



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 17 Aibreán, 2019

Wednesday, 17th April, 2019

**CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS**

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

1. To ask the Taoiseach the role his Department is playing in preparing for a hard Brexit. — Brendan Howlin. [15024/19]
2. To ask the Taoiseach the role of his Department in preparing for a hard Brexit. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15016/19]
3. To ask the Taoiseach the role his Department is playing in preparing for a hard Brexit. — Joan Burton. [16347/19]
4. To ask the Taoiseach the role of his Department in preparing for a hard Brexit. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [16401/19]
5. To ask the Taoiseach if he has spoken with Prime Minister May since the indicative votes took place on 27 March 2019. — Michael Moynihan. [15114/19]
6. To ask the Taoiseach if discussions and the implications of direct rule were discussed with Prime Minister May in his recent meetings or conversations with her. — Michael Moynihan. [15418/19]
7. To ask the Taoiseach if he has spoken with Prime Minister May since 29 March 2019; and if officials on his behalf have spoken with British officials in relation to plans post 31 October 2019. — Michael Moynihan. [16356/19]
8. To ask the Taoiseach when he last spoke with the British Prime Minister, Mrs. Theresa May. — Mary Lou McDonald. [16452/19]
9. To ask the Taoiseach if he has spoken to Prime Minister May since the indicative votes took place; and if he has discussed with her the prospect of direct rule in Northern Ireland. — Brendan Howlin. [16480/19]
10. To ask the Taoiseach if he has discussed the Northern Ireland Executive with Prime Minister May recently; and his views on whether there will be direct rule in Northern Ireland due to the lack of progress. — Micheál Martin. [16668/19]
11. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent conversations with Prime Minister May. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [16746/19]
12. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on recent conversations with the UK Prime Minister, Mrs. Theresa May. — Eamon Ryan. [17624/19]

13. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent discussions with Prime Minister May. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17789/19]

14. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his most recent conversations with the Prime Minister of New Zealand; and the issues that were discussed. — Joan Burton. [15147/19]

15. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent conversations with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Ms. Jacinda Ardern. — Brendan Howlin. [16481/19]

16. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his most recent conversations with the Prime Minister of New Zealand. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17790/19]

17. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee C (European Union including Brexit) last met; and when it is scheduled to meet again. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15017/19]

18. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee C (European Union including Brexit) last met. — Brendan Howlin. [16384/19]

19. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the EU Council meeting held on 10 April 2019; the issues that were discussed; and if he had bilaterals before or after same. — Micheál Martin. [16667/19]

20. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent meeting with EU leaders. — Eamon Ryan. [17623/19]

21. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his attendance at the European Council on 10 April 2019. — Brendan Howlin. [17715/19]

22. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent telephone conversations with EU heads of government as indicated in his statement in advance of the Special European Council of 9 April 2019. — Brendan Howlin. [17716/19]

23. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the EU Council meeting of 10 April 2019. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17788/19]

24. To ask the Taoiseach if he had bilateral meetings at the EU Council meeting on 10 April 2019; and the issues that were discussed. — Micheál Martin. [17816/19]

25. To ask the Taoiseach if he spoke with or met with President Macron at the April 2019 EU Council meeting. — Micheál Martin. [17820/19]

26. To ask the Taoiseach the status of the research survey his Department was to commission in 2018 as part of the strategic communications unit; if it was proceeded with; and if so, the outcomes. — Brendan Howlin. [15463/19]

27. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee G (Justice and Equality) last met. — Brendan Howlin. [15465/19]

28. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee G (Justice and Equality) last met; and when it is scheduled to meet again. — Mary Lou McDonald. [17457/19]

29. To ask the Taoiseach the number of FOI requests received by his Department to date in 2019; and the number of requests fully and partially refused, respectively. — Joan Burton. [16349/19]

30. To ask the Taoiseach the number of FOI requests received by his Department in 2018; and the number of requests granted, partially granted and refused. — Mary Lou McDonald. [17456/19]

31. To ask the Taoiseach his plans for a new covenant between Church and State. — Eamon Ryan. [16388/19]

32. To ask the Taoiseach the status of the National Digital Strategy being led by his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [16454/19]

33. To ask the Taoiseach the status of the National Digital Strategy being led by his Department. — Brendan Howlin. [16482/19]

34. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee D (Infrastructure) last met. — Michael Moynihan. [16722/19]

35. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee D (Infrastructure) last met; and when it will next meet. — Eamon Ryan. [16738/19]

36. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee F (National Security) last met; and when it is scheduled to meet again. — Mary Lou McDonald. [17458/19]

37. To ask the Taoiseach when Cabinet committee F (National Security) last met. — Brendan Howlin. [17714/19]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

38. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce legislative changes in 2019 in relation to local property tax; the reforms he will introduce in relation to the income thresholds for the LPT deferral; the reforms he will introduce in terms of exemptions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17998/19]

39. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which transparency has been introduced into insurance, pricing motor and business; when the price of business insurance will be readily measurable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [18015/19]

40. To ask the Minister for Finance when he plans to introduce the central bank (amendment) Bill to address the recommendations of the Central Bank on banking culture and accountability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17999/19]

41. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans for insurance reforms in view of the fact that the issue of rising insurance costs and high compensation has created a market distortion that is now causing persons to lose their jobs across many small businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [17869/19]

42. To ask the Minister for Finance his legislative and policy priorities in the area of insurance reform; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [18000/19]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

