all schemes are subject to ongoing review and will feature as part of the Estimates process which will take place in second half of this year.

### Harvest 2020

676. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in view of the ambitious targets set by Harvest 2020, if he has any plans or initiatives to support and encourage young persons to commit to full time farming so that these targets are achievable. [35136/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The tax changes in Budget 2012 encourage partnership formation and incentivise inter-generational land transfer. I believe they will be of real benefit to young farmers and towards developing the sector and the economy generally.

One of the most significant new measures introduced in Budget 2012 was the new stock relief incentive to encourage farm partnerships. Subject to EU State Aid approval, the current rate of 25% stock relief for registered farm partnerships, will increase to 50%, and, for certain young trained farmers entering such partnerships, a rate of 100% stock relief will be available. This new incentive will run until December 2015. I support farm partnerships because I believe that collaboration through partnership can bring more innovative and energetic young prospective farmers into farming while improving farm structures and production levels. Encouraging farm partnerships will also support the dairy herd expansion required over the coming years and enable Irish farmers to avail of the opportunity presented by the abolition of EU milk quotas in March 2015.

Budget 2012 also reduced the stamp duty rate on agricultural land from 6% to 2%, with immediate effect. In addition, half the rate (1%) will be applicable on transfers to close relatives until the end of 2014. This change should stimulate a stagnant land market — currently only 0.5% of total agricultural land is offered for sale annually — and ensure that land transfers to more active producers. It will also promote inter-generational transfer, as the cost of lifetime transfer to transferees who do not qualify for the young trained farmer stamp duty relief has

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

reduced considerably. This measure is designed to give younger, progressive, commercial farmers a greater opportunity to purchase land and help make the farm more competitive.

The retirement relief available on Capital Gains Tax was also restructured to encourage farmers around the normal retirement age, who have successors, to transfer their land and holdings to young, innovative, ambitious, prospective farmers. This restructuring will also encourage farmers with no successors to sell some of their land before normal retirement age. This measure will encourage an improvement in the age profile of farmers, and should ensure that farmland is put to more productive use.

There are also a variety of measures operated by my Department on an ongoing basis which encourage young persons to commit to full-time farming. These include the scheme for new entrants to dairying under the CAP Health Check, the dairy efficiency programme and the newly established Beef Technology Adoption Programme. The roll-out of the discussion groups, in particular, give beef and dairy farmers access to a range of additional management and financial skills and supports which encourage significant efficiency gains.

### **Agri-Environment Options Scheme**

677. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will make a statement on a matter (details supplied); his views on proposals by the Irish Farmers Association (details supplied). [35206/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** My commitment to agri-environmental schemes are evident in the funding of €243m which has been provided to meet commitments under Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) and the Agri-environment Options Scheme (AEOS) in 2012. The commitment is also clear from the fact that despite serious budgetary pressures, I re-opened the AEOS to new entrants last year. Strict budgetary constraints remain in place and, as a result, the management of the limited resources represents a very challenging situation involving difficult choices.

I have received a number of representations regarding the re-opening of the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) in 2012 including submissions from the Irish Farmers Association.

I am actively considering the possibility of re-opening AEOS to allow for the submission of applications this year either on an amended basis from the existing scheme and/or on a limited scale. I will make an announcement as soon as I have made my decision.

### **Aquaculture Licences**

678. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding an application for an aquaculture and foreshore licence in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Donegal; the length of time this application will take to be processed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35260/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The application referred to, which was received by my Department in March of this year, is in respect of a site located within Sheephaven Bay, Co Donegal which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive (Natura 2000 site).

All applications in 'Natura' areas are required to be appropriately assessed for the purpose of environmental compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. My Department, in conjunction with the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of

the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is engaged in a comprehensive programme to gather the necessary baseline data appropriate to the conservation objectives of 'Natura' areas. This data collection programme is substantially complete. Analysis of the data, together with the setting of appropriate conservation objectives by the NPWS, will enable all new, renewal and review applications to be appropriately assessed for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. This work represents a significant financial, administrative and scientific investment by the State in resolving this issue. The Appropriate Assessment of aquaculture applications is being dealt with on a bay-by-bay basis.

Addressing the issue of aquaculture licensing in Natura 2000 areas is a key priority for my Department and you can be assured that every effort is being made to expedite the determination of this aquaculture licence application having regard to all the complexities involved.

679. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of applications for aquaculture licences that are awaiting decisions by his Department; the length of time it takes to process these applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35261/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** At present there are 618 aquaculture licence applications awaiting determination.

The large number of licence applications awaiting determination largely arises because the majority of areas for which aquaculture licences are sought are located in Natura areas. All applications in 'Natura 2000 areas' are required to be appropriately assessed for the purpose of environmental compliance with the EU Habitats/Birds Directives. An additional factor is that all aquaculture applications now undergo Environmental Impact pre-screening assessment which requires significant input from the Department's scientific and technical advisors.

My Department, in conjunction with the Marine Institute and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, is engaged in a comprehensive programme to gather the necessary baseline data appropriate to the conservation objectives of 'Natura 2000' areas. This data collection programme is substantially complete. Analysis of the data, together with the setting of appropriate conservation objectives by the NPWS, will enable all new, renewal and review applications to be appropriately assessed for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the EU Birds and Habitats Directives. This work represents a significant financial, administrative and scientific investment by the State in resolving this issue. The Appropriate Assessment of aquaculture applications is being dealt with on a bay-by-bay basis.

The timeframe for processing each particular application varies depending on location, species, scale and intensity of production, statutory status of sites, potential visual impact etc. Other factors include consideration of any submissions or observations raised during the public consultation period.

My Department continues to make every effort to expedite the determination of all aquaculture applications having regard to the complexities of each case and the need to comply fully with all national and EU legislation.

#### **Public Sector Staff**

680. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if, having regard to the potential of agriculture in Ireland, he will consider relaxing the recruitment embargo, in areas including research, advice and entertainment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35279/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The Government is committed to reforming the public service to achieve greater efficiencies in the delivery of services. The ‘Public Service Agreement 2010-2014’ aims to create a smaller and more integrated public service and requires all public service organisations to do more with less. New structures are envisaged to facilitate greater staff mobility and to promote sharing of services. Reallocation of work and redeployment of staff will be an essential part of this process. In addition, each sector of the Public Service has been requested to establish its own Strategic Workforce Action Plan to help deploy staffing resources more optimally, especially in the context of planned reductions in public service numbers.

Public service bodies are also subject to the moratorium on recruitment and restrictions on staff numbers under the Employment Control Framework (ECF) process. This requires bodies to assess and plan for current and ongoing staffing requirements within existing resources. Additional resources can only be considered in limited circumstances and in compliance with Government targets to reduce staff numbers.

Teagasc has statutory responsibility to deliver research, education and advisory services to the agrifood sector. Despite reductions in numbers, they retain a staff complement of almost 1,200 staff including advisors, teachers, research scientists and administrators. They have been granted a number of exemptions under the moratorium to recruit permanent staff including, for example, 10 research scientists and 6 teachers in the agricultural colleges. Sanction has also been granted for Teagasc to recruit over 80 fixed term research contractors to work on essential research projects. A number of fixed term advisors have also been recruited to work on Joint Industry Funded Advisory Programmes such as Better Farm.

### Single Payment Scheme

681. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in view of the inclement weather and the negative impact on farm incomes, if he will consider bringing forward the single farm payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35280/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I can confirm that I have sought the approval of the EU Commissioner to allow the payment of a 50% advance of the Single Payment with effect from 16 October, the earliest payment date possible, it being the first day of the new EU financial year. I understand that a number of other Member States have also made similar requests. I am both particularly mindful of the importance of the Single Payment to individual farmers and also of the benefit to the wider rural community and, in light of ongoing general financial difficulties, but particularly the recent very unseasonable weather, I have decided to approach the Commissioner, as indicated.

In a bilateral meeting with the Commissioner yesterday I addressed the issue of advance payment in view of the effects of the weather on farming and asked if the Commission would consider going beyond the 50% to a 70% advance. However, the Commissioner raised some practical concerns around doing so.

### Pork Exports

682. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will summarise the export market for pork products; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35282/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** The pigmeat sector in Ireland has remained resilient in recent years in the face of considerable difficulties. Production increased by over 17% between 2008 and 2011. The sector remains the third largest

individual component of the agrifood industry and supports approximately 7,000 jobs, many of which are in rural communities. Production, prices and exports increased significantly in 2011, and growth has continued in 2012 to date. Robust domestic demand coupled with a strong performance in export markets, should help ensure progress in the coming years.

The table over details both the volume and value of pigmeat exports since 2007:

Irish Pigmeat Exports 2007-2011

| Year | Volume (tonnes) | Value € |
|------|-----------------|---------|
| 2007 | 142,000         | 370m    |
| 2008 | 138,000         | 340m    |
| 2009 | 127,000         | 290m    |
| 2010 | 147,000         | 317m    |
| 2011 | 168,000 (est.)  | 395m    |

The UK has consistently been the largest export market for Irish pigmeat, accounting for more than 40% of export volume and over 60% in value. Trade to Continental Europe has remained strong notwithstanding the current economic climate, with over a quarter of volume and almost one fifth in value terms destined for this market. France, Germany and Italy are the largest individual Continental markets. Third Country trade has grown considerably in recent years, with volumes to China, Russia Japan and the USA increasing significantly. Improved access to these markets, together with growing demand, resulted in almost one-third of volume and a fifth in value being sold internationally in 2011.

In addition, over 600,000 pigs are exported live, with the majority of these destined for the UK. This trade is valued at approximately €60 million.

Pigmeat remains the most consumed meat worldwide with demand expected to continue to increase in the medium term. This will continue to present opportunities for Irish producers. Bord Bia continues, through its marketing and promotional activities, and through the pigmeat quality assurance scheme, to consolidate the position of Irish pigmeat on the domestic market and to expand its presence on EU and third country markets.

### Pigmeat Sector

683. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will outline the financial support to the pig industry to develop new products within the industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35283/12]

684. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will outline the grant aid available to pig farmers who are obliged to change their sow accommodation to comply with animal welfare guidelines. [35284/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 683 and 684 together.

The pig sector accounts for approximately 6% of the overall agrifood industry and is the third largest individual component of the agrifood sector. Output, prices and exports have continued the growth of recent years to date in 2012. The *'Food Harvest 2020 Report'*, published in July 2010, sets out the vision for the future of the food industry including the pig sector and targets a 50% increase in the value of output by 2020. I am confident that, given the appropriate supports and expertise, this target will be achieved.

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

One of the primary issues for the sector at present concerns new EU Animal Welfare rules which set down new standards in relation to the housing of sows. These are due to come into force on 1 January 2013. A significant number of producers have undertaken the necessary work required in order to upgrade their facilities in order to comply with the new rules. In March 2012, Teagasc estimated that approximately 36% of pig units, housing some 44% of the sow population were presently compliant with the provisions. I have been clear in my view that a fully compliant pig sector is an essential regulatory and competitive requirement with effect from 1st January 2013.

To facilitate compliance with the requirements, an on-farm investment aid scheme (TAMS) — the Sow Housing Welfare Scheme was introduced under Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. I have recently announced a number of enhancements to this scheme which will further assist farmers in completing the necessary investment works. The investment ceiling has been increased to €500,000 per pig producer for the first sow house. In addition, an investment ceiling of €300,000 will now be available for each of the next three houses. The maximum grant rate of 40% of investment remains unchanged. I have provided a total of €13 million for this scheme with €4 million already committed and I welcome applications from pig producers before the 31 October application deadline for this funding.

I should add that this scheme is in addition to earlier Sow Welfare Schemes which delivered over €6 million to successful applicants.

With regard to financial support available to the pig industry, Enterprise Ireland operates various programmes relating to company development. Included among these are Research and Development and Innovation Funding. Through a mix of funding, advice and expertise, Enterprise Ireland works with companies planning or engaging in R&D. Assistance for product development is also available through the Teagasc National Food Centre in Ashtown, Dublin 15 A number of businesses within the pig sector have availed of these programmes in recent years.

### Departmental Agencies

685. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35308/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** There are Four State Bodies under the aegis of my Department which have the power to enter premises:

- Sea Fisheries Protection Agency.
- Veterinary Council of Ireland.
- Horse Racing Ireland.
- Bord na gCon.

Sections 17 and 17a of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006, as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2007, set down the powers of Sea Fisheries Protection Officers of the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority to enter and search premises and set down the requirements in relation to search warrants.

The Veterinary Council of Ireland (which regulates the practice of veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing) has investigative functions as provided under the Veterinary Practice Act

2005. Currently authorised officers of the Council are required to obtain a search warrant in order to enter any premises, unless the agreement of the person concerned is forthcoming. However, the Veterinary Practice (Amendment) Bill 2011 which recently completed its passage through the Oireachtas includes an amendment to permit authorised officers to enter a premises, other than a dwelling, without a search warrant, where it is necessary for the purposes of carrying out an investigation.

Section 51 of the Irish Horseracing Industry Act 1994 grants Authorised Officers of Horse Racing Ireland power to enter any “authorised racecourse, betting office or any other place or premises where there are reasonable grounds to believe the business of bookmaking is carried on”. A warrant is not required and the officer is entitled to search for, inspect and take copies of books, accounts or other documents or records.

Authorised officers of Bord na gCon may, under the Greyhound Industry Act 1958, enter and inspect certain premises and take copies of documents.

### Appointments to State Boards

686. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department’s website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35600/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** Since March 2011 vacancies on the Boards of the State Bodies that fall under my Department’s remit are listed on my Department’s website and expressions of interest sought. In the case of a number of bodies, the board appointments, while made by me, are not at my sole discretion and, instead, individuals are nominated for appointment by me by various organisations as specified in the relevant statute. These are the Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board, Teagasc, National Milk Agency, Veterinary Council of Ireland and Horse Racing Ireland.

There have been a number of appointments to State Boards during my tenure and the details of these are outlined in the accompanying table.

| Body/Agency                         | No of Board Members | No of Board appointments since March 2011 | Name   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| Aquaculture Licensing Appeals Board | 7                   | 2   | Brendan Brice<br>Camilla Keane   |
| An Bord Bia                         | 15                  | 9<br>(including the Chair)                | Michael Carey (Chair)<br>Gary Brown<br>Michael Cronin<br>Rhona Holland<br>John Kingston<br>Brody Sweeney<br>John Comer<br>Mary J Byrne<br>John Bryan |
| Bord Iascaigh Mhara                 | 6                   | 1   | Kieran Calnan (Chair)  |
| Bord na gCon                        | 7                   | 6   | Philip Meaney (Chair)<br>Matt Murphy<br>Brendan Moore<br>Tim Gilbert<br>Tony McNamee<br>William O Dwyer  |
| Coillte                             | 9                   | 2   | Oliver McCabe<br>David Gunning   |

[Deputy Simon Coveney.]

| Body/Agency          | No of Board Members | No of Board appointments since March 2011 | Name  |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Horse Racing Ireland | 14                  | 3   | Noel Meade<br>Neville O'Byrne<br>Mary O'Connor  |
| Marine Institute     | 9                   | 1   | Paul Hyde   |
| Teagasc              | 11                  | 1   | Thomas Cooke  |
| Veterinary Council   | 19                  | 5   | Michael Sheahan<br>Peadar Ó'Scanail<br>Michael Sadlier<br>Deirdre Campion<br>Martin Blake |

687. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35613/12]

**Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney):** I have appointed chairpersons to three State Bodies under the aegis of my Department since March 2011. The three State Bodies are:

- An Bord Bia.
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara.
- Bord na gCon.

The Chairs appointed have yet to be called before the relevant Oireachtas committee but are aware of this requirement.

#### Family Support Services

688. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the advice she would offer to a family (details supplied) in Dublin 3. [35171/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** As this is a service matter, I have asked the Health Service Executive to respond directly to the Deputy with the most up-to-date information.

#### Child Protection

689. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of unscheduled house visits the Health Service Executive social workers made to homes of children whose parents are under investigation by child protection teams. [35202/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** As this is a service matter, I have asked the Health Service Executive to respond directly to the Deputy with the most up-to-date information.

#### Family Support Services

690. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will give an assurance that every assistance will be provided to Family Resource Centres to

continue the excellent work they have been doing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35224/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The Family Support Agency provides support for families under the Family Resource Centre (FRC) Programme. The aim is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. Key services provided by FRCs include:

- Information, advice and support for groups and families at local level.
- Assistance to community groups (such as training and the shared use of facilities).
- Education courses and training opportunities.
- Childcare facilities for those attending courses provided by the FRC.
- After-school clubs.

