



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 15 Iúil, 2020

Wednesday, 15th July, 2020

**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 number of Cabinet sub-committees he has established; the membership of each; and the role and function of each. — Alan Kelly. [15771/20]
2. To ask the Taoiseach his plans for a reformed structure of Cabinet committees. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15949/20]
3. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the convening of Cabinet subcommittees. — Mick Barry. [16087/20]
4. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his telephone call with the UK Prime Minister. — Alan Kelly. [15772/20]
5. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his telephone call with the German Chancellor. — Alan Kelly. [15905/20]
6. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his engagement with the President of the EU Commission. — Alan Kelly. [15906/20]
7. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the discussions he has had with other heads of government since he assumed his position. — Mick Barry. [16088/20]
8. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Health will next meet. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15950/20]
9. To ask the Taoiseach his plans to establish a unit in his Department to coordinate social dialogue. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15951/20]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

10. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the renewable energy projects he will pursue to help reduce the reliance of Ireland on fossil fuels in view of the Environmental Protection Agency greenhouse gas emissions projections report published recently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16250/20]

11. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the level of preparedness of Ireland to protect against cyberattack; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [16248/20]

12. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his views on whether the quadrupling of the carbon tax over the next decade is going to disproportionately affect those that can least afford it and contribute to already high levels of fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16251/20]

13. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the measures he is taking to support the retention and protection of employment under the Just Transition process in the midlands with specific reference to Bord na Móna and the horticultural sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [16124/20]

14. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of the north-south interconnector; if his attention has been drawn to the considerable local opposition to the proposed pylons included in this plan; his views on an independent review of this project which will consider the undergrounding of these power lines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16252/20]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

15. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if reductions in broadband rollout time will be evenly distributed nationwide in view of commitments to seek to reduce the rollout time of the National Broadband Plan. — James Lawless. [16076/20]

16. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when broadband will be provided to each home in north County Dublin under the National Broadband Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [16045/20]

17. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the extent to which he expects to be in a position to achieve emission reduction targets in line with the Programme for Government whilst at the same time protecting economic progress; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16051/20]

18. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when he will work with the European Commission to advance a stronger national energy and climate plan for 2030; when the plan will be submitted; the way in which he plans to make the plan a stronger document; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [16063/20]

19. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the mission statement of his Department with particular reference to the main components of his brief; the timescale within which he expects to be in a position to achieve his targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16050/20]

20. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of progress of the National Broadband Plan; the amount spent to date; the number of homes and

businesses that have been and are yet to be connected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16068/20]

21. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if the new climate action Bill due to be published within 100 days of the current Government will incorporate all the targets and ambitions as set out in the European Green Deal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [16061/20]

22. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans to upgrade the broadband infrastructure in eastern areas of County Cork which has poor connectivity which is hampering development within the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [16054/20]

23. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the position regarding the roll out of the national broadband plan with specific reference to County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [15976/20]

24. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans to maintain the reduction in Ireland's emissions seen during the pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [16046/20]

25. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his views on improving the level of community ownership of windfarms here; his further views on whether the State should intervene to help support local communities establishing and running their own windfarms which can power their own local energy needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16067/20]

26. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when he expects to move legislation to ban oil and gas exploration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [15995/20]

27. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans to expedite the roll out of the national broadband plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16043/20]

28. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when details of the roll out under the National Broadband Plan will be published in order that householders will have an indication based on Eircode as to when it is likely the roll out of broadband will reach them; if it is a condition of the contract that this information be given by a specific date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [15666/20]

29. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the carbon emissions reductions he expects will be achieved annually in this term of Government. — Paul Murphy. [16042/20]

30. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the progress made to date in developing a policy statement on the transition away from the importation of fracked gas and the development of LNG terminals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [16064/20]

31. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the number of applications made to the Just Transition Fund to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [16073/20]

32. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the way in which he plans to incorporate biodiversity and nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation within his climate action portfolio; the efforts he will take to bridge the policy gap between climate action and biodiversity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [16065/20]

33. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if he will introduce legislation in line with the provisions in the Microgeneration Support Scheme Bill 2017, which would empower persons and local communities to produce renewable energy that they can then use and sell the excess of back to the national grid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16069/20]

34. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the measures he will implement to ensure a necessary upgrade in the telecommunications infrastructure in areas such as counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16059/20]

35. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the measures he will implement to ensure that all areas of counties Cavan and Monaghan will have access to high-speed broadband; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16060/20]

36. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the measures that will be introduced over the next year pertaining to a carbon tax. — Mick Barry. [16053/20]

37. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the details of all licences issued since 2016 for oil and gas exploration; the number and status of licences under consideration by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15997/20]

38. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the new towns that will be included in the proposed extension of the smoky coal ban as per the commitment in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [16047/20]

39. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans with regard to the LNG terminal in Shannon, County Clare and the importation of fracked gas in general; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [16085/20]

40. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when legislation will be moved to deal with the building of LNG terminals here; if this will cover each LNG proposal or just the importation of fracked gas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15996/20]

41. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the status of the clean air strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16044/20]

42. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if he will expedite the implementation of the recommendations included in the Just Transition Commissioner's first report published in early 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16070/20]

43. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his views on the projection of emissions for the period 2019 to 2040 published on 8 July 2020 by the Environmental Protection Agency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [16052/20]

44. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if his attention has been drawn to the number of households in the amber area of national broadband coverage marginally outside the reach of commercial operators, Eir rural roll out and the existing National Broadband Plan roll out (details supplied); the steps being taken to expedite the roll out of the National Broadband Plan; and if those homes within 500 metres of the existing roll out will be treated as a priority for connection. — Kieran O'Donnell. [16056/20]

45. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the progress made in the past three years in reducing emissions here; the next steps he plans to take to achieve an accelerated reduction of emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [15667/20]

46. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the process by which he plans to select members of the climate action council which is due to be newly established within 100 days according to the adopted Programme for Government; if the new council will devise the carbon budgets for 2021-2025 and 2026-2030 before the end of 2020; the extent to which the council will incorporate scientific expertise; the level of independence of same; if it will include a gender balance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [16062/20]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

*47. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his engagement with the President of the EU Council. — Alan Kelly. [15907/20]

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

*48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation his plans to assist companies that have been closed for the past number of months by way of cash injection to meet their deferred debts and deferred payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16146/20]

*49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation if he will ensure there will be no delay in payments to SMEs such as the employee assistance scheme in order to ensure SMEs can continue to pay their staff on a regular basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16147/20]

*50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation his plans to continue the business continuity voucher which has expired and was beneficial to SMEs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16148/20]

*51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the legal protections to ensure that companies based primarily abroad do not engage in tactical liquidations of entities here in order to prevent employees receiving their full entitlements; his views on whether this is applicable in the case of a company (details supplied); and if further actions to protect such workers either via legislation or otherwise are being explored. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [16171/20]

*52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the timeline for the appointment of the SME recovery taskforce; if relevant small and local business representative bodies will be consulted in the process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [16216/20]

*53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation if the July stimulus package provides for the appointment of the SME taskforce; if the taskforce will include small and local business representatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [16217/20]

*54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the status of the July stimulus package; if relevant small and local business representative bodies will be consulted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [16218/20]

*55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation the measures he plans to introduce as part of the July stimulus package; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [16219/20]

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

*56. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans to continue the trading online voucher which has expired and was beneficial to SMEs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16148/20]

*57. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the lead Department in fulfilling the commitment in the Programme for Government to invest in infrastructure, including broadband and waste. — Joe Carey. [16232/20]

*58. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the number of staff employed by the National Cyber Security Centre in each of the years 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [16249/20]

*59. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if the introduction of the Online Safety Media Regulation Bill 2019 will be prioritised. — James Browne. [16071/20]

*60. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the engagement between the Environmental Protection Agency and residents of Heather Grove, Palmerstown in relation to noise pollution from the M50; the measures contained the Dublin Agglomeration Plan

that can assist with this; the timeline for the implementation of these measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [16178/20]