43. To ask the Minister for Finance when he plans to bring forward legislative changes that would oblige insurance companies to inform policyholders of claims made against them; the reason he has not brought forward legislation in its own right; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17767/19]

44. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has had discussions with NAMA officials or his officials with regard to the UN special rapporteur letter on Ireland which stated that 93% of NAMA assets have been sold to foreign investors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [17801/19]

45. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has examined the recent report by the Oireachtas Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight in relation to tax expenditures and the estimated cost that revenue forgone could be as much as €10 to €15 billion per annum; his plans to implement the recommendations of the Committee in respect of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [17826/19]

46. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps which can be taken to encourage lenders, directly or through the medium of the Central Bank, when dealing with borrowers in arrears to take into account the willingness of the borrowers to make reasonable repayments in line with their circumstances rather than liquidation, particularly in circumstances in which the family home or small business is concerned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17798/19]

47. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to deal with the issue of private pension schemes which are not paying cost of living increases in circumstances in which the recipient is entitled to same; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that many policies may be affected like this in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [17823/19]

48. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he has taken and plans to take to date in preparation for post-Brexit customs checks at ports here, specifically Rosslare Europort to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [17639/19]

49. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of persons that had latent defect insurance with a company (details supplied) that have obtained alternative insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17768/19]

50. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which the economy performs robustly and competitively in line with other economies throughout Europe; if specific precautions are required at this juncture; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17799/19]

51. To ask the Minister for Finance when he plans to bring forward legislation on the regulation of personal contract plans as recommended by the Review of Regulation on Personal Contract Plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17765/19]

52. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking and the progress being made in establishing a mechanism that would allow and facilitate funds from an organisation (details supplied) to be invested in social housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Curran. [17724/19]

53. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he will take to change the lucrative tax arrangements in place in order to disincentivise commercial investors from distorting the market for new housing in Dublin and nationally through the buy-to-rent model; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [17794/19]

54. To ask the Minister for Finance when measures will be introduced to ensure insurance companies cannot refuse insurance in locations in which flood defence measures have been introduced. — Robert Troy. [10612/19]

55. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the precedent set by his predecessor (details supplied) in which his predecessor intervened in a decision by the Revenue Commissioners to impose VAT on herbal teas in 2014 which resulted in the abandonment of the proposed VAT imposition; if he has given consideration to intervening in the proposed imposition of 23% VAT on food supplements planned to commence on 1 March 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [17646/19]

56. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the refunding of unused tax credits to persons and couples on lower incomes; if his Department has costed different income levels of such refunds in the preparations for Budget 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [17650/19]

57. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on a recent presentation to the Oireachtas Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight that the cost of tax expenditures in revenue forgone is approximately €21.4 billion per annum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [10482/19]

58. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider suspending the work of NAMA immediately pending the final report of the Cooke Commission of Investigation into Project Eagle; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [17800/19]

59. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of the review his Department is undertaking in relation to the 100% increase in betting duty. — Robert Troy. [17641/19]

60. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the competitiveness of the insurance section at present; the work he is carrying out in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Heydon. [17832/19]

61. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the use of fixed assets receivers by vulture funds and State owned banks to force the sale of buy-to-let properties in arrears; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [17793/19]

62. To ask the Minister for Finance when he plans to introduce legislation to ensure motor insurance policyholders that have claims made against them are informed of claims against them before a settlement is made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [17824/19]

63. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to intervene to defer the planned imposition of 23% VAT on food supplements until a review of the impact of same on small businesses and employees has taken place, in view of the impending effect of Brexit in addition to the VAT hike; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [17647/19]

64. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide a report on the local property tax review process undertaken by his Department; the reason for the deferral of changes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17791/19]

65. To ask the Minister for Finance the income tax receipts for the first quarter of 2019; the reason the Budget 2019 projection for this tax yield was not achieved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [17643/19]

66. To ask the Minister for Finance if her attention has been drawn to businesses closing down due to the cost and in some cases unavailability of insurance; her plans to protect such businesses and the jobs of persons working in them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [11152/19]

67. 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 he has investigated the possibility of opening up the insurance market to new providers in order to increase competitiveness in prices charged for motor insurance which will ultimately result in a better deal for the consumer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [17651/19]

68. To ask the Minister for Finance the actions he is taking to alleviate difficulties being experienced by business owners particularly those in the play sector in securing insurance for their business at rates that are sustainable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Heydon. [17831/19]

69. To ask the Minister for Finance the way in which the Budget 2019 decision on VAT is reflected in the VAT yield for the Exchequer in the first quarter of 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [17644/19]

70. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the recommendation in the recent report by the Oireachtas Select Committee on Budgetary Oversight in relation to tax expenditures requesting that his Department prepares a report giving detailed reasons as to the reason sunset clauses are not attached to forgone tax expenditures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [17827/19]

71. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason for the delay in bringing another court application for funds to pay claimants involved with the collapse of a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17766/19]

72. To ask the Minister for Finance when he will make a decision and implement the decision on a change to betting tax in view the ongoing impact on the sector and on independent bookmakers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [17795/19]

73. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of the 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. [17740/19]

74. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the recommendation in the recent report by the Personal Injuries Commission that a judicial council be established and the judges on it provide guidelines on the appropriate levels of damages for personal injuries cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [17829/19]

75. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to increase carbon tax; his views on the impact of such an increase on the progressivity of the tax system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [17796/19]

76. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to support a public banking scheme based on the Sparkasse model due to the continued difficulties in lending volumes to SMEs particularly in rural areas and the high interest rates charged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie Penrose. [15648/19]

77. To ask the Minister for Finance when the appeal against the EU Commission ruling in a case (details supplied) will be heard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [17797/19]

78. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider providing income tax relief for the long-term lease of residential homes to address security of tenure in view of the success of a similar measure in the agricultural sector under section 664 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended by the Finance Act 2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [17648/19]

79. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures being taken to address the difficulties faced by persons and businesses regarding the high cost of insurance cover; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [17784/19]

80. To ask the Minister for Finance if film producers that apply for and receive section 481 tax relief are responsible to ensure that the requirement to provide quality employment and training is met and have legal responsibility for employees and trainees on film productions funded by section 481 and that those legal responsibilities carry over from production to production in cases in which the same producer is involved; his views on whether the resulting number of jobs being created in the film industry is a small fraction of the number previously claimed by industry representatives in testimony and submissions to the Houses of the Oireachtas in view of the annual tax expenditure of €70 to €80 million on section 481; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17825/19]

81. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason for the difference in the VAT registration threshold for the sale of services versus the sale of goods; if the anomaly will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [17649/19]

82. To ask the Minister for Finance when the OECD will bring forward its conclusions on potential digital tax reforms; the level of consultation there has been with the OECD in relation to digital tax and related corporation tax matters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McGrath. [17769/19]

83. To ask the Minister for Finance if he or his officials have discussed the latest ESRI Special Article on Brexit published 26 March 2019; and its implications for the island of Ireland (details supplied). — Michael Moynihan. [16721/19]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoiseach agus Aire Cosanta: To the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence.

*84. To ask the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence the date on which the last director medical branch conference took place; and the date on which the next conference is scheduled to take place. — Clare Daly. [17903/19]

*85. To ask the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence if the decision not to award a person (details supplied) pension entitlements from their recently deceased spouse will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [17944/19]

*86. To ask the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence the cost of recruitment campaigns for the Defence Forces in 2018; and the number of new recruits in the Defence Forces in 2018. — Joan Burton. [18048/19]

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

*87. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on the Good Friday Agreement and in particular regarding Strands 1 and 2 being suspended in their entirety; and if he has spoken with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in relation to same recently. — Micheál Martin. [17817/19]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*88. To ask the Minister for Finance if there have been discussions in relation to VAT rates payable for legal services specifically in relation to family law; his plans to conduct a review to examine the idea of providing a VAT exemption or reduction for legal advice in relation to family law proceedings with a view to removing some of the financial burden placed on families experiencing marital breakdown or a change in relationship; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [11992/19]

*89. To ask the Minister for Finance the penalties which will be imposed on film producers in receipt of section 481 tax relief that are found to have breached the legal rights of workers; if these will include withdrawal of the tax relief and other public funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [16759/19]

*90. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department will investigate the removal of small business customers overdrafts accounts and the sale of debt by a bank (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17964/19]

*91. To ask the Minister for Finance if he and the Central Bank continue to monitor the impact venture capital companies are likely to have on the housing market in view of their increased stake in the business and the extent to which they influence rising market prices. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18028/19]

*92. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he directly or through the Central Bank continues to monitor the levels of repossessions by lending institutions in respect of family homes, in which the borrower continues to make realistic repayments in circumstances in which the lender decided to claim repossession nonetheless; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18029/19]

*93. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of family homes or rental properties repossessed by each of the lending institutions, their agents or successors in the past five years; the number of families forced onto the local authority housing waiting list as a result; the extent to which offers were made to the lenders to continue meeting repayments which were subsequently rejected by the lenders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18030/19]

*94. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which working capital is being provided by the various lending institutions for the farming and business sectors with particular reference to the need to ensure the ability of productive sectors to have ready access to competitively priced credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18031/19]

*95. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he remains satisfied regarding the preparations undertaken by his and other Departments for Brexit notwithstanding the ongoing delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18032/19]

*96. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he expects to be in a position to defend the 12.5% corporation tax and dispel the misinformation propagated by certain persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18033/19]

*97. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he has identified particular or specific threats to the stability of the economy pre or post-Brexit with particular reference to changing training conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18034/19]

*98. To ask the Minister for Finance if specific issues affecting the competitiveness of the economy have been identified; if remedial action is required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18035/19]

*99. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he continues to monitor activities in the insurance industry with particular reference to arresting the upward spiral of premiums; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18036/19]

*100. To ask the Minister for Finance if reference can be made to comparisons with other jurisdictions throughout Europe in respect of insurance costs here with a view to ensuring the competitiveness of the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18037/19]

*101. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which his Department can forecast economic prospects over the next five years in view of the variety of potential challenges globally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18039/19]

*102. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which each of the main banks have facilitated the borrowing requirements of the construction sector in the past twelve months; if each are performing adequately in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18041/19]

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

*103. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans for a site (details supplied); when it will be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Lisa Chambers. [17904/19]

*104. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of the buildings in which Garda stations were formally located in counties Cavan and Monaghan that have been sold; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17945/19]

*105. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the annual cost in 2017 and 2018 of hosting a website (details supplied); and the breakdown of all associated information and communications technology and staff costs in tabular form. — Billy Kelleher. [17972/19]

*106. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if a survey undertaken by the Office of Public Works in County Cork in October 2018 will be provided to a person (details supplied). — Kevin O’Keeffe. [18012/19]

