DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 7 Deireadh Fómhair, 2020
Wednesday, 7th October, 2020

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS
Ministerial and Departmental titles have been and are being updated on this Question Paper to take account of recent Government orders to give legal effect to the Taoiseach’s announcement in Dáil Éireann on 27 June 2020.

CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

1. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee on Arts and Culture will next meet. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [25611/20]

2. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee that deals with issues relevant to the arts and culture will next meet. — Alan Kelly. [26661/20]

3. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the social policy and public service reform division of his Department. — Alan Kelly. [27099/20]

4. To ask the Taoiseach his plans for public services reform to be driven by his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [28337/20]

5. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee on Social Affairs and Equality will next meet. — Mary Lou McDonald. [28338/20]

6. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee that addresses matters relating to justice will next meet. — Mary Lou McDonald. [28339/20]

7. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee on Social Affairs and Equality last met; and when it will next meet. — Alan Kelly. [28351/20]

8. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee that addresses matters relating to the arts will next meet. — Mary Lou McDonald. [28556/20]

9. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the social policy and public service reform division of his Department. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [28893/20]

10. To ask the Taoiseach the number of special advisers allocated to him; and the cost of each of these advisers in terms of salary, expenses and so on. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [28550/20]

11. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his attendance at the Special European Council meeting on 1 October 2020. — Alan Kelly. [28350/20]
12. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of his Department with the National Economic and Social Council. — Mary Lou McDonald. [28558/20]

13. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee dealing with housing last met. — Mick Barry. [28811/20]

14. To ask the Taoiseach his views on the implications of delaying the census by a year. — Mark Ward. [28809/20]

15. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his decision to delay Census 2022. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [28895/20]

16. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the decision to delay the Census to 2022. — Alan Kelly. [27097/20]

17. To ask the Taoiseach the details of all meetings of the Labour Employer Economic Forum that have taken place since the Government was established, including all subgroup meetings; the issues discussed; the details of all Government members and social partner representatives present for each meeting; the schedule for remaining meetings in 2020; and his plans for a social dialogue unit in his Department. — Cormac Devlin. [29029/20]

18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if universities and third-level institutions are bound by SI 146 of 2000 Industrial Relations Act 1990 (Code of Practice on Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29187/20]

19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if third-level education employers which willingly fail to provide for SI 146 of 2000 in their grievance and disciplinary procedures are failing to ensure that their employees’ rights to natural justice and fair procedures are upheld. — Mairéad Farrell. [29188/20]

20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the measures being taken to help businesses that have no income to alleviate the pressures of commercial rents that have remained the same. — Emer Higgins. [28966/20]

21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 30 of 30 September 2020, the number of Microfinance Ireland rescheduled 616 performing loans which were restructured in March and April 2020 had their payment break restructured or further extended beyond 15 October 2020. — Louise O'Reilly. [28984/20]
*22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the details of all meetings with social partners with regard to proposals for statutory sick pay since taking office; the details of all social dialogue forums in which he has participated, in which statutory sick pay proposals were discussed; the details of all Government members and social partner representatives present for each such meeting; the schedule for remaining meetings in 2020 regarding the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [29030/20]

*23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if research has been conducted by his Department on the potential excess office space under development in Dublin city; his views on whether such developments could be repurposed; and the plans in place to support businesses in the city centre in which footfall may never return to pre-Covid-19 levels due to a more permanent switch to remote working for some. — Eoghan Murphy. [29083/20]

*24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the supports which an enterprise can receive for reopening; and the way in which it varies for enterprises in areas in which level 3 restrictions have been applied. — Richard Bruton. [29161/20]

*25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the estimated timeframe for the delivery of a development task force for north Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [29224/20]

Chun an Aire Comhsaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide: To the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications.

*26. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if consideration will be given to an increase in the annual budget for the recently opened support scheme for renewable heat which encourages farmers to change from fossil-based fuel sources to renewable heat sources; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29042/20]

*27. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if consideration will be given to increasing the just transition fund by 20% from €6 million to €7.2 million allowing for the use of the micro-loan scheme to incentivise investment on farm for energy generation and conversion of business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29046/20]

*28. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if consideration will be given to increasing the number of rural 44KW and 50KW charging points for electric vehicle users; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29052/20]

*29. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if his attention has been drawn to concerns the impact of a 130% increase in public service obligation levy will have on households of reduced socioeconomic means; his plans to support households that may not be able to afford an increase of this magnitude; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [29148/20]

*30. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the reason a
person (details supplied) in County Mayo cannot access broadband which is only 30 meters from their house. — Dara Calleary. [29050/20]

*31. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the status of broadband for a household (details supplied) in County Mayo. — Dara Calleary. [29064/20]

*32. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the reason an Eircom customer (details supplied) cannot access broadband in their area. — Dara Calleary. [29069/20]

*33. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if a person (details supplied) can have their house rezoned to a green zone for the purpose of accessing fibre broadband; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [29076/20]

*34. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the reason there will be a 130% increase in the PSO levy charged to all electricity customers in 2020/2021; if he has consulted with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities on the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [29094/20]

*35. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the grant levels available for works under the various SEAI schemes for householders that is warmer homes better energy homes, solar grants and so on; the impact on the take up of these schemes as a result of Covid-19; and his plans to increase the payment levels for particular works in order to stimulate activity In the months ahead. — Richard Bruton. [29166/20]

*36. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if he will consider the issues raised by a local authority (details supplied) in relation to infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [29216/20]

*37. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if he will request that the National Broadband Plan provider to set out a scheduled installation timeframe on a post code basis; if he will establish when a property (details supplied) might expect to receive a service under the National Broadband Plan. — Niall Collins. [29220/20]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*38. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on a matter (details supplied) regarding travel agents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29194/20]

*39. To ask the Minister for Transport the way in which the details of the €2.6 million funding grant to a company (details supplied) was distributed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29234/20]

*40. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has allocated the €2.6 million to a company (details supplied) as announced in August 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29235/20]

*41. To ask the Minister for Transport if the funding allocated to a company (details supplied) was to ensure that no further staff would be laid off. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29236/20]

*42. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will make the necessary arrangement to
include the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Project in the forthcoming Capital Investment Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [29018/20]

*43. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the mediation process that was taking place between two companies (details supplied). — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29044/20]

*44. To ask the Minister for Transport if it is still the intention to complete a new pedestrian bridge across the river Liffey east of the Samuel Beckett Bridge. — Eoghan Murphy. [29086/20]

*45. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 78 of 10 September 2020, when a reply will issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29099/20]

*46. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to carry out a study on the relationship between road speed limits and the impact on fuel consumption, journey times, air quality and emissions. — Steven Matthews. [29145/20]

