

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].

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Questions Nos. 1 to 7 inclusive, answered orally.

Hospital Acquired Infections

8. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Health if he is satisfied that our health services are putting in place sufficient measures to deal with hospital acquired patient infections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48952/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I would like to thank Deputy Martin for raising this issue.

Hospital-acquired patient infections continue to be an issue in hospitals worldwide. Many of these infections are difficult to treat as they involve antimicrobial resistance (AMR), where the infectious agent is resistant to a treatment to which it was previously sensitive. Current evidence shows that while antimicrobial resistance in MRSA has continued to decline. Over the last five years MRSA infection among people with the infected agent has declined from 40% to 23.5%. However, resistance in other organisms, such as E Coli, is rising. In relation to the incidence of infection, there has been a decrease in central IV line infection and a decrease in C. difficile infection. There has been a minimal increase in peripheral line infection.

A national clinical programme, under the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI) and the HSE, is in place to address this issue. This will be run through a multidisciplinary clinical advisory group under RCPI governance, with joint working groups on prevention of surgical site infection and critical care and hospital-acquired infection. An HSE implementation group will be chaired by the National Director for Patient Safety, Dr Philip Crowley, and the programme operated under the Regional Directors of Operations. The issue is also being addressed outside the acute system, through initiatives in primary and long term care. The programme aims to ensure that healthcare workers focus on three areas every time they care for patients. These are:

- Hand hygiene compliance
- Appropriate use of antimicrobials
- Prevention of medical infections associated with medical devices such as intravenous lines and urinary catheters.

Because treatment of these infections is complicated by antibiotic resistance, emphasis is being placed on better antimicrobial use and on hygiene-related measures in hospitals, with compliance in this area audited on a regular basis. The most recent data shows that compliance with certain measures are at appropriate levels, and that increased effort is needed in other areas. For instance, hand hygiene compliance has improved, with the most recent hand hygiene compliance audit (June/July 2012) indicating an increase to 81.6% (below the 2012 target of 85%). Nursing/midwives scored the highest (86%) with medical staff the lowest (69%). I recognise that there is a need for further improvement in this area and in particular in relation to aseptic tasks, such as inserting an intravenous (IV) line, where compliance is at a sub-optimal rate of 80%.

I am very much aware of this issue, and will continue, as will my department, to monitor measures being taken by the HSE and the compliance audits of these measures. While this issue requires ongoing clinical vigilance, I am satisfied that current measures are having a positive effect, as is evident from a decrease in incidence of infection and decline in AMR in relation to MRSA.

Health Services Provision

9. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the planning application of the Simon Community, Ushers Quay, Dublin, in relation to a transfer of services from the Rowan Ward in Cherry Orchard, Dublin; if he is satisfied with the way the transfer of services has gone to this point; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48745/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): A review of the Rowan Ward HIV respite service found that when the Rowan Ward was set up in 1990 its purpose was to provide end stage palliative care to AIDS patients. In more recent times, the ward had come to provide respite and stabilisation for a limited number of HIV patients who were also clients of the HSE addiction services. Given these changes in the Rowan Ward service model the review outlined alternative care pathways for the Rowan Ward client base within the homeless/addiction sector.

Following the review, the HSE proposed to close the Rowan Ward and to locate the service in an existing service in the homeless/addiction sector. This was accomplished by the creation of eight dedicated beds for the Rowan Ward patient group within an addiction/homeless service currently provided by Dublin Simon in Ushers Island. The transfer of Rowan Ward clients to the Ushers Island facility commenced on 1st September 2012, overseen by a steering group consisting of statutory and voluntary service providers. The new service provides a more amenable care pathway for the Rowan Ward HIV patients and the staff in the Ushers Island complex will be better positioned to manage clients with addiction associated issues. This approach will see Dublin Simon taking responsibility for the service, thereby delivering improved clinical governance as part of a Service Level Agreement.

The Rowan Ward clients have been temporarily located within the existing Ushers Island campus. However, a new unit is nearing completion in a separate building which is currently being refurbished, and this will serve as a permanent home for the Rowan Ward clients. No planning application was required for this refurbishment work as it only involves internal structural development.

Services for People with Disabilities

10. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take on foot of the recent NESC report Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland; Disability Services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48946/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The recent NESC report: 'Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: Disability Services' was very timely in that it followed the recent publication of the Value for Money and Policy Review (VFMPR) of Disability Services by my Department and was in advance of the current consultation being carried out by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) on the revised draft standards, for residential services for both adults and children's disability services, which will allow for a robust registration and inspection system to be put in place by way of regulation by mid 2013.

One of the main challenges facing the disability sector identified by the report is that there has been little formal regulation in the sector, with no inspections or compulsory standards. As I have indicated previously, it is a priority for this Government to put the draft HIQA standards for the disability sector on a statutory footing and ensure that the services are registered and inspected by HIQA. These draft standards outline what is expected of a provider of services and what a person with a disability, his or her family, and the public can expect to receive from residential care services.

The draft standards document is currently the subject of a 5 week consultation process prior to being finalised and brought before the Board of HIQA. The final agreed standards will then be forwarded to my Department for approval with a likely publication date in January 2013. It is expected that the new regulatory system should be up and running by mid 2013. Work is also ongoing in my Department on both the 'Registration and Inspection' regulations and the 'Care and Welfare' regulations required to bring the standards into law. These are being developed taking into account the lessons learned from similar regulations for nursing homes.

In broader terms, the report echoes many of the findings of the VFMPR report and my Department in conjunction with the HSE, is currently developing an implementation framework for the recommendations in the VFMPR report which will be informed by the NESC report as appropriate. It is the intention that adherence to quality standards and a focus on personal outcomes, as underpinned by personal needs assessments, will be built into service provision as the recommendations in the review are implemented, so as to align disability service provision with Government policy, over time and within available resources.

Care of the Elderly

11. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Health the total number of patients that have been staying in acute hospitals for more than three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48928/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The SDU has worked with the Clinical Care Programme on the Elderly and the HSE on proposals for a joint Acute Hospital/Community Service transitional care initiative. This will speed up access and egress from acute care (reducing ED times, length of stay, and delayed discharges). In 2012, this initiative will see 190 transitional care beds being put in place along with 150 rehabilitation beds, with the initial focus being on the Dublin North East and Dublin Mid-Leinster regions. There will also be investment in home supports and funding provided for rehabilitation packages (rehabilitation at home) and home adaptations. €12m has been made available to year end.

This initiative is about improving the patient experience and outcomes for our frail older people. The initiative will also underpin significant savings in bed days through moving from acute beds to transitional and rehabilitation beds and through reduction in the average length of stay for patients in acute beds.

In relation to the specific information sought by the Deputy I have asked the HSE to respond directly to the Deputy in relation to this matter.

Lourdes Hospital Redress Scheme Eligibility

12. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if the review he initiated in his Department on how best to compensate those women victims of the former consultant Michael Neary and who were excluded from the terms of the redress scheme on the grounds of age, has reported to him; the way he intends to proceed; how quickly he will act, in view of the fact that the number of women involved continues to reduce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48959/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): This Government has given a commitment in the Programme for Government to seek a mechanism to compensate those women who were excluded on age grounds alone from the Lourdes Hospital Redress Scheme. I understand that approximately 35 women who suffered an unnecessary bilateral oophorectomy were excluded from the Redress Scheme on the basis of age alone. The Scheme of Redress approved by Government in 2007 was a non-statutory, *ex-gratia* scheme. Awards were determined by an independent Redress Board in 2007 and 2008.

My Department has been engaged in a review to identify the most appropriate mechanism to compensate these women. This review has included taking instructions and legal advice, including advice from the Office of the Attorney General, with a view to bringing proposals to Government for a decision. This process is ongoing, and it is my intention that it will be brought to a satisfactory, legally sound conclusion as quickly as possible.

Hospital Bed Statistics

13. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the total number of bed closures in acute hospitals in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48927/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I believe we must concentrate on getting the best possible services for patients from the budgets available to us. This means we need to focus on how beds are used, on the throughput of patients, on reducing length of stay to international norms and on having as many procedures as possible carried out as day cases rather than inpatient work.

The work of the Special Delivery Unit, together with implementation of the Clinical Care Programmes in the HSE, will help to improve the efficiency of our hospitals, allowing us to treat as many patients as possible within budget. I believe that pursuing efficiencies through these means will be a far more productive approach than debating the number of beds open or closed at any one time.

In the current economic climate the acute sector must reduce its costs in order to deliver the agreed level of activity within the resources available to it. The emphasis in 2012 will continue to be to make the most effective use of acute bed capacity through shorter lengths of stay, in-

creased rates of day-of-surgery admission and more day surgery. For example, the implementation of the HSE's Acute Medicine Clinical Care Programme has saved 121,000 bed days to date this year. In this way the acute hospital system can ensure that, within the level of resources available, it provides safe, effective and efficient care to the maximum number of patients.

Throughout 2012 hospitals will open and close beds on various wards in order to deliver the planned level of activity. These beds may be closed for a number of reasons, including cost containment, infection control and refurbishment. It is not possible at this time to determine what beds in which wards will be closed and what length of time they will be closed for. The decision to open and close beds is made at hospital management level and approved by the Regional Director of Operations.

Please find in the table the latest data in relation to bed closures for the week ending 28th October 2012. There are 759 inpatient beds closed and an additional 11 day case beds. Contained in the table are the inpatients closures broken down under the various headings.

Overall numbers	In-patient Total	759	Profile of Inpatient bed closures	Reason
Day bed Total	11	Total Bed Closures	Summary	Infection Control
	770			23
				Cost Containment
				585
				Refurbishment / Maintenance
				55
				Seasonal Closures
				6
				Other
				90
Bed Type Summary	Surgical		Network Group Summary	Dublin Mid Leinster Region
253	Medical	339		196
	Critical Care	15		Dublin
	Oncology			178
	2 Not designated to a particular speciality	101		NorthEast Region
	Psychiatry	49		178
				South Region
				204
				West Region
				103
				Galway Hospital Region
				52
				Mid West Hospital Region
				26

Services for People with Disabilities

14. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that cuts to funding for disability services are beginning to threaten the progressive policy of accommodating persons with disabilities in community settings rather than in institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48970/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The HSE's Report 'Time to Move on from Congregated Settings' was published in July 2011 and sets out a framework to guide the transfer of identified individuals from congregated settings to live in the community. It is currently estimated that 3,600 people still reside in these settings. The Report defined a congregated setting as a residential setting of ten or more people. The Report found that, notwithstanding the commitment and initiative of dedicated staff and management, there were a significant number of people still experiencing institutional living conditions where they lacked basic privacy and dignity, living their lives apart from the community and families.

The HSE has established a National Implementation Group on Congregated Settings under its National Consultative Forum on Disabilities comprised of representatives from the HSE, disability umbrella groups and service user representative organisations. The Group is currently developing the high level implementation plan to be rolled out at regional and local level, in full consultation with the appropriate stakeholders. Implementation of the Report will pose sig-

nificant challenges for many stakeholders, including clients, families, disability service providers, the HSE, various Government Departments and statutory bodies, and representative organisations. In the context of the Joint Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities; launched in October 2011, the Department of Health and the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government have worked closely to identify sustainable funding resources to maintain progress on the transition programme. While the overall implementation of decongregation is expected to be cost neutral, and notwithstanding the significant progress on funding overall, the Department of Health has agreed to transfer funding of €1 million to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in 2013, to support the commencement of the programme. This funding will be ring fenced to meet the social housing needs of people leaving institutions in 2013, enabling housing authorities to provide up to 150 new homes in the community. These units will be additional to the overall social housing supports which are expected to be delivered through all supply mechanisms in 2013.

It must also be acknowledged that the Report recognises a seven year time-frame for the implementation of its recommendations. The HSE has advised that this time frame should be treated with caution as there are a number of complexities involved due to multi dimensional elements of implementation including, individual choice of accommodation, living arrangements and location, funding, and the future role of staff, training and skill mix.

Vaccination Programme

15. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Health if and when the signalled package of supports for children who contracted narcolepsy associated with the Pandemrix vaccine will be made available; the other measures that will be undertaken in this regard;; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48963/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): My Department is working closely with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Education and Skills to address the needs of those affected by narcolepsy following pandemic vaccination.

The HSE provides a range of services and supports to those affected including access to rapid diagnosis, clear treatment pathways, temporary medical cards and reimbursement of expenses incurred. Multi-disciplinary assessments which allow for the appropriate individualised health and educational supports to be put in place have commenced. The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) is also engaging with the HSE and with the individual schools and parents of children concerned to identify and provide educational supports for the children and adolescents affected.

My Department is considering all other possible supports which may need to be put in place for those affected. Any such supports require my approval and the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. officials are currently engaged in discussions with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on this issue.

I would like to assure the Deputy that this matter continues to be a priority for my Department.

Hospitals Building Programme

16. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Health if the relocation and redevelopment of Dublin's Maternity Hospital is being considered in the context of the decision

pending on the National Children's Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48741/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): On Tuesday, I announced the Government's decision to develop the new children's hospital at the campus of St James's Hospital in Dublin. In identifying the new site, the Government has carefully considered the report of the Dolphin Group along with detailed supplementary information on cost, time and planning which was subsequently sought from those members of the Group with the relevant technical expertise. The report was published on Tuesday on the website of my Department.

This decision has been made in the best interests of children, with clinical considerations being of paramount importance. It is essential that the new children's hospital can deliver best clinical outcomes for our children. Co-location with an adult hospital has been deemed essential by the Dolphin report, and by all previous reports on this issue, while tri-location with a maternity hospital is optimal. Co-location, and ultimately tri-location with a maternity hospital, on the St James's campus will support the provision of excellence in clinical care that our children deserve.

I intend to move quickly now to put in place all the necessary structures and governance arrangements to enable the delivery of this project as quickly as possible and to the highest quality. This Government regards the building of the new children's hospital as a key priority and no effort will be spared in expediting its completion.

The decision of the location of the new Children's hospital does not impact on the proposal to relocate the National Maternity Hospital to St Vincent's.

Universal Health Insurance White Paper

17. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Health when the White Paper on Financing Universal Health Insurance will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48933/12]

38. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Health in view of the numbers of persons dispensing with private health insurance, if he is reviewing his plans for funding universal healthcare through an insurance-based system, since such a system would be heavily dependent on private health insurance companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48965/12]

78. **Deputy Pearse Doherty** asked the Minister for Health in view of the fact that the Programme for Government promised the White Paper on Financing Universal Health Insurance early in his first term and that his Department's recent briefing for the Oireachtas Health and Children Committee stated that it will be published as early as possible within his term of office, if he will provide a report on progress on same on a more specific date for publication. [48976/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 17, 38 and 78 together.

The Government is embarking on a major reform programme for the health system, the aim of which is to deliver a single-tier health service, supported by universal health insurance (UHI), where access is based on need, not on income. Under UHI, every citizen will be insured and will have equal access to a comprehensive range of curative health services. A new Insurance Fund will subsidise or pay insurance premia for those who qualify for a subsidy. I

want to assure the Deputy that this Government is committed to the introduction of a universal health insurance model and is of the view that this model of healthcare will deliver the necessary reform of our healthcare system.

In designing the precise model of care on which universal health insurance will be based, I want to ensure that it meets the needs of the Irish system and achieves the best outcomes for patients. This requires that we carefully plan and sequence the reform programme and that we give detailed consideration to the most appropriate structures for delivery of different services. We also need to look at the relationships between services, and at best practice in healthcare reform.

To help us in this work, I established an Implementation Group on Universal Health Insurance in February of this year. The Group is tasked with assisting the Department of Health in developing detailed and costed implementation proposals for universal health insurance and in driving the implementation of various elements of the reform programme. The Group consists of a mix of those with executive responsibilities within the health service and external expertise, including international experts.

The Implementation Group has already met on five occasions and has advised the Department in relation to its work on some of the core building blocks for UHI, including the introduction of a Money Follows the Patient funding system and the creation of Hospital Groups.

The Group will also assist my Department in preparing a White Paper on Universal Health Insurance. The White Paper will outline details of the UHI model in addition to the estimated costs and financing mechanisms associated with the introduction of universal health insurance.

Preparation of a White Paper is a complex and technical process. It will require significant research and financial modelling to support analysis and costing of different design options. This, in turn, demands a wide-range of specialised expertise. Officials in my Department, in consultation with the Implementation Group on UHI, are putting in place a process to ensure the provision of this expertise to feed into the Department's preparation of the White Paper. This work is ongoing at present with a view to ensuring that the White Paper will be published as early as possible within the Government's term of office.

To complement the work of the Implementation Group on UHI, I also established the Health Insurance Consultative Forum in February of this year. The Forum 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 view to generating ideas which would help address health insurance costs. Its core focus is on identifying ways of addressing costs throughout the industry, whilst always respecting the requirements of competition law.

Bilateral meetings have taken place with each insurer where they have brought forward their own ideas for cost savings in the market. The Forum will also give a voice to the insurers in the development of the new Universal Health Insurance model.

Labour Court Recommendations

18. **Deputy Joan Collins** asked the Minister for Health his plans to ensure that there are standard contracts with detailed terms and conditions for workers in the home help sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [41678/12]

21. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Health his plans regarding the continuing refusal of the Health Service Executive to provide contracts to persons employed as home helps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48945/12]

23. **Deputy John Halligan** asked the Minister for Health his plans to ensure that there are standard contracts with detailed terms and conditions for workers in the home help sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [41676/12]

55. **Deputy John Halligan** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to concerns being raised by home helps with regards to their lack of contracts and conditions of employment; his plans to take action regarding same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [41677/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 18, 21, 23 and 55 together.

On 29 June 2012, the Labour Court recommended that the HSE and SIPTU should engage in relation to matters concerning home help contracts and that in the event that there are any outstanding issues, they may be referred back to the Court. The HSE engaged with SIPTU concerning the recommendation and advised that as part of the process it would be undertaking an information-gathering exercise to ascertain the up-to-date position regarding the nature of the contracts held by home helps and the hours worked under such contracts. This exercise is being undertaken at present.

Having met with the parties again on 15 October 2012, the Labour Court recommended that they should re-engage under the auspices of the Labour Relations Commission and that this engagement be completed by 30 November 2012. The parties are to meet at the LRC on 19 November 2012. It would not be appropriate for me, as Minister, to comment further on these matters while these processes are under way.

Positive Ageing Strategy Publication

19. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Health the date on which the Positive Ageing Strategy will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48948/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Programme for Government has committed to completing and implementing the National Positive Ageing Strategy so that older people are recognised, supported and enabled to live independent full lives.

The Strategy will set the strategic direction for future policies, programmes and services for older people in Ireland. It will set out a common framework for the development of operational plans by a number of Government Departments which will clearly set out each Department's objectives relating to older people. Mechanisms designed to monitor the implementation of measures contained in operational plans will also be included in the Strategy. However, I do not envisage that the Strategy will propose new service developments. Rather it will set the strategic direction for future policies, programmes and services for older people in Ireland.

A considerable amount of preparatory work has already been completed. The drafting of the Strategy will proceed within the Department within the constraints of available staff and other priorities. At this stage I envisage that a draft of the Strategy will be brought to Government in Q4 2012.

Services for People with Disabilities

20. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Health his plans for the future of St. Raphael's Centre in Youghal, County Cork, in the context of the implementation of the Time to Move On congregated setting report published in June 2011; the timeframe for the introduction of his plans; its impact on residents; its impact on staff and the future service provision for adults with an intellectual disability he intends providing at the St. Raphael's site in Youghal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48957/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): St Raphael's Centre, Youghal is a HSE intellectual disability service providing day, residential and respite services for 180 clients in Youghal. The majority of the services are delivered on the main campus that includes an old institutional style residential centre, where over 80 clients reside in dormitories. There are also two large hostels, a new 30 bedded unit and 3 community houses.

The HSE adopted the policy "Time to Move On" Congregated Setting report in June 2011, which recommends the transition of all people with disabilities who currently reside in large institutions into community living.

The HSE has established a National Implementation Group on Congregated Settings under the National Consultative Forum, which is comprised of representatives from the HSE, disability umbrella groups and service user representative organisations. I understand that this group is currently developing a high level implementation plan, to be rolled out at a regional and local level in full consultation with the appropriate stakeholders. The development of future plans for the residents of St Raphael's Centre will be a feature of these plans in due course.

The HSE is fully committed to engaging as appropriate with the key stakeholders in terms of the developments within any one service, both in terms of Congregated settings and other reconfiguration programmes, such as the New Directions Policy on Day Service provision in the Disability Sector.

At the current time I understand that there is no definitive plan or timescale around the decongregation of St Raphael's Centre. The HSE has informed me that its Disability Services Management team will engage fully with the staff and residents in the development of any future plans, to ensure that plans are person-centred for the individuals and take account of the valuable expertise and knowledge of the staff. The co-operation and collaboration of the staff from St. Raphael's will be a significant factor in ensuring that the move to community for the residents will be successful and sustainable in the long term.

Question No. 21 answered with Question No. 18.

Orthodontic Services Waiting Lists

22. **Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the periods of time children are waiting to receive orthodontic treatment; his views on whether it is unacceptable that applicants from May 2009 are only being processed now; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48753/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): The HSE provides orthodontic treatment to patients based on their level of clinical need. An individual's access to orthodontic treatment is determined against a set of clinical guidelines. Waiting times for orthodontic assessment and treatment vary across the country and within the HSE regions and

priority is given to patients with greatest needs. The HSE has commissioned an independent review of orthodontic services. The outcome of this review will give guidance as to what changes will be desirable to provide the best possible model of care delivery, given the current resources available and future demand for services.

Question No. 23 answered with Question No. 18.

Nursing Home Accommodation

24. **Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn** asked the Minister for Health in view of the fact that 1,201 public nursing home beds have been closed between January 2011 and August 2012, the current total number of nursing home beds in the State; the number public and the number private; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48964/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The latest validated information from the Health Service Executive indicates that at the end of September 2012 there were 7,376 public residential beds for older people in Ireland. Of these, 5,468 are designated long stay beds and 1,908 are designated as short term beds. 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 .

However, 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 . The completed survey for 2011 will be published shortly. 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.

Hospital Staff

25. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health the extent of staff shortages in acute hospitals; if the bill for agency staff in acute hospitals has reduced; the other alternatives to agency staff that are being used; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48924/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Animal Welfare Issues

26. **Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for Health if he will agree to animal welfare advice not to directly transpose a loophole in the ban on inflicting severe and prolonged pain on animals in experiments, article 55.3 of the Animal Experimentation Directive, and instead require the passage of secondary legislation for the licensing of such high levels of harm [48751/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The matter the Deputy is referring to are the Safeguard Clauses set out at Article 55 of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. These Safeguard Clauses cover exceptional circumstances in which Member States may, on scientifically justifiable grounds, provisionally authorise applications for derogations relating to a number of restrictions set out in the Directive including authorisation of procedures involving severe pain, suffering or distress that is likely to be long lasting and cannot be ameliorated.

Under Article 55(3), such exceptional provisional measures could, for example, be required to deal with an unexpected outbreak of a life threatening or debilitating clinical condition in humans or an outbreak of an highly infectious pathogenic disease. The Safeguard Clauses would also allow for emergency measures in the event of a natural disaster that resulted in, for example, the contamination of land and livestock.

It will only be possible to introduce any such provisional measure by way of Ministerial Order after consultation with the Irish Medicines Board (the Competent Authority for the purposes of the Directive) and any such measure will be subject to EU Member State and Commission scrutiny and approval. The European Commission, assisted by an Advisory Committee (composed of Member State representatives and chaired by the Commission) must, subsequently, authorise or disallow any such provisional authorisation.

It is clear from the Directive that the replacement, refinement and reduction of animal testing is at the core of this legislation and I strongly endorse this objective. Nevertheless, and even if difficult to foresee, it is my considered view that it is both reasonable and correct to make provision for exceptional emergency situations that might arise, if only to ensure that the necessary legislative tools are available to deal with such an eventuality. The Directive provides Member States with the legislative tools needed to respond in an effective way to such situations. Not to incorporate such tools in our transposition of the Directive might prove to be most regrettable if fate were to take a hand.

Universal Health Insurance Provision

27. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health if he will set out his revised timetable for the promised roll-out of free general practitioners care, beginning with long-term illness patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48974/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): 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 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 this Department and the Office of the Attorney General and will be published shortly. Implementation dates and application details will be announced in due course.

Mental Health Services Provision

28. **Deputy Robert Troy** asked the Minister for Health the action he has taken to develop mental health services for young persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

[46715/12]

319. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he is satisfied regarding the adequacy of child psychiatric or psychological services; the extent to which such services can meet the demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49148/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): I propose to take Questions Nos. 28 and 319 together.

The development of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has been prioritised by the HSE in recent years and considerable progress has been made to date. A special allocation of €35 million was provided in Budget 2012 for mental health, in line with commitments in the Programme for Government. Funding from this special allocation will be used primarily to strengthen Community Mental Health Teams in both Adult and Children's mental health services by ensuring, at a minimum, that at least one of each mental health professional discipline is represented on every team. Of the 414 posts approved to implement the €35 million package, 150 will be allocated to Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams. The National Recruitment Service of the HSE is currently working to recruit the necessary personnel and the posts are at various stages in the recruitment process. It is hoped that the bulk of the appointments will be made by the end of the year.

It is envisaged that the completion of the multi-disciplinary profile of current teams will facilitate further progress on the reduction in the waiting lists for CAMHS services. It is worth noting that despite an increase in demand for such services, the number of children waiting for an appointment reduced by 12% in the 12 month period to June 2012.

In terms of in-patient facilities, psychiatric bed capacity for children and adolescents has increased from 12 beds in 2007 to 44 at present - 12 in Dublin, 12 in Cork and 20 in Galway. Work on the second phase of the Child and Adolescent Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview has recently been completed and this will increase capacity from 12 to 18 beds in Dublin by the end of 2012. The increase in bed capacity in recent years is reflected in an almost 50% decrease in admissions of children to adult units since 2008.

The Linn Dara Child and Adolescent Mental Health Facility at Cherry Orchard, Dublin has recently opened and a number of Child and Adolescent Community Mental Health Teams have moved in to the new premises. It is expected that the Day Hospital will be in operation by the end of the year. The HSE is also seeking tenders from contractors as part of the process to develop a 22 bed Child and Adolescent in-patient facility on the Cherry Orchard site. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 22nd November.

Finally, a 10 bed Child and Adolescent Forensic Mental Health Unit will be provided as part of the National Forensic Mental Health Project. The Unit will be based in Portrane, co-terminus with the new Central Mental Hospital which is expected to be operational by 2016.

Accident and Emergency Services Provision

29. **Deputy Eamonn Maloney** asked the Minister for Health if, following civil disturbances at a concert (details supplied), the promoter has reimbursed the Connolly and Mater Hospitals, Dublin, for the costs incurred by the accident and emergency departments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48742/12]

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 Services

30. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the concern amongst persons in the south east regarding a reconfiguration of hospital services in the region; his plans regarding same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48925/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): A key stepping stone towards the introduction of Universal Health Insurance will be to develop independent not-for-profit hospital trusts in which all hospitals will function as part of integrated groups. The rationale behind the establishment of hospital groups and trusts is to support increased operational autonomy and accountability for hospital services in a way that will drive service reforms and provide the maximum possible benefit to patients. Reform across the three domains of access, quality and resources is not achievable unless there is real clinical and managerial accountability at hospital level.

The work on hospital groups is not about downgrading hospitals. It is about the bringing together groups of hospitals to form single cohesive entities to allow maximum flexibility in management, budgets and service delivery. With specific regard to the South East there remains full commitment to the retention of Waterford as one of the 8 existing national cancer services with all the associated services required in the hospital. The Trauma Centre at Waterford will also be retained. The provision of other services at any hospital site will, of course, primarily be determined by the appropriate clinical programme for that service, taking account of the population which the hospital serves and services provided by other hospitals which are within a reasonable commute.

Last June I appointed Professor John Higgins to chair a Strategic Board on the Establishment of Hospital Groups. The Strategic Board has representatives with both national and international expertise in health service delivery, governance and linkages with academic institutions. A Project Team was established to make recommendations to the Strategic Board on the composition of hospital groups, governance arrangements, management frameworks and linkages to academic institutions.

In order to form these recommendations, the project team has carried out a comprehensive consultation process with all acute hospitals and other health service agencies. The consultation process included 2 days of meetings with the hospitals in the South East, on 9th July and again on 4th October. Submissions, including a significant number of submissions from representatives of the South East hospitals and citizens from that Region have also been received by the group.

Work is continuing on finalising a Draft Report on the recommendations outlined above for submission to the Strategic Board. This report will be considered by the Board when they meet on 14th November. When the Board have signed off on this Report it will be submitted to me and I will then bring it to Cabinet. The composition of Hospital groups will be a Government decision, taking into account the recommendations of that Report.

Hospital groups will be established on an administrative basis pending the legislation required to set up hospital trusts by 2014. Before those trusts are established the make-up and functioning of the Groups will be reviewed and if changes prove necessary then they will be made with Government approval when the hospital trusts are being formed.

Vaccination Programme

31. **Deputy Derek Keating** asked the Minister for Health if he will report on the new forms recently issued to general practitioners for flu vaccinations in view of the fact that GPs have reported that the new forms take a considerable amount of extra time to complete by staff, require information that has already been submitted and is causing their system to be clogged up and the reason these new forms have been introduced during the middle of the programme [48744/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service issue, the question has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Care of the Elderly

32. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take to ensure the provision of care home places and other supports to allow the discharge of more than 600 acute hospital patients who are ready to be discharged but who cannot be discharged due to the lack of such supports and places; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48973/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Government policy is, in line with available resources, to support vulnerable older people to remain living at home and in their communities for as long as possible. Where this is not an option, for whatever reason, we support access to short-term or long-term residential care.

In relation to the figure of approximately 600 acute hospital patients referred to in the Deputy's question, the majority of these patients are awaiting discharge to either nursing homes or other care options. Figures provided to the Department show that, of the figure quoted by the Deputy, less than 10% over the period January-October 2012 have been delayed discharges due to awaiting provision of HSE Home Support services.

The HSE has been developing various operational initiatives to improve its approach to all relevant aspects of its Home Supports services. These include various new guidelines for Home Care, and a new Procurement Framework for approved agencies providing services on its behalf. While on-going developments have been designed to standardise and maximise the use of limited resources in the face of increasing demand, they are also intended to enhance quality, safety and other relevant aspects of service for both providers and care recipients alike. This has been a challenging year for the health services overall, including maintaining services in line with evolving resource pressures. The overall provision of home support services is therefore regularly reviewed at national and local levels, in the context of client need and resource availability.

Notwithstanding the recently announced reduction in HSE Home Support provision for the remainder of 2012, investment in these services remains significant with provision in the region of €320m expected for Home Help and Home Care Packages this year. Decisions in relation to the provision of home help hours will continue to be based on a review of individual needs.

Departmental Reports

33. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Health when he will publish his Department's report on mortality rates at acute hospitals; his views on whether his failure to acknowledge the inaccuracy of the figures at Roscommon County Hospital has damaged the reputation of the hospitals and its staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48749/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): It is essential to have a health system that is transparent and accountable. Information needs to be collected, analysed and intelligently interpreted in order to allow the health system and population it serves to monitor what it is doing, recognise where improvements are occurring and identify potential problems, so that actions can be taken to rectify them.

It makes sense to use available data and information to support important issues such as patient safety and quality of the care. The Hospital Inpatient Enquiry Scheme (HIPE) system is the largest system providing information on hospital care in this country.

With this in mind, the Chief Medical Officer of my Department has been working on a report entitled 'Health Care Quality Indicators in the Irish Health System: Examining the Potential of Hospital Discharge Data'. This includes the measure of recorded 30 day in-hospital mortality rates following heart attack.

The work to date demonstrates the value of using HIPE as a tool to derive knowledge and understanding of health care quality. However, this work has also uncovered variation in the accuracy of data as reported through the HIPE system. Some individual hospitals have looked into the origin of this variation and attributed it to inaccuracies in both the medical chart and the subsequent coding of information that is then inputted by individual hospitals in the HIPE system.

I am concerned about this finding in relation to data quality given its potential patient safety implications. I believe that, arising from this, there is a duty on all hospitals to address measures that can ensure that the information which they record and report is accurate.

Concerns have been raised by certain hospitals and clinicians that the report, which seeks only to examine quality of data, could be either inadvertently or deliberately misinterpreted as making inferences on quality of care. I understand this concern. However, I do not accept that the solution is to disregard these data. Where that source of information is found to be flawed the solution is to improve it. These data have been collected by hospitals and the hospitals themselves must be accountable for the quality of them.

Therefore, the CMO in conjunction with the HSE and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), wrote to every public hospital in the country in 2012 requesting that they ensure that the information they recorded and reported for 2011 and 2012 was accurate.

It is expected that the report will be finalised and published in the near future.

Services for People with Disabilities

34. **Deputy Dessie Ellis** asked the Minister for Health if he has carried out an audit of the cumulative effects of cuts to funding for disability services in recent years; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that such cuts are now threatening the very existence of basic services; and if he will ensure that no further cuts to funding of services for persons with disabilities will be imposed in the forthcoming Budget 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48962/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Expenditure on health services for people with a disability in 2012 will be in the region of €1.4 billion. The HSE National Service Plan 2012 provides for a 3.7% reduction in budgets but makes it clear that there is scope for achieving efficiencies of 2%, thereby limiting as much as possible the impact on front line services. Despite this reduction, which is similar to that applied across all

care areas in the Health sector, the HSE has undertaken to maximise the provision of services within available resources by providing for the following in 2012:

- 9,100 people in residential places
- 18,600 day service places
- 6,300 people receiving respite residential support
- 1.64 million hours of Personal Assistant / Home Support Hours

As you know, I recently published the Value for Money and Policy Review of Disability Services which identifies fundamental issues that need to be addressed in the way in which HSE-funded disability services are managed and operated, and lays the groundwork for the introduction of a significant restructuring of the Disability Services Programme through:

- (i) migration from an approach which is predominantly organised around group-based service delivery towards a model of person-centred, individually chosen, supports; and
- (ii) implementation of a more effective method of assessing need, allocating resources and monitoring resource use.

I must also stress that the nature of the core underlying deficit within the HSE, taken together with the requirements nationally to bring our public spending deficit down by 2015, will make 2013 and 2014 extremely challenging for all sectors, not just Health. I will be doing all possible to ensure that as much protection as possible is afforded to the disability sector, and the Social Care area as a whole.

Medicinal Products Supply

35. **Deputy Seán Crowe** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the recent positive developments in the area of vaccines for lung cancer, prostate cancer and meningitis in Cuba; his views on whether the widespread availability of these vaccines for cancer and meningitis sufferers would be welcome; and if there is anything that he can do to promote their availability in here and in Europe. [44822/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Internationally, research continues to result in the development of new medicines in a number of countries to fight a broad range of diseases, including those listed by the Deputy. There is a clear process whereby a pharmaceutical company may apply for a marketing authorisation to place a medicinal product on the market in Ireland.

Any pharmaceutical company that wishes to place a medicinal product on the market may seek a marketing authorisation from the Irish Medicines Board, or seek authorisation centrally from the European Medicines Agency. Strict controls are in place to ensure that whenever a new vaccine becomes available this vaccine is safe and effective.

I am kept informed by my Chief Medical Officer of new developments in this area.

Medicinal Products Expenditure

36. **Deputy John Browne** asked the Minister for Health the details of the deal made with the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association on 15 October 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48923/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly) (Deputy James Reilly): I announced on the 15th October, 2012 that intensive negotiations involving the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA), the HSE and the Department of Health had reached a successful conclusion with a major new deal on the cost of drugs in the State. The main provisions of the new Agreement are as follows:

- With effect from 1st November 2012, the ex factory price of all patent protected medicines reimbursed in Ireland prior to September 2006 will be realigned - downwards only - to the average of the basket of 9 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, and UK).

- With effect from 1st November 2012, the ex factory price of all patent expired medicines which do not have a generic equivalent on the Irish market will be realigned - downwards only - to the average of the basket of 9 countries.

- With effect from 1st November 2012, the ex factory price of all patent expired medicines which have a generic equivalent on the Irish market will be reduced to 60% of the original price. With effect from 1st November 2013, the price will be reduced to 50% of the original price.

In the case of medicines which go off patent after 1st November 2012, the ex factory price will drop to 70% of the original price as soon as a generic equivalent comes on the Irish market. After 12 months, the price will be reduced to 50% of the original price.

- With effect from 1st January 2013, the ex factory price of medicines introduced to Ireland after September 1st 2006, will be realigned - downwards only - to the average of the basket of 9 countries.

The deal will deliver a number of important benefits, including significant reductions for patients in the cost of drugs; a lowering of the drugs bill to the State; timely access for patients to new cutting-edge drugs for certain conditions; and reducing the cost base of the health system into the future,

This deal, combined with an interim agreement reached with IPHA in the Summer, means that €16 million in drug savings will be made this year. It is estimated that the deal will generate savings of up to €116m in 2013, €136m in 2014 and €150m on 2015. A breakdown of savings by scheme is not currently available. The cost of new drugs over the next three years is estimated to be €210 million.

This landmark deal with IPHA comes as legislation aimed at reducing the cost of generic drugs makes its way through the Oireachtas. The Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill 2012, which will introduce a system of reference pricing and generic substitution, is a priority for this Government. It is expected that this Bill will be enacted before the end of the year and will deliver further savings in the costs of medicines for the health service and private patient.

Carer's Allowance Applications

37. **Deputy Timmy Dooley** asked the Minister for Health if his Department or the Health Service Executive is concerned about delays in processing applications for carer's payments;

the implications of such delays for health services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48926/12]

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. 38 answered with Question No. 17.

European Court of Human Rights Judgments

39. **Deputy Mick Wallace** asked the Minister for Health if he has received the report from the expert group in relation to the A, B and C versus Ireland judgement in the European Court of Human Rights; his views on the fact that it is now eleven months since this group was established with a view to reporting back to Government within six months; the reasons for this delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48824/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I wish to inform the Deputy that I have not yet received the report of the Expert Group on the judgment in *A, B and C v Ireland*. The matters the Group is examining are of a complex and sensitive nature; and they requested an extension to the time limit they were given to complete their work. The Expert Group expects their report will be completed and submitted to me shortly for my consideration and I will subsequently submit it to Government.

Departmental Reports

40. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for Health the date on which he will publish the Small Hospitals Report *Securing the Future of Smaller Hospitals: A Framework for Development*; if he will confirm that this report recommends the closure of the ICU and full ED services at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, County Meath, as well as at eight other sites; if he will provide an update in the proposed development of a new regional hospital in the Health Service Executive North East area; if he will commit to maintaining ICU and full ED services at Our Lady's Navan until such a facility is in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48979/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The future organisation of our acute hospitals is a major policy issue for the Government. It is essential that all hospitals provide care in the right way, at the right location, and in a manner that ensures a safe, high quality service for all.

The Government is committed to securing and further developing the role of our smaller hospitals which will see them provide more, not fewer services. The challenge is to make sure that they provide services, which can safely be delivered in these settings, in order to maximise the benefit to patients. All hospitals, irrespective of size, as well as associated GP and community services, must work together in an integrated way. There have already been very significant developments recently in health care delivery, particularly in the context of shifts to day surgery and ambulatory care, and the centralisation of low volume high complexity care into larger centres. In this context, it is necessary that we redefine the role of the smaller hospitals so that they continue to play a central part of the Irish Health care system.

The Framework for Smaller Hospitals defines the role of the smaller hospitals. It outlines the need for smaller hospitals and larger hospitals to operate together. The Framework outlines the wide range of services that can be provided within the smaller hospital. It defines the need

for the smaller hospital to be supported within a group of hospitals in terms of education and training, continuous professional development, the sustainable recruitment of high quality clinical staff and the safe management of patients who present with varying levels of complexity. It also sets out to address the categories of services that should transfer from the larger to the smaller hospitals and *vice versa* within a Hospital Group so that services are delivered in the most appropriate hospital.

Work is in progress on developing a detailed plan for service enhancements in each of the nine smaller hospitals that are covered by the Smaller Hospitals Framework. These plans are based on detailed local analysis of the services in place and what can be provided in the future.

I am determined to ensure that as many services as possible can be provided safely and appropriately in smaller, local hospitals. On this basis, the organisation of hospital services nationally, regionally and locally will be informed by the ongoing development of the HSE Clinical Programmes. With this in mind the Framework will set out what services can and should be delivered safely by these hospitals in the interest of better outcomes for patients.

The Smaller Hospitals Framework is currently being examined in the context of the overall reorganisation of the health services. The HSE is in the final stages of a consultation process to help inform the details of the service changes. This consultation process has sought feedback from all stakeholders, including local communities and health professionals in each hospital who deliver the service, and their feedback will be captured as input to the change process. Until this process has been fully completed I do not think that it is appropriate to comment on individual hospitals at this time.

It is my intention to publish the Framework when this process has been completed.

