



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 27 Feabhra, 2019

Wednesday, 27th February, 2019

**CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS**

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of the meeting he held with EU and Arab foreign ministers to discuss the Middle East peace process; the progress made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9756/19]

2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Police Ombudsman in Northern Ireland has found that significant, sensitive information in relation to the activities of Loyalist paramilitaries between 1988 and 1994 was withheld by the Police Service of Northern Ireland from the investigators of the Ombudsman; his views on this development; if he has raised this matter with the British Government; and if he will meet with the families and victims of the Irish citizens killed in the cases that the Ombudsman was investigating. — Seán Crowe. [9758/19]

3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of Brexit developments at national and EU level including preparations for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Lisa Chambers. [9757/19]

4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade further to Parliamentary Question No. 86 of 29 January 2019, if, in his continued monitoring of the reports of ill treatment of eight female activists in a prison in Saudi Arabia, he has given further consideration to establishing an all-party delegation to visit these detainees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9755/19]

5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if Ireland will support peaceful efforts aimed at solving the Venezuelan crisis and only those initiatives that will help to bring the crisis to a peaceful and inclusive conclusion. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9759/19]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

6. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will urge the European Union to start negotiations with President Maduro of Venezuela; if all available dispute resolution mechanisms have been utilised including existing frameworks in Latin America; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [9436/19]

7. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the rationale for declaring Ireland in support of Mr. Juan Guaidó as the interim President of Venezuela; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9740/19]

8. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade when a decision will be made on the appointment of Ireland's next EU Commissioner. — Thomas P. Broughan. [7998/19]

9. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the progress being made to restore power sharing institutions in Northern Ireland. — Robert Troy. [9742/19]

10. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on the refusal by the Israeli Government to extend the mandate of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH); if his attention has been drawn to the work of TIPH in monitoring the breeches of a protocol (details supplied); if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that the work of the TIPH is enshrined in the Oslo II accords in 1995; and if the decision by the Israeli Government to refuse to extend the mandate of the TIPH will be condemned. — Seán Crowe. [9634/19]

11. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he is assessing the impact of Irish unity and planning accordingly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [7341/19]

12. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on extending the memorandum of understanding between the HSE and Irish Aid operating in relation to Sub-Saharan African countries to Nepal as a low income Asian country with poor health indicators; and his further views on the need for extending this collaboration. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9690/19]

13. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the EU Ambassadors he has met recently. — Michael Moynihan. [8462/19]

14. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the indications there are that the UK is likely to soften its demand in relation to the backstop; if, in the absence of same means can be found by which the customs union and single market on the island of Ireland can prevail; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9697/19]

15. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will report on the coordination of the various State visits that members of the Government are making on St. Patrick's Day; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9738/19]

16. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the steps he will take to have the Temporary International Presence in Hebron reinstated as a matter of urgency (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [8900/19]

17. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on reports asserting that US special forces and mercenaries engaged by the UAE have conducted targeted killings of religious and political leaders in Yemen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9736/19]

18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he raised the issue of the Israeli Government withholding taxes that it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority from the authority with his counterparts across Europe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9741/19]

19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the action he is taking to encourage returning Irish emigrants. — Fiona O'Loughlin. [9681/19]

20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his plans to resume talks with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the political parties in Stormont in relation to the need to have the political institutions in Northern Ireland restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [9700/19]

21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade when Ireland will ratify the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement on the EU and Cuba. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9691/19]

22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will report on the recent expulsion of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron from the region and the withdrawal of observers from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel; his plans to ensure that TIPH is reinstated; if he will report on his efforts to organise a meeting of representatives of Israel and Palestine here to advance a peace process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [8813/19]

23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if a commitment will be made for the return of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron, West Bank in view of the deteriorating situation in the region and stated support for the Oslo Accords; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9689/19]

24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views with regard to some supporters of Israel attempting to equate anti-Semitism with criticism of Israeli treatment of Palestinians; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9737/19]

25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade when Ireland will ratify the political dialogue and cooperation agreement between the EU and Cuba; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [9437/19]

26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the basis on which the decision was taken to recognise a self-appointed person as President of Venezuela; his views on the statement from the UN rapporteur that sanctions on the country are illegal and could amount to crimes against humanity under international law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9735/19]

27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on the amassing of troops from the United States of America on the Colombian Venezuelan border (details supplied); if he calls on the Venezuelan military to enter the political arena and engage in a coup will be condemned; and if he will support the Montevideo dialogue initiative. — Seán Crowe. [9636/19]

28. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he is satisfied that sufficient resources are in place to deal with increased volume in passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [9743/19]

29. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which he can encourage the international community to take a greater interest in the humanitarian effort in Yemen, the horn of Africa and Venezuela; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9698/19]

30. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade when the EU-Cuba Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement will be ratified (details supplied). — Seán Crowe. [9637/19]

31. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of efforts to address the undocumented Irish in the United States of America; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9703/19]

32. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if regulatory alignment on agriculture matters post the UK leaving the European Union has been discussed and agreed as part of the negotiations between the EU Brexit negotiating team and the UK Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConalogue. [9443/19]

33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the way in which he plans to ensure that all rights afforded to persons in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday Agreement are upheld in full even in the event of a no-deal Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9705/19]

34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the progress of the recent talks with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and with the political parties in Stormont in relation to the need to have the Assembly and Executive restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [9699/19]

35. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of negotiations, particularly those relating to the Border region of counties Cavan and Monaghan in view of Brexit and the possible reintroduction of a hard-Border. — Niamh Smyth. [9442/19]

36. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he is preparing a statement on Ireland's vision on Europe and in particular the reform of Europe following consultation on same. — Michael Moynihan. [7045/19]

37. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on an initiative (details supplied); and his plans to ensure that all Irish companies respect the business and human rights initiative in view of the fact that it was a policy led by his Department. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9692/19]

38. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on the rise of nationalism in EU member states and the threat to the rule of law including in Hungary and Poland; the implications that this potentially has for the future of Europe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9701/19]

39. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of Ireland's bid to win a seat at the UN Security Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9702/19]

40. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the way in which he can address human rights abuses in Bahrain further to the concerns articulated by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation faced by human rights defenders and the concerns for persons (details supplied). — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9688/19]

41. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of efforts to double Ireland's global footprint by 2025; the actions taken to date; and the short, medium and long-term actions that will be taken. — Fiona O'Loughlin. [9680/19]

42. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if a travel plan has commenced in view of Brexit in order to be prepared for the possible reintroduction of a hard-Border. — Niamh Smyth. [9444/19]

43. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the details of his engagement with the EU Brexit negotiating team and the UK Government with a view to ensuring regulatory alignment on agriculture matters post the UK leaving the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConologue. [9445/19]

44. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if his attention has been drawn to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution on Sri Lanka 30/1, extended by resolution 34/1, which is due to expire in March 2019 (details supplied); if efforts to ensure a new strong UNHRC resolution on Sri Lanka post-March 2019 will be supported; and if requests for the creation of an international tribunal into the allegations of war crimes in Sri Lanka which have yet to be properly investigated and the perpetrators punished will be supported. — Seán Crowe. [9635/19]

45. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a Kurdish Member of Parliament (details supplied) is on a hunger strike since November 2018; and if concerns for their health and well-being will be raised with his Turkish counterpart. — Seán Crowe. [9638/19]

46. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the status of the situation in Yemen and the efforts to address the acute risk of famine in the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9704/19]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

*47. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if he will report on his recent contacts with Mr. Michel Barnier since the vote in the House of Commons of 30 January 2019. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [5671/19]

*48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the expected position and status of British citizens that are living here in the aftermath of Brexit particularly if there is a no-deal scenario; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Heydon. [9837/19]

*49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which new consulates and or trade missions and embassies continue to pursue trade with other jurisdictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9995/19]

*50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of new trade missions, consulates and embassies worldwide pursuing trade and diplomatic interests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9996/19]

*51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which he and his UN colleagues are in a position to influence a peace process in the Middle East with particular reference to the need for both sides to bring their grievances to a central platform in which both Israeli and Palestinian interests will receive a hearing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9997/19]

*52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the degree to which the international community remains focused on the various flashpoints globally that are affected by war, starvation, ethnic cleansing and genocide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9998/19]

*53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which he in conjunction with the international community can positively influence the situation in Yemen; if the UN or EU have a role in the situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9999/19]

*54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which the situation in Haiti in terms of violence, starvation and the aftermath of natural disasters continues to be addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10000/19]

*55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which international aid continues to be made available to persons in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10001/19]

*56. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which the European Union continues to positively influence the situation in all European countries with a view to ensuring less reliance on populism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10002/19]

*57. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if all EU countries and non-EU countries with which the EU has or may have close relations are adequately aware of the dangers of populism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10003/19]

*58. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which he remains satisfied that populism or racism can have no place throughout the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10004/19]

*59. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which the EU and UN remain alert to the threat of organisations (details supplied); the extent of the success of the international community in this regard over recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10005/19]

*60. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which all EU countries and applicant countries for EU membership remain committed to the *acquis communautaire*; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10006/19]

*61. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the degree to which various donor countries have contributed to international aid in line with their original promise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10007/19]

*62. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the extent to which the use of child soldiers continues to be a focus for the international community with particular reference to specific measures to address the issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [10008/19]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*63. To ask the Minister for Finance if the requirement for a deposit by a developer (details supplied) for a Home Building Finance Ireland loan in respect of a turnkey social housing project will be removed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [9781/19]

*64. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on a matter (details supplied) regarding insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [9796/19]

*65. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount paid by the National Treasury Management Agency and the National Asset Management Agency for public relations in 2018; the amount paid to each firm; the rates that apply; when the main public relations contracts for the two agencies are up for renewal; and the firms that operate the contracts concerned. — Michael McGrath. [9863/19]

*66. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount paid out by the National Asset Management Agency to receivers in 2018, by firm in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9864/19]

*67. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps the Revenue Commissioners are taking to ensure all gaming machines in use are properly licensed and not being passed off as amusement machines to bypass the laws governing the area; if the Revenue Commissioners are taking measures to ensure that gaming licences are only issued for premises operating in areas in which Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 is in operation; if arrangements exist between the Revenue Commissioners and An Garda Síochána to enforce laws regarding gaming and unlicensed machines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jack Chambers. [9904/19]

*68. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 70 and 76 of 21 February 2019, the reason for the difference between those 1,250 tracker complaints on hand at the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman and the subset of 645 under active investigation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [9973/19]

*69. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of gaming machines seized by the Revenue Commissioners in areas in which Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 is not in force in each of the years 2016 to 2018, in tabular form. — Mick Wallace. [9993/19]

Chun an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe: To the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

*70. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason pensioners (details supplied) were not informed before a decision was taken in June 2018 to not permit further transfers

to and from the public transfer section and the scheme in view of the fact that the effect of this decision is to reduce member benefits. — Clare Daly. [9788/19]

*71. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of engineering projects completed under contract work management framework since 2009 in tabular form; the costs associated with same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9819/19]

Chun an Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna: To the Minister for Education and Skills.