*107. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the updated position in relation to the restorative elements of FEMPI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18038/19]

*108. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the progress towards the reopening of the Garda station in Bawnboy, County Cavan; the works involved; the projected cost; the timeframe to completion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin. [17958/19]

*109. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the extent to which public sector pay restoration has been achieved and or is pending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18275/19]

*110. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the amount spent on a site (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Lisa Chambers. [17908/19]

*111. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the duration remaining on a contract with a company (details supplied) for the provision of digital radio services to An Garda Síochána and other emergency services; if no concession agreement exists in respect of this contract; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [17950/19]

*112. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the date on which the tender process will open for competition in respect of finding a provider for digital radio services to An Garda Síochána and other emergency services in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [17951/19]

*113. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he has consulted with An Garda Síochána and other emergency services in the context of their changing needs in respect of digital radio services; if new requirements have been identified by them in advance of a new provider being contracted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [17952/19]

*114. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the position regarding pension provision for community employment scheme supervisors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Heydon. [18050/19]

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

*115. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the position regarding the additional funding request submitted by a school (details supplied) due to an estimated increase in cost of impending works associated with EPA health and safety requirements, per planning approval subsequent to approval of original application for a replacement building; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that following four years of engagement in the planning process, the importance of this project in serving the pupils and staff of the school and the educational requirements of the residents and young families of the local community; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bobby Aylward. [18068/19]

*116. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason no procedures are in place to enable the transfer of an allocated SNA from a primary school to a secondary school for a child; if his attention has been drawn to the anxiety experienced by families (details supplied); his plans to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McLoughlin. [17868/19]

*117. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the financial resources and other supports that can be provided to new independent Gaelscoileanna in the Dublin 10 and 12 areas (details supplied). — Bríd Smith. [17871/19]

*118. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans to provide for more diversity of choice for parents of primary school children in an area (details supplied); if divestment or other proposals are under consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O’Sullivan. [17877/19]

*119. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he will address a matter regarding the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17899/19]

*120. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of school inspectors employed in each of the years 2008 to 2018. — Thomas Byrne. [17900/19]

*121. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if representatives of a campus (details supplied) will be notified regarding a new date on which he will meet them to discuss the Maynooth PP project and the provision of extra rooms from the school term commencing September 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [17905/19]

*122. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the number of new apprenticeships established in each of the years 2016 to 2018. — Thomas Byrne. [17976/19]

*123. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the reason for ongoing delays in the development of the new Louth and Meath Education and Training Board headquarters facility in Drogheda, County Louth; the planned date for commencement of the building project on the site in Drogheda; the progress made to advance the project in 2018 and to date in 2019; the funds expended on the head office project in each of the years 2015 to 2018 and to date in 2019, including professional and consultancy fees, surveying, legal fees and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O’Sullivan. [17989/19]

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

*124. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if residency will be updated or extended in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17855/19]

*125. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of gardaí located in counties Cavan, Monaghan and Meath to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17922/19]

*126. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of new Garda recruits assigned to each Garda division since recruitment resumed in Templemore in 2014, by year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17923/19]

*127. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 566 of 26 March 2019, when a reply will be provided. — Mary Lou McDonald. [17932/19]

*128. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 568 of 26 March 2019, when a reply will be provided. — Mary Lou McDonald. [17933/19]

*129. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of persons waiting on mediation through the free legal aid system by county; the length of time they are waiting; the waiting times for same in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17941/19]

*130. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if extra funding is being provided for Garda resources in the Cavan Monaghan Garda division in 2019 in view of the recent ATM robberies. — Niamh Smyth. [17942/19]

*131. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of Garda stations that have been closed in the Cavan Monaghan Garda division in the past decade in tabular form; if An Garda Síochána has plans for the remaining stations in State ownership; his plans in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17945/19]

*132. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality if his attention has been drawn to the death of a person (details supplied); his views regarding unanswered questions of the family in relation to the circumstances surrounding the death in Garda custody; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Clare Daly. [18051/19]

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

*133. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the most recent occasion on which the IDA visited counties Cavan, Monaghan and Meath; the number of new jobs that have been created by the IDA in the past 12 months; the steps it is taking to attract companies to the counties; the success it has had with the strategy for the counties; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17935/19]

*134. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the status of the 200 jobs announced for Athlone by a company (details supplied) in July 2018; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [17955/19]

*135. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the actions she has taken to protect jobs at a company (details supplied); if she has spoken with the management of the company regarding safeguarding jobs in Irish stores after the UK parent entity was placed into administration; if gift vouchers in Irish stores will be fully redeemable; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Billy Kelleher. [17967/19]

*136. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the steps being taken to increase the speed at which work permits are being issued; the number of outstanding work permits at the end of each of the past four calendar months, that is, 31 December 2018 to 31 March 2019, that remain to be processed by sector in tabular form. — Billy Kelleher. [17968/19]

*137. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation if she and her officials explored all possible mechanisms to date in the Houses of the Oireachtas and or legal options to facilitate the publication of the ODCE report into the collapse of a trial of a person (details supplied); and if this cannot be done through the parliamentary or committee system, the other options that can be considered in the Houses of the Oireachtas to achieve this objective in view of the outstanding public interest and transparency for this action. — Billy Kelleher. [17969/19]