Ambulance Service Response Times

41. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Health the progress that has been made in the Health Service Executive West region since the introduction of standardised ambulance response times; the steps being taken to improve ambulance response times in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48750/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Health Services Staff Issues

42. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Health his plans to make health service employees work longer hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48937/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): There are no plans at present to require health service employees to work longer hours. Health service management met recently with the principal health unions and outlined the nature of the financial and staffing challenges facing the sector in 2013 and beyond. In that context, management tabled a range of flexibility and reform proposals, within the scope of the Public Service Agreement, to ensure that savings and efficiencies are maximised.

Subsequently, and in response to a request by the Implementation Body to each sector, a revised Action Plan for implementation of the Agreement in the health sector has been submitted for consideration to the Body.

Mobility Allowance Eligibility

43. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Health his plans to review the mobility allowance for persons over 66 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48892/12]

83. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health the way he intends to address the refusal by his Department of Mobility Allowance to persons over 66 years of age; if he will immediately remove the age restrictions; if he will provide for retrospective payment to all those entitled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48958/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): I propose to take Questions Nos. 43 and 83 together.

This matter requires further consideration by Government in order to meet the requirements of the Equal Status Acts and to ensure no hardship for those currently in receipt of the Mobility Allowance. The Department of Health is seeking further legal advice as to the options available to the Government.

The Ombudsman is asking the Department to remove the upper age limit as a condition of the Mobility Allowance scheme with immediate effect; authorise the Health Service Executive (HSE) to reconsider the application for complaints in the report without taking account of the upper age limit; and instruct the HSE to reconsider applications since 1 April 2011, which were refused solely on the basis of the upper age limit, without regard to the upper age limit.

The Department is not in a position to amend the circular relating to the Mobility Allowance as recommended in the report. The recommendations, if implemented, would ignore the very serious financial constraints on the Department, the HSE and the State generally. Implementation of the recommendations would create liabilities that the State could not afford.

Palliative Care Services

44. **Deputy John Browne** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take on foot of the recent NESC report Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: End of Life Care in Hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48936/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Government policy on Palliative Care is contained in the Report of the National Advisory Committee on Palliative Care (2001) and the Health Service Executive Five Year / Medium Term Framework for Palliative Care Services (2009-13).

In common with a series of NESC reports, the one raised by the Deputy in relation to End of Life Care in Hospitals, calls for various actions. These reflect to varying degrees initiatives currently being pursued by the Department and the HSE and include, for example, implementation of existing commitments on quality, increased professionalisation of care, and improving performance indicators or other measures at national and local levels to ensure optimum delivery of palliative care.

The Government remains committed to the delivery of the best possible palliative and End-of-Life care services nationally including addressing geographical deficits and progressing agreed paediatric care policy.

The recent report by NESC is a valuable contribution to on-going consideration of develop-

ing these policies and services in the future, and it is in that context being examined in detail by the Department.

Hospital Services

45. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he will ensure that any reorganisation of general hospital services throughout the country will not result in the closure or downgrading of existing hospitals on the grounds of being obsolete or outdated particularly if this has been caused by a lack of a proper development plan with adequate funding over the past number of years; if the need to meet patient needs in a particular catchment area will continue to remain the major criterion for the future development of the general hospital services; if the determination of such policy rests with his Department, the Health Service Executive or others; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48921/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Under the Programme for Government 2011-2016, the Government committed to developing a universal, single-tier health service, which guarantees access to medical care based on need, not income. On foot of this commitment the Government will introduce a system of Universal Health Insurance (UHI).

A key stepping stone to the new system will be to develop independent not-for-profit hospital trusts in which all hospitals will function as part of integrated groups. The rationale behind the establishment of hospital groups and trusts is to support increased operational autonomy and accountability for hospital services in a way that will drive service reforms and provide the maximum possible benefit to patients.

The work on hospital groups is not about downgrading hospitals. It is about the bringing together groups of hospitals to form single cohesive entities to allow maximum flexibility in management, budgets and service delivery.

The provision of services at any hospital site will primarily be determined by the appropriate clinical programme for that service, taking account of the population which the hospital serves and services provided by other hospitals which are within reasonable a reasonable commute.

Each Hospital Group will have a single consolidated management team with responsibility for performance and outcomes. It is intended that non-executive Boards, consisting of representative experts, will oversee each Hospital Group management team and will have responsibility for decisions in relation to services in all hospitals in the Group.

Earlier this year I appointed Professor John Higgins to chair a Strategic Board on the Establishment of Hospital Groups. A Project Team was tasked with developing criteria which will assist my Department in the development of policy in relation to the composition of hospital groups, governance arrangements, current management frameworks and linkages to academic institutions. The Team carried out a comprehensive consultation process with all acute hospitals and other health service agencies as well as reviewing a significant number of written submissions.

Work is continuing on finalising a Draft Report on the recommendations for submission to the Strategic Board for consideration when they meet on 14th November. The Report will be submitted to me when the Board have signed off on it and in turn, I will then bring it to Cabinet.

The Government will then decide on the initial make up of hospital groups which be established on an administrative basis pending the legislation required to set up hospital trusts by 2014. Before those trusts are established the make-up and functioning of the Groups will be

reviewed and if changes prove necessary then they will be made with Government approval when the hospital trusts are being formed.

National Children's Hospital Status

46. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health the date on which the report of the Dolphin Review Group on the National Children's Hospital will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48955/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Following the refusal of planning permission by An Bord Pleanála of planning permission for the new children's hospital on the Mater site, I established a Review Group chaired by Dr Frank Dolphin (the Dolphin Group) to advise on next steps. Their report was presented to me on 8 June last.

On Tuesday, I announced the Government's decision to develop the new children's hospital at the campus of St James's Hospital in Dublin. In identifying the new site, the Government has carefully considered the report of the Dolphin Group along with detailed supplementary information on cost, time and planning which was subsequently sought from those members of the Group with the relevant technical expertise. The report was published on Tuesday on the website of my Department.

This decision has been made in the best interests of children, with clinical considerations being of paramount importance. It is essential that the new children's hospital can deliver best clinical outcomes for our children. Co-location with an adult hospital has been deemed essential by the Dolphin report, and by all previous reports on this issue, while tri-location with a maternity hospital is optimal. Co-location, and ultimately tri-location with a maternity hospital, on the St James's campus will support the provision of excellence in clinical care that our children deserve.

I intend to move quickly now to put in place all the necessary structures and governance arrangements to enable the delivery of this project as quickly as possible and to the highest quality. This Government regards the building of the new children's hospital as a key priority and no effort will be spared in expediting its completion.

National Children's Hospital Location

47. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if in the determination of the location for the new children's hospital he will have particular regard to the unsuitability of the previously preferred location on planning grounds and that there was general agreement on its unsuitability on the grounds of traffic congestion and parking; if he will ensure that the new location will have regard to this issue and that the soon to be chosen site will represent the easiest possible access from all parts and that such access is measured in time of peak traffic times; if he will further ensure that the need to easy and rapid access for children in need of urgent treatment is strictly observed, that the concerns of the parents of sick children are borne in mind and that preparatory expenditure to date does not become a determining factor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48920/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Following the refusal of planning permission by An Bord Pleanála of planning permission for the new children's hospital on the Mater site, I established a Review Group chaired by Dr Frank Dolphin (the Dolphin Group) to advise on next steps. Their report was presented to me on 8 June last.

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Despite the fact that access issues were a dominant feature of previous discussions around the Mater site, An Bord Pleanála did not cite difficulty of access to, or lack of parking at, the site as reasons for refusal. The Dolphin Report notes that St James's has "excellent public transport services" with four bus services, a Luas stop on campus and two others adjacent. Data provided by the National Ambulance Service does not indicate any significant difference in national ambulance driving times overall to each of the location options. A higher percentage of children in Dublin live within a 10 km radius of St James than live within 10 km of any other potential site. It is recognised that most of the children who will attend this hospital will arrive by car. Dublin City Council has indicated to St James that the campus can accommodate about 2,000 spaces in total.

I intend to move quickly now to put in place all the necessary structures and governance arrangements to enable the delivery of this project as quickly as possible and to the highest quality. This Government regards the building of the new children's hospital as a key priority and no effort will be spared in expediting its completion.

National Children's Hospital Status

48. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the development of the National Children's Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48972/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Following the refusal of planning permission by An Bord Pleanála of planning permission for the new children's hospital on the Mater site, I established a Review Group chaired by Dr Frank Dolphin (the Dolphin Group) to advise on next steps. Their report was presented to me on 8 June last.

On Tuesday, I announced the Government's decision to develop the new children's hospital at the campus of St James's Hospital in Dublin. In identifying the new site, the Government has carefully considered the report of the Dolphin Group along with detailed supplementary information on cost, time and planning which was subsequently sought from those members of the Group with the relevant technical expertise.

This decision has been made in the best interests of children, with clinical considerations being of paramount importance. It is essential that the new children's hospital can deliver best clinical outcomes for our children. Co-location with an adult hospital has been deemed essential by the Dolphin report, and by all previous reports on this issue, while tri-location with a maternity hospital is optimal. Co-location, and ultimately tri-location with a maternity hospital, on

the St. James's campus will support the provision of excellence in clinical care that our children deserve.

I intend to move quickly now to put in place all the necessary structures and governance arrangements to enable the delivery of this project as quickly as possible and to the highest quality. This Government regards the building of the new children's hospital as a key priority and no effort will be spared in expediting its completion.

Care of the Elderly

49. **Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the Minister for Health if additional funding for the care of older persons has been provided in 2012; if he intends such funding to be increased year on year between now and 2016; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48934/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The HSE Service Plan 2012 provided in the region of €1.4 billion overall for Services for Older People. This includes Long Term Residential Care, Home Care Supports, Day or Respite Care and Health Promotion.

The position in relation to 2013, or beyond, is subject to the annual Estimates process in the light of evolving resources and services priorities for the health sector overall.

Hospitals Building Programme

50. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Health if he will be seeking sanction from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for the relocation of the National Maternity Hospital to the Elm Park development to enable co-location with St. Vincent's University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48740/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The 2008 KPMG Independent Review of Maternity and Gynaecology Services in the Greater Dublin Area Report recommended that the Dublin maternity hospitals should be located alongside adult acute services. Co-location of maternity hospitals with adult acute services is the optimal solution for the provision of hospital-based maternity services, as it can provide access to the full range of medical and surgical specialties and clinical support services in sufficient volume and complexity to provide added value. This is particularly important for high-risk mothers and babies. Therefore it is proposed that the maternity hospitals should be relocated alongside adult acute services. In this context the National Maternity Hospital is to be relocated to St Vincent's.

This project cannot be dealt with in isolation and must be considered in the context of the HSE multi-annual capital programme. The HSE is required to prioritise capital infrastructure projects within its overall capital funding allocation taking into account the existing capital commitments and costs to completion over the period. Work on the draft Capital Plan for the next multi-annual period 2013-2017 will begin shortly and will be submitted to my Department in due course. My Department will then review the proposals and follow up where further details may be required. The draft Capital Plan 2013-2017 will require my approval with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

Energy Conservation

51. **Deputy Peadar Tóibín** asked the Minister for Health in view of the Health Service Executive budget overrun and consequent cuts in essential services, his views on whether the energy costs across the health sector, estimated by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland at €80 million a year at least, should be reduced by up to 20% on an urgent basis; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that existing voluntary projects show the potential for such savings by implementing targeted and low-cost energy efficiency programmes; the measures he and the HSE are taking to ensure that such savings are made within the next two years instead of unnecessary cutbacks to essential services and thus make these cuts that do not hurt; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48980/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The HSE was one of the first bodies to join the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Public Sector Partnership Programme and is actively working with SEAI in developing various energy efficiency improvement programmes. Some of these programmes have featured in the recently published - Energy Use in the Public Sector. The HSE is committed to achieving savings through improved processes used in its energy procurement, including the use of best practice and expert opinion when procuring energy.

Health Insurance Company Payments

52. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health the amount in total that is owed to individual hospitals here and the Health Service Executive from private health insurers since 2009; his views on when this money will be paid in full to the hospitals and the HSE by the health insurers; the mechanism being used to recoup these outstanding charges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48747/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The amount of money outstanding in private insurance income at the 31st July 2012 is €216m, of which €125m is due to statutory hospitals and €91m to voluntary hospitals.

The HSE and Voluntary hospitals, recoup a considerable amount of income from private insurance companies in return for private and semi-private treatment services provided to patients with private health insurance cover. Lengthy delays can occur between the discharge of patients and the receipt of payment from the health insurance companies. I have emphasised to the HSE the importance of addressing this problem, in conjunction with the insurers, so that the maximum resources possible are available to the health system.

The HSE has introduced a number of initiatives to improve the claims collection process and facilitate faster submission of claims which will accelerate income collection within the public hospital system. In particular:

- The HSE has tasked hospitals with bringing down the value of claims awaiting Consultant action and hospitals will also target the highest-value claims.

- The proposals agreed by health service employers and the two consultant representative bodies at the Labour Relations Commission included a commitment on the part of all consultants to expeditious processing and signing of claims for submission to private health insurers. Consultants will be required to fully complete and sign private insurance forms within 14 days of receipt of all the relevant documentation and to co-operate with the secondary Consultant scheme whereby a secondary Consultant involved in a case can sign the claim form if the primary consultant has not signed within a reasonable timeframe. They will also be required to support the implementation of electronic claim preparation. Health service management is now proceeding with implementation of this and other measures, having regard to the relevant provi-

sions in the Public Sector Agreement.

- The HSE has also awarded the contract for the roll-out of an electronic claims management system in eleven HSE sites. The system is currently operational in 6 HSE sites and a further 3 sites are expected to be operational by mid-November. This system will address the deficiencies of the current paper based process, will streamline the claims collection process and will also ensure that standardised work practices are implemented across hospitals.

Furthermore, my Department has agreed, in principle, a system of improved cash flow and accelerated payment with private health insurers. This will provide a once-off cash flow benefit in 2012 in the order of €125m. The accelerated payment arrangements are at an advanced stage with the detail of the legal agreements between the HSE and Insurers expected to be finalised very shortly.

Care of the Elderly

53. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health the reasons that from 12 November 2012 Services for Older People Respite Service for the south Louth area will be removed from the Cottage Hospital in Drogheda and instead provided in a private nursing home, Moorehall Lodge, despite the fact that a consultation process on the future of the Cottage Hospital is still ongoing; if he will ensure the return of these respite services to the Cottage Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48977/12]

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.

Services for People with Disabilities

54. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Health his response to the appeal by nine leading disability organisations issued on 17 September 2012 calling on him to halt cuts to funding for services for persons with disabilities [48969/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Pending completion of the national estimates, budgetary and service planning process for 2013 it is not possible to predict the service levels to be provided next year.

Question No. 55 answered with Question No. 18.

Hospital Consultants Remuneration

56. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the Health Service Executive negotiations with representatives of hospital consultants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48971/12]

62. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for Health the latest developments regarding hospital consultants' working practices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48943/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 56 and 62 together.

The measures agreed between health service management and the consultant representative bodies at the Labour Relations Commission in September will allow for very significant reforms in how services are delivered and will ultimately lead to improved outcomes for users of the services. The agreement encompasses a range of flexibilities centred on enhancing productivity and efficiency on an ongoing basis and on maximising the availability of consultants, as key clinical decision-makers. Health service managers are proceeding with implementation of these measures as appropriate to each site and service, with effect from 5 November, in line with the procedures provided for in the Public Service Agreement.

On 6 November, the Labour Court issued its recommendations in relation to three matters which had been referred to it. These concern consultants' current "rest day" arrangements, the fee to consultant psychiatrists for giving a second opinion under the Mental Health Act 2001 and the issue of "historic rest days". Health service management will be taking the necessary steps over the coming weeks to give effect to the Court's recommendations.

I look forward to all consultants embracing the changes agreed at the LRC and complying with the terms of the Labour Court recommendations, in the interests of providing the most appropriate and cost-effective services to patients.

Care of the Elderly

57. **Deputy Brendan Smith** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take on foot of the recent NESC report Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland: Home Care for Older People; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48935/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): New statutory regulation of this sector will have to take account of various issues, such as those raised in recent reports of the Law Reform Commission.

Primary legislation and additional resources will be required to introduce statutory regulation for home care services, including for the private sector. The question of possible legislative changes, including regulation and inspection for relevant services, is under consideration in the overall context of licensing Health Care providers. Various options are being examined at present, including the complex legal issues involved, and the need to prioritise legislation across the wider Social Care area, such as that relating to Children or Disabilities.

I wish to stress that statutory regulation is only one way of improving the safety and quality of existing HSE services, and that other operational measures as reflected in the HSE Service Plan 2012 have or are being taken to improve home care services for older people delivered by, or on behalf of, the Executive.

The recent report by NESC is a valuable contribution to our on-going development of policies and services for older people, and it is in that context being examined in detail by the Department.

HSE Properties

58. **Deputy Sandra McLellan** asked the Minister for Health if he will advise on all enquiries made or consideration being given to the disposal or sale, either in full or in part, of St. Raphael's Centre in Youghal, including the associated buildings and lands; the status now of any of the above; if he will give any details of his Departments or the Health Service Executive

proposals or plans regarding the sale in full or in part of the said entity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48956/12]

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.

Care of the Elderly

59. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health his response to a recent report which states that every day over the next ten years, an additional seven older persons in the State will require long-term residential care or home help; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48941/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The Report entitled *Towards the Development of a Predictive Model of Long-Term Care Demand for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland* was launched on 25 October last.

The report is a welcome contribution on how we as a society might meet the changing requirements of older people across all of Ireland in future years. The various issues raised in the report are broadly familiar to the Department of Health. The Report is at present being considered in detail by the Department in the context of developing policies and services for older people, as agreed under the *Programme for National Recovery 2011-16*.

Alcohol Sales Legislation

60. **Deputy Willie O'Dea** asked the Minister for Health the intentions he has regarding the report of the National Substances Misuse Strategy Steering Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48954/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): The report of the National Substance Misuse Strategy Steering Group is a roadmap for the future direction of policy to deal with the use and misuse of alcohol. The report made a range of recommendations on the supply, availability and marketing of alcohol; it also recommended measures on minimum unit pricing to target at risk drinkers and includes measures on prevention strategies, treatment and rehabilitation as well as substance dependency research and information. Taken together, these policy measures will tackle the harms of alcohol misuse in our society.

My Department is in the final stages of preparing a concrete set of proposals on the basis of the National Substance Misuse Strategy Steering Group report; and following consideration by the Cabinet Committee on Social Policy, the intention is to submit these to Government for consideration and approval as soon as possible.

Health Services Reform

61. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if it is the case that the Health Service Executive has taken the decision to outsource central payroll operations and its support system infrastructure; the number of staff currently working in this area broken down by HSE region; the savings expected to be made by such a move; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48967/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): One of the key commitments in the Public Service Reform Plan is to identify and evaluate new business models and opportunities to support the delivery of non-core processes and services. External Service Delivery is an area that can potentially deliver a range of benefits for the provision of health services. These include both cost and efficiency savings stemming from better work and management practices. The Health Sector, along with Education, Justice and Local Government Sectors, are required to prepare and implement detailed benefits-driven external service delivery plans. This plan is currently being prepared by my Department in conjunction with the HSE.

The option of external delivery of the HSE payroll is currently being explored. The particular operational issues raised by the Deputy have been forwarded to the HSE for direct response.

Question No. 62 answered with Question No. 56.

Medical Aids and Appliances Provision

63. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Health the extent of, and the actions he will take to reverse, the decision of Health Service Executive services to refuse to provide incontinence pads to persons in need, including in serious health circumstances in some cases forcing medical card holders to buy a full box at a cost of €44 and the refusal to provide appropriate gloves for the safe insertion of catheters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48960/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): I have asked the Health Service Executive to investigate this matter and I will respond to the Deputy as soon as possible.

Health Services Staff Issues

64. **Deputy Jonathan O'Brien** asked the Minister for Health the annual outlay for personal assistants in each of the years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the anticipated spend for same in 2012; if he will confirm that there will be no cuts to services for persons dependent on personal assistants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48961/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The Health Service Executive (HSE) provides a range of assisted living services, including Personal Assistant services, to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives. As detailed in the HSE National Service Plan 2012, due to regional variations in service developments and budget allocations, data collected under the performance indicators process has become increasingly unreliable. The National Disability Governance Group is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the performance indicator process. As a result, reliable data for 2008-2010 cannot be provided.

In 2011, a total of 1.68 million personal assistant/home support hours were provided to persons with physical and/or sensory disability. In 2012 the target for PA hours is 1.64 million hours. It is anticipated that the outturn of 1.68 million in 2011 and the 2012 target will both be exceeded. In 2011, an additional 16,000 hours PA/Home Support hours were provided as a result of €10 million demographic funding allocated to Disability Services. It was not possible to provide additional funding in 2012 for this purpose.

Although the funding allocated to disability services in 2012 was reduced by 3.7%, the HSE's main aim was to minimize the impact this would have on service users and their families as much as possible. Service efficiencies around the provision of Personal Assistant services are currently being achieved through a process of negotiation with service providers around the unit cost of providing the service, rather than reducing the number of PA hours. In this context, the National Disability Unit is engaging with each HSE region to identify models and approaches in place pertaining to Personal Assistant and Home Support Services as well as cost, such as hourly and daily rates, involved in providing services. This process will identify the precise nature of the services available with the intent of identifying agreed models of service delivery.

Pending completion of the national estimates, budgetary and service planning process of 2013, it is not possible to predict the service levels to be provided next year.

Services for People with Disabilities

65. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the action he is taking to ensure that school leavers with mental health disabilities who will leave school in 2013 will have suitable placements and services available to them after leaving school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48930/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Day services for adults with disabilities and mental health issues 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 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 (life skills) training (RT);
- Health-funded day services;
- FÁS-funded vocational training;
- Approval to extend education placement for a specified time.

The demand for services for school-leavers continues to grow. In 2012, almost 700 school-leavers required RT places or day services and the position in 2013 is expected to be similar. Budgetary constraints and the moratorium on staff recruitment give rise to challenges in service provision. In addition the physical capacity to provide further services may not be present in all agencies. However both the voluntary sector and the HSE are committed to the best use of available resources in a creative and flexible manner so as to be as responsive as possible to the needs of this cohort. While the HSE makes every effort to provide day services or RT places to school-leavers with special needs, this has always been dependant on the availability and location of appropriate places coupled with the needs of the individual school-leaver. The HSE is currently reviewing the outcomes for 2012 school-leavers in terms of placements achieved and scoping out the likely requirements for 2013.

There is evidence that an accelerated move towards a new model of individualised, person-centred service provision in the community can help to achieve efficiencies, particularly in relation to services for those with mild or moderate intellectual disability. The HSE has established an implementation project team to oversee the implementation of the recommendations

in the report of the National Working Group for the Review of HSE-funded Adult y Services. The report, published in February 2012, titled 'New Directions', proposes that day services in the future take the form of a menu of 12 individualised, outcome-focussed supports which will provide adults with disabilities with the support necessary to live a life of their choosing in accordance with their own wishes, aspirations and needs. The guiding principle for the future is that supports will be tailored to individual need and will be flexible, responsive and person-centred.

Health Insurance Prices

66. **Deputy Barry Cowen** asked the Minister for Health his views on the latest increase in VHI prices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48939/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Deputy is referring to the recent VHI announcement that it is to increase prices by between 2%-3% across most of its plans with effect from 22 November 2012.

VHI sets its own premiums and I am not legally empowered to direct the VHI in any way in relation to its prices. However, the Government is committed to keeping down the cost of health insurance so that it is affordable for as many people as possible.

I have consistently raised the issue of costs with VHI and with the other health insurers and I am determined to address costs in the sector in the interests of consumers.

The VHI has the great majority of less healthy customers in the health insurance market, and as a result, pays out by far the highest proportion of claims in the market. People are living longer with chronic illnesses and this in turn is contributing to increased demand and utilisation of healthcare services.

The Government is committed to keeping down the cost of health insurance so that it is affordable for as many people as possible, and is committed to protecting community rating, whereby everyone pays the same price for the same health insurance product, irrespective of age or gender. A significant degree of support for the cost of health insurance claims by older people is provided for through the Interim Risk Equalisation Scheme which has been in place since 2009. The Programme for Government contains a commitment to put a permanent scheme of risk equalisation in place. This is a key requirement for the existing Private Health Insurance market and is designed to keep health insurance affordable for older persons and to maintain the stability of the market. The Government published the Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2012 to give effect to a new Risk Equalisation Scheme to be applied from 1 January 2013 which I will shortly bring before the Oireachtas.

Health Screening Programmes

67. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Health when BreastCheck will be extended to women aged 65 to 69 years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48929/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The BreastCheck Programme provides free mammograms to all women aged 50-64. The Programme for Government includes the extension of Breastcheck to women in the 65-69 age group, in keeping with EU Guidelines on effective screening for breast cancer.

The main priority for the HSE's National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS) at present is to maximise national uptake in the 50-64 year age cohort.

The extension of the BreastCheck programme has been listed as a priority in the HSE's 3 year Corporate Plan (2012 -2015). The HSE's National Cancer Control Programme is examining how it can extend the programme to 65-69 year olds. A review of the BreastCheck screening process, which will conclude shortly, should help to inform how greater efficiencies may be achieved within the Programme.

In the meantime women of any age who have concerns about breast cancer should seek the advice of their GP who will, if appropriate, refer them to the symptomatic breast services in one of the eight designated specialist cancer centres.

Hospital Services

68. **Deputy Thomas P. Broughan** asked the Minister for Health if he will address the service provision on the northside of Dublin for citizens with cystic fibrosis in view of the fact that there are only four dedicated rooms for patients with cystic fibrosis in Beaumont Hospital and five cystic fibrosis dedicated beds in Temple Street for children and young persons with cystic fibrosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48748/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I am acutely aware of the challenges that people with cystic fibrosis (CF), and their families, face in managing their condition. I fully acknowledge the need for and support the provision of dedicated accommodation in an environment which allows appropriate isolation for improved infection control.

Beaumont Hospital is one of the largest adult centres in Ireland, providing specialist treatment and services to adults with CF. A new outpatient cystic fibrosis unit was opened in Beaumont Hospital in November 2010. This CF dedicated centre facilitates the delivery of a comprehensive range of services by multidisciplinary teams. These services include consultations with doctors and nurses and the provision of treatments, which might otherwise have required hospitalisation, assessment of pulmonary function, physiotherapy, dietetics and psychology. This unit has a significant benefit for patients by having all services provided in a purpose-built facility.

The building includes consultation and therapy rooms with air filtration units, which allow for twelve air changes per hour, approximately three times the average rate in a normal room. This has significant benefit in reducing the time needed between patients for infection control purposes, which is particularly important for people with CF.

While all appointments have to be scheduled, the new ambulatory day case unit facilitates patient access to essential services. Along with priority access to four en-suite in-patient rooms on St. Paul's Ward, it means that for Beaumont's CF patients, admission as an in-patient via the Emergency Department should now be a rare occurrence. This CF unit in Beaumont also contributes to the extensive research activities into CF already well established in Beaumont, principally in collaboration with the RCSI.

A new dedicated Respiratory and CF unit was opened in Temple Street in June 2010 providing state of the art facilities for children with respiratory disorders, their families and staff. It includes a lung function laboratory with the most up to date equipment, spacious patient treatment rooms and outpatient clinic rooms. The entire unit is fitted with a sophisticated air filtration system. This unit serves as a focus for patient care including scheduled outpatient clinics, daily walk in CF clinics, initiation of intravenous antibiotics, upsizing of gastrostomy tubes,

family education and support sessions and multi disciplinary team meetings.

The National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Laboratory is also located in Temple Street. The new unit facilitates care of the children diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis under the newborn CF screening programme. I am fully aware of the challenges facing CF patients and of the need to support these patients and their families. I am committed to providing the best possible health service and will continue to work with the HSE to ensure the best possible outcomes for these patients.

Home Help Service Provision

69. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health if reports that home helps in County Cork have been instructed that they can no longer do tasks such as housework, shopping or collecting medication for elderly and disabled patients are accurate; his views on such instructions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48938/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Treatment Abroad Scheme

70. **Deputy Gerry Adams** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to new procedures for issuing Form E112, hospital treatment in another EU/EEA country, which involve now having an appointment with an Irish based consultant in advance of every foreign; that this requirement has caused some patients to miss and cancel appointments and caused unnecessary delays in patients accessing treatment; if he will investigate this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48978/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The HSE operates a treatment abroad scheme, TAS, for persons entitled to treatment in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland under EU Regulation 1408/71, as per the procedures set out in EU Regulation 574/72, and in accordance with Department of Health Guidelines. Within these governing EU Regulations and the Department of Health and Children's Guidelines, the TAS provides for the cost of approved treatments in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland through the issue of form E112 (IE).

The TAS allows for an Irish based consultant to refer a patient that is normally resident in Ireland for treatment in another EU member state or Switzerland, where the treatment in question meets the following criteria:

(a) The application to refer a patient abroad has been assessed and a determination given before that patient goes abroad.

(b) Following clinical assessment, the referring consultant certifies the following:

- They recommend the patient be treated in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland;*
- The treatment is medically necessary and will meet the patient's needs;*
- The treatment is a proven form of medical treatment and is not experimental or test treatment;*

- *The treatment is in a recognised hospital or other institution and is under the control of a registered medical practitioner;*

- *The hospital outside the state will accept EU/EEA form E112 (IE).*

The procedures for applying for treatment under the TAS scheme have not altered. Under the TAS regulations, each appointment abroad is considered as an episode of care and the issuing of an E112 is specific to the application which has been approved. When an episode of care is complete, the patient immediately returns to the care of the Irish based referring consultant. Should the Irish based referring consultant deem that further episodes of care are necessary, he/she will advise the patient and the patient will complete a further E112 in conjunction with the consultant. All applications to the TAS are independently assessed by the HSE Health Intelligence Unit.

Care of the Elderly

71. **Deputy Michael Moynihan** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take on foot of the recent NESC report *Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland; Residential Care for Older People*; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48947/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The Deputy's question refers to the report *Quality and Standards in Human Services in Ireland; Residential Care for Older People*, completed by the National Economic and Social Council (NESC).

This is one of a series of reports in a NESC project which looks at how quality processes, standards and regulations contribute to continuous improvement in delivery of services. The report examines the strengths, weaknesses and challenges presented by the regulatory framework that protects older people in nursing homes. It concludes that, overall, the standards are viewed positively and have increased the quality of and confidence in care provided in the nursing home sector. The Government remains committed to supporting older people to live in dignity and independence in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. Where this is not feasible, the health service supports access to quality long-term residential care where this is appropriate. This report is a valuable contribution that will inform our thinking in respect of developing policies and services in relation to long term care for older people. Their safety and well being is and will continue to be of paramount importance. Providing quality and safe care will always remain at the heart of any considerations.

Health Insurance Prices

72. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the action he will take to tackle spiralling consumer prices in the private insurance market; his views on whether health insurers have the scope to reduce their costs significantly and that costs in recent times have been allowed to increase unnecessarily; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48922/12]

301. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health the measures he is taking to stop health insurance premiums spiralling out of control; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49292/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 72 and 301 together.

I am very aware that health insurance is becoming harder to afford, in particular for older people, as insurers increasingly tailor their insurance plans towards younger, healthier customers. The Government is committed to keeping down the cost of health insurance so that it is affordable for as many people as possible and is also strongly committed to protecting community rating, whereby older and less healthy customers should pay the same amount for the same cover as younger and healthier people.

To support the principle of community rating, the Programme for Government contains a commitment to put a permanent scheme of risk equalisation in place. This is a key requirement for the existing private health insurance market and is designed to keep health insurance affordable for older persons and to maintain the stability of the market. I was pleased, therefore, to recently publish the Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2012 on 18 October, to give effect to a new Risk Equalisation Scheme (RES) to be applied from 1 January 2013. An effective and robust RES is required in the Irish private health insurance market in order to protect affordability for those who need it most.

There can be little doubt that price increases will make it more difficult for persons who hold private health insurance to renew their policies. I have consistently raised the issue of costs with health insurers and am determined to address costs in the sector in the interests of consumers. I will continue to focus strongly on this issue.

I am keen to explore all available measures to limit the costs related to health insurance. 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 (HIA) and the Department of Health. This Forum has been established with a view to generating ideas which would help address health insurance costs. Its core focus is on identifying ways of addressing costs throughout the industry, whilst always respecting the requirements of competition law. Bilateral meetings have taken place with each insurer where they have brought forward their own ideas for cost savings in the market. The Forum will also give a voice to the insurers in the development of the new Universal Health Insurance model. I have also made it clear to the health insurers that I believe that significant savings can still be made, the effect of which can be to minimise the need for increases in premiums.

In this regard, VHI has commissioned consultants to carry out an external review of their claims. The review is nearing completion and will look at the opportunities and costs involved in possible reductions in utilisation that can be achieved by implementing appropriate utilisation management approaches.

I would also strongly advise consumers to shop around for the health insurance plan that best suits their needs. Consumers have a legal right to switch between or within insurers to get better value and to reduce their premium costs. The HIA provides information to consumers regarding their rights and also on health insurance plans and benefits. The HIA's website www.hia.ie has a useful plan comparison tool which assists in finding suitable and competitive health insurance plans.

National Dementia Strategy Publication

73. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Health the date on which the National Dementia Strategy will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48944/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): The Pro-

gramme for Government gives a commitment to develop a *National Strategy on Dementia* by 2013 which will increase awareness, ensure early diagnosis and intervention, and enhance community based services for people living with this condition.

The first stage of the process was to assemble the research and evidence upon which the strategy will be developed. This was completed earlier this year and the report of the findings *Creating Excellence in Dementia Care: a Research Review for Ireland's National Dementia Strategy* has been published. A guide for the general public, *Future Dementia Care in Ireland: Sharing the Evidence to Mobilise Action* was compiled to disseminate the report's findings and to give a better understanding of dementia. Both the report and the guide are available at www.doh.ie.

A public consultation process which sought the views of interested parties, to help inform the development of the strategy concluded at the end of August and officials are currently examining the responses. Following on from this process a working group will be established to develop the strategy in 2013.

Home Help Service Provision

74. **Deputy Colm Keaveney** asked the Minister for Health the average spend per head of the population aged over 65 years in each county for the provision of home help hours; the account that was taken of the disparity in average spend in each county in determining the level of cuts to be made to the services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48746/12]

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.

Medicinal Products Availability

75. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide a full list of the medicines and patient products that have been withdrawn from the medical card and drug reimbursement schemes in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48931/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): In the current financial environment the Health Service Executive (HSE) is facing a challenge to deliver services in a way that will minimise any adverse impact on patients and continue to protect, as far as possible, the most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, it has become necessary for the HSE to suspend certain products from its list of reimbursable items. These include glucosamine, omega-3 triglyceride products, orlistat, and gluten-free products.

Glucosamine is indicated for the management of symptoms of osteoarthritis. The National Centre for Pharmoeconomics (NCPE) have assessed the cost-effectiveness of glucosamine on two occasions and concluded that it did not offer value for money to the HSE. However, glucosamine products are available over the counter without prescriptions.

Omega-3 triglyceride products (e.g. Omacor) have been identified both nationally and internationally as not being cost effective or being of lesser benefit to patients. However, these products are also available over the counter without prescriptions, as is Orlistat.

Gluten-free products have become more widely available in supermarkets in recent years and tend to be significantly cheaper than products sold through community pharmacies. A Supplementary Welfare Allowance Adult Diet Supplement may be awarded by the Department

of Social Protection to eligible persons. Persons wishing to apply for this allowance can do so by completing an application form which can be downloaded at the following link: <http://www.welfare.ie/EN/Forms/Documents/swa9.pdf>. Separate application forms are available for children. For persons who are not awarded a Diet Supplement, monies spent on gluten-free foods can be taken into account for tax purposes.

A full list of items available under the community drug schemes is available on the HSE's Primary Care Reimbursement Service website, www.pcrs.ie (choose 'List of Reimbursable Items'). In addition,

the monthly updates (additions and deletions) to the product list are provided at the same location under 'Updates to the List of Reimbursable Items and High Tech Scheme List'

Suicide Prevention

76. **Deputy Billy Kelleher** asked the Minister for Health his views on the verdict of the head of suicide prevention agency; Turn the Tide of Suicide, that the Government has worse than failed when it comes to tackling mental health and suicide issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48942/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): I met recently with the representatives from the Turn the Tide of Suicide organisation and we had a very open and frank discussion around the area of suicide prevention.

Dealing with the current levels of suicide and deliberate self harm and reforming our mental health services in line with *A Vision for Change* are priorities for this Government. In this respect, a special allocation of €35m was announced in Budget 2012 for mental health which will be used primarily to further strengthen Community Mental Health Teams in both Adult and Children's mental health services, advance implementation of *Reach Out*, our national strategy for Action on Suicide Prevention, and to initiate the provision of psychological and counselling services in primary care, specifically for people with mental health problems. All of these measures will assist in the Government's drive to deal with mental health and suicide.

Reach Out is a comprehensive and integrated approach to reducing the loss and suffering from suicide and suicidal behaviours. It encompasses the promotion, coordination, and support of activities to be implemented at national, regional and community levels. The HSE's National Office for Suicide Prevention (NOSP) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of *Reach Out*. NOSP has implemented a significant number of the recommendations in a four way strategy - 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.

It is widely accepted that suicide is a complex issue and that there are no easy or single interventions that will bring a guarantee of success. International evidence shows that reducing the suicide rate and preventing suicides requires a collective, concerted effort from all groups in society. Solutions, therefore, involve the whole community, a large array of voluntary organisations, specialist mental health professionals and mental healthcare provided by general practitioners and others in primary care. The overall expenditure in time and resources in this area is significant and is always under constant review. I cannot accept that all of these efforts represent failure on the part of any of those involved.

Health Services Expenditure

77. **Deputy Michael Moynihan** asked the Minister for Health if he expects the Health Service Executive budget to be in a deficit for the year; the action he will take to ensure that any measures to contain cost overruns will have minimal service impact; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48932/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The financial situation in the HSE continues to be extremely challenging. In the short term, to address the 2012 position, a range of measures are being undertaken in order to achieve a balanced budget. These include the use of capital to fund revenue on a once-off basis and the transfer of Department funds to the HSE on a once-off basis. The HSE has been required to review all pay and non-pay savings targets with a view to further targeting all areas which do not compromise patient safety.

The HSE has indicated that it will achieve €130m in savings to address the deficit. Nearly 50% will come from more focused cash and stock management initiatives, savings in medical equipment (non-capital), furniture, education, training, office expenses, travel and subsistence and advertising. €6m of savings will come from the non-reimbursement of certain non-essential products. Some €60.5m of savings will come from specific service-related measures. These measures are now the subject of intensive discussions with the HSE and local stakeholders. I have instructed the Executive that efficiencies must be achieved in the first instance before patient services are affected and in this regard, patient safety must be paramount.

Question No. 78 answered with Question No. 17.

Hospital Bed Statistics

79. **Deputy Martin Ferris** asked the Minister for Health if he will ensure the restoration of the 22 beds cut from the Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles, County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48966/12]

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 Expenditure

80. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Health the State funding provided to private home care providers for the current year; the projected cost of such funding for 2013; the number of private home care companies in receipt of such funding; the rationale behind the provision of State funding to private care home companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48743/12]

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 Provision

81. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary

Question No. 13 of 16 May 2012, if he will provide an update on the changes outlined by him in response; if he will confirm that since the issuing of the letter on 15 May 2012 from the National Directors of the Health Service Executive and Chief Operating Officer of the Special Delivery Unit on the matter concerned all hospitals have ceased refusing referrals from areas where such referrals have been accepted since 2009; if they retrospectively applied the terms of the request to the start of 2012; if the terms have been applied to new referrals and existing patients in long term care; if not, if he will outline his intentions to ensure compliance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48755/12]

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 Card Eligibility

82. **Deputy Brendan Smith** asked the Minister for Health the numbers of discretionary medical cards that have been withdrawn to date in 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48950/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): 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.

Question No. 83 answered with Question No. 43.

Hospital Services

84. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Health his views on the concern that cutbacks in cardiology in the Midwest Regional Hospital, Limerick, are putting undue pressure on services at University Hospital Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48951/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Accident and Emergency Services Provision

85. **Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide a progress report on the review of accident and emergency service at St. Columcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown, County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48890/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Home Help Service Provision

86. **Deputy Michael Colreavy** asked the Minister for Health his views on whether it is acceptable that some older persons are receiving just 30 minutes of home help support a week while others are forced to wash and toilet themselves with the help of their overstretched home help within 15 minutes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [48968/12]

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.

Diplomatic Representation Expenditure

87. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on the following matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49064/12]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): The offices of the Embassy of Ireland in Bratislava have been located at Mostová 2, 811 02 Bratislava, Slovakia, since 2002. The Ambassador's residence was relocated to more economical premises in March 2012. The number of diplomatic officers serving in the Embassy was reduced to one last June as part of a move to a lighter and more cost-effective model of State representation abroad in certain locations where such arrangements are considered viable with a view to optimising the use of scarce resources in the present budgetary situation.