*72. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason a child (details supplied) has not received a SNA; when a SNA will be allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9901/19]

*73. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if there is funding available to schools for school gardens development, play spaces within school development and adventure trails within schools grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9922/19]

*74. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if the changes made in relation to the basic requirements of masters students that are affected by the rise in basic requirements for access to primary teaching courses can also be applied to mature access students in third-level that are now required to complete their programme and achieve the higher requirements in one academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O'Sullivan. [9790/19]

*75. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if an immigration levy is payable for non-EEA national students with children attending State schools; if so, the amount of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin. [9834/19]

*76. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the status of the progress being made on the planning and development of a new site for a school (details supplied) in County Offaly. — Barry Cowen. [9838/19]

*77. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the status of progress of a school building project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [9852/19]

*78. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if there are grants available for primary schools in areas (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9868/19]

*79. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason a child (details supplied) has not received a SNA; when a SNA will be allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9902/19]

*80. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans for the adjacent prefabricated buildings and the site occupied by schools (details supplied); if part of these buildings and or site will be used by the playschool which currently operates from a prefab but which has been excluded from the permanent build; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [9916/19]

*81. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if there are grants or funding available to schools that have land adjacent to their priorities for the development of children play spaces for the pupils such as activity trails and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9919/19]

*82. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps he is taking to address teaching shortages across the primary school sector; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the temporary replacement panel to recruit short-term replacements is perceived to be completely inadequate and does not provide a level of cover to wide areas nationally; and the steps he would advise a school principal to take in circumstances in which a temporary replacement teacher cannot be provided or located. — Robert Troy. [9937/19]

*83. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps he is taking to assist primary schools that are experiencing difficulties in recruiting suitable SNA support. — Robert Troy. [9938/19]

*84. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to close the language school at a facility (details supplied); and the supports which will be put in place should the facility close to assist children with speech difficulties in the area in view of the fact that there are no other facilities at present. — Robert Troy. [9939/19]

*85. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills when he last met formally with the chief executive officer and chairperson of the State Examinations Commission; the issues discussed; and when he will next meet the CEO and chairperson. — Seán Crowe. [9982/19]

Chun an Aire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais: To the Minister for Justice and Equality.

*86. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality when the Crowley report regarding the killing of a person (details supplied) will be released; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [9774/19]

*87. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of investigations carried out by An Garda Síochána into breaches of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 in each of the years 2015 to 2017; the number of files referred to the DPP by An Garda Síochána in the same years as part of these investigations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jack Chambers. [9842/19]

*88. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if persons have been found to be illegally entering Ireland through a port (details supplied) in recent weeks; if so, the number involved; the locations the immigrants came from; the outcome of the cases concerned; the position in relation to the immigration controls at the port; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9865/19]

*89. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the average length of time persons that have received a positive recommendation from the International Protection Office are waiting for a declaration of refugee or subsidiary protection status in tabular form; the reason for the extensive delays experienced at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [9936/19]

*90. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if funding has been made available in 2019 to replace the boats in the Garda water unit. — Seán Crowe. [9980/19]

*91. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 119 of 23 January 2019, when the final report of the audit which found that in almost 8,000 cases there was a failure to take action by gardaí will be published; when the detailed figures requested will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [9988/19]

Chun an Aire Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta: To the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

*92. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation her plans to oppose trade talks (details supplied) and promote the Paris Agreement. — Joan Collins. [9903/19]

*93. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the amount of financial state aid support which will be available from her Department in the event of a no-deal hard Brexit; the provision made in the revised estimates for same; the level of support committed to by the EU Commission; the persons she has met with in relation to state aid for this scenario to date in 2019; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9992/19]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*94. To ask the Minister for Health if he will intervene with the HSE and request that it urgently settle the case of a person (details supplied). — Clare Daly. [9776/19]

*95. To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether a two-tier system of cancer patients has been created by the granting of free access to the cancer drug Pembro to those persons suffering with cervical cancer but not to other cancer sufferers. — Clare Daly. [9777/19]

*96. To ask the Minister for Health if an analysis has been carried out in regard to whether cancer patients denied access to Pembro due to the fact they do not have cervical cancer may have grounds to launch litigation against the State on the basis that the State is offering access to Pembro to cervical cancer sufferers but denying it to persons suffering with other types of cancer. — Clare Daly. [9778/19]

*97. To ask the Minister for Health the HSE policy on the issue of involuntary admission to health facilities of persons arising from the misuse of illegal drugs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9791/19]

*98. To ask the Minister for Health the wait times in each CHO area for suprapubic catheter surgery. — Mick Wallace. [9797/19]

*99. To ask the Minister for Health the wait times in each CHO area for suprapubic catheter surgery for non-cancer patients. — Mick Wallace. [9798/19]

*100. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of converting ambulances with excessive mileage into emergency equipment carriers; the number of such vehicles being converted; if they have been replaced by new ambulances; the cost-benefit analysis carried out on this decision taking into account the increased maintenance costs of older vehicles; if consideration was given to the use of specialised vehicles for this task; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9800/19]