A key role for FRCs is in providing information and advice. In 2010, over 136,000 people were advised directly by an FRC and a further 56,000 people were referred onwards to other information providers. The VEC's and the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) were the services to which people were most frequently referred.

FRCs have a broad range of involvement with children and young people and work closely with many local schools. The range of interventions include early childhood care and education, initiatives to retain children and young people in school, breakfast clubs, homework clubs, youth cafés, community based youth work, facilities and services for young people, work with particular target groups of vulnerable young people and work on issues of particular concern/risk to young people e.g. alcohol and drugs prevention, etc.

The Agency also provides funding to voluntary and community organisations providing marriage, relationship, child and bereavement counselling services. Some 600 organisations are funded each year. These services aim to support people deal with difficulties they are experiencing in their relationships, to help children whose lives have been affected by parental separation and to support families who have experienced the death of a family member. Over 20,000 individual counselling sessions were delivered within FRCs in 2010.

Looking to the future, the Family Support Agency will, along with the HSE's Children and Family Services, form an integral part of the new Child and Family Support Agency, due to be established in 2013. Plans for the transition to this new entity are well under way. I believe this will provide for greater integration of these complementary services, with their shared aims of supporting parents and families and ensuring the welfare and protection of children are adequately safeguarded.

691. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the position regarding the family resource centre programme (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35286/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The Family Support Agency, under my Department, operates the Family Resource Centre Programme. The aim of the Family Resource Centre Programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. The programme funds 107 family resource centres throughout the country. It emphasises involving local communities in tackling the problems they face, and creating successful partnerships between voluntary and statutory agencies at community level.

[Deputy Frances Fitzgerald.]

A number of Community Savings Schemes operate within the family resource centre structure. These schemes are managed by local voluntary committees, and are staffed by volunteers. At present there are over 1,500 people availing of 6 savings schemes located within centres based in Kilkenny, Wexford and Limerick.

Community Savings Schemes operate on a not-for-profit basis and do not offer credit to clients. They promote the practice of saving as a low-cost and low-risk alternative to accessing credit. The Schemes offer an opportunity for families to prepare themselves in advance for the costs associated with expensive family events such as Christmas, back to school, Holy Communions, etc. They represent a welcome alternative to moneylenders and other expensive credit options.

The schemes encourage families to be pro-active in their approach to budgeting for foreseen and unexpected events. To advance the practice of saving, rather than borrowing, a special emphasis is placed on promoting the involvement of children and young people.

### Missing Children

692. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if it is of concern to her that with the Olympics, summer holiday season and the upcoming US College American football game that the 116000 missing child telephone line is still not fully operational; the responsibility she has for ensuring this hotline is up and running and her responsibility in raising awareness of the number; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34353/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** Under EU telecoms rules agreed in 2009, the 116000 number is reserved in all EU member states for a missing children hotline. My Department established and is leading a cross-sectoral Project Team, including representatives of my own Department, the Department of Justice and Equality, ComReg and An Garda Síochána to advance this matter. Following cross departmental consultation and an examination of the issues involved by the Project team, Comreg, which has responsibility for allocation of this number in Ireland, has now allocated the number to the ISPCC. The ISPCC has recently been successful in securing EU Daphne funding to support the establishment of the line.

It is envisaged that a phased implementation of the 116000 line will commence in 2012. In the interim, a holding response is currently heard if an individual rings the 116000 number. The number advises callers wishing to report a missing child to contact An Garda Síochána and advises children seeking assistance to contact the ISPCC.

Once operational, the line will:

- (1) Provide emotional support to children who are missing, their family and others responsible for the missing child.
- (2) Offer guidance and advice to the callers regarding a missing child.
- (3) Report risk cases (where identifying information has been received) to the Gardai/HSE as per Children First Guidance.
- (4) Support the Garda Investigation where appropriate.
- (5) Redirect calls outside the scope of the line.

It is important to note that the 116000 number is not an emergency number. Emergency calls should always be directed to the 999/112 number in the first instance, where the relevant emergency responses, including the recently launched Garda Missing Children Amber Alert mechanism, may be activated. The establishment of the 116000 line will, however, be of valuable support and assistance to families of missing children and to missing children themselves.

### Child Care Services

693. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons currently working in early education and childcare here; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34492/12]

694. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons who are currently working in early education and childcare here who have a FETAC level 4 qualification and the percentage of the early education and childcare workforce that this represents; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34493/12]

695. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons who are currently working in early education and childcare here who have a FETAC level 5 qualification and the percentage of the early education and childcare workforce that this represents; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34494/12]

696. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons who are currently working in early education and childcare here who have a FETAC level 6 qualification and the percentage of the early education and childcare workforce that this represents [34495/12]

697. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons who are currently working in early education and childcare here who have a BA in early childhood and the percentage of the early education and childcare workforce that this represents; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34496/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 693 to 697, inclusive, together.

Under the Child Care (Pre-School Services) (No. 2) Regulations 2006, adult practitioner in pre-school services are set out at Part II, Article 5 of the Regulations.

Nearly all pre-school services in the State are now participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme, which provides a free pre-school year to all eligible children in the year before they commence primary school. This programme requires that staff members acting as pre-school year leaders hold a childcare qualification equivalent to FETAC Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications of Ireland (NFQ). A higher capitation rate is available to sessional playschool services participating in the ECCE programme in which all childcare workers have qualification levels above the minimum requirements for the programme. Staff working with children under the ECCE programme, as pre-school assistants, are not required to hold an educational qualification.

Pobal, which administers the childcare support programmes on behalf, of my Department compiles an Annual Survey of the Early Years Sectors which provide information in relation to the level of qualifications of practitioners in the childcare sector. According to Pobal's Annual Survey of the Early Years Sector 2011 there are in the region of 4,300 childcare services participating in the ECCE programme and approximately 3,280 of these services responded to

[Deputy Frances Fitzgerald.]

the survey. Of this number, some 2,920 provided information on the level of training/qualifications of some 17,000 staff working with children. The results, which did not distinguish between those working with children enrolled for the ECCE programme and other children in the childcare service, show that 96% of these services have a least one staff member qualified to FETAC Level 5 or higher, 75.2% have at least one member qualified to FETAC Level 6 or higher and 34% have a least one member qualified to HETAC Level 7 or higher. The number of services with one staff member qualified to HETAC Level 8 and above and HETAC Level 9 above is 22.3% and 3.2% respectively. As the Deputy is aware my Department has commenced work on Ireland's first-ever Early Years Strategy and in the terms of reference, as approved by Government, I expressly included the need to consider "a robust system of regulation and inspection", for the new Early Years Strategy. Part of this will include improving access to quality reliable information on services and performance. I have asked the recently — established Expert Advisory Group to prioritise a review of this matter.

The employment of suitably qualified staff is a matter for each individual childcare service. It is expected that in time a register of staff qualifications will be developed and providers should encourage staff to record the relevant details of their qualifications there.

### Departmental Staff

698. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the aspects of the workforce development plan that have been implemented to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34497/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** My Department is currently engaged in a Workforce Planning exercise to compare our current workforce with future workforce requirement relative to the delivery of commitments under the Programme for Government and other strategic objectives of the Department. This exercise is examining how best to have the right people with the right knowledge, skills and competencies deployed appropriately. It is taking account of all managed movement into, around, and out of the Department including retirement, recruitment, promotion, secondment, transfers and redeployment opportunities. As part of this process, specific skills in the area of legal, financial, research, economic, change management and human resources have already been identified as requiring development. Officials of my Department are in discussion with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in this regard with a view to addressing this requirement from within approved numbers and within the overall existing Vote provision for my Department.

### Foreign Adoptions

699. **Deputy Shane Ross** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs when she expects to be in a position to make a statement regarding the Russian bilateral agreement; the current stage of the negotiations; her plans for the negotiations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34516/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** Adoptions from Russia, effected under the transitional arrangements provided for in the Adoption Act 2010, are ongoing and are currently being examined, and recognised, by the Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI). Under the provisions of the legislation, such adoptions may take place up to the end of October 2013.

As regards adoptions thereafter, Russia has not ratified the Hague Convention and there appears to be no immediate prospect that this will happen. Therefore, future adoptions from

Russia, beyond those provided for under the transitional arrangements, may only be possible under a bilateral agreement. The negotiation of bilateral agreements on inter-country adoption with states who have not ratified the Hague Convention is governed by Section 73 of the Adoption Act 2010. Any bilateral arrangements which might be entered into would be required by law to meet the minimum standards set out in the Hague Convention.

It is the role of the Adoption Authority to make an assessment of whether the inter-country adoption legislation and practices in a non-contracting state, in this case Russia, are in compliance with both Irish legislation and the principles of the Hague Convention. As part of this assessment the Adoption Authority has reviewed a draft bilateral agreement presented to it during previous discussions with its Russian counterparts and has provided me with an initial assessment in this regard. As a result of this, the issues which may require further exploration with the Russian authorities have been considered. I have recently asked the Adoption Authority to engage further with the Russian authorities on issues raised in their report to me.

### **Inter-Country Adoptions**

700. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will report on the position regarding a bilateral agreement to facilitate inter-country adoptions between Ireland and Russia. [34534/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** Adoptions from Russia, effected under the transitional arrangements provided for in the Adoption Act 2010, are ongoing and are currently being examined, and recognised, by the Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI). Under the provisions of the legislation, such adoptions may take place up to the end of October 2013.

As regards adoptions thereafter, Russia has not ratified the Hague Convention and there appears to be no immediate prospect that this will happen. Therefore, future adoptions from Russia, beyond those provided for under the transitional arrangements, may only be possible under a bilateral agreement. The negotiation of bilateral agreements on inter-country adoption with states who have not ratified the Hague Convention is governed by Section 73 of the Adoption Act 2010. Any bilateral arrangements which might be entered into would be required by law to meet the minimum standards set out in the Hague Convention.

It is the role of the Adoption Authority to make an assessment of whether the inter-country adoption legislation and practices in a non-contracting state, in this case Russia, are in compliance with both Irish legislation and the principles of the Hague Convention. As part of this assessment the Adoption Authority has reviewed a draft bilateral agreement presented to it during previous discussions with its Russian counterparts and has provided me with an initial assessment in this regard. As a result of this, the issues which may require further exploration with the Russian authorities have been considered. I have recently asked the Adoption Authority to engage further with the Russian authorities on issues raised in their report to me.

### **Departmental Correspondence**

701. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 117 of 18 April 2012, if he will supply the information he stated would be provided in his response. [34643/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The material requested by the Deputy has now been compiled and is as follows. My Department replied to 309 written parliamentary questions between 1 January 2012 and 31 March 2012. 231 questions were answered in full by my Department, 13 related to issues where details supplied were personal

[Deputy Frances Fitzgerald.]

matters and where the reply was supplied directly to the Deputy and 75 indicated that the information requested would be sent directly to the Deputy concerned.

### **Early Childhood Education**

702. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the amount of her total budget that is allocated to early education and childcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34715/12]

703. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will outline the percentage of GDP spent on early education and childcare here in each year between 2000 and to date in 2012; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34716/12]

704. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the amount of her Department's budget that is allocated specifically to early education and childcare services for those aged under three years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34717/12]

705. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of children currently participating in the early childhood care and education scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34718/12]

706. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of children with special educational needs participating in the early childhood care and education scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34719/12]

707. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if there is a recommended pupil teacher ratio for early education and childcare providers; the average pupil teacher ratio at present across early education and childcare providers here; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34720/12]

708. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the percentage of childcare services subsidised for children under three years of age; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [34722/12]

709. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if those working in the early education and childhood sector have access to continuing professional development; if workers in the sector are entitled to CPD; the number of days CPD they are entitled to each year; if they are entitled to paid leave to take part in CPD and if their training is paid for; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35004/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 702 to 709, inclusive, together.

The Government currently supports the provision of early childhood care and education through three support programmes — the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme, the Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme and the Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) programme. These programmes are implemented by my Department.

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is a universal programme to which all children have access when they are in the qualifying age range of 3 years 2 months

and 4 years and 7 months at 1 September in the year that they enrol for the programme. In the region of 4,300 preschool services are providing the free preschool provision.

The Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) programme provides funding to community childcare services to enable them to charge reduced childcare rates to low income and disadvantaged families. The Childcare Education and Training Support (CETS) programme provides free childcare places in both community and commercial services to qualifying FÁS and Vocational Educational Committees (VECs) trainees and students. There is no specific funding targeted at the 0 to 3 years age group and children of all age categories, whose parents qualify under these programmes, are eligible to enrol. In the region of 2,400 childcare services are participating in the CCS and CETS programmes.

The staff/child ratios are governed by the Child Care (Preschool Services) (No. 2) Regulations 2006. These currently require that, where children are in the ECCE age cohort, there should be a ratio of no more than 1:10. It has been decided to increase this ratio to a maximum of 1:11 from September 2012. Other ratios apply to different age groups availing of different levels of service, as outlined in the Regulations. The introduction of universal preschool provision in January 2010 and with it the requirements that preschool leaders have to have a minimum of a full award at FETAC Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications has acted as a major impetus for early years practitioners to acquire qualifications. To assist staff to achieve the full requirement in advance of the September 2012 deadline, arrangements were put in place by my Department to provide a subsidised on-line training initiative. A subsidy of €50 per module was provided which reduced the cost per module to €125.

It is also my objective to incrementally develop the ECCE programme over the term of this Government as resources permit. A key element of this is the implementation of the Workforce Development Plan by the Early Education Policy Unit of the Department of Education and Skills, which is co-located in my Department.

The Workforce Development Plan identified different distinct groups including new entrants to the workforce who wish to become appropriately qualified for specific occupational roles and responsibilities, and unqualified practitioners in the current workforce who want to achieve a Level 5 award. For new entrants to the workforce the publication of Common Award Standards at NFQ Levels 4, 5 and 6 is a welcome development. Programmes of learning developed to meet these new award standards will incorporate national practice frameworks and will reflect national policy objectives, thereby ensuring that graduates of these programmes are fully prepared to enter the workforce. Training providers have begun to develop new programmes to meet these award standards and, subject to validation by FETAC, the first of these, the FETAC Level 5 Major Award in Early Childhood Care and Education, will come on stream shortly through the VECs. As the Deputy may be aware the Department of Children and Youth Affairs was established on 3 June 2011. In relation to 2011 and the specific information requested by the Deputy, my Department's total spend on childcare related programmes as per the out-turn on Voted Expenditure was €248.8 million, which is 0.16 per cent of total GDP for that year, which was €156.4 billion. This expenditure total (and percentage of GDP) does not include expenditure under other early intervention programmes or by other Departments on early year's programmes and services and therefore does not represent the full extent of state expenditure. The number of children supported by the programmes administered by my Department is in the region of 100,000, of which some 320 children were identified as having special needs and were supported under the ECCE programme.

In 2012, Ireland's GDP is expected to be some €159 billion and my Department's total spend on childcare related programmes is expected to be €256.8 million, which is again 0.16 per cent of the expected total GDP. The number of children supported by the programmes is expected

[Deputy Frances Fitzgerald.]

to increase in the school year 2012/2013 with an estimated 3,000 additional children qualifying in the eligible cohort for the ECCE programme and also additional parents becoming eligible under the CCS programme. In any given academic year, experience has shown that between 300 and 350 children with special needs are supported under the ECCE programme.

### Ministerial Allowances

710. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to her and Ministers of State in her Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to her and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35058/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The Oireachtas (Allowances and Facilities) Regulations 2010 govern the provisions of the Parliamentary Standard Allowance payable to members of the Oireachtas. I can confirm that in addition to the Parliamentary Standard Allowance, Ministers are entitled to claim motor transport in respect of the use of their own private car for official business purposes.