*138. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation her views on whether the full report of the trial of a person (details supplied) should be made available to the Members of the Houses of the Oireachtas in order to identify potential legal lacunas and weaknesses that emerged in this case in existing company law and to ensure that Members can input this information into the scrutiny of the draft companies (corporate enforcement authority) Bill which will ultimately produce more robust legislation in the area. — Billy Kelleher. [17970/19]

*139. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the funding allocated to the expert group on future skills needs in each of the years 2016 to 2018; the 2019 funding allocation between current and capital funding; the annual costs incurred and allocations made in each of the years 2016 to 2018; the number of part and full-time civil servants attached to the expert group; and the associated annual staff costs in tabular form. — Billy Kelleher. [17973/19]

*140. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation her views on requiring large accountancy firms to separate audit functions from non-audit business; and if an impact analysis has been carried out by her Department in this regard. — Billy Kelleher. [18005/19]

*141. To ask the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation her views on proposals (details supplied); and if an impact analysis has been carried out by her Department in this regard. — Billy Kelleher. [18006/19]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*142. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) in County Kildare will receive a medical chair. — Sean Sherlock. [17853/19]

*143. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which persons are selected for treatment via the NTPF to be sent to private hospitals for treatment; if there is a minimum waiting time a person must be on a public waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [17863/19]

*144. To ask the Minister for Health the value of fees paid to a company (details supplied) in relation to the national children's hospital since 2013 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [17864/19]

*145. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that no child assessments are being carried out at a facility (details supplied) due to a vacant position not being filled; and if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that a substantial number of children are awaiting assessment that cannot access further education. — Kevin O'Keeffe. [17867/19]

*146. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to establish a primary medical centre in Millstreet, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [17872/19]

*147. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 1 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17878/19]

*148. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 2 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17879/19]

*149. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 3 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17880/19]

*150. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 4 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17881/19]

*151. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 5 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17882/19]

*152. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 6 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17883/19]

*153. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 7 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17884/19]

*154. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 8 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17885/19]

*155. To ask the Minister for Health if it is policy in CHO area 9 that access to speech and language therapy for children is not age dependent and that in cases in which a child is assessed as having potential for further improvement that intervention can and will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17886/19]

*156. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 152 of 7 February 2019, his plans to fulfil the identified assessed needs of the 64 adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford on the waiting list for residential care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [17891/19]

*157. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 152 of 7 February 2019, the number of the 19 adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford on the waiting list for residential care in 2010 that were also on the waiting list for residential care in 2018 and therefore were included in the number of 64 on the waiting list for 2018. — Mick Wallace. [17892/19]

*158. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 152 of 7 February 2019, the number of the 19 adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford on the waiting list for residential care in 2010 that have since accessed residential care; and the number no longer on the waiting list for other reasons of those that have not accessed residential care. — Mick Wallace. [17893/19]

*159. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults with intellectual disabilities in residential care in County Wexford. — Mick Wallace. [17894/19]

*160. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults with an intellectual disability in County Wexford that will be placed in appropriate needs based residential care settings by the end of 2019 and 2020, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Wallace. [17895/19]

*161. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the position of technician in the cardiovascular unit at University Hospital Waterford is vacant; his plans to appoint a person into the role; if the position has been advertised; the expected timeframe for it to be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Butler. [17898/19]

*162. To ask the Minister for Health when section 39 workers in Nenagh day care centre will have their pay restored in view of the fact it has been reinstated for their counterparts in the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [17909/19]

*163. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being put in place to rectify issues with sewerage at Deer Lodge mental health unit, Killarney, County Kerry, which is causing distress for both staff and patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Ferris. [17910/19]

*164. 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. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17911/19]

*165. To ask the Minister for Health if ambulance shortages will be addressed for staff rostering in County Monaghan which has emerged due to the removal of a vehicle (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17912/19]

*166. To ask the Minister for Health if a new ambulance allocated recently to County Monaghan to help manage new rostering has been moved to cover Castleblaney which has no ambulance; if so, the reason the ambulance was not taken from another county in which there are surplus ambulances to requirements to fill the gap; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17913/19]

*167. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new ambulance personnel recruited in counties Cavan and Monaghan in the past year (details supplied); if these staff were already classified as unrostered staff prior to this announcement; the reason no new additional staff were rostered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17915/19]

*168. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new intern paramedics counties Cavan and Monaghan received following their graduation from college; the reason intern paramedics from the north-east are not being trained up in positions in the counties upon graduation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17916/19]

*169. To ask the Minister for Health the timescale for the results of repeat cervical smears; the number of women waiting for same; the length of time they are waiting; and the reason for delays by county in tabular form. — Niamh Smyth. [17921/19]

*170. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reduce the waiting list for children that need to avail of orthodontic treatment in County Cork in view of the fact there is a waiting period of three years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kevin O’Keeffe. [17931/19]

*171. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a unit (details supplied); the details of the review of same; when the review will be concluded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17936/19]

*172. To ask the Minister for Health the number of attendances at a unit (details supplied) in each of the years 2010 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17937/19]

*173. To ask the Minister for Health the status of work planned for a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17938/19]

*174. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the need for investment in regional hospitals and in particular a unit (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17939/19]

*175. To ask the Minister for Health the number of emergency department attendances at Cavan General Hospital in each of the years 2012 to 2018 and to date in 2019, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17940/19]

*176. To ask the Minister for Health if eligibility for a medical card will be reviewed in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17946/19]