*101. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that 4 of the 5 helicopters in use for inter-helicopter transfers are not capable of landing on the rooftop planned of the new national children's hospital; the planning and consultation which has been carried out in relation to helipads at the new national children's hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9801/19]

*102. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that at night-time the helicopters will have to land at Dublin Airport and the sick children be transported by ambulance

to the new national children's hospitals in view of the fact that none of the five helicopters would be able to land on the proposed helipad; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9802/19]

*103. To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid out to ambulance service personnel by the HSE due to issues relating to bullying; the number of such cases there has been compensation paid out for; the number that are women; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9803/19]

*104. To ask the Minister for Health the number of stage 2 and 3 grievances dealt with in the time parameters set out in the HSE grievance procedure with reference to the ambulance service in the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9804/19]

*105. To ask the Minister for Health the number of calls that required ambulance staff to work beyond their rostered finishing time in 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9805/19]

*106. To ask the Minister for Health if an appointment for a person (details supplied) will be expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9809/19]

*107. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE has been delaying full discovery in a case (details supplied); and the steps he will take to ensure that the discovery of documents is expedited. — Clare Daly. [9811/19]

*108. To ask the Minister for Health the progress to date in the determination of a medical card application in the case of a person (details supplied); when the application is expected to be concluded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9812/19]

*109. To ask the Minister for Health the decision making process in selecting a fixed price contract under the contract works management framework in relation to the national children's hospital; if consideration was given to using a remeasurable contract; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9816/19]

*110. To ask the Minister for Health if a public benchmarking analysis was completed prior to the issuing of tenders in relation to the national children's hospital; if so, the person or body that conducted the analysis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9818/19]

*111. To ask the Minister for Health the number of engineering projects completed under contract work management framework since 2009 in tabular form; the costs associated with same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9820/19]

*112. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the fact that the public spending code guidelines may have been ignored with regard to the construction of the national children's hospital; if he is satisfied that in relation to the hospital the public spending code guideline of money is spent as efficiently as possible avoiding waste has been followed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9822/19]

*113. To ask the Minister for Health the fees paid to advisers or advisory firms with regard to the national children's hospital since 2013 to date in 2019 in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9824/19]

*114. To ask the Minister for Health the legal advice received in relation to the form of contract to be used in relation to the national children's hospital Mater site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9826/19]

*115. To ask the Minister for Health the legal advice received in relation to the form of contract to be used in relation to the national children's hospital St. James's site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9828/19]

*116. To ask the Minister for Health the appointment process in selecting a company (details supplied) with regard to the review of the national children's hospital project; the overall cost of the review; if the contract was tendered for; if not, his views on whether this may have breached EU procurement guidelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9829/19]

*117. To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether a conflict of interest arises with regard to the previous role of a company (details supplied) as auditor of another company and the input of the company into the contract works management framework following the appointment of the company to review the national children's hospital project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9830/19]

*118. To ask the Minister for Health the fees paid to advisers or advisory firms with regard to the national children's hospital since 2013 to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9831/19]

*119. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the development of a primary care centre in a town (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [9841/19]

*120. To ask the Minister for Health the reimbursement status of the drug Fasentra (benralizumab); if it has been discussed by the HSE Drugs Leadership Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9860/19]

*121. To ask the Minister for Health if a decision has been made on the reimbursement of the drug Fasentra (benralizumab) by the HSE Drugs Leadership Group; when he expects it to be made available to patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9861/19]

*122. To ask the Minister for Health the reason some pre-school students cannot receive speech and language assessments in areas of south west County Dublin in advance of them leaving pre-school and before they enter mainstream school and after clearly recognised speech and language challenges have been discovered. — John Lahart. [9866/19]

*123. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE does not allow non-HSE initiated psychological assessments from professionals even though the HSE often tenders out such assessments to the same professionals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9867/19]

*124. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding providing union recognition to an organisation (details supplied) as being sought by it as highlighted in recent strike action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Billy Kelleher. [9880/19]

*125. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance staff on duty over the night of 20 February 2019 and the early hours of 21 February 2019 in ambulance stations in Ardee, Dundalk, Castleblayney, Monaghan and Virginia; if these ambulance stations had a full complement of staff on this night; and if not, the number of personnel they were short. — Gerry Adams. [9893/19]

*126. To ask the Minister for Health if ambulance stations in the north-east region were understaffed over the night of 20 February and early hours of 21 February 2019; if so, the number of shifts unfilled; and the locations at which this occurred. — Gerry Adams. [9894/19]

*127. To ask the Minister for Health if there were ambulance stations in the north-east region over the night of 20 February and early hours of 21 February 2019 at which ambulance personnel were present without an ambulance; and if so, the locations this occurred. — Gerry Adams. [9895/19]

*128. To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff employed by the National Ambulance Service; and the number of full-time and part-time staff, respectively employed in the service. — Gerry Adams. [9896/19]

*129. To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff that retired from the National Ambulance Service in 2018; and the number recruited in 2018. — Gerry Adams. [9897/19]

*130. To ask the Minister for Health if the National Ambulance Service operates a text system to offer overtime to ambulance staff; if so, the number of texts sent across the State to staff in 2018 to offer overtime shifts; and the number of texts sent in each region in 2018. — Gerry Adams. [9898/19]

*131. To ask the Minister for Health if it is National Ambulance Service policy for ambulance staff rostered to an ambulance station to leave their shift to cover an overtime shift in another location in response to a text. — Gerry Adams. [9899/19]