Under the motor transport arrangements in place for Cabinet Ministers, a travel allowance based on a distance of up to 96,540 kilometres per annum may be claimed to cover costs associated with the provision of my own car. The rates involved are:

| Official Motor Travel in a calendar year | Engine Capacity up to 1200cc | Engine Capacity up to 1201cc to 1500cc | Engine Capacity up to 1500cc to 2000cc | Engine Capacity 2000cc and over |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Up to 6,437km                            | 39.12 cent                   | 46.25 cent                             | 59.07 cent                             | 70.89 cent                      |
| 6,438km and over                         | 21.22 cent                   | 23.62 cent                             | 28.46 cent                             | 34.15 cent                      |

Ministers on official overnight business away from their home or headquarters may claim the vouched cost of a hotel room including tax and up to 15% in respect of any service charge. In addition, overnight subsistence allowances are payable in respect of absences from headquarters or home on official business in Ireland and abroad. The subsistence allowance for a Minister is in the following table:

| Overnight | 10 hours or more | 5 hours or more |
|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| €72.66    | €33.61           | €13.71          |

To-date, I have claimed €17,268.90 in regard to use of my personal car on official business. I have not claimed any subsistence allowance in respect of being away from headquarters on official business. My colleague, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, is currently examining allowances payable across the civil and public service and the outcome of this review is expected shortly.

### Family Support Services

711. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will take into consideration the increase in demand for services provided by family resource centres and the significant role played in supporting families and individuals throughout County Kerry by

insuring that they are adequately funded going forward; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35138/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The Family Support Agency, under my Department, operates the Family Resource Centre Programme. The aim of the Family Resource Centre Programme is to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. The programme funds 107 family resource centres throughout the country. It emphasises involving local communities in tackling the problems they face, and creating successful partnerships between voluntary and statutory agencies at community level.

A key objective of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs is the improvement of outcomes for children. Family resource centres have an important role to play in harnessing local community efforts to support this objective. On 5 December 2011, the Government announced the funding levels being made available to my Department in 2012. The Family Support Agency, like all other State bodies, was asked to make savings across all the programmes which it administers. The Agency is required to achieve savings of 5% per annum on the costs of the Family Resource Centre Programme, over the years 2012 to 2014.

The Family Support Agency wrote to the family resources centres, advising them of the reduction in funding and the need to plan for change. The Agency is acutely aware of the challenges that the reduction in funding presents. It did not stipulate how centres should apply the reduction in funding, but asked the centres to focus in particular on addressing the scope for greater efficiencies to include reducing the day-to-day administration and overhead costs associated with the running of the centres. The objective of this is to continue to support, as far as possible, the services that the centres provide to local families and groups. The Agency advised the centres to engage with and seek every assistance from the two regional support agencies that provide support and training to them.

In 2012 an allocation of €26.465m has been made available to the Family Support Agency to fund its services for families. This includes funding of over €15m for the Family Resource Centre Programme.

### Child Care Services

712. **Deputy Eric Byrne** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will outline in tabular form the rates of pay applicable to community childcare managers who manage community childcare services which are funded by her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35205/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** I have no responsibility in relation to the matter raised by the Deputy.

### Departmental Agencies

713. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the State agencies and bodies within the remit of her Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35310/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** I would like to inform the Deputy there are four agencies which are funded by the Exchequer through my Department's Vote. These are the Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI); the Family Support Agency (FSA); the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and the Ombudsman for Children.

[Deputy Frances Fitzgerald.]

With effect from 1 January 2012, I have taken responsibility for the Children Detention Schools as provided in Part 10 of the Children Act 2001.

Limited powers are available to Educational Welfare Officers of the National Educational Welfare Board in relation to entry of premises and search of records in the performance of their statutory functions. These powers are conferred in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 and Section 30 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000 and relate to the entry of recognised schools to inspect the school register and the entry of premises to conduct enquiries where an Educational Welfare Officer has grounds to believe a young person (as defined in the Act) may be employed.

An Educational Welfare Officer shall only enter a private dwelling with the consent of the occupier or in accordance with a warrant issued by the District Court.

I can confirm that the other agencies or bodies under the aegis of my Department have no power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation.

### **Child Care Services**

714. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will outline the current practice and frequency of the inspections of childcare facilities across the country to ensure adherence to best practice standards. [35385/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** Pre-school services, including childminding services, are currently regulated under the Child Care (Preschool Services) (No. 2) Regulations 2006, as provided for under Part VII of the Child Care Act 1991.

Under the regulations, the National Children and Family Office of the Health Service Executive (HSE) is responsible generally for inspecting preschool services with the objective of securing the health, safety and welfare of children attending them. Pre-school inspection teams appointed by the Executive have responsibility for the notification and inspection procedures in relation to childcare services that are statutorily required to notify under the Regulations. These teams also provide an advisory service to these childcare services in order to assist them in achieving and maintaining the appropriate standard. Following inspection of a service the inspectors provide the service provider with a report on the outcome of the inspection.

I understand from information supplied by the HSE that 2,789 inspections were undertaken, 704 review/follow up inspections and 755 advisory visits were made to childcare facilities in 2011.

The majority of preschool services are now participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and all participating services must be fully compliant with the Regulations. Pobal, who assist my Department with the implementation of the ECCE programme, carry out compliance visits annually to ensure that each service meets the terms and conditions of the programme. Also, my Department can ask the HSE or Pobal to carry out a compliance visit at any time if it is considered that this is necessary.

My Department has commenced work on Ireland's first-ever Early Years Strategy and in the terms of reference, as approved by Government, I expressly included the need to consider 'a robust system of regulation and inspection' for the new Early Years Strategy. I have asked the recently established Expert Advisory Group to prioritise a review of this matter.

### **Appointments to State Boards**

715. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she

will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of her Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on her Department's website; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35602/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** I would like to inform the Deputy there are four agencies which are funded by the Exchequer through my Department's Vote. These are the Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI); the Family Support Agency (FSA); the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and the Ombudsman for Children. With effect from 1 January 2012, I have taken responsibility for the Children Detention Schools as provided in Part 10 of the Children Act 2001.

Apart from the Ombudsman for Children's Office which does not have a board, I am responsible for all Board of Management appointments.

Since March 2011 there have been a total of 33 appointments to Boards of Management under the aegis of my Department. Of the total amount of appointments to the Boards, I can confirm that there have been 10 appointments to the Board of the NEWB, 11 appointments to the Board of the FSA, 1 appointment to the Board of the AAI and 11 appointments to the Board of the CDS.

In line with the Government Decision of April 2011, on my Department's website I have invited expressions of interest from persons interested in being appointed to the boards of State Bodies and Agencies operating under the Department's aegis. The notice indicates the vacancies in the boards of the respective bodies. My officials acknowledge all expressions of interest received and maintain a database of those expressions. In making my decisions on appointments to Boards, subject to the governing legislation, I consider the most suitable persons for the positions available with due regard to the body or agency in question and its particular responsibilities and I seek to ensure that the appropriate mix of skills and experience is in place to achieve the best result.

My Department's website is monitored and updated on a regular basis to reflect the number of vacancies as they arise.

716. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [35615/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** I would like to inform the Deputy there are four agencies which are funded by the Exchequer through my Department's Vote. These are the Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI); the Family Support Agency (FSA); the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB) and the Ombudsman for Children. With effect from 1 January 2012, I have taken responsibility for the Children Detention Schools (CDS) as provided in Part 10 of the Children Act 2001.

Apart from the Ombudsman for Children's Office which does not have a board, I am responsible for all Board of Management appointments.

As the Deputy may be aware, in line with the Government decision of April 2011, new arrangements were put in place for the making of appointments to State Boards and bodies. Those who are being proposed for appointment as Chairpersons of State Boards are now required to make themselves available to the appropriate Oireachtas Committee to discuss the approach they will take as Chairperson and their views about the future contribution of the body or board in question. Following that discussion, decisions would then be taken by the

[Deputy Frances Fitzgerald.]

Minister or the Government, as appropriate, to confirm the nominee as Chairperson. I can confirm that since March, 2011 two Chairperson designates for boards under the remit of my Department have appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children. Mr. Joe Horan, Chairperson designate for the Board of Management of the Children Detention Schools appeared before the Committee on 8 March, 2012. Ms Sharon Foley, Chairperson designate of the Board of Management of the Family Support Agency also appeared before the same Committee on 8 March, 2012. Following their appearance before the Oireachtas Committee, I appointed Mr. Horan as Chairperson to the Board of Management of the Children Detention Schools with effect from 26 March, 2012 and also appointed Ms Foley as Chairperson to the Board of Management of the Family Support Agency also with effect from 26 March, 2012.

I can confirm that the Chairperson designate for the National Educational Welfare Board, Ms, Nuala Doherty, is due to appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Health and Children on July, 26 next.

### Departmental Staff

717. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36038/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The only retired public servants employed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs are two civilian drivers whose positions are coterminous with my position as Minister.

### Pension Provisions

718. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36050/12]

**Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald):** The information requested by the Deputy is not routinely gathered by my Department. I have requested my officials to collect and collate the information required and furnish it directly to the Deputy.

### Hospital Waiting Lists

719. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health the current waiting list for outpatient appointments in Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and the reason for same. [34503/12]

720. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health the current waiting list for various in-patient procedures in Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and the reason for same. [34504/12]

721. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health if all theatre and wards in Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin are open and in full use, and if closed, the reason for same. [34505/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 719 to 721, inclusive, together.

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Medicinal Products

722. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Health if patients will be allowed to continue to receive non-generic drugs under the general medical scheme in cases where they have presented with side effects to the generic alternative [34354/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** The recent interim agreement with the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association has no bearing on the availability of branded or generic medicines under the GMS or community drugs schemes. A prescriber may prescribe a medicine which he/she believes is best suited to meet the individual needs of the patient concerned. The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill sets out provisions for the interchangeability of medicines. The Bill contains a provision whereby a prescriber can exempt a prescribed medicine from being substituted for another brand of that medicine for clinical reasons.

### Hospital Waiting Lists

723. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide a progress report on his consideration along with the Health Service Executive of the Irish Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists proposal for the speedy reduction in audiology waiting lists within a nine month framework; when a decision will issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34355/12]

731. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the progress that has been made in the reduction of the audiology waiting times from the current two year waiting time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34385/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 723 and 731 together.

The HSE has reviewed the proposal of the Irish Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists (ISHAA). Due to the costs involved, it is not possible for the HSE to agree to fund the proposal. The HSE is open to discussions with ISHAA on any further issues which it wishes to discuss.

The HSE's Audiology Clinical Care Programme is working on a number of concurrent initiatives to reduce waiting lists. The initiatives include a revalidation of the national waiting lists in 2012 and the development of standardised policies and procedures for referrals to services and collation of activity data. Merging and re-organisation of services across community and acute care into a single managerial and clinical structure with high quality clinical leadership will lead to more efficient use of staff resources. The HSE is at present actively recruiting for five clinical lead posts including a National Clinical Lead. In addition, the HSE is sponsoring ten MSc in Audiology students to study in the UK and it is hoped that they will be ready to join the workforce in September 2013.

724. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) in Dublin 22 whose medical situation is deteriorating may expect to receive their medical treatment in Tallaght Hospital, Dublin [34360/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The Special Delivery Unit (SDU) is working to unblock access to acute services by improving the flow of patients through the system, and by streamlining waiting lists, including the management of referrals from GPs by hospitals. The SDU is working closely with its partner agencies — mainly the HSE and the NTPF.

As a priority, public hospitals were instructed to ensure that, by the end of 2011, they had no patients waiting more than 12 months for treatment. I can confirm that the vast majority of hospitals achieved this objective. During 2012, the SDU will support hospitals in the delivery of a 9 month maximum wait time for inpatient or daycase surgery.

As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply. Should the patient's general practitioner consider that the patient's condition warrants an earlier appointment, he/she would be in the best position to take the matter up with the consultant and hospital involved.

### Health Services

725. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Health the way a person (details supplied) in Dublin 15 may apply for assistance towards taxi transport to and from hospital for essential treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34361/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The HSE has no statutory obligation to provide patient transport, other than emergency transport. The cost to the health service of providing non-emergency patient transport, in particular for outpatient (OPD) appointments, has been escalating in recent years and non-essential provision has been identified as an area suitable for budgetary control. Accordingly, criteria have been restricted considerably in recent times and a uniform approach is being rolled out across the health regions.

In general, patients are expected to make their own way to and from hospital and OPD appointments, using private or scheduled public transport. The exceptions are for dialysis, cancer (radiotherapy and chemotherapy) and post-operative transplant patients. In these cases, the patient's appointment should be directly related to the treatment. Transport may also be provided where, in the clinician's view, the patient would be unable to make the journey without clinical assistance or where the patient must be transported on a stretcher.

Where transport has been withdrawn, having previously been provided, this may be as a result of the Local Health Office (LHO) beginning to implement the national criteria. If a patient feels there is a genuine case for provision, then they should approach the LHO. If they feel there is a genuine clinical reason for transport to be provided, their clinician should make a case for it.

Under the supplementary welfare allowance (SWA) scheme, the Department of Social Protection may make a single payment to help meet essential, once-off, exceptional expenditure, which a person could not reasonably be expected to meet out of their weekly income. These payments are known as Exceptional Needs Payments (ENPs). The amount paid, if any, is assessed by Departmental staff (former Community Welfare Officers) on a case by case basis, depending on the nature of each particular exceptional need and the type of assistance required. There is no automatic entitlement to such payments i.e. the fact that a person is dependent on a social welfare or HSE payment does not necessarily mean that they will qualify for an ENP.

### Hospital Facilities

726. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health if, on the occasion of his visit to St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, County Kildare, on 6 July 2012, he gave any undertakings in

relation to the maintenance and development of services at this local facility or, if in the aftermath of his visit, he has come to any conclusions in relation to the future development of this long stay facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34363/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** The Deputy will be aware that my colleague the Minister for Health asked the HSE to carry out a viability review of all public long-term residential facilities for older people, focusing on a number of areas including the unit's ability to meet HIQA Standards in terms of environmental structures, staffing availability, location, stock etc. This review will then form the basis for discussions between the Department and HSE with a view to a final submission of a set of proposals to the Minister. St Vincent's in Athy will be included in this review.

In the meantime St Vincent's Hospital, Athy was registered by the Health Information and Quality Authority on 25 June 2012. The maximum number of persons that may be accommodated at St Vincent's is 125. St Vincent's Hospital, Athy will continue to play a vital role in the delivery of Health Services and care in the area of Athy and surrounding area

### Medical Cards

727. **Deputy Michael McCarthy** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on planned primary legislation that will extend general practitioner cover without fees to persons with defined long-term illnesses who are in receipt of drugs and medicines under the long term illness scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34369/12]

751. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health in view of the fact that over 60,000 people with long term illnesses who were promised free general practitioner care in December's budget are still without the service, when this matter will be addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34512/12]

785. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health when the programme to grant medical cards to citizens with long-term illnesses will commence, in view of the fact that funding is provided for this in Budget 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34802/12]

804. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Minister for Health the progress being made in the roll out of free medical cards for those with long term illness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35134/12]

857. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health when the necessary legislation will be introduced to grant general practitioner visit cards to long term illness claimants be published; when it will be implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35338/12]

871. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health when the necessary legislation will be introduced to grant a general practitioner visit card to long term illness claimants be published; when it will be implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35447/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 727, 751, 785, 804, 857 and 871 together.

The Programme for Government commits to reforming the current public health system by introducing Universal Health Insurance with equal access to care for all. As part of this, the Government is committed to introducing, on a phased basis, GP care without fees within its

[Deputy Róisín Shortall.]

first term of office. Primary legislation is required to give effect to Government commitment to introduce a universal GP service without fees.

Legislation to allow the Minister for Health to make regulations to extend access to GP services without fees to persons with prescribed illnesses is currently being drafted by the Attorney General's office and will be published shortly. Implementation dates and application details will be announced in due course.

### Health Service Expenditure

728. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Health if he will outline the proportion of the Health Service Executive spending spent on administrative issues; if he will provide details in real terms as well as a percentage of the overall HSE Budget for 2012; the way this figures compares with the amount of money spent by the National Health Service and other health services in Canada, Australia and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34371/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The only available data concerning administrative costs in health services is to be found in the System of Health Accounts (SHA) data collected by the OECD. As Ireland currently does not supply data in this format it is impossible to compare Ireland with other country's data, and indeed, there is no data available from this source in relation to either the UK or Australia. The SHA data focuses on General Government spending on different functions of care. One of these functions of care is "Health administration and health insurance". This is defined as activities of private insurers and central and local authorities and social security. Included are the planning, management, regulation, and collection of funds and handling of claims of the delivery system. Public administrative costs borne by health care providers such as patient records and hospital management are allocated to the providing institutions, not to general administrations. Due to the diverse definitions of administrative costs, it is neither possible nor appropriate to attempt to compare this figure with other jurisdictions.