*177. To ask the Minister for Health if all nursing and other services being provided at Mervue health centre, Galway will be continued and staffing levels at the health centre be maintained at the current level going forward in order to continue to provide essential healthcare for persons in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [17959/19]

*178. To ask the Minister for Health if an application for a refund under the cross border directive by a person (details supplied) will be expedited. — Robert Troy. [17961/19]

*179. To ask the Minister for Health if an application for a refund under the cross border directive by a person (details supplied) will be expedited. — Robert Troy. [17962/19]

*180. To ask the Minister for Health the progress in relation to the approval process for the drug nusinersen, that is, spinraza; if the case of a person (details supplied) will be examined; the type of care and medication that his Department and or the HSE will fund in this case; if he will meet the parents of the person; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [17963/19]

*181. To ask the Minister for Health if days and nights spent in a public hospital count as respite days and or nights; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that persons are being refused respite due to time spent in a hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [17965/19]

*182. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay for the reimbursement of a drug (details supplied). — Maureen O'Sullivan. [17974/19]

*183. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address concerns that the site of the national children's hospital at St. James's will be unable to accommodate the co-location of the maternity hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17978/19]

*184. To ask the Minister for Health the reason physiotherapists that were interviewed in 2016 and were placed on the national panel for physiotherapist staff grade in order of merit must now reinterview to be placed behind 2017 and 2018 panellists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [17979/19]

*185. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the 2016 national panel for physiotherapist staff grade is being disbanded while the supplementary panels of the original 2016 panel carried out in 2017 and 2018 will remain in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [17980/19]

*186. To ask the Minister for Health if he will engage with the physiotherapy profession and their representatives in relation to the national panel for physiotherapist staff grade and improvements which could be made to the way in which it operates. — Louise O'Reilly. [17981/19]

*187. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to allocating a person (details supplied) a hospital appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [17995/19]

*188. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the length of delays being experienced by a person (details supplied); his plans to alleviate the waiting lists for children in north County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [18013/19]

*189. To ask the Minister for Health the alternative options available for a family to access help for their child (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [18014/19]

*190. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a service in a hospital (details supplied); if cover has been secured to continue the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConalogue. [18016/19]

*191. To ask the Minister for Health the overall quantum of expenditure undertaken by his HSE and the Department on non-medical professional expert advice and or services on a quarterly basis in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and the purpose of the expenditure undertaken. — Michael Harty. [18046/19]

*192. To ask the Minister for Health the resources available in CHO1 for persons suffering from Parkinson's disease; his plans to allocate funding to an organisation (details supplied); if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there are only two Parkinson's nurse specialists outside Dublin to cater for 25 counties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [18047/19]

*193. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the funding crisis facing a society (details supplied); if funding can be secured to ensure it continues to operate as normal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [18067/19]

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

*194. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to change the regulations regarding the eligibility of donkeys for the purpose of achieving a minimum stocking density under the ANC scheme; if his plans to allow donkeys to continue to be fully eligible for calculation of stocking density will be reconsidered; the names of stakeholders consulted by him in arriving at his decision; the details in relation to animal welfare concerns that informed his decision; the way in which his decision to limit eligibility would address animal welfare concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConalogue. [17890/19]

*195. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers by county that will secure an increase in their basic farm payments; the number that will receive a reduced payment in the event of full internal convergence of payments as supported by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [17917/19]

*196. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will address a matter (details supplied) regarding oyster licences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17918/19]

*197. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of persons in counties Cavan and Monaghan and nationwide by county waiting for GLAS payments; the number of part payments issued in tabular form; and his plans to process the outstanding payments. — Niamh Smyth. [17927/19]

*198. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the contingency steps being taken to limit the impact of a no-deal Brexit on the agriculture sector here. — Niamh Smyth. [17928/19]

*199. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will address a health and safety hazard (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [17953/19]

*200. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to the ongoing delay in securing final approval for a number of Irish companies from authorities abroad to commence export of their product; and if he will assist these companies by communicating with the authorities abroad (details supplied). — Kevin O’Keeffe. [17954/19]

*201. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views regarding the operation of the foal levy and the legality of same; and his plans to change it. — Clare Daly. [17996/19]

*202. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the details and criteria on the new Brexit €50 million towards farmers for capital investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17997/19]

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

*203. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the measures in place to combat climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to keep global warming within the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McLoughlin. [17856/19]

*204. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if climate change is a priority for him; his views on whether there is demand from persons to tackle the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McLoughlin. [17859/19]

*205. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans to work with local and international businesses such as insurance companies to address the issue of climate change (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McLoughlin. [17860/19]

*206. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the initiatives in place to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of Ireland to expected climate change problems; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McLoughlin. [17861/19]

*207. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans to increase warning signals for climate change storm mitigation in the future in order to reduce exposure to damage from storms such as Storm Ophelia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McLoughlin. [17862/19]

*208. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the discussions or communications he or his officials have had with An Post regarding the relocation of the post office in Thurles; the details of such discussions or communications; the dates, times, attendees and locations of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [17876/19]

*209. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the timeframe for the introduction of a scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [17888/19]

*210. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of a report and its findings and outcome (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17902/19]

*211. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of the North-South Interconnector project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17919/19]

*212. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the amount allocated to the digital trading voucher scheme in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019; the amount expended in each year; and the number of digital vouchers provided under the scheme in each year. — Billy Kelleher. [17966/19]

*213. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if there are plans to convert the Moneypoint power plant to a nuclear power station; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17977/19]