*132. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to alleviate the waiting times being imposed on children and their parents when availing of State provided orthodontic care, particularly those that have been categorised as having a high level of need for orthodontic treatment but have been subjected to a waiting time of 24 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9906/19]

*133. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on waiting lists for State provided orthodontic care in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; the number which have been categorised IOTN 5 as having a high level of need for orthodontic treatment but have been subjected to a waiting time of 24 months; the number of orthodontists assigned to tacking general waiting lists in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; the number assigned to tacking the IOTN 5 waiting lists in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9907/19]

*134. To ask the Minister for Health if an assessment of need appointment will be brought forward for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Frank O'Rourke. [9908/19]

*135. To ask the Minister for Health the location of a new facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9910/19]

*136. To ask the Minister for Health if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed further on the grounds that they suffer from MS, had a medical card on which they relied upon and has a long medical history with a view to taking into account their dependability on medication; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9911/19]

*137. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to approve the FreeStyle Libre scanner for children with diabetes under the long term illness scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fiona O'Loughlin. [9913/19]

*138. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to add further illnesses to be covered under the long term illness list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fiona O'Loughlin. [9914/19]

*139. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the octuvite lutein macushield tablet is no longer available under the general medical services scheme for persons over 60 years of age; his plans to reinstate the tablets onto the medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Butler. [9915/19]

*140. To ask the Minister for Health the status of an appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9917/19]

*141. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the cervical results for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [9918/19]

*142. To ask the Minister for Health when the Spinraza treatment will be made available to SMA suffers in view of the fact it is the only treatment available for this condition and it has been approved funding across Europe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie Penrose. [9951/19]

*143. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive a hospital appointment. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [9954/19]

*144. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) can expect an appointment. — Barry Cowen. [9972/19]

*145. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive neurology results. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [9975/19]

*146. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in the decision to reimburse the drug Spinraza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Lisa Chambers. [9977/19]

*147. To ask the Minister for Health when persons suffering with SMA can expect to receive a decision as to the reimbursement of the drug Spinraza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Lisa Chambers. [9978/19]

*148. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE is looking for a biosimilar drug to treat SMA instead of reimbursing Spinraza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Lisa Chambers. [9979/19]

*149. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for an appointment with the pain management clinic in Galway University Hospital; the average waiting time in this regard; the steps he will take to reduce these waiting times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9984/19]

*150. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 101 of 20 February 2019, the information that was being shared by this office with his Department regarding the national children's hospital; the dates on which his Department was contacted by persons from this office regarding the national children's hospital; if his reply to Parliamentary Question No. 156 of 20 February 2019 will be clarified, on the basis of the reply of Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [9985/19]

*151. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the development of the detailed action plan for 2019 for the implementation of Sláintecare; when the plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [9986/19]

*152. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the discussions regarding the governance and ownership of the new national maternity hospital; when the discussions will conclude; the timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [9987/19]

Chun an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara: To the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

*153. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he has a policy to ensure that islanders have priority access to the seas around their islands for fishing purposes; his plans to make a special fishing quota available to island residents at a low cost in view of the fact that when quotas were introduced a lot of islanders had a small catch record due to the fact that on many of these islands there was no safe harbours for trawlers and all fishing was done out of currachs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9771/19]

*154. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the criteria used for the letting of hunting licences for wild deer on Coillte owned forestry and land; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9772/19]

*155. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when GLAS payments for a person (details supplied) will be expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9836/19]

*156. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if an application by a person (details supplied) under the GLAS scheme will be considered. — Kevin O’Keeffe. [9839/19]

*157. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 489 of 19 February 2019, the locations these UK origin cows were slaughtered; the number of days these cows were resident in Irish herds before they were sent to slaughter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9870/19]

*158. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason representatives from a group (details supplied) were refused admission to the 2030 TB Stakeholder Forum; if they will be admitted to future stakeholder meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9871/19]

*159. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to removing or amending the maximum travel distance of 125km on offal in view of the fact that other toxic and chemical waste can be transported to mainland Europe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9872/19]

*160. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason he is apparently complicit in a private arrangement between organisations (details supplied) regarding the 4-movement rule by allowing Department funded electronic boards in marts to display information which could devalue animals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9873/19]

*161. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there was legislation put in place to govern for the 16 month rule and 30 month rule on the QPS system; if they can be removed or altered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9874/19]

*162. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 184 and 185 of 20 February 2019, if the daily system check carried out at the start of each day in meat plants is overseen or carried out by Department officials; when a mechanical grading machine is found to be working out of sync following an inspection, the number of carcasses graded earlier that day by that machine that are rechecked manually, not in real time, to determine the accuracy of the grade and to pinpoint the stage at which the mechanical machine fell out of sync; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9876/19]

*163. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he, with Irish meat plants, requested access to the Chinese market for bone-in beef; if not, the reasoning behind this decision; his plans to submit a request in view of the danger posed to Irish beef exports by Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [9877/19]

*164. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on the fact that the wild deer population of Ireland has dramatically increased and that they are causing devastating damage to farmland, crops and causing a dangerous hazard on rural and national roads particularly in areas of County Tipperary; the status of the Irish Deer Management Forum; when a chairperson will be appointed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9882/19]

*165. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will consider establishing with local stakeholders, including farmers and local gun clubs county management committees to implement policies and best practice to deal with the issue of deer management; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9884/19]

*166. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will examine issues affecting sustainable management of wild deer, having regard for human economic interest and farmers in addition to the best interests of deer; if, arising from such examination, he will formulate recommendations to the relevant Departments charged with responsibility for wildlife, agriculture and forestry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9886/19]