729. **Deputy John Lyons** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an update in relation to funding for a group (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34374/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

### Medical Cards

730. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for Health when a decision will issue in regard to a review by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service of an application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork for a full medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34379/12]

**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.

*Question No. 731 answered with Question No. 723.*

### Medicinal Products

732. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the reason there appears to be a

geographical discrepancy in the provision of Xolair for the treatment of asthma and the reason patients in the Health Service Executive South seem to be disadvantaged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34393/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** In relation to the issue raised by the Deputy it is my understanding that this treatment is available in some hospitals but not in others due to resource constraints. I have communicated to the Health Service Executive the view that it is not appropriate for access to this medication to be determined by geographical location and for this anomaly to be resolved without delay.

### Medical Cards

733. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health if he will expedite an application for a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34403/12]

**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.

734. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health if he will expedite an application for the renewal of a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34405/12]

**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 Services

735. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Health if there is an agreement to accept the World Federation of Neurosurgeons Grade 3 subarachnoid haemorrhage patients for treatment on the same terms as Grades 1 and 2; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34417/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Housing Grants

736. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health if he will support the case of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 5. [34418/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** The provision of a stair lift is a matter for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme. In relation to the provision of other support services, this matter has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Hospital Waiting Lists

737. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an ear nose and throat appointment in Waterford Regional Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34434/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The Special Delivery Unit (SDU) is working to unblock access to acute services by improving the flow of patients through the system, and by

[Deputy James Reilly.]

streamlining waiting lists, including the management of referrals from GPs by hospitals. The SDU is working closely with its partner agencies — mainly the HSE and the NTPF. As a priority, public hospitals were instructed to ensure that, by the end of 2011, they had no patients waiting more than 12 months for treatment. I can confirm that the vast majority of hospitals achieved this objective. During 2012, the SDU will support hospitals in the delivery of a 9 month maximum wait time for inpatient or daycase surgery. As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply. Should the patient's general practitioner consider that the patient's condition warrants an earlier appointment, he/she would be in the best position to take the matter up with the consultant and hospital involved.

### Medical Cards

738. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if the cost of blood tests are covered under the medical card scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34435/12]

739. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the reason a 90 year old person on a pension and in receipt of a medical card is expected to pay €15 each time for regular blood tests for warfarin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34436/12]

764. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if general practitioners are allowed to charge medical card patients for the taking of blood tests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34638/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 738, 739 and 764 together.

Section 11 of the General Medical Services (GMS) GP Capitation Contract, which was introduced in 1989, provides that the medical practitioner shall provide for eligible persons, on behalf of the Health Service Executive, all proper and necessary treatment of a kind usually undertaken by a general practitioner and not requiring special skill or experience of a degree or kind which general practitioners cannot reasonably be expected to possess. General Practitioners (GPs) who hold General Medical Services (GMS) contracts with the HSE must not seek or accept money from medical card or GP visit card holders for services covered under the GMS contract. In circumstances where the taking of blood is necessary to either:

- (a) assist in the process of diagnosing a patient; or
- (b) monitor a diagnosed condition;

the GP may not charge the patient if they are eligible for free GMS services. At my request, the HSE has written to all GMS GPs reminding them of their obligations under their contract in respect of services such as phlebotomy and advised them that charges should not be applied for such services.

The HSE is encouraging eligible patients who believe they have been inappropriately charged by a GP for routine phlebotomy services to seek a refund from the GP in question. Alternatively, they may wish to follow up with the HSE and the matter will be fully investigated. Formal complaints will be dealt with through the HSE's Consumer Affairs Service. It is appreciated that because of the nature of the GP/patient relationship, it may be difficult for patients to make such complaints. Where public representatives are made aware of GPs charging GMS patients in error, they may wish to notify the HSE directly.

The Programme for Government provides for the introduction of a new GMS GP contract with an increased emphasis on the management of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions. It is envisaged that the new contract, when finalised, will focus on prevention and will include a requirement for GPs to provide care as part of integrated multi-disciplinary Primary Care Teams. Officials in my Department are in consultation with the HSE with a view to drawing up a new contract. The appropriate arrangements in relation to phleb-tomy services and other such services will be considered as part of the new contract.

### Medicinal Products

740. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if the cystic fibrosis drug Kayldeco is covered under the medical card scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34448/12]

741. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if the cystic fibrosis drug Katldeco is covered under the long term illness scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34449/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 740 and 741 together.

Ivacaftor (Kalydeco) received a positive opinion from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use at EU level in May 2012. Marketing authorisation issued by the EU Commission is anticipated in due course. Should the manufacturers make an application for inclusion of the product on the GMS and community drugs schemes, that application shall be considered in accordance with the relevant criteria.

### Hospital Services

742. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health the latest figure for the number of persons occupying hospital beds in Tallaght Hospital in the delayed discharge category; the average length of time for a patient in Tallaght Hospital to be in this category, awaiting a rehabilitation or other step-down or short-term or long-term care place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34450/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

743. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if he will urge the Health Service Executive to expedite the transfer to rehabilitation at Peamount Hospital or another rehabilitation placement of a person [details supplied] in Dublin 12; if he will ascertain when such a transfer will occur; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34451/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Hospitals Building Programme

744. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Health in relation to the separate cystic fibrosis hospital building on the grounds of St. Vincent's Hospital; the date on which the building will open and when will the draft protocol for CF patients bed numbers be signed off on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34455/12]

780. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an update regarding the proposed cystic fibrosis beds in St. Vincent's Hospital; the correspondence he has had with St. Vincent's Hospital and the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34759/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 744 and 780 together.

It is Department of Health policy that there must be sufficient inpatient beds available nationally to treat all people with Cystic Fibrosis who require hospitalisation in single en-suite rooms. Therefore I welcome the new Nutley Wing seven-storey development at St. Vincent's University Hospital, of which two floors will contain a dedicated Cystic Fibrosis unit.

The draft protocol for CF patients bed numbers has been agreed. In this regard, 20 single en suite rooms in the new wing will be dedicated for inpatient Cystic Fibrosis care and a further 10 single en suite rooms dedicated for day case Cystic Fibrosis care. The number of Cystic Fibrosis in-patients at St Vincent's University Hospital is expected to vary between 20 and 34. In this respect, 20 inpatient beds are a minimum and not a maximum, and the number of beds with appropriately trained staff can accommodate up to 34 in-patients. When the beds are not required for Cystic Fibrosis they will be used for other in-patients with a clearly agreed protocol that there will always be beds available for patients with Cystic Fibrosis who require admission. St. Vincent's University Hospital is presently equipping the facility and that it will become operational on a phased basis between now and September, with the first transfer of inpatients expected to commence at the end of July or early August.

### Advertising Standards

745. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the review by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland of the Children's Commercial Communications Code, aiming to help the fight against obesity by restricting TV advertising to children of foods high in sugar, fat and salt, has been discredited by a fundamental conflict of interest; the principal of a company (details supplied) the British consultancy firm retained by the BAI, was one of the persons involved in designing for the UK FSA the Nutrient Profiling Model which wrongly classifies cheese as less healthy on the same basis as confectionary and sugary drink; if he will therefore liaise with his ministerial colleague the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte in seeking a new, truly independent review which will reconsider the treatment of cheese under the code, to appropriately reflect its important nutritional value to the diet of children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34461/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I was not aware that the consultant of the British consultancy firm retained by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, was one of the persons involved in designing for the UK Food Standards Authority the Nutrient Profiling Model. While the submission made to the Children's Commercial Communications Code is not in the public domain, I can confirm that my Department's submission considers cheese to have important nutritional benefits when eaten in small amounts. The Food Pyramid, is the education tool used by the Department of Health for educating consumers about healthy eating. The Food Pyramid has a shelf designated to solely to Milk, Yogurt and Cheese and recommends that 3 servings of these be consumed each day as these foods provide adequate calcium which is important for healthy bones and teeth. It recommends that low fat choices be consumed regularly. The submission from my Department is consistent with the Food Pyramid messages for healthy eating.

### **Cancer Screening Programme**

746. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an update in the breast cancer screening programme for women in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34464/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The Deputy's question relates to service delivery matters and accordingly I have asked the HSE to respond directly to him.

### **Palliative Care Facility**

747. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health his plans for the new purpose built palliative care facility at St. Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West, County Limerick that remains closed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34465/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### **Health Service Expenditure**

748. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide, in tabular form, the amount paid to each agency staff provider by the Health Service Executive in 2011; the amount paid to date in 2012 to each; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34471/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

### **Services for People with Disabilities**

749. **Deputy Thomas Pringle** asked the Minister for Health if he will ensure that a full and appropriate service will be provided to school leavers with an intellectual disability who rely on such a service to maintain a basic quality of life. [34475/12]

762. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Health the number of school leavers or those completing training with an intellectual disability that have been contacted directly by the Health Service Executive informing them of their prospects of placement from next September; the number who have been offered a place; the number who have been offered a part placement; the number who have been placed on a waiting list; the overall cost of offering a full placement for each of the latter two categories; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34626/12]

800. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health if he will review the allocation of funding to service providers providing further education/ training places for young persons leaving school who have an intellectual disability or autism in view of the fact that reportedly 350 children and young persons may have a significantly reduced service or no service at all this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35081/12]

863. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the number of school leavers with a disability that will be left without a place in September 2012. [35353/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 749, 762, 800 and 863 together.

Day services for adults with disabilities provide a network of support for over 25,000 people who have a wide spectrum of need, ranging from those with severe and profound disabilities

[Deputy Kathleen Lynch.]

who are likely to need long-term specialist service provision to people with lower support needs and greater potential for community participation and inclusion. The HSE, through its Occupational Guidance Service, works with schools, service providers, service users and families to identify the needs of young people with disabilities who are due to complete their second level education. The aim is to address the needs of individuals in the following ways:

- Health-funded rehabilitative training;
- Health-funded day services;
- FÁS-funded vocational training;
- Approval to extend education placement for a specified time.

The HSE has received requests for 669 places for school leavers and 394 places in respect of those who have completed their rehabilitative training in 2012; to date 514 school leavers and 321 RT progressions have been matched with a suitable service. This year, disability services are required to cater for demographic pressures such as new services for school leavers from within their existing budgets. In previous years demographic funding was provided to meet this need. 2012 budgets have been reduced by 3.7% and the moratorium on staff recruitment gives rise to additional challenges in service provision.

Each year a number of young people will only require a place on a part-time basis. However, in terms of current capacity within the system, it has only been feasible to offer a part-time place to some young people who require a full-time service. The HSE Managers and Disability Agencies are currently finalising the numbers in this context and the associated cost for those still requiring either a full-time or a part-time place. Service providers and the HSE have come together under the auspices of National Consultative Forum to identify how the needs of individuals who require day and rehabilitative training places can be responded to within available resources.

The National Consultative Forum recognises that the key to ensuring that available resources for people with disabilities are used to best effect is through constructive collaboration between non-statutory providers and the HSE. There are already many excellent examples of collaborative working between service providers and the HSE in innovatively responding to the needs of individuals.

The HSE and disability service providers have commenced the process of notifying families if a place is available or if the individual is to be placed on a waiting list. As part of the communication plan letters were issued to parents/guardians from the 10th July, either confirming the provision of a service or advising that work is ongoing in relation to identifying a service. HSE Managers and Disability Agencies are currently finalising this process. Where a service has yet to be identified parents/guardians are being advised that:

- The young person would be placed on a waiting list;
- Parents/Guardians would be kept informed of progress; and
- The HSE and Disability Agency understood that this was a challenging time for families and would continue to explore all available options.

Every effort is being made to achieve an equitable and sustainable outcome to address the current difficulties in providing an appropriate service to each individual. However, the Health Service as a whole has to operate within the parameters of funding available to it and given

the current economic environment this has become a major challenge for all stakeholders, including the HSE, voluntary service providers, services users and their families.

### **Nursing Home Services**

750. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health the cost to the Health Service Executive due to patients whose transfer to nursing homes is delayed due to lack of beds and who catch MRSA or similar infections in the acute or general hospitals around the country; the steps he has taken in the past six months to alleviate the backlog and to free up beds for patients recovering from surgery [34502/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

*Question No. 751 answered with Question No. 727.*

### **Creative Arts Therapies**

752. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Health if he has made any decision on the business case submitted by the Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists in respect of its members being accredited under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34522/12]

753. **Deputy Paschal Donohoe** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide a report into the consideration he has given to including creative arts therapies in the list of professionals covered by the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34532/12]

773. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health the reason statutory registration and recognition is not being given to creative arts therapies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34686/12]

840. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to representations from the Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists seeking statutory registration and recognition of creative arts therapies; if he has considered the inclusion of Creative Arts Therapists in the statutory registration scheme as provided for under section 4 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005; if he will outline his commitment to creative art therapies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35277/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 752, 753, 773 and 840 together.

The Health and Social Care Professionals Council, established in 2007 and the 12 registration boards being established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (the Act), will be responsible for protecting the public by regulating health and social care professionals in Ireland. The object of the Council is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among the registrants of the following 12 health and social care professions designated under the Act: clinical biochemists, dietitians, medical scientists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, radiographers, social care workers, social workers and speech and language therapists. In time, only registrants will be entitled to use these titles. The regulation of the 12 professions designated under the Act is being implemented on a phased basis and currently 2 registration boards have been established. These are the Social Workers Regis-

[Deputy James Reilly.]

tration Board and the Radiographers Registration Board. It is intended that the remaining 10 registration boards and their registers will be established by end 2014.

While the proposed system of statutory registration applies, in the first instance, to 12 health and social care professions, the legislation empowers the Minister for Health to include, if he considers it appropriate and in the public interest to do so, additional health and social care professions in the regulatory system over time, as appropriate. Section 4 of the Act provides a definition of a health and social care profession and also sets out the factors governing the subsequent addition of any further professions into the regulatory system at a later date, including:

- (a) The extent to which the profession has a defined scope of practice and applies a distinct body of knowledge;
- (b) The extent to which the profession has established itself, including whether there is at least one professional body representing a significant proportion of the profession's practitioners;
- (c) The existence of defined routes of entry into the profession and of independently assessed entry qualifications;
- (d) The profession's commitment to continuous professional development;
- (e) The degree of risk to the health, safety or welfare of the public from incompetent, unethical or impaired practice of the profession;
- (f) Any other factors that the Minister for Health considers relevant.

My Department's priority is to develop statutory registration for the 12 professions designated under the Act. The extension of statutory registration arrangements under the Act for other health and social care professionals will not be considered until after regulatory frameworks in respect of the 12 designated professions are fully in place.

Questions relating to the recognition of creative arts therapies in the public health services, the need for such services and the direct employment of creative arts therapists are matters for the Health Service Executive in the first instance. Any proposals relating to grade and pay levels would, of course, require the approval of my Department and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

### **Medical Aids and Appliances**

754. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if the Health Service Executive will provide medical devices in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny; and if he will expedite the matter. [34538/12]

**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.

### **Health Service Executive Funding**

755. **Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy** asked the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No 261 of 28 June 2012 to whom in the Health Service Executive has this

question been directed for a direct reply and if there is a time frame within which a reply may be expected. [34539/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** The original question was sent to the Parliamentary Affairs Division in the HSE for follow up with the appropriate area. The HSE timeframe for answering PQ's is 15 working days.

### Primary Care Services

756. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Health if he will investigate the delay in optical treatment applications for medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34557/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** Optical claims are processed by the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) of the HSE. There are currently no delays in the processing of such claims. Claims must be approved by Local Health Offices before being submitted to PCRS for processing. If the Deputy would like to provide more detailed information on the delay to which he refers I will make further enquiries with the HSE.

### Treatment Abroad Scheme

757. **Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in processing the E112 application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Dublin; if he will expedite the matter as the person conforms with all of the terms and conditions of the Health Service Executive treatment abroad scheme and needs the necessary guarantee of funding to enable the operation to proceed. [34584/12]

**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 Expenditure

758. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in tabular form the budget for the provision of home help by county for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34592/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Home Help Service

759. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the reason reviews, resulting in dramatic reductions, are being carried out on home help hours just a short few weeks after similar reductions were made on the same clients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34596/12]

761. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if a directive has been issued requesting even further reductions in the provision of home help hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34617/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 759 and 761 together.

[Deputy Kathleen Lynch.]