*214. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the projects which have been completed under the National Strategy for Angling Development 2015-2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shane Cassells. [18007/19]

*215. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the projects which have been sanctioned under the National Strategy for Angling Development 2015-2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shane Cassells. [18008/19]

*216. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment further to Parliamentary Question No. 573 of 9 April 2019, if any of the 300 locations referenced are in areas in which commercial operators have indicated plans to roll out broadband, 5G or other internet services; if this will impact on the roll out of the National Broadband Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [18066/19]

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

*217. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans to ensure that additional resources are provided for the National Driver Licence Service in view of the additional demands and waiting lists arising in offices such as Cavan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [17870/19]

*218. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans in relation to forming a bilateral agreement with the UK to honour driver licences post-Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maureen O'Sullivan. [17920/19]

*219. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of persons to date on waiting lists for driver tests in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the length of time they have been waiting in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17929/19]

*220. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the timeframe for sports capital grant applications; and when he will announce recipients of funding under this scheme. — Robert Troy. [18010/19]

Chun an Aire Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige: To the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

*221. To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of children reported missing from residential care homes in 2018. — Clare Daly. [17857/19]

*222. To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs if she will address a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [18002/19]

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

*223. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if he will award funding under the CLÁR programme for a group (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [18003/19]

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

*224. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the progress to date in the determination of an application for invalidity pension in the case of a person (details supplied); when the application will be concluded; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17854/19]

*225. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection when a person (details supplied) will be informed of the outcome of deliberations of the new pension payment rates for women that cared for children at home. — Sean Sherlock. [17865/19]

*226. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if an oral hearing will be held in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17887/19]

*227. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection when arrears will issue in relation to a disability allowance application by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [17889/19]

*228. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the length of time it is taking to process disability allowance applications; and the number of applications waiting to be processed. — Niamh Smyth. [17924/19]

*229. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the waiting times for the processing of applications for invalidity pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17925/19]

*230. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the waiting times for processing carer's allowance and carer's benefit applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17926/19]

*231. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if an oral hearing will be granted in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17943/19]

*232. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the legislative Acts and provisions in operation for consideration to be given to requests from employees for flexible working arrangements in the workplace. — Billy Kelleher. [17971/19]

*233. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if a worker on a 26 to 31 hour band can work more hours provided both the employer and the employee agree to same. — Clare Daly. [17975/19]

*234. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if a self-employed person paying class S PRSI that has to retire from their employment to care for a sick partner is entitled to a carer's allowance; if not, her plans to address the matter or outline the entitlements to an alternative payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Clare Daly. [17982/19]

*235. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the status of an invalidity pension appeal by a person (details supplied). — Eamon Scanlon. [18001/19]

*236. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the number of persons in County Tipperary in receipt of the farm assist payment in each of the years 2014 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [18009/19]

*237. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the status of arrears in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [18024/19]

*238. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the status of an application by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [18049/19]

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

*239. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the extent to which the impact of a sizeable capital expenditure on the building of local authority houses as required nationally including affordable houses for sale to eligible families as opposed to the various modes of assistance available through rent support, HAP or other interim measures which have an annual impact as opposed to a once off capital investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18040/19]

*240. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the average time it takes for each local authority to relet council homes after they become vacant in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O'Sullivan. [17875/19]

*241. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the number of HAP tenancies paying a top-up to the HAP payment out of all HAP and homeless HAP payments; the value of those top-ups; and the number of these tenants paying a top-up in receipt of a social welfare payment by local authority area. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17956/19]

*242. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the reason an application from Louth County Council for grant aid under the urban regeneration and development fund for the development of the Drogheda northern port access route was recently refused by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jan O'Sullivan. [17988/19]

*243. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the rationale for setting a 35% of net income threshold in his draft affordable housing regulations; and the way in which this relates to the 22% of net income threshold when determining Rebuilding Ireland home loan mortgages. — Eoin Ó Broin. [17990/19]

*244. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government if he will amend the eligibility criteria of his draft affordable housing regulations to ensure that applicants that have been forced to live outside the local authority area in which is their centre of interest due to high housing costs will not be excluded from applying for affordable housing in that local authority due to the fact that at the time of application they are not resident in that county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [17991/19]

*245. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government when the AHB special purpose vehicle being set up for the purposes of accessing credit union finance will be operational; and the efforts he is making to assist the AHB sector in setting up this vehicle. — Eoin Ó Broin. [17992/19]

*246. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the average annual cost per unit of the availability agreement payment to AHBs for each category of such availability agreement for each year since these agreements have been in place; and the number of such units and total costs of such units for each year each category of availability agreement has been in operation in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [17993/19]

*247. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the locations by local authority of the ten affordable purchase scheme sites approved to date; the estimated completion times of each; the anticipated cost per unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darragh O'Brien. [18061/19]

*248. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the timeframe for the delivery of affordable units under the local infrastructure housing activation fund; the locations of each unit by local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darragh O'Brien. [18062/19]

*249. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the estimated average price reduction per unit under units provided under the local infrastructure housing activation fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darragh O'Brien. [18063/19]

*250. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the drawdown of funding under the LIHAF to date by project; the number of units delivered by project to date; the number projected by project; the number of affordable units to be provided by project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darragh O'Brien. [18064/19]

*251. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the number of housing projects approved under the urban regeneration and development fund and or the rural regeneration and development fund to date; the anticipated number of units; the number of affordable units; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darragh O'Brien. [18065/19]