*167. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if culling will be introduced according to best practice guidelines adopted internationally and carried out by licensed hunters and local gun club members that are themselves certified as competent in circumstances (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9888/19]

*168. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will consider introducing measures such as a grant scheme for farmers to erect suitable fencing to protect crops and grassland that is continuously invaded and damaged by wild deer; his views on whether in certain areas, including County Tipperary, the wild deer population is at epidemic levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9890/19]

*169. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if Coillte has a deer management plan in place; if not, if one will be put in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9891/19]

*170. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if Land Commission records have been digitised to date; if so, the number that have been; his plans to digitise the entire records collection in order to preserve it for the longer term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [9924/19]

*171. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 535 to 537 of 12 February 2019, in the case of each of the 21 instances in which mechanical grading was suspended, the number of carcasses that were rechecked by the manual grader back to the last known point of accuracy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [9925/19]

*172. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on the suggestion within a report (details supplied) on Horse Sport Ireland that the operation of its studbook should be separated from it in view of its role as the national governing body for equestrian sport; his further views on operating a public tender for the management of the Irish Sport Horse draught horse studbook; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConalogue. [9929/19]

*173. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to the fact that beef factory lots are being used to manipulate the factory price paid to farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Ferris. [9935/19]

*174. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the 4-movement cattle rule will be revisited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Ferris. [9940/19]

*175. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the 120km offal waste transport rule will be examined in view of the fact that it is perceived to inhibit competition. — Martin Ferris. [9941/19]

*176. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason a person (details supplied) has not received a GLAS payment for 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9971/19]

*177. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the amount of financial state aid support that will be available to producers in the event of a no-deal hard Brexit; the level of support committed to by the EU Commission; the persons he has met with in relation to same to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9990/19]

*178. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a matter regarding the 30 day rule will be addressed (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9994/19]

Chun an Aire Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil: To the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

*179. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the grants available to households for radon remediation in circumstances in which variations of radon levels have been detected in the home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [9789/19]

*180. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when the ban on smoky coal will come into effect nationwide. — Thomas Byrne. [9807/19]

*181. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the process for paying carbon tax for airlines flying in Irish airspace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tom Neville. [9835/19]

*182. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the date for the roll out of high speed broadband for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Billy Kelleher. [9840/19]

*183. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of the eel fishermen compensation scheme for affected fishermen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [9934/19]

*184. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if a reply will issue to correspondence (details supplied) in relation to the broadcasting levy; and the plans and timelines in relation to the introduction of the reduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [9943/19]

*185. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if a reply will issue to correspondence (details supplied) in relation to the broadcasting levy; and the plans and timelines in relation to the introduction of the reduction. — Fergus O'Dowd. [9945/19]

*186. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if a reply will issue to correspondence (details supplied) in relation to the broadcasting levy; the plans and timelines in relation to the introduction of the reduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [9947/19]

*187. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if a reply will issue to correspondence (details supplied) in relation to the broadcasting levy; the plans and timelines in relation to the introduction of the reduction.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [9949/19]

*188. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of plans to introduce a support scheme for renewable heat; if state aid approval has formally been applied for; and if so, when approval will be granted and the scheme opened for biomass; if approval has not been sought, when it will be applied for; when he expects the scheme to open for biomass; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jack Chambers. [9952/19]

Chun an Aire Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt: To the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

*189. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if motor tax can be paid in smaller monthly instalments rather than larger quarterly payments to assist those with limited means; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jack Chambers. [9974/19]

*190. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if his Department notified local authorities in relation the recently confirmed new round of the CIS; when the funding will be distributed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [9785/19]

*191. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans to introduce BusConnects to County Limerick; if so, the timescale in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O'Sullivan. [9775/19]

*192. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his views on whether it is prudent or good practice by the National Transport Authority to run buses from Kilkenny to Clonmel four times a day to begin service in Clonmel that are empty; the reason they cannot stop in various towns and

villages on the route to collect and carry passengers to and from Kilkenny and Clonmel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9779/19]

*193. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans for accessibility of public transport for persons with disabilities in view of the fact that there is no accessible routes for wheelchair users on a route (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Clare Daly. [9810/19]

*194. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will provide an undertaking that the Metro project will be delivered in a timely and cost effective fashion; and the concerns he has regarding same. — Clare Daly. [9869/19]

*195. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of Irish driver licences that were required by law to be surrendered and were surrendered, respectively in each of the years 2011 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [9909/19]

*196. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of taxi plates in County Kildare; the number in each county nationally in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fiona O'Loughlin. [9912/19]

*197. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if there are grants available through the sports capital allocations for schools for low cost projects such as play trails and play spaces within school grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9920/19]

*198. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if funding is available outside of sports capital funding mechanisms for schools for low cost projects such a play trails and play spaces within school grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9921/19]

*199. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will address a matter (details supplied) regarding a traffic hazard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9923/19]

*200. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if the National Transport Authority has a designated preferential daily rate in the Dublin city coach park to facilitate all day parking for operators of multiple services vehicles providing scheduled licensed public service into Dublin in view of fact that Dublin City Council are proposing a charge of €9 in all coach parking locations throughout Dublin city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9930/19]

*201. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the code or heading under which the expenditure for cycling and or walking appear in the accounts of his Department; the cycling and walking projects and the allocation to each which were funded between 1 January and 31 December 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [9953/19]

*202. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he or his officials have engaged with the EU Commission for the provision of state aid to hauliers and other transport providers in the event of a no-deal hard Brexit; the meetings he has held on same; the organisations he has engaged with on same; the level of support which will be made available to the industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9991/19]

Chun an Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail: To the Minister for Rural and Community Development.