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Hospital Accommodation

760. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health the number of public residential care beds closed in the period January to June 2012; the number closed in the period June 2011 to January 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34605/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

*Question No. 761 answered with Question No. 759.*

*Question No. 762 answered with Question No. 749.*

### Medical Cards

763. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health when a decision will issue on a medical card application in respect of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34634/12]

**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.

*Question No. 764 answered with Question No. 738.*

### Hospital Waiting Lists

765. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health if he will arrange for an urgent surgical procedure in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34640/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The Special Delivery Unit (SDU) is working to unblock access to acute services by improving the flow of patients through the system, and by streamlining waiting lists, including the management of referrals from GPs by hospitals. The SDU is working closely with its partner agencies, mainly the HSE and the NTPF. As a priority, public hospitals were instructed to ensure that by the end of 2011, they had no patients waiting more than 12 months for treatment. I can confirm that the vast majority of hospitals achieved this objective. During 2012, the SDU will support hospitals in the delivery of a nine-month maximum wait time for inpatient or daycase surgery. As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply. If the patient's general practitioner considers that the patient's condition warrants an earlier appointment, he or she would be in the best position to take the matter up with the consultant and hospital involved.

### Medical Cards

766. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Health when will a decision will be made on an application for a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34655/12]

**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.

767. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Health when a decision will issue on an application for a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Mayo; when a medical review will be carried out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34664/12]

**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.

#### **Dental Services**

768. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Health if consideration is given to shortening the waiting time for patients awaiting public health care in cases where the patient is in considerable pain, for example someone who is awaiting an operation to have a wisdom tooth removed [34671/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** If the patient's general practitioner considers that the patient's condition warrants an earlier appointment, he or she would be in the best position to take the matter up with the consultant and hospital involved.

#### **Mental Health Services**

769. **Deputy Olivia Mitchell** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on plans for the future use or a disposal of the site of the Dundrum Mental Hospital, Dublin; if he will indicate a timeframe for the transfer of patients to the new facility at Portrane, Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34672/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter, the question has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

#### **Health Service Staff**

770. **Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the application in respect of a hostel (details supplied) in County Westmeath for funding for a shift attendant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34673/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

#### **Departmental Properties**

771. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Health if the Health Service Executive owns or rents any apartments in a complex (details supplied) in Dublin 14; if so, the number of apartments owned or rented; the dates of commencement of ownership or renting; the price paid for each apartment if purchased; the initial and current rent paid if apartments are rented in this complex; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34677/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As property management is a service issue, the Deputy's question has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

#### **National Lottery Funding**

772. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide details of funding opportunities provided by his Department and the Health Service Executive to community and voluntary sector organisations working with older people; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34680/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** My Department administers a National Lottery Discretionary Fund, from which once-off grants are paid to community and voluntary organisations that provide a range of health-related services. If an organisation wishes to make an application for National Lottery Funding, it should send in a formal application. Detailed procedures along with the application form are set out on the Department's website, *www.doh.ie*. The Health Service Executive also provides funding to numerous groups and organisations, details of which are set out in its annual accounts, which are available on the Executive's website, *www.hse.ie*. The closing date for applications for the HSE lottery fund has now passed.

*Question No. 773 answered with Question No. 752.*

### Medical Cards

774. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding a medical card appeal in respect of a person (details supplied). [34692/12]

**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

775. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for Health the number of staff by grade in each health centre in community care area 8; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34702/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

### Health Service Executive Funding

776. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the reason there has been a reduction in the budget for the Alzheimer's Society of 15% in Laois Offaly when the average cut across the country is in the order of less than 5% and an average of 2.3% in the south east region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34714/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Hospital Waiting Lists

777. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Health if the backlog of general practitioner referral letters for x-rays at Tallaght Hospital, Dublin, has now been dealt with; the current waiting period for people awaiting x-ray results at the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34723/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Hospital Accommodation

778. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Health if the 22 beds will be restored in the Community Hospital, Thurles, County Tipperary, as promised by him in January 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34735/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### **Mental Health Services**

779. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Health if he plans to introduce national clinical guidelines for electro-convulsive therapy use here. [34739/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** The Mental Health Commission has made *Rules Governing the use of Electroconvulsive Therapy* in accordance with Section 59 of the Mental Health Act 2001. The Rules govern the administration of ECT to involuntary patients. The Commission has also prepared a *Code of Practice on the Use of Electro-Convulsive Therapy for Voluntary Patients* pursuant to Section 33(3)(e) of the 2001 Act. These Rules and Code regulate the administration of ECT in approved centres. Updated versions of both the Rules and the Code of Practice came into effect on 1st January 2010.

*Question No. 780 answered with Question No. 744.*

### **Hospitals Building Programme**

781. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health if he will confirm that consideration is being given to the submission by Tallaght Hospital, Dublin 24, in respect of the location for the new children's hospital; if he will also confirm when a decision will be made on the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34762/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As you will be aware, I established an independent Review Group to consider the implications of the decision of An Bórd Pleanála, received on 23 February 2012, to reject the planning application for the proposed construction of a national paediatric hospital on the site of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. The aim of the Review was to consider all the possible options for the earliest possible delivery of a new children's hospital. The Group has now presented its report to which I am giving careful consideration before bringing to Government.

### **Medical Cards**

782. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health the current waiting time for an application for a medical card and a general practitioner card; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be processed. [34799/12]

783. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health the current waiting time for an application for medical card appeal; the number of applicants currently waiting for same to be assessed and a decision made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34800/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 782 and 783 together.

A number of difficulties arose with the processing of medical cards at the HSE centralised application office in the final quarter of last year, which gave rise to a very large backlog and long delays for both new applicants and medical card renewals. While a number of customer service and communication issues remain to be addressed, the HSE has been making good progress in eliminating the backlog and preventing further backlogs occurring. A backlog of 58,000 applications from last year has been completely cleared. The HSE can receive up to 50,000 applications per month and, currently, over 95% of complete applications are processed within 15 days.

[Deputy Róisín Shortall.]

The information sought by the Deputy regarding figures for numbers of medical card appeals 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.

### **Hospital Staff**

784. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health the plans he has to increase the number of consultants in the health system so as to address ongoing long waiting times for patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34801/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I am determined to address the issues leading to unacceptable delays in patients receiving treatment in our hospitals. I have established the Special Delivery Unit (SDU), which is working to unblock access to acute services by improving the flow of patients through the system and by streamlining waiting lists, including the management of GP referrals by hospitals. The SDU is working closely with its partner agencies — mainly the HSE and the National Treatment Purchase Fund. (NTPF).

As an initial priority, public hospitals were instructed to ensure that, by the end of 2011, they had no patients waiting more than 12 months for treatment. I can confirm that 95% of hospitals achieved this objective. During 2012, the SDU will support hospitals in achieving a 9 month maximum waiting time for inpatient and daycase surgery.

Very significant progress had been made on the SDU initiatives on unscheduled care in emergency departments (EDs). Between January 1 2012 and July 13 2012, 9232 fewer patients waited on trolleys when compared to the same period in 2011. This is a significant number of patients whose experience of our EDs was markedly improved. Similarly, new targets for access to diagnostics and outpatient appointments, which the SDU is currently focusing on, will be key to the overall improvement of hospital services in Ireland. The impact of staff reductions from this year and previous years presents a significant challenge for the health system in delivering services. Employment numbers must be reduced to approximately 102,000 by the end of this year, in line with the Government's commitment to reduce public expenditure. Therefore, replacement will only occur in critical areas.

There has, however, been considerable redeployment in the health sector under the Public Service Agreement. This includes staff flexibility in continuing to deliver services during and after retirements. The Health Sector Action Plan for 2012, under the Public Service Agreement, includes provision for further use of redeployment in the health sector.

*Question No. 785 answered with Question No. 727.*

### **Mental Health Services**

786. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a potential mental health facility proposed by Wexford Mental Healthcare Alliance (details supplied); his view on the merits of this proposal; if he will meet with representatives of the Wexford Mental Health Alliance to discuss same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34812/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** I have recently been made aware of the proposal referred to by the Deputy and I understand it has been examined by HSE South in the context of the overall reconfiguration of mental health services generally in the Waterford/Wexford area. The main focus of Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Services is to provide community based services which are appropriate and accessible

in line with *A Vision for Change*, the national mental health strategy. Funding for the Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Services is targeted towards the delivery of service objectives on foot of significant service reconfiguration which includes the closure of the old psychiatric hospitals and the provision of a wide range of community based mental health services. Funding for complementary services is, if deemed appropriate, provided through lottery grants and private fund raising as well as through Section 39 grants for registered charities. The Waterford/Wexford Mental Health Service is not currently in a position to fund this initiative.

### **Nursing Home Inspections**

787. **Deputy Mattie McGrath** asked the Minister for Health when the Health Information and Quality Authority officials visit a nursing home in a small town, do they visit all other nursing home in the area at the same time; the criteria used in deciding which nursing homes to visit and inspect at any given time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34823/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** In relation to the inspection of nursing homes by the Health Information and Quality Authority, inspection frequency, in terms of an actual site inspection, varies on a centre by centre basis. All centres receive a registration inspection and the frequency of further site inspections is determined on a risk based approach and take into account a range of factors to determine whether a site inspection is required.

### **Hospital Facilities**

788. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide details on the amount of capital funding, listed in a tabular form outlining the details of each allocation, provided to Mayo General Hospital during the years 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34880/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** Delivery and refurbishment of health care facilities are service matters. Therefore your question has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### **Health Service Executive Funding**

789. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide details on all funding provided to the Sacred Heart Home, Castlebar, County Mayo, in 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34881/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

790. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in tabular form details of all funding provided to the three district hospitals (details supplied) in County Mayo, in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34882/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

791. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide details in tabular form of the amount of funding provided to an organisation (details supplied) in County Mayo,

[Deputy Dara Calleary.]

in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34883/12]

**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.

792. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the amount of funding provided to a care facility (details supplied) in County Mayo in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34884/12]

**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.

#### Medical Cards

793. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare is entitled to a medical card in their own right in view of their serious medical conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34906/12]

**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.

#### Services for People with Disabilities

794. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Health his plans to improve services to autistic children and their families in the Ballymun area of Dublin. [34908/12]

**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.

#### Hospital Facilities

795. **Deputy Mattie McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the plans he has for the former St. Michael's Building on the grounds of South Tipperary General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34932/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter the question has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

#### Treatment Abroad Scheme

796. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Health the status of an appeal for an application for the treatment abroad scheme E112 of a person (details supplied) currently in St. James Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35002/12]

**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.

#### General Medical Services Scheme

797. **Deputy John Halligan** asked the Minister for Health if he will confirm if the B12 vitamin injection has been removed from medical cards (details supplied). [35009/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** Some vitamin B12 injections are covered by the General Medical Services (GMS) scheme. If the Deputy can furnish me with the details of the injection in question, I will have the matter investigated.

### Ministerial Allowances

798. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35065/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** Ministers and Ministers of State are entitled to the same allowances as Members of the Oireachtas with some exceptions.

As the Deputy will be aware, the legislation providing for Oireachtas expense allowances is exempt from taxation under section 836 of the Taxes Consolidation Act which was inserted into the this Act by section 3(7) of the Oireachtas (Allowances to Members) and Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 2009.

Ministers do not receive the Travel and Accommodation Allowance provided to Members of the Oireachtas.

Since 1 May 2011 Cabinet Ministers with the exception of Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Law Reform now use their own cars on official business. All Ministers are now paid for official mileage up to 96,540 kilometres or 60,000 miles per annum. Ministers of State have used their own cars on official business since 1984. This arrangement is currently under review.

Ministers do not receive overnight payments while in Dublin. Ministers on official overnight business in Ireland, away from their home or headquarters, may claim the vouched cost of a hotel room including tax and up to 15% in respect of any service charge. They may also claim an overnight subsistence allowance of €72.66.

Ministers travelling abroad are entitled to:

- For overnight absences abroad (excluding US and Canada): Civil service conference rate increased by one-third.
- For overnight absences abroad (US and Canada only): Civil service conference rate increased by one-half.

Conference rates vary from country to country.

The table below specifies the amounts claimed by myself and Ministers of State Shortall and Lynch for Travel and Subsistence since 9 March 2011.

| James Reilly T.D. | Roisin Shortall T.D. | Kathleen Lynch T.D. |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| €14,135.66        | €5,456.52            | €23,511.81          |

### Accident and Emergency Services

799. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will investigate the possibility

[Deputy Tom Fleming.]

of developing an accident and emergency department in Killarney, County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35074/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

*Question No. 800 answered with Question No. 749.*

### Hospital Services

801. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Health the number of Subarachnoid haemorrhage patients referred for treatment to the Neurological Centre, Beaumont Hospital in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35096/12]

823. **Deputy Patrick Nulty** asked the Minister for Health the number of subarachnoid haemorrhage patients not accepted for treatment by the Neurological Centre, Beaumont Hospital following a referral in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35217/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 801 and 823 together.

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

### Mental Health Services

802. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Minister for Health the progress he has made in the roll out of mental health services to primary care centres in County Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35132/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter the question has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

### Primary Care Centres

803. **Deputy Paudie Coffey** asked the Minister for Health the progress he has made regarding the delivery of new health treatments and health services for chronic patients in primary care centres in County Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35133/12]

**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.

*Question No. 804 answered with Question No. 727.*

### Care of the Elderly

805. **Deputy Luke 'Ming' Flanagan** asked the Minister for Health if he considers 10 weeks notice sufficient duration for the closure of a nursing home for elderly citizens; if he is aware that some of the residents of Ashbrook House in Mohill, County Leitrim have lived at that place for over 20 years and that many of them are very senior and some suffer from dementia and so on; if he will instruct the Health Service Executive to extend the notice to December at the very least and that both residents and staff alike deserve longer notice and a clearer idea of where they will be relocated to; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35139/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter the question has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

### **Appointments to State Boards**

806. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if new procedures and requirements to enter expressions with publicjobs.ie was followed in appointing new members to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35141/12]

807. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health is he satisfied that the appointments to the board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service has followed the procedures committed to in the Programme for Government for scrutiny by the Oireachtas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35142/12]

808. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if he is satisfied that there is sufficient retention of corporate knowledge on the board of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35143/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 806 to 808, inclusive, together.

The Board of the IBTS shall consist of 12 members, one of whom shall be Chairperson. The term of office of the Chairperson and 8 members of the Board expired on 31 May 2012. These vacancies were advertised and expressions of interest sought through the Public Appointments Service and on the Department of Health's website on 13 April 2012. I have appointed a new Chairperson and 3 ordinary members to the Board (which includes one re-appointment). There are 3 ordinary members already on the Board.

I am conscious that the Chairperson has yet to appear before the Oireachtas Committee on Health to discuss the approach which he will take to his role as chairperson and his views about the future contribution of the Board. I have the greatest of confidence in the new Chairperson and will request that he meets the Oireachtas Committee in the coming months to brief it on the activities of the Board and the strategic role which the IBTS plays within the health system. I am aware of the issue in relation to the retention of corporate knowledge on the Board and wish to ensure that the five remaining members to be appointed bring the requisite skills and expertise to the Board. I intend to fill these vacancies shortly.

### **Home Help Service**

809. **Deputy Ciarán Lynch** asked the Minister for Health if a home care package will be provided for persons (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35147/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### **Dental Services**

810. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health if dental services (details supplied) in County Kerry will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35155/12]

**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.

### Public Sector Pensions

811. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will request the Health Service Executive to instigate a protocol whereby when retired employees return to the health service as agency staff they are asked on a voluntary basis to take an abatement of their public service pension entitlement in a manner equivalent to the amount that would be applied if they were re-hired directly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35159/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The current public service abatement arrangements only cover instances where retired public servants are re-employed directly in the public service and where the provisions of the relevant pension scheme(s) provide for abatement. Agency workers are not employees of the HSE. They are recruited and employed by employment agencies and are assigned to duties in the health service as required. The hirer does not determine which individual agency staff are assigned in any particular instance. On this basis, I have no plans to pursue the proposal suggested by the Deputy, which I consider to be impractical.

### Medicinal Products

812. **Deputy Simon Harris** asked the Minister for Health if and when Pradaxa will be available on the medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35163/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** Pradaxa is available under the GMS Scheme, the Drug Payment Scheme and other community drugs schemes for the prevention of blood clots in adult patients who have undergone elective hip replacement surgery or elective knee replacement surgery. Pradaxa has also been approved for the extended indication of Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation as a second line therapy in circumstances where warfarin may not be appropriate.