Departmental Expenditure

88. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49243/12]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): The Comprehensive Expenditure Report, published last year foresees a current budget allocation to my Department for 2013 of €733 million. This funding will support the achievement of my Department's High Level Goals as outlined in its Statement of Strategy. On a "No Policy Change" basis, it is estimated that a total of €756m would be needed in order to maintain my Department's activities and programmes for next year at the same level as the current year. On this basis, my Department would be need to seek savings of €23m on this amount. However, the final Estimates for 2013 are a matter of decision by Dail Éireann on the basis of proposals to be put forward by the Government.

Immigration Policy

89. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade further to Parliamentary Question No. 154 of 26 June 2012, if he will provide the 2011 figures; and if these figures can be broken down into criminal and immigration related offences. [49297/12]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): United States of America: In respect of the United States, the following are the relevant statistics based on information made available by the US Department of Homeland Security:

Period	Total	Criminal	Non-criminal
Federal Year 2011(October 2010 – September 2011)	58	28	30

Source: Department of Homeland Security Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2011

Canada:

In respect of Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency has made available the 2011 information as follows:

Period	Total	Criminality	Non-compliance
2011	4	3	1

Source: Canada Border Services Agency

Australia:

The statistics for Australia are below, along with definitions of the various categories. Due to privacy concerns, the Australian authorities do not provide precise breakdown of categories where the numbers involved are below 5.

2011- Irish Returns or Removals

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)

Visa Overstayer	10
N/A	<5

Monitored Departure from Community

Other Unauthorised Arrival	14
Visa Overstayer	232
Visa Cancellation	8
N/A	<5

Involuntary Removal from Detention

Visa Overstayer	<5
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Voluntary Removal from Detention

Other Unauthorised Arrival	58
Visa Overstayer	17
N/A	<5
Total	347

Source: Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship

The definitions of the categories used by the Australian authorities are:

Assisted Voluntary Return	Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) refers to clients who are returned with IOM assistance via the Community Assistance Support Program (CAS) or Community Status Resolution (CSR) and who depart Australia lawfully.
Monitored Departure	Monitored Departure refers to clients who depart from the community lawfully, usually holding a Bridging visa E.

Involuntary Removal from Detention	Involuntary Removal refers to clients located in Immigration Detention who have no ongoing matters before the department or the courts and who are refusing to depart Australia.
Voluntary Removal from Detention	Voluntary Removal refers to clients in Immigration Detention who request to be removed from Australia by signing a request for removal form and are cooperative with the department to make removal arrangements, including seeking a travel document.

Departmental Bodies

90. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49313/12]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): There are no State agencies or similar bodies operating under the aegis of my Department.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

91. **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 annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49825/12]

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Deputy Eamon Gilmore): With regard to the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the calculation and payment of superannuation benefits is a matter for the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. Staff of the former Agency for Personal Service Overseas (APSO) were integrated into the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2003. Two former APSO staff and a spouse of a deceased APSO staff member are in receipt of public sector pensions paid by my Department. The requested information in respect of those pensions is set out in the table.

Number	Annual Pension (range)
1	€19,001 – €20,000
1	€5,001 - €6,000
1	€0 - €2,000

There are no State agencies, offices or bodies under the aegis of my Department.

Tax Code

92. **Deputy Ciara Conway** asked the Minister for Finance if he will introduce the necessary changes in order to give full tax equality to same-sex couples; if will provide a timescale for any introduction of this measure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49101/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): In bringing forward the necessary legislation to provide for the changes to tax legislation arising from the enactment of the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010, (the Civil Partnership Act), I advised this House that the new legislation (subsequently Finance (No. 3) Act 2011) would ensure that registered civil partners receive the same tax treatment as married couples in respect of income tax, stamp duty, capital acquisitions tax, capital gains tax and VAT. This comprehensive body of legislation recognised the new status of civil partnerships for tax purposes and set out the various rights, entitlements and obligations that apply to civil partners with regard to taxation. For example, it allowed civil partners to avail of the tax bands and tax credits, which are available to married couples. It also provided for similar capital taxes and stamp duty reliefs on the transfer of property by gift or inheritance. As a result, transfers of property between civil partners now qualify for the same exemption from stamp duty as is given to married couples.

This legislation provides for equitable tax treatment for same-sex couples in a registered civil partnership. Where individuals choose to cohabit rather than enter a civil partnership then they continue to be treated for tax purposes as single persons, such tax treatment being consistent with the treatment of opposite-sex cohabitants. Other information on tax and civil partners including ‘Frequently Asked Questions on Taxation and Civil Partnership’ is available on the Revenue website www.revenue.ie.

Fuel Sales

93. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Finance the total number of litres of motor fuel, petrol and diesel, sold in the State in the five most recent years for which figures are available; the total amount of State revenue directly generated by these sales; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49112/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the number of litres of petrol and diesel that were sold in the state in the past five years is not available. However, the number of litres of petrol and diesel where Mineral Oil Tax was paid in the calendar years 2007 to 2011 is as follows:

Year	Petrol	Auto Diesel
-	Litres	Litres
2007	2,377,727,280	3,025,245,030
2008	2,310,695,880	2,959,932,690
2009	2,117,044,957	2,714,349,687
2010	1,930,179,524	2,559,664,467
2011	1,829,164,922	2,563,433,251

The revenue generated for the State from these commodities in the calendar years 2007 to

2011 in respect of Mineral Oil Tax, Carbon Tax and Value Added Tax is as follows:

Petrol	MOT	Carbon Tax	VAT (Estimated)	Total
Year	€m		€m	€m
2007	1,050.7	-	465.2	1,515.9
2008	1,046.3	-	485.9	1,532.2
2009	1,074.5	-	419.0	1,493.5
2010	981.2	65.1	438.8	1,485.1
2011	992.6	60.1	459.0	1,511.7
Auto Diesel	MOT	Carbon Tax	VAT (Estimated)	Total
Year	€m	€m	€m	€m
2007	1,076.3	- €m	57.0	1,133.3
2008	1,051.9	-	64.6	1,116.5
2009	1,060.3	-	49.4	1,109.7
2010	1,040.0	98.4	55.5	1,193.9
2011	1,078.3	97.5	62.0	1,237.8

Please note that the VAT receipts are estimated, as the VAT returns do not require the yield from a particular sector or sub-sector of trade to be identified and the actual VAT yield for each category cannot therefore be determined.

Credit Unions Services

94. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Finance the number of credit unions that operate debit cards for their customers; the reasons a credit union (details supplied) had to discontinue the debit cards used by its customers. [49119/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Under the Exemptions from Additional Services Requirements Regulations (SI 223 of 2004, SI 107 of 2007 and SI 838 of 2007), credit unions can provide ATM and third party payment services to members. This enables credit unions to provide card services to their members. The Central Bank has advised me that 46 credit unions reported on the 2011 Credit Union Annual Return that they provide such services. These services do not require approval from the Central Bank. However, when providing these services to members, credit unions must ensure that they comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including the requirements of the Credit Union Act, 1997. It is also incumbent on credit unions to ensure that they are operationally capable of providing such services without placing undue risk on members' savings. The Central Bank has stated that it cannot comment on matters in relation to individual credit unions. Any regulatory action by the Central Bank is taken with the specific purpose of protecting members' savings.

Departmental Staff Redeployment

95. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Finance the number of posts and the locations of the posts expected to be filled from the existing Revenue panel for administrative officers in audit and compliance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49156/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners that they undertake regular workforce planning analyses to identify key posts and skills that require to be filled to enable them to deliver on their current and developing

strategies. The Revenue Commissioners are in on-going discussions with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform on their immediate and medium term resource requirements.

Notwithstanding the need to reduce public service numbers generally, an effective tax collection system is an essential element of our fiscal consolidation requirements. In that context, it is important that the Revenue Commissioners have the capacity to recruit staff with key skills and expertise not available within the existing public service. To address skills gaps and deficits that are emerging, and the limited availability of staff from elsewhere within the public service with audit and compliance skills and experience, Revenue was recently granted sanction to undertake an open recruitment competition for Administrative Officer (Audit & Investigation).

In line with the Government policy on public service numbers, and the moratorium on recruitment, the specific sanction of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is required to fill posts in the public service. Public Service bodies are required to refer to the public service resource panel in the filling of any such posts in the first instance. Where critical posts cannot be filled from within existing resources, or through redeployment from within the public sector, a public service body may, subject to sanction from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, fill posts by open recruitment. As the Revenue Commissioners are obliged to refer to the public service resource panel to fill posts in the first instance, and the resource panel is an evolving source, it is not possible to confirm how many new staff Revenue will be in a position to recruit from the current open Administrative Officer (Audit & Investigation) panel or where those posts may be located.

Pension Provisions

96. **Deputy Robert Dowds** asked the Minister for Finance the rate at which the pension provisions of senior managers in the banks in which the State has a stake will be taxed; and if he has considered levying a high rate of tax on these pension provisions in order to provide some measure of social equity. [49158/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The position is that the rates of taxation which would apply in respect of the income of any pensioner, irrespective of their previous employment, is determined by the level of the income they receive, their personal circumstances, and that individual's entitlements to deductions, credits and reliefs. Income Tax and Universal Social Charge will be deducted at source using the existing rates and bands set out in current legislation. It is also a longstanding practice of the Minister for Finance not to comment, in advance of the Budget, on any tax matters that might be the subject of Budget decisions.

Fuel Laundering

97. **Deputy Michael Conaghan** asked the Minister for Finance the consideration that has been given to ending the price differential in diesel prices in order to tackle fuel laundering and if he will consider an alternative rebate or tax deduction mechanism. [49162/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): My understanding of the Deputy's question is that it envisages a movement away from the current system of marking of oil to which a reduced rate of tax applies to one in which certain users would be given refunds of part of the mineral oil tax paid by them in respect of fuel used for non-auto purposes. The issue of the introduction of a rebate scheme for users of marked gas oil has been addressed in previous parliamentary debates. I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that a change to a system of this nature would involve the establishment of an expensive repayments system and would

give rise to significant costs and place an administrative burden on oil traders, users and the Revenue Commissioners. It would also pose significant cash-flow costs for those currently using marked gas oil. Marked gas oil has a wide range of uses such as the propulsion of trains, the operation of agricultural, construction and industrial machinery, commercial sea-navigation (including fishing) and for commercial and home heating purposes. Any change in the existing system would therefore impact across a wide range of users.

Fuel laundering is a priority for the Revenue Commissioners who are tackling the problem on a number of fronts. For example, new and enhanced licensing provisions have been introduced for the sale of marked gas oil and auto-fuel. In addition, from January 2013, all fuel traders will make monthly returns to Revenue on their fuel stocks and transactions, enabling Revenue to identify unusual or suspicious patterns of activity. Revenue is also collaborating with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in the UK to ensure we tackle the problem in a consistent and complementary way and the two administrations are working together to seek a better marker. Revenue continues to enforce the regulations actively at all stages of the fuel supply chain, targeting those involved in producing and selling laundered fuel. Since 2010, these interventions have resulted in the closure of 24 fuel laundering plants, the closure of over 70 fuel retail outlets and the seizure of over 2 million litres of fuel, together with associated equipment and transport.

Mortgage Interest Relief Expenditure

98. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Finance the number of persons who are in receipt of mortgage tax relief at present for loans taken out in or after 2004; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49180/12]

99. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Finance the total cost of mortgage tax relief in 2012 for loans taken out in or after 2004; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49181/12]

101. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Finance the cost in tax forgone of increasing mortgage interest relief for all loans taken out in or after 2004 by 1%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49183/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 98, 99 and 101 together.

It is estimated that the total number of mortgage interest relief claimants in 2011, the latest year for which information is readily available, is about 488,000, of which some 266,000 are estimated to be first-time buyers. The total cost of mortgage interest relief in 2011 is estimated at €357 million. Given the current structure of mortgage interest relief, in that relief is available at varying rates and subject to certain ceilings, in respect of interest paid by first-time buyers and non-first-time buyers, on a loan used by that individual for the purchase, repair, development or improvement of his/her sole or main residence, it is not possible to calculate the cost of tax forgone of increasing mortgage interest relief for all loans taken out in or after 2004 by 1 percentage point in the time allowed.

However, the tax forgone cost of increasing mortgage interest relief by 1 percentage point has been calculated in relation to first-time buyers who took out qualifying loans in the period 2004 to 2008 for whom the rate of tax relief was increased in Budget 2012. The Revenue Commissioners tentatively estimate that the number of first-time buyers who qualified for this relief to be in the order of 214,000. The cost to the exchequer of that measure is estimated at €52

million in a full year. The estimated cost to the exchequer of increasing the rate of mortgage interest relief by 1 percentage point for those first-time buyers is of the order of €11 million in a full year. These figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Mortgage Interest Relief Application

100. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Finance the years that mortgage tax relief will cease for persons who took out loans in each of the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49182/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): In Finance Act 2010, mortgage interest relief was extended up to end of 2017 for those whose entitlement to relief was due to end in 2010 or after (i.e. those whose purchased in 2004 or after). Therefore, tax relief will continue to be available for all tax years up to and including the 2017 tax year in respect of interest paid on qualifying home loans taken out on or after 1 January 2004 and on or before 31 December 2012.

Question No. 101 answered with Question No. 98.

Mortgage Interest Relief Eligibility

102. **Deputy Patrick O'Donovan** asked the Minister for Finance his plans for a person (details supplied) in County Wexford who can only avail of mortgage interest relief on part of their overall mortgage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49211/12]

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. Revenue have requested that full details in relation to the person involved, including his pps number, and also details relating to the mortgage loan be provided so that a comprehensive reply to this question can be given.

However, in general, I should point out that tax relief on interest paid on all qualifying home loans is being phased out. Tax relief on interest paid on qualifying home loans taken out in the period 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2012 will continue up to and including the 2017 tax year. However, tax relief is not available on interest paid on loans taken out on or after 1 January 2013. Likewise, where a residence is under construction, only the interest paid on monies drawn down on or before 31 December 2012 will qualify for tax relief. A qualifying loan for mortgage interest relief is one which without having been used for any other purpose, is used in the purchase, repair, development or improvement of a claimant's principal private residence.

Departmental Expenditure

103. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49242/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Funding requirements for my Department for 2013 have not yet been finalised. We continue to review all cost categories with a view to achieving savings where possible. The Department of Finance has always been a strong adherent to the need for efficiency and has a track record of implementing change and reducing

headcount. Some of the initiatives undertaken in this regard are highlighted below:

- The Department acts as a sizeable shared service centre for the Civil Service as outlined in the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure of 2011. The work of the Department in this area will already have allowed considerable cost and headcount efficiencies in client Departments or bodies. The Department remains supportive of further developments in this area and would expect further efficiencies in client locations as the shared service concept is implemented more widely.

- Headcount in the Paymaster General Banking section has fallen from 18 in 2004 to 4 today, arising from automation and payable order reduction.

- The headcount in the combined pensions and salaries sections of 38 today compared to 34 in 2004 represents only a 12% increase, whereas the number of salaries and pensions being paid has risen by almost 85% from 16,400 in 2004 to 30,200 today. Over 50% of this growth is due to the Department, payroll, as well as payment of pensions to VEC retirees, allowing headcount reductions in these client entities.

- The Department has also actively sought to augment its resources on a pro-bono basis through secondments from the private and public sectors. Currently, the Department benefits from the services of eight individuals in this way without cost to the Exchequer.

- The Department is phasing out the issuance of paper payslips to pensioners. This is expected to yield savings in the order of €200k p.a. The Department is also phasing out the use of payable orders which is expected to yield savings.

- The Department is targeting savings on the overtime bill in comparison with 2012 of some €100k p.a.

- The Department has reorganised accommodation requirements, resulting in the termination of one lease which will generate savings of the order of €0.45m per annum for the Exchequer. We are also reviewing procurement arrangements with a view to introducing efficiencies and securing reduced rates from suppliers on an ongoing basis.

However, we must also ensure that the Department of Finance is adequately resourced to address issues as they arise in the banking sector and to deliver on the considerable goals set out in my Department's Statement of Strategy 2011-2014. In particular, bank and debt restructuring work is driven by developments in Europe and the primary objective of that work is to ensure that the State optimises its position. We are entering a critical phase of potential restructuring based on the European political commitments expressed during the summer, with potentially very significant benefits to the national finances and therefore the related costs need to be considered. Furthermore, the economic planning initiatives of my Department, the fundamental objective of which is to improve the growth potential of the economy so as to reduce the level of unemployment, also carry an element of additional cost. All of the above are currently under active consideration in the context of the appropriate allocation of the scarce resources of the State in the forthcoming budget.

Tax Reliefs Abolition

104. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the reduction in tax expenditure that would be achieved from abolishing tax relief for medical and dental insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49268/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): It should be noted that relief for qualifying dental insurance policies is allowed as part of the general relief for medical insurance since 2004 and is not identified separately for statistical purposes. On that basis, I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the cost to the Exchequer of tax relief allowed through the tax relief at source (TRS) system for medical insurance premia in 2011 is provisionally estimated at €404 million. The cost figure above does not include a further cost to the Exchequer of €333 million of the age-related tax relief at source, which is established by the Health Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. The cost of the age-related tax credit is offset by a Stamp Duty on health insurance policies. The tax credit and levy are part of an interim scheme of risk equalisation which was introduced in order to provide direct support to community rating in the private health insurance market and is intended to be Revenue neutral over its duration. It expires on 31 December 2012 and will be replaced from 1 January 2013 by a permanent risk equalisation scheme, provided for in the recently published Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2012.

Tax Reliefs Abolition

105. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the reduction in tax expenditure that would be achieved by phasing out rent relief over three years rather than by 2017 as currently proposed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49269/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Section 473 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 provides tax relief at the standard rate to individuals who pay for private rented accommodation that is used as their sole or main residence. The level of rent qualifying for rent relief depends on an individual's marital status and age. In Budget 2011, it was announced that rent relief was being withdrawn on a phased basis. No new claimants were allowed from 7 December 2010 but existing claimants will continue to receive the relief, on a reducing basis, with a complete cessation of the relief from 2018. This is in line with the schedule proposed for the withdrawal of mortgage interest relief. The scheduled withdrawal of rent relief is set out in the following table.

Tax Year	Reduction %
2011	20%
2012	20%
2013	10%
2014	10%
2015	10%
2016	10%
2017	10%
2018	10% to 0%

To phase out the remaining 60% of the relief over the next 3 years i.e. 2013 – 2015, would result in the following yields based on the 2010 costs of the scheme. A standard level of reduction of 20% per annum on the remaining maximum levels of relief is assumed.

Tax Year	Reduction %	Total Yield €M	Increase in yield over existing reduction €M
2013	20%	49.7	8.3
2014	20%	66.2	16.5

2015	20% to 0	82.8	24.8
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Tax Yield

106. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the reduction in tax expenditure that would be achieved by reducing the ceiling on the tax exempt earning of artists from €40,000 to €30,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49270/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): It is assumed that the imposition of a cap of €30,000 would have the effect of withdrawing the tax exemption from all qualifying income in excess of €30,000. The full year yield to the Exchequer, estimated by reference to the tax year 2010, the latest year for which the necessary detailed information is available, is approximately €1.3 million. However, this figure does not take account of the application of the high income individuals' restriction to specified reliefs, including the artists' exemption and thus the actual yield could be lower. The restriction was originally provided for in Finance Act 2006 and was significantly tightened in Finance Act 2010. Individuals are now subject to the restriction where they have adjusted income of €125,000 and claim specified tax reliefs of €80,000 or more. Those subject to the full restriction now pay an effective income tax rate of 30% in addition to PRSI and Universal Social Charge.

In addition, it must be stressed that this estimate assumes no significant behavioural change on the part of the affected taxpayers. Moreover, the application of income tax to this income source could also lead to additional claims being made for expenses and allowances by persons currently exempt.

Tax Yield

107. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the reduction in tax expenditure that would be achieved by abolishing tax relief for medical expenses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49271/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the estimated full year cost to the Exchequer of income tax relief for medical expenses is €127 million in respect of the income tax year 2010, the latest year for which the relevant information is available. On this basis, the full year yield to the Exchequer of abolishing this relief would be of the same order.

Tax Yield

108. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the saving that would be achieved by reducing the age exemption limit from €18,000 for a single person, €36,000 for a married couple, to €17,000 for a single person and €34,000 for a married couple; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49272/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield to the Exchequer, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of reducing the age exemption limits by €1,000 and €2,000 for single and married respectively would be of the order of €24 million. This figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and may be revised.

Tax Yield

109. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the saving that would be achieved by ending the exemption from PRSI and universal social charge for save as you earn schemes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49273/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I assume the Deputy is referring to the bonus or interest payable under a savings arrangement in connection with a certified contractual savings scheme. Any such bonus or interest payable qualifies for exemption from income tax and is also exempt from PRSI and USC. These schemes in general have restrictive conditions and generate very small bonuses or interest payments and as such any removal of the exemption would be expected to yield relatively small amounts of PRSI and USC.

I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that, based on the bonuses and interest paid in 2011, the potential savings would be in the order of €75,000.

The Deputy will be aware that any gain realised by individuals on the exercise of share options under these schemes is already liable for employee PRSI and USC. In addition, any subsequent disposal of the shares may also give rise to a capital gains tax liability depending on movements in the market value of the relevant shares.

Tax Reliefs Abolition

110. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the saving that would be achieved from abolishing building heritage relief; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49274/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the estimated full year cost to the Exchequer of income tax relief for expenditure on significant buildings and gardens is €3.9 million in respect of the income tax year 2010, the latest year for which all the relevant information is available. In Finance Act 2010 however, the relief available to passive investors under the scheme was abolished with transitional arrangements applying for the 2010 and 2011 tax years. Therefore with effect from the current tax year, the actual cost of the relief, and therefore the potential yield from its abolition, is expected to be somewhat lower than the €3.9 million cost in 2010 .

Tax Yield

111. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance if he will set out in tabular form the tax revenue from income tax, the income levy, health levy, universal social charge and corporation tax for each year from 2007 to 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49275/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the net receipts of tax revenue from income tax, the income levy, health contribution, universal social charge and corporation tax for each of the years from 2007 to 2011 inclusive is as set out in the following table. I would like to make the Deputy aware that Revenue net receipts can differ marginally from Exchequer receipts for reasons of accounting and timing:

Taxhead	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
-	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
Income Tax	13,582.2	13,195.1	10,701.5	9,819.9	10,515.6
Income Levy	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	1,137.9	1,445.7	184.2
Health Contribution	1,298.2	1,326.7	1,755.8	2,017.7	Not Applicable
Universal Social Charge	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	3,114.5
Corporation Tax	6,393.4	5,071.5	3,889.5	3,943.6	3,500.4

Income Levy was introduced in 2009 and Universal Social Charge was introduced in 2011. The Health Levy ceased to exist in 2011 due to the introduction of the Universal Social Charge.

Tax Yield

112. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the universal social charge for PAYE earners by 1%, 2% and 3% respectively for earnings above €80,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49277/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of a 1, 2, and 3 percentage point increase in the rate of Universal Social charge (USC) applying to the incomes of PAYE income earners exceeding €80,000 would be of the order of €34 million, €68 million and €102 million respectively. The Universal Social Charge is an individualised charge and as such, the estimated yields are based on individual incomes of more than €80,000. The estimated yields are based on confining the 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increases to the portion of income which is in excess of €80,000, that is, the increase is not applied to the portion of total income earned up to €80,000.

The figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and likely to be revised.

Tax Yield

113. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the universal social charge for PAYE earners by 1%, 2% and 3% respectively for earnings above €90,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49278/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of a 1, 2, and 3 percentage point increase in the rate of Universal Social charge (USC) applying to the incomes of PAYE income earners exceeding €90,000 would be of the order of €28 million, €56 million and €85 million respectively. The Universal Social Charge is an individualised charge and as such, the estimated yields are based on individual incomes of more than €90,000. The estimated yields are based on confining the 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increases to the portion of income which is in excess of €90,000, that is, the increase is not applied to the portion of total income

earned up to €90,000.

The figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and likely to be revised.

Tax Yield

114. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the universal social charge for PAYE earners by 1%, 2% and 3% respectively for earnings above €100,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49279/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of a 1, 2, and 3 percentage point increase in the rate of Universal Social charge (USC) applying to the incomes of PAYE income earners exceeding €100,000 would be of the order of €24 million, €47 million and €71 million respectively. The Universal Social Charge is an individualised charge and as such, the estimated yields are based on individual incomes of more than €100,000. The estimated yields are based on confining the 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increases to the portion of income which is in excess of €100,000, that is, the increase is not applied to the portion of total income earned up to €100,000.

The figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and likely to be revised.

Tax Yield

115. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the universal social charge for PAYE and self-employed earners by 1%, 2% and 3% respectively for earnings above €100,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49280/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of a 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increase in the rate of Universal Social charge (USC) applying to the incomes of all income earners exceeding €100,000 would be of the order of €67 million, €134 million and €201 million respectively. The Universal Social Charge is an individualised charge and as such, the estimated yields are based on individual incomes of more than €100,000. The estimated yields are based on confining the 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increases to the portion of income which is in excess of €100,000, that is, the increase is not applied to the portion of total income earned up to €100,000.

The figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and likely to be revised.

Tax Yield

116. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised

from increasing the universal social charge for PAYE and selfemployed earners by 1%, 2% and 3% respectively for earnings above €120,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49281/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of a 1, 2, and 3 percentage point increase in the rate of Universal Social charge (USC) applying to the incomes of all income earners exceeding €120,000 would be of the order of €56 million, €112 million and €168 million respectively. The Universal Social Charge is an individualised charge and as such, the estimated yields are based on individual incomes of more than €120,000. The estimated yields are based on confining the 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increases to the portion of income which is in excess of €120,000, that is, the increase is not applied to the portion of total income earned up to €120,000.

The figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and likely to be revised.

Tax Yield

117. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the universal social charge for PAYE and self-employed earners by 1%, 2% and 3% respectively for earnings above €150,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49282/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield, estimated by reference to 2013 incomes, of a 1, 2, and 3 percentage point increase in the rate of Universal Social charge (USC) applying to the incomes of all income earners exceeding €150,000 would be of the order of €45 million, €90 million and €135 million respectively. The Universal Social Charge is an individualised charge and as such, the estimated yields are based on individual incomes of more than €150,000. The estimated yields are based on confining the 1, 2 and 3 percentage point increases to the portion of income which is in excess of €150,000, that is, the increase is not applied to the portion of total income earned up to €150,000.

The figure is an estimate from the Revenue tax-forecasting model using actual data for the year 2010 adjusted as necessary for income and employment trends in the interim. It is, therefore, provisional and likely to be revised.

Tax Yield

118. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from reducing the annual earnings limit along with age-related percentage limits for maximum tax relievable contributions for pension purposes from €115,000 to €100,000, €90,000, €80,000, €70,000 and €60,000 respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49283/12]

119. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance if he will set out in tabular form the revenue that would be raised from reducing the annual earnings limit along with age-related percentage limits for maximum tax relievable contributions for pension purposes from €115,000 to €100,000, €90,000, €80,000, €70,000 and €60,000 respectively if tax relief is granted at the marginal rate; the maximum rate of tax relief is reduced to 34%; the maximum

rate of tax relief is reduced to 30%; the maximum rate of tax relief is reduced to 30%; the tax relief is reduced to 20%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49284/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 118 and 119 together.

I assume that the Deputy is referring to the current annual earnings cap of €115,000 which operates to limit the level of tax-relieved personal pension contributions in any one year. The annual earnings cap acts, in conjunction with age-related percentage limits of annual earnings, to put a ceiling on the annual amount of tax relief an individual taxpayer can obtain on pension contributions. A breakdown of the cost of tax relief on employee contributions to occupational pension schemes is not available by income tax rate, as tax returns by employers to the Revenue Commissioners of employee contributions to such schemes are aggregated at employer level. An historical breakdown is available by tax rate of the tax relief claimed on contributions to personal pension plans — Retirement Annuity Contracts (RACs) and Personal Retirement Savings Accounts (PRSAs) — by the self-employed and others, to the extent that the contributions have been included in the personal tax returns of those taxpayers. There is, therefore, only a limited statistical basis for providing definitive figures.

However, by making certain assumptions about the available information, the Revenue Commissioners inform me that the estimated full year yield to the Exchequer from reducing the current annual earnings cap of €115,000 to the thresholds outlined in the question, and at the various specified marginal tax rates, in respect of individual contributions to occupational pension schemes, RACs and PRSAs would be as shown in the following table.

Exchequer Yield		Exchequer Yield		
Reduced Earnings Cap (below €115,000)		Reduction in Relief Allowable at specified-Marginal Tax Rates		
€	Current Rate	34%	30%	20%
€100,000	€35m	€155m	€244m	€490m
€90,000	€65m	€165m	€274m	€510m
€80,000	€95m	€210m	€300m	€535m
€70,000	€130m	€240m	€329m	€555m
€60,000	€175m	€265m	€354m	€580m

Tax Yield

120. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the rate of deposit interest retention tax from 30% to 33% and 35% respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49286/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the estimated yield to the Exchequer from increasing the Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT) rate from 30% to 33% would be of the order of €60 million; and the yield from increasing the rate from 30% to 35% would be €100 million in a full year. This projection assumes no significant behavioural change by depositors or a change in interest rates applied by financial institutions to savings.

Tax Yield

121. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the capital gains tax rate to 35%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49287/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the full year yield to the Exchequer, estimated in terms of expected 2013 gains, from increasing the CGT tax rate from 30% to 35% could be in the region of €80 million. This figure includes corporate gains. However, this estimate assumes no behavioural changes on the part of taxpayers, and increases in rates may have a significant behavioural impact and may not produce a corresponding increase in tax yield. In current economic conditions any estimate of additional yield must be treated with caution. In addition, increasing the rate could, in theory, lead to a reduction in yield from the tax.

Tax Yield

122. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from increasing the capital acquisitions tax rate to 35%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49288/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that the estimated full year yield to the Exchequer from increasing the Capital Acquisitions Tax rate by 5% to 35 %, based on the expected outturn in 2012, could be in the region of €45 million, assuming no change in the existing thresholds. This estimate is provisional and subject to revision.

It should be noted that this estimate is based upon an assumption that there would be no behavioural impact of this change, which could lead to a less than expected impact on Exchequer yield. In addition, the realization of any estimated yield from an increase in taxation on assets relating to property is subject to movements in the value of such assets, which are currently occurring in the economy.

Tax Yield

123. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Finance the revenue that would be raised from applying a 5% tax to National Lottery winnings above €1000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49289/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the National Lottery that the total winnings over €1,000 in 2011 was of the order of €190 million. On this basis a tax or levy of 5% on National Lottery winnings over €1,000 would yield €9.5 million. For reasons of equity, a levy such as is proposed in the question might have to be imposed on winnings over €1,000 from other lotteries, which could affect fundraising by charities and sports clubs.

Section 5 of the National Lottery Act 1986 provides that the surplus from the National Lottery may be used for the following purposes: national culture, including the Irish language; the

arts, within the meaning of the Arts Act 1951; the health of the community; and for such other purposes as the Government may determine. The following categories have been so determined: youth, welfare, national heritage and amenities. A levy might have a behavioural effect on participation and reduce the surplus available for these purposes.

National Lottery winnings are currently specifically exempted from Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax and Capital Acquisitions Tax. I do not propose at this time to introduce a tax such as is suggested by the Deputy.

Departmental Bodies

124. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49312/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): The information requested by the Deputy in relation to bodies under the aegis of my Department is contained in the following table. I am not aware of any plans to abolish these bodies in current year.

Name of Body	Date body set up	Budget for 2012 and No of employees	Names of outside Consultants Employed by the body since Mar 2011
Financial Services Ombudsman Council	01/10/2004	Budget Nil Employees Nil	Workplace Solutions - Possible merger with Pensions Ombudsman review ongoing as part of the wider review.
Irish Financial Services Appeals Tribunal	The Irish Financial Services Appeals Tribunal was established by Part VIIA of the Central Bank and Financial Services Authority of Ireland Act 2003. The Members were first appointed by the President on the 25th of January 2007.	The Irish Financial Services Appeals Tribunal is composed of a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson and five lay members. The Tribunal retains a practising Barrister as a part time Registrar. It retains no other staff or employees. The estimated Budget for 2012 is €289,752.00.	The Irish Financial Services Appeals Tribunal has not retained any outside consultants other than Messrs. Spain McQuillan, Chartered Accountants, for auditing services.

Name of Body	Date body set up	Budget for 2012 and No of employees	Names of outside Consultants Employed by the body since Mar 2011
National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) (includes SCA, NewERA, NPRF, NDFA and NAMA)	3 December 1990	The net budget for 2012 for the NTMA (which includes the State Claims Agency, NPRF, NDFA, NAMA and NewERA) is €43.5 million(A further budgeted €43.7 in NAMA-related costs will be reimbursed to NTMA by NAMA. NAMA's costs are met from its operating income).500 Staff as at 31 October 2012 (this includes 227 NAMA staff	Information in relation to outside consultants is currently being collated and will be forwarded to the deputy
SCA (State Claims Agency)	3 December 2001	-	-
NewERA (New Economy and Recovery Authority)	September 2011 initially on a non-statutory basis	-	-
NPRF (National Pensions Reserve Fund)	2 April 2001	Fees and Expenses of NPRF (other than the costs incurred by the NTMA in its role as manager of the fund, included in the NTMA budget above) are met from NPRF.	-
- NDFA (National Development Finance Agency)	1 January 2003	Fees and expenses incurred by the NDFA in the performance of its financing and advisory functions in relation to specific public investment projects are reimbursed by the relevant State authority to NTMA	-

Questions - Written Answers

Name of Body	Date body set up	Budget for 2012 and No of employees	Names of outside Consultants Employed by the body since Mar 2011
National Asset Management Agency	21 December 2009* * NAMA was established in December 2009 and its remit is expected to be concluded in 2020	Projected Direct Operating Costs €167m**, 227 employees** Over 50% of which reflect the cost of services outsourced to third parties mainly the Participating Institutions of AIB, BOI and IBRC.	Information in relation to outside consultants is currently being collated and will be forwarded to the deputy
Credit Union Advisory Committee	September 2010	2012 Budget: €20,900 No employees	None
Commission on Credit Unions	May 2011 – March 2012 (CCU has completed its work)	2012 Budget: €27,100. No employees	None
Irish Bank Resolution Company Limited	15th January 2009 date of nationalisation of Anglo Irish Bank	€268m budget 1,031 employees	Cannot disclose due to commercial sensitivities
The Irish Fiscal Advisory Council	07th July 2011* (created on an administrative basis)* Note the Fiscal Council will be placed on a statutory basis upon passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill	Ceiling of €650,000 for 2012 25 council and 3 employees	Dr. Robert Hagemann - Commissioned report entitled Fiscal Rules for Ireland; a key input to the IFAC's report Strengthening Ireland's Fiscal Institutions.
Credit Union Restructuring Board	31/08/2012	€300,000 for 2012	-
Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal	21/12/1989	2 employees. €330,000	-

Tax Yield

125. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Finance the estimated additional tax yield if universal social charge was reformed (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49324/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Unfortunately, it was not possible to collate the information required for this answer in the time allowed. I will provide the Deputy with the answer in writing shortly.

Universal Social Charge Payments

126. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Finance the number of persons paying the universal social charge (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49325/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Unfortunately, it was not possible to collate the information required for this answer in the time allowed. I will provide the Deputy with the answer in writing shortly.

Tax Yield

127. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Finance the numbers of persons that avoid tax on the grounds of non domicile; the estimate of total tax foregone by the State in a full year from this exemption; the additional yields that have been achieved to the Exchequer following changes in Budget 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49326/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): Domicile is a complex concept of general law. It may, broadly, be interpreted as meaning residence in a particular country with the intention of residing permanently in that country. An individual acquires a domicile of origin on his/her birth. Whilst each individual has a domicile, that domicile may or may not be the country in which he or she is tax resident. An individual is not entitled to claim exemption from Irish tax solely by reason of being non-Irish domiciled. An individual's liability to Irish tax is affected by an individual's residence, ordinary residence and domicile. It is not possible to determine how much tax is foregone by reason of an individual claiming to be non-Irish domiciled.

I am assuming that the reference to changes in Budget 2012 refers to the amendment to the Domicile Levy legislation announced in Budget 2012 and implemented in section 136 Finance Act 2012. The Domicile Levy was introduced in the Finance Act 2010 and was charged on an individual: who in any year was Irish domiciled and an Irish citizen; whose worldwide income for the year exceeds €1m; whose Irish located property in the year is greater than €5m, and whose liability to Irish income tax for the year is less than €200,000.

Where a relevant person has paid Irish income tax for a year that person is entitled to a credit for the income tax paid in calculating the amount of the domicile levy for that year.

The amendment introduced in section 136 Finance Act 2012 removed the requirement to be an Irish citizen. The affect of this amendment is that persons who meet the other criteria will be liable to the levy whether or not they are Irish citizens. The returns for the tax year 2012 will be the first returns affected by the amendment. These returns are due to be filed on or before 31 October 2013 or in the case of persons filing their income tax returns using the Revenue Online System (ROS) on or before 15 November 2013. I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that as the filing deadline has not expired it is not possible at this point to determine how many persons this measure will affect for the tax year 2012.

Tax Reliefs Application

128. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Finance the numbers of persons that used the artist exemption in the years 2011 and 2012 in respect of their earnings; the total tax foregone to the State in those years on the basis of that exemption; and if he will make a statement

on the matter. [49327/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am informed by the Revenue Commissioners that the latest relevant available information relates to the income tax year 2010. In that year, an estimated 2,350 claimants availed of the artists' exemption scheme at an estimated cost to the Exchequer of €9.6 million. It should be noted that this figure takes account of the high income individuals' restriction which took effect for the first time in 2007. The impact of the measure in the income tax year 2010 was to reduce the value of the income tax relief under the artists' exemption by €8.3 million. The high income individuals' restriction was originally provided for in section 17 of Finance Act 2006 and was significantly tightened in Section 23 of Finance Act 2010. Individuals are now subject to the restriction where they have adjusted income of €125,000 and claim specified tax reliefs of €80,000 or more. Those subject to the full restriction now pay an effective income tax rate of 30% in addition to PRSI and Universal Social Charge.

Employment Investment Incentive Scheme

129. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Finance if he has considered an enterprise investment scheme as is operated in the UK whereby an investor in an early-stage enterprise can claim back up to 50% of their investment through tax reliefs. [49339/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I assume the Deputy is referring to the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS), which the UK introduced to supplement its Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS). The SEIS provides a higher rate of relief for qualifying investments in early stage enterprises, than is available under EIS and was introduced with effect from the 6th of April this year. We have a similar incentive to the EIS called the Employment and Investment Incentive (EII), which commenced on 25 November 2011, following the receipt of State Aid approval from the European Commission. The EII provides tax relief of 30% on investments made in small and certain medium-sized enterprises, including early stage enterprises, with the possibility of a further 11% in tax relief at the end of a three year holding period. The incentive was previously known as the Business Expansion Scheme and was significantly amended to target limited Exchequer resources towards job creation. As part of these changes, access to the incentive was made available to the majority of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs).

Figures from the Revenue Commissioners show that the level of funding raised by SMEs under the Business Expansion Scheme has been declining since 2008. This could be related to the economic downturn or to a lower appetite for risk among investors. It is too early to say whether the changes brought about by the introduction of EII will have the desired affect and halt such decline. However, the peak period for raising investments under EII is November/December and a better picture of the impact of the changes should be available next year.

The introduction of any scheme that would provide higher tax relief for investments in certain companies could have the capacity to skew investments towards such companies. This could work to the detriment of other equally deserving companies that need to raise risk capital investments. Ultimately, the priority of the Government is to incentivise investments where they are most likely to create jobs. Therefore, I am inclined to be cautious as regards implementing further changes to the tax incentives available for such investments at the current time.

Banking Sector Remuneration

130. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Finance if he will outline any additional payments, made by the covered banks to their employee pension schemes since 2007 that fall outside of normal employer contributions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49352/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I have been advised by the Banks that unfortunately this it has been impossible to collate this information within this short timeframe. I will forward this information to the Deputy as soon as it is made available to me.

Alcohol Sales

131. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections by Revenue and Customs for under age alcohol selling, sale of alcohol outside opening hours, valid license and duty paid on Stock in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49361/12]

Minister for Finance (Deputy Michael Noonan): I am advised by the Revenue Commissioners that inspections for under age alcohol selling and the sale of alcohol outside opening hours are a matter for the Garda Síochána. I understand the Minister for Justice will provide this information to the Deputy directly. The main thrust of Revenue's compliance programmes in relation to licensing is to target persons for enquiry who do not hold appropriate valid licences in respect of the activities that they carry on. In addition, checks are carried out on businesses selling alcohol products to ensure that all stock is correctly duty paid.

Regarding the total cost of these inspections for each year, inspections form part of Revenue's overall compliance programmes, and a separate breakdown of costs in relation to alcohol licensing activities is not available.