*203. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development his plans in relation to the provision of ring-fenced funding under the tidy towns competition funding for RAPID designated housing estates to encourage the residents of these estates to get involved in the management and maintenance of the estates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9770/19]

*204. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if his Department notified local authorities in relation the recently confirmed new round of the LIS; when the funding will be distributed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [9785/19]

*205. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the plans he has put in place in the event of a hard Brexit in relation to the senior alert scheme and the provision of panic buttons to ensure that there will be an adequate supply of this equipment for the elderly and vulnerable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Butler. [9881/19]

Chun an Aire Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

*206. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection when a carer's allowance payment will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9780/19]

*207. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the way in which the pensions of pre-2020 entrants will be affected by the move to a total contributions approach in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Martin. [9782/19]

*208. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection when a calculator for the total contributions pension will be in place via the Pensions Authority; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Martin. [9783/19]

*209. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection her plans to create a clear and easy to read page on www.welfare.ie outlining the persons that will be affected by the changes and the meaning of those changes for their expected pensions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Martin. [9784/19]

*210. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if a review can be facilitated in the case of the refusal of carer's allowance to a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9859/19]

*211. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the reason for the three month delay in sending the carer's allowance application file of a person (details supplied) to the Social Welfare Appeals Office upon request in early November 2018; the average time it takes to forward carer's allowance application files from the date requested by the Social Welfare Appeals Office; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9905/19]

*212. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the status of a farm assist application by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9928/19]

*213. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the funding available to a person (details supplied) to obtain the required training to qualify for a licence; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [9983/19]

Chun an Aire Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil: To the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

*214. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government if he will publish the credit policy in relation to applications for the Rebuilding Ireland home loan fixed rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O’Sullivan. [9773/19]

*215. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government if the Rebuilding Ireland target for new house construction is as detailed in page 47 of the Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness (details supplied) and which is repeated on the Rebuilding Ireland web site in the pillar 3 section of the site; and the reason he claimed during Oral Parliamentary Questions on 20 February 2019 that the target in Rebuilding Ireland is for housing supply to increase to 25,000 in 2020. — Eoin Ó Broin. [9787/19]

*216. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government if social welfare payments received by a tenant in respect of a child can be assessed as income for differential rents by a local authority (details supplied); if a national framework exists which governs local authorities to ensure consistency in this respect; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9806/19]

*217. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the level and value of funding provided to local councils in gross terms as a percentage of GNI; the level as a percentage of GDP; and the EU 15 and EU 28 averages of state funding to local councils as a percentage of GDP. — Eoin Ó Broin. [9862/19]

*218. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the status of the foreshore lease requested by a group (details supplied) in respect of the upgrading of the existing pier, reclamation, construction of a marina and the installation of pontoons at Schull harbour, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Margaret Murphy O’Mahony. [9878/19]

Chun an Aire Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta: To the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

*219. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the amount of funding made available to date for the Decade of Centenaries Programme; the amount that will be allocated and or provided for in the remaining years; and if supplementary funds will be made available to the National Archive in the context of the large number of records it received on 1 February 2019 and in view of the fact this body is under-resourced to deal with this body of work. — Catherine Murphy. [9794/19]

*220. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if she has investigated whether there is remains of a mass famine grave site at a location (details supplied) on Coillte land in view of the fact that there is a granite memorial stone with the inscription of 1,847 there; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [9793/19]

*221. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if she will visit a location (details supplied); if she will meet with this Deputy regarding the matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9808/19]

*222. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht her views on the fact that the wild deer population of Ireland has dramatically increased and that they are causing devastating damage to farmland, crops and causing a dangerous hazard on rural and national roads particularly in areas of County Tipperary; the status of the Irish Deer Management Forum; when a chairperson will be appointed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9883/19]

*223. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if she will consider establishing with local stakeholders, including farmers and local gun clubs county management committees to implement policies and best practice to deal with the issue of deer management; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9885/19]

*224. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if she will examine issues affecting sustainable management of wild deer, having regard for human economic interest and farmers in addition to the best interests of deer; if, arising from such examination, she will formulate recommendations to the relevant Departments charged with responsibility for wildlife, agriculture and forestry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9887/19]

*225. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if culling will be introduced according to best practice guidelines adopted internationally and carried out by licensed hunters and local gun club members that are themselves certified as competent in circumstances (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9889/19]

*226. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if Coillte has a deer management plan in place; if not, if one will be put in place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [9892/19]

*227. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if she will address matters in relation to a plot of land designated for turf cutting (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9931/19]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 28 FEABHRA, 2019
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY, 2019**

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

1. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he has taken to date and plans to take in preparation for post-Brexit customs checks at ports here specifically Rosslare Europort; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [9766/19]

2. To ask the Minister for Finance the savings that will accrue to the Exchequer from the €1 million cap on SARP recipients; the reason this was not extended to existing beneficiaries to date in 2019; the number of persons that accessed SARP in 2017 and 2018, respectively in tabular form;

the tax cost in 2017 and 2018; the number of existing beneficiaries that earn over €1 million; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9968/19]