### Nursing Home Services

813. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health the number of nursing home beds available in County Louth at present; the number that are public beds; the number that are private; and if he will provide the comparable numbers for each year since 2007 in tabular form. [35166/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** The Department of Health carries out a survey of long-stay units each year. Each long-stay unit (public, private and voluntary) is sent a questionnaire and the responses are collated by the Department. The aim of the survey is to provide statistics on the number of beds available for long-term care, how these beds are used and the types of residents who occupy these beds. The results of the surveys are used to prepare the Long-Stay Activity Statistics Reports which are published on the Department's website.

The Long-Stay Activity Statistics for 2010 (the most recent year available) and for previous years can be accessed at [www.doh.ie](http://www.doh.ie). Each report provides a breakdown of the number of private and public beds in each County on a unit by unit basis. The Deputy should be mindful that these are self reported survey results. However the response rates for Dublin North East for the 4 years range between 85.9% and 95.6%.

The Deputy will be aware that the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) is the statutory body responsible for the registration of all designated centres for older people. Full details of all currently registered nursing homes, including the maximum number of residents who can be accommodated can be found on the HIQA website, [www.hiqa.ie](http://www.hiqa.ie).

### Abortion Services

814. **Deputy Mattie McGrath** asked the Minister for Health further to the report on the front page of a publication (details supplied) that he has sent a circular letter to his Fine Gael Colleagues informing them that Ireland must bring in abortion along the lines of the X case, if he will make this letter available in public; the reason he reportedly said Ireland must legalise abortion when there is absolutely no prerogative on this Government to do so particularly in view of its pre election pro life promise to the people of Ireland; his views on whether it is the Irish people, not any European court who should decide Ireland's abortion laws; when the recommendations of the Government appointed expert group are due to be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35172/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I wish to advise the Deputy that I did not send a circular letter to my Fine Gael colleagues on the issue of abortion. I responded to a representation made by one member of the Parliamentary Party on the implementation of the *A, B and C v Ireland* judgment of the European Court of Human Rights. This response merely provides factual information which has already been put on the public record.

I wish to assure the Deputy that this judgment does not alter in any way the State's position on abortion. This is that termination of pregnancy is legal in Ireland only if it is established, as a matter of probability, that there is a real and substantial risk to the life, as distinct from the health, of the mother and that this real and substantial risk can only be averted by the termination of her pregnancy (the X case criteria).

### Health Service Staff

815. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Health his plans regarding reducing the amount of hours made available to agency nurses recruited by the Health Service Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35176/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

### Health Services

816. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if the services that were provided to a person (details supplied) will be reinstated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35178/12]

**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 attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

817. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will increase the funding for persons who suffer with Chronic Inflammatory Polyneuropathy which is a motor neuron disease where the body's immune system attacks its own nerves; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35179/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

818. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the reason there has been a cut in funding and a deterioration in the service provided at a location (details supplied) in County Laois; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35182/12]

**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.

### Nursing Home Services

819. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health the number of public nursing homes that have been closed in each Health Service Executive region since the beginning of 2012. [35186/12]

820. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health the residential units or nursing homes that have had beds closed since the beginning of 2012 and the number of beds in each case in tabular form. [35187/12]

821. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health the number of beds in public nursing homes that are due to be closed in each Health Service Executive region between now and the end of 2012. [35188/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 819 to 821, inclusive, together.

As these are service matters they have been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Medicinal Products

822. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Health Service Executive continues to refuse cancer patients Yondelis Trabectedin treatment, a chemotherapy drug given to patients when other chemotherapy drugs have failed or are not suitable due to side effects; and the reason the HSE refuses to provide this treatment to cancer patients. [35214/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** Yondelis® or trabectedin was licensed by the European Medicines Agency in September 2007. It is an orphan drug and the licence was granted under the “exceptional circumstances” clause. This happens when the applicant for a licence cannot provide comprehensive data on the efficacy and safety of the medicine for which authorisation is being sought, due to the rarity of the condition it is intended for, limited scientific knowledge in the area concerned, or ethical considerations involved in the collection of such data.

Yondelis® trabectedin is indicated for the treatment of patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma. It is also indicated in combination with another drug for the treatment of patients with relapsed platinum-sensitive ovarian cancer. <http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/human/medicines/000773/human—med—001165.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001d124>. The original licence for soft tissue sarcoma was granted in Ireland in 2007, and the licence for ovarian cancer was granted in 2009, with pricing approval being given by the HSE for this drug in January, 2008.

The HSE is not aware of any issue with supply of this drug. If the Deputy has information about a particular case she should relay this to the HSE, which will investigate the matter.

*Question No. 823 answered with Question No. 801.*

### Palliative Care Services

824. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will make available the necessary funding and resources to upgrade palliative care services in Kerry General Hospital. [35222/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Medical Aids and Appliances

825. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an epilepsy sensor to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35227/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Medical Cards

826. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health if a medical card will be reactivated in respect of a person (details supplied) in county Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35228/12]

**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 Services

827. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health if he will confirm the average price of a hospital meal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35229/12]

828. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health if every hospital patient has a nutritional assessment of their requirements met, within reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35230/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 827 and 828 together.

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

### Vaccination Programme

829. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health the action that has been taken to ensure that the under dosage of the influenza vaccine does not reoccur; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35231/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I welcome the Report of the Risk Review Group which I received from the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) last week. The Risk Review Group was established by the PSI to independently review and report on the underdosing of some patients with seasonal influenza vaccine in 2011/12. The findings and recommendations have implications not just for pharmacists but for the health sector generally, including other healthcare professionals who are also involved in vaccinations. The PSI Council has set in place a number of measures to give effect to the recommendations contained in the Risk Review Group's report that are within the jurisdiction of the PSI in advance of the commencement of the 2012-13 Winter Influenza Season.

[Deputy James Reilly.]

With regard to the training, the PSI Council has revised and updated the accreditation standards for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Training Programmes for pharmacists to take account of recommendations in the Risk Review Group's Report and to reflect evolving thinking on formal learning and recent Council decisions, including the establishment in March 2012 of the Core Competency Framework for Pharmacists. The Council of the PSI has also agreed that all pharmacists who were trained for the purposes of the 2011-12 Winter Influenza Season must undertake a course of refresher training if they wish to provide a vaccination service to the public for the Winter 2012-13 season.

Almost 1500 pharmacists successfully completed the training programme provided last year which was approved by the PSI Council on the basis of the accreditation of that training programme by the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Trinity College Dublin. This accreditation was valid until 31st August 2012, therefore a new accreditation process must be put in place for this season. The recommendations of the Risk Review Group's report have also been taken into account and it is important to build on the experiences of last year and ensure that pharmacists are both competent and confident to provide a potentially expanded service this year. In any event, every year there are likely to be new aspects where pharmacists, as with any other healthcare professional, will need to refresh or increase their knowledge and skills.

As this is refresher training to build on last year's skills development, the refresher training will focus on enhancing practical techniques, including administration of vaccine and adrenaline to all patient cohorts, and ensuring pharmacists are confident and prepared for fuller participation in this year's campaign, as pharmacists will be starting to offer the service much earlier than last year and, due to greater public awareness, to a potentially greatly expanded patient cohort. In addition, there will be a valuable element of peer-supported learning where pharmacists can share and learn from each other's experiences in establishing and implementing a vaccination service in a pharmacy. It is intended that much background or required preparatory work could be done, potentially in an online environment, so that the 'live' session can focus on the practical skills, peer-learning and reflection on integrating the vaccine service into the pharmacy's practice.

Any pharmacist who did not undertake training last year will have to complete a full training programme approved by the PSI Council. Training provider(s) will, in the coming weeks, be working with an accrediting body approved by the PSI to develop courses of training (both refresher and full programmes) which meet the required standards. Council has also put in place a process to identify an accrediting body for the purposes of undertaking a review of seasonal influenza vaccination training programme(s) for pharmacists with a view to accrediting such programme(s) for the 2012-13 Winter Influenza Season. This process is close to completion and it is expected that the decision to designate an accrediting body will be made by the PSI over the coming days.

The PSI has also revised its guidance for pharmacists on the provision of a vaccination service for the 2012-2013 season. The guidance has been edited and revised in line with the recommendations of the Risk Review Group's report and updated to more fully reflect the legislative position that permit pharmacists to vaccinate all persons, subject to fulfilling certain required conditions, and to include reference to the importance of having systems in place to deal with issues such as error reporting and infection control. This revised guidance will also inform the content to be delivered as part of the new and the refresher courses of training. In order to ensure a full vaccination service to the public in community pharmacies, the PSI

Council has prioritised the development, accreditation and delivery of training to those registered pharmacists who were trained for the 2011-12 winter flu season.

The Risk Review Group's findings support initiatives to maximise seasonal influenza vaccination uptake. It has concluded that measures to increase uptake should be strongly encouraged and facilitated, including the increased accessibility provided through pharmacist participation. Vaccinations by pharmacists will again be happening this year and this report is a valuable learning tool in this process for all stakeholders.

### **Proposed Legislation**

830. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health the date on which the Public Health (Sunbeds) Bill is expected to be debated in the Houses of the Oireachtas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35233/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The Public Health (Sunbeds) Bill is expected to be completed by late 2012. The Bill will prohibit the use of sunbeds by those under 18 years of age and will set out a comprehensive range of measures to promote a greater public awareness across all age groups of the dangers of developing skin cancer, premature ageing and eye damage from exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from sunbeds.

The Bill, when drafted, will need to be notified to the EU Commission under the Technical Standards Directive prior to its publication. This will require a 3 month standstill period. Thereafter, I will publish and initiate the Bill in the Oireachtas. Once initiated the Bill will be debated in both Houses during the Second, Committee and Report stages on the Bill.

### **Cancer Screening Programme**

831. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the bowel cancer screening programme as committed to by the Health Service Executive Services Plan in view of the HSE deficit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35234/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS), part of the Health Service Executive's National Cancer Control Programme, is responsible for the development and implementation of Ireland's first national colorectal screening programme. The programme is planned to begin in the final quarter of 2012 and will initially target people aged between 60 and 69. Free screening will be offered to 400,000 people in this age group. Preparations for implementation are continuing to ensure that every element of the screening programme meets appropriate quality standards before its commencement.

### **Hospital Waiting Lists**

832. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health in view of the most recent colonoscopy waiting times showing that the numbers waiting more than three months for a colonoscopy are higher than ever before, despite the introduction of the waiting times initiative last September; the way these waiting times will be improved in time to ensure that designated hospitals for bowel cancer screening will have the capacity to cope with the additional colonoscopies screening will generate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35235/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** A priority for the SDU is improving access to diagnostics. This programme of work has already commenced in terms of access to GI endoscopy. The SDU and NTPF are currently supporting hospitals in the provision of gastroscopy and colonoscopy with the aim of ensuring that no patient should have to wait longer than 3

[Deputy James Reilly.]

months for either of these procedures by the end of September 2012. Hospitals being supported include those candidate screening colonoscopy units for the national colorectal screening programme.

### Patient Transport

833. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health his views on whether there is a need for clarity and information regarding the status of non emergency transport for patients so that unnecessary distress and hardship can be avoided at what is already a very difficult time for patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35236/12]

835. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the regional discrepancies which exist with regards the eligibility to access non-emergency patient transportation; the standards and guidelines that are in place in relation to accessing these services; the method of application for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35250/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 833 and 835 together.

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

834. **Deputy Mary Mitchell O'Connor** asked the Minister for Health the status of non-emergency transport for patients; the procedure for accessing non-emergency patient transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35237/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

*Question No. 835 answered with Question No. 833.*

836. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health the reasons for the withdrawal of funding from the Health Service Executive for the hospital bus which travels from Ballybofey via Letterkenny to Dublin to facilitate those needing to avail of hospital services in Dublin; the steps being taken by him to ensure that an alternative means of appropriate transport is available for patients in view of the fact that this bus has been in operation since the late 1970s; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35254/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

837. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health the financial assistance towards travel costs available for patients from County Donegal who need to travel to Dublin to access necessary medical treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35255/12]

838. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health the available travel schemes available for patients travelling from remote areas, such as County Donegal to Dublin in order to avail of essential medical treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35256/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 837 and 838 together.

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Health Service Expenditure

839. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health if the Health Service Executive have a healthcare centre (details supplied) in County Donegal on a programme for capital improvements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35257/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** There are always more construction projects than can be funded from the Exchequer's capital health care allocation. The Health Service Executive is required to prioritise infrastructure projects within its overall capital envelope taking into account the existing capital commitments and costs of completion over the period. The proposed Capital Plan 2012-2016 requires my approval with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. I have approved the Capital Plan 2012-2016 and the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is being sought. Details of the plan will be published by the HSE following its approval.

*Question No. 840 answered with Question No. 752.*

### National Drugs Strategy

841. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health the budget allocation and actual expenditure for the National Drugs Strategy Unit in his Department for the years 2011 and to date in 2012 and for the same unit when it was part of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35293/12]

842. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health the budget allocation for the actual expenditure by his Department in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy Unit for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35294/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 841 and 842 together.

In furtherance of the National Drugs Strategy, my Department administers a Drugs Initiative, which primarily funds community based drugs initiatives supported by the Drugs Task Forces. The budget allocation and actual expenditure for the Drugs Initiative for each of the years referred to by the Deputy is set out in the table:

| Year | Drugs Initiative Budget Allocation<br>€m | Drugs Initiative Actual Expenditure<br>€m |
|------|--|---|
| 2007 | €51.630                                  | €51.518                                   |
| 2008 | €64.332                                  | €65.207                                   |
| 2009 | €40.611                                  | €39.377                                   |
| 2010 | €36.182                                  | €34.992                                   |
| 2011 | €33.667                                  | €32.877                                   |
| 2012 | €31.475                                  | €27.822(to end June)                      |

The reduced allocation in 2009 reflects the transfer of responsibility and funding for the Young Peoples' Facilities and Services Fund to the then Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with effect from 1st January that year.

[Deputy Róisín Shortall.]

As the Deputy will be aware, responsibility for the functions in relation to the National Drugs Strategy transferred to my Department from the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs on the 1st of May 2011. Accordingly, my Department's expenditure accounts for €17.571m of the total 2011 spend.

843. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Health the budget allocation for and the actual expenditure by the Health Service Executive in implementing the actions of the National Drugs Strategy Unit for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35297/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** Details of budget allocations and expenditure by the Health Services Executive for the implementation of the actions of the National Drugs Strategy for the period 2007 to 2011 are outlined as follows:

| Year | Allocation €m | Expenditure €m |
|------|---------------|----------------|
| 2007 | 101.867       | 101.867        |
| 2008 | 101.867       | 101.867        |
| 2009 | 102.067       | 104.867        |
| 2010 | 104.867       | 105.400        |
| 2011 | 104.000       | 91.149         |

In addition to services provided by the HSE Addiction Services, other areas of the HSE provide services to clients with addiction problems including acute hospitals, mental health and primary care services. However, it is not possible to provide estimates of the expenditure involved.

### Health Services

844. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding a programme to highlight Fibromyalgia (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35302/12]

847. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health if psychological supports will be put in place to assist Fibromyalgia sufferers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35307/12]

849. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health if he will implement the declaration of the European Parliament with regard to Fibromyalgia (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35324/12]

850. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health if he will have Fibromyalgia classified as a disability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35325/12]

852. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Health if he will put support mechanisms in place for Fibromyalgia sufferers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35331/12]

860. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health his views on the chronic disease policy developed in 2008, in relation to Fibromyalgia (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35348/12]

866. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Health the reason Fibromyalgia is not classified as a disability; the measures he is going to put in place to rectify this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35381/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 844, 847, 849, 850, 852, 860 and 866 together.

Fibromyalgia is a distinct condition under the international classification of diseases which is the international standard by which diseases are classified and is accepted by Ireland and is endorsed by the World Health Organisation. Ireland's recognition of fibromyalgia as a distinct condition is in compliance with the European Parliament declaration 69/2008 on fibromyalgia which called on the European Union to recognise fibromyalgia as a disease. There are no plans to change the range of supports available to patients with fibromyalgia however individuals may be entitled to a medical card depending on their circumstances. People with fibromyalgia have access to the broad range of primary, community and hospital based services for the diagnosis and treatment of their condition.