*61. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment when the SEAI community energy upgrade grants will be reintroduced. — Brian Stanley. [16194/20]

*62. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his plans for the replacement of fossil fuel-based electricity generation to the generation of electricity from non-fossil fuels as a means of reduction of emissions in a sustainable way; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16199/20]

*63. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the extent to which he has set out priorities in respect of climate action with a view to reducing emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16200/20]

*64. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment his views on the extent to which the budget of his Department is adequate to meet the costs of the targets set in respect of his Department in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16201/20]

*65. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the degree to which he has identified the most important issues and targets to be met in respect of reduction of emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16202/20]

*66. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the extent to which he expects that Ireland can compete with all other European countries in the area of carbon reduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16203/20]

*67. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the extent to which he expects to be in a position to bring about a reduction in plastic waste onshore and offshore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16204/20]

*68. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the way in which he expects Ireland should proceed in relation to waste management whether by combination of landfill and reduction or by other means; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16205/20]

*69. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the extent to which non-fossil generated electricity is currently capable of meeting the demands of the national grid; if progress to date is adequate in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16206/20]

*70. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the number of vehicles totally reliant on electricity propulsion in use; his expectations in the future in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16207/20]

*71. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the requirement in terms of daily electricity use here; the extent to which he expects to be in a position to avail of the economic benefit associated with locally generated electricity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16208/20]

*72. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if he will request a full report from the ESB as to the reason for repeated electricity outages in Lusk, north County Dublin; the way in which the issue will be rectified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [16234/20]

*73. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if he has received the research output from a body (details supplied) on the warmth and well-being scheme; when the results will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16259/20]

*74. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the number of staff employed in the national cyber security centre in 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16263/20]

*75. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if an unredacted version in electronic format of the residential retrofit note provided by his Department to the Programme for Government talks will be provided; and if an unredacted version of the collated briefing by his Department will be provided. — Duncan Smith. [16264/20]

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

*76. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will instruct each airline (details supplied) that operates flights out of Ireland on pain of forfeit of Government financial support, to discharge their responsibilities to customers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [16257/20]

*77. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if an aircraft (details supplied) received approval to land and refuel at Shannon Airport; if it was approved to transport weapons or munitions or other military materials through Shannon Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [16268/20]

*78. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the measures that will be put in place to protect persons following public health advice to not go abroad in summer 2020 that will not receive a refund from the airline for their flights which were not cancelled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [16271/20]

*79. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if he will consider providing a scheme for local authorities to make local tertiary roads safer for cycling; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [16308/20]

*80. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the levels of funding which will be available for new greenway and cycling infrastructure in the coming years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [16309/20]

*81. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment for a driver test which is required in order for them to take up employment in the UK. — Sean Sherlock. [16159/20]

*82. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the number of persons waiting for a driver test; the actions he is taking to clear this backlog quickly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16176/20]

*83. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the plans of the National Roads Authority to reduce noise pollution from the M50 motorway in Heather Grove, Palmerstown; the measures contained the Dublin Agglomeration Plan that can assist with this; the timeline for the implementation of these measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [16177/20]

*84. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport his plans to ensure that the A5 is kept firmly on the agenda at any upcoming NSMC meetings; if the TEN-T funded projects, namely the Letterkenny to Lifford N14 and the Twin Towns bypass, remains central to the Programme for Government commitment to balanced regional development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe McHugh. [16180/20]

*85. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if there is an alternative method available for a person (details supplied) to renew their driver licence due to Covid-19 medical restrictions. — Sean Sherlock. [16182/20]

*86. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if funding will be provided to allow Irish Rail users host their tickets on their smartphone to reduce the need for physical tickets and ticket kiosks. — Sean Sherlock. [16224/20]

*87. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the measures that will be included in the July stimulus to enable taxi drivers return to work safely; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [16241/20]

*88. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport if the cancellation of the school bus service between Finglas, Dublin 11 and a school (details supplied) will be reconsidered. — Paul McAuliffe. [16243/20]