*47. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is considering using his powers under S.I. 135/2006 to increase the fixed charge penalty notice fines for illegal parking; if he is considering granting more powers to local authorities and gardaí to issue fines based on photo evidence, including parking on public footpaths which blocks the way for pedestrians and wheelchair users; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [29151/20]

*48. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of passengers arriving here on a weekly basis from 7 September 2020 by country of departure, including seaports and airports in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [29154/20]

*49. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of persons travelling to and from the green list countries on a daily basis since 7 September 2020, including seaports and airports in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [29155/20]

*50. To ask the Minister for Transport if his review of a company (details supplied) is taking into account the happening in the three subdivisions of the company. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29237/20]

*51. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of visitors in attendance across the Shannon Heritage portfolio over the past five years by year and by site in each of the years 2016 to 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29238/20]

*52. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of plans to increase the frequency of southbound DART services; and if these plans are being reviewed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. — Eoghan Murphy. [29243/20]

*53. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to significant delays in appointments in NDLS Dublin offices causing difficulties in renewing licences in part due to NDLS medical report form (D501) valid one month from signing by a doctor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [29246/20]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*54. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to reports that the full value of the employment wage subsidy scheme supports are not being provided to staff of an
airline (details supplied); if he has engaged with the airline regarding such reports; if he will provide clarity regarding staff entitlements to back pay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [28988/20]

*55. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration will be given to the exemption of VAT, within the European Union VAT directive, on all farm safety equipment which will act as a vector to improve uptake of farm safety equipment by farmers and in turn may reduce the high fatality rate within the agricultural sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29039/20]

*56. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration will be given to a review of a VAT exemption on sexed semen for all farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29040/20]

*57. To ask the Minister for Finance the timeline for the recommencement of processing of applications under the disabled drivers tax concessions scheme following the Supreme Court decision on 18 June 2020; the number of applications under consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [29090/20]

*58. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide information on primary medical certificates (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [29215/20]

*59. To ask the Minister for Finance his views in relation to resolving the cost of insurance crisis to aid SMEs to recover (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29022/20]

*60. To ask the Minister for Finance if measures are being examined to incentivise the purchase of new cars; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [29037/20]

*61. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated amount that would be raised annually by implementing four new tax bands by amounts (details supplied). — Richard Boyd Barrett. [29098/20]

*62. To ask the Minister for Finance the tax liability that may arise under income tax, USC and PRSI as a result of persons having received support from the temporary wage subsidy scheme; the way in which the Revenue Commissioners will inform persons of their liability; and if the Revenue Commissioners phase the recovery of taxes due. — Richard Bruton. [29126/20]

*63. To ask the Minister for Finance the reliefs made available to enterprises in respect of tax liabilities arising during the Covid-19 crisis; the periods covered; and the way in which it is planned to recover the warehoused liabilities in the situation in which many enterprises will remain vulnerable for some considerable time. — Richard Bruton. [29129/20]

*64. To ask the Minister for Finance the tax reliefs available to persons that are working from home; and the conditions under which the reliefs can be claimed. — Richard Bruton. [29156/20]

*65. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered the possibility that the abrupt reversion of help to buy terms to those which applied before the July Stimulus package might create a distortion in the housing market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29183/20]
*66. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated cost to the Exchequer of the individual tax rebate for working from home in 2020 which can be claimed against 10% of the costs of home working; the cost of same in 2018 and 2019; and his plans to increase the amount claimable by persons. — Catherine Murphy. [29193/20]

*67. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on a matter raised in correspondence by an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29203/20]

*68. To ask the Minister for Finance the cost of amending the employment wage subsidy scheme to the end of December 2020, 1 January to 31 March 2021 and 1 April to end of December 2021 (details supplied). — Pearse Doherty. [29211/20]

*69. To ask the Minister for Finance if the subsidies payable under the employment wage subsidy scheme can be made payable two weeks or one week in arrears, as opposed to one month in arrears as is the case at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [29217/20]

*70. To ask the Minister for Finance the additional weekly or monthly staffing costs at the Office of the Revenue Commissioner that would result from making subsidies payable under the employment wage subsidy scheme two weeks or one week in arrears, as opposed to one month in arrears as is the case at present. — Pearse Doherty. [29218/20]

*71. To ask the Minister for Finance if payments made through pandemic unemployment payment can be taxable by law in view of the fact that it was introduced under section 202 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 which as an urgent needs payment is not liable for tax as clarified by section 13 of Finance Act 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [29219/20]

*72. To ask the Minister for Finance the full year cost of abolishing the universal social charge for persons earning less than €90,000. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [29258/20]

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

*73. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status on the reopening of Rush Garda station, County Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [28955/20]

*74. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of flood protection works along the river Dodder; and the additional delays caused as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. — Eoghan Murphy. [29088/20]

*75. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 70 of 23 September 2020, if he is satisfied that the items are being stored in a manner that is appropriate and is not inadvertently damaging the items themselves. — Eoghan Murphy. [29089/20]

*76. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if matters raised in correspondence by a person (details supplied) in relation to the list of OGP suppliers and the impact such a decision may have on the company will receive a response; if the most appropriate advice will be provided to the company in order to avoid potential job losses; and if he will make
a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [29253/20]

*77. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if a river will be dredged for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [29189/20]

*78. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the amount the OPW has paid a private firm to maintain the gate at Grianan of Aileach Fort, County Donegal. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [29222/20]

Chun an Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán: To the Minister for Tourism, Culture; Arts; Gaeltacht; Sport and Media.

*79. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the sector specific supports in place and or the plans to introduce support services for the arts sector. — Catherine Murphy. [26312/20]

*80. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if a grant will be offered to musicians that predominantly work at live events to upskill or retrain within their field to be better placed to work in the current environment (details supplied). — Eoghan Murphy. [29085/20]

*81. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of meetings of the Covid-19 Response Group, as distinct from the Tourism Recovery Taskforce, that have taken place since the start of July; if she recognises the value of this group which met on 27 February 2020 and subsequently on a very regular basis throughout March, April, May and June; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29223/20]

Chun an Aire Títhíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta: To the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

*82. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the position regarding derelict properties in rural parts of the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [28954/20]

*83. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [28953/20]

*84. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications that were received in round one funding of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund in tabular form (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28957/20]

*85. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications received by his Department for round two funding of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund which opened earlier in 2020 under (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28964/20]

*86. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention
has been drawn to the appeals process in the Rebuilding Ireland home loan scheme. — Thomas Gould. [28969/20]

*87. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to put in place incentives to return to use, unused buildings and shops in towns and villages; his further plans to deal with dereliction in urban areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [28994/20]