Unlicensed Alcohol Trading

Year	Number of Inspections	No. of Cases brought to Court	No. of Convictions
2009	434	86	72
2010	1288	82	71
2011	1081	80	77
01/01/2012 -31/10/2012	895	109	102

Trading in Non Duty Alcohol Products

Year	Number of Inspections	No. of Cases brought to Court	No. of Convictions
2009	570	28	21
2010	1179	36	32
2011	964	14	8
01/01/2012 -31/10/2012	442	10	10

Public Sector Staff Increment Payments

132. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the net saving to the Exchequer if all vocational educational committee pay was capped at €100,000. [49129/12]

133. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the gross saving to the Exchequer if all vocational educational committee pay was capped at €100,000. [49130/12]

140. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the gross and net saving to the Exchequer in all vocational educational committee employee pay was capped at €100,000. [49127/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I propose to take Questions Nos. 132, 133 and 140 together.

My Department does not generally hold information relating to the salaries of individual VEC employees, who are paid by the VECs and, accordingly, the information requested by the Deputy is not readily available. Officials of my Department have requested from the VECs information relating to gross salaries of the relevant employees. This will be used to determine the gross saving to the Exchequer, were pay for employees of VECs to be capped at €100,000. The information will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as it is available. My Department will not be in a position to provide details of the net savings to the Exchequer, as requested because this would require an examination of the tax and other statutory deductions applicable for each individual employee in question and would therefore involve an inordinate amount of administrative time to compile.

FÁS Training Programmes

134. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare can obtain a training course with FÁS at an early date in order to facilitate access to employment which they have secured; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49377/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills (Deputy Ciarán Cannon): I have made enquires with FÁS training services and I understand that the person in question is currently on a waiting list for the access to offshore course in Donegal. Demand for this particular training course is very high and I am informed that there is a waiting list for the course, as a result. As with other individuals waiting for a training place on this course, the person in question will be informed at the appropriate time, and as soon as a place becomes available for him. It should also be noted that all applicants for this training require to be interviewed because of the specialist nature of the course in question.

Student Support Schemes Issues

135. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his views on a matter (details attached); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49060/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) aim on an on-going basis to improve the technology, policies and procedures with a view to an improved service for the student and a more dynamic approach to communi-

cation with all stakeholders. High on SUSI's list is the integration of technologies so that it can allow students to submit documentation by means of scanning services. This has been identified as a key area for improvement and one SUSI hope to implement in future years of operation.

Student Grant Scheme Eligibility

136. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the reason a person (details supplied) in County Mayo has been refused the maintenance element of the student grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49063/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Officials in my Department have confirmed with SUSI, the new centralised grant awarding authority, that the decision on the application referred to by the Deputy is currently under review by SUSI and the student will be notified directly of the outcome.

Student Grant Scheme Applications

137. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of student grant applications that have been received by Student Universal Support Ireland; the number that have been processed, awarded, refused or awaiting decision to date; the number of applications received from County Kerry; the number of these that have been processed, awarded, refused or awaiting decision to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49105/12]

Minister for Education and Skills(Deputy Ruairí Quinn): In total, SUSI has received just over 66,000 applications for student grants this year. Some 18,000 applications are now complete. This includes some 9,000 applications which have been refused and some 9,000 which have been awarded, or awarded pending submission of final course details by the student. SUSI is awaiting documentation on some 21,000 applications. The remaining some 27,000 are applications on hand with SUSI for processing.

In total SUSI has received some 2,445 applications from County Kerry. Of these 258 applications have been awarded, 316 applications have been refused or cancelled and 42 applications have been appealed to SUSI. Some 335 applications are at final review stage or awaiting a course acceptance form from the applicant. 1293 applications are either awaiting documentation from the student or where the documentation has been submitted it is being to ensure all documentation has been submitted. 201 applications are awaiting provisional assessment - these are applications received after the closing date. These data have been supplied to my Department by SUSI.

Home Tuition Scheme Provision

138. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if a person (details supplied) in County Clare will be facilitated with home tuition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49116/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): As the Deputy may be aware, the Home Tuition scheme is intended to provide a compensatory educational service to children with a significant medical condition which is likely to cause major disruption to their attendance at school on an ongoing basis. Eligibility of children applying on medical grounds is determined with to reference to medical reports and their attendance details.

The allocation for the child in question this year reflects his improved attendance last year which has resulted in the reduced allocation. However his mother was advised that if the child's attendance levels deteriorate during this school year that the allocation can be reviewed in that context.

Home Tuition Scheme Administration

139. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the safeguards in place to prevent a situation in which a person in receipt of the home tuition grant fails to pay the home tutor for services properly supplied under the scheme; and if he has any plans to revisit policy in the area. [49121/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The Home Tuition scheme provides funding to parents to provide education at home for children who, for a number of reasons such as chronic illness, are unable to attend school. The scheme was extended in recent years to facilitate tuition for children awaiting a suitable educational placement. Parents engage tutors directly and the grant is paid to the parent either on a monthly basis in arrears or where possible in advance to assist parents cover the cost of engaging a tutor. This affords a degree of flexibility and choice for parents in selecting the most suitable tutor for the purposes of home tuition for their children. These tutors are self employed and provide tuition under a contract for service to the parent.

Where the Department receives information which alleges that the recipient of the Home Tuition grant aid did not use the grant for the purpose intended, a procedure is initiated to establish the factual position and where necessary to recover the full grant aid issued. This procedure involves a series of written contacts with the recipient. In exceptional cases, where the recipient fails or refuses to cooperate with the Department, the Chief State Solicitor's Office is requested to recover the grant aid.

I do not propose to change the existing procedures in respect of the recovery of grant aid.

Question No. 140 answered with Questions Nos. 132 and 133.

Redundancy Payments

141. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills when a payment in respect of a Labour Court recommendation will be paid to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49138/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I wish to inform the Deputy that, following the conclusion of the consultation process with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, my Department has given sanction to Co. Laois VEC to offer this person the terms of the recently announced Collective Agreement on enhanced redundancy payments to public servants.

Special Educational Needs Services Provision

142. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if special

needs assistants are permitted under the terms of their employment to perform general secretarial work for the school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49152/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I wish to advise the Deputy that Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) are allocated to schools by the National Council for Special Education in order to provide for the care needs of children with special educational needs attending such schools. The policy of my Department in relation to the SNA scheme is set out in Circular 07/02, which also provides details regarding the role and duties of an SNA.

My Department's Circular 0071/2011 provides further details in relation to the terms and conditions of employment for SNAs, including clarification in relation to SNA duties and work which may be performed during non instructive days, or delivered by an SNA outside of normal school opening hours and/or the normal school year. Once an SNA allocation has been made to a school, the recruitment and deployment of SNAs within schools are matters for the individual Principal/Board of Management of a school. SNAs should be deployed by the school in a manner which best meets the care support requirements of the children enrolled in the school for whom SNA support has been allocated, and in accordance with the terms of the scheme as set out in my Department's Circular. In circumstances where a parent may have a concern about the manner in which an SNA is being deployed in a school, they should raise this matter with the school Principal/Board of Management of the school in the first instance.

School Patronage

143. **Deputy Joe Carey** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the progress that has been made to date in relation to a school (details supplied) in County Clare; when he will move to the next step; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49155/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Provisional recognition was initially awarded in 2008 to the school referred to by the Deputy and has been extended each year since. The school is seeking to have permanent recognition granted and a process is in place under which the issue of recognition is being assessed. This process is based on ten undertakings committed to by the school's Patron in 2007 in accordance with the requirements of the Education Act 1998 and the Rules for National Schools.

My Department recently met with the school authorities to discuss the school's current position in relation to the undertakings concerned. I understand that while issues remain to be resolved, substantial progress has been made by the school in relation to most of the undertakings and that my officials and the school are working together with a view to enabling the school to meet the permanent recognition criteria as soon as possible. It is very important to note that the decision regarding full recognition depends upon the satisfactory implementation by the Patron of all the undertakings.

School Staffing

144. **Deputy Martin Heydon** asked the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to introduce a system whereby teachers may transfer closer to where they are living; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49167/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Schools with vacancies are required to fill them from the list of surplus permanent teachers on the redeployment panels.

At primary level, there are a number of redeployment panels - most of which are organised on a Diocesan basis. The redeployment arrangements include provision for flexibility of movement between panels in order to facilitate the redeployment of all surplus permanent teachers. Otherwise, any transfers between panels are dealt with by agreement between the relevant patrons. Redeployment arrangements for surplus post-primary teachers were introduced as part of the implementation of particular aspects of the Croke Park Agreement. The parties identified that voluntary movement, if provided for, could assist the operation of the main redeployment arrangements. It is agreed that further discussions would take place with a view to putting a pilot scheme in place and these discussions are ongoing under the auspices of the Teachers Conciliation Council.

Student Grant Scheme Administration

145. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of appeals broken down on a county basis received to date by Student Universal Support Ireland for student grants; the length of time it is taking to assess and make a decision on an appeal in each county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49196/12]

146. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the current waiting time for an application to the higher education grant Student Universal Support Ireland system to be processed; the current waiting time for the processing of appeals to same broken down on a county basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49197/12]

147. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of student grants broken down on a county basis approved to date by the higher education grant Student Universal Support Ireland system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49198/12]

148. **Deputy Charlie McConalogue** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the number of students grants broken down on a county basis that have yet to be approved by the higher education grant Student Universal Support Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49199/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I propose to take Questions Nos. 145 to 148, inclusive, together. The following table provides a breakdown on a county basis of the status of the student grant applications received by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI), the new centralised grant awarding authority. The tables includes those currently under appeal to SUSI. It gives the position for student grant applications for attendance at both further and higher education. The waiting time for processing a student grant application by Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) varies, depending on a number of factors including the volume of applications received at any given time, the complexity of the grant applicants circumstances, and time taken by the applicant to submit all the required documentary evidence to enable a final decision to be made on an application. Every effort is made to ensure that students get decisions on their grant applications as soon as possible.

Appeals received by SUSI are dealt with in date order and the waiting time for decisions on appeals can vary depending on the complexity of the grant applicants circumstances which are under appeal. SUSI aims to issue determinations on appeals as promptly as possible and within the specified timeframes defined in the Student Support Act, 2011.

SUSI Applications - Processing position by County

County	Awarded	Appealed to SUSI	Cancelled/Refused	Final Review/Awaiting Course Acceptance	Awaiting Provisional Assessment (New Applications after closing date)	Reviewed and Supporting Documentation Requested	Total Applications
Carlow	120	14	116	130	83	488	951
Cavan	157	20	174	192	84	678	1305
Clare	208	33	213	266	109	909	1738
Cork	666	100	964	809	642	3565	6746
Donegal	397	38	334	445	158	1466	2838
Dublin	1187	183	2205	1539	1294	7264	13672
Galway	461	72	534	541	351	2374	4333
Kerry	258	42	316	335	201	1293	2445
Kildare	284	46	465	303	180	1388	2666
Kilkenny	150	17	178	168	99	763	1375
Laois	126	17	138	128	70	555	1034
Leitrim	67	10	75	88	36	356	632
Limerick	295	36	381	347	231	1512	2802
Longford	80	5	93	87	53	430	748
Louth	245	48	249	255	213	1088	2098
Mayo	263	23	297	363	194	1294	2434
Meath	263	37	341	309	179	1254	2383
Monaghan	123	21	144	151	57	598	1094
Offaly	173	22	176	162	53	628	1214
Roscommon	141	17	146	167	66	617	1154
Sligo	100	15	156	136	103	670	1180
Tipperary	291	48	366	334	160	1419	2618
Waterford	217	25	312	250	112	974	1890
Westmeath	219	29	254	229	75	840	1646
Wexford	323	43	331	318	123	1176	2314
Wicklow	220	37	313	204	124	1017	1915
Outside of Ireland	27	10	109	45	56	266	513
Sub Total	*7061	1008	9380	** 8301	5106	***34882	65738
Submitted online not yet downloaded	-	-	-	-	-	-	382
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	66120

* This figure does not include some 2,000 applications which have been awarded pending submission of final course details by the student

** This figure includes some 2,000 applications which have been awarded pending submission of final course details by the student.

*** This figure includes some 21,000 applications for which SUSI is awaiting documentation and some 15,000 on hand with SUSI which are being checked to ensure all documentation submitted is complete

Schools Building Projects Applications

149. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills when the necessary funding for a project (details supplied) in Dublin 16 will be made available now that planning permission has been granted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49205/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The major building project referred to by the Deputy is at an advanced stage of architectural planning.

Following an appeal to An Bord Pleanála, planning permission was granted in August 2012. The design team are currently working on the completion of Stage 2(b) which includes all statutory approvals and tender documents. Due to competing demands on my Department's 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 this project in the five year construction programme announced earlier this year.

School building projects, such as the one 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 my Department in future years.

Departmental Expenditure

150. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49240/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Under the ceilings set as part of last year's Comprehensive Expenditure Review, my Department is required to secure savings on current expenditure of €77 million in 2013.

In addition, there are likely to be upward pressures in some areas of pay and non-pay expenditure and in relation to reduced Appropriations-in-Aid receipts. The full extent and management of these pressures is currently being assessed by my Department in the context of the projected expenditure outturn for 2012.

Bullying in Schools

151. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if his attention has been drawn to the free anti-bullying resource for teachers at www.antibullying-campaign.ie; if this or other similarly appropriate resources are made available to teachers; the level of supports, funding and training available for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49294/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, all schools are required to have in place a Code of Behaviour and this code must be drawn up in accordance with the guidelines of the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB). The NEWB guidelines were issued to schools in 2008 and make it clear that each school must have policies to prevent or address bullying and harassment and schools must make clear in their code of behaviour that bullying is unacceptable. The guidelines further state that as well as making explicit that bullying is prohibited in the school, and having an anti-bullying policy, the code of behaviour should indicate what action the school will take in relation to alleged breaches of the school's bullying policy.

Every school therefore must have in place a policy, within the framework of the school's overall school code of behaviour, which includes specific measures to deal with bullying behaviour. Such a code, developed through consultation with the whole school community and properly implemented, can be the most influential measure in countering bullying behaviour in schools.

In terms of other training I am very aware of the importance of appropriate teacher training and support in this and other aspects of teachers' day to day work with children. In this regard, initial teacher education plays a huge role in training our teachers and ensuring that they are aware of the developmental and emotional needs of their students. As part of their lifelong journey, teachers engage in ongoing professional development (CPD) and this will become a statutory requirement in the near future. CPD helps to ensure that teachers are aware of current research and best practice in working with young people. In the area of anti-bullying, the Deputy will be aware that my Department currently funds the Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE) Support Service which provides support for post primary schools including training courses on positive strategies for managing bullying issues. Schools are also supported in the review of their anti-bullying policies and practices.

At primary level, my Department's support services provide ongoing training and support to teachers and principals in the implementation of SPHE and the Stay Safe Programme, which includes a specific module on bullying.

In addition to these support services, individual schools have autonomy to determine whether they wish to supplement or support the school's work in the area of anti-bullying with other external resources/materials as appropriate.

As the Deputy knows, I am very aware of the need to tackle bullying and it was for that reason that an Anti-Bullying Forum was held in May this year.

As a follow on to that Forum, I invited the stakeholders and any other interested parties to submit their views on this important topic to my Department by 29th June 2012. I understand that the Anti-Bullying Campaign has made a submission as have many other interested parties.

I have also established a working group to address the issue of tackling bullying in schools, including cyber-bullying. During the course of its work, the working group will be considering the outcomes from the Anti-Bullying Forum together with the submissions received. Over the last few months, the working group has been consulting with a range of stakeholders and with counterparts in Scotland and the UK. The Group is working on an action plan recommending further measures that can be taken to effectively tackle bullying in schools. The Group expects to complete its work by the end of the year.

Teachers' Remuneration

152. **Deputy Seán Kyne** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the date on which a teacher would have had to have graduated from a Masters degree course and have commenced a Masters degree programme to be eligible for the qualification allowance which has been discontinued. [49304/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): People who were first employed in a teaching post (qualified or unqualified) in the public sector on or before 4 December 2011 and who have completed a course of study which commenced on or prior to 4 December 2011 only will be eligible to apply for allowances for that course of study. Additional allowances are not payable for qualifications acquired following a course of study which commenced on or after 5 December 2011.

People first employed in a teaching post (qualified or unqualified) in the public sector between 5 December 2011 and 31 January 2012 (inclusive) will be assessed for allowances on the basis of their qualifications at entry to the profession to a combined maximum allowance equivalent to that of an honours primary degree. No additional allowances are payable for qualifications obtained following entry to the profession.

Teachers who are first employed in a public sector teaching post on a qualified or unqualified basis on or after 1 February 2012 will commence on the February 2012 salary scales. No allowances are payable for qualifications.

Where applicable, qualification allowances will become payable where the teacher is eligible to be in receipt of the qualified rate of pay; i.e. where a teacher is appropriately qualified and registered for the sector in which they are employed.

Further information is expected to be issued from my Department in the near future. Once published, it may be accessed on www.education.ie.

Departmental Bodies

153. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49310/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): Details of agencies under the remit of my Department can be downloaded from the Department's website, this information is updated when any relevant changes occur. www.education.ie

The Deputy should note that no agency under the aegis of my Department has been abolished since March, 2011. With regard to the rationalisation of State agencies the Deputy may wish to note the following: -

- On 7th November, 2012 the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), replaced the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI), the Further Education and Training Awards Council of Ireland (FETAC), and the Higher Education Training and Awards Council (HETAC).

- The Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology and Irish Research

Council for Humanities and Social Sciences were merged into one entity - the Irish Research Council (IRC).

- In June 2011, the functions of the National Educational Welfare Board transferred to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

- Since September 2011, the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) is within the remit of Dublin West Education Centre alongside the Department's largest support service, the Professional Development Service for Teachers, PDST

The Deputy will also be aware that there are a number of major structural reform projects and other initiatives being progressed in the Education sector (of which some are included in the Public Sector Reform Plan published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform last November). These include:-

- The amalgamation of the 33 Vocational Education Committees (VECs)/establishment of 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs). The ETBs will take over the work of VECs and will have an expanded role in the delivery of further education and training across the country.

- A single awarding authority for student grants. City of Dublin VEC will operate as the new single student grant awarding authority to replace the existing 66 grant awarding bodies. Implementation of the new arrangements are being phased in from 2012/13 academic year.

- The consolidation of Higher Education provision under the Strategy for Higher Education to 2030.

- Following the enactment of the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Act 2012, the necessary steps are being taken to establish the Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board. This body will be funded from the contributions of the religious congregations offered in response to the request for additional contributions, following the publication of the Ryan Report. The legislation also provides for the dissolution of the Education Finance Board, which has almost exhausted the €12.7 million available to it, and the transfer of any remaining functions of the Education Finance Board to the new Residential Institutions Statutory Fund Board.

Departmental Funding

154. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide an update in tabular form, of the grants from his Department payable in the year 2012 to non Governmental agencies based here or abroad; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49328/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The information requested by the Deputy is not centrally collated and would involve a very significant amount of administrative time to compile. However, details of public funding disbursements are made available in a range of publications on an annual basis. The Revised Estimates Volume, published annually by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, contains a significant level of detail, on a Vote by Vote basis, regarding funding allocations in the year of publication, together with details of funding disbursed by the Exchequer in the previous year. The Comptroller and Auditor General also publishes the Appropriation Accounts, which are the annual accounts of Government Departments. Additionally on an annual basis, my Department posts on its website details of organisations that are part-funded from the National Lottery. In this regard details for 2010 and 2011 are provided in tabular form at the end of this reply. If there is a specific body in

which the Deputy has a particular interest my officials will request the relevant organisation to supply the relevant details insofar as is possible.

2010 National Lottery Funding from Vote 26 - Education and Skills

6.1 National Lottery Funding. Under subheads B.1 and B.14, a total of €1.06 million was grant aided in 2010 to support adult education and cultural activities. The subheads in Vote 26 from which the funding was paid are noted below.

Recipients of Funding from National Lottery	2010	2009
Expenses of Adult Education Organisations (Subhead B.1.)	€864,000	€941,000
Cultural Activities (Subhead B.14.)	€196,000	€207,000
Total	€1,060,000	€1,148,000

Recipients of Grants from Subhead B.1 - Adult Education	Sum received 2010	Sum received 2009
Aontas	€440,000	€477,000
National Adult Literacy Agency	€302,000	€333,000
People's College	€99,000	€108,000
Irish Countrywomen's Association	€23,000	€23,000
Total	€864,000	€941,000

Recipients of Grants from Subhead B.14 - Cultural Activities	Sum received 2010	Sum received 2009
Foras Éireann	€11,000	€11,400
National Youth Orchestra of Ireland	€108,000	€114,000
Feis Maitiú	€38,500	€41,000
Artane School of Music	€38,500	€41,000
Total	€196,000	€207,400

6.1 National Lottery Funding

Under subheads B.1 and B.14, a total of €1.04 million was grant aided in 2011 to support adult education and cultural activities. The subheads in Vote 26 from which the funding was paid are noted below.

Recipients of Funding from National Lottery	2011	2010
	€000	€000
- Expenses of Adult Education Organisations (Subhead B.1.)	854	864

Cultural Activities (Subhead B.14.)	187	196
Total	1,041	1,060

Recipients of Grants from Subhead B.1 - Adult Education Organisations		
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Name of Recipients	Sum received	Sum received
-	2010	2011

Aontas	435,000.00	440,000.00
National Adult Literacy Agency	298,000.00	302,000.00
Peoples College	98,000.00	99,000.00
Irish Countrywomen's Association	23,000.00	23,000.00
Total	854,000.00	864,000.00

School Funding

155. **Deputy Joanna Tuffy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills the financial assistance available to a school (details supplied) in Dublin 22; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49329/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The school to which the Deputy refers is not a recognised national school and is not therefore eligible to receive funding from my Department.

Site Acquisitions

156. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he will provide an update on the development of a new school (details provided) in County Dublin ; if that school is part of the new build schedule; the date on which works will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49331/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): As the Deputy will be aware, a project for a new building for the school to which the Deputy refers is included in the five-year construction programme that I announced last March. It is my Department's intention that this project will proceed to construction in the period 2015-16. My Department has sought the assistance of, and is working closely with, the relevant Local Authority in relation to identifying and acquiring a suitable site for the proposed school concerned. Due to commercial sensitivities attaching to site acquisitions generally, I am not in a position to comment further at this time. The current status of all projects on the school building programme, including the school in question, may be viewed on my Department's website, www.education.ie.

School Curriculum

157. **Deputy Eoghan Murphy** asked the Minister for Education and Skills if he is satisfied that Give Peace a Chance: An Educational Resource on Conflict and Peace Building for Post Primary Educators is sufficiently objective for use by teachers in teaching Citizenship Education, Religious Education, Geography, English and History. [49338/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): I am not in a position to comment on the use of this resource by teachers in post-primary schools. It is a matter for individual schools to select the resources and textbooks available that best support their implementation of the syllabuses, including CSPE, prescribed by my Department. This flexibility gives schools the opportunity to select the resources that are most appropriate to the needs of their students. However, it is expected that schools will enable their students to think critically about the content of the materials that are used during the teaching and learning process. This is particularly true of subjects such as Civic, Social and Political Education, History and English where students are provided with the opportunity to analyse and interpret input, and to discuss the difference between fact and opinion and between bias and objectivity in texts and other materials.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

158. **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 annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49823/12]

Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Ruairí Quinn): The information sought by the Deputy is not readily available within by Department and is being sought from the bodies and agencies under the aegis of my Department. When it is compiled, it will be forwarded to the Deputy.

Heritage Centres Expenditure

159. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the overall annual expenditure by the Office of Public Works on guides for OPW sites; if he will provide a breakdown per site of this expenditure; the number of guides that are employed per site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49163/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): The Office of Public Works is responsible for the management, conservation and presentation of approximately 780 heritage sites. Of this number, 70 are presented to the public with a guide service. A number of sites such as Kilmainham Gaol, the Rock of Cashel and Kilkenny Castle are open to visitors all year round, while others such as Dunmore Cave and Jerpoint Abbey have reduced winter hours. Many sites are open only for the summer season. A core staff of 94 permanent guides is augmented by approximately 200 guides who return as required for the high season. Temporary seasonal guides are recruited each year to complete the number of staff required to run the visitor service element of OPW Heritage Services. In 2011, pay amounted to €9,596,918 for a total of 432 guides.

Site	Pay Expenditure 2011	No of guides
Ardfert Cathedral	€69,927.62	2
Athenry Castle	€55,996.12	4

Site	Pay Expenditure 2011	No of guides
Aughnanure Castle	€69,932.77	5
Ballyhack Castle	€17,756.66	2
Barryscourt Castle	€42,950.59	4
Battle of the Boyne	€318,429.15	10
Botanic Gardens *	€426,090.52	6
Boyle Abbey	€43,542.07	3
Brú na Bóinne	€494,484.04	17
Cahir Castle	€245,833.94	10
Carrowmore Megalithic Centre	€91,899.74	4
Casino Marino	€68,174.27	7
Castletown	€134,294.54	10
Céide Fields	€151,897.59	6
Charles Fort	€210,663.97	10
Clonmacnoise	€311,834.69	15
Corlea Bog	€72,302.66	3
Derrynane House	€54,218.80	5
Desmond Castle	€48,658.66	2
Desmond Hall	€25,337.23	3
Donegal Castle	€127,327.76	6
Dún Aonghusa	€215,961.48	11
Dungarvan Castle	€30,502.54	3
Dunmore Cave	€199,940.03	9
Emo Court *	€63,304.31	5
Ennis Friary	€37,488.84	5
Farmleigh	€54,776.58	4
Ferns Castle	€49,065.69	5
Gallarus	€15,108.83	3
Glebe House & Gallery *	€201,892.67	8
Glendalough Centre	€307,289.12	9
Hill of Tara	€43,402.07	3
Inacullin-Garnish	€31,638.77	3
Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir*	€84,595.92	7
Jerpoint Abbey	€142,236.96	7
JFK Arboretum*	€54,435.20	3
Kilkenny Castle	€676,769.49	25
Kilmacurragh	€57,003.40	3
Kilmainham Gaol	€571,558.28	24
Knowth Passage Grave	€135,867.16	See Brú na Bóinne
Listowel Castle	€26,957.61	3
Loughcrew	€35,372.77	2
Main Guard	€62,327.28	4
Maynooth Castle	€35,714.90	3
Newgrange	€273,699.52	See Brú na Bóinne

Site	Pay Expenditure 2011	No of guides
New Mills Corn & Flax Mills	€31,224.04	3
Old Mellifont	€60,370.34	3
Ormond Castle	€57,552.60	6
Parkes Castle	€65,539.08	5
Pearse Museum & St. Enda's Park*	€338,427.39	7
Phoenix Park Visitor Centre*	€134,595.34	6
Portumna Castle	€99,398.35	6
Rathfarnham Castle *	€122,784.46	7
Reginald's Tower	€121,825.48	6
Rock of Cashel	€496,829.58	23
Roscrea Castle Grounds	€78,216.21	5
Ross Castle	€223,771.34	6
Scattery Island	€16,619.37	1
Skelligs	€90,765.61	5
Sligo Abbey	€71,451.57	5
St. Audoens	€75,364.60	10
St. Mary's Abbey	€15,763.07	See Casino
St. Mary's Gowran	€25,863.82	2
Swiss Cottage	€116,583.95	6
Teach an Phiarsaigh	€29,860.88	3
Tintern Abbey	€52,746.58	7
Trim Castle	€138,746.31	10
Dublin Castle	€644,155.93	16
TOTAL	€9,596,918.71	432

Museum Projects

160. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the spending on improvements that have been undertaken at a museum (details supplied) in Dublin 14; the outstanding works that remain to be completed; the moneys that have been allocated for this purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49206/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): The Pearse Museum reopened in 2008 following a major two-year renovation project which involved the building of a new access stairs, new museum entrance, lift and improvements to visitor facilities. The electrical services were upgraded and the heating system was replaced. The historic rooms of the house were redisplayed and reinterpreted, new areas of the building were made accessible to the public and a space for temporary exhibitions was provided. The café in the courtyard of St. Enda's Park was renovated in 2010 at a cost of €340,447, including VAT. The café is now open all year round for visitors to the Pearse Museum and St. Enda's Park. A project is under way to repair one of the bridges in St. Enda's Park and replace a second one at a total cost of €50,000. It is hoped that an exhibition on the life of P.H. Pearse will be installed in the renovated basement in the coming years subject to funds being available. Plans for the conservation of a number of the garden buildings in the park also await funding.

Flood Relief Schemes Expenditure

161. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the funding provided by the Office of Public Works towards flood relief in south county Dublin; if he will detail the projects for which moneys have been provided; if he will also detail those projects for which funding requests were rejected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49207/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): The Office of Public Works currently administers the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme. The Scheme was introduced in 2009 and provides funding to local authorities to undertake small-scale alleviation measures to address flooding problems within their administrative areas. From 2010 to date in 2012, total funding of €887,200 has been approved for five projects located within the administrative boundaries of South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Councils. Details of the applications received from these local authorities are set out in the following tables.

South Dublin County Council

Year	Project Location	Decision
2010	Tubber Lane, Lucan	Refused - Cost benefit requirement not satisfied
-	Whitechurch Stream, Whitechurch School, Rathfarnham	Refused – Cost benefit requirement not satisfied 2011
2011	No applications submitted	-
2012	Owendoher River, Woodview Cottages, Rathfarnham	Funding of €108,000 approved
-	Poddle River Works	Funding of €250,000 approved.
-	Tallaght / Jobstown Works	Funding of €333,000 approved
-	Glenbrook Footbridge, Owendoher River	Refused - No flood risk
-	Butterfield Avenue, Rathfarnham	Refused - Outside remit of Scheme
-	Total Funding Approved	€691,000

Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council

Year	Project Location	Decision
2010	No applications submitted	-
2011	Packenham Road, Monkstown Works	Funding of €43,200 approved
2012	Stradbrook Stream, Monkstown Works	Funding of €153,000 approved
-	Commons Road, Shanganagh stream	Under consideration
-	Deansgrange Stream	Under consideration

-	Total Funding Approved	€196,200
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Public Sector Management Remuneration

162. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the net saving to the Exchequer if all non commercial State agencies or bodies pay was capped at €100,000. [49133/12]

163. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the gross saving to the Exchequer if all State agencies or bodies pay was capped at €100,000. [49134/12]

166. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide in detail the model his Department applies in responding to Parliamentary Questions regarding pay related saving to the Exchequer. [49188/12]

167. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the Health Service Executive, vocational educational committees, local authorities and non commercial State agencies/bodies are included in his Departments calculation of a gross pay related saving to the Exchequer of €257.5 million if all public service pay were capped at €100,000; and if so, if he will provide the individual savings figure for each. [49189/12]

171. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross salaries of €100,000 or more; and if the figure provided includes local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies workers. [49296/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): I propose to take Questions Nos. 162, 163, 166, 167 and 171 together.

I refer to my replies to Questions No. 23619/12 of 10 May 2012, 25533/12 of 22 May 2012, 32369/12 of 4 July, 2012, 39603, 39605 and 39606/12 of 19 September 2012, 41225/12 of 27 September 2012, and 45732/12 of 23 October, 2012.

The reply to Question No: 23619/12 of 10 May was an estimate in respect of the Exchequer pay bill 2013. The pay range profile has been updated since my reply to reflect the significant reductions in the numbers of public servants in the 1st quarter of 2012 and the current pay data profile (based on 292,000 whole time equivalent public servants) is referenced in detail in my replies to Question Nos. 39603, 39605 and 39606/12 of 19 September 2012 and 41225/12 of 27 September 2012.

Based on the current numbers and pay range profile available to my Department, the estimated full year gross saving in the Exchequer and Local Government pay bill arising from a cap of €100,000 is €290m. The estimate takes account of the reductions in pay arising from the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (No. 2) Act, 2009, but does not take account of any offsetting reductions in taxes and levies. As the combined effect of the estimated marginal tax rate and the pension related reduction at a pay level for a public servant of €100,000 p.a. or higher is at least 62.5%, the estimated net savings would be reduced to less than €110m

Estimates are based on basic salary range (excluding premium pay and allowances) but include employer's pay related social insurance. The Exchequer pay bill estimates include public servants serving in the Health Service Executive, Vocational Educational Committees and non commercial State agencies/bodies. They do not include staff of commercial State -sponsored bodies or bodies funded by the State outside the public service since the Minister for Public

Expenditure and Reform is not responsible for setting the rate of pay for employees (other than the Chief Executives of the commercial semi-State bodies) outside the public service.

As the estimates are based on aggregated data across both the Exchequer funded and Local Authority funded pay bills, detailed data in the format sought by the Deputy (broken down by sector, State body, Department or unit) is a matter for the respective Minister responsible for the Department/Bodies concerned.

Departmental Properties

164. **Deputy Catherine Murphy** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 148 of 18 October 2012, if he will further provide the function of each of the properties listed in said reply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49169/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brian Hayes): The information provided in response to Parliamentary Question 148 of 18 October 2012 has been updated in the following table to show the occupiers of the properties concerned.

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
CARLOW	Carlow D/ETE Office	O'Brien Road	€369,436.00	Jobs Enterprise & Innovation
CLARE	Crusheen GS + MQ	Ennis - Gort Road	€25,000.00	An Garda Síochána
CLARE	Kilrush Revenue Office	Enterprise House	€85,050.00	Revenue
CORK	Cork SWO - ESB Premises	ESB Premises	€120,000.00	Department of Social Protection
CORK	Bantry SWO - 7 Main Street	7 Main Street	€24,000.00	Department of Social Protection
CORK	Cork Government Office Irish Life Building	Irish Life House	€61,448.00	Department Foreign Affairs & Revenue
CORK	Cork Environment Office	Unit 7, Eastgate Avenue	€76,773.52	Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht
CORK	Cork Government Office Irish Life Building	Irish Life House	€69,914.52	Department Foreign Affairs
CORK	Cork C&E Centre Park House	Centre Park House	€43,940.00	3rd Floor Unallocated

Questions - Written Answers

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
CORK	Cork C&E Centre Park House	Centre Park House	€110,000.00	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Marine Survey Office and Irish Coast Guard
CORK	Fermoy SWO - Connolly Street	Connolly Street	€9,000.00	Department of Social Protection
CORK	Cork C&E Centre Park House	Centre Park House	€48,000.00	Jobs Enterprise and Innovation
CORK	Cork Marine Office	Riverview Business Park	€58,500.00	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
CORK	Cork Government Office Doughcloyne	Doughcloyne Industrial Estate	€42,158.41	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
CORK	Carrigaline DSFA Office	Units 2 & 4	€103,940.00	Department of Social Protection
DONEGAL	Letterkenny Driving Test Centre	Unit 5 Pearse Road	€15,000.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
DONEGAL	Ballyshannon Maritime Office	Top Floor, Iona Office Block	€25,000.00	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Marine Survey Office
DUBLIN	North Circular Road Park House	North Circular Road	€92,778.00	Department of Defence
DUBLIN	Raheny DTC	4 All Saints Park	€60,000.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
DUBLIN	Swords Agricultural Inspectors	Castle Shopping Centre	€8,253.30	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DUBLIN	Gardiner Street Upper 77 CWS	77 Upper Gardiner Street	€201,190.00	Department of Social Protection
DUBLIN	Malahide SWO	Main Street	€15,871.73	Department of Social Protection

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
DUBLIN	Irish Life Centre Block 5/7	Lower Abbey Street	€1,110,000.00	Department of Social Protection, General Registrar Office, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
DUBLIN	Molesworth Building Setanta Centre	Molesworth Street/South Frederic	€1,145,000.00	Department of Foreign Affairs (passport Office), Chief Medical Officer, Oireachtas.
DUBLIN	Airways Industrial Estate	Unit 1	€290,000.00	Multiple Depts, storage.
DUBLIN	Harcourt Sq Garda Block 1	Harcourt Street	€1,300,000.00	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	Molesworth Building Setanta Centre	Molesworth Street/South Frederic	€114,388.00	Passport Office
DUBLIN	Cabinteely GS	Bray Road	€34,000.00	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	Finglas Probation & Welfare Service	Poppintree Mall	€66,000.00	Probation Service
DUBLIN	Jamestown Business Park Unit 38	Jamestown Business Park	€120,000.00	Departments of Foreign Affairs and Transport Tourism & Sport storage.
DUBLIN	Dun Laoghaire Probation & Welfare Service	Foundation House	€85,999.36	Probation Service
DUBLIN	Harcourt St Harcourt Centre Block 2	Harcourt Street	€228,500.00	Department of Justice and Equality
DUBLIN	Harcourt Sq Garda Block 2	Harcourt Street	€1,832,500.00	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	Harcourt Sq Garda Block 3	Harcourt Street	€1,278,800.00	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	Mountshannon Road Furniture Branch Office Block	Mountshannon Road	€460,000.00	OPW

Questions - Written Answers

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
DUBLIN	Lombard St East 8 - 11 Joyce Hse	8 - 11 Lombard Street	€560,000.00	Department of Health and Health Service Executive
DUBLIN	Harcourt Sq Garda Block 4	Harcourt Street	€417,250.00	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	East Essex Street Dolphin House	East Essex Street	€655,000.00	Court Service
DUBLIN	Mount St Upr 36	36 Upper Mount Street	€200,000.00	Pensions Ombudsman
DUBLIN	Ely Place 7-8 Ely Court	7-8 Ely Place	€730,000.00	Department of Arts Heritage Gaeltacht
DUBLIN	St Stephens Gr 94	94 St Stephens Green	€612,000.00	Department of Justice and Equality
DUBLIN	St Stephens Gr 94	94 St Stephens Green	€408,000.00	Department of Justice and Equality
DUBLIN	Ballyfermot Probation & Welfare Service	Le Fanu Road	€39,500.00	Probation Service
DUBLIN	Park West Ind Est Unit 4	Unit 4/Site 39	€180,000.00	National Gallery of Ireland, National Library of Ireland
DUBLIN	Clondalkin SWO Ninth Lock Rd	Block B	€215,000.00	Department of Social Protection
DUBLIN	Earlsfort Terrace Earl Centre Block	Earlsfort Centre Block J	€150,000.00	Jobs Enterprise & Innovation, Social Protection
DUBLIN	Leeson Street Lower Ossory House	Earlsfort Centre	€900,000.00	Ombudsman
DUBLIN	Irish Life Centre Block D E & F	Lower Abbey Street	€900,000.00	Communications Regulator
DUBLIN	Shelbourne Rd 21 Shelbourne Hse	21 Shelbourne Road	€1,018,000.00	Adoption Authority of Ireland & Department of Education and Skills
DUBLIN	Sandyford Furze Road	90-91 Furze Road	€255,000.00	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
DUBLIN	Capel Street 89 -94	89 -94 Capel Street	€689,321.76	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	Mount St Lr 73-79 Ballaugh House	73-79 Lower Mount Street	€612,000.00	Revenue
DUBLIN	Park West Business Park Block 43	Block 43	€212,585.90	Department of Social Protection
DUBLIN	Bishops Square	Redmonds Hill	€1,495,500.00	Department of Social Protection
DUBLIN	Bishops Square	Redmonds Hill	€1,525,000.00	Revenue
DUBLIN	Bishops Square	Redmonds Hill	€1,120,000.00	Department of Justice and Equality
DUBLIN	Waterloo Road St Martins House	Dublin 4	€570,000.00	Mental Health Commission
DUBLIN	Adelaide Road 29-31	29-31 Adelaide Road	€2,970,000.00	Communications Energy & Natural Resources
DUBLIN	Balbriggan Passport Office	Unit 1, Fingal Bay Business Park	€390,000.00	Department of Foreign Affairs
DUBLIN	Finglas Finance Storage	Unit 9 Jamestown Business Park	€72,500.00	Department of Finance
DUBLIN	Holles Street Holbrook House	Holbrook House	€174,000.00	Valuation Appeals Tribunal
DUBLIN	Conyngham Road Phoenix House	Phoenix House	€365,000.00	Department of Justice and Equality
DUBLIN	Tallaght PIAB	The Grain Hse, Blk 1, The Exchange	€188,553.75	Injuries Board
DUBLIN	Clonmel Street [Clonmel Place]	Clonmel Place	€804,500.00	Equality Tribunal, Equality Authority, Department of Defence.
DUBLIN	Garden Lane Probation & Welfare Office	Carmans Hall	€55,980.00	Probation Service
DUBLIN	Great Strand St Millennium House	52-56 Great Strand Street	€265,675.00	Childrens Ombudsman

Questions - Written Answers

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
DUBLIN	Harcourt Road Dun Sceine	Iveagh Court Block A	€850,000.00	National Transport Authority
DUBLIN	Blanchardstown Government Office	Block A West- end Office Park	€638,678.25	Department of Social Protec- tion
DUBLIN	Swords Busi- ness Campus Unit 4	Swords Busi- ness Campus	€390,000.00	Central Statis- tics Office
DUBLIN	Swords Busi- ness Campus Unit 5/6A	Swords Busi- ness Campus	€231,443.68	Inland Fisheries Ireland
DUBLIN	Swords Busi- ness Campus Unit 5/6C	Swords Busi- ness Campus	€173,226.50	Inland Fisheries Ireland
DUBLIN	Bow Street Government Office	31-35 Bow Street	€450,000.00	Departments of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Health and the Road Safety Authority
DUBLIN	Finglas Driving Test Ctr+Rev Store	Unidare Indus- trial Estate	€45,520.15	Road Safety Au- thority Driving Test Centre
DUBLIN	The Chancery Building	3-10 Chancery Lane	€543,880.00	Property Regis- tration Authority of Ireland
DUBLIN	Abbey Street Upper 26 - 30	Chapter House	€994,569.76	Department of Justice and Equality (INIS)
DUBLIN	Tallaght Gda Vehicle Pound	Airton Road	€1,051,020.41	An Garda Síochána
DUBLIN	Abbey Street Upper 26 - 30	Chapter House	€672,175.55	Public Appoint- ments Commis- sion
DUBLIN	Abbey Street Upper 26 - 30	Chapter House	€1,206,096.51	Public Appoint- ments Commis- sion
DUBLIN	Abbey Street Upper 26 - 30	Chapter House	€211,542.00	Public Appoint- ments Commis- sion
DUBLIN	Parnell Sq 16	16 Parnell Square	€1,493,644.72	Director of Cor- porate Enforce- ment, Garda Welfare Offi- cers, Social Pro- tection, NCSE (Education).