*89. To ask the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the guidance available for driving instructors for a safe return to work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16265/20]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*90. To ask the Minister for Finance the tax exemption cut off age for a young farmer (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [16222/20]

*91. To ask the Minister for Finance if matters raised in correspondence by a person (details supplied) in relation to the reduction or removal of VAT on medical grade masks for the term of the Covid-19 pandemic will receive a response; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [16150/20]

*92. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he will take in relation to the situation of persons (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [16242/20]

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

*93. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta mionsonraí a thabhairt faoi cén fáth go ndearna an Stát Iarratas Pleanála (Uimhir Thagartha: 20683) i mBéarla amháin chuig Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe i dtaobh Auqaculture Business Park a thógáil i nGaeltacht Chonamara; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [16274/20]

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

*94. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the original cost of each project, grant aid and projected output for each project in respect of LIHAF; the revisions to same; the date of each; the amount of grant aid paid out to each project; the delivery of housing units per project to date; the discount given to each purchaser for each of the past four years to date in 2020; the number of Departmental officials by grade working on LIHAF in each of the past four years to date; the details of staff that have left the section over that time in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [16183/20]

*95. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government if privately owned lands, some of which may have the benefit of planning permission, will be included in addition to public lands within the new affordable housing scheme; his views on whether the inclusion of such lands would speed up the delivery of much needed affordable houses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [16186/20]

*96. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the funding mechanism that will be used to allow local authorities or AHBs subsidise the price of affordable homes in private developments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [16187/20]

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

*97. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on whether the unilateral sanctions of illegal and unilateral coercive measures imposed by the Unites States of America on Venezuela specifically are a significant cause of hardship to the civilian population and directly cause unnecessary deaths; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [16266/20]

*98. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade his views on whether the unilateral sanctions imposed by the Unites States of America on Venezuela have caused considerable disruption to the economy in Venezuela with knock-on consequences for the civilian population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [16267/20]

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

*99. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps being put in place to ensure the CAO application process receives all official transcripts from students seeking to study medicine on time in circumstances in which transcripts will only be received by students on 14 August 2020, the hard copies of which must be physically with the CAO by 17 August 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [16149/20]

*100. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if the number of teachers in primary schools for the 2020/2021 school year will not be reduced in view of the fact this is not the time to reduce teachers due to social distancing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [16153/20]

*101. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if her attention has been drawn to the fact that a school (details supplied) has a larger number of pupils with additional needs this year and that the increase in the number of SNAs allocated to the school does not match the increase in pupils with additional needs; if she will provide sufficient SNAs to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [16181/20]

*102. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the way in which a registered educational and membership body here can be awarded chartered status and confer individual charter status to its members; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [16215/20]

*103. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if clarity will be provided to third-level students regarding the return to third-level institutions in autumn 2020; if courses will be based on campus, online or blended learning; and if it is the latter, the advice that will be issued regarding student accommodation. — Pauline Tully. [16223/20]

*104. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the steps being put in place to ensure the CAO application process receives all official transcripts from students seeking to study medicine on time in circumstances in which transcripts will be received by students on 14 July 2020 the hard copies of which must be physically with the CAO by 17 July 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [16225/20]

*105. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the time frame for the completion of the new DEIS identification model; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [16227/20]

*106. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if assurances will be provided to parents and staff of four special schools in particular a school (details supplied) which cater exclusively for children with specific reading difficulties such as dyslexia. — Steven Matthews. [16239/20]

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

*107. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection when applications will be opened for the enterprise support grant for small businesses; and the location in which the application form will be accessible. — Alan Dillon. [16151/20]

*108. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the progress to date in the determination of an appeal for an invalidity pension in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16162/20]

*109. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if persons that turn 66 years of age before the completion of the review by the Commissions on Pensions will be entitled to receive a State pension under the policy; and if it will be the case that once awarded a pension these persons will not be affected by a change to the pension age. — Martin Browne. [16175/20]

*110. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if a PPSN will be provided to a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [16179/20]