*88. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider developing operational guidelines on habitual residence similar to those used by the Department of Social Protection (details supplied) and for these to be applied consistently by all local governments in deciding on access to housing lists, emergency accommodation and homeless services. — Pa Daly. [29057/20]

*89. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he plans to bring forward legislation for tenancies on indefinite duration as committed to in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [29058/20]

*90. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures that will be implemented to increase Residential Tenancies Board inspections and enforcement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [29059/20]

*91. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the means tests that applied to determine eligibility for social housing schemes; and if he recognises a gap between this income level and the threshold of income that would be needed to participate in the various other purchase schemes which might justify a rise in the social housing income thresholds. — Richard Bruton. [29164/20]

*92. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he plans issuing guidelines on the eligible income thresholds and other national criteria for affordable purchase and for cost rental schemes in respect of which many councils have already set the other criteria for prioritising applicants. — Richard Bruton. [29165/20]

*93. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to make changes in the limits on the price of the house on which an affordable loan can be obtained; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29167/20]

*94. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the present rate of interest which is charged on an affordable loan; what this represents in monthly payments per €1,000 borrowed on a 25 and 30 year mortgage; if there are additional charges added for insurance and so on; and if he anticipates the potential for the reduction in these charges in the coming months. — Richard Bruton. [29168/20]

*95. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures he plans to implement to speed up the planning delays affecting the development of onshore and offshore renewable energy; and if a clear schedule for specific changes to regulations concerning solar, wind and offshore development will be provided. — Richard Bruton. [29184/20]

*96. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the closing date and time of round 1 applications for the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund; the date and time each of the applications was received by project name, county, method of submission,
that is by email and or fax and so on in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [29190/20]

*97. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the wake of the demolition of O’Rahilly House, if he will convene a multi-agency taskforce, including local authorities, and all relevant state agencies, to try to identify any properties, sites or structures of cultural or historical significance that currently do not have protection from demolition and or alteration with a view to protecting them into the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29199/20]

*98. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when a licence will issue to a person (details supplied). — Michael Creed. [29204/20]

Chun an Aire Gnóthai Eachtracha: To the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

*99. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of the Interdepartmental Committee on the Irish Abroad. — Pa Daly. [29047/20]

*100. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of the reports on Support for the Irish Abroad for 2019 and 2020. — Pa Daly. [29048/20]

*101. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the establishment of an Oireachtas sub-committee dealing with issues affecting the Irish diaspora. — Pa Daly. [29049/20]

*102. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the schedule for decision making in relation to Brexit over the coming weeks. — Richard Bruton. [29185/20]

*103. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the way in which a person can register their interest in hosting and fostering unaccompanied minors arising from the destruction of the Moira refugee camp. — Michael Creed. [29200/20]

*104. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the plight of the Uighur population in China particularly those in the northwest Xinjiang province; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [29207/20]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*105. To ask the Minister for Defence the details of guidelines or policies governing the use of automated weapons systems and robotics by the Defence Forces; and if no such guidelines or policies exist, the reason therefor. — Thomas Pringle. [29002/20]

*106. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of personnel that have been court-martialled for sexual offences within the past ten years; the number that have been convicted; the number placed on the sex offenders register; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29122/20]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*107. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the provision of a new school building for a school (details supplied); and the estimated start and completion date. — Eoin Ó
*108. To ask the Minister for Education if a review of the school transport structure for Covid-19 has been established; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [28949/20]

*109. To ask the Minister for Education the efforts she has made in respect of school premises being inspected to ensure Covid-19 health and safety requirements are met; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [28950/20]

*110. To ask the Minister for Education the number of female head teachers here; the number of female teachers that applied for the position of head teacher in 2019; the number of male head teachers in all girls secondary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [28956/20]

*111. To ask the Minister for Education if the junior certificate core subjects of Irish, English and maths were given equally weighting during the process of calculating the estimated grades for the leaving certificate; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [28959/20]

*112. To ask the Minister for Education if the specific percentage result or overall grade of students were used from their junior certificate to calculate their leaving certificate 2020 results with regards to the leaving certificate 2020 and the calculated grades process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [28960/20]

*113. To ask the Minister for Education when students will be notified if they are impacted by the two errors in the algorithm; and if students can now appeal same and request to see the way in which their grade was calculated. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [28961/20]

*114. To ask the Minister for Education when students will be made aware of the results of the appeals process in relation to any potential administrative errors and what impact this will have on the review happening in relation to the errors in relation to the algorithm (details supplied). — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [28962/20]

*115. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to undertake a full review of the entire calculated grades process and publish the results. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [28963/20]

*116. To ask the Minister for Education the details of the tendering process that resulted in Educational Testing Service getting the contract for the review of essential aspects of the coding used to implement the leaving certificate standardisation process; the value of the contract awarded to same; the number of companies applied for the tender; the way the tender was advertised; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28971/20]

*117. To ask the Minister for Education the details of the tendering process for the contract, which was awarded to a company (details supplied) for the leaving certificate standardisation process in 2020; the number of companies applied for the tender; the details of the companies which applied for the tender; the reason given for the decision to give the contract to that company; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28972/20]

*118. To ask the Minister for Education the number of persons that have applied to sit the leaving certificate examinations in November 2020; the details of the closing date for
applications for the November 2020 sitting; if, based on the current restriction levels nationally, if she will state the likelihood of holding the exams in November 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28973/20]

*119. To ask the Minister for Education if the coding error in the leaving certificate standardisation process, which resulted in the two worst non-core junior certificate grades of a student being counted, rather than their two best non-core grades, was made by a company (details supplied) or if it was as a result of an error at Departmental level prior to instruction being given to the company; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28974/20]

*120. To ask the Minister for Education if she has had regard to concerns raised by the Children’s Ombudsman in the area of special needs resources. — Sean Sherlock. [28976/20]

*121. To ask the Minister for Education if she has had regard to concerns raised by the Children’s Ombudsman in the area the option for children to opt out of religious teaching. — Sean Sherlock. [28977/20]

*122. To ask the Minister for Education if she has had regard to concerns raised by the Children’s Ombudsman in the area of the Ombudsman being able to investigate complaints in a school. — Sean Sherlock. [28978/20]

*123. To ask the Minister for Education if the recent decision by a school (details supplied) to end its policy of allocating feeder status to a local national school was taken as informed by her Department or if this decision was taken independent of her Departments guidelines. — Chris Andrews. [28986/20]

*124. To ask the Minister for Education if the Attorney General and her Department have completed the review of the State ex-gratia scheme which the Tánaiste informed Dáil Éireann was happening on 12 December 2018. — Paul Murphy. [28998/20]