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
DUBLIN	Revenue Castleview Georges St	Block C	€1,827,522.00	Revenue
DUBLIN	Nth King St 90 Georges Court	Smithfield	€1,353,509.00	Director of Public Prosecutions
DUBLIN	Nth King St 90 Georges Court	Smithfield	€655,940.00	HIQA
DUBLIN	Finglas Driving Test Yard	Jamestown Business Park	€120,000.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
DUBLIN	Navan Road Ashtowngate Block B	Navan Road	€254,401.00	Revenue
DUBLIN	Kings Inn House SWO & ESO	Parnell St	€208,275.00	Department of Social Protection
DUBLIN	Kings Inn House SWO & ESO	Parnell St	€558,200.00	Department of Social Protection
DUBLIN	Smithfield Office of Film Classification	Block B2	€255,955.00	Film Classifier
GALWAY	Galway DAF Dockgate	Dockgate	€922,250.00	Departments of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Social Protection
GALWAY	Galway Liosbaun Garda Unit 1B	Liosbaun Business Park	€25,987.50	An Garda Síochána
GALWAY	Galway Millennium House	Westbridge	€19,407.50	Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht
GALWAY	Galway Gov Off Hynes Building	Hynes Building	€222,425.00	Department of Social Protection
GALWAY	Galway Irish Water Safety	Long Walk	€41,722.00	Irish Water Safety Association.
GALWAY	Galway Probation & Welfare Service	Abbey Arch Units 1,4, 5,7 & 8	€34,274.04	Probation Service
GALWAY	Galway Probation & Welfare Service	Abbey Arch Units 1,4, 5,7 & 8	€27,068.28	Probation Service
GALWAY	Loughrea Transport & RSA Temp Office	Clonfert House	€51,837.50	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Questions - Written Answers

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
GALWAY	Loughrea Transport & RSA Temp Office	Clonfert House	€31,225.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
GALWAY	Loughrea Transport & RSA Temp Office	Clonfert House	€56,187.50	Road Safety Authority
KERRY	Killarney D.T.C.	Killarney Race Course	€40,000.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
KERRY	Tralee Agriculture Warehouse	Ballinorig Road	€18,324.86	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
KERRY	Listowel Revenue Office	Old Mill Road	€244,923.70	Revenue
KILDARE	Naas SWO - Rathasker Square	Unit 2 Rathasker Square	€23,000.00	Department of Social Protection
KILDARE	Naas Agriculture Office - Poplar House	Poplar House	€95,696.00	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
KILDARE	Willow Hse Millennium Pk Block 6	Block 6, Willow House	€119,163.00	Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority
LAOIS	Portlaoise Agriculture Warehouse	Kylekiproe Industrial Estate	€107,919.25	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
LAOIS	Portlaoise DAF Appeals Office	Kilminchy Court	€84,051.49	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
LAOIS	Portarlington Data Protection Commissioner Office	Data Protection Commissioners	€73,500.00	Data Protection Commission
LAOIS	Portlaoise Agriculture Records	Unit 11	€98,133.16	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
LEITRIM	Carrick-on-Shannon SWO	Attyory	€800,000.00	Department of Social Protection
LIMERICK	Newcastlewest Probation & Welfare Office	Churchtown Road	€39,613.16	Probation Service

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
LIMERICK	Limerick Government Office Houston Hall	Houston Hall	€373,568.00	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Central Statistics Office
LIMERICK	Limerick DFA Office	Henry St	€900,000.00	Foreign Affairs
LOUTH	Drogheda Probation & Welfare Service	23 Laurence Street	€66,000.00	Probation Service
MAYO	Castlebar Probation & Welfare Service	Unit 10, N5 Business Retail Park	€38,259.80	Probation Service
MAYO	Swinford DSFA Office	Chapel Street	€18,840.00	Social Protection
MAYO	Ballina Road Safety HQ Unit 3	Moyvalley Business Park	€121,250.00	Road Safety Authority
MAYO	Ballina Road Safety HQ Unit 4	Moyvalley Business Park	€121,937.50	Road Safety Authority
MEATH	Navan SWO	Kennedy Road	€230,000.00	Department of Social Protection
MEATH	Navan Government Office Kilcairn	Kilcairn	€573,700.00	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Education & Skills, Probation Service, Road Safety Authority, Driving Test Centre, Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht, National Education and Psychology Service, National Education Welfare Board, National Council for Special Education

Questions - Written Answers

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
MEATH	Navan Athlumney House	Athlumney House	€439,921.00	Department of Justice and Equality, Garda HR
MEATH	Navan Revenue Abbey Mall	Abbey Road	€575,360.00	Revenue, Property Regulator
MONAGHAN	Monaghan Drainage Workshops	Drumbear	€32,500.00	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
OFFALY	Tullamore SWO Castle Buildings	Office Suite 1 & 2 Castle Builds	€204,044.80	Department of Social Protection
SLIGO	Sligo Customs and Excise Store	Rhodaville Warehouse	€24,000.00	Revenue
SLIGO	Sligo Government Office - Westward Town Centre	Westward Town Centre	€42,260.00	An Garda Síochána
SLIGO	Marino House	Finisklin Business Park	€57,642.00	NERA (Jobs Enterprise & Innovation)
SLIGO	Lough Arrow Field Study Centre	Lough Arrow	€33,430.00	Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht
SLIGO	Marino House	Finisklin Business Park	€57,640.15	OPW
SLIGO	Sligo Government Office - Westward Town Centre	Westward Town Centre	€53,250.00	Ordnance Survey Ireland
TIPPERARY	Nenagh Justice Office	24 Kenyon Street	€36,270.00	Inspector of Prisons
TIPPERARY	Borrisokane GS	Main Street	€14,000.00	An Garda Síochána
TIPPERARY	Roscrea Civil Defence Office	Enterprise Hse, Benamore Bus Pk	€25,000.00	Civil Defence
TIPPERARY	Roscrea Civil Defence Office	Enterprise Hse, Benamore Bus Pk	€178,825.00	Civil Defence
TIPPERARY	Tipperary Temporary Office	Block 2 Rossmore Village	€103,957.50	Vacated recently- for surrender April 2013
WATERFORD	Waterford RSA Test Centre	Six Cross Roads Bus Park	€40,000.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS 1	RENT PA	OCCUPIER
WATERFORD	Waterford Agriculture Belview	Marine Point	€13,220.00	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
WATERFORD	Waterford RSA Test Centre	Six Cross Roads Bus Park	€156,000.00	Road Safety Authority Driving Test Centre
WEXFORD	Rosslare Harbour Government Office	Port Terminal	€10,860.00	Revenue
WEXFORD	Rosslare Harbour Government Office	Port Terminal	€79,206.26	Revenue
WEXFORD	Enniscorthy SWO Portsmouth Hse	Unit 9, Portsmouth House	€25,000.00	Department of Social Protection
WICKLOW	Arklow Prob & Welfare Service	Wexford Road	€19,046.07	Probation Service
WICKLOW	Dunlavin GS + MQ	Market Square	€10,500.00	An Garda Síochána
WICKLOW	Block D Bray Civic Centre	Cualann Centre	€471,541.36	Social Protection, Education, Probation Service

Departmental Staff Numbers

165. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of staff at each grade within the civil service at the time of the introduction of the recruitment moratorium; the current number of staff at each grade; the number of positions filled on promotion within each Department and agency since the moratorium; the number of positions filled on redeployment within each Department and agency since the moratorium; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49176/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The Government is committed to creating, a leaner more efficient Public Service.

The data requested relating to the number of staff at each grade within the civil service by the Deputy is set out in the attached table. The data on Public Service staffing numbers which is available on my Department's website <http://databank.per.gov.ie/> demonstrates that significant progress is being made in reducing the numbers employed across all of the Public Service, including the Civil Service. Since their peak of over 39,300 in 2008, Civil Service numbers have fallen by some 3,000 net which is about 8%.

As previously stated, data on the number of positions filled by redeployment in individual organisations is not collated by my Department. However, progress made in implementing the provisions of the Croke Park Agreement, including examples of progress on redeploying public servants within and across sectors of the public service (including over 1,700 in to the Civil Service), is set out in the website of the Implementation Body at <http://implementationbody.gov.ie/progress-and-delivery/>.

Questions - Written Answers

The latest available data on moratorium exceptions will be forwarded to the Deputy as requested.

Non Industrial Civil Servants Grouped by HRMS Salary Plan - FTE	Moratorium - 27th March 2009	End September 2012
SECRETARY GENERAL & SECOND SECRETARY GENERAL SALARY PLAN TOTAL	38.00	33.00
DEPUTY SECRETARY SALARY PLAN TOTAL	15.00	13.00
ASSISTANT SECRETARY SALARY PLAN TOTAL	244.00	215.00
PO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	1,453.90	1,170.06
AP SALARY PLAN TOTAL	3,874.65	3,410.33
HEO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	3,889.48	4,442.92
AO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	2,245.17	1,909.93
EO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	6,738.21	6,015.49
SO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	1,615.26	1,584.77
CO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	11,843.47	11,085.18
SVO SALARY PLAN TOTAL	1,212.12	1,025.21
MISCELLANEOUS GRADES TOTAL	101.97	166.90
Total	33,271.23	31,071.79

The above data does not include Prisons (main), National Gallery & Foreign Affairs local recruits serving abroad

The increase in HEOs is due to the transfer of staff from FÁS and the HSE into the Department of Social Protection.

Questions Nos. 166 and 167 answered with Question No. 162.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

168. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the saving to the Exchequer if the following bands were applied to the public service pension reduction at all public sector pensions, up to €12,000 exempt; 6% applied to €12,001 to €24,000; 9% applied to €24,001 to €60,000; 20% applied to €60,001 to €80,000; 50% applied to €80,001 to €100,000 and €100,001 upwards 100%. [49212/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): As the Deputy may be aware, only around 1% of public service pensioners are in receipt of a pension in excess of €60,000 and only a few hundred have a pension in excess of €100,000. The average public service pension is estimated at around €25,000 and many of these pensioners do not have any entitlement to the social welfare pension. I would add that there would be legal issues arising from a proposal to introduce a 100% reduction for pensions above a certain level. The changes in rates and bands proposed by the Deputy would save approximately €10 million in a full year. This figure would be reduced by the application of taxation.

Departmental Expenditure

169. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49246/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): Gross expenditure ceilings were set out in the *Comprehensive Expenditure Report 2012-2014* and currently form the basis of the 2013 Estimates discussions which are ongoing. While the individual Vote expenditure ceilings will be announced on 5 December, the updated position in regard to the overall fiscal consolidation for 2013 will be published shortly by my colleague, the Minister for Finance, in the *Medium-Term Fiscal Statement*.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

170. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide in a tabular the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49295/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The data provided in the following table covers retired Civil Servants, seven smaller bodies and agencies whose pensions are paid on an agency basis by the Office of the Paymaster General and the VEC/IoT sector. The data relevant to the VEC/IoT sector may include spouses payments as the individual payees sub-categorisation process is ongoing in the Paymaster Generals Office.

€	Range	Number
0	10,000	6925
10,001	20,000	3699
20,001	30,000	5238
30,001	40,000	4404
40,001	50,000	2224
50,001	60,000	587
60,001	70,000	216
70,001	80,000	41

€	Range	Number
80,001	90,000	26
90,001	100,000	10
100,001	110,000	44
110,001	120,000	27
120,001	130,000	5
130,001	140,000	0
140,001	150,000	0
150,001	160,000	0
160,000+	-	0
-	-	23,446

Details in relation to the other sectors mentioned by the Deputy – Local Authorities, Commercial State Companies and Non Commercial Agencies – can be provided by the relevant Minister.

Question No. 171 was answered with Question No. 162.

Departmental Bodies

172. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49317/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The Government is committed to a programme of public service reform and improvement. As part of the work in this area, we are looking at classifications and listings of State agencies in order to produce more coherent and focused directories of services for citizens and the Oireachtas. Broadly the position is that there are a number of offices of State which typically are staffed by civil servants and have their own Vote for the allocation of public monies and which are within a Vote group. Secondly, there are non-commercial state bodies who are usually staffed by public servants and funded (or part funded) through a grant-in-aid from their parent Department. The following is a list of the offices and agencies under the remit of my Department:

Name of Office or Agency

Office of Public Works
State Laboratory
Public Appointments Service
The Office of the Ombudsman
Commission for Public Service Appointments
Valuation Office
Valuation Tribunal
Economic and Social Research Institute

Institute of Public Administration

Special EU Programmes Body

No quasi-governmental organisations and/or agencies have been created or abolished by my Department since 9 March 2011.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

173. **Deputy Martin Heydon** asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the terms of the Public Service Pension Reduction; the timeframe it remains in place; if it is paid by both public servants and civil servants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49346/12]

Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform (Deputy Brendan Howlin): The Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2010 introduced the Public Service Pension Reduction (PSPR). At present, the position is that the 2010 legislation provides, with effect from 1 January 2011, for an average reduction of about 4% of pension, calculated in line with the following rates and bands:

Annual Public Service Pension (€)	Reduction Rate
First 12,000	0%
Between 12,000 and 24,000	6%
Between 24,000 and 60,000	9%
Between 60,000 and 100,000	12%
Balance above 100,000	20%

I legislated last year to add the 20% rate for the over €100,000 band with effect from 1 January 2012.

The measure secures annual savings estimated at €100 million and applies to over 130,000 pensioners. The PSPR applies to former civil and public servants and to the survivors pensions of spouses and children of former public servants. The measure is tapered to mitigate the effect on the lowest level of pension income and is consequently progressive in nature. Former public servants in receipt of high rates of superannuation benefit, including former members of the Government and the Oireachtas and other office holders, including the Judiciary, have and will bear the highest reduction.

The preamble to the 2010 legislation clearly establishes the PSPR as an emergency measure taken in the context of the financial and budgetary situation pertaining. There are also significant safeguards built into the Statute, including an annual review and report which must be laid before the Oireachtas in June each year, as well as provision for me as Minister to examine cases for full or partial exemption and to remove doubts, where appropriate.

Health and Safety Inspection Numbers

174. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections by the Health and Safety Authority for Compliance with Health and Safety Legislation/Existence of Safety Statement and Safety System in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49366/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The informa-

tion requested by the Deputy is set out in tabular form below in the form maintained by the Health and Safety Authority:

-	2009	2010	2011	January – October 2012
Number of Inspections	18,451	16,714	15,340	10,946
Safety statement prepared and present	76% prepared	83% prepared 73% present	69%	71%
Senior managers aware of duties under health and safety legislation	60%	88%	88%	87%
Safety consultation system (where applicable)	63%	80%	90%	92%
Number of proceedings taken	38	27	32	12
Number of prosecutions	34	25	30	9

The Health and Safety Authority's annual reports contain additional information relating to inspections and enforcement action. These reports are available at www.hsa.ie.

Due to the short timeframe it is not possible to provide the total cost of inspections for each year. However, this information will be forwarded directly to the Deputy by the Health and Safety Authority.

Waste Management Inspections

175. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation the number of inspections that were carried out by National Standards Authority of Ireland or certified third parties on waste management companies that charge customers by weight in 2010, 2011 and 2012; the number of verbal warnings or warning notices in the form of written instructions that were issued to such companies by the NSAI or certified third parties in those years; the waste management companies that were in breach of legislation in those years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49099/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): Waste disposal collectors are responsible under the Metrology Act 1996 and Regulations made under the Act, for ensuring that all their weighing instruments, including weighbridges and waste disposal trucks with weighing facilities, comply with the relevant requirements. Manufacturers are required to ensure that weighing equipment is verified upon first use, and thereafter, traders should ensure re-verification is carried out following repair or adjustment of parts requiring official seals to be broken.

Compliance requires measuring instruments to be of an approved design and each individual piece of equipment must measure correctly within legal tolerances and be appropriately secured with tamper-evident devices to prevent unauthorised access to its calibration settings.

Knowingly failing or neglecting to ensure compliance may result in prosecution.

In keeping with the strategy of outsourcing verification services to the widest extent possible the first authorised Verifier for truck mounted waste weighing equipment was appointed earlier this year - the Authorised Verifier Scheme for the other types of weighing equipment used in this sector is well-established.

While verbal warnings were issued by the Legal Metrology Service (LMS) of the NSAI to have non-compliances rectified, these were followed up by later inspections to ensure rectification was carried out and therefore no written warnings were issued.

Due to the regulatory nature of LMS inspections, the Deputy will understand that compliance information on individual traders cannot be made publically available as it may be the subject of current or future enforcement actions. I can however, report that the LMS has not needed to take any prosecutions in this sector to date, and I welcome this development.

The Tables accompanying this reply provide details of the numbers of weighing instruments tested by the LMS in the waste disposal sector generally and for domestic waste weighers for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

All Categories of Weighing Instruments

Year	Inspections	Verifications	Warnings
2010	132	67	30
2011	142	70	27
2012 YTD	108	68	30

Residential Waste Weighers

Year	Inspections	Verifications	Warnings
2010	1	15	0
2011	6	30	1
2012 YTD	5	31	3

Departmental Bodies

176. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49315/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): My Department currently has 12 State agencies supporting us in our work. These are:

1. Enterprise Ireland
2. IDA Ireland
3. Science Foundation Ireland
4. Shannon Development

5. County & City Enterprise Boards (35)
6. National Standards Authority of Ireland
7. Forfás
8. National Consumer Agency
9. The Competition Authority
10. Irish Auditing and Accounting Standards Authority
11. Personal Injuries Assessment Board, and
12. The Health & Safety Authority

There is a substantial programme of reform underway within my Department. The bodies under the remit of my Department that are scheduled to be rationalised merged or abolished are set out under the Government's Agency Rationalisation Programme. In summary, plans are at an advanced stage to:

- Merge the National Consumer Agency and Competition Authority into one single entity;
- Dissolve the 35 CEB's and restructure small business supports through collaboration with Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities;
- Merge five workplace relations bodies into two;
- Transfer relevant enterprise functions from Shannon Development to IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Bord Fáilte and merge Shannon Development with Shannon Airport;
- Integrate Forfás into the Department.

Name of Body	Date Created	Date to be Abolished/Rationalised/Amalgamated	2012 Budget Allocation	No. of Employees in 2012	Current Status
County and City Enterprise Board (35)	Oct 1993	Allowing for progress through the Oireachtas, the plan is to have the Bill enacted before summer recess 2013.	€26.386m	124.3 (WTE)	The Government has approved the restructuring of the enterprise support model for the micro and small business sectors. This restructuring will include the dissolution of the County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs), the transfer of their functions, assets and liabilities to Enterprise Ireland (EI) and the development of a new Small and Micro Business Division within Enterprise Ireland (EI) as a centre of excellence in the provision of supports to the small and micro enterprise sectors, and the establishment of Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) to provide a "one-stop-shop" for small businesses within Local Authorities.

Competition Authority	Competition Authority was established in October 1991.	The plan is for the Bill to be published by mid-January 2013: enactment will depend on progress through the Oireachtas.	€4.654m	42.1	The legislation to give effect to the merger of the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency is currently on the A list of the Government's legislative programme. It is hoped that the legislation will be published by mid-January 2013.
National Consumer Agency	National Consumer Agency was established in May 2007.	The plan is for the Bill to be published by mid-January 2013: enactment will depend on progress through the Oireachtas.	A total of €5.716m was provided for in the Department's Vote in respect of the cost of carrying out its statutory functions, other than those relating to consumer education and information in the financial services area, in 2012. The Agency imposes a levy on regulated financial services entities to cover the cost of the consumer information and education functions that it assumed responsibility for from the Financial Regulator following the enactment of the Central Bank Reform Act 2010. The Agency expects to impose levies totalling €2.125m in respect of the exercise of the aforementioned functions in 2012.	There are currently 59 staff (56.4 WTE) assigned to the Agency. Nineteen of these staff (18 WTE) are responsible for carrying out the consumer education and information functions in the financial services area and are paid for from the levy collected by the Agency from regulated financial service entities.	The legislation to give effect to the merger of the Competition Authority and the National Consumer Agency is currently on the A list of the Government's legislative programme. It is hoped that the legislation will be published in mid-January 2013.
Labour Court	1946	(see below)	€3.005m (including €0.6m pensions)	27 (WTE)	I have commenced the process to establish a new two-tier Workplace Relations structure and considerable progress has been made to date (see below)

Questions - Written Answers

National Employment Rights Authority Labour Relations Commission Employment Appeals Tribunal Equality Tribunal	200719911967N/A I currently do not have responsibility for the Equality Tribunal (Min. for Justice has responsibility for ET)	A significant amount of work has been completed on the legislative programme and the General Scheme of Bill was approved by Government for priority drafting on 24 July, 2012. I expect publication before the end of quarter one of next year. This would enable the dissolution of these four bodies and the establishment of the Workplace Relations Bodies by early 2013.	€6.351m€5.089m €3.658mN/A	103.03(WTE)47 (WTE)38.2(WTE) N/A	I have commenced the process to establish a new two-tier Workplace Relations structure. From next year two statutorily independent bodies will replace the current five. There will be a new single body of first instance to be called the Workplace Relations Commission and a separate appeals body, which will effectively be an expanded Labour Court. Significant progress has been made to date and I am happy to report that in the last year; two public consultation processes were completed; two policy documents were published; a new single contact portal has replaced the five separate entry points; there are now no backlogs for Rights Commissioner hearings; a Single Complaint Form has replaced the 30 forms previously in use; a new workplace relations interim website is in place; a pilot Early Resolution Service is now seeking to resolve disputes at an early stage without the need for adjudication. Pending the enactment of the legislation, I intend to continue to progress the reform and bring about further enhancements for users of the services on an administrative basis in the coming months.
Forfás	1 Jan. 1994	Forfás is being integrated into my Department. It is expected that this process will be completed by end 2013	€52.672m (of which 77% or €40.6m relates to pensions of former agency staff)	88.5 (WTE)	
Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) EGFSN Members are appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills in consultation with the Minister for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation.)	1997	EGFSN will continue to operate as heretofore with secretariat support provided by integrated DJEI / Forfás staff and its work to be subject to funding agreement with DES	The work of the EGFSN is funded by DES under the National Training Fund	Forfás provide research support and secretariat services to the EGFSN	A Service Level Agreement will be drawn up between DES and DJEI to agree a schedule of work to meet DES requirements.

National Competitiveness Council (NCC)	1997	The NCC will continue to operate as an independent advisory body. However, the Secretariat, currently provided by Forfás, is to be absorbed into DJEI as part of the integration of Forfás.	There is no direct funding allocated to NCC	Forfás provide research support and secretariat services.	The NCC is to be maintained, with a refreshed mandate and some changes in membership
Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the Government	June 2004	October 2012	The 2012 budget allocation for the Office of the CSA was €95k (this reflects 8/12 of the annual allocation as the CSA contract ceased in August 2012). In addition, two research staff, at a pay cost of €135K were available, on loan from Forfás, to support the Office.	3 (1 CSA and 2 support staff seconded from Forfás)	The Office of the CSA was included in the bodies due for critical review under the Public Sector Reform initiative. Following a Government decision on 11/10/12 to abolish the separate Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), the Director General of Science Foundation Ireland has taken on the role of Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government in addition to his existing role.
Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (ACSTI)	2005	The role of the ACSTI is being reviewed in the context of the amalgamation of Forfás into the Department and appropriate arrangements for supporting the Research Prioritisation Exercise.	ACSTI operates as a sub-board of Forfás, all costs are met from the Forfás allocation.	-	The role of the ACSTI is being reviewed in the context of the amalgamation of Forfás into the Department and appropriate arrangements for supporting the Research Prioritisation Exercise.

Questions - Written Answers

Shannon Development	1959	Heads of a Bill to establish the new entity on a statutory basis will be submitted to Government in early 2013 with the aim of having the Bill enacted by Summer 2013	€5m in Grants and €4.2m in Pension Provision	106 WTE (109 staff)	On 8th May 2012, the Government decided in principle to separate Shannon Airport (SA) from the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and bring it together with Shannon Development to form a new entity with a commercial mandate in public ownership. The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation established a Steering Group to bring forward proposals for the implementation of that decision. Two Task Forces have also been established; the Aviation Business Development Task Force and the Change Management Task Force. The Steering Group will be reporting back to Government with proposals to implement the Government decision before the end of this month.
Companies Registration Office and the Office of the Registrar of Friendly Societies	1963 (CRO) and pre-State (RFS).		€7.368m	111	These offices are 'de facto' merged, operating under a common budget and with the same individual designated as Registrar of Companies and Registrar of Friendly Societies. There are no plans to pursue a legislative amendment at this point in time.

With regard to the hiring of outside consultants by Agencies, this is a day-to-day matter for the individual Agencies concerned for which I have no responsibility. I have referred this aspect of the question to the Agencies for direct reply to the Deputy.

NSAI Inspections

177. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will provide in tabular form, the total number of inspections that has been undertaken by the National Standard Authority of Ireland for spot checks on fuel dispensing units and weighting scales in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; if he will outline the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49357/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): Due to the volume of information requested by the Deputy, my Department has been unable to collate the information within the timeframe given. I will endeavour to provide the information to the Deputy as soon as possible.

Employment Rights Issues

178. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections by the National Employment Rights Agency for compliance with relevant employment legislation and terms and conditions in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49365/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The National Employment Rights Authority aims to achieve voluntary compliance with employment law through the provision of education and awareness, inspection of employers' employment records and enforcement where necessary. While every effort is made to secure compliance, some employers either refuse or fail to rectify the breaches identified and/or pay money due to their employees. These employers are referred for prosecution.

Where people have concerns that workers may be exploited or are receiving less than their statutory entitlement the matter should be reported to NERA for investigation. Information Officers of the Workplace Relations Customer Service phone service on 1890 80 80 90 also provide impartial information on a wide variety of employment rights legislation to both employees and employers by telephone, in writing and by email.

NERA does not keep records in relation to the marginal costs incurred in carrying out an inspection. The figures for costs included in the table below are the total costs incurred by NERA in relation to the discharge of the entirety of its functions, namely in relation to information, inspection, enforcement, prosecution and protection of young persons.

*	2009	2010	2011	2012 (to 31 Oct)
Inspections	*	*	*	*
No. of Inspections concluded	8,859	7,164	5,591	3,660
No. Compliant Inspections	7,628	5,248	3,970	2,627
Prosecutions	*	*	*	*
No. of Prosecutions initiated	87	89	56	34
No. of Convictions	16	25	28	18
NERA Cost	*	*	*	*
Pay	€6,544,897	€5,614,194	€5,276,713	€4,512,470
Non-pay	€1,391,386	€1,320,224	€1,360,613	€805,650
Total Cost	€7,935,786	€6,934,977	€6,637,326	€5,318,120
Staff	*	*	*	*
Total staff	119	108	104	104
Number of Inspectors	71	66	61	58

Work Permit Applications

179. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

if and when a work permit will be renewed or is requested in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49390/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): In June 2011 this person applied for an employment permit. This permit issued on 23 June 2011 and will expire on 6 January 2013. There is currently no record in my Department for a renewal of this permit.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

180. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation if he will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49827/12]

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Deputy Richard Bruton): The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is providing the data on numbers of retired civil servants from all Government Departments, including my own, in the ranges of pensions, as sought by the Deputy.

Within my Department payment of pensions is administered only in respect of former members of the Labour Court and the Competition Authority under The Labour Court (Members) Superannuation Scheme, and the Competition Authority (Members) Scheme respectively. A breakdown of pensions paid within the bands sought by the Deputy is as follows:

Pension between	No.
€ 0 - €10,000	3
€10,001 - €20,000	8
€20,001 - €30,000	5
€30,001 - €40,000	4
€40,001 - €50,000	3
€50,001 - €60,000	0
€60,001 - €70,000	1
€70,001 - €80,000	1
€80,001 - €90,000	1
Total	26

Of the 26 currently in receipt of a pension, 13 are former members of the Labour Court, six are spouses of former members of the Labour Court and seven are former members of the Competition Authority.

I have asked the non-commercial State agencies under the aegis of my Department to respond directly to the Deputy.

Carer's Allowance Applications

181. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on an application for carer's allowance in respect of a person (details provided) in Co. Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49052/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the Department received an application for carer's allowance from the person in question on 18 June 2012. The application is with a deciding officer for a decision. Once processed, the person concerned will be notified directly of the outcome.

Rental Accommodation Scheme Applications

182. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will be made in respect of an application for rent allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 16; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49055/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The claim is currently being processed and a decision will be made shortly. The person concerned will be advised of this decision when it is made.

Question No. 183 withdrawn.

Social Welfare Appeals Status

184. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding an appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cavan; when a decision may be expected; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49104/12]

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 27th August 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 4th September 2012 and the case has been 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.

Community Employment Schemes Places

185. **Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh** asked the Minister for Social Protection the number of participants on community employment programmes on 1 October 2012 and 1 October 2011, nationally and specifically in counties Dublin and Cork; the number of participants in receipt of disability allowance and also the number of community employment participants on one parent family payment on the above dates nationally and in counties Dublin and Cork. [49111/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Statistics for Community Employment are compiled at the end of each month. At the end of September 2012 there were 22,636 (participants and Supervisors) engaged on Community Employment (CE); at the end

of September 2011 there were 23,348 (participants and Supervisors) engaged on CE. Specifically in the Dublin counties at the end of September 2012 there were 5,822 (participants and Supervisors) engaged on CE, the corresponding number for the end of September 2011 is 6,135. In County Cork at the end of September 2012 there were 2,106 (participants and Supervisors) engaged on CE, the corresponding number for the end of September 2011 is 2,115.

The number of CE participants in receipt of Disability Allowance at the end of September 2012 was 1,416; the corresponding number at the end of September 2011 is 1,865. The number of CE participants in receipt of the One Parent Family Payment at the end of September 2012 was 3,060; the corresponding number at the end of September 2011 is 4,508. Specifically in the Dublin counties at the end of September 2012 there were 620 CE participants in receipt of Disability Allowance; the corresponding number at the end of September 2011 is 775. In County Cork at the end of September 2012 there were 179 CE participants in receipt of Disability Allowance; the corresponding number at the end of September 2011 is 206. In the Dublin counties at the end of September 2012 there were 1,306 CE participants in receipt of the One Parent Family Payment; the corresponding number at the end of September 2011 is 1,834. In County Cork at the end of September 2012 there were 217 CE participants in receipt of the One Parent Family Payment; the corresponding number at the end of September 2011 is 346. The statistics are detailed in following Summary Table.

Summary Table : Participation on CE

-	-	September 2012	September 2011
Participation	National	22,636	23,348
-	Dublin Counties	5,822	6,135
-	County Cork	2,106	2,115
Disability Allowance (DA)	National	1,416	1,865
-	Dublin Counties	620	775
-	County Cork	179	206
One Parent Family Payment (OFP)	National	3,060	4,508
-	Dublin Counties	1,306	1,834
-	County Cork	217	346

It should be noted that as a result of the continuous recruitment onto CE schemes, the numbers on the CE programme will fluctuate over and under the approved 23,300 full time equivalent numbers for 2012. There has been no change to the number of approved places in 2012 compared to 2011.

Carer's Allowance Applications

186. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Social Protection if a decision on a carer's allowance application has been appealed in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49120/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department received an application for carer's allowance from the person in question on the 12th October 2011. This application was referred to one of the Department's medical assessors who found that the caree in question was not medically eligible for carer's allowance. A letter issued on the 3rd July 2012 refusing the allowance. The person in question subsequently submitted further

medical evidence for review on 7th August 2012. This medical evidence is awaiting medical assessment by a medical assessor. On completion of all the necessary investigations as part of this review, a decision will be made and the person in question will be contacted directly with the outcome.

Social Welfare Benefits Applications

187. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49157/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The circumstances of this claim are under review at present. If a revised decision is made, any arrears that may be due will be paid immediately.

Exceptional Needs Payments

188. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Social Protection if will arrange to have a manual payment raised in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare whose rent allowance was temporarily suspended; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49159/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The person concerned has been issued with an Exceptional Needs Payment in respect of arrears of rent supplement.

Rental Accommodation Scheme Payments

189. **Deputy Seán Ó Fearghaíl** asked the Minister for Social Protection in view of correspondence (details supplied) if she will now arrange to have arrears of rent supplement paid to the person; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49160/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): Following confirmation from Kildare County Council that the person concerned has a housing need since date of application for a Housing Need Assessment in 2011, the Department can now pay arrears from the commencement date of the tenancy. An Exceptional Needs Payment will be issued to the client for all arrears owed.

Social Welfare Fraud Cost

190. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Social Protection the fraud savings target set for each scheme in 2012; the fraud savings to date under each scheme and the number of claims involved; the level of fraud under each scheme based on the most recent fraud survey; the total annual amount paid under each scheme and the number of recipients; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49174/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): My Department has a target of reviewing 985,000 individual welfare claims and achieving €645 million in control savings for 2012. Up to the end of September 2012, some €501 million in estimated control savings has

been reported and over 917,000 reviews have been carried out. I fully expect that my Department will achieve the 2012 control targets.

Control savings represent an estimate of the value of prevented expenditure from control activity over a future period. Control savings are not actual monies recovered by the Department but are a good indication of the increase in social welfare expenditure that would occur without these activities taking place. These activities also have a deterrent or knock-on effect, which are not readily quantifiable in monetary terms. Control savings are used as a performance indicator for year-on-year activities.

The following table gives a breakdown of the control savings and reviews recorded up to end Sept 2012.

Achieve to end of September 2012 (YTD)	Annual Savings Target €M	Amt. of savings YTD €M	Annual Reviews Target	No of Reviews YTD
Jobseeker Allowance & Benefit	€102.00	€64.00	194,000	174,000
Illness Benefit & Medical Review Assessment	80.00	€44.00	154,000	100,000
Disability Allowance/Invalidity Pension/DCA	39.00	€23.00	30,000	23,000
State Pension Non Con & Estates	€61.00	€54.00	8,000	5,000
State Pension Con./Transitional Pension	€63.00	€63.00	5,000	11,000
One Family Parent	€116.00	€92.00	90,000	73,000
Widows/Widowers/Survivors & Civil Partners	€30.00	€37.00	2,000	8,000
Maintenance Recovery Unit	€4.000	€2.00	2,500	4,000
Child Benefit	€72.00	€70.00	247,000	335,000
Carers	€12.00	€12.00	4,000	17,000
Family Income Support	€12.00	€14.00	26,000	23,000
Free Schemes & Others	€24.00	€6.00	20,000	15,000
PRSI	€4.00	€6.00	2,500	7,000
SWA	€26.00	€14.00	200,000	122,000
	€645.00	€501.00	985,000	917,000

Under the Fraud Initiative 2011 - 2013, the Department plans to undertake at least two fraud

and error surveys each year. These surveys highlight the risk of non-compliance with the rules of the schemes being surveyed at a particular point in time and enable the Department to target those schemes for stronger control measures, where necessary. Results are presented in terms of the net rate of fraud and error which refers to the position after account is taken of decreases or increases in weekly rates, termination of payments, transfers to other payments and the position following appeal of any cases affected.

Fraud and Error Surveys were published on three schemes in 2012 - Jobseekers Benefit, Disability Allowance and One Parent Family Payment and the results were as follows:

- Jobseekers Benefit - the net cost of fraud and error in the claims surveyed was found to be 1.6% of expenditure. Of this, 0.1% related to suspected fraud and 1.5% related to error.
- Disability Allowance - the net cost of fraud and error in the claims surveyed was found to be 2.1% of expenditure. Of this, 1.2% related to suspected fraud and 0.9% related to error.
- One Parent Family Payment - the net cost of fraud and error in the claims surveyed was found to be 2.7% of expenditure. Of this, 2.3% related to suspected fraud and 0.4% related to error.

A fraud & error survey on the Child Benefit scheme has been completed and will be published in the coming weeks. A survey on Jobseekers Allowance began in September 2012 and further surveys are planned for 2013.

The following tables provide details of the number of recipients and the total amount paid under each scheme in 2011 and as requested by the Deputy.

Recipients 2011

State Pension (Non-Contributory)	96,749
State Pension (Contributory)	296,995
State Pension (Transition)	12,110
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension	115,762
Death Benefit Pension	628
Total Number of Recipients of Pensions	522,244
Jobseeker's Allowance	283,929
One-Parent Family Payment	90,307
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension	1,959
Deserted Wife's Allowance	409
Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance(1)	34,597
Farm Assist	11,333
Pre-Retirement Allowance	4,820
Jobseeker's Benefit	96,044

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Deserted Wife's Benefit	8,071
Maternity Benefit	23,947
Adoptive Benefit	45
Health and Safety Benefit	61
Total Number of Recipients of Working Age on Income Supports	555,522
Back to Education Allowance	24,666
Back to Work Allowance Employee	182
Back to Work Enterprise Allowance	
Self - Employed First Year	5,617
Self - Employed Years 2 - 4	5,134
Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme	180
Community Employment Programme(2)	22,589
Tús- Community Work Placement Scheme(3)	2,077
Rural Social Scheme(4)	2,537
Total Number of Recipients of Working Age on Employment Supports	62,982
Disability Allowance	102,866
Blind Pension	1,496
Carer's Allowance	51,666
Illness Benefit	73,397
Interim Illness Benefit	327
Injury Benefit	776
Invalidity Pension	49,792
Disablement Benefit	13,993
Carer's Benefit	1,637
Total People with Disabilities	295,950
Family Income Supplement	28,876
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)	955
Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)	441
Total Children	30,272
Rent Allowance	159
Grand Total	1,467,129

Annual Expenditure 2011

Type of Payment	Provisional
-	€000
State Pension (Non-Contributory)	971,566
State Pension (Contributory)	3,622,767

State Pension (Transition)	132,396
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension	1,337,868
Death Benefit Pension	7,977
Bereavement Grants	19,440
Total Pensions	6,092,014
Jobseeker's Allowance	2,974,987
One Parent Family Payment	1,088,897
Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension	18,173
Deserted Wife's Allowance	4,211
Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance(2)	174,349
Farm Assist	113,724
Pre-Retirement Allowance	59,942
Jobseeker's Benefit	927,105
Deserted Wife's Benefit	85,828
Maternity Benefit	309,143
Adoptive Benefit	1,075
Health and Safety Benefit	643
Redundancy and Insolvency	326,892
Treatments Benefits	23,042
Exceptional Needs and Urgent Payments	62,228
Other Supplements	12,766
Humanitarian Aid	359
Total Working Age Income Supports	6,183,364
Community Employment	349,396
Other Employment Programmes	48,180
Integration Supports	27,158
Employment Support Services	435,163
Total Working Age Employment Supports	859,897
Disability Allowance	1,089,178
Blind Pension	15,625
Carer's Allowance	507,193
Domiciliary Care Allowance	99,924
Respite Care Grant	130,392
Illness Benefit	875,641
Injury Benefit	16,508
Invalidity Pension	606,512
Disablement Benefit	77,460
Medical Care Scheme	317
Carer's Benefit	24,474
Total Illness, Disability and Caring	3,443,224
Child Benefit	2,076,338
Family Income Supplement	204,543

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance	90,909
School Meals Scheme	34,975
Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)	5,134
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant (Non-Contributory)	276
Guardian's Payments (Contributory)	11,502
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant (Contributory)	6,228
Total Children	2,429,905
Household Benefits and Free Travel(3)	711,011
Rent Allowance	701
Supplementary Payments(3)	617,894
Total Supplementary Payments	1,329,606
Administration - Insurance Schemes	280,984
Administration - Assistance Schemes	348,847
Total Administration	629,831
Grand Total	20,967,841

Question No. 191 withdrawn.

One-Parent Family Payment Appeals

192. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding a lone parent allowance appeal in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49220/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I am advised by the Social Welfare Appeals Office that an appeal from the person concerned has not been received by that office. 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 Appeals

193. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an appeal for a disability allowance will be granted in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Laois; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49228/12]

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 17th 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. These papers were received in the Social Welfare Appeals Office on 27th August 2012 and the case has been 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.

Questions Nos. 194 and 195 withdrawn.