### Suicide Prevention

845. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the bullying and suicide prevention programme (details supplied); his views on the merits of the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35303/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** am not aware of the programme referred to by the Deputy. The Government regards suicide prevention as a priority. Additional funding is being provided this year out of the special €35m announced in the budget for mental health to advance implementation of *Reach Out*, our national strategy in this area. Mental Health promotion is also part of the Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) programme in our schools.

The Health Service Executive, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Health have over recent months been working together to develop specific guidelines for schools in Ireland on mental health promotion and suicide prevention and this work is at an advanced stage. It is vital that we ensure that any resource or programme which is aimed at children and young people is in line with these guidelines. In this context, have sent a copy of the programme on bullying and suicide referred to by the Deputy to the Director of the National Office for Suicide Prevention for consideration.

### Health Insurance

846. **Deputy Jim Daly** asked the Minister for Health the progress that has been made in relation to the establishment of a consultative forum on health insurance; the findings of the forum; the progress that has been made in relation to reducing the cost of private health insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35306/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** In February of this year I established the Health Insurance Consultative Forum which comprises representatives from the country's main health insurance companies, the Health Insurance Authority and the Department of Health.

This Forum has been established with a focus on generating ideas which would help address health insurance costs. The insurers have agreed to work cooperatively in driving down costs related to health insurance. Bilateral meetings have taken place with each insurer where they have brought forward their own ideas for cost savings in the market. These ideas are the subject of ongoing deliberation and policy analysis within the Department.

[Deputy James Reilly.]

The Forum also facilitates participating parties to consider certain issues related to the implementation of Universal Health Insurance (UHI). The future delivery of health services under UHI will require competing insurance companies driving efficient, cost effective delivery of high quality health care. The Forum will allow the insurance companies consult with my Department on many significant changes on the road to the full implementation of UHI.

*Question No. 847 answered with Question No. 844.*

### **Departmental Agencies**

848. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Health the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35317/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The information requested is being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as is available.

*Questions Nos. 849 and 850 answered with Question No. 844.*

### **Medical Cards**

851. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if an application for a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Carlow will be expedited and approved [35329/12]

**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.

*Question No. 852 answered with Question No. 844.*

### **Health Service Staff**

853. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the numbers employed in the Primary Care Reimbursement Service for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, at 31 December for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35334/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

### **Health Service Expenditure**

854. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health in respect of the Primary Care Reimbursement Service for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, the payments for each relevant year to a company (details supplied); the payments for each year to IT companies, management consultants for services provided to the PCRS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35335/12]

868. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health in respect of the Primary Care Reimbursement Service for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, the payments for each relevant year a company (details supplied) payments for each year to IT companies, management consultants for services provided to the PCRS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35444/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 854 and 868 together.

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.

### Medical Cards

855. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the number of new medical cards issued during each year from 2006 to 2011 inclusive, and the number of cards cancelled during each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35336/12]

869. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the number of new medical cards issued during each year from 2006 to 2011 inclusive; the number of cards cancelled during each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35445/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 855 and 869 together.

The figures below give the cumulative total of medical cards issued at year end from 2006 to date:

| Date     | Number of Medical Cards |
|----------|-------------------------|
| End-2006 | 1,221,695               |
| End-2007 | 1,276,178               |
| End-2008 | 1,352,120               |
| End-2009 | 1,478,560               |
| End-2010 | 1,615,809               |
| End-2011 | 1,694,063               |
| May 2012 | 1,805,831               |

More detailed information sought by the Deputy is not readily available. However, I have asked the Health Service Executive to compile this information and I will forward it to the Deputy as soon as possible.

### Mental Health Services

856. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the specific plans to spend the €35 million allocated in the budget last December to advance the implementation of a Vision for Change: if any of this funding has been drawn down; the proportion spent; if he will confirm all this funding will be spent on mental health community services only and not used by the Health Service Executive to meet deficits elsewhere; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35337/12]

870. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the specific plans to spend the €35 million allocated in the budget last December to advance the implementation of a Vision for Change; if any of this funding will be spent on mental health community services only and not used by the Health Service Executive to meet deficits elsewhere; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35446/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 856 and 870 together.

[Deputy Kathleen Lynch.]

Funding from the €35m special allocation for mental health will be used primarily to strengthen Community Mental Health Teams in both Adult and Children's mental health services which will ensure, at a minimum, that at least one of each mental health professional discipline is represented on every team.

It is planned that 414 staff will be recruited to the mental health service to deliver on the €35m package of special measures. In order to establish this staffing requirement, a detailed gap analysis of the present composition of 185 Community Mental Health Teams was undertaken. The specific need in relation to each team in all of the four main regions was identified as quickly as possible after the Service Plan was decided. HSE approvals have issued to the four Regional Directors of Operations for the filling of the posts in their areas.

Of the 414 posts involved, the HSE has had to convert 31 of these in the Dublin Mid-Leinster region to nursing that will be assigned in the immediate term to acute in-patient services. However, it is intended that this will be done in the context of introducing a nursing floor for the acute in-patient and community services in that region consistent with the provision of safe services in line with *A Vision for Change* as well as the Mental Health Commission Quality Framework for Mental Health Services and the roll out of the clinical care programmes. The recruitment process for the 414 posts which will take some time to complete has already commenced and the majority of the appointments are expected to be made during the summer months.

*Question No. 857 answered with Question No. 727.*

### **Medicinal Products**

858. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health when the legislation to facilitate the introduction of reference pricing and generic substitution of drugs will be published and when it will be implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35339/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill 2012 was published on Friday, the 13th of July and will be initiated in the Seanad on Thursday, the 19th of July. Implementation is dependent on the date of enactment.

### **Long-Term Illness Scheme**

859. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health if Fibromyalgia will be recognised as the long term illness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35347/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** There are no plans to extend the list of conditions covered by the Long Term Illness Scheme.

Under the Drug Payment Scheme, no individual or family pays more than €132 per calendar month towards the cost of approved prescribed medicines. The scheme significantly reduces the cost burden for families and individuals incurring ongoing expenditure on medicines. In addition, people who cannot, without undue hardship, arrange for the provision of medical services for themselves and their dependants may be entitled to a medical card. In the assessment process, the Health Service Executive can take into account medical costs incurred by an individual or a family. Those who are not eligible for a medical card may still be able to avail of a GP visit card, which covers the cost of general practice consultation.

*Question No. 860 answered with Question No. 844.*

### Medical Cards

861. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 9. [35351/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** Under the provisions of the Health Act 1970, medical cards are provided to persons who, in the opinion of the Health Service Executive, are unable without undue hardship to arrange general practitioner medical and surgical services for themselves and their dependants. The assessment for a medical card is determined primarily by reference to the means of the applicant and his/her dependants.

In calculating net income, allowances are given for reasonable expenses incurred in respect of rent/mortgage payments; in respect of childcare costs and in respect of expenses incurred in travel to work. Expenditure in relation to medical costs will be considered. Applicants whose weekly incomes are derived solely from Social Welfare or Health Service Executive allowances/payments, which are in excess of the financial guidelines, will be granted a medical card.

The Health Service Executive now operates an online medical card application facility at [www.medicalcard.ie](http://www.medicalcard.ie).

862. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding an application for a medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 5. [35352/12]

**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.

*Question No. 863 answered with Question No. 749.*

### Nursing Home Services

864. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he will indicate the number of beds currently empty at St. Bridget's Nursing Home, Crooksling, County Dublin; the number of high dependency patients presently on waiting lists for such accommodation in the region; the extent to which on going efforts are being made in relation to such waiting lists to available accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35366/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

### Health Services

865. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he will indicate the number of beds high dependent patient facilities available in the purpose built development at Inchicore, Dublin, in view of the proposals to refer high dependency patients there; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35367/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch):** As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

*Question No. 866 answered with Question No. 844.*

### Health Service Staff

867. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health in respect of the Primary Care

[Deputy Billy Kelleher.]

Reimbursement Service for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011; the numbers employed at 31 December for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35443/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

*Question No. 868 answered with Question No. 854.*

*Question No. 869 answered with Question No. 855.*

*Question No. 870 answered with Question No. 856.*

*Question No. 871 answered with Question No. 727.*

### Medicinal Products

872. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health when the legislation to facilitate the introduction of reference pricing and generic substitution of drugs be published; when it will be implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35448/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Róisín Shortall):** The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill 2012 was published on Friday, 13 July and will be initiated in the Seanad on Thursday, 19 of July. Implementation is dependent on the date of enactment.

### Primary Care Centres

873. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health if he has received from the Health Service Executive the report on the assessment of accommodation which would inform the development of a plan for the construction of primary care centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35449/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The development of primary care is central to this Government's objective to deliver a high quality, integrated and cost effective health system. The development of primary care centres, through a combination of public and private investment, will facilitate the delivery of multi-disciplinary primary care and represents a tangible re-focussing of the health service to deliver care in the most appropriate and lowest cost setting.

I have received the HSE Accommodation Needs Report for Primary Care and it has been considered by my Department. As a review of the infrastructure already in place and required, it provides one of the basis from which to further develop primary care infrastructure.

Today's announcement of additional primary care infrastructure to be delivered by PPP demonstrates the Government's commitment to the delivery of health care in a community setting. The primary care infrastructure model offers a good fit for public private partnership financing. This Public Private Partnership initiative will complement and build on the processes HSE has already in place in its capital programme.

The Exchequer will continue to fund the delivery of Primary Care Centres in deprived urban areas, small rural towns and isolated areas.

### Medical Cards

874. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Health the reason a three year old child (details supplied) who requires a below the knee prosthesis with regular changes and adaptations

due to their age does not qualify for a medical card; if he will reconsider the decision in view of the exceptional health grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35451/12]

**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.

### Ministerial Appointments

875. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Health if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35608/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** The information requested is being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as is available.

876. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Health the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35621/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** Since March 2011, no Chairpersons of any of my agencies have appeared before the Joint Committee on Health and Children.

### Public Sector Staff

877. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Health the number of retired public servants who have been awarded temporary or term-time posts in the public sector over recent years. [36043/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** Three retired Civil Servants (1.5 wholetime equivalents) are currently re-employed in my Department.

The information in relation to the Non-commercial State Agencies is currently being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as it is available. With regard to the Health Service Executive, they have been asked to collate the data sought as soon as possible and it will be provided directly to the Deputy by them when available.

### Pension Provisions

878. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide, in tabular form, the number of public servants in receipt of pensions between €10,000 to €20,000; €20,001 to €30,000; €30,001 to €40,000; €40,001 to €50,000; €50,001 to €60,000; €60,001 to €70,000; to €70,001 to €80,000; €80,001 to €90,000; €90,001 to €100,000; and more than €100,000. [36055/12]

**Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly):** As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for attention and direct reply to the Deputy.

The information in relation to the Non-commercial State Agencies is currently being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as it is available.

### Flood Relief

879. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he has received an application from Cork County Council for emergency funding for road repair

[Deputy Michael McGrath.]

and reinstatement works in Rathbarry Village in west Cork arising from the extensive flood damage caused last month; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34787/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** In the past few days my Department received a preliminary estimate of the cost of damage caused by the severe weather event of 28 June last. The communication stresses that the figures supplied are estimates and may not be complete.

The improvement and maintenance of regional and local roads in its area, is a statutory function of each road authority in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of the Roads Act, 1993. Works on such roads are a matter for the relevant local authority to be funded from its own resources supplemented by State road grants.

The 2012 regional and local road grant allocations have now been allocated and there are no further funds available at this time from which an additional allocation could be made. In addition, my Department does not set aside funding in its budget to cover expenditure resulting from severe weather. Instead, local authorities are provided with flexibility, where possible, to amend their Regional and Local Road Grants to accommodate remedial works. I can confirm that I will facilitate any request by Cork County Council to amend its Programme for 2012 to accommodate rehabilitation works on the roads damaged by the recent floods and the deferral to 2013 of less critical works.

### **Pilot Training Colleges**

880. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the rules or regulations that are in place on the setting up of public or private colleges that offer professional training (details supplied). [35015/12]

882. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the steps he and his Department have taken to address the situation that has arisen for a significant cohort of Irish trainee pilots in the United States as a result of falldown on the part of Waterford based Pilot Training College, a business with a substantial public investment through Enterprise Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35249/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 880 and 882 together.

The Pilot Training College Waterford (PTCW) is a privately owned and operated flight training college. The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) has responsibility for approving flight training organisations in Ireland. In this regard their primary functions are the oversight of the safety, quality and standard of the training being delivered, the conduct of examinations and flight tests. I have referred the questions to them for direct reply regarding their functions. However, I have agreed with the IAA that they will fund the flight costs of those self-financing students in Florida who have an existing contract with PTCW and who wish to leave the USA. I will also give consideration to a bonding /insurance scheme in future to provide financial protection for students of flight training organisations; however, such a scheme would most likely be on a voluntary basis.

The IAA is also endeavouring to ensure that the students affected will be able to avail of alternative training arrangements and it will strive to facilitate the crediting of all flight and ground training carried out to date towards the students' final qualifications.

I am not in a position to comment on Enterprise Ireland's involvement with the company as the role of the agency is not within my remit.

### The Gathering

881. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the consultations that have been held with cultural or arts groups regarding the Gathering. [35213/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The matter raised is an operational matter for Fáilte Ireland. I have referred the Deputy's Question to Fáilte Ireland for direct reply. Please advise my private office if there is no reply within ten working days.

*Question No. 882 answered with Question No. 880.*

### Pilot Training Colleges

883. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will deal with a matter (details supplied) regarding student pilots; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34384/12]

897. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the steps he has taken to address the situation Irish students undergoing pilot training find themselves in with the collapse of the Pilot Training College considering that the State, through the Irish Aviation Authority, licensed the Pilot Training College as a fit and proper organisation to provide the education and ensure continuity of training rather than dashing hopes of any young people caught up in the fallout. [34871/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 883 and 897 together.

The Pilot Training College Waterford (PTCW) is a privately owned and operated flight training college. The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) has responsibility for approving and overseeing flight training organisations in Ireland so I have referred the questions to them for direct reply in relation to their functions in this regard. However, I would like to note that I have agreed with the IAA that the IAA will fund the flight costs of those self-financing students in Florida who have an existing contract with PTCW and who wish to leave the USA. I will also give consideration to a bonding /insurance scheme in future to provide financial protection for students of flight training organisations; however, such a scheme would most likely be on a voluntary basis.

The IAA is also endeavouring to ensure that the students affected will be able to avail of alternative training arrangements. It has also indicated that it will strive to facilitate the crediting of all flight and ground training carried out to date in Florida towards the students' final qualifications. I am not in a position to comment on Enterprise Ireland's involvement with the company as the role of the agency is not within my remit.

### Public Transport

884. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the progress that has been made on introducing a student Leap card; if it will be available for the forthcoming academic year 2012 to 2013; if a launch date has been identified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34387/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Alan Kelly):** Responsibility to develop, procure, implement, operate and maintain the integrated ticketing system (ITS) in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) became the function of the National Transport Authority (NTA) with effect from 30th September 2010 in accordance with section 58 of

[Deputy Alan Kelly.]

the Dublin Transport Authority (DTA) Act 2008. The timeframe for the introduction of the Student Leap card is an operational issue for the Authority and I have no function in such matters. Noting this, I have referred the Deputy's question to the NTA for direct reply. Please advise my private office if you do not receive a reply within 10 working days.

### **Irish Coast Guard**

885. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide an assurance on the future of Malin Head Coast Guard Station in view of the publication of the Fisher Report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34391/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** As part of the Croke Park Agreement, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport engaged a specialist International maritime transport management consultancy, Fisher Associates, to undertake value for money reviews of services provided by the Irish Coast Guard and the Marine Survey Office. The reports call for a comprehensive integrated programme of work to enhance maritime safety and emergency response services. The issues that have been identified are serious and have to be addressed, including significantly enhancing Coast Guard oil pollution response capacity and volunteer training and management.

I have informed the Government that my Department will consider the matters raised in the reports and prepare an action plan. I intend to present this action plan to Government in October. I have also made it clear that I do not propose to accept or reject any of the recommendations proposed by the Fishers Reports at this stage. In preparing the plan my Department will assess each recommendation and will prioritise actions to address the deficiencies. That process will call for tough decisions to be made. However, it is important to recognise that resources available to the maritime services are very limited and they have to be deployed on a prioritised basis and as effectively and efficiently as possible to address the most urgent needs.

886. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will outline details of investments made in the Malin Head Coast Guard Station over the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34392/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** Since 2008, €168,000 has been spent on capital works and building maintenance projects at the Marine Rescue co-ordination station at Malin Head. In addition, new communications systems are currently being installed in the Malin Head station, which has been closed since May, as part of a general upgrading of communications infrastructure in the Coast Guard. It is expected that the upgrade work will be complete next month and the Malin station will reopen at that time. This work will cost in the region of €100,000 and covers communications architecture and associated preparatory work to enable the equipment to be installed. It also includes refurbishment and a general clean up of the station.

The work on enhancing the communications infrastructure in the three Coast Guard rescue co-ordination stations is essential for the on-going operation and maintenance of the service. Very old equipment that has passed its operating life has to be replaced now irrespective of any decisions that might be taken in the future regarding the operation of any of the stations.

### **Road Safety**

887. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his

views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding the use of agricultural and works vehicles on public roads. [34413/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I am currently examining proposals in relation to the use of agricultural and works vehicles on Irish roads and I will announce my decision in due course. I also understand that the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport and Communications received a presentation from Professional Agricultural Contractors (Ireland) recently and I anticipate correspondence from the Committee on the matter.

### **Tourism Industry**

888. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding third party booking websites. [34433/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I have noted the concerns expressed regarding the cost incurred by accommodation providers in their choice of booking engines. Ultimately, however, a decision to use a booking engine is a commercial choice for the provider. In this regard, accommodation providers will usually take into account the commission rates on rooms sold and the market exposure and flow of business that the booking engines may deliver. It is true that more and more tourists are using the internet to book their holidays and that is why Fáilte Ireland has a suite of supports available to accommodation providers. The purpose of these supports is to allow them to take maximum advantage of the market exposure afforded by the internet to drive business, including through their own websites and through social media.

### **Road Safety**

889. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will consider amending the proposed regulations on use of agricultural and works vehicles on the public roads to enable the speed limit for tractors to remain at 50kmph; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34486/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I am currently examining proposals in relation to the use of agricultural and works vehicles on Irish roads and I will announce my decision in due course.

### **Sports Capital Programme**

890. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the reason a grant was withdrawn to a sportsclub (details supplied) in 2009; if he will provide this Deputy with a copy of the initial grant and the conditions attached to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34629/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Michael Ring):** DLRCC/Mount Merrion Youth FC Ltd. was provisionally allocated a grant of €200,000 towards pitch development under the 2006 Sports Capital Programme. The letter of provisional offer stated that all relevant documentation should be submitted to the Department for approval at the earliest possible date and a substantial amount of work on the project should be completed to facilitate the draw down of the grant by 30 September 2007. It also stated that the Department retained the right to withdraw the grant offer after that date without further notice.

The organisation did not submit any of the documentation outlined the letter of provisional offer. In April 2008 DLRCC wrote to the Department advising that the project had run into “legal and planning difficulties” and that the Council would not be proceeding with the project

[Deputy Michael Ring.]

at that time. In the April 2008 letter the Council further advised that they would “consider the provision of an all weather pitch ..... at some stage in the future”. In April 2009 the Department wrote to DLRCC advising that as it was not in a position to comply with the Guidelines, Terms and Conditions of the Programme, the grant allocation was withdrawn. I have asked my officials to forward the Deputy a copy of the original letter of provisional allocation.

891. **Deputy John O’Mahony** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the reason a person (details supplied) in County Mayo has not received an application number of confirmation of their application for sports capital grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34666/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Michael Ring):** An application has been received in respect of the project referred to by the Deputy. An acknowledgement of the application, containing the reference number, issued to the designated contact by email on 20th June 2012. The designated contact as per the application form is not the person referred to by the Deputy.

#### Taxi Regulations

892. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport when the proposed Taxi Regulation Bill will be published. [34687/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Alan Kelly):** Extensive work has been undertaken by the Office of the Attorney General in relation to the Taxi Regulation Bill 2012 and it is envisaged that the Bill will be published in the early Autumn.

#### Regional Road Network

893. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the road schemes submitted to him by Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council for 2011 and 2012; which schemes were funded; the cost of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34701/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The following tables show the schemes submitted by the two Councils under the Specific Grant Scheme and the allocations subsequently made:

| Fingal County Council SG Applications 2011/2012                               | Amount Sought 2011 | 2011 Allocation | Amount Sought 2012 | 2012 Grant Allocation |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Tyrellstown Link Road   | €20,500,000.00     | €6,000,000.00   | €0.00              | €0.00                 |
| Porterstown Link Road   | €1,620,000.00      | €800,000.00     | €0.00              | €0.00                 |
| R122 Harry Reynolds Road  | €0.00              | €0.00           | €1,100,000.00      | €800,000.00           |
| Naul — Balbriggan   | €0.00              | €0.00           | €350,000.00        | €0.00                 |
| Holywell — Nevintown Swords   | €0.00              | €0.00           | €800,000.00        | €0.00                 |
| Resurfacing of roundabouts on regional roads adjacent to M1 Junctions 5 and 6 | €0.00              | €0.00           | €100,000.00        | €0.00                 |
| Total   | €22,120,000.00     | €6,800,000.00   | €2,350,000.00      | €800,000              |

| Dublin City Council SG Applications 2011/2012 | Amount Sought 2011 | 2011 Allocation | Amount Sought 2012 | 2012 Grant Allocation |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Blackhorse Avenue                             | €670,000.00        | €670,000.00     | €0.00              | €0.00                 |
| Clonshaugh Road                               | €670,000.00        | €0.00           | €670,000.00        | €340,000.00           |
| Fairview Bridge                               | €170,000.00        | €170,000.00     | €500,000.00        | €500,000.00           |
| Rathoath Road                                 | €250,000.00        | €0.00           | €0.00              | €0.00                 |
| River Road                                    | €160,000.00        | €0.00           | €0.00              | €0.00                 |
| Total   | €1,920,000.00      | €840,000.00     | €1,170,000.00      | €840,000.00           |

### Olympic Games Facilities

894. **Deputy Timmy Dooley** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of countries that used Ireland as a training base for the 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34707/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** Athletes from over thirty countries will have travelled to Ireland for training or participation in Olympic/Paralympic related events before the London Games.

The US Synchronised Swimming Squad, South Korea Olympic Swimming Squad, UK Paralympic Swimming Team, UK Water-Polo team and individual swimmers from Poland, Venezuela, Surinam and the Cayman Islands participated in training camps at the National Aquatic Centre (NAC). The Dublin Cup Water-Polo competition, which took place in the NAC earlier this month, included teams from Hungary, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania and the UK. International matches between the UK and Hungarian Water-Polo men's squads also took place last year.

A men's Hockey Olympic Qualifying Tournament was hosted at the National Hockey Stadium in UCD in March this year with teams from Chile, Korea, Malaysia, Russia and the Ukraine. The Indian and Tunisian boxing squads participated in training camps with the Irish team at the National Boxing Stadium last month. Ireland also hosted an international pentathlon preparation camp for the London Games with athletes from Austria, Germany, Lithuania and Russia.

Badminton Ireland hosted a pre-Olympic training camp in Dublin this month with representatives from Portugal, Iceland, Finland, Czech Republic, Egypt and the UK. The Vietnam and Zambia Paralympic teams accepted invitations to avail of pre-Games training camps. The teams are being facilitated under the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Irish Aid Programme, in partnership with my Department and the Irish Sports Council. Morton Stadium in Santry will host a Pre-Games International Athletics Event later this month with athletes competing from Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Jamaica, New Zealand, Sweden, the US and the UK.

### Road Network

895. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he is considering the A5 road project linking Donegal and Derry to Dublin as part of the pilot project bonds European Union investment package. [34824/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The Government has committed to contributing funding of £25m per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards this project.

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

However, the planning and delivery of the project, including the overall financial arrangements, is a matter for the Northern Ireland Authorities and the Northern Ireland Roads Service.

### **Rail Network**

896. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he is considering the proposed Sligo to Derry rail link as part of the pilot project bonds European Union investment package. [34825/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The Government's programme for the funding of capital projects to 2016 is set out in the "*Medium Term Exchequer Framework 2012-16*". Due to the overall reduction in funding for transport infrastructure the priority to 2016 is to protect investment made to date and to maintain safety standards. The limited funding available over and above this priority will only be provided for projects which are affordable, meet overall transport objectives and deliver the best return in terms of economic recovery and job creation. Moreover the ability to operate profitably and without the need of any subsidy would also be a key consideration for any new rail projects or extensions. Furthermore, the AECOM/Goodbody "*2030 Rail Network Strategy Review*" carried out for Iarnród Éireann examined the potential for new and re-opened lines and it did not recommend the development of a rail link between Sligo and Derry or between Donegal and Derry. Likewise its predecessor, the "*Strategic Rail Review*" in 2003 did not recommend such a rail link.

The development of a rail line between Sligo and Derry would require new rail lines to connect with the rail network in Northern Ireland. It should be noted that the Northern Ireland Executive has no proposals to provide such new rail lines. In the circumstances there are no plans to develop a new rail link between Sligo and Derry and consequently the question of EU co-funding does not arise in this instance. My Department will keep the potential use of Projects Bonds under consideration in the event that an appropriate project together with the required Exchequer contribution becomes available.

*Question No. 897 answered with Question No. 883.*

### **Departmental Funding**

898. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide the number of details, listed in a tabular form listing each organisation and area of funding, of all funding provided to local authorities, sports and community organisations in County Mayo in 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34875/12]

899. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide the number and details, listed in tabular form listing each organisation and area of funding, of all funding provided to local authorities, tourism service providers and organisation in County Mayo in 2011 and to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [34876/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I propose to take Questions Nos. 898 and 899 together.

The information requested by the Deputy is being compiled and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

### Commuter Coach Parking

900. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the cost of the February 2012 report on Dublin commuter coach parking facilities carried out by a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35001/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The matter referred to by the Deputy is the responsibility of the National Transport Authority (NTA) and I have arranged for your question to be sent to the NTA for a direct response. Please advise my private office if you do not get a reply within ten working days.

### Fáilte Ireland

901. **Deputy Timmy Dooley** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide a breakdown of Fáilte Ireland funding allocated to the North Tipperary region in the past ten years, including financial supports under capital programmes, festivals and tourism events. [35005/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The matter raised is an operational one for Fáilte Ireland. I have referred the question to Fáilte Ireland for direct reply. Please contact my private office if a reply is not received within ten working days.

### Ministerial Allowances

902. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the full list of allowances that are not subject to income tax and the rates applicable that are available to him and Ministers of State in his Department in respect of their official duties including allowances relating to periods when they are away from their offices, either within the State or abroad; and the actual amounts claimed and paid since 9 March 2011 to him and Ministers of State; if these are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35071/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** As a Member of the Oireachtas and an Office holder I receive my allowances as a Member of the House. These allowances are a matter for the House itself under Article 15 (10) of the Constitution and are not a matter for which I am answerable. Travel and subsistence allowances are payable in accordance with circulars issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. These circulars are published and available on the website *www.finance.gov.ie*. The amount claimed and paid for official travel are on my Departments website at *www.dttas.ie*.

### Road Network

903. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will request the national Roads Authority to provide funding to upgrade an important access route into County Kerry, the N22 Cork to Killarney road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35072/12]

**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 construction, improvement and maintenance of individual national roads, such as the N22, are matters for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007 in conjunction with the local authorities concerned. Noting this 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.

### Penalty Points System

904. **Deputy Billy Timmins** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the position regarding penalty points review (details supplied). [35078/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** Motor cyclists represent a disproportionate number of road fatalities compared to the number of motor cycles registered. While the trend is continuing downwards, in 2010 motor cyclists were the third highest category of road user fatalities at 17, behind car users with 130 road fatalities and pedestrians with 44 road fatalities. To date in 2012, 10 motor cyclists and 2 pillion passengers have been killed on Irish roads. According to recent OECD figures, a motor cyclist is two to three times more likely to be killed in Ireland than in other European countries. In terms of fatality rates per 10,000 registered motorcycles, Ireland was found to have the second highest rate amongst the twenty countries compared.

The Review of the Irish Penalty Points System recommends that, in order to effect a targeted reduction in the number of motor cyclist road fatalities, further research into specific penalties for motor cyclists may be merited. I have referred the Review to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport and Communications for its comments. Once I have received the Committee's input I will consider the adjustment of penalty points further.

### Sports Capital Programme

905. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the progress to date in the determination of eligibility for financial assistance in respect of an application recently submitted by a college (details supplied) for the provision of an astro turf pitch at the school; when a decision will be made with particular reference to the needs of the students at this school for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35080/12]

**Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Michael Ring):** A new round of the Sports Capital Programme (SCP) was launched on 28th March 2012. The deadline for receipt of applications was 11 May for paper-based applications and 1 June for applications made online. The process of assessing applications will take some time, due to the volume of applications and the detailed information contained in each one. As a result, I do not expect to be in a position to announce the list of successful applicants before the late autumn or early winter 2012.

### Search and Rescue Service

906. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will assist with a request from a coast guard unit (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35167/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** Primary Coastal Search and Rescue services in Ireland are provided by a combination of RNLI Lifeboats, Community Rescue Boats, and response boats operated by Volunteer Coast Guard Units. These services can be augmented by the Naval Service ships on a request and 'as available' basis, in addition to support that can be provided by other vessels of opportunity.

The RNLI operate a lifeboat in Valentia, and the area is also serviced by the new Coast Guard helicopter from Shannon. A community rescue boat operates close by out of Ballinskelligs and a Coast Guard rigid inflatable boat operates from across the bay in Dingle. There are no plans to locate a boat in Knightstown with the Coast Guard Unit at this time.

### National Roads Authority

907. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if the N56 project from Kilrairie to Dungloe will retain its pilot status; if funding for this project which has commenced will be allocated in the 2013 budget; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35259/12]

**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 construction, improvement and maintenance of individual national roads are matters for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007 in conjunction with the local authorities concerned. Noting this 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.

### Air Pollution

908. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghail** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his views on correspondence (details supplied) regarding aircraft activity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35264/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I have no knowledge of the activities or phenomena described by the correspondent.

The issue of air quality is under the remit of my colleague, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government who advised that an environmental monitoring programme is undertaken by the Environment Protection Agency, which publishes a comprehensive annual report on air quality. The most recent report "Air Quality in Ireland 2010 — Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality" was published in September 2011 and will be of interest to the Deputy. I understand that this report provides an overview of ambient air quality trends in Ireland in 2010 based on data from 28 monitoring stations. The Report confirmed that air quality in Ireland is of a high standard and remains the best in Europe.

### Departmental Agencies

909. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the State agencies and bodies within the remit of his Department that have the power to enter or search premises in the course of an investigation; if they need a search warrant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35322/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** The information requested by the Deputy is being compiled and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

### National Roads Authority

910. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if works will commence in 2012 on the announced Pavement Overlay for Ardara Main Street in 2011 which had an allocation of €304,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [35388/12]

**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 construction, improvement and maintenance of individual national roads (Ardara Main Street forms part of the N56) are matters for the National Roads Authority (NRA) under the Roads Acts 1993 to 2007 in conjunction with the local authorities concerned. Noting this I

[Deputy Leo Varadkar.]

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.

### **Appointments to State Boards**

911. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will outline the total number of appointments to State boards since March 2011 under the aegis of his Department; the total number of appointments that have been advertised on his Department's website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [36022/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** Since my Department advertised new procedures for appointments to boards in April 2011, all appointments from that date have followed these procedures. However, given the importance of ensuring the right mix of skills and experience on every board, appointments are not necessarily confined to those who have made an expression of interest. Full details of the procedures and appointments to the Boards under the aegis of my Department are available on the Department's website at <http://www.dttas.ie/StateBoardMembership.aspx>.

912. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of chairpersons appointed to State boards since March 2011 that have appeared before the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [36024/12]

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar):** I refer the Deputy to Question No. 209 of the 8th March 2012 in which I set out details of the Chairpersons whom I have appointed and of their appearances before the Joint Oireachtas Committee. Since that date I have made five further appointments of Chairpersons to various port companies. These appointments are of a temporary nature and expire at the end of September. The purpose of these temporary appointments is to allow their long-term replacements as chairpersons to appear before the Joint Oireachtas Committee prior to their appointment. Full details of State Board appointments are available on my Department's website at <http://www.dttas.ie/StateBoardMembership.aspx>.