*125. To ask the Minister for Education when her Department made its latest report to the Council of Europe on the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights judgement in a case (details supplied); and when the report will be uploaded to be accessible to the public. — Paul Murphy. [28999/20]

*126. To ask the Minister for Education if a decision has been made regarding the eligibility of abuse victims in a school (details supplied) for the ex-gratia scheme. — Paul Murphy. [29000/20]

*127. To ask the Minister for Education if equal weight was given to Irish, English and maths and the two best subjects of students from the junior certificate; if not, if different weighting per subject was used; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [29003/20]

*128. To ask the Minister for Education if a student’s specific percentage regarding leaving certificate 2020 and the calculated grades process result or overall grade was used from their junior certificate to calculate their leaving certificate 2020 results; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [29004/20]

*129. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she will take to address the issue of students that have been doubly impacted by the fact that those that received an inflated grade will retain the grades and the places in college ahead of those that through no fault of their own were
incorrectly downgraded and will not receive the opportunity to have an inflated grade; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [29005/20]

*130. To ask the Minister for Education if a full review of the entire calculated grades process will be undertaken in view of the errors that have been discovered. — Cian O'Callaghan. [29006/20]

*131. To ask the Minister for Education the status of an emergency works application for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [29015/20]

*132. To ask the Minister for Education if the planned new school building for a school (details supplied) will include an ASD unit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [29023/20]

*133. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 459 of 15 September 2020, if further clarification will be provided regarding face covering exemptions for secondary school students; if her attention has been drawn to the fact that some secondary schools operating under the joint managerial body for voluntary secondary schools are demanding that parents of pupils provide more than a medical certificate from a doctor stating that a child has breathing difficulties for example asthma, therefore exempting the child from wearing a face covering; if her attention has been further drawn to the fact that some schools are demanding a note from a doctor specifying in writing that the child does not have to wear a face covering, which goes beyond the content of Government guidelines and which in some cases doctors are not willing to provide; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [29031/20]

*134. To ask the Minister for Education if the decision made by the school transport scheme in relation to an application by a family (details supplied) for a school bus ticket will be reviewed. — Niamh Smyth. [29091/20]

*135. To ask the Minister for Education the details of all primary schools that are located on national route roads; her views on whether extra road safety measures should be in place at such schools; the person or body responsible for providing such road safety measures; the person or body responsible for funding safety measures for primary schools on national roads; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [29092/20]

*136. To ask the Minister for Education if she will facilitate an increased number of enrolments in respect of two new schools (details supplied) in view of the increasing numbers school going children in their school planning area and surrounding school planning areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [29095/20]

*137. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the way in which leaving certificate students examination results and other examination and grade related data are defined in contracts with third-parties to which her Department has outsourced grade assessments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [29103/20]

*138. To ask the Minister for Education if copies of the clauses in the contracts with a company (details supplied) that relate to the definition and use of each of intellectual property and personally identifiable information will be provided. — Pa Daly. [29104/20]

*139. To ask the Minister for Education if she will extend the duration of the existing
illness benefit for teachers for Covid-19 related illness or exempt Covid-19 related absences until a vaccine is in place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [29149/20]

*140. To ask the Minister for Education if she will engage with a primary school (details supplied) in County Meath regarding ongoing road safety issues at the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [29225/20]

*141. To ask the Minister for Education the details of the tendering process that resulted in Educational Testing Service getting the contract for the review of essential aspects of the coding used to implement the leaving certificate standardisation process; the value of the contract awarded to ETS; the number of companies applied for the tender; the way the tender was advertised; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29228/20]

*142. To ask the Minister for Education the details of the tendering process for the contract, which was awarded to a company (details supplied) for the leaving certificate standardisation process in 2020; the number of companies applied for the tender; the details of the companies which applied for the tender; the reason given for the decision to give the contract to that company; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29229/20]

*143. To ask the Minister for Education the number of persons that have applied to sit the leaving certificate examinations in November 2020; the details of the closing date for applications for the November 2020 sitting; if, based on the current restriction levels nationally, she will state the likelihood of holding the exams in November 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29230/20]

*144. To ask the Minister for Education if the coding mistake in the leaving certificate standardisation process, which resulted in a student’s two worst non-core junior certificate grades being counted, rather than their two best non-core grades, was made by a company (details supplied) or if it was as a result of an error at Departmental level prior to instruction being given to; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29231/20]

*145. To ask the Minister for Education if the coding mistake in the leaving certificate standardisation process, which resulted in the inclusion of CSPE in the junior certificate grade data, was made by a company (details supplied) or if it was as a result of an error at Departmental level prior to instruction being given to the company; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29232/20]

*146. To ask the Minister for Education if the specification for the coding for the predictive grade model was signed off by her Department was explicit and clear as to the requirements; and the date on which this sign-off occurred. — Gary Gannon. [29249/20]

*147. To ask the Minister for Education the person or body within her Department that approved sign-off for the predictive grade model; on what date, and at what project board meeting. — Gary Gannon. [29250/20]

*148. To ask the Minister for Education the minutes of the meeting at which the specification and the subsequent approval were authorised for the calculated grade coding for a company (details supplied); and if she will provide evidence that the major flaws in the software
quality assurance process will not be repeated. — Gary Gannon. [29251/20]

*149. To ask the Minister for Education the professional standards that will be applied to future work on the ISO 29119 software testing standards which are an internationally agreed set which can be used by an organisation when performing any form of software testing; If not, the recognised standards that will be adhered to; and the specific name of the alternative standard. — Gary Gannon. [29252/20]

Chun an Aire Coimisce Sóisialaí: To the Minister for Social Protection.

*150. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to provide funding in Budget 2021 to the universal basic income pilot which has already been successfully trialled in Finland, Canada and Alaska; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29045/20]

*151. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has received a recommendation from the Low Pay Commission in respect of increases which should apply from January 2021. — Richard Bruton. [29174/20]

*152. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to reopen the Public Registrations Office in County Longford. — Sorca Clarke. [29205/20]

*153. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on social welfare overpayments as detailed by the Comptroller and Auditor General; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [28975/20]

*154. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if persons that were on the back to work enterprise allowance scheme are been given an extension if their two year duration fell during the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [28993/20]

*155. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider reinstating the diet supplement in Budget 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29010/20]

*156. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider allowing self-employed recipients of the pandemic unemployment payment to work a certain number of hours per week; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [29017/20]

*157. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that a company (details supplied) continues to refuse to sign social welfare forms for its workers in a breach of workers’ rights; and the steps she will take to resolve the matter on behalf of the workers. — Louise O'Reilly. [29025/20]