Departmental Expenditure

196. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the gross and net additional expenditure savings that her Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49247/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Comprehensive Expenditure Report, 2012 – 2014, published last December, provides for additional new expenditure reduction measures of €1,033 million in the Department of Social Protection's budget over the two years 2013 and 2014. This total includes €540 million of new savings to be achieved in 2013 as well as an additional €173 million savings in that year consequential on measures already announced in Budget 2012. Further announcements in that regard will be made next month when Budget 2013 is presented.

Social Welfare Rates

197. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing the personal weekly social protection rates of payment for persons under 66 years by €5 per week with proportionate reduction for qualified adults; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49254/12]

198. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing jobseeker's allowance by €10 per week for new and existing claimants with a duration of 12 months with proportionate reduction for qualified adults; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49255/12]

199. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the savings that would be achieved from reducing jobseeker's allowance by €10 per week for new and existing claimants with a duration of 18 months with proportionate reduction for qualified adults; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49256/12]

200. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing jobseeker's allowance by €10 per week for new and existing claimants with a duration of 24 months with proportionate reduction for qualified adults; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49257/12]

201. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing the duration for which jobseeker's benefit is paid from 12 months to nine months for those with more than 260 contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49258/12]

202. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing the duration for which jobseeker's benefit is paid from nine months to six months for those with less than 260 contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49259/12]

203. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing the maximum age for qualified child increase to 18 years; and if she

will make a statement on the matter. [49260/12]

204. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from reducing the maximum age for qualified child increase to 19 years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49261/12]

205. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from increasing the minimum number of hours worked for family income supplement from 19 to 24 hours; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49262/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I propose to take Questions Nos. 197 to 205, inclusive, together.

The information requested by the Deputy is outlined in the table below.

Item	Estimated Full Year Savings€ m
Reduction of €5 in the personal weekly social protection rates of payment for persons under 66 years with proportionate reduction for qualified adults	230
Reduction of €10 per week in jobseeker's allowance for new and existing claimants with a duration of over 12 months with proportionate reduction for qualified adults	121
Reduction of €10 per week in jobseeker's allowance for new and existing claimants with a duration of over 18 months with proportionate reduction for qualified adults	100
Reduction of €10 per week in jobseeker's allowance for new and existing claimants with a duration of over 24 months with proportionate reduction for qualified adults	85
Reduction in the duration for which jobseeker's benefit is paid from 12 months to nine months for those with more than 260 contributions	64
Reduction in the duration for which jobseeker's benefit is paid from nine months to six months for those with less than 260 contributions	14
Reduction in the maximum age for qualified child increase to 18 years	14
Reduction in the maximum age for qualified child increase to 19 years	7
Increase in the minimum number of hours worked for family income supplement from 19 to 24 hours	66

Note: The potential full year yield from the family income supplement measure shown above is that which appears in the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure published by the Department in December 2011.

Rent Supplement Scheme Expenditure

206. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from increasing the minimum contribution for rent supplement by €4 weekly, €8 for couples; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49263/12]

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 90,000 rent supplement recipients for whom the Government has provided €436 million for 2012.

Rent supplement is calculated to ensure that the person, after payment of rent, has an income equal to the basic supplementary welfare allowance rate, less a specified weekly minimum contribution which recipients are required to pay from their own resources. The minimum contribution is €30 per week for single people and €35 per week for couples.

An increase in the minimum contribution of €4 per week for single people and €8 per week for couples would lead to an annual saving of €23.4 million.

Rent Supplement Scheme Expenditure

207. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from allowing only single persons under 25 years shared accommodation under the rent supplement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49264/12]

208. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from allowing only allow single persons under 24 shared accommodation under the rent supplement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49265/12]

209. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from allowing only allow single persons under 23 shared accommodation under the rent supplement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49266/12]

210. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection the saving that would be achieved from allowing only allow single persons under 22 years shared accommodation under the rent supplement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49267/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I propose to answer Questions Nos. 207 to 210, inclusive, together.

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 90,000 rent supplement recipients for which the Government has provided €436 million for 2012. The number of people age under 25 years and currently in receipt of rent supplement is approximately 10,000. Statistics are not available on the numbers of these customers who are currently residing in shared accommodation. Therefore, it is not possible to provide the estimated savings requested by the Deputy.

Social Insurance Yield

211. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will set out in tabular form, the gross receipts from employee and employer PRSI for each year from 2007 to 2011; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49276/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The information requested by the Deputy is set out in the following table.

Social Insurance Fund (SIF) - PRSI Receipts 2007-2011

-	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
-	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
Employer	5,762,011	5,944,892	5,290,403	5,000,275	5,460,786
Employee	1,539,147	1,633,708	1,559,416	1,377,140	1,617,352
Self-Em- ployed *	420,852	405,582	314,787	330,603	348,342
Total **	7,722,010	7,984,182	7,164,606	6,708,018	7,426,480

* People who are self-employed also pay PRSI contributions and have in the interests of completeness been included in this table.

** The total represents PRSI receipts only and is exclusive of any amounts collected and paid to the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Education and Skills in respect of Health Contributions and the National Training Levy, respectively.

Following the introduction of the Universal Social Charge, Health Contributions received, which prior to 1 January 2011 were payable to the HSE, are now retained as SIF income in accordance Section 15 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2010. The amount received in 2011 in respect of past years was €115.257 million.

Departmental Bodies

212. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under her remit; if she will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under her remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans she has for the body. [49318/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): There are no quasi-governmental organisations under the aegis of the Department of Social Protection. The statutory bodies operating under the aegis of my Department are the Social Welfare Tribunal, the Citizens Information Board, the Pensions Board, and the Office of the Pensions Ombudsman. Details of these statutory bodies are set out in the following table.

Statutory Bodies

Social Welfare Tribunal	The Social Welfare Tribunal is a statutory body set up in 1982 to deal with cases where entitlement to Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance is refused due to an involvement in a trade dispute. Where a person feels unreasonably deprived of employment because an employer refused or failed to engage in the mediation process for settling disputes, application may be made to the Tribunal for adjudication on the matter.
The Citizens Information Board	The Citizens Information Board is the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services and for the provision of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS).
The Pensions Board	The Pensions Board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Pensions Act 1990 (as amended), which provides for the regulation of occupational pensions and Personal Retirement Savings Accounts. The Board also advises the Minister in relation to pension policy.
The Office of the Pensions Ombudsman	The Office of the Pensions Ombudsman investigates complaints of financial losses due to maladministration and disputes of fact or law, in relation to occupational pension schemes and Personal Retirement Savings Accounts. The Pensions Ombudsman is a statutory officer and exercises his functions independently.

I understand that the information sought on budgets, employee numbers and so on is required only in respect of bodies abolished or proposed for abolition. No body under the aegis of my Department has been merged or abolished since the formation of the Government in March 2011.

The Public Service Reform Programme provides that the integration of the regulatory functions of the Pensions Board with the Financial Regulator and the merging of the Pensions Ombudsman with the Financial Services Ombudsman be the subject of a critical review. The review will include identifying any potential savings arising from such an amalgamation. The Critical Review Group held its first meeting in July 2012. I expect to receive a report from the Group by end 2012. Following receipt of this report, decisions in relation to possible reforms will be taken.

Employment Support Services

213. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Social Protection when she plans to roll out the new INTREO service in Cork city or county. [49347/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Pathways to Work document states that the introduction of the new Intreo service is a multi-annual project. All elements of the Intreo service will be operational in four offices by the end of November 2012 and a further six offices are expected to be live by the end of the year. The plans for 2013 are now being developed and the selection of offices will depend upon a range of factors including availability of suitable accommodation, I.T. and the necessary skilled and trained staff being available in a location to deliver the full range of services. I will announce the names of the next phase of offices when the final selections have been made.

Carer's Allowance Appeals

214. **Deputy Emmet Stagg** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an appeal will be decided upon in relation to a carer's allowance application in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare. [49349/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): I confirm that the department received an application for carer's allowance from the person in question on the 23rd February 2012. This application was referred to one of the Department's medical assessors who found that the care recipient in question was not medically eligible for carer's allowance. A letter issued on the 8th August 2012 refusing the allowance. The person in question subsequently submitted further evidence for review on 22nd September 2012. This evidence is awaiting assessment by a medical assessor. On completion of all the necessary investigations as part of this review, a decision will be made and the person in question will be contacted directly with the outcome.

Rent Supplement Scheme Eligibility

215. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the reason rent support has not been restored in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Dublin; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49370/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): A review of this case is being undertaken and the person concerned will be informed of the outcome once the review is completed.

Jobseeker's Allowance Applications

216. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection when jobseeker's allowance will be paid in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Dublin; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49371/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): According to the records of this Department, the person concerned has not applied for jobseeker's allowance.

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance Scheme Applications

217. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if and when back to school allowance will be paid in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Dublin; and

if she will make a statement on the matter. [49373/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) scheme operates from the beginning of June until the end of September. A person may qualify for payment of BSCFA if he or she is in receipt of a social welfare or health service executive payment, is participating in an approved employment scheme or attending a recognised education or training course and has household income at or below certain specified levels. The person concerned was refused the allowance because neither he nor his spouse is in receipt of a qualifying payment.

Social Welfare Appeals Status

218. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection when an appeal will be determined in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Dublin; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49374/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The Social Welfare Appeals Office has advised me that the appeal from the person concerned has been referred to an Appeals Officer who proposes to hold an oral hearing in this case. The person will be advised of arrangements for the hearing when made. The Social Welfare Appeals Office functions independently of the Minister for Social Protection and of the Department and is responsible for determining appeals against decisions on social welfare entitlements.

Rent Supplement Scheme Payments

219. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection the correct level of rent support payable in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49375/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): The rent supplement payable to the person concerned is currently under review. The person concerned will be advised of the outcome once the review is completed.

Domiciliary Care Allowance Eligibility

220. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the refusal of domiciliary care allowance in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49376/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): An application for domiciliary care allowance was received from the person concerned on 1st October 2012. The application was referred to one of the Department's Medical Assessors, who, having examined all the information supplied, considered that the child was not medically eligible for the allowance. A letter issued on the 25th October 2012 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.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

221. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49829/12]

Minister for Social Protection (Deputy Joan Burton): My Department does not hold the specific details being sought by the Deputy in respect of retired departmental staff. Payment of a pension to retired civil servants including staff of the Office of the Pension Ombudsman is made by the Paymaster General's office. In this regard, I understand that my colleague, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform is providing the details being sought. The agencies that come under the aegis of my Department are the Pensions Board and the Citizens Information Board. Details in respect of pensions in payment to former staff of these organisations are shown in the following tabular statement.

TABULAR STATEMENT

Rate of pension in payment	Pensions Board	Citizens Information Board
Annual pensions 0 to €10,000 per year	1	14
Annual pension €10,001 to €20,000 per year	0	7
Annual pension of €20,001 to €30,000 per year	0	7
Annual pension of €30,001 to €40,000 per year	1	1
Annual pension of €40,001 to €50,000 per year	3	0
Annual pension of €50,001 to €60,000 per year	0	1
Annual pension of €60,001 to €70,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €70,001 to €80,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €80,001 to €90,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €90,001 to €100,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €100,001 to €110,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €110,001 to €120,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €120,001 to €130,000 per year	0	0

Annual pension of €130,001 to €140,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €140,001 to €150,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension of €150,001 to €160,000 per year	0	0
Annual pension in excess of €160,001 per year	0	0
Total	5	30

National Library

222. **Deputy Peter Mathews** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht his plans (details supplied) regarding the National Library [49345/12]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): The Deputy will be aware that, as part of a range of reforms recently agreed by Government under the Public Service Reform Plan, it was decided that the existing National Archives of Ireland (NAI) governance model will be applied to the National Library of Ireland (NLI) and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). The National Archives Advisory Council will be retained, with a reduced membership operating *pro bono*. A single statutory NLI and NMI Advisory Council will operate *pro bono* in place of the existing boards. Board membership will be reduced overall by some 60%. It is anticipated that this model will achieve significant savings and increase efficiencies across the institutions. The NAI will continue to operate, as currently, with a statutorily independent Director, and a similar governance model will be put in place for the Directors of the NLI and NMI. A robust shared services model will be deployed - through my Department in relation to corporate support services and by formal inter-institutional agreement in relation to operational services.

It is my intention to make clear statutory provision for the independent status of the Director of the NLI and the Director of the NMI. Issues such as the status of staff (whether as civil or public servants) and related administrative matters will be pursued at the appropriate time with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the institutions and relevant staff associations/unions.

Wildlife Regulations

223. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht further to Parliamentary Question No. 382 of 23 October 2012, the process by which this product can be considered under the regulations outlined; if he will confirm the requirement set out by the regulations with which the product did not comply; and if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the product is approved by other EU member states. [49194/12]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): As the Deputy is aware, the use of traps, snares and nets in relation to wildlife is governed by the Wildlife Act 1976 (Approved Traps, Snares and Nets) Regulations 2003. Regulation 3 of those Regulations approves certain types of traps, including, at 3(a)(ii), a spring trap. Such a spring trap must be designed to secure either the immediate death, or the immediate unconsciousness and subsequent death without intervening consciousness, of the wild birds or wild animals which it is designed to trap. I am advised that the product referred to by the Deputy in his Question

does not fulfil this requirement. I am aware that the product in question is legal in at least one EU Member State.

Departmental Expenditure

224. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49236/12]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): As the Deputy will appreciate, consideration of the financial allocations for my Department for 2013 has not yet concluded and the consequential gross and net expenditure savings will be decided within the context of the forthcoming Budget. However, it may be noted that in order to conform to the 2013 indicative expenditure ceilings of €218m current and €38m capital as set out in the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure, a reduction of €21m (approximately 8%) would need to be applied across my Department's programme areas (including the National Gallery Vote).

Departmental Bodies

225. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49306/12]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): The following table sets out the bodies and agencies funded from my Department's Vote Group, the year in they were established, and the number of employees in each body as of end-September 2012. I can advise the Deputy that no organisations or agencies of this nature have been abolished since March 2011 and none are scheduled to be abolished at this time. However, as the Deputy will be aware, the Government announced a series of rationalisation measures in the Public Service Reform Plan, which was published on 17th November 2011. A number of those measures related to certain of the bodies funded from my Department's Vote Group and these are currently being progressed.

Details of the expenditure allocations made available to the bodies in question are published each year in the annual Revised Estimates Volume (REV) and the Appropriation Account. The REV also includes Agency Statements, which provide details in relation to expenditure on administration and pay in the previous year. These publications are available on the website of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform at www.per.gov.ie and on the website of the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General at www.audgen.gov.ie. For ease of reference, Departmental allocations at subhead level are available at the following link <http://per.gov.ie/estpubexp2012>.

The Deputy will appreciate that the engagement of consultants is part of the day-to-day operational responsibilities of the bodies in question. I am arranging, therefore, for the terms of the Deputy's Question to be transmitted to the heads of relevant bodies with a request that they provide this information, to the extent feasible, directly to the Deputy.

Body/Agency	Year established	Employees
Waterways Ireland*	1999	326
An Foras Teanga, comprising Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency*	1999	Foras na Gaeilge 63 Ulster-Scots Agency 15
Údarás na Gaeltachta	1980	84
An Coimisinéir Teanga	2004	5
Heritage Council	1995	15
Crawford Art Gallery	2006	13
Chester Beatty Library	1969	30
National Library of Ireland	1877	87
National Gallery of Ireland	1854	104
National Concert Hall	1981	58
National Museum of Ireland	2005	154
Irish Museum of Modern Art	1991	84
Arts Council	1951	45
Irish Film Board**	1980	13

* *North-South Implementation Bodies established under the Good Friday Agreement.*

***Established originally in 1980 but closed in 1987. Reconstituted in 1993.*

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

226. **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 annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49820/12]

Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Deputy Jimmy Deenihan): The information requested by the Deputy in respect of the bodies funded from my Department's Vote Group is set out in the table below. As I have previously advised the House, there are no commercial semi-State companies coming within the ambit of my Department.

Pension band (€)	Number of pensioners
0 – 10,000	102
10,001 - 20,000	84
20,001 - 30,000	36
30,001 - 40,000	23
40,001 - 50,000	24
50,001 - 60,000	14
60,001 - 70,000	6
70,001 - 80,000	4

80,000 and above	0
Total	293

Warmer Homes Scheme Applications

227. **Deputy Jack Wall** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the reason an application for a warmer homes grant in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare agreed in June 2012 has now been withdrawn; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49107/12]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): Better Energy: Warmer Homes delivers a range of energy efficiency measures to households that are vulnerable to energy poverty. The scheme is managed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and delivered through a combination of SEAI appointed Community Based Organisations (CBOs), augmented by a panel of private contractors in order to ensure national coverage.

I am informed by the SEAI that the house in question was surveyed for suitability for attic insulation, at which time it was identified as a dormer bungalow. The practice of insulating dormer roofs through the Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme was recently reviewed in respect of value for money, the overall effectiveness of the additional insulation which can only be undertaken in part of the roof space, and the significant costs associated with achieving appropriate ventilation in the roof space to avoid condensation problems. All of this is in the context of endeavouring to address the maximum number of vulnerable fuel-poor homes from within available resources. On balance it has been decided that the significant costs are not generally justified by the marginal insulation gains. Therefore insulation of dormer roofs is not currently implemented under the scheme. However, I am advised that SEAI will continue to keep the matter under review with my officials for feasible cost effective alternatives, particularly where the homes are in extreme fuel poverty, at which time affected houses may be revisited.

Queries in relation to individual applications are an operational matter for the SEAI and a dedicated hot line can be reached at 1800 250 204. In addition, the SEAI has established a specific email address for queries from Oireachtas members, which can be sent to oireachtas@seai.ie and will be dealt with promptly.

Broadcasting Service Provision

228. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will clarify the law and regulations surrounding the availability of UK terrestrial channels on satellite systems here; the reason some channels are not available in this fashion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49122/12]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): The governance of inter State broadcasts in the European Union is conducted under the terms of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (or AVMSD for short), which is the latest iteration of a long standing series of such Directives, all of which are premised on the country of origin principle. The Directive also sets down a series of restrictions that apply to television broadcasts across the EU, including issues around types of advertising, hate speech and sponsorship of certain types of programmes.

Under the 'country of origin' principle, broadcasts are regulated in the country from which

they originate, with provision made in Irish law that these network providers must carry Irish terrestrial channels. However, once these provisions are met, commercial television suppliers based in other countries can offer those channels they wish to, depending of course on commercial agreements with the channel owners themselves. I gather that some commercial television providers choose not to make certain terrestrial channels readily available on their Electronic Programme Guide (or EPG); this is of course a matter for them.

Better Energy Homes Scheme Expenditure

229. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the progress being made on the retrofitting of old housing stock with appropriate insulation; if any of the funding available for this initiative was secured from the EU; and if so, if any of this funding has had to be returned to the EU as a consequence of failure to provide matching funds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49124/12]

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) and provides financial assistance for improving energy performance of older homes, built anytime before 2006. The scheme enables homeowners to save money, while 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 the scheme commenced in March 2009 the SEAI has disbursed over €145m in grants and supported the installation of over 337,000 such measures in 133,195 homes built pre-2006. None of the funds for the Better Energy Homes scheme are sourced from the EU.

Broadcasting Service Provision

230. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the number of households that subscribe to receive TV channels and the percentage this represents of households receiving television; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49166/12]

231. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the way Ireland compares with other EU countries in the numbers and percent who subscribe to receive TV channels to those who receive a free service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49168/12]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): I propose to take Questions Nos. 230 and 231 together.

According to ComReg, “Irish Communications Market: Key Data Report – Q2 2012”, approximately 1.311 million of those Irish homes with television had some form of subscription television service, equating to approximately 82% of the market. In turn, approximately 12.6% of these households rely solely on the Irish terrestrial channels and a further 5.3% rely on a combination of the Irish terrestrial channels and one or more of the UK terrestrial channels. The situation across the EU is quite diverse and so a mean or average penetration of subscription television is of little practical use as a metric. The situation ranges from those countries with over 80% of television users on a subscription model (including Belgium, Denmark, Poland, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden and Hungary) to those countries with around half of the television households on subscription (Germany on 55%, the UK on 53%, Italy on 41% and

France on 49%).

Departmental Expenditure

232. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49238/12]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): Expenditure allocations for 2013 for all Departments, including my own, are a matter for the 2013 Budget. As the Deputy may be aware, Budget 2012 indicated multi-annual cash ceilings for all Departments of which €415m gross, €330m current and €85m capital, was indicated for 2013 for my Department.

Departmental Bodies

233. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49308/12]

Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (Deputy Pat Rabbitte): I can inform the Deputy that there are eleven Non Commercial Bodies, including Regulators, under the aegis of my Department and details of these, including the establishment date, the numbers employed and the 2012 Exchequer provision for each, are set out in tabular form as follows:

-	The date on which the body was created	Number of employees of the body as at end Q3 2012	2012 Exchequer Provision for the body €000s
Non Commercial State Bodies	-	-	-
Inland Fisheries Ireland	01/07/2010	325	28,462
Digital Hub Development Agency	21/07/2003	13	3,507
Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (Loughs Agency)	02/12/1999	53	2,595

National Oil Reserves Agency	Established in 1995 as a private limited company and on 01/08/2007 as a stand alone state body under the NORA Act 2007	5	0
Irish National Petroleum Corporation	1979	0	0
Mining Board	Established under S33.1 of the Minerals Development Act 1940 enacted on 14th November, 1940	0	0
Ordnance Survey Ireland	04/03/2002	242	8,466
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	01/10/2002	59	8,265
Regulators	-	-	-
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland	01/10/2009	31	0
Commission for Energy Regulation	14/07/1999	67	0
Commission for Communications-Regulation	01/12/2002	109	0

It should be noted that the National Oil Reserves Agency and the Regulators are funded from their own resources and not from my Department's Vote. In addition, the Exchequer funded bodies above supplement to varying degrees their Exchequer funding with their own income.

I wish to advise the Deputy that I have not abolished any State Bodies since taking office on 9 March 2011. My Department has reviewed the rationalisation proposals for agencies under its aegis as set out in the Public Service Reform Plan. The outcome of this review, which was recently published by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, is that the Digital Hub Development Agency will be merged (initially on an administrative basis) with Dublin City Council by the end of 2012, pending enactment of legislation. In addition, the Government also announced further proposed mergers which include provision for the Ordnance Survey of Ireland to merge with the Valuation Office and Property Registration Authority by the end of 2013. There is also provision for the back-office administrative functions of the Commission for Communications Regulation to be merged with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland by the end of 2013. With regard to the issue of outside consultants hired by the organisations since March 2011 this is an operational matter for the individual bodies in the first instance.

Public Sector Staff Increment Payments

234. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the net saving to the Exchequer if all local authority pay was capped at €100,000. [49131/12]

235. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the gross saving to the Exchequer if all local authority pay was capped at €100,000. [49132/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): I propose to take Questions Nos. 234 and 235 together.

Information regarding potential cost savings which could arise in the circumstances outlined in the questions is not available in my Department. On the issue of savings, some €830 million has been saved since 2008 in local authorities' spending, and local authority staffing numbers are down 23% to approximately 28,600.

Non-Principal Private Residence Charge Collection

236. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the revenue that would be raised from increasing the non principal private residence tax to €300 [49285/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 broadened the revenue base of local authorities by introducing a charge on non-principal private residences. The Charge is set at €200 and liability for it falls, in the main, on owners of rental, holiday and vacant properties. Collection of the Non Principal Private Residence Charge is ongoing for 2012 but, as of 7 November, €68,082,800 has been collected, including late payment fees. Extrapolating from this figure, an increase in the Charge from €200 to €300 might be expected to raise total revenue of the order of €100m over an equivalent period.

Environment Fund Annual Report

237. **Deputy Kevin Humphreys** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government when the annual report for the Environment Fund be will published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49100/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Copies of the Environment Fund Annual Accounts, up to and including 2010, are available from the Oireachtas library and are also on my Department's website www.environ.ie. The Comptroller and Auditor General is currently auditing the 2011 Environment Fund Accounts and once concluded, the 2011 Accounts will be published.

Waste Management Regulations

238. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if the refuse collection services provided by private operators in the Dublin area meet with EU standards, particularly in relation to the collection and disposal of organic and garden waste; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49208/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Environmental standards in relation to the collection of waste, and their enforcement, are the responsibility of local authorities and are governed by the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007 as amended by the Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amend-

ment) Regulations 2008. The treatment and management of waste material is subject to a registration and permitting system by local authorities or licensing by the Environmental Protection Agency, as appropriate, and is governed by the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) Regulations 2007, as amended or the Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations 2004 to 2011, as appropriate. The primary purpose of the waste facility permitting, registration and licensing system is to facilitate appropriate controls on waste facilities and activities so as to ensure good and consistent waste management practice and the implementation of high standards of environmental protection. In addition, under EU animal by-products legislation, composting and anaerobic digestion plants which process food waste are subject to approval by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

My Department's role is to provide a comprehensive legislative and waste policy framework through which the enforcement authorities operate. The Government's new waste policy, *A Resource Opportunity - Waste Management Policy in Ireland*, published in July 2012, includes a range of measures to ensure, *inter alia*, that waste collected in Ireland is managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy as set out in the Waste Framework Directive, whereby prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery are favoured over the disposal of waste. The work of developing new regulatory structures to give effect to the measures set out in the waste policy, including the use of waste such as organics as a resource, has commenced and my Department is engaging with a range of key stakeholders in relation to the detailed design of the new system.

Regulations in relation to food waste arising on commercial premises, the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, entered into force in July 2010. These regulations require relevant businesses and public buildings separately to collect all organic food waste to facilitate its diversion from landfill. Household food waste regulations are currently being finalised which will require the separate collection of such material, supporting its diversion from landfill to more productive uses. A comprehensive regulatory impact analysis in relation to the proposed household food waste regulations has been prepared and will be published with the associated regulations. It is my intention that these measures will deliver both enhanced environmental performance and a quality service for consumers.

Domestic Violence Refuges

239. **Deputy Micheál Martin** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in view of the fact that a housing association (details supplied) is unable to provide crisis refuge accommodation for many of the victims of domestic violence seeking support, his plans to increase the provision of family refuge accommodation here; his plans to increase provision of family refuge accommodation here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49209/12]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan): My Department is responsible for providing funding for accommodation and related expenses for homeless persons which in some cases involves the provision of funding towards the operational costs of domestic violence refuges.

Statutory responsibility for policy on developing and providing services aimed at tackling domestic violence rests with the Department of Health and is delivered through the HSE.

Housing authorities have statutory responsibility for homeless accommodation and any proposals for additional accommodation for homeless persons would be a matter for consideration in the first instance by the Management Group of the Regional Joint Homelessness Fora.

Capital funding is available through my Department's Capital Assistance Scheme to approved voluntary housing bodies to provide accommodation to meet the special housing needs of groups including the elderly, the homeless, persons with disabilities and victims of domestic violence. My Department's involvement with the scheme relates primarily to the provision of funds for individual projects. The administration of the scheme, including the appraisal of new applications, the management of the planning and procurement stages of projects and the certification that particular projects comply with the terms of the scheme, are the responsibility of the appropriate local authority.

Local Authority Charges Non-Payment

240. **Deputy Seán Kenny** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will list the vacant residential property units in the Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council administrative areas which are vacant due to the non-payment of development levies. [49213/12]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan): The information sought in the question is not available in my Department.

Departmental Expenditure

241. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49241/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Information on expenditure provisions for my Department in 2012, and expenditure ceilings for 2013, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform are set out in the table below. Detailed gross and net expenditure provisions in this regard will be published as part of Budget 2013.

-	Revised Estimates for Public Services 2012 (€m)	Comprehensive Review of Expenditure/ Capital Review Ceilings for 2013 (€m)	Adjustment (€m)
Gross DECLG Current Expenditure	467	416	- 51
Gross DECLG Capital Expenditure (excl. carryover)	8 61	760	- 1 01

Departmental Bodies

242. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was

created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49311/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The State Agencies under the aegis of my Department are as follows:

- An Bord Pleanála
- Dublin Docklands Development Authority
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Housing Finance Agency
- Irish Water Safety
- Housing Sustainable Communities Agency
- Local Government Management Agency
- Private Residential Tenancies Board
- Radiological Protection Institute Ireland
- Western Development Commission

Pobal, is a not-for-profit company with charitable status, which manages programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU.

The Local Government Management Services Board and the Local Government Computer Services Board have merged with the establishment of the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) in August 2012. The LGMA also takes on the residual functions from An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, which has been dissolved as of 1 November 2012.

The Limerick Regeneration Agencies were dissolved on 31 July 2012 and their functions taken over by the Office for Regeneration which has been established in Limerick City. The Regeneration Office has been set up with administrative support from Limerick City Council and reports directly to the new City/County Manager.

The Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (HSCA) was established in 2012. It rationalises the functions of the National Building Agency (NBA), the Affordable Homes Partnership (AHP) and the Centre for Housing Research (CHR). The AHP and the CHR have been closed down and the NBA ceased operating in June 2011.

Comhar (Sustainable Development Council) was discontinued at the end of 2011 and its sustainable development role has been integrated into the work of the National Economic and Social Council (NESAC).

The Dormant Accounts Board will be dissolved by the end of 2012 when the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act, 2012 is commenced.

The operations of the Dublin Docklands Development Authority (DDDA) will be wound up by the end of 2013. This transitional period will allow the Authority to progress elements of ongoing work and to make the necessary preparations for the migration to new arrangements, to be decided by Government.

The agency rationalisation/efficiency agenda will be kept under review, taking account of the Public Service Reform Plan, in so far as other agencies under my Department's aegis are concerned.

Information on the projected expenditure for Exchequer funded agencies under the aegis of my Department is published in the Revised Estimates for Public Services 2012. The summary table of Exchequer expenditure of non-commercial State agencies shows the provisional out-turn for 2011 and the estimated expenditure for 2012.

The staffing levels as of the end of Quarter 3 2012 are as follows:

Establishment	Agency	Quarter 3 Staff Level expressed in Whole Time Equivalents
1977	An Bord Pleanála	146.0
1997	Dublin Docklands Development Authority	14.0
1993	Environmental Protection Agency	313.1
1982	Housing Finance Agency	10.0
1999	Irish Water Safety	6.0
2012	Housing Sustainable Communities Agency	39.97
2012	Local Government Management Agency	101.0
2004	Private Residential Tenancies Board	46.4
1992	Radiological Protection Institute Ireland	41.4
1999	Western Development Commission	12.4

In relation to outside consultants the information requested is being compiled and will be sent to the Deputy as soon as possible.

Unfinished Housing Developments

243. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government the course open to residents living in unfinished estates who were unhappy with the National Housing Development Survey 2011 and the exemptions granted therein from a liability for the household charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49323/12]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan): 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. 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, as identified in October 2011, 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. It is a matter for the relevant local authority to interpret and apply the relevant provisions. Under the legislation, 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/she has a liability and, if so, to declare that liability and pay the household charge.

Pyrite Remediation Programme Issues

244. **Deputy Clare Daly** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government his views on the fact that a company (details supplied) are refusing claims of homeowners with heave inducing pyrite of a level that they previously accepted based on the Pyrite Panels categorisation of the amber category; and the steps he will take to address this situation. [49334/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Ho-

gan): In its report the Pyrite Panel recommended a categorisation of dwellings affected by pyrite to determine the appropriate approach to be adopted in establishing the prioritisation of remediation works. I believe the categorisation methodology recommended by the Pyrite Panel offers a pragmatic and sensible approach to the remediation of pyrite damaged dwellings.

However, the approach recommended in the report refers only to a remediation scheme that would be advanced by a Resolution Board which the Pyrite Panel recommended should be established to deal with pyrite problems where there are no other options available to homeowners for the remediation of their dwellings.

Structural defects warranties/insurance schemes are provided by private companies and operate on the basis of a contractual arrangement between the relevant parties. It is normal for such schemes to have terms and conditions which would set out the parameters of the schemes and how they should be implemented. While I have no function in relation to the operation of such schemes, I believe that the parties involved should live up to their contractual obligations and responsibilities and ensure that dwellings affected by pyrite are remediated in accordance with the terms of the scheme.

Social and Affordable Housing Maintenance

245. **Deputy Seamus Kirk** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if the repairs in lieu of rehousing scheme is still in operation and if allocations are being given to the various local authorities around the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49341/12]

Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Jan O'Sullivan): The Improvement Works in Lieu (IWIL) scheme allows local authorities to improve or extend privately owned accommodation which is occupied or intended to be occupied by an applicant approved for social housing as an alternative to the provision of social housing.

Under my Department's Social Housing Investment Programme for 2012, funding of €6 million was allocated to housing authorities in respect of the IWIL scheme and for the provision of necessary adaptations or extensions to properties to meet the needs of tenants with a disability. It is a matter for each local authority to decide the specific level of funding to be directed to each of these measures out of the allocations provided.

Water Quality Issues

246. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections for taking and testing water samples in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49362/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): The European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 assign supervisory powers to the Environmental Protection Agency in respect of public water supplies and assign the responsibility to the water services authorities (the county and city councils) for the monitoring of water supplies within their functional areas. The Regulations prescribe the

quality standards to be applied and related supervision and enforcement procedures in relation to supplies of drinking water. The Agency also has responsibility under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 to publish the results of such water testing. The Act requires such reports to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas. The most recent drinking water reports produced by the Agency, ‘The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland, A Report for the Years 2008 – 2009’ and ‘The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland, A Report for the Year 2010’ were published in 2011. These reports set out details on the monitoring results for drinking water quality and enforcement proceedings taken by the Agency. My Department does not receive data on the cost of inspections.

Local Authority Charges Application

247. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections for compliance with plastic bag levy in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49364/12]

Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government (Deputy Phil Hogan): Environmental enforcement inspections in relation to the plastic bag levy are undertaken by local authorities. While my Department does not collect the data sought in the question, local authorities provide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with annual data on the total number of environmental inspections carried out, including those relating to the plastic bag levy.

The table below shows the total number of inspections carried out by local authorities in relation to the plastic bag levy for the years 2009 to 2011, as reported by local authorities to the EPA. Figures for 2012 have not yet been published.

Year	Number of PBL Inspections
2009	1,573
2010	800
2011	683

In a recent report published by the Comptroller and Auditor General’s Office on the Environment Fund Levies (Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2011), it was recommended that my Department collate and analyse results of inspections in order to assess the adequacy of the inspection regime and the overall level of compliance indicated by it. However, I believe that the overall level of inspections carried out by local authorities is sufficient. As local authorities are the major beneficiaries of the levy, it is in their own best interests to ensure that the levies are collected and enforced effectively. In addition, plastic bag litter statistics indicate that the current level of inspections is effective in delivering the required environmental outcomes. The latest figures available (2011) from the National Litter Pollution Monitoring Body show that plastic bag litter accounts for 0.24% of litter arising. This compares with 5% prior to the levy’s introduction. My Department also monitors per capita usage of leviable plastic bags. Estimates are that prior to the introduction of the levy 328 bags per person were supplied by retailers per annum compared to a level of 18 bags per person per annum in 2010.

In addition to the role of the local authorities in carrying out environmental enforcement inspections, the Office of the Revenue Commissioners is responsible for compliance in relation to the collection of the levy. Such responsibilities include, inter alia, the identification of

accountable persons; carrying out verification checks relating to the accuracy of the returns received; and pursuing accountable persons who fail to deliver returns and payments within the statutory time limits.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

248. **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 annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49824/12]

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.

Probation and Welfare Service

249. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will confirm the action being taken in relation to an issue (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49062/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): My Department's Human Resources Division has advised me that no action of the type referred to by the Deputy has been taken.

The Deputy will appreciate that any further comment on this matter would not be appropriate in that it might identify persons to no good purpose.

Departmental Funding

250. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the amount of funding that has been given by taxpayers to the National Women's Council for the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49097/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The National Women's Council of Ireland is the umbrella group for the promotion of women's rights and women's equality in Ireland with approximately 160 member organisations. It has received core funding from the State for many years to enable it to assist with the goal of achieving de facto gender equality, which has economic and social benefits as well as being a human rights issue.

The NWCI received funding from a number of Government Departments however I can only account for the funding provided by my Department to the NWCI in the period in question.

In 2008, the NWCI received core funding of €575,000 from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

In 2009 and 2010 respectively, the NWCI received €548,000 from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, although, technically some of this funding in 2010 was paid through the Vote of the then Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. In 2011, the NWCI received €528,000 from the Department of Justice and Equality, again with the first payment coming from the then Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The NWCI's Budget allocation was curtailed in 2012, due to the prevailing economic circumstances and the need to support services rather than advocacy at a time when there were so many pressures on the public purse. Accordingly the NWCI will receive an allocation of €350,000 by the end of the present year.

Visa Applications

251. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the options open to a person (details supplied) who is here on a holiday visa and who wishes to legally extend their stay here. [49106/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I have been advised by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that it is not the practice to extend a permission to remain to persons admitted on holiday visas for a period of 90 days or less, save in very exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. The reason for this approach is that an extension of visitor's permission should not generally arise in circumstances where the person has accurately and fully disclosed their purpose for intending to come to the State at the visa application stage and/or to an immigration officer at port of entry.

Where exceptional and unforeseen circumstances arise, the person may contact the General Immigration Section of INIS to seek to extend their stay in the State.

Private Security Authority Remit

252. **Deputy Michael Creed** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will clarify the law as it applies to the private security industry; the specific role and responsibility of the Private Security Authority; if his attention has been drawn to new regulations recently introduced by the Private Security Authority for the regulation of those involved in the provision of CCTV domestic and commercial security systems and so on; the associated costs for those in the Industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49123/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Private Security Authority, established under the Private Security Services Act 2004 (as amended by the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011) is the regulatory body with responsibility for regulating and licensing the private security industry in the State. The Authority is an independent body under the aegis of my Department and the administration of the Authority is vested in a Board whose membership includes industry representatives. The key responsibilities of the Authority are to licence and regulate those providing security services and to improve and maintain standards in the provision of these services.

I am informed that the Authority issues two types of licence, both of which are valid for a period of two years. Contractor Licences are required by companies, partnerships and sole traders. Individual Licences are required by all those working in the security sector within the State whether employed by a licensed contractor or directly by a business as in house security

personnel.

Regulations were recently introduced to extend licensing to contractors providing security services installing CCTV and access control systems with effect from the 1st October 2012. In accordance with these regulations, all contractors installing and maintaining CCTV and access control systems must be in possession of the appropriate licence(s) or have an application lodged with the Authority. In order to obtain a licence, a contractor must prove compliance with national and European standards, be tax compliant and undergo criminal record checking.

The provision of a regulatory environment understandably leads to cost implications for the industry but the public and the industry itself both benefit from regulation. The Authority has made every effort to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum and has introduced an instalment payment option to assist contractors with paying for their licence. The PSA's licence fee structure is monitored by the Authority on a regular basis and I am advised that the Board of the Authority is, in fact, currently reviewing the licence fee.

The introduction of regulation to a previously unregulated industry will always present challenges for both the regulator and the industry. Since its establishment the Authority has brought about a fundamental change in the security industry through a standards based licensing system. The Authority is aware of the difficulties faced by the industry at this time and continues to seek ways of easing the burden of regulation while at the same time meeting its statutory obligations.

Proposed Legislation

253. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality his legislative plans to provide for periodic payments in catastrophic injury cases following the recommendation of the High Court Working Group that legislation would be introduced to provide for periodic payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49165/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I refer the Deputy to my reply to Questions Nos. 466 and 484 of 23 October 2012 in which I said the following:

The Programme for Government includes a commitment to introduce legislation to facilitate courts making provision for structured settlements in circumstances where lump sums are currently awarded as a consequence of individuals suffering catastrophic injury because of the negligence of another.

The High Court Working Group Report on Periodic Payments recommended in October 2011 that legislation be enacted to empower the courts, as an alternative to lump sum awards, to make consensual and non-consensual periodic payments to compensate injured victims in cases of catastrophic injury where long term permanent care and treatment will be required. The Working Group also recommended that periodic payment orders should only be made where the court is satisfied that continuity of payment under the periodic payments order is reasonably secure.

The successful operation of a statutory scheme for periodic payments requires the establishment of a financial infrastructure to ensure that continuity of payment is secure. In this regard the Working Group recommended that the State, through the agency of the National Treasury Management Agency, be empowered to provide injured victims with the necessary security for periodic payments either by the provision of annuities to insurers and others or in such other manner as may be appropriate. Alternatively it was recommended that consideration be given to the introduction of a statutory scheme whereby payments made under periodic payment orders will be statutorily protected and guaranteed. The NTMA has concluded an actu-

arial review on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the State acting as an annuity provider to insurers and indemnity providers in personal injury actions to enable compliance with the security of payment principle. The NTMA report is being considered in consultation with the Minister for Finance with a view to the development of legislative proposals.

Departmental Expenditure

254. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49245/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): These matters are currently under discussion with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and as the Deputy is aware, details of the Estimate provision for my Department will be published in conjunction with the forthcoming Budget.