3. To ask the Minister for Finance the protections offered by the Central Bank to mortgage holders whose mortgages have been sold to a vulture fund in circumstances in which the owner of the loan rather than the intermediary servicing the loan takes a decision to increase the interest rate that applies to the loan, particularly in view of the lack of information in regard to the beneficial ownership of the loans transferred by a bank to a company (details supplied). — Clare Daly. [9933/19]

4. To ask the Minister for Finance the effect of a no-deal hard Brexit on customs clearance and other requirements for importing from the UK and Northern Ireland, respectively; his views on the implication of a no-deal hard Brexit for VAT and business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9967/19]

5. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on whether sections 44(2) and 50(3) of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman Act 2017 are in need of amending (details supplied). — Pearse Doherty. [9848/19]

6. To ask the Minister for Finance if there will be more further revised estimates in relation to Budget 2019; if he is continuing to rule out a second Budget in 2019 in the event of a disorderly Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [9814/19]

7. To ask the Minister for Finance if the review of the recent increase in betting duty and the examination of proposed alternatives will be accelerated in order to provide as much clarity as possible for the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [9850/19]

8. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide a progress report on the plans to review the local property tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9763/19]

9. To ask the Minister for Finance when the working group on the cost of insurance will complete its work. — Fiona O'Loughlin. [9926/19]

10. To ask the Minister for Finance if the high income earners' restriction will be amended in view of the fact that as of 2016, almost €100 million in relief carried forward could be offset against tax in future. — Pearse Doherty. [9846/19]

11. To ask the Minister for Finance the current levels of household debt; the way in which his Department monitors and invigilates this area in the wider interests of the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [9760/19]

12. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures taken to meet and engage with insurance companies regarding excessive premiums being charged to consumers particularly in counties Carlow and Kilkenny; if the possibility of opening up the insurance market to new providers in order to increase competitiveness in prices charged for motor insurance has been investigated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [9764/19]

13. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of witnesses from his Department that have given evidence before the Cooke Commission; the number of legal counsel employed by his

Department in relation to representation before the commission; the fees paid to legal counsel with regard to the commission since its inception; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9956/19]

14. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures he plans to implement to place a particular focus on attracting investment in the international financial services sector to the regions and build regional financial services clusters in view of the further potential growth in financial services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [9962/19]

15. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans for the expected surplus of NAMA; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [9845/19]

16. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which his Department continues to identify and monitor weaknesses in the economy likely to be exploited by other non-EU jurisdictions in the aftermath of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9961/19]

17. To ask the Minister for Finance if the basis for the charging of VAT on service charges that are intended for the benefit of staff only will be examined; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [9851/19]

18. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of the appeal against the European Commission decision in a tax case (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9854/19]

19. To ask the Minister for Finance when the tracker mortgage investigation will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [9847/19]

20. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which provision has been made to ensure the stability and competitiveness of the economy notwithstanding the threat emanating from Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9960/19]

21. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking the cost of motor insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [9958/19]

22. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of plans to deal with the rising cost of business insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9768/19]

23. To ask the Minister for Finance the current governance and probity regulation of the Irish banking sector and on the pay and compensation rules for top banking executives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [9813/19]

24. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking to encourage diversity and gender equality in appointments to the senior positions in the banking and financial services industries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [9761/19]

25. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he has taken to date and plans to take to upgrade customs posts in the event of a no-deal hard Brexit, specifically in relation to areas along the Border with Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9966/19]

26. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason steps have not been taken to date to place the currently code of practice on the transfer of mortgages on a statutory footing and to oblige lenders

to abide by it in view of the concern over recent years in regard to the transfer of loans to vulture funds without the consent of the borrower. — Clare Daly. [9932/19]

27. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration has been given to conducting a recruitment process for the position of chairperson of NAMA during 2019 in the interest of transparency, in view of the fact that the present chairperson must vacate the role on 22 December 2019 in adherence with section 25(3) of the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [9955/19]

28. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he will take to end the practice of insurance companies charging excessive premiums for cars over 10 years old; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [9843/19]

29. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to implement measures to tackle the growing problem of rising insurance costs on motorists and businesses; and the progress on reducing insurance costs following the recent report on insurance. — Brian Stanley. [9844/19]

30. To ask the Minister for Finance when he expects to publish the new international financial services strategy to 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9855/19]

31. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to make specific changes to income, corporation or value added tax heads in the event of a no-deal hard Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [9965/19]

32. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of measures taken to meet and engage with insurance companies here regarding excessive premiums being charged to consumers, particularly in counties Cavan and Monaghan. — Niamh Smyth. [9769/19]

33. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures he plans to implement to attract investment in international financial services to areas such as counties Cavan and Monaghan in view of the challenges facing the Border region due to Brexit; if due consideration will be given to such regions in the development of the new five year strategy for the international financial services sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [9963/19]

34. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has concerns regarding a company (details supplied) based in Dublin and the adverse publicity being attracted by the company; and if he is satisfied that their tax arrangements and payments are in line with the progressive policies of his Department and the EU. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [9853/19]

35. To ask the Minister for Finance when he expects the OECD to report on the taxing of digital companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9857/19]

36. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to permit the increase in resources available to the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman to deal with the backlog of cases and to deal with the extra number of complaints resulting from the tracker mortgage scandal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9856/19]

37. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking to reduce the cost of public liability insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [9959/19]

38. To ask the Minister for Finance the discussions that have been held with the European Commission on possible sources of funding from the EU to assist Ireland deal with the fallout from a possible no-deal Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [9858/19]

39. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has discussed the statistics on motor insurance prices with the CSO; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Crowe. [9957/19]