*158. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the €5 million in dormant accounts funding for persons with disabilities to support their access to employment opportunities is available to persons. — Thomas Gould. [29060/20]

*159. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the details of research being conducted on the short and long-term impacts of the pandemic unemployment payment viz a vis traditional social welfare payment schemes and labour market actuation challenges. — Eoghan Murphy. [29084/20]
160. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the opening of a new citizens information office in Shannon town, County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29101/20]

161. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on the way in which the pandemic unemployment payment is to be treated for the purposes of means tests for social welfare payments such as the disability allowance. — Eoin Ó Broin. [29102/20]

162. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when backdated pandemic unemployment payment arrears will be paid to a person (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [29146/20]

163. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on a case (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [29159/20]

164. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the terms under which self-employed persons can claim a payment to assist with restarting their business which has been affected by Covid-19. — Richard Bruton. [29162/20]

165. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that many student nurses that were supporting themselves through part-time health assistant work have been told that combining such work with their standard placements would pose a Covid-19 risk and as a consequence her Department has deemed such persons not available for work and therefore ineligible for the pandemic unemployment payment; and if relief can be provided in such cases. — Richard Bruton. [29163/20]

166. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the dates for extension of paid parental leave and of unpaid parental leave over the next fifteen months. — Richard Bruton. [29173/20]

167. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to bring forward an auto-enrolment pension during the course of 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29178/20]

168. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the short term illness benefit can be claimed by the self-employed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29179/20]

169. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the higher rate of child dependent allowance for children of 12 years of age and over will be reflected in the rates for the working family payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29180/20]

170. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the back to education allowance can be claimed without a waiting time for all traditional welfare payments and for the pandemic unemployment payment; and if the exact relaxation in rules which have been permitted relating to duration on welfare payments will be clarified. — Richard Bruton. [29181/20]

171. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of new claimants of rent supplement which have come into payment since the Covid-19 pandemic commenced; and her plans to relax the stringent rules for withdrawal of the payment for persons considering returning to work by comparison with those that have been put on a housing assistance payment. — Richard Bruton. [29182/20]

172. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to funding
tablets for jobseeker’s supported by the EmployAbility service through the increased training supplier grant in order to assist familiarise them with online programmes to increase their confidence and chances of gaining employment. — Cathal Crowe. [29195/20]

*173. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the terms and conditions which will apply to the Work Experience Programme which was announced as part of the July Stimulus; the revised terms of the JobsPlus scheme outlined under the July Stimulus; and if a time limit has been set for the scheme. — Richard Bruton. [29196/20]

*174. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the changes in the criteria for the back to education allowance under the July Stimulus; and the duration for which the revised criteria will apply. — Richard Bruton. [29197/20]

*175. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) is entitled to social welfare payment due to a loss of employment as a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic. — Chris Andrews. [29221/20]

*176. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the ending of the JobPath and Turas Nua schemes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29240/20]


*177. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if additional funding will be provided to youth work services in 2021 in order to provide more supports and activities for young persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [28989/20]

*178. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration his plans to increase funding to the public bodies that distribute funds to youth services (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [29021/20]

*179. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration his plans to engage with the National Youth Council of Ireland and Tusla in advance of budget 2021 in order to address inadequate funding in the sector. — Catherine Murphy. [29020/20]

*180. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if clarity will be provided on the guidelines to playschools and crèches in relation to the prohibition of the use of plastic lunch boxes (details supplied); and if the reason for the issuing of such guidance will be provided. — Steven Matthews. [29100/20]

*181. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the number of children for whom the basic €20 per week is paid; and the number for whom enhanced payments are made. — Richard Bruton. [29169/20]

*182. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the distribution of payments under childcare schemes according to the age of the child and the hours claimed. — Richard Bruton. [29170/20]

*183. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the distribution of payments under childcare schemes according to the reckonable earnings of the
parents. — Richard Bruton. [29171/20]

*184. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the distribution of payments under the AIM schemes according to the categories of supports made available. — Richard Bruton. [29172/20]

*185. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration his plans to review the funding model for counselling services being run by family resource centres across County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29227/20]

*186. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if he has met with the HSE in respect of increasing funding to the youth services in County Kildare. — Catherine Murphy. [29233/20]

*187. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if he will assess the need for a dedicated youth worker for Killaloe, County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29239/20]

Chun an Aire Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta: To the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research; Innovation and Science.

*188. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare will qualify for a SUSI grant; if there is an appeal for a student in their situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [28968/20]

*189. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a person (details supplied) who sat the leaving certificate in 2019 and has marginally missed out on their preferred college offer due to the 2020 leaving certificate anomaly will be considered for the course of their choice. — Cathal Crowe. [29007/20]

*190. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if supports will be made available in Budget 2021 to families of college going students that have paid full accommodation and college fees but are advised to reside at home resulting in a significant loss for families; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [29008/20]

*191. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if consideration will be given to the extension of the student assistance fund to all agricultural college students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29051/20]

*192. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will consider the implications arising from the use of calculated grades in the leaving certificate 2020 for the CAO and college entry for students sitting the leaving certificate in 2021; the actions he plans to take to deal with the issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [29093/20]

*193. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of laptops delivered and allocated to each further education institution in tabular form. — Sean Sherlock. [29096/20]
*194. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will address a matter regarding the case of a person (details supplied). — Gary Gannon. [29244/20]

*195. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there will be consideration given in relation to the errors in the calculated grades, in the case that a student with HEAR or DARE status has a grade increase that an increase in points for these students could have led to offers for courses in participating colleges at reduced levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [29245/20]

*196. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the take-up to date of the subsidy to employers for enrolling apprentices; the breakdown by sector; and if consideration will be given to extending the closing date of the scheme. — Richard Bruton. [29254/20]

*197. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the take-up to date of the subsidy to employers for enrolling apprentices; the breakdown by sector; and if he will consider extending the closing date of the scheme. — Richard Bruton. [29255/20]

*198. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the changes in the eligibility criteria for Springboard opportunities for support for postgraduate participation. — Richard Bruton. [29256/20]

*199. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the conditions under which persons can participate in the skills to compete programme announced as part of the July stimulus; and the duration for which the additional supports will remain in place. — Richard Bruton. [29257/20]

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

*200. To ask the Minister for Justice when she will publish the report on compliance with part 5 of the Disability Act 2005 for 2018 and 2019 respectively; the number of employees with a disability in each Department in 2018 and 2019 respectively; the criteria by which employees identify themselves as having a disability; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [28987/20]

*201. To ask the Minister for Justice the options available to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29209/20]