Departmental Bodies

255. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49316/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I can inform the Deputy that the information he requested is set out in the table below and in the associated footnotes. There are no quasi-Governmental organisations under my remit. Information regarding the hiring of outside consultants on the part of An Garda Síochána could not be provided in the time allowed. As soon as this information becomes available, it will be forwarded directly to the Deputy.

Name of Agency under Remit of Department	Date of Establishment	Number of Staff (2012)	Budget for 2012 (€)	Outside Consultants hired by Agency since March 2011	Reason Consultants Hired
Censorship of Publications Board	16 July, 1929	0	nil	none	n/a
Censorship of Publications Appeal Board	1946	0	nil	none	n/a
Classification of Films Appeal Board	16 July 1923	9	nil	none	n/a
Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests (1)	1844	6	440,000	none	n/a

Questions - Written Answers

Name of Agency under Remit of Department	Date of Establishment	Number of Staff (2012)	Budget for 2012 (€)	Outside Consultants hired by Agency since March 2011	Reason Consultants Hired
Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime	April, 2005	Nil	1,162,000	Nil	-
Courts Service	9 November, 1999	933	Expenditure 107,000,000 Income 52,000,000	Punter Southall-Hewitt Associates Ltd. Achilles Procurement Services	Investment Consultants Investment Advisory Services Advice on Procurement
Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal	8 May, 1974	3.8	Pay 221,000 Non-pay 4,016,000	none	n/a
Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee (2)	1 February 2007	Nil	No expenditure has been incurred on this project since 2010	Nil	-
Equality Authority (3)	1999	34 staff with 33.1 (w.t.e.)	2,984,000	DHKNDH-KN Andrew Doyle Safety Consultant- sEneclann Ltd.	Review of Internal Financial Control Procedures Manual- Risk Register Management Process Health & Safety Consultancy Record Management Services
Equality Tribunal (4)	1999	28 staff with 26.5 (w.t.e)	2,225,000	Nil	n/a
Forensic Science Laboratory (5)	1975	86 FTEs; 95 staff	9,100,000	Stratigos, Mc Geough	Business Process improvement. Relationship and communication
Garda Síochána	1922	13,505	1,445,000,000	Not available in requested time	-
Garda Síochána Complaints Board (6)	1987	2	220,000	None	-
Garda Síochána Complaints Appeal Board (7)	1987	-	n/a	-	-
Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission	10 February, 2006	79	8,731,000	None	-
Garda Síochána Inspectorate	28 July 2006	7	1,200,000	Christopher Fox	Provision of advice on the rationalisation of senior management positions in the Garda Síochána.

Name of Agency under Remit of Department	Date of Establishment	Number of Staff (2012)	Budget for 2012 (€)	Outside Consultants hired by Agency since March 2011	Reason Consultants Hired
Human Rights Commission(3)	2001	10	1,425,000	Nil	n/a
IFCO (formerly Office of Film Censor)	16 July 1923	15	845,000	none	n/a
Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains	May 1999	n/a	1,057,821	n/a	n/a
Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (8)	September 1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Independent Monitoring Commission (9)	January, 2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Irish Prison Service (10)	1999	3,427.1	317,875,000	Dr Michael FarrellArchaeological ManagementMessrs Joseph G Byrne & SonsMcCann Fitzgerald SolicitorsGartner Ireland Ltd	Review of Drug treatment in PrisonAdvise in Assessing TenderActuary Report for Doctor PostProcurement AdviceICT Advice
Legal Aid Board (11)	11 October, 1996	366	32,922,000	1. PAPS Public2. Seamus O'Dwyer	1. Pensions advice2. Pensions advice
Mental Health Criminal Law Review Board	September, 2006	3	477,000	Dr. Ann LeaderDr. Robert DalyDr. Maria RomanosDr. Sean O'Domhnaill	To provide an independent psychiatric report on patients detained in the Central Mental Hospital
National Disability Authority	12 June, 2000	31.9 WTE	4,550,000	SMP Design;MHC Solicitors; Mazars; Dr R Ibofen	H&S and fire evacuation, legal advice, facilitation support in developing Strategic Plan, and specialised ethical expertise.
Office of the Data Protection Commissioner	1988	22	1,458, 000	One consultant Financial Technology Risk Solutions Ltd	Technical expert required as part of audit work.
Office of the Inspector of Prisons	April 2002	4	413,000	n/a	n/a

Questions - Written Answers

Name of Agency under Remit of Department	Date of Establishment	Number of Staff (2012)	Budget for 2012 (€)	Outside Consultants hired by Agency since March 2011	Reason Consultants Hired
Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner	November, 2000	97 WTE	2011 out-turn 6,626,000	No	n/a
Parole Board	April, 2001	3.5	344,000	n/a	n/a
Private Security Authority	28 October, 2004	36	2,343,000	Lowers and Associates, 45/47 Cornhill, London, EC3V 3PF	Technical Advice and Risk Assessment services to the Private Security Authority (PSA) relating to the statutory licensing of the Cash in Transit sector of the Irish Private Security Industry.
Probation Service	Set up under 1907 Act	400.3	40,171,000	n/a	n/a
Property Registration Authority Land Registry and Registry of Deeds	2006 1892 and 1708	547	32,661,000	2011 - COA Solutions Ltd Daniel O'Brien Tribal Consulting Ltd 2012 - Daniel O'Brien Enterprise Registry Solutions Ltd	Consultancy re Virtualisation- Design work on Annual Report ICT Security Audit Design work on Annual report Web service Development and Design
Property Services Regulatory Authority (12)	3 April, 2012	7.5	728,000	none	n/a
Refugee Appeals Tribunal (13)	November, 2000	41 WTE	2011 out-turn 6,693,000	No	n/a
State Pathologist's Office	1974	8	3,491,000	n/a	n/a

Footnotes :

(1) Under the Charities Act 2009, the CCDB and its functions are to be subsumed into a new Charities Regulatory Authority. However, the implementation of the Charities Act 2009 and the establishment of the Charities Regulatory Authority has been deferred for budgetary reasons.

Date of abolition: As outlined above, the implementation of the Charities Act 2009 has been postponed, due to financial constraints. It is not possible at this stage to give a date for the implementation of the Act.

(2) The Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee submitted a first draft partial code to the Minister in 2010 and work was subsequently suspended on the project while the Minister undertook a review of the project. The Minister intends to bring proposals to Government shortly in relation to the project.

- (3) The Equality Authority and the Human Rights Commission are in the process of being merged to form the new Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission as a result of the Government Decision of 8 September 2011.
- (4) The Equality Tribunal will transfer to the Dept. of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation with effect from 1 January 2013 to form part of the proposed Workplace Relations Commission as part of the reform of the State's Employment Rights and Industrial Relations Structures and Procedures as outlined by Minister Bruton in June 2011.
- (5) The Forensic Science Laboratory will be brought under the ambit of the State Laboratory. Measure to be implemented by end 2013.
- (6) The Garda Síochána Complaints Board and the Garda Síochána Complaints Appeals Board are to be abolished once their mandate is completed. The Complaints Boards final tribunal was held in February 2010. However, the Board needs to be maintained until such time as any legal challenge to their findings may be mounted has passed. The Boards members' term of office will come to an end in accordance with the amendment to the 1986 Act, as provided in Section 45 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2007. Once the 1986 Act is repealed, the Boards will cease to exist.
- (7) There are 3 members of the Garda Síochána Complaints Appeals Board. However, as the hearing of the Complaints Board's final tribunal has already been held the Garda Síochána Complaints Appeal Board has completed its workload. The current term of office for the members of the Garda Síochána Complaints Appeal Board ends on 15 December 2013 in any event.
- (8) The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) was responsible for overseeing the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. It was established by an agreement between the Irish and British Governments, signed on 26 August 1997, and by legislation enacted in the two jurisdictions. It was dissolved on 31 March 2011.
- (9) The Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) was responsible for monitoring and reporting on paramilitary activity across Ireland and also for monitoring the security normalisation measures undertaken by the British Government in the North. It was dissolved on 31 March 2011.
- (10) Prisons Authority Interim Board was abolished in July 2011.
- (11) The Legal Board was set up on an administrative basis in 1979 and established as a statutory body on 11 October, 1996. It incorporates the Family Mediation Service with effect from 1 November 2011.
- (12) The Property Services Regulatory Authority was set up on a non-statutory basis on 10 October, 2005 and established as a statutory body on 3 April, 2012.
- (13) As part of the reform of the asylum system, the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2010 provides for the establishment of a single protection procedure and a new appeals body which will replace both the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal.

Private Security Authority Inspections

256. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections by the Private Security Authority to ensure that a person or contractor licence is in place in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49367/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Private Security Authority (PSA), an independent agency under the remit of my Department, is the regulatory body with

responsibility for regulating and licensing the private security industry in the State. While the Authority has provided the statistical information requested, which is set out in tabular form below, the Deputy might wish to note that much of the data for 2009 is not readily available and could not be compiled without a disproportionate use of staff resources.

-	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Inspections of Contractors	N/A	83	72	82
Number of Compliant Inspections	N/A	57	46	57
Number of Court Prosecutions for unlicensed Contractors	6	4	1	2
Number of Convictions	6	3	0	2

-	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Inspection Locations	N/A	85	101	97
Number of Compliant Inspections	N/A	79	97	94
Number of Court Prosecutions for unlicensed Individuals	1	3	9	2
Number of Convictions	1	3	9	2

The Deputy might also wish to note that, during the last four years, the PSA has revoked a total of ninety-one (91) licences. The PSA makes every effort to ensure that its costs are kept to a minimum and the Authority monitors its expenditure on an ongoing basis. The cost of enforcement for the PSA was as follows:

2009	2010	2011	2012 (to date)
N/A	€748,807	€ 633,853	€360,841

Asylum Applications

257. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 1217 of the 18 September 2012, if the notification of deportation proposal taken on 29 January 2008 or at an earlier date, 30 September 2005, if the applicant made subsequent representations arising therefrom the current status of any such representations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49379/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Irish

Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that the person concerned was notified of the then Minister's proposal to make a Deportation Order in respect of him by letter dated 30th September, 2005. The person concerned was later notified, by letter dated 6th April, 2011, of his entitlement to apply for Subsidiary Protection in accordance with the provisions of the European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006.

The person concerned has lodged an application for Subsidiary Protection and has also submitted a number of representations in support of his case to remain in the State. The application for Subsidiary Protection will be considered first. In the event that this application is refused, the position in the State of the person concerned will then be decided by reference to the provisions of Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999 (as amended) and Section 5 of the Refugee Act 1996 (as amended) on the prohibition of refoulement. All representations submitted will be considered before a final decision is made. Once a decision has been made, this decision, and the consequences of the decision, will be conveyed in writing to the person concerned. I thank the Deputy for bringing the matter to my attention and am happy to clarify the position as set-out above.

Residency Permits

258. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 171 of the 20 September 2012, if he will have regard to the situation now arising and any likely developments in the case of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 11; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49380/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I refer the deputy to my reply below to Parliamentary Question Number 39980/12 of 20th of September, 2012. The situation is unchanged since then.

I am informed by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that the person referred to by the Deputy was granted permission to remain for a period of five years on 12 January, 2010 on the basis of being the spouse of an EU citizen, who was residing in the State and was exercising her EU Treaty Rights.

The grounds under which she was granted permission to remain in the State no longer apply, as her EU spouse is no longer residing in this State exercising his EU Treaty Rights. Therefore, the permission to remain which was granted under the provisions of Directive 2004/38/EC and European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2006 and 2008 has now been revoked.

On 6 October, 2011 the person was informed that her permission to remain was now revoked. The matter is now being considered by the Removals Section of INIS under Regulation 20 (1) (a) of the European

Communities (Free Movement of Persons Regulations) 2006 and 2008.

Queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to the 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 the INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited.

Naturalisation Applications

259. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the progress made to date in determination of naturalisation procedures in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49381/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by 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 March, 2012.

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, and will be submitted to me for decision as expeditiously as possible.

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.

Residency Permits

260. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the current and or expected status in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49382/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The person concerned had her leave to remain in the State renewed for a further three year period, to 25th April, 2014. This decision was conveyed in writing to the person concerned by letter dated 20th April, 2011. This position still obtains.

Queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to the 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 the INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited.

Naturalisation Applications

261. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the eligibility for naturalisation or residency on a temporary basis arising from work permit in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49383/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by 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 September, 2011.

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, and will be submitted to me for decision as expeditiously as possible.

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. The applicant made an application for a Without Condition As To Time endorsement (Stamp 5) on the 8 April 2009. The endorsement was granted and returned to the applicant on the 15 April 2009. The endorsement permits the holder to work without a work permit and to operate a business without the permission of the Minister, once it is registered with the Garda National Immigration Bureau. The endorsement is valid for the remainder of the duration of the passport. In this case, the 2 June 2016.

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.

Residency Permits

262. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the progress, if any that has been made in the determination of eligibility for residency in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49384/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): There is currently no application pending in my Department for residency in the case of the person whose details were supplied. If an application for asylum has been made by the person concerned, the Deputy will be aware that it is not the practice to comment on applications that are pending. Applications for refugee status in the State are determined by an independent process comprising the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal which make recommendations to the Minister on whether such status should be granted. All applications for refugee status are considered on their individual merits on a case by case basis having regard to the subjective and objective elements of the claim.

Naturalisation Applications

263. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the current position in regard to determination of eligibility for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Louth [49385/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): Officials in the Citizenship Division of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) inform me that there is no record of an application for a certificate of naturalisation from the person referred to in the

Deputy's question. Section 15 of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended, provides that the Minister may, in his absolute discretion, grant an application for a certificate of naturalisation provided certain statutory conditions are fulfilled. The conditions are that the applicant must - be of full age; be of good character; have had a period of one year's continuous residency in the State immediately before the date of application and, during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years; intend in good faith to continue to reside in the State after naturalisation; have, before a judge of the District Court in open court, in a citizenship ceremony or in such manner as the Minister, for special reasons, allows (i) made a declaration, in the prescribed manner, of fidelity to the nation and loyalty to the State, and (ii) undertaken to faithfully observe the laws of the State and to respect its democratic values.

A foreign national who is married to, or is the Civil Partner of, an Irish citizen for at least three years may apply for naturalisation under section 15A of the Irish Naturalisation and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended, where they have been continuously resident in the island of Ireland for the year immediately prior to the date of their application and for two out of the four years prior to that year. The marriage or civil partnership must be subsisting and recognised under Irish law. Section 15A provides that the Minister may waive certain conditions for naturalisation if satisfied that the applicant would suffer serious consequences in respect of his or her bodily integrity or liberty if not granted Irish citizenship.

Section 16 of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended, provides that the Minister may, in his absolute discretion, waive some or all of the statutory conditions in certain circumstances i.e. where an applicant is of Irish descent or of Irish associations; where an applicant is a person who is a refugee within the meaning of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; or where an applicant is a Stateless person within the meaning of the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Stateless persons. It is open to any individual to lodge an application for citizenship if and when they are in a position to meet the statutory requirements as prescribed in the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 as amended.

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.

Residency Permits

264. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will confirm that his Department or the INIS have received documentary evidence requested by way of communication from this office dated 2 October 2011 in the case of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 15 to facilitate determination of their residency application under the Zambrano judgement; when he expects a decision to be made in the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49386/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The person concerned is a failed asylum applicant. Arising from the refusal of her asylum application, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1999 (as amended), the person concerned was notified, by letter dated 29th September, 2008, that the then Minister proposed to make a Deportation Order in respect of her. She was given the options, to be exercised within 15 working days, of leaving the State voluntarily, of consenting to the making of a Deportation

Order or of making representations to the Minister setting out the reasons why a Deportation Order should not be made against her. In addition, she was notified of her entitlement to apply for Subsidiary Protection in accordance with the provisions of the European Communities (Eligibility for Protection) Regulations 2006.

The person concerned submitted an application for Subsidiary Protection. When consideration of this application has been completed, the person concerned will be notified in writing of the outcome. In the event that the application for Subsidiary Protection is refused, the position in the State of the person concerned will then be decided by reference to the provisions of Section 3 (6) of the Immigration Act 1999 (as amended) and Section 5 of the Refugee Act 1996 (as amended) on the prohibition of refoulement. All representations submitted, including those relating to the possible relevance of the Zambrano Judgement to the case of the person concerned, will be considered before a final decision is made. Once a decision has been made, this decision and the consequences of the decision will be conveyed in writing to the person concerned. I can confirm for the Deputy that his correspondence dated 2nd October, 2012, and accompanying documentation, has been received in my Department. This has been associated with the case file of the person concerned and will be considered at the appropriate time.

Queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to the 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 the INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited.

Naturalisation Applications

265. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality when Stamp 4 will be updated and naturalisation considered in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49387/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I am advised by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) that the person in question has permission to remain in the State on Stamp 4 conditions until 13 November 2016 on the basis of her marriage to an Irish national. Detailed information surrounding any possible entitlement to Irish Citizenship through the Naturalisation process in respect of the person concerned can be obtained from the INIS website at "www.inis.gov.ie". It remains open to the person concerned to make an application for Irish Citizenship under the Naturalisation process should they feel that they meet the requirements for same.

Queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to the 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 the INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited.

Residency Permits

266. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will review the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement

on the matter. [49388/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): I refer the Deputy to my response to Dáil Question No 171 of 25 October, 2012. The decision referred to in that question issued to the person concerned on the 25 October, 2012. The person referred to by the Deputy arrived in Ireland on 19 May, 2006 and as a consequence is ineligible for consideration under the 2004 Student Probationary Extension.

The person concerned has availed of the 'Timed Out' student transitional measure introduced under the New Regime for Students launched in January, 2011 as a concession to those students affected by the changes brought about by the New Regime. He would have been aware that the purpose of those measures was to facilitate students with an opportunity to secure an alternative immigration permission, namely an employment permit or a Green Card employment permit without being required to return to and apply from their country of origin. Persons who have not been able to avail of that opportunity are required to leave the State.

The person referred to by the Deputy has not secured alternative immigration permission and is therefore required to leave the State.

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.

Residency Permits

267. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality the procedure to be followed to regularise residency in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49389/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): The person concerned has initiated Judicial Review proceedings in the High Court, challenging the decision of the Refugee Appeals Tribunal in his case. As these proceedings are ongoing, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further at this time.

Queries in relation to the status of individual immigration cases may be made directly to the 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 the INIS is, in the Deputy's view, inadequate or too long awaited.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

268. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Justice and Equality if he will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001

to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49828/12]

Minister for Justice and Equality (Deputy Alan Shatter): My Department is responsible for the payment of pensions awarded to retired members of An Garda Síochána and their dependants along with retired solicitors of the Legal Aid Board and retired staff of the National Disability Authority. The following table sets out the numbers in receipt of pensions from my Department in the gross annual pension bands requested by the deputy.

Gross Annual Pension	Number
0 to 10,000	264
10,001 to 20,000	1012
20,001 to 30,000	7031
30,001 to 40,000	749
40,001 to 50,000	269
50,001 to 60,000	185
60,001 to 70,000	60
70,001 to 80,000	27
80,001 to 90,000	0
90,001 to 100,000	0
100,001 to 110,000	0
110,001 to 120,000	5
120,001 to 130,000	0
130,001 to 140,000	0
140,001 to 150,000	0
150,001 to 160,000	0
More than 160,000	0

Departmental Expenditure

269. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Defence the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49239/12]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Gross and Net Provision for Defence (Vote 36) up to 2012 and the scheduled provision for 2013 are set out in the following table:

Defence (Vote 36) – Gross & Net Provision 2010 to 2013

-	2010 €m	2011 €m	2012 €m	* 2013 €m
Gross Provision	756.4	727.0	688.4	685.6
Net Provision	705.6	678.7	647.0	644.6

* Gross Expenditure Ceiling as set out in the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure

Gross expenditure ceilings were set out in the *Comprehensive Expenditure Report 2012-2014* and currently form the basis of the 2013 Estimates discussions which are ongoing. While the individual Vote expenditure ceilings will be announced on 5 December, the updated position in regard to the overall fiscal consolidation for 2013 will be published shortly by my colleague

the Minister for Finance in the *Medium-Term Fiscal Statement*.

Arising from the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure, the Government's decision to stabilise the strength of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) at 9,500 personnel has resulted in sustainable savings as reflected in the figures above. In addition, there were savings achieved from the reductions in the number of Civilian Employees and Civil Servants.

Earlier this year, a major re-organisation of the Defence Forces was undertaken in order to maximise the operational capabilities of the PDF within the revised strength level. The organisational structures that were in place for a PDF strength of approximately 11,500 personnel were clearly outmoded and no longer fit for purpose. In July this year, I accepted the Chief of Staff and Secretary General's recommendation regarding new PDF structures and announced the details. Implementation of these revised organisational structures is ongoing.

Measures to reduce costs and deliver greater efficiencies over the past three years have also included a further rationalisation and consolidation of the Defence property portfolio. Regarding the recent closure of the four military barracks - Clonmel, Cavan, Mullingar and Castlebar, military personnel occupied on security and support functions within these installations have been released for operational duties leading to a manpower efficiency gain of around €5 million p.a. In addition, there are direct cash savings of approximately €1.3m per annum arising from utilities, maintenance and security duty allowances in the four barracks.

Despite the reductions in funding, a key focus has been the prioritisation and maintenance of PDF operational capacity in order to ensure that the PDF retain the capacity to fulfil all roles assigned.

Departmental Bodies

270. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Defence if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49309/12]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter) (Deputy Alan Shatter): The State Boards under the aegis of the Department of Defence are the Civil Defence Board, the Army Pensions Board and the Board of Coiste an Asgard.

The information requested by the Deputy in relation to these Boards is set out below:

Agency	Date Created	Estimated date of Abolishment	Budget 2012	No of Staff
Civil Defence Board	7 May, 2003	31 December 2012	€5.585m (Grant In Aid)	23
Army Pensions Board	1927	N/A	€103,000	1
Coiste an Asgard	16 February, 1987	31 December 2012	Nil	Nil

The Civil Defence Board is due to be abolished on 31 December 2012 following the enact-

ment of the Civil Defence Repeal Bill. The Civil Defence function will be re-integrated into the Department of Defence as a Branch of the Department.

In December 2009, the previous Government announced that the National Sail Training Scheme, managed by Coiste an Asgard was to be discontinued. The Company has been inactive since. The winding-up process is well advanced and it is anticipated that the company will be in a position to close by the end of this year, following a final audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Army Pensions Board is an independent statutory body established under the Army Pensions Act, 1927. It consists of a Chairman, a doctor from the Army Medical Corps and a civilian doctor. The principal function of the Board is to investigate applications for pensions, allowances and gratuities arising from the death or disablement of members of the Defence Forces in the course of their military service. The Board determines the question of attributability to service; assesses the degree of disability in cases of disablement and reports its findings to the Minister for Defence. A civil servant of the Department of Defence is assigned to act as Secretary to the Board. There are no plans to abolish the Army Pensions Board.

No outside consultants have been hired by any of the agencies under the aegis of my Department since March, 2011.

Value for Money Reviews

271. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Defence when he will publish a value for money report he has received in relation to the Reserve Defence Forces; if he will outline his vision for the future role of the RDF; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49348/12]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): The Value for Money Review of the Reserve Defence Force was completed and submitted to myself and the Secretary General of my Department last month. In advance of its publication, and in line with the guidelines and normal procedure for Value for Money Reviews, the responses to the recommendations are currently being developed. Until such time as these deliberations are finalised, I cannot comment on any aspect of future plans for the Reserve. Whilst I do not have a specific date for publication of the VFM Report, I anticipate that this will take place in the near future.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

272. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Defence if he will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49822/12]

Minister for Defence (Deputy Alan Shatter): The information requested is shown in tabular form beneath in relation to former members of the Permanent Defence Force (PDF) only. I understand that the requested information in respect of retired civil servants of the Department of Defence or retired civilian employees formerly employed with the PDF 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) (Annualised figures based on first 10 months of 2012)	Numbers
€10,000 or less	310
€10,001 to €20,000	7,198
€20,001 to €30,000	1,386
€30,001 to €40,000	482
€40,001 to €50,000	321
€50,001 to €60,000	42
€60,001 to €70,000	51
€70,001 to €80,000	0
€80,001 to €90,000	0
€90,001 to €100,000	6
In excess of €100,000	0
Total	9,796

Food Safety Authority Inspections

273. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections for cracked or dirty/use by dates/sell by dates for eggs in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49358/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The table below sets out the total number of egg inspections carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Departmental officials inspect retail and wholesale outlets for compliance with the European Communities (Marketing Standards for Eggs) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No 140 of 2009) and Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs. Egg packing centres are inspected for labelling and grading requirements as well as compliance with hygiene requirements in accordance with European Communities Regulations.

Such inspections take place in conjunction with inspections for compliance with other EU Regulations and therefore data on the cost of egg inspections for the years in question is not readily available.

Although none of the inspections uncovered non-compliances warranting legal proceedings, in all cases of non-compliance, the eggs were removed from sale and disposed of on site or sent for rendering.

Year	Total Inspections	Unsatisfactory	Compliant Inspections
2009	2029	92	1937

2010	2257	126	2131
2011	2216	97	2119
2012 to 30/06/12	1105	17	1088

Single Payment Scheme Payments

274. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will give a county breakdown of single farm payment figures; if he will state the number of farmers in each county in receipt of these payments; if he considers the current distribution system of SFP's to be fair; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49113/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The data requested by the Deputy is currently being compiled by my Department and a detailed response will issue directly when this is completed.

On the question of fairness, the current payment system is based on entitlements established as a result of production levels in the 2000-2002 reference period, and the farming profile has undergone minimal change in the meantime. I have acknowledged that these historical references are no longer tenable. However, while I am prepared to consider a limited move away from this model, the Commission's proposals for a flat-rate payment go too far and too fast. Therefore my main focus in the CAP reform negotiations is on securing a more measured approach that will limit the gains and losses to Irish farmers, and ensure that the direct payments system continues to provide the foundation for the achievement of the ambitious targets that have been set for the development of the sector.

Agri-Environment Options Scheme Payments

275. **Deputy Dara Calleary** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a person (details supplied) in County Sligo may expect their 2011 agri environment option scheme payment to be finalised; the reason for the delay in processing and paying out the outstanding element of their application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49161/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The person named was approved for participation in the 2011 Agri-Environment Options Scheme with effect from the 1st September 2011.

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 1 May 2012. During this inspection, areas of non-compliance with the terms and condition of the scheme were noted in relation to the Species Rich Grassland option which will result in a penalty being imposed. A letter issued to the person named outlining the nature of the penalty and the appeal options. To date, no appeal has been received by officials in my Department. Accordingly the application will be processed for payment as soon as possible.

Departmental Expenditure

276. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the savings achieved in his Department following the recent change in the DVO in Darrara Clon-

akilty, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49170/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): There is an ongoing programme of reviews of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of service delivery across a range of functions performed by my Department. Following on from the demand for new services and the availability of existing resources in the region, I have decided to consolidate the administrative services that the Department currently provides from the Regional Office in Clonakilty. These services will in future be delivered from the Regional Office in Cork city.

The remaining services provided by veterinary and technical staff will continue to be provided from the Clonakilty Office which is being relocated to the Department's Seafood Centre at Clogheen. Staff members who have provided the back-up clerical and administrative functions in the Darrara Office will be transferred to the Marine Division of the Department at Clogheen and will be assigned to new Marine related duties so that there will be no net reduction in the total number of staff working for the Department in Clonakilty. As regards non pay savings, these will be realised during 2013 once my Department's Clonakilty based activities have been consolidated at Clogheen.

Live Exports

277. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding plans to reopen live cattle exports to Egypt; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49171/12]

278. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding plans to reopen live cattle exports to Libya; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49172/12]

279. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding plans to reopen live cattle exports to Lebanon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49173/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): I propose to take Questions Nos. 277 to 279, inclusive, together.

The following table sets out the current position as regards the markets to which the questions refer.

Country	Type of market
Egypt	Open to fattening cattle under 20 months and slaughter cattle under 30 months
Lebanon	Open to Breeding /fattening and slaughter cattle under 36 months
Libya	Open to fattening and slaughter male cattle under 24 months – increase in age limit to 30 months is being pursued.

The question of when trade will resume to these countries is dependent on a number of factors, including commercial factors such as price and demand and the availability and cost of suitable sea transport. No boats from Ireland are currently approved for such export, but I am hopeful that this position will change in the near future.

Commonage Division

280. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if Kerry bog ponies will be included in the calculations for restocking of the hills in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49187/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The position is that Kerry Bog Ponies will not be included in the calculations for restocking of commonages. The National Parks and Wild Life Service have undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of commonages and established a minimum and maximum ewe equivalent figure for each LPIS parcel within a commonage. The ewe equivalents are restricted to suitable ovine and bovine breeds.

Single Payment Scheme Expenditure

281. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers, broken down by county, that are receiving less than €10,000, between €10,001 and €25,000, between €25,001 and €40,000, between €40,001 and €50,000 and more than €50,000 respectively in single payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49224/12]

282. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers, broken down by county, that have entitlements for single payment per hectare of less than €200 per hectare, between €201 per hectare and €300 per hectare, between €301 per hectare and €400 per hectare, between €401 per hectare and €500 per hectare and more than €500 per hectare, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49225/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): I propose to take Questions Nos. 281 and 282. [49224 and 49225] together.

As the Deputy will be aware, my Department has carried out extensive modelling to assist in the assessment of the potential impact on Irish farmers of different payment distribution proposals. This modelling has used the 2010 SPS payments database as a guide to current payment levels, but the analysis is conducted, and the results presented, in a different format to that requested by the Deputy in his question.

My officials are currently working on an expansion of the modelling exercise that will generate data from the 2010 database in the format requested, but this work will not be completed in time to answer the Deputy's question. In the interests of consistency, I would ask that the Deputy await the completion of this exercise, following which a detailed response will issue directly.

Common Fisheries Policy Reform

283. **Deputy Noel Harrington** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the positive implications for Ireland of the recent agreement reached on securing €6 billion under the EMFF; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49226/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The Commission published its proposals for a new financial instrument for the period 2014 – 2020, the

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund, in December 2011. The fund will help to deliver the ambitious objectives of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and will assist fishermen in the transition towards sustainable fishing, as well as coastal communities in the diversification of their economies.

At the October 2012 Fisheries Council, the Cyprus Presidency secured agreement on a “partial” general approach on the financial instrument the EMFF. Ireland will endeavour to achieve a general approach of the Council during its Presidency in the early part of 2013 with a view to securing a political agreement between the Council and EU Parliament by the end of the Irish Presidency. All the proposals are subject to negotiation and adoption through the co-decision process involving both the EU Fisheries Council and the EU Parliament.

In the context of the EMFF Proposal, the EU Commission set down indicative figures for the Fund, however, funding made available will only be finalised following determination of the EU budget which is being discussed at the Leaders Summit later this month.

The new European Maritime and Fisheries Fund will be structured around 4 pillars, a) Smart, Green Fisheries, b) Smart, Green Aquaculture, c) Sustainable and Inclusive Territorial Development and d) Integrated Maritime Policy.

Of key importance to Ireland is a reasonable and fair share of the EMFF funding available. Ireland is supportive of the proposal in relation to the provision of funding for aquaculture, seafood processing, measures that support job creation and the rebuilding and conservation of stocks. Ireland welcomes the new elements proposed in the partial general approach including giving Member States the option of funding restructuring/decommissioning of the fishing fleet, engine replacement in limited circumstances and support for young fishermen.

Departmental Expenditure

284. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49235/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The budget allocations for 2013 will be considered in the context of the gross expenditure ceilings that were allocated to all Departments for the period 2012 - 2014 under the Government's Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The Government's decision on the expenditure ceilings was taken in order to strike a balance between needs and priorities in all Government Departments on a multi-annual basis, to meet the requirements of the overall fiscal commitments which are firmly focused on returning the public finances to a sustainable path and to reduce the General Government Deficit by end 2015. Budget 2013 will be framed in this framework.

The preparations for the 2013 Estimate are currently underway and all budget lines in my Department's Vote are being examined critically as part of that process. Under the expenditure ceilings, the funding allocation for my Department has been reduced by €114m in 2013 compared with 2012. Very difficult choices will have to be made again in order to remain within the reduced allocation.

The schemes and services operated by the Department are subject to a range of external factors such as demand from beneficiaries, market and economic factors, animal disease incidence, and the pace of completion of capital investment and research projects as well as the need to adhere to important issues of governance, legal and contractual obligations, including compliance with national and EU operational rules and requirements. I will be taking full account of

the competing priorities when compiling and allocating the funding available for 2013.

Departmental Bodies

285. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49305/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): There are currently 12 State Bodies that fall under the aegis of my Department:

1. Aqua Licensing Appeals Board
2. Bord Bia
3. Bord na gCon
4. Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)
5. Coillte
6. Horse Racing Ireland
7. Irish National Stud
8. Marine Institute
9. National Milk Agency
10. Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
11. Teagasc
12. Veterinary Council of Ireland

My Department has neither established nor abolished any quasi-Governmental organisation or agency, since March 2011 apart from the Beef Policy 2020 Activation Group which was established in February 2011 and then dissolved in June 2011 following the presentation of its report to me.

Animal Disease Controls

286. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of compensation paid in 2011 in respect of all animals that were slaughtered as part of the disease eradication programme broken down by disease type; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49321/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): Payments of compensation made by my Department under the various disease eradication programmes

in 2011 were as follows: Bovine TB: €16.5m, Brucellosis: €47,100, BSE: €40,197, Scrapie: €224,823.

I am very pleased to be able to say that there has been a significant and progressive reduction in the incidence of these diseases in recent years, with the result that expenditure on compensation under the various disease eradication schemes has fallen from €27.69m in 2008 to €16.8m in 2011.

Disadvantaged Areas Scheme Applications

287. **Deputy John O'Mahony** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a person (details supplied) in County Mayo will receive their payment for disadvantaged area aid payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49335/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): Processing of the application concerned has recently been completed and payments under the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme will shortly issue to the nominated bank account of the person named.

Single Payment Scheme Payments

288. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason for the delay in issuing payment to a person (details supplied) in County Roscommon; the reason the map has to be digitised when it was submitted online by their Teagasc advisor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49336/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): Processing of the application concerned has recently been completed and payments under the Single Payment Scheme and Disadvantaged Areas Scheme will shortly issue to the nominated bank account of the person named.

Rural Environment Protection Scheme Payments

289. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 474 of 2 October 2012, the position regarding a reduction (details supplied). [49343/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The REPS 4 agri-environment plan commenced on 1st June 2008 and the person named received full payments for the first three years of the contract.

Following an inspection in August 2011, the applicant was deemed to be in joint management and joint ownership with another REPS 4 participant. A review of this case was conducted by my officials and it was decided to allow both to retain separate herd numbers, with the REPS payments under one of the herd numbers deemed an overpayment. Accordingly, a letter issued on 7th September 2012 indicating the total amount of the overpayment to be recouped was €23,562.84 with interest to be charged at the rate of 3% per annum in accordance with EU regulations. An arrangement to recover the amount due on a four year instalment basis of €491.13 per month was notified to the person named and officials in my Department undertook to contact the person named regarding the overpayment situation.

Officials in my Department are currently reviewing the file of the person named following the receipt of an amended REPS plan. Once this examination is completed, a final decision will be notified to the person named clarifying the amount of the overpayment which must be repaid to my Department.

At that stage, officials in my Department will enter into negotiations with the parties concerned regarding the repayment of the debt including the offsetting of other scheme payments against the amount owed.

Stocking Densities

290. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will ensure that his Department imposes stocking rates that are appropriate to the quality of lands being farmed (details supplied) in County Leitrim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49354/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): In order to avoid land abandonment, DAS seeks to compensate those farming in agriculturally disadvantaged areas. The Scheme encourages sustainable use of agricultural land in less favoured areas and takes account of environmental protection requirements. The Scheme as operated by this Department defines DAS land under the following:

- Less Severely Handicapped Lowland and Coastal Areas with Specific Handicaps:
(payable at €82.27 per forage hectare);
- More Severely Handicapped Lowland: (payable at €95.99 per forage hectare);
- Mountain Type Grazing: (payable at €109.71 on first 10 forage hectares or part thereof and €95.99 per hectare on remaining forage hectares).

It can be seen from the above classifications and rates payable that due recognition is given to the varying degrees of disadvantage which farmers face, depending on the area of the country in which they farm. Furthermore, the area of the country classified as disadvantaged represents approximately 75% of farmland; this designation ranges from whole counties being designated as disadvantaged, some counties being partially designated, to those counties with no designated land. In the case of the two counties mentioned, Leitrim and Meath, the entire of County Leitrim is classified as disadvantaged (the entire county being classified as More Severely Handicapped), while a very small portion of County Meath is classified as disadvantaged (approximately 14%), the areas classified as disadvantaged being defined as Less Severely Handicapped, in the main, with a small area defined as More Severely Handicapped.

In recognition of the physical and natural constraints occurring in areas designated as disadvantaged, farmers are required to maintain a very low minimum stocking density on their holdings; under the 2012 Scheme the requirement is to maintain a minimum stocking density per forage hectare of 0.15 livestock units for a minimum retention period of six consecutive months, in addition to which applicants must maintain an annual average of 0.15 livestock units per forage hectare over the 12 months of the Scheme year. This minimum stocking requirement equates with a stocking level of one ewe per hectare. In most areas, where the farmers are predominantly involved in livestock production, the average stocking density is well over 1.0 livestock units per hectare (lu/ha) and in many of these areas over 2.0 lu/ha.

Furthermore, provision is made for those farmers whose adherence to recognised environmental protection plans (REPS, etc) oblige them to maintain a stocking density lower than 0.15 livestock units per forage hectare; in such cases this Department accepts the lower stocking level as meeting the requirements of the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme.

EU Directives

291. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding Irish aquaculture licences (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49368/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): The EU Habitats Directive placed an obligation on Member States of the EU to establish the Natura 2000 network. The network is made up of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) established under the EU Birds Directive, and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), established under the Habitats Directive itself. Ireland's contribution to the Natura 2000 network was created under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. 94 of 1997 as amended by S.I. 233 of 1998 and S.I. 378 of 2005). These regulations transposed the EU Directives into Irish national law. The designation of individual 'Natura' sites has taken place on a rolling basis since establishment.

The requirement for additional information, arising from the 'Natura 2000' process, rests, in the first instance, with the State. As I have previously advised the Deputy, the State is engaged in a process leading to full compliance by Ireland with the EU Birds/Habitats Directives.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

292. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49819/12]

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Deputy Simon Coveney): All civil service pensions are paid by the Paymaster General's Office and the Minister for Public Expenditure is providing these details. The parallel information in respect of the State Bodies under the aegis of my Department is a matter for the bodies themselves.

My Department is responsible for the payment of pensions to a number of former employees of bodies under the aegis of the Department which are no longer in operation. The information in respect of these pensions is set out in the Appendix.

Appendix

Pension amounts range€	Bord na gCapall	Cork & Dublin District Milk Boards
0 - 10,000	9	15

10,001 – 20,000	1	56
20,001 – 30,000	2	27
30,001 - 40,000	0	4
40,001 – 50,000	0	0
50,001 – 60,000	1	0
60,001 - 70,000	0	0
70,001 - 80,000	0	0
80,001 - 90,000	0	0
90,001 - 100,000	0	0
100,001 – 110,000	0	0
110,001 – 120,000	0	0
120,001 – 130,000	0	0
130,001 – 140,000	0	0
140,001 – 150,000	0	0
150,001 – 160,000	0	0
160,001 and above	0	0
Totals	13	102

Child Care Services Provision

293. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of children currently availing of the free childcare place for four year olds; the cost of the scheme; the approximate cost of extending it to entitle parents to two years of free childcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49253/12]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme was introduced in January 2010 and provides a free pre-school year to all eligible children in the year before commencing primary school. In line with the Programme for Government, my Department has made a significant commitment to maintaining the universal free pre-school year.

In the current pre-school year approximately 65,700 children are availing of the ECCE programme. This figure will increase as late entrant applications to the programme are submitted and processed. €175.8 million has been provided in 2012 to cover the cost of the programme.

I am aware of the need to further develop the early childhood care and education sector. However, any development that involved expanding the pre-school year would require considerable additional funding. It is estimated that an additional year's free pre-school provision would cost in the region of between €124 to €180 million, depending on the cohort of children supported.

I am also very conscious that work is continuing on improvement of quality within the pre-school year and all of the available evidence indicates that the quality of the provision is key to good outcomes for children. I would therefore hope to invest further in quality before expanding the programme.

Future developments relating to early years care and education will, of course, be considered during preparation of the new National Early Years Strategy 2012.

Preschool Services

294. **Deputy Pat Breen** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if a person (details supplied) will be facilitated in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49054/12]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme was introduced in January 2010 and provides for one free preschool year for all eligible children in the year before commencing primary school.

The programme includes a number of additional provisions to take account of children with special needs. These include an exemption from the upper age limit for qualification under the programme where a child is developmentally delayed and would benefit from starting primary school at a later age. In addition, children with special needs can apply to have the preschool year split over two years on a pro-rata basis, for example availing of the programme for 2 days a week in the first year and for 3 days a week in the second year. Application for these exemptions must be made prior to the child commencing the programme. However, there is no provision under the programme for a second preschool year for any child. As the child in question has availed of the full free preschool complement in the academic year 2011/2012, there is no further entitlement under the ECCE programme.