*111. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if she will give consideration to temporarily reallocating staff within her Department in order to deal with the large backlog of Covid-19 pandemic unemployment payment arrears in view of the financial hardship facing many on the payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [16185/20]

*112. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection if the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 will be amended to allow applicants for the State pension (contributory) to qualify for the benefit by using their home carer credits in view of the fact that the credits can be used to increase the rate of payment at which the pension is paid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [16196/20]

*113. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the arrangements in place for persons with no internet connection and have difficulty with the English language that have not been able to make the online application for the back to school allowance; the arrangements that can be put in place to assist parents in such a situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [16231/20]

*114. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection when Citizens Information Centres in southern areas of Dublin Bay are due to reopen; her plans to reduce the number of centres in the area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [16272/20]

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

*115. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll out of broadband connection points in County Wexford. — James Browne. [16072/20]

*116. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll out of broadband connection points in counties Cavan and Monaghan. — Brendan Smith. [16077/20]

*117. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the lead Department in fulfilling the commitment in the Programme for Government to invest in infrastructure to support the development of rural towns and villages. — Joe Carey. [16232/20]

*118. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll out of broadband connection points in County Cork. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [16081/20]

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

*119. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the drawdown to date of the €3 million allocated in Budget 2020 for new pilot agri-environmental schemes; the schemes supported to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16260/20]

*120. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of a TAMS application by a person (details supplied); if they can submit the correct documentation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [16233/20]

*121. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the instances of non-compliance with carcase trim specifications his inspectors have identified in beef plants each month to date in 2020; when the names of plants involved will be published; the payments made to the farmer supplier to reflect loss; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16261/20]

*122. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of instances in which mechanical grading was suspended in meat plants in cases in which a machine is found to be working outside of tolerance and manual grading was instigated in 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16262/20]

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

*123. To ask the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs the number of persons that availed of respite care by county by month in 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of facilities providing respite that remained open during Covid-19 restrictions from mid-March to date; and his plans to reopen all facilities in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [16226/20]

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

*124. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of submissions received under the public consultation of the draft youth justice strategy; her plans for the progression of the strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [16165/20]

*125. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the status of an application by a company (details supplied) to the immigrant investor section of her Department. — Alan Dillon. [16152/20]

*126. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the reason Ireland has not transposed in full EU Council framework decision 2009/829/JHA; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16160/20]

*127. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the reason Ireland has not transposed in full EU Council framework decision 2008/909/JHA; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16161/20]

*128. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of convictions for animal theft; the type of animal that was subject to the theft; the court in which the perpetrators of the theft were convicted; the number of those sentenced to imprisonment in each of the years 2015 to 2019, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [16168/20]

*129. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the process in which a foreign person here on a stamp 2 visa for study until September 2020 and presently working under 20 hours per week may apply for a work visa for a longer stay in circumstances in which the person has been offered a permanent position in an Irish company. — Bríd Smith. [16172/20]

*130. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the residency status or eligibility for stamp 4 naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [16256/20]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*131. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [16155/20]

*132. To ask the Minister for Health when a service will be restored to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [16156/20]

*133. To ask the Minister for Health if a treatment will be funded for persons diagnosed with ATTR amyloidosis at the National Amyloidosis Centre at the Royal Free Hospital in London; and if patisiran and equivalent drugs required for their treatment will receive funding. — Sean Sherlock. [16157/20]

*134. To ask the Minister for Health when an operation will be expedited for a child (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [16164/20]

*135. To ask the Minister for Health if a procedure will be expedited for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [16166/20]

*136. To ask the Minister for Health when day services will resume at Saint John of God Hospital for those that regularly attended services there prior to Covid-19 restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [16167/20]

*137. To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise on an issue raised in correspondence by a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [16169/20]

*138. To ask the Minister for Health his plans regarding the pricing review of the NTPF in relation to the nursing homes support scheme; if the review will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [16170/20]

*139. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review eligibility for a full medical card in the case of a person (details supplied) who currently has a general practitioner card awarded in 2018 but whose medical circumstances have deteriorated significantly in the interim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16174/20]