*202. To ask the Minister for Justice her views on the request being made by many campaigners to increase the number of refugees to 400 from the Moria Refugee Camp in Lesbos following the recent fire; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [28545/20]

*203. To ask the Minister for Justice when she will publish the amendment to the European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2015 necessitated by the Chenchoolliah judgment of the CJEU; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [28982/20]

*204. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí that have retired from 2015 to 2020, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless.
To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí that have joined the force from 2015 to 2020, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [28996/20]

To ask the Minister for Justice the current number of gardaí; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [28997/20]

To ask the Minister for Justice the details of guidelines or policies governing the use of automated weapons systems and robotics by An Garda Síochána; and if no such guidelines or policies exist, the reason therefor. — Thomas Pringle. [29001/20]

To ask the Minister for Justice the forms of protections in place within the courts system to ensure that children and custody issues are not used as leverage in proceedings between parents of such children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [29054/20]

To ask the Minister for Justice her views on matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [29097/20]

To ask the Minister for Justice the number of applications for Irish Citizenship that were received 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [29208/20]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

To ask the Minister for Health the purpose and cost of a contract (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [29073/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the reason his Department has not confirmed to the HSE its intention to pay an outstanding award to a cohort of section 39 workers (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [29075/20]

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the reintroduction of comprehensive psychology, speech and language and support services for children with special needs. — Joe McHugh. [29147/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the level of compliance in filling out the passenger locator form on a weekly basis from 7 September 2020, in tabular form; the number of forms which were correctly and incorrectly completed on a weekly basis, in tabular form; and the number of persons that refused to fill out the form on a weekly basis in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [29152/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients assessed for a primary medical certificate from March 2020 to date; if he has satisfied himself that any backlog issues have been addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [28951/20]

To ask the Minister for Health his plans for nursing home providers in the CHO9 area to innovate and support residents and their families during periods of enhanced Covid-19 protective measures while being cognisant of mental and physical wellbeing, remaining person-centred, ensuring rights are upheld and not infringed upon in a disproportionate manner and following public health advice. — Mary Lou McDonald. [28958/20]
*217. To ask the Minister for Health the number of assessment of needs that took place in 2020, in each health office area in tabular form; and the amount of AON awaiting assessment to date in 2020, in tabular form per county. — Sean Sherlock. [28979/20]

*218. To ask the Minister for Health the amount under 18 years of age admitted to adult mental health units for 2019 and to date in 2020, by county in tabular form. — Sean Sherlock. [28980/20]

*219. To ask the Minister for Health the rules governing alcoholics anonymous meetings under the Covid-19 restrictions regarding social distancing, numbers attending and other restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [28981/20]

*220. To ask the Minister for Health when training can be provided for the use of an insulin pump for a patient (details supplied) who is in physical possession of same but is on a waiting list for training; and if a report can be made on the way in which such training can be accelerated for diabetic patients. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [28983/20]

*221. To ask the Minister for Health if a decision has been made on an application for a primary medical certificate by a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28985/20]

*222. To ask the Minister for Health the progress made to replace the motorised transport grant and provide an alternative transport support scheme to assist with costs for persons with a disability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [28991/20]

*223. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a situation in which businesses on the Old Mallow Road, Cork have approached the HSE requesting additional signage for the Covid-19 testing as persons travelling for tests are entering their premises seeking directions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [28992/20]

*224. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review travel advice with NPHET in respect of Cambodia in view of the low Covid-19 rate and strict inbound travel regime in the country. — Catherine Murphy. [29011/20]

*225. To ask the Minister for Health the details of each of the posts funded by the National Treatment Purchase Fund in each cancer centre; the year funding began for each post; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29027/20]

*226. To ask the Minister for Health the governance the National Treatment Purchase Fund has in place to ensure regional and geographical equity of access to services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29028/20]

*227. To ask the Minister for Health if an application submitted in hard copy to CORU in March 2020 and followed by an application via email in July 2020 for recognition of international qualifications in the name of a person (details supplied) will be expedited; the time frame for such applications; and the reason the applicant has been waiting since March 2020. — John McGuinness. [29033/20]

*228. To ask the Minister for Health the essential services that are required to close under level 3 restrictions. — Thomas Gould. [29055/20]

*229. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 930 of 29...
September 2020, when additional funding to support the resumption of drug and alcohol services will be made available; the way in which services will be able to access the funding; when task forces will be made aware of the funding; the amount of funding that will be made available; and if services that have already reopened and purchased additional equipment, PPE and so on will be able to utilise the funding to reimburse their annual budgets. — Thomas Gould. [29056/20]

*230. To ask the Minister for Health his plans in relation to the delivery by pharmacists of off-site vaccination clinics; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [29063/20]

*231. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that applied for counsellor roles from the recruitment drive be on call for Ireland; the number that were recruited for the position; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [29065/20]

*232. To ask the Minister for Health the details of his plans to introduce legislation enabling pharmacists to administer off site vaccinations in view of media reports; when the legislation will be introduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [29070/20]

*233. To ask the Minister for Health when contracts will issue to persons (details supplied); and when they will be remunerated. — Sean Sherlock. [29072/20]

*234. To ask the Minister for Health the basis on which and at the cost of consultants (details supplied) that have been employed by the HSE for the purposes of providing consultancy services in response to Covid-19. — Sean Sherlock. [29074/20]

*235. To ask the Minister for Health the National Treatment Purchase Fund funding figures for each of the cancer centres in each of the years 2010 to 2019 and to date in 2020; the variance in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29082/20]

*236. To ask the Minister for Health when out-of-hours flu vaccination clinics will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29123/20]

*237. To ask the Minister for Health the number of therapists and the specialities of each that have been redeployed to contact tracing as of 30 September 2020 in each CHO and hospital group, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29124/20]

*238. To ask the Minister for Health the funding allocated through the disability vote to pay staff while contact tracing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29125/20]

*239. To ask the Minister for Health the number of follow up calls made to incoming passengers on a weekly basis from 7 September 2020, in tabular form; and the number of calls which were successfully answered on a weekly basis in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [29153/20]

*240. To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 cases involved workers in food and meat processing since 14 September; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [29157/20]

*241. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) cannot get a speech and language therapy funded through the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the
To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost in a full year of each of charges (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29175/20]

To ask the Minister for Health if he has concluded discussions on the possibility of encouraging the renting out of vacant homes of persons availing of the fair deal by applying a lower rate of contribution to nursing home costs from this source or by other means; and if he has assessed the number of homes that might fall into this category. — Richard Bruton. [29176/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the charges that are made to private patients that are using public hospital facilities in either public wards, semi-private or private wards; and the proportion of beds in public hospitals for which such payments are received. — Richard Bruton. [29177/20]