Future developments relating to early years care and education will, of course, be considered during preparation of the new National Early Years Strategy 2012.

Departmental Expenditure

295. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the gross and net additional expenditure savings that her Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [49237/12]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): The multiannual allocations for each Government Department, including the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, were set out in the Report of the 2011 Comprehensive Review of Expenditure. That Report contained the gross expenditure ceilings within which expenditure was to be managed over the medium term along with savings targets for 2013 and 2014.

The expenditure review identified savings measures of some €16 million in respect of my Department for 2013 which will be considered in the context of the estimates process and budgetary deliberations by Government.

Departmental Bodies

296. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under her remit; if she will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under her remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans she has for the body. [49307/12]

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. I have set out in tabular format below a list of these Agencies. I can confirm that no quasi-Governmental organisations come under the remit of my Department.

Agencies under the remit of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs
National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB)
Adoption Authority of Ireland (AAI)
Family Support Agency (FSA)
Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO)

No Agencies that come under my remit have been abolished since March 2011. However the FSA is to be merged with the new Child and Family Support Agency (CFSA) which is due to be established next year. The NEWB is also due to come under the remit of the CFSA.

Legislation for the establishment of the CFSA is being prepared by my Department as a priority. It is anticipated that the Bill will be published and enacted in the course of this session. It is my intention that the CFSA will assume statutory responsibility for services for children and families in January 2013.

I have set out below in tabular format, details of the Agencies under my remit that are due to be merged with the new CFSA once the legislation has been enacted.

Name of Agency	Date Established	Status with regards to CFSA	2012 Budget	No of Employees	Consultants hired since March 2011
Family Support Agency	6th May, 2003	CFSA will assume statutory responsibility for services for children and families in January 2013	€26.465million	13	Brian Harvey- Research Review Blue-wave Technology - Software Application Development Dr. Mary Mulcahy - Research Review Dawn O'Connor – Research Study Ruth Gallagher – Research Study

Name of Agency	Date Established	Status with regards to CFSA	2012 Budget	No of Employees	Consultants hired since March 2011
National Educational Welfare Board	5th July, 2000 (Board assumed statutory responsibility for provisions of the Act on July 5th 2002)	CFSA will assume statutory responsibility for services for children and families in January 2013	€9.622million	91	John Richards & Associates-Integration Implementation SMCI Associates -Integration Consultation SQW Ltd. literature -review of international best practice in participation, attendance RSM McClure Waters - Development of School Attendance Strategies Colgan & Associates - Consultancy, school attendance strategies etc. Anne McMurray Development Ltd Consultancy-Mapping practice Price Waterhouse Coopers - Data Protection Review Abbott Consulting - IT Services Maplelink Computer Services Ltd - IT Services Novosco Ltd - IT Projects & Citrix services and configuration

It should be noted that following enactment of the Child Care Amendment Act 2011 the Children's Act Advisory Board was subsequently dissolved by means of the commencement by the Minister of Health of Part 6 of the Child Amendment Act 2011.

Youth Services

297. **Deputy Dan Neville** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if he will consider an application for funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund 2010 for establishment of new youth cafe facilities for Limerick Youth Service (details supplied). [49342/12]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): As the Deputy may be aware, I announced last week that €2.25 million in capital funding would be made available for youth cafés, youth projects and play and recreation initiatives between now and the end of 2013.

In 2012, €500,000 will be provided for the development of a number of youth cafés which had applied for previous youth café funding schemes. €1.75 million will be provided in a new capital funding programme for 2013. This will include €1.5 million for youth cafés and youth projects and €250,000 for play and recreation initiatives in 2013. My Department will be announcing further details regarding the application process for the 2013 funding programme in the coming weeks.

Funding of some €1.7 million has been provided to date for the development of youth cafés and it is estimated that between 75-100 youth café facilities now operate across the State. These facilities are proving hugely beneficial to local communities in terms of broader engagement with young people. In addition, my Department supports a range of youth services and volunteer-led youth groups which offer similar resources and spaces for young people locally.

I understand that Limerick Youth Service applied for funding under the previous Youth Café scheme but was unsuccessful at that time. I have been advised that Pobal, who manage the day to day operation of the Youth Café scheme on my Department's behalf, will be in contact with Limerick Youth Service in relation to its application in the context of the funding available in 2012.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

298. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49821/12]

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (Deputy Frances Fitzgerald): The information requested by the Deputy in respect of agencies under the aegis of my Department is set out below:

Range	Number of Pensioners
€0-€10,000	92
€10,001 - €20,000	22
€20,001 - €30,000	16
€30,001 - €40,000	2
€40,001 - €50,000	2
€50,001 - €60,000	-
€60,001 - €70,000	-
€70,001 - €80,000	-
€80,001 - €90,000	-

€90,001 - €100,000	-
€100,001 - €110,000	-
€110,001 - €120,000	-
€120,001 - €130,000	-
€130,001 - €140,000	-
€140,001 - €150,000	-
€150,001 - €160,000	-
€160,001 and above	-

Health Action Plan

299. **Deputy Martin Heydon** asked the Minister for Health the progress made to date in implementing and ratifying the National Environmental Health Action Plan relating to environmental health here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49337/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The purpose of a National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP) is to address environmental impacts on population health. NEHAP is an evolving framework which adopts a comprehensive, holistic and intersectoral approach to the formulation and implementation of environmental health policy at national level on an on going basis.

Many of the environmental factors affecting human health are being addressed by a variety of sectoral initiatives, plans and programmes. Examples of organisations involved in these programmes include the Food Safety Authority of Ireland in relation food safety and local authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency & the Health Service Executive in relation to drinking water quality.

Many of the elements relevant to any NEHAP including those factors impacting on population health and the environment will inform the forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Framework. Partnership and effective co-operation and collaboration between the health sector and other areas of public and private society, including environment, food safety, housing and industry will be integral to the implementation of this Framework.

Hospital Waiting Lists

300. **Deputy Seamus Healy** asked the Minister for Health the extent of the waiting list, numbers and waiting times for in-patient and outpatient ear nose and throat services at Waterford Regional Hospital; and if he will specify the measures he intends to take to address this situation [49093/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): With regard to the Inpatient Waiting List at Waterford Regional Hospital for ear nose and throat services, the 9 month target set by SDU for adult patients and the 20 week target set by SDU for children are being met. On the Outpatient Waiting List as of 19th October there are currently 1742 patients waiting less than a year, 1252 patients listed as waiting between one and two years, 744 listed as waiting between two and three years and 389 listed as waiting between three and four years, a total of 4,127 patients. In line with SDU Policy, the Outpatient Waiting List is continuously being validated. Once patients are seen at an Outpatient Clinic, they are placed on the Inpatient Waiting List for the relevant surgery, if surgical intervention is required.

57 Clinics are held each 4 week period between Waterford Regional Hospital and a range of locations across the South East counties. All clinics are Consultant delivered: Waterford Regional Hospital consultants travel to the outreach clinics. Approximately 300 new referrals are received each month at the Central Referrals Office. Referrals are clinically prioritised as Urgent or Routine and scheduled for the OPD Clinic at WRH or at an outreach Clinic by the Consultants.

Question No. 301 answered with Question No. 72.

Health Services Staff Issues

302. **Deputy Joe Carey** asked the Minister for Health the plans in place in relation for recruiting addition paramedics and advanced paramedics in the health service in view of their important role within pre-hospital emergency care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49058/12]

322. **Deputy Joe Carey** asked the Minister for Health the plans in place in relation to recruiting addition paramedics and advanced paramedics in the Health Service in view of their important role within pre-hospital emergency care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49179/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 302 and 322 together.

The Government has decided that the numbers employed across the public service must be reduced in order to meet its fiscal and budgetary targets. The health sector must make its contribution to that reduction. However, the HSE can make staff appointments once it remains within its overall employment ceiling and has the financial resources to do so. As the recruitment of pre-hospital care staff is a matter for the HSE in the first instance, the Deputy's enquiry has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Health Services Reform

303. **Deputy Terence Flanagan** asked the Minister for Health the date on which legislation will be introduced to change the Health Service Executive governance and organisation structure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49096/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Health Service Executive (Governance) Bill 2012 provides for the abolition of the Board structure of the HSE and for a Directorate to be the new governing body for the HSE in place of the Board, headed by a Director General. The Bill also provides for greater accountability of the HSE to the Minister for Health. The Bill is currently before the Oireachtas. It was passed by Seanad Éireann on 24 October 2012 and the next step is for the Bill to be considered by Dáil Éireann.

In tandem with the proposed new governance structure under the Bill, new administrative structures will be put in place within the HSE to reflect the need for a greater operational management focus on the delivery of key services and greater transparency about funding, service delivery and accountability. These new governance and administrative arrangements represent important first steps in the process of delivering the reform agenda contained in the Programme for Government. The next steps, which will include measures to facilitate clearer and better integrated delivery and funding arrangements, are under consideration at present.

Home Care Packages

304. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Health if he will review the provision of home care assistance to persons (details supplied) in County Cork to ensure it is adequate for their needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49102/12]

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.

Misuse of Drugs

305. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health the way he intends to tackle the problem of the overuse of sedatives and tranquillisers amongst the public; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49108/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): The problem of the misuse of prescription drugs has been recognised at national, European and international levels. Through the framework of the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016, the Department of Health is working in collaboration with the relevant statutory agencies to monitor the availability of controlled drugs, including prescription medicines, through illicit channels.

The enforcement of the law relating to the sale of drugs, including prescription drugs, continues to be a priority in the Government's commitment to tackling the issue of drug misuse in this jurisdiction.

Under the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations, it is prohibited for a person to supply a prescription medicine except in accordance with a prescription, and the supply must be made from a registered pharmacy by or under the personal supervision of a registered pharmacist. A person who contravenes these Regulations is guilty of an offence. The Regulations also make it illegal for prescription medicines to be supplied by mail order. The definition of mail order includes reference to electronic custom solicitation and order for supply. This includes ordering prescription medicines through internet sites. Furthermore, a person who has in his possession a prescription medicine containing a substance controlled under the Misuse of Drugs legislation for the purpose of selling or otherwise supplying it, is guilty of an offence under that legislation.

My Department is reviewing the Misuse of Drugs Regulations with a view to introducing additional controls on certain prescription drugs being traded illicitly, for example benzodiazepine medicines. These additional controls include introducing import and export controls as well as an offence of possession, thereby assisting the law enforcement roles of Customs and of the Garda Síochána.

My Department is consulting with key stakeholders in relation to the proposed amendments and it is anticipated that new legislation will be introduced by early 2013.

Mental Health Services Funding

306. **Deputy Brendan Griffin** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the way the €35 million ringfenced annually for mental health has been spent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49110/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Funding from the €35 million special allocation for mental health will be used primarily to further strengthen Community Mental Health Teams in both Adult and Children's mental health services in respect of which €25 million has been estimated. Up to €3 million of the fund will be used to advance activities in the area of suicide prevention and a cost of €5 million has been estimated to initiate the provision of psychological and counselling services in primary care, specifically for people with mental health problems. The remaining €2 million will be made available to facilitate the re-location of mental health service users from institutional care to more independent living arrangements in their communities, in line with *A Vision for Change*.

414 posts were approved to implement the €35 million package of special measures for mental health. 378 of the posts are with the National Recruitment Service of the HSE at various stages in the recruitment process and over 200 offers of employment have already been accepted and the appointments are proceeding. Most start dates are expected to be in December 2012 to allow for the process of checking references etc. and costs will start to be incurred from that point. The Government remains committed to engaging these professionals as soon as is feasible and the work of completing the process remains a priority.

The provisional outturn for mental health services to mid-year was, like many other areas, running ahead of budget and the end of year excess in this area will be met from the unexpended portion of the €35 million. The full year costs of all of the above measures will be incurred from 2013 onwards.

Hospital Consultants Remuneration

307. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the net saving to the Exchequer if hospital consultant pay was capped at €150,000 [49125/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

HSE Staff Remuneration

308. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the net saving to the Exchequer if all Health Service Executive pay, excluding hospital consultants, was capped at €100,000 [49135/12]

309. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the gross saving to the Exchequer if all Health Service Executive pay, excluding hospital consultants, was capped at €100,000 [49136/12]

323. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the net saving to the Exchequer if all Health Service Executive pay excluding hospital consultants were capped at €100,000 [49184/12]

324. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health the gross saving to the Exchequer if all Health Service Executive pay excluding hospital consultants were capped at €100,000 [49185/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 308, 309, 323 and 324 together.

As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Hospital Waiting Lists

310. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the progress made to date toward a reduction of waiting lists and times in respect of all surgical procedures at all public hospitals throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49139/12]

334. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he will set out the extent of the reduction of waiting lists for various medical or surgical procedures in respect of all public hospitals throughout the country over the past two years; the areas that have most shown improvement in this regard; his aspirations for such areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49222/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 310 and 334 together.

As set out in the HSE Service Plan for 2012, the access targets for 2012 in-patient and day-case treatment are as follows:

No adult should have to wait more than 9 months for an in-patient/daycase procedure date; no child should have to wait more than 20 weeks for an in-patient/daycase procedure date; no patient should have to wait more than 13 weeks (3 months) for a routine GI endoscopy procedure.

There have been significant improvements in access to scheduled care (elective surgery - in-patient or daycase) since the Special Delivery Unit (SDU) was formed. The SDU's Scheduled Care Team was tasked with improving access to elective surgery and lowering waiting lists and the most recent Progress Report on the New Access Targets, which set out progress towards the targets by the end of Q3, shows the following.

In-patient and daycase surgery

Overall waiting list numbers have decreased from 56,020 to 51,955, a drop of 7%; the number of adults having to wait more than 12 months is down from 2,732 to 408, a drop of 85%; the number of adults having to wait more than 9 months is down from 6,277 to 2,342, a drop of 63%; the number of children having to wait > 20 weeks is down from 1,712 to 670 a decrease of 61%.

GI endoscopy

The SDU began to tackle long waits for routine GI endoscopy services (i.e. scopes) in May 2012 and since May 2012 overall waiting list numbers for scopes have decreased from 13,349 to 8,904, a drop of 33%. Those having to wait > 3 months (the target for 2012) have decreased from 5,062 to 1,711, a drop of 66%

Outpatients The initial priority for the SDU was trolley waits and daycases. It has now begun to work on improving access to outpatient services. The SDU is now working with the NTPF to build on the current work being undertaken by the HSE and to begin the systematic collection of outpatient waiting time data at an individual patient level. The collation and analysis of OP waiting time data in this standardised format will enable the SDU and NTPF to target resources towards those patients who are waiting longest and ensure that they are seen and as-

sessed. In parallel with reducing the numbers of longest waiters, the SDU will also work with the HSE Clinical Programmes to reform the structure, organisation and delivery of OP services to ensure that the right patient is seen and assessed by the right health professional at the right time.

Bullying in Schools

311. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the extent to which the Health Service Executive has been in a position to assist victims of school bullying; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49140/12]

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 Services Expenditure

312. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the extent to which it has been found possible to identify areas and causes of expenditure overruns throughout the health services by the Health Service Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49141/12]

313. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the saving to date achieved throughout the public health sector in each of the past three years to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49142/12]

317. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the extent of savings made by his Department throughout the health services in each of the past three years to date; the way frontline services were affected; the impact on administration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49146/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 312, 313 and 317 together.

The health service budget has been reduced by €2.5 billion over the last three years. The number of health service staff has fallen from a peak of 111,000 in 2007 to less than 103,000 now. As we are all aware, the country still faces serious challenges in respect of the public finances, and in order to meet the targets agreed with the Troika, there will be further reductions in the level of resources allocated to the health sector.

The 2010 Budget for the health services provided for €659m in pay savings and €400m in non-pay savings. The pay savings of €659m took account of general pay reductions, and higher reductions for those on higher pay on foot of the Report of the Review Body on Higher Remuneration along with savings associated with the moratorium on recruitment and promotion. The non-pay savings of €400m concentrated on areas which would not have a significant impact on front-line services, such as reductions in drugs costs, further economies in areas such as procurement, and improved private income collection by public hospitals. In 2011 further price reductions were applied in relation to pharmaceuticals, to achieve full year savings of €200 million in the cost of drugs. Further reductions in GP fees under the Financial Emergency Measures in Public Interest (FEMPI) Act 2009 were applied, and the charge for treating private patients in public hospitals was increased by 21%. Along with further procurement economies, and reductions in pay as a result of the voluntary exit schemes, the objective was to mitigate as

far as possible against affecting front-line services.

Expenditure plans for 2012 were set in the context of stabilising the fiscal situation whilst protecting services to the greatest degree possible. As with other sectors, the Health sector incurred a reduction in the resources allocated to it. The gross current budget for the Health Sector for 2012 was some €183m less than the 2011 allocation. However, the underlying reduction was greater because of the need to provide for unavoidable cost increases in areas such as superannuation, demand-led schemes and Fair Deal. There was also a need to commence implementation of some priority commitments in the Programme for Government. The HSE's National Service Plan indicated that in order to meet the Government's targets and to provide for unavoidable pressures, savings of €750m will need to be achieved in 2012.

The HSE is overspent by €374m to the end of September. There is intensive engagement between my Department and the Health Service Executive to address the excess expenditure. In the short term, to address the 2012 position, I have instructed the Executive to impose cash limits on agency and overtime. Furthermore, there will be more rigorous management of absenteeism, travel and subsistence will be limited, and stock management will be intensified in order to better manage cash. Other measures are also being undertaken in order to achieve a balanced budget, including the use of capital to fund revenue and the transfer of Department funds to the HSE on a once-off basis.

As I have outlined in this House on previous occasions, I have instructed the HSE that efficiencies must be achieved in the first instance before patient services are affected and in this regard, patient safety must be paramount.

National Children's Hospital Location

314. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he has satisfied himself as to the availability of the most suitable readily accessible site for the provision of the proposed new Children's Hospital; if he has examined the merits of a greenfill site for the project; if the preparatory consultancy and research costs to date are likely to be more beneficial in a greenfield site situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49143/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): Following the refusal of planning permission by An Bord Pleanála for the new children's hospital on the Mater site, I established a Review Group chaired by Dr Frank Dolphin (the Dolphin Group) to advise on next steps. Their report was presented to me on 8 June last. On Tuesday, I announced the Government's decision to develop the new children's hospital at the campus of St James's Hospital in Dublin. In identifying the new site, the Government has carefully considered the report of the Dolphin Group along with detailed supplementary information on cost, time and planning which was subsequently sought from those members of the Group with the relevant technical expertise.

This decision has been made in the best interests of children, with clinical considerations being of paramount importance. It is essential that the new children's hospital can deliver best clinical outcomes for our children. Co-location with an adult hospital has been deemed essential by the Dolphin report, and by all previous reports on this issue, while tri-location with a maternity hospital is optimal. Greenfield sites do not offer this opportunity and therefore the Dolphin report excluded greenfield sites from consideration. Co-location, and ultimately tri-location with a maternity hospital, on the St James's campus will support the provision of excellence in clinical care that our children deserve.

I intend to move quickly now to put in place all the necessary structures and governance

arrangements to enable the delivery of this project as quickly as possible and to the highest quality. This Government regards the building of the new children's hospital as a key priority and no effort will be spared in expediting its completion.

Nursing Home Services

315. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the extent to which comparisons continue to be made between average weekly patient costs in public and private nursing homes each caring for patients with similar dependency and comparable scale and quality of services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49144/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): Since the introduction of the registration and inspection regime for nursing homes in July 2009, all nursing homes are required to meet the same core standards.

It has been acknowledged that there are variations in the cost of care in respect of public and private nursing homes. Historically, public nursing homes have employed a greater number of nursing staff and, therefore, had higher nursing to patient ratios than many nursing homes in the private sector. This has contributed to the higher cost of care. With regard to dependency levels, the Long-Stay Activity Statistics for 2010, prepared by the Department of Health, indicate that at end-2010, 83.7% of residents in public nursing homes were of high and maximum dependency. In private nursing homes, 59.7% of residents were in the same category. The Deputy should be mindful that these are self-reported survey results. However, the HSE is committed to implementing a single assessment tool for older people. In addition to uniformly assess dependency levels, the introduction of such a tool would enhance quality and efficiency, promote value for money, facilitate access to long-term residential care and community services and ensure that older people are cared for in the most appropriate setting.

The HSE is committed to examining all options to maximise the resources available for nursing home care, e.g. skill mix, rostering arrangements and reconfiguration etc. The HSE is currently finalising a review of the cost of care in public nursing homes.

Finally, the review of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme, which is expected to be completed in 2013, will examine the overall cost of long-term residential care in public and private nursing homes and the effectiveness of the current methods of negotiating/setting prices.

Health Services Staff Issues

316. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the cost difference between the use of agency nursing staff as opposed to temporary whole or part time staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49145/12]

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. 317 answered with Question No. 312.

Health Services Staff Issues

318. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health the extent to which the

numbers of junior hospital doctors, consultants, nursing or other staff levels have fluctuated annually over the past five years to date; the number who have retired or resigned for whatever reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49147/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Government has decided that the numbers employed across the public service must be reduced in order to meet its fiscal and budgetary targets. The health sector must make its contribution to that reduction. The Deputy's specific enquiry in relation to health sector staffing levels has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Question No. 319 answered with Question No. 28.

Health Services Provision

320. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the impact that any further cuts to a foundation (details supplied) will have on those who depend on the services provided by this organisation; if he will take this into account in framing the budget for the foundation for 2013; if he will carry out an impact assessment of any further budget cuts for the foundation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49154/12]

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.

Pending completion of the national estimates, budgetary and service planning process for 2013 it is not possible to predict the service levels to be provided next year.

Health Services Provision

321. **Deputy Finian McGrath** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding occupational therapy in respect of a person (details supplied) in Dublin 5 [49178/12]

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.

Question No. 322 answered with Question No. 302.

Questions Nos. 323 and 324 answered with Question No. 308.

Hospital Services

325. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health the reason no contact has been made to date with a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny as committed to in correspondence by either Waterford Regional Hospital or Cappagh Hospital; the action that will now be taken to expedite this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49192/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Hospital Waiting Lists

326. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if an early appointment will be arranged in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny; the reason the list is not being progressed; and the action that will be taken; if he will confirm the number on this list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49193/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Respite Care Services

327. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if a plan for regular periods of respite will be put in place in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny; and if he will expedite a response [49195/12]

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.

Treatment Abroad Scheme

328. **Deputy Gerald Nash** asked the Minister for Health if he will outline the programmes and resources available to his Department and the Health Service Executive to allow children with rare illnesses to access treatment in other jurisdictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49202/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I established a National Steering Group, in April 2011, to develop a patient centred, policy framework for the prevention, detection and treatment of rare diseases based on the principles of high quality care and equity. The policy, which will operate over a 5 year period, will take account of the EU Council Recommendation on Rare Diseases (2009) and define priority actions subject to resource availability. We are now well advanced in developing this work. Similar plans are being drafted by individual countries across the EU, including in the UK.

The HSE operates the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS), for persons entitled to treatment in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland under EU Regulation 1408/71, as per the procedures set out in EU Regulation 574/72, and in accordance with Department of Health Guidelines. Within these governing EU Regulations and the Department of Health and Children's Guidelines, the TAS provides for the cost of approved treatments in another EU/EEA member state or Switzerland through the issue of form E112 (IE).

The TAS allows for an Irish based consultant to refer a patient that is normally resident in Ireland for treatment in another EU member state or Switzerland, where the treatment in question meets the following criteria:

(a) The application to refer a patient abroad has been assessed and a determination given before that patient goes abroad.

(b) Following clinical assessment, the referring consultant certifies the following:

- They recommend the patient be treated in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland;

- The treatment is medically necessary and will meet the patient's needs;
- The treatment is a proven form of medical treatment and is not experimental or test treatment;
- The treatment is in a recognised hospital or other institution and is under the control of a registered medical practitioner;
- The hospital outside the state will accept EU/EEA form E112 (IE).

All applications to the TAS are independently assessed by the HSE Health Intelligence Unit.

Social Workers Register

329. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the new registration fee for social care professionals which will be €295 is reduced and brought into line with the fees required for similarly paid qualified professionals like nurses €88 and teachers €65 and ensure that the Health and Social Care Professional Council, CORU, links its fees to those already prevailing in the health and education services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49210/12]

343. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if he will detail all costs associated with the full introduction of the health and social care professions legislation which are to be levied on individual workers; if he will provide a breakdown of same by profession; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that €295 per annum will be levied on individual social workers; his views on whether this is excessive in view of current financial constraints on workers and their families and in view of comparable fees for other professions, the steps he will take to address this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49293/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 329 and 343 together.

The Health and Social Care Professionals Council (HSCPC) and the 12 registration boards to be established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 are responsible for protecting the public by regulating health and social care professionals. The Council (also known as CORU) was established in March 2007 and is working to put in place the necessary structures for registration, education and fitness to practise for the 12 health and social care professions designated under the Act.

The first registration board to be established, the Social Workers Registration Board, was established in August 2010, and the associated Social Workers Register opened for receipt and processing of applications on 31 May, 2011. A second registration board, the Radiographers Registration Board, was established on 16 December, 2011 and its register is expected to be established in the near future. Three further registration boards, the Dietitians Registration Board, the Occupational Therapists Registration Board, and the Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board are currently in the process of establishment and it is also proposed to establish the Physiotherapists Registration Board either before the end of this year, or in early 2013.

All of the registration boards for the remaining designated professions should be established and their registers fully operational by 2015 or 2016 at the latest.

Under the provisions of the 2005 Act, there is a two-year transitional period from the date

on which the register of the members of that profession is established, during which existing practitioners may apply for registration. The name of every registrant will be published in the register, which will be accessible on-line. Only those registrants who have satisfied the registration board for their designated profession that they hold an approved qualification and are “fit and proper” to engage in the practice of the profession will be entered on the register.

The State is currently funding the HSCPC in its establishment phase (€1.937 million in 2012) and will continue to do so on a reducing basis to end 2015.

The Council which is an independent statutory body is responsible for setting the level of fees and in doing this it is mindful of the requirement for it to become self funding by end 2015.

The current fee structure is as follows:

- A registration fee of €100 for new graduates, who have obtained recognised professional qualifications within two years of applying for registration;
- An annual retention fee of €295 for registrants, including those who paid the lower rate on graduation, is payable on the annual renewal date.

Since the annual renewal fee of €295 is subject to full tax relief it reduces to €174 at the higher level of tax which compares favourably with fees levied by Union and professional bodies where no tax relief is applicable.

All health regulators are self funding by way of annual fee income. The greater the registrant base the lower the annual fee charged. Given the enormous registrant base in teaching and nursing, for example, the annual fee charged amounts to less than €100 per annum. Health regulators are single profession regulators whereas the HSCPC is charged with regulating twelve disparate professions, which can add significantly to operating costs. The twelve designated professions to be registered by the Council range in number from under 50 in the case of Clinical Biochemists to a high of 3,000 approximately for Medical Scientists and 5,550 for Social Care Workers, only amount to about 20,000 registrants in total across all professions. This is an extremely low registrant base when compared to a registrant base of well in excess of 60,000 for nurses.

The HSCPC is charged with extensive statutory functions under the 2005 Act, registration being only one, and the annual fee of €295 being charged by the HSCPC is considered the bare minimum required to enable the Council to operate. The fee is on a par with that charged by other health regulators and less than some in certain cases.

In response to concerns about the level of fee, the HSCPC has reviewed the regulatory structure to establish what scope exists for further reductions in registration fees and operational costs and has adopted the following measures:

- Where an existing practitioner with the necessary experience and recognised professional qualifications, or equivalent, pays the registration fee of €295 and is granted registration during the transitional period, also known as grand-parenting, the application fee will cover them for the remainder of the grand-parenting period and one full year of retention of registration after expiration of grand-parenting. This concession will only apply to existing practitioners availing of the transitional provisions set out in the Act;
- The Council has requested the HSE to put in place arrangements for the deduction of the registration fee from monthly salary thereby spreading the cost throughout the year;
- Finally, the Council has proposed significant restructuring of the way in which the des-

igned professions will be registered and regulated to provide a more cost effective operating system. This will require the enactment of primary legislation in due course.

Hospital Staff

330. **Deputy Brendan Ryan** asked the Minister for Health the reason no replacement for a specialist surgeon in a hospital (details supplied) has been hired in over 18 months; the impact this has had on waiting list for specialist surgeries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49216/12]

331. **Deputy Brendan Ryan** asked the Minister for Health if he will prioritise the hiring of a new specialist surgeon (details supplied) in order to tackle waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49217/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 330 and 331 together.

As these are service matters, they have been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Hospital Waiting Lists

332. **Deputy Michael Healy-Rae** asked the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) in County Kerry has to wait in excess of nine months for surgery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49218/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): As this is a service matter, it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply.

Health Insurance Cover

333. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if EU health insurance cover will adequately cater for surgery costs in Poland during the holiday period having regard to documentation in the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kildare who is employed in this jurisdiction for the past six years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49221/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Question No. 334 answered with Question No. 310.

Nursing Home Services

335. **Deputy Bernard J. Durkan** asked the Minister for Health if he has been apprised of developments at Crooksling Nursing Home County Dublin resulting in a reduction in patient numbers despite the availability of adequate staffing levels; the restrictions of patient intake and other measures of a slow but inexorable nature which eventually will damage the efficiency and efficacy of the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49223/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): St. Brigid's

Nursing Home, Crooksling was registered as a designated centre for older people by the Health Information and Quality Authority on 25 June 2012.

Prior to registration, significant remedial works were carried out at St. Brigid's to meet fire safety requirements. The HSE has confirmed that 66 beds will remain at present in the newly upgraded lower units and it will be possible to use these units in the short term while complying with the current HIQA standards. St. Brigid's will continue to admit long term care patients as vacancies arise, to maintain this current bed complement. The Deputy will be aware that the upper units were closed as HSE considered them not to be in a good infrastructural condition. In addition, in-patient respite care and day care services are continuing to be provided at St. Brigid's.

Finally I would like to assure the Deputy should there be a concern for the future of any public nursing home, the HSE will engage fully in a local consultation process with all stakeholders before any decision is taken.

Health Services Provision

336. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if he will review the case of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49229/12]

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 Services

337. **Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív** asked the Minister for Health his plans to provide finance for the setting up of a Huntington's disease clinic here that would include the appointment of a neurologist, a HD specialist nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, speech and language therapist, social worker and neurophysiologist in view of the devastating effect of this illness and the fact that it is an inherited neurological disorder; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49234/12]

346. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Health his plans for the establishment of a Huntington's Disease Clinic at UCHG Galway in view of the fact that there are no Huntington's Disease Clinics here; his plans for the development of services for persons with Huntington's Disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49322/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): I propose to answer Questions Nos. 337 and 346 together.

Huntington's Disease (HD) is a genetic, neurological disorder and is classified as a rare disease. The supports provided by the Health Service Executive (HSE) to people with HD involve a multi-disciplinary team approach to the provision of health and personal supports and incorporate assisted living services, including Personal Assistant Services, Aids & Appliances and hospital, primary care and community services.

The Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland (HDAI), provides consultation, information and individualised support to those diagnosed with Huntington's Disease, their families and their health care team. The HSE is committed to working in partnership with voluntary disability service providers, including HDAI, to ensure that all of the resources available for

people with disabilities are used in the most effective manner possible. The HSE recognises the valuable contribution of the HDAI and approved a grant of just over €68,000 for 2012 to support the work of the organisation. The HDAI is a member of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland and the Disability Federation of Ireland. Both umbrella organisations provide support to the HDAI and are supported by the State through funding from the Health Service Executive.

I established a National Steering Group to develop a policy framework for the prevention, detection and treatment of rare diseases based on the principles of high quality care, equity and a patient centred approach. The policy will operate over a five year period, take account of the EU Council Recommendations on Rare Diseases (2009) and define priority actions subject to resource availability. It is envisaged that the main added value of European Reference Networks and therefore of the Centres of Expertise will be to facilitate improvements in access to diagnosis and delivery of high-quality, accessible and cost-effective healthcare in the case of patients who have a medical condition requiring a particular concentration of expertise or resources, particularly in medical domains where expertise is rare. Work is ongoing on at EU level on the development of criteria, structures and governance arrangements for such networks and the Department of Health is participating in the relevant Expert Groups.

My Department is asking the HSE to inform the Deputies in relation to the provision of services for people with Huntington's Disease in the Western region.

Departmental Expenditure

338. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49244/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The level of funding available for the health budget and the extent of the savings required in the health sector are being considered as part of the Estimates and budgetary process for 2013 which is currently underway. Deliberations by the Government on the expenditure allocations for next year are likely to continue up until Budget time and it would not be appropriate for me to comment further at this stage pending the outcome of those deliberations. The very difficult financial position facing the Exchequer will obviously require very careful management across all areas of expenditure.

HSE Properties

339. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health if he will investigate the delay since 2010 in the completion of a lease between the Health Service Executive and a child-care centre (details supplied) in County Waterford; if the written commitment to the lease part of the building will be honoured and paid for prior to a threatened court case in November 2012; if the payment to the building contractor will be made by the HSE prior to the end of November in view of the fact that this was part of the written commitment given by the HSE; if he will instruct the HSE to honour their commitments and formally sign the lease as all matters relevant to the lease have been resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49249/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The delivery of health care services is a service matter. Therefore your question has been referred to the Health Services Executive for direct reply.

Health Services Provision

340. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding the plans of the Health Service Executives plans to provide four to five clients of the HSE with a high support unit in Kilkenny City; if the families of those concerned have been informed of the progress and the likely date that the project will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49250/12]

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 Services Provision

341. **Deputy John McGuinness** asked the Minister for Health the long term care plan that is being put in place in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kilkenny; if approval will be given for such a plan to be provided in the setting of a private nursing home in view of the exceptional circumstances of their case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49251/12]

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.

Drugs Payment Scheme Threshold

342. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the approximate cost of reducing the monthly threshold for the drug payment scheme from €132 a month to €120 a month; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49252/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): It is estimated that the cost of reducing the threshold for the Drug Payment Scheme from €132 to 120 per month per family would be about €12m per annum.

Question No. 343 answered with Question No. 329.

Home Help Service Provision

344. **Deputy Denis Naughten** asked the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 239 of 25 October 2012, when he will furnish a reply to the issues raised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49300/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Kathleen Lynch): I wish to advise the Deputy that the Health Service Executive has 15 working days from the date a question is asked to reply to the Deputy. In relation to Parliamentary Question No. 239, a reply is due by 15th November 2012.

Departmental Bodies

345. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49314/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The information requested is currently being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as it is available.

Question No. 346 answered with Question No. 337.

Primary Care Centres Provision

347. **Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in full detail the process for the awarding of the contract for a Primary Care Centre (details supplied) in County Dublin; if the latest contract was agreed as a result of a fully competitive tendering process; the detail of same; the current stage of development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49330/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The management and delivery of the health infrastructure programme is a service issue. Therefore your question has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

Medical Card Applications

348. **Deputy Tom Fleming** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding an emergency medical card in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49353/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): As this is a service matter it has been referred to the Health Service Executive for direct reply to the Deputy.

Food Safety Authority Inspections

349. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and or the Health Service Executive for checking temperature records/storage facilities/food traceability scales in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; if he will outline the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49359/12]

350. **Deputy Damien English** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in tabular form the total number of inspections by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and or the Health Service Executive for the taking and testing of food samples in 2009, 2010, 2011 and to date in 2012; the number of compliant inspections; the number of cases brought and the number of convictions as a result of these cases; the total cost of these inspections for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49363/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): I propose to take Questions Nos. 349 and 350 together.

The information requested by the deputy is currently being collated by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). I will arrange for the FSAI to contact the deputy directly when this information becomes available.

Drugs Payment Scheme Administration

351. **Deputy Anne Ferris** asked the Minister for Health the position regarding drug reimbursement in respect of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49369/12]

Minister of State at the Department of Health (Deputy Alex White): The HSE has been asked to examine this case as a matter of urgency and to reply to the Deputy.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

352. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Health if he will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49826/12]

Minister for Health (Deputy James Reilly): The Health Service Executive, has been asked to collate the data sought as soon as possible and to provide it directly to the Deputy.

The information in relation to the Non-Commercial State Agencies under the aegis of my Department is currently being collated and will be forwarded to the Deputy as soon as it is available.

Museum Projects

353. **Deputy Michael McGrath** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans to establish a National Sports Museum / Hall of Fame; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49126/12]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): I believe that a sports museum would be an excellent addition to Ireland's sporting and cultural experience and has the potential to attract widespread public interest. A committee, which is being chaired by Minister of State Michael Ring, has been established to examine the feasibility of developing a Museum of Irish Sport. The first meeting of the committee took place on 24th October.

Departmental Expenditure

354. **Deputy Sean Fleming** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the gross and net additional expenditure savings that his Department is seeking to achieve in 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [49248/12]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): The expenditure provisions for my Department are set out in Vote 31 as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. This year, my Department's Gross Vote allocation is €2,041m made up of €796m Current and €1,245m Capital expenditure. My Department's Net Vote allocation is €1,591m made up of €630m Current and €961m Capital expenditure. In addition, sanction was also provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for my Department to carry over of €8.7m for capital expenditure.

My Department has already indicated to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform expenditure cuts in the region of €49m in 2013, balanced by a contractually committed increase of almost €20m in the cost of the Coast Guard's contract for the provision of Search and Rescue Helicopter services. As part of the Estimates and budgetary process, my Department is consulting with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to 2013 allocations. It would not be appropriate for me to comment further at this stage on the specifics of savings that may or may not be achieved in 2013 pending the outcome of these deliberative processes.

Departmental Bodies

355. **Deputy Niall Collins** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide in a tabular form the total list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit; if he will provide a list of quasi-Governmental organisations and agencies under his remit that have been abolished since March 2011 or are scheduled to be abolished and the date on which they are due to be abolished; the date on which the body was created; the name of the body; the 2012 Budget for the body; the number of employees of the body in 2012; the names of any outside consultants hired by the organisation since March 2011 and what future plans he has for the body. [49319/12]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): The Deputy will find a list of all agencies under the aegis of my Department on the Department's website www.dttas.ie. Since my appointment as Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, no bodies have been abolished. However six Public Bodies have been merged. The merger of Dublin Tourism with its parent body - Fáilte Ireland - is de facto complete. Coaching Ireland has been subsumed into the Irish Sports Council. The Government decided in May 2012 that Shannon Development's tourism functions should transfer to Fáilte Ireland. Planning and preparations for this transfer are underway.

Dundalk Port Company was merged with Dublin Port Company on 12 July 2011. Tralee and Fenit Harbour Authority transferred to the control of Kerry County Council with effect from 1 October 2011. Baltimore and Skibbereen Harbour and Kinsale Harbour transferred to the control of Cork County Council, while Arklow Harbour transferred to the control of Wicklow County Council, with effect from 1st January 2012. The Board of Harbour Commissioners ceased to exist in each case. The current intention is that the last remaining harbour under the auspices of my Department, Bantry Bay, will be transferred to a more appropriate governance framework over the course of the next year.

The Public Service Reform Plan (<http://reformplan.per.gov.ie/>) sets out full details of all agencies, including those under the aegis of my Department, which are to be rationalised in 2012 and 2013 and also those which are subject to critical review. An update on progress with

the rationalisation of the State agencies as of 31 October 2012 is available on the website of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. (www.per.gov.ie)

The funding provided to agencies under the aegis of my Department is set out in the Revised Estimates for Public Expenditure 2012 and can be found on the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform website (<http://per.gov.ie/estpubexp2012/>). Financial details in relation to the commercial State agencies can be found in the annual report of the relevant agency.

I have forwarded the Deputy's question to the various State agencies under my Department's aegis regarding the number of employees in each agency and details of consultants hired by them. If the Deputy does not receive a reply from the agencies within ten working days, please advise my private office.

Public Sector Pensions Expenditure

356. **Deputy Mary Lou McDonald** asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide in tabular form the number of public servants in receipt of annual gross public sector pensions of between 0 to 10,000 euro, 10,001 to 20,000 euro, 20,001 to 30,000 euro, 30,001 to 40,000 euro, 40,001 to 50,000 euro, 50,001 to 60,000 euro, 60,001 to 70,000 euro, 70,001 to 80,000 euro, 80,000 to 90,000, 90,000 to 100,000 euro, 100,001 to 110,000 euro, 110,001 to 120,000 euro, 120,001 to 130,000 euro, 130,001 to 140,000 euro, 140,001 to 150,000 euro, 150,001 to 160,000 euro, 160,001 and above; and if these figures include local authorities, vocational educational committees, commercial semi State companies, non-commercial State agencies/bodies public sector retirees. [49830/12]

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Leo Varadkar): Information in relation to pensions of civil servants that were employed in my Department will be provided by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. I have asked the State Agencies under the aegis of my Department to provide the Deputy with the information requested. If you do not receive a reply from the agencies within 10 working days please advise my private office.