*140. To ask the Minister for Health if priority will be given to recommendations on access to counselling services in the community (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [16184/20]

*141. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Laois awaiting assessments for intellectual disabilities including autism. — Brian Stanley. [16188/20]

*142. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Offaly awaiting assessments for intellectual disabilities including autism. — Brian Stanley. [16189/20]

*143. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Laois on the waiting list for speech and language therapy; and the number waiting more than 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [16190/20]

*144. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Offaly on the waiting list for speech and language therapy; and the number waiting more than 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [16191/20]

*145. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Laois on the waiting list for occupational therapy; and the number waiting more than 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [16192/20]

*146. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in County Offaly on the waiting list for occupational therapy; and the number waiting more than 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [16193/20]

*147. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a person (details supplied) that requires a medical procedure has been informed that the waiting list is approximately four years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [16195/20]

*148. To ask the Minister for Health if updates are available for women affected by pelvic mesh implants. — Kathleen Funchion. [16209/20]

*149. To ask the Minister for Health the corporate and clinical governance arrangements of the new rehabilitation unit in the Phoenix Park. — Paul McAuliffe. [16210/20]

*150. To ask the Minister for Health the costs associated with the new rehabilitation unit in the Phoenix Park. — Paul McAuliffe. [16211/20]

*151. To ask the Minister for Health if external bodies were involved in funding the new rehabilitation unit in the Phoenix Park. — Paul McAuliffe. [16212/20]

*152. To ask the Minister for Health his views on planned changes to outpatient respite care in a nursing home (details supplied) in Dublin 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [16213/20]

*153. To ask the Minister for Health the status the new national children's hospital; and the changes of contractors on site. — Paul McAuliffe. [16214/20]

*154. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) in County Clare with spinal muscular atrophy type 2 will be provided with spinraza treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [16230/20]

*155. To ask the Minister for Health if a clear and detailed map will be provided in relation to all lands owned by the Health Service Executive in Portrane, County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [16235/20]

*156. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated demand for the flu vaccine in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [16236/20]

*157. To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by the health service in 2019 to treat fragility fractures and fall related injuries. — Róisín Shortall. [16237/20]

*158. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the work of the AFFINITY project to deliver the National Strategy for Prevention of Falls and Fractures in Ireland's Ageing Population; the progress made to develop a national network of fracture liaison services; the budget provided for the work of the AFFINITY programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [16238/20]

*159. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the report published recently in the UK titled, First Do No Harm; if so, if he has considered the findings of the report; and if similar measures are being considered here. — Steven Matthews. [16240/20]

*160. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the establishment of an independent inquiry into the historical licensing and use of sodium valproate epilim here following the publication of the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review in the UK (details supplied) which has recommended a State apology to families impacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [16247/20]

*161. To ask the Minister for Health if he will meet patient representatives to discuss the findings of the UK Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review and the establishment of an independent inquiry into the historical licensing and use of sodium valproate here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [16253/20]

*162. To ask the Minister for Health if the recommendations of the 2018 Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health Report on Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome will be implemented; if the recommendation to establish an independent investigation to examine the historical use of valproate medicines here will be implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [16254/20]

*163. To ask the Minister for Health if a valproate stakeholder group will be established consisting of officials from his Department, the HSE, HPRA, patient groups and other relevant stakeholders in order to provide greater oversight and coordination in ensuring measures introduced in 2018 to reduce the risks associated with valproate are being implemented effectively (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [16255/20]

*164. To ask the Minister for Health the reason construction on the national children's hospital has been delayed since the return to work post-Covid-19 by the construction sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16258/20]

*165. To ask the Minister for Health if he will clarify the situation with the day care centre on Morton Street, Clonmel, County Tipperary; when it will reopen; the hours it will be open; the number of staff it will have when it reopens; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [16269/20]