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report into a service (details supplied) operations being managed by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [29191/20]

To ask the Minister for Health if the private, fee paying part of a service (details supplied) will now be managed by the HSE; if it will now become a public service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [29192/20]

To ask the Minister for Health if external services will resume for schools (details supplied) run by a religious organisation, such as speech and language therapy which ceased due to Covid-19; if so, when the services will resume; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [29198/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the timeline he is working to for the transfer of the disability budget to the Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration; the overall budget that is being transferred; the specific changes in the amounts allocated to each affected subhead of the Government estimates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [29201/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the eligibility criteria for medical cards for over 70 years of age. — Sorca Clarke. [29206/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the fulfilment of promises made in Budget 2020 to increase the medical card income threshold for persons over 70 years of age, reduce the GMS scheme prescription charge, reduce the drug payment scheme threshold, and extend free general practitioner care for all children under eight years of age; the reason for the delay; the timeline he is working toward to deliver the promises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [29210/20]

To ask the Minister for Health when he expects therapists within CHO5 that have been redeployed to work as Covid-19 testers and contact tracers, particularly those in speech and language, physiotherapy and occupational therapy to return to their expert disciplines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [29212/20]

To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE therapists within CHO5 that have been redeployed as Covid-19 testers and contact tracers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [29213/20]
*253. To ask the Minister for Health if funding is to be reinstalled to offer affordable first aid training to full-time home carers caring for persons with disabilities and special needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [29214/20]

*254. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the recent release of the National Maternity Experience Survey and in particular results that showed women experienced poorer at home care when it came to mental health particularly worrying in view of the fact that homecare supports has decreased during Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [29247/20]

*255. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurses by area in tabular form. — Gary Gannon. [29248/20]

*256. To ask the Minister for Health if public health nurses are currently active; if they have been redeployed by Covid-19 contact and tracing or if they are back within communities; and if not, if there is a date when they can be expected to return. — Gary Gannon. [29260/20]

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

*257. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 1033 of 29 September 2020, if his Department records will show that in this case the herd met the singleton protocol and the risk indicator is low to assist the herd owner to achieve the best value for their herd (details supplied). — John McGuinness. [29009/20]

*258. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 1019 of 29 September 2020, the time frame involved In completing DNA tests on animals; the date on which the tests were taken; the likely date for completion of the tests; the correlations and the registration of the animals; if his Department will offset the extra costs to the herd owner (details supplied) in view of the delay being experienced and the negative financial implications of the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [29012/20]

*259. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if small quotas of dog fish will be made available to inshore fishermen for a three-month period annually; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29013/20]

*260. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a tree felling licence will be issued to a person (details supplied) in view of the fact the application was submitted on 13 May 2020 and the delay is having a negative financial impact on the applicant; the time frame for dealing with such applications; and his plans to clear backlogs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29014/20]

*261. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on whether the EU clause contained in EU directive 2019/6 allowing a professional person or responsible persons to issue a veterinary prescription for all medicines currently classified as LM in view of the fact it helps to achieve the best outcomes for farmers, licensed merchants, coops and pharmacists while safeguarding these essential medicines; his views on the submission by an association (details supplied) to his Department; if legal opinion has been sought on the matter; if a risk analysis has been conducted by his Department; his further views on the issues relative to the directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [29024/20]
*262. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration has been given to extending consanguinity relief from 31 December 2020 to 31 December 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29034/20]

*263. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to establishing a dedicated debt mediation service for farmers in which funds are ringfenced and used to provide fair and reasonable access to mediation between financially struggling farmers and creditors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29035/20]

*264. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to introducing a voluntary individual income volatility initiative to allow farmers deposit a defined percentage of profits to a fund in a good year and withdraw funds during poor years (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29036/20]

*265. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to extending tax relief on the leasing of farmland to include agreements between parents and children that are young trained farmers up to 30 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29038/20]

*266. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to establishing a targeted annual investment allowance which would focus on smart agriculture, renewable energy equipment and climate change mitigation infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29041/20]

*267. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to fund a carbon sequestration programme similar to the agricultural sustainability support and advice programme which would offer free advice and guidance to all farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [29043/20]

*268. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of a felling licence for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [29061/20]

*269. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will engage with Kildare County Council in identifying publicly owned land banks to commence an ambitious planting initiative in County Kildare. — Catherine Murphy. [29062/20]

*270. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason a person (details supplied) received a reduced payment rate of areas of natural constraint 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [29071/20]

*271. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a farm payment will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29081/20]

*272. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a penalty points appeals mechanism outside of the courts will be put in place for fishermen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29160/20]

*273. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the standards for beef products being imported here from both inside and outside the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29241/20]
*274. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if local Co-op’s will be in a position to dispense medication to farmers as well as Vet’s to ensure that this does not become a monopoly for the Vet’s. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [29242/20]

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

*275. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to update the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878 and the associated Rules and Regulations for the Regulation of Burial Grounds 1888; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [29019/20]

*276. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of applications received from each local authority nationally under Rural Regeneration Development Funding since establishment of same in tabular form; the number of successful applications; the final amounts awarded to each local authority; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28965/20]

*277. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide a list of the broadband connection points that are now live by county; the date for each of the outstanding locations will go live by county; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29150/20]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

1. To ask the Minister for Defence when the Working Time Directive will be implemented in the Defence Forces in order to ensure safe working conditions, increased work life balance and retention. — Peadar Tóibín. [29117/20]

2. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of Defence Forces personnel with expertise in security, process development and threat intelligence assessment, seconded to the National Security Analysis Centre in view of the recognised potential and important role of the Defence Forces in the National Cyber Security Strategy as outlined in the Programme for Government. — Sorca Clarke. [28525/20]

3. To ask the Minister for Defence the proposed enlistment number for the Reserve Defence Forces for 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [29128/20]

4. To ask the Minister for Defence his views on reports that personnel are leaving the Naval Service to join the army due to issues in relation to pay and conditions; his views on the impact this will have on the Naval Service; his further views on pay levels throughout the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [29259/20]
5. To ask the Minister for Defence the way in which he plans to bridge the gap of ten years between forced early retirement on age grounds in the Defence Forces and access to the State pension. — John Lahart. [29137/20]

6. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which measures have been taken or are been taken to bring the strength of the Defence Forces, Army, Navy and Air Corps up to its optimum strength; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29112/20]

7. To ask the Minister for Defence the details of analysis his Department has carried out into the potential impact of the lack of primary radar surveillance capability here on the neutrality of Ireland; the measures he is taking to secure the necessary funding for the development of a primary radar surveillance system which was highlighted in the 2019 Update to the White Paper on Defence as contingent on additional funding becoming available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29114/20]