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

*252. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if her attention has been drawn to unique or valuable artefacts discovered at various locations nationally over the past ten years; the location in which they are now stored or displayed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17914/19]

*253. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if her attention has been drawn to the substantial number of seagulls recorded after use of the 2018.19 Derogation in Balbriggan and the effect on homes, schools and businesses including premises in which human food is prepared, sold and consumed; the relevance of a study (details supplied) to her policy obligations to avail of derogations in the interests of public health and safety and in respect of the declarations due on 1 May 2019; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Clare Daly. [17947/19]

*254. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht if her attention has been drawn to a statement in an article by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Clare Daly. [17948/19]

*255. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the reason the consultative committee will not be tasked with enumerating the extent of the seagull infestation problem in Balbriggan (details supplied); and if clarification in relation to same will be provided. — Clare Daly. [17949/19]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 18 AIBREÁN, 2019
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 18 APRIL, 2019**

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

1. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the material changes the Office of Government Procurement has undertaken to better enable indigenous SMEs to apply for public contracts; the amount spent on public contracts in 2018; the proportion of that spend that was to SMEs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [17985/19]

2. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the position regarding the review of military allowances for members of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Heydon. [18043/19]

3. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the amount of expenditure set aside in Budget 2019 for the additional costs of Brexit preparations; if supplementary funding may be needed in this regard; the cost of Brexit preparations in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners

and across all other Departments to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [17776/19]

4. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the extent to which his Department continues to monitor all aspects of public expenditure with a view to ensuring the utilisation of reform to control spending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18025/19]

5. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his views on the impact on public finances of the heavy reliance on leasing, HAP and RAS in the housing policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [18071/19]

6. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his views on the publication from the Parliamentary Budget Office in relation to Departmental expenditure ceilings; his views on whether expenditure ceilings are an effective method of controlling costs; the penalties for Departments that breach these ceilings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [17984/19]

7. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his views on the recent report by a company (details supplied) into the significant overruns at the national children's hospital; the estimated cost of this report; his plans to avoid the underestimating of project costs in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [18017/19]

8. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans to move to a fixed priced costing system in respect of public contracts in order to secure greater levels of certainty in respect of the profiling of costs for public projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [18019/19]

9. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if an ex-post analysis has been undertaken on demographics cost provisioned in each budget; if there will be a new analysis for the years ahead; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [17986/19]

10. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the restrictions imposed on recruitment and overtime in parts of the civil or public service for 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [18020/19]

11. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the reason little progress has been made in the implementation of flood and coastal erosion measures along vulnerable coastal areas in County Donegal and which were announced by the Minister of State in May 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [17780/19]

12. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will discuss the implementation of a pension scheme for community employment supervisors that have no access to an occupational pension scheme despite a 2008 Labour Court recommendation in their favour; the reason members of the Lansdowne Road Agreement High Forum have met only once since December 2017; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [17813/19]

13. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will incorporate green procurement into the public procurement code; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [17775/19]

14. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of community employment supervisors and provision of payments under a Labour Court recommendation of 2008; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jonathan O'Brien. [18055/19]

15. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the role his Department will assume in managing the costs and residual risks of the national children's hospital project. — Jonathan O'Brien. [18054/19]

16. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans in respect of outstanding public sector pay restoration; his further plans for public sector dialogue between workers, trade unions and his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie Penrose. [18022/19]

17. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the levels of capital expenditure which will be allocated for infrastructure projects for County Donegal; the timeframe for these allocations; the projects for which funding will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConalogue. [17773/19]

18. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of post-project reviews and cost-benefit analyses of public private partnerships that have been completed and published to date. — Jonathan O'Brien. [18056/19]

19. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he has held discussions with the European Commission in relation to the possible allocation of additional funding for the Border region in view of the particular challenges that will arise in that area due to Brexit and the need to improve infrastructure to assist existing businesses remain competitive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charlie McConalogue. [17772/19]

20. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the amount of funding for capital projects allocated to County Cork for 2019; the particular projects which are being provided for in 2019, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [18058/19]

21. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of the next phase of the Public Pay Commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [17983/19]

22. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will increase the public procurement threshold from €25,000 in view of the impact this is having on SMEs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [17774/19]

23. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform when the Public Service Pay Commission will complete its module 2 report on the matter of recruitment and retention in the Defence Forces; when it will issue its findings; if it has already completed its report, the findings of the Commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joan Burton. [18021/19]

24. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of the work of the Public Sector Pay Commission in relation to members of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Heydon. [18042/19]

25. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if ex-post reviews are completed and published for all capital projects; and if a summary of lessons from those reviews have been published in the past 18 months. — Jonathan O'Brien. [18057/19]

26. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the flood relief schemes due to be delayed as a result of the €3 million re-profiling of the flood risk management programme. — Jonathan O'Brien. [18053/19]

27. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his priority areas for additional funding in Budget 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [18070/19]

28. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the innovative steps he foresees as being required to ensure maximum benefit to the economy and to the Exchequer by way of ensuring best value for money; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [18026/19]

29. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his plans to carry out a value for money analysis across the public sector in advance of Budget 2020 in relation to outsourcing and agency recruitment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [18074/19]

30. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his views on the spending profile of Departments during the first quarter of 2019; if key spending areas are running behind or ahead of profile; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas P. Broughan. [17778/19]

31. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of flooding preparations in view of the report undertaken by a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [17987/19]