*166. To ask the Minister for Health the availability of Covid-19 antibody tests, that is, post-infection blood tests, for persons that are going for private surgeries in private hospitals and for those that can pay amounts varying from €79 to €250; if he will consider providing this test free of charge in the first instance to persons that have been shielding and cocooning to enable them to improve their mental and physical health and restore confidence; his plans to roll out the Covid-19

antibody test to all that require it; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [16270/20]

*167. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the situation of a person (details supplied) in relation to delays in receiving their repeat prescription; and if Cork University Hospital will be contacted to ensure that further prescriptions are issued in a timely manner. — Thomas Gould. [16273/20]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH,
I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 16 IÚIL, 2020
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 16 JULY, 2020**

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

1. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the fact that some financial institutions are declining mortgage applications in cases in which applicants are on the temporary wage subsidy scheme; if there are measures he can take in relation to the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [16281/20]

2. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans for a new credit unions Act; his views on the recommendations from a recent report (details supplied) by an organisation; if he will amend the Credit Unions Acts 1997-2012 to allow additional financing for credit unions for social housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [16291/20]

3. To ask the Minister for Finance if third-level student accommodation providers that have refused to refund accommodation costs to students forced to leave college due to the Covid-19 pandemic will not receive State Covid-19 supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16287/20]

4. To ask the Minister for Finance the time frame for the review of the policy framework within which credit unions operate. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [16285/20]

5. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to employers that are paying their employees 70% of their wages using the temporary wage subsidy scheme but are making them work 100% of their former hours; his plans to address the matter to ensure that workers are paid for 100% of the hours worked; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [15751/20]

6. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he will take to ensure persons are not charged interest on loan or mortgage deferrals by banks and other lending institutions specifically such institutions in which the State has shares and so on during the Covid-19 crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [16300/20]

7. To ask the Minister for Finance the tax treatment of the Covid-19 pandemic unemployment payment and payments under the temporary wage subsidy scheme; the way in which liability will be calculated for 2020; the way in which it will be collected; the planned tax treatment of both payments in cases in which the liability due exceeds unused tax credits for 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [16296/20]

8. To ask the Minister for Finance the way in which he plans to ensure that profitable companies do not benefit from significant corporate welfare in the context of supports being made available in the July stimulus. — Paul Murphy. [16314/20]

9. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the latest European Commission forecast for economic growth and the implications for the fiscal position of the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [16229/20]

10. To ask the Minister for Finance if an indication has been received from the EU based on the growth and stability pact report forwarded to the EU in April 2020 regarding the likely borrowing that will be permitted to Ireland in 2021 to reboot the economy after the Covid-19 crisis; if the EU has not given this indication, when it is likely to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [15669/20]

11. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the most effective measures which are likely to impact positively on the economy in view of Covid-19 in the shortest possible time in the context of economic recovery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16197/20]

12. To ask the Minister for Finance if highly profitable companies will be excluded from the suspension of rates. — Paul Murphy. [16310/20]

13. To ask the Minister for Finance the actions he will take to stop banks charging interest on Covid-19 mortgage breaks. — Paul Murphy. [16311/20]

14. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he plans to take to tackle high insurance premiums here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [16105/20]

15. To ask the Minister for Finance if an extension of the temporary wage subsidy scheme will be considered for sectors and employers which continue to be affected by public health measures; his plans to discontinue, modify or taper payments under the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [16299/20]

16. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to reform the temporary wage subsidy scheme into a short-term work and training scheme akin to the German Kurzarbeit model; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [16292/20]

17. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on whether financial supports to restart the economy in the aftermath of Brexit and Covid-19 are realisable and will be effective in the short to medium term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16198/20]

18. To ask the Minister for Finance when all sections of the Consumer Insurance Contracts Act 2019 will be commenced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [16295/20]

19. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has communicated with retail banks regarding the treatment of mortgage applications including joint applications, whereby such applications are rejected or approvals in principle withdrawn in cases in which one or both applicants are in receipt of payments through the temporary wage subsidy scheme despite no reduction in pay or hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [16298/20]

20. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to introduce a tax on net wealth exceeding €1,000,000 in order to fund public investment. — Paul Murphy. [16312/20]

21. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount that has been spent on a case (details supplied) to date. — Paul Murphy. [16313/20]

22. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider measures such as a VAT reduction for the hospitality sector to 5% and the inclusion of seasonal workers in the temporary wage subsidy scheme until at least April 2021. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [15750/20]

23. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the crisis many credit unions are facing in relation to increased regulation, levy charges, large restrictions on lending and onerous capital requirements; his plans for new legislation governing the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [16245/20]

24. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on whether claims by banks here that they must charge interest on 80,000 mortgage loans during payment holidays has been undermined by new guidance from European regulators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [16315/20]

25. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the latest IMF World Economic Outlook forecasts and the implications for the fiscal position of the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [16228/20]

26. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the projected deficit figure of €23 to €30 billion for 2020 based on the Stability Programme Update in April 2020 in view of recent positive corporation tax and income tax revenue receipts; the breakdown of the projected deficit figure for 2020 based on updated figures for general government expenditure and general government revenue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [16293/20]

27. To ask the Minister for Finance if measures are being taken to refinance the outstanding obligations into long-term debt of the State in view of the historically low borrowing costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [16279/20]

28. To ask the Minister for Finance the position regarding his options for the reduction of the 13% rate of VAT currently applicable to the hospitality sector; if he cannot lower this rate below 5%, the reason therefor; if he has had contact with the European Commission regarding potential VAT reductions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [16306/20]

29. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered reducing the VAT rate to stimulate business, particularly in the hospitality sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [16307/20]

30. 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. [16288/20]

31. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he plans to take to address the accrual of interest on mortgage payment breaks; his views on the Central Bank and European Banking Authority

advice relating to the charging of interest on mortgage payment breaks; if he plans to pass legislation to prevent the charging of interest during mortgage payment breaks in line with other EU countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [16289/20]

32. To ask the Minister for Finance if measures will be implemented through an easing of the taxation burden on the tourism and hospitality sector in view of its importance as a provider of employment taking in to account the particular difficulties arising from the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16302/20]

33. To ask the Minister for Finance his priorities following his election as chairperson of the Eurogroup of EU Finance Ministers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16284/20]

34. To ask the Minister for Finance if measures will be implemented as a matter of urgency from a VAT reduction and taxation perspective to assist the tourism and hospitality sector through the serious difficulties that have arisen due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16303/20]

35. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to use his new position as Eurogroup President to seek a mutualisation of debt and the creation of perpetual bonds to fund the post-Covid-19 EU recovery; if he will seek an expansion of the European Recovery Fund; the current EU funding streams available for drawdown; the amount drawn down to date in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [16290/20]

36. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the recent OECD report on corporate tax statistics published 8 July 2020 (details supplied); his plans to enact measures to stop businesses registered here that are engaging in corporate tax abuse from availing of Covid-19 financial supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [16145/20]

37. To ask the Minister for Finance the current balance of the rainy day fund; the ways in which it is intended to use the fund to deal with the costs and consequences arising from Covid-19; the ways in which the fund has been used to deal with the consequences of Covid-19 to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16305/20]

38. To ask the Minister for Finance if he plans to reduce the VAT rate on certain services in 2020 to stabilise vulnerable sectors due to the Covid-19 crisis; if so, when an announcement will be made in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [15668/20]

39. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will be introducing criteria for companies that avail of the temporary wage subsidy scheme and other State supports during the Covid-19 crisis such as claw back mechanisms in the event of them returning to profit, a bar on bonuses and dividends and so on for CEOs or shareholders and tax compliance criteria including restrictions on companies availing of tax avoidance measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [16301/20]

40. To ask the Minister for Finance if the temporary wage subsidy scheme will be amended to ensure that employers will not lose a portion or all of the wage subsidy in cases in which an employee works additional hours in comparison to those worked and reflected in January and February payroll submissions, particularly in relation to seasonal work; if he will consider allowing the calculation of subsidy based on payroll submissions in 2019 to reflect the seasonal variation in pay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [16297/20]