8. To ask the Minister for Defence the recommendations from the completed report on non-pay retention measures; and if it will be shared with the representative associations. — Peadar Tóibín. [29119/20]

9. To ask the Minister for Defence the progress that has been made to date regarding the commitment in the Programme for Government to amend the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997, to bring the Defence Forces within its scope of provisions. — Sorca Clarke. [28527/20]

10. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to take the Irish Coast Guard air rescue service back into full public ownership. — Paul Murphy. [28815/20]

11. To ask the Minister for Defence if Vote 36 of Budget 2021 regarding the Defence Forces and his Department's annual expenditure will be amended to include the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces. — Sorca Clarke. [28528/20]

12. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to expand the role of the Air Corps air ambulance service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28519/20]

13. To ask the Minister for Defence if the time limits will be waived for the award of distinguished service medals and military medals for gallantry, with a view to awarding bravery medals to the veteran members of A Company 35th Infantry Battalion that served in Jadotville almost 60 years ago; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29115/20]

14. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason the high-level plan committed to implementing the review of Technical Pay for Enlisted Personnel by 04 January 2020 has been pushed into future pay negotiations which is contrary to the agreement. — Peadar Tóibín. [29120/20]

15. To ask the Minister for Defence when the commission on Defence will be established. — Barry Cowen. [29139/20]

16. To ask the Minister for Defence his views on the issue of formal recognition of an organisation (details supplied) in order to represent the interests of Defence Forces personnel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [29109/20]
17. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason NCOs that commenced service after 1994 in the Defence Forces and that are in receipt of technical pay for specialist functions are required to retire at 50 years of age; the reason these personnel do not receive a pension until they are 60 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28222/20]

18. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans for the Commission for the Future of the Defence Forces; the person who will be on the board; if representatives of the Defence Forces personnel such as an organisation (details supplied) will be on the commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [29106/20]

19. To ask the Minister for Defence if the commission on the future of the Defence Forces has been constituted; the way in which he plans to address pay deficiencies in the Permanent Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [22242/20]

20. To ask the Minister for Defence the enrolment in the Reserve Defence Forces; the proposals for recruitment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [29127/20]

21. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to extend the supplementary pension provision to post-2013 new entrants to give them the option of a lengthy career in the Defence Forces. — John Lahart. [29138/20]

22. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of the investigation into the incident when a helicopter door fell off and landed in a school in Clondalkin in May 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [28896/20]

23. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of the review of technical pay for enlisted personnel in the Defence Forces; and when the review was originally due for completion. — Dara Calleary. [29136/20]

24. To ask the Minister for Defence if consideration will be given to granting service contract extensions up to 50 years of age for privates and corporals providing they meet all fitness and medical requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28530/20]

25. To ask the Minister for Defence the outcome of the review of mandatory retirement ages for commissioned officers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [29133/20]

26. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will remedy the breach of the European Social Charter by Ireland by allowing an association (details supplied) join a union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [28521/20]

27. To ask the Minister for Defence if a report has been completed on incentivised long service arrangements in the Defence Forces; and if so, if it will be shared with the representative associations. — Paul McAuliffe. [29143/20]

28. To ask the Minister for Defence his views on the proposal that an organisation (details supplied) joins a union as an affiliate body; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [29111/20]
29. To ask the Minister for Defence if the proposed European defence fund constitutes funding from the EU budget being spent in a manner that has military or defence implications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [29130/20]

30. To ask the Minister for Defence the details of the recommendations from the completed report on non-pay retention measures in the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [29135/20]

31. To ask the Minister for Defence the role his Department plays in national cybersecurity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [29134/20]

32. To ask the Minister for Defence the progress made regarding the establishment of a commission on the future of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28529/20]

33. To ask the Minister for Defence the value of all contracts for goods or services including drone technology purchased by the Defence Forces from Israel and Israeli based firms to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [29108/20]

34. To ask the Minister for Defence the future plans for Custume Barracks, Athlone; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28520/20]

35. To ask the Minister for Defence the additional resources that have been provided specifically to deal with increased gangland activity in view of the role of the Defence Forces in providing aid to the civil power. — Sorca Clarke. [28526/20]

36. To ask the Minister for Defence the action he will take to address the legacy of the administration of the anti-malaria drug, melfoquine lariam which has had severe side effects on serving and former members of the Defence Forces. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [28827/20]

37. To ask the Minister for Defence if adequate staff remain available to crew the various sea-going vessels and aircraft with particular reference to ensuring the availability of full-strength sea and air rescue services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29113/20]

38. To ask the Minister for Defence when will the Working Time Directive will be implemented in the Defence Forces. — Jim O'Callaghan. [29142/20]

39. To ask the Minister for Defence if pay restoration for the Defence Forces is on target to be achieved in October 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [28296/20]

40. To ask the Minister for Defence if soldiers that served the State from 1968 to 1998 will be given a medal in recognition of their loyalty and service throughout the Troubles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [22241/20]

41. To ask the Minister for Defence the way in which he plans to bridge the gap of ten years between forced early retirement on age grounds and access to the State pension. — Peadar Tóibín. [29118/20]

42. To ask the Minister for Defence if a shortage of personnel is affecting the operational efficiency of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [28522/20]
43. To ask the Minister for Defence if troops that undertook pre-deployment quarantine in Aitken Barracks, Dundalk have been paid the armed peace support allowance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairi Ó Murchú. [29132/20]

44. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason for the continued refusal to honour the heroism of members of the Defence Forces that fought at the siege of Jadotville in the service of the United Nations. — John Brady. [29078/20]

45. To ask the Minister for Defence the operations in which the Defence Forces are engaged in abroad; and the number of operations that were subject to approval by Dáil Éireann. — John Brady. [29080/20]

46. To ask the Minister for Defence his views on the proposal that an organisation (details supplied) join a union as an affiliate body; if the affiliation will be supported; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brid Smith. [29107/20]

47. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of persons recruited to the Defence Forces under the re-enlistment scheme announced in March 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brid Smith. [29105/20]

48. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans for the Commission for the Future of the Defence Forces; if representatives of an organisation (details supplied) will be on the commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [29110/20]

49. To ask the Minister for Defence the provisions in place for Defence Forces personnel that will be serving overseas with the United Nations for a minimum of six months to receive leave to return home during this time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [28897/20]

50. To ask the Minister for Defence if his attention has been drawn to an ongoing situation in the south Cork Civil Defence unit regarding treatment of staff and complaints procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [28335/20]

51. To ask the Minister for Defence if the completed report on incentivised long service arrangements will be shared with the representative associations. — Peadar Tóibín. [29121/20]