



# **DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Déardaoin, 15 Deireadh Fómhair, 2020*

*Thursday, 15th October, 2020*

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**CEISTEANNA  
QUESTIONS**



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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**

**CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH**  
**QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY**

**Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.**

1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his Department will consider the establishment of an Industrial Development Authority or similar styled body specifically to focus on microbusinesses, workers co-operatives, and small and medium sized enterprises. — Louise O'Reilly. [30000/20]

2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of his work in relation to the introduction of a statutory sick pay scheme here; the level of stakeholder engagements he has embarked on; and if he has been contacted by persons opposed to such a scheme being introduced. — Catherine Murphy. [30805/20]

3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will undertake the necessary legislative and tax changes necessary to ensure that remote working and or home working is recognised as a form of work that requires specific safeguards, protections and allowances for workers. — Louise O'Reilly. [30001/20]

4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the specific measures he will provide to small and medium enterprises and the self-employed in the event of further restrictions to combat Covid-19. — Mattie McGrath. [30838/20]

5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the measures he will take to ensure the viability of businesses and SMEs in the regions post-Brexit that will deliver a fair distribution of investment in jobs in the regions. — Marian Harkin. [30478/20]

**CEISTEANNA EILE**  
**OTHER QUESTIONS**

**Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.**

6. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is satisfied that the budget of 2021 sufficiently addresses the unemployment issues arising from Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30551/20]

7. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of a site (details supplied). — Cathal Crowe. [25953/20]

8. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the deadline for the restart grant plus can be extended past the end of September 2020; and if the extended deadline is October 2020 for bed and breakfasts is open to businesses which are not registered with Fáilte Ireland. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [25955/20]

9. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the role his Department plays in promoting disability inclusion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [30595/20]

10. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on the SME Growth Task Force and explain the long-term vision for supports for SMEs here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [30111/20]

11. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is satisfied with the level of funding allocated to his Department for its responsibilities regarding the welfare of workers such as the Health and Safety Authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30563/20]

12. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he intends taking to support trade, enterprise and employment during the current pandemic, particularly in those sectors worst hit by Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30261/20]

13. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to introduce legislation to allow for a mechanism for workers to be prioritised as creditors in the event of a liquidation in the future; if legislation that stops workers seeking redundancy in certain circumstances will be ended or extended; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [30568/20]

14. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to support indigenous industries that cannot return due to Covid-19. — Gary Gannon. [25616/20]

15. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number and value of loans that have been approved to date under the Covid-19 credit guarantee scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30094/20]

16. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his Department expects Brexit to have a disproportionate impact on employment and business in rural Ireland; the specific mitigation strategy in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30602/20]

17. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans for allowing taxi drivers and other self-employed persons access more support schemes similar to other SMEs from which they are currently excluded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [29973/20]

18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps taken to attract more foreign direct investment to Ireland post-Brexit and to increase existing investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30518/20]

19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps being taken to urgently address the crisis facing businesses and traders in Dublin city as a consequence of significantly reduced customer footfall, an absence of tourists and the operation of a remote working regime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [25954/20]

20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has had any further engagement with the workers from a company (details supplied) and their trade union representatives regarding the ongoing pursuit of the workers to receive their redundancy rights and entitlements. — Louise O'Reilly. [30364/20]

21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the newly opened Microfinance Ireland fund pursuant to the Microenterprise Loan Fund (Amendment) Act 2020; the number of applications received; the number and value of loans approved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [25976/20]

22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is satisfied that there are adequate frameworks in place to assist enterprises undertake restructuring necessitated by Covid-19 or otherwise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [29713/20]

23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps taken to support the conferencing and events industry to recover from the closure of their livelihood due to restrictions imposed due to the pandemic; and when he will announce a roadmap to recovery for the industry. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [30086/20]

24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of arms export licences granted per year since 2015; the value of licensed arms exports per year; and the breakdown of the type of arms exported and the destinations of arms exports from Ireland. — John Brady. [29079/20]

25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the level of discretion afforded to employers at the different levels of the Living with Covid-19 plan in deciding if work on site is necessary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30562/20]

26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider the establishment of a similar styled body to the Industrial Development Authority to specifically to focus on microbusinesses, workers cooperatives and small and medium sized enterprises. — Brian Stanley. [29988/20]

27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if an early warning system for large scale redundancies is in operation within his Department; and the way in which it operates. — Dara Calleary. [25949/20]

28. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will visit Ballinasloe, County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29715/20]

29. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on a report (details supplied); the analysis undertaken by his Department in relation to the disproportionate effect on levels of employment as a result of Covid-19 in the north-western region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [25980/20]

30. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the targeted policy measures being taken by his Department to help young persons secure employment or start businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [25951/20]

31. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he will take to support job creation in locations outside the cities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29718/20]

32. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a programme of financial assistance will be made available for the development of digital hubs in smaller towns to assist in job creation at local level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30590/20]

33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of HSA inspections of meat and food processing plants that have been carried out for compliance with Covid-19 regulations since March 2020; if he will provide a breakdown of these; if the workplace was compliant or not; the number that were unannounced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30093/20]

34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a grant to cover the fixed costs of enterprises that have been forced to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic will be provided. — Peadar Tóibín. [29969/20]

35. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the supports for sectors most affected by Covid-19 in particular the hospitality sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [30564/20]

36. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the reason the closing date for original restart grant was brought forward three weeks without warning; if in view of the severity of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, he will ensure that all eligible businesses will be paid both the restart grant and the restart plus grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30262/20]

37. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his attention has been drawn to the flagrant breaches of workers’ rights by a company (details supplied) in its refusal to complete employer declarations for its workers in order to access social protection payments; and if he will write to the company to request that it cease engaging in this practice of obfuscation and delay. — Louise O’Reilly. [30363/20]

38. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the credit guarantee scheme can be used for the refinancing of current term commercial loans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [29997/20]

39. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the supports his Department is providing for the SME sector through Budget 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [30592/20]

40. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to support taxi drivers. — Thomas Gould. [30553/20]

41. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he remains satisfied that Ireland remains attractive as a location for foreign direct investment; if in recent months there has been a fluctuation in Ireland's position in that regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30550/20]

42. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current economic situation and risks of further insolvencies in view of the circumstances surrounding closure of a company (details supplied); his views on the recommendations of the Duffy Cahill report; and his plans for the implementation of the recommendations of the report. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [25975/20]

43. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the mechanisms of support available to a person seeking to establish a new business. — Matt Carthy. [29980/20]

44. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his Department will carry out an immediate review of performance of all relevant State agencies under his remit in respect of the activities of each in County Kerry; if so, if consideration will be given to the outcome of such a review with a view to improving the levels of economic activity and investment in the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29604/20]

45. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to further develop remote working opportunities and improve the facilities and conditions to encourage remote working especially in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [25945/20]

46. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has discussed proposals by unions (detail supplied) to establish a fund to safeguard the redundancy entitlements of workers in the event of a liquidation. — Paul Murphy. [27550/20]

47. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the sectors of the economy his Department has identified as needing indefinite support measures. — Pa Daly. [25982/20]

48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a report on any recent engagement he has had with the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland. — James Lawless. [30599/20]

49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will intervene in the dispute of workers (details supplied). — Thomas Gould. [30552/20]

50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the Sustainable Enterprise Fund; the further considerations being given to the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [29945/20]

51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the strategy changes introduced by IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland in view of international travel restrictions as a consequence of Covid-19. — Dara Calleary. [25947/20]

52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he will take in Budget 2021 to support the small and medium enterprise sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [29721/20]

53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he will take to support job creation in regional towns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29717/20]

54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if programmes of assistance will be made available to small and medium enterprises in the Border region that will be adversely affected by Brexit and that are heavily dependent on the Northern Irish and British markets as export destinations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30591/20]

55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of Enterprise Ireland's strategy to diversify the destination for Irish exports post-Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30517/20]

56. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has made contact with a company (details supplied) and the trade unions to discuss the difficulties staff are having with the company. — Paul Murphy. [27549/20]

57. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the contacts he has had with a company (details supplied) and trade unions in relation to an ongoing dispute; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [29994/20]

58. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to establish a national agency for small businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [30101/20]

59. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans for further measures to assist the business sector negatively impacted by Covid-19, bearing in mind that the virus will remain a threat for some time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [29720/20]

60. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to support businesses following the announcement of level 3 Covid-19 restrictions in view of the fact that additional measures of support are available for counties Donegal and Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [29850/20]

61. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he is taking to replace the job losses at a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29716/20]

62. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has discussed a dispute (details supplied) with the Minister for Finance; if so, if he has discussed the proposal that the State and the Revenue Commissioners stand aside as creditors to allow the liquidators prioritise former workers in order to achieve a resolution of the dispute; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [30567/20]



63. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he will take to support existing levels of employment in regional towns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [29719/20]

64. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to encourage and support greater numbers of women entering the enterprise sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [29946/20]

65. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to make workplace outbreaks of Covid-19 notifiable by workers to the Health and Safety Authority. — Brian Stanley. [29987/20]

66. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on recent job losses (details supplied) in County Kerry; if he will consider addressing the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29605/20]

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### CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

*Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.*

\*67. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the measures he plans to introduce or that are in place to support the sectors most exposed by Brexit and workers in those sectors. — Marian Harkin. [30479/20]

\*68. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to provide specific support to the taxi industry in circumstances in which many taxi owners cannot trade and their revenue stream is depleted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [25989/20]

\*69. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the EU trade deals being negotiated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [25944/20]

\*70. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of HSA inspections of meat and food processing plants that have been carried out for compliance with Covid-19 regulations since March 2020; the locations of each; if the workplace was compliant or not; the number that were unannounced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30002/20]

\*71. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will respond positively to calls from nurses and other healthcare professionals to reinsert the requirement that infectious diseases, including Covid-19 are reported by employers to the Health and Safety Authority as infectious diseases in the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [23678/20]

\*72. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the supports he plans to provide for those working in the drinks and hospitality industry; the supports to the sector

to ensure these jobs are protected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [30136/20]

\*73. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the supports in place to help businesses that have no income to alleviate the pressures of commercial rents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [30137/20]

\*74. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the additional supports provided by his Department to Dublin businesses since the city and county entered level 3 under the living with Covid-19 framework. — Paul McAuliffe. [30597/20]

\*75. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of trade or related missions to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain since 2016 in cases in which at least one official or Minister from his Department attended. — Joe O'Brien. [30717/20]

\*76. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if friendly societies that are compelled to hold AGMs will be exempt in 2020 in view of the additional challenges of holding AGMs during the Covid-19 pandemic. — Jackie Cahill. [30729/20]

\*77. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a list of all commercial semi-State bodies, including a complete list of any of their subsidiaries, in which the imposition of a pension abatement is not a feature of a contract for retired public servants; if he will provide a list of any other State, or semi-State, or publicly funded body or company or group, either in part or wholly, in which the imposition of a pension abatement is not a feature of a contract for retired public servants; and if a company (details supplied) is a private enterprise or is it a public enterprise to the point to which it would be required to impose a pension abatement if a retired public servant were to apply to them for employment. — Sean Sherlock. [30799/20]

\*78. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on establishing a dedicated service for employees to anonymously report employers that are unnecessarily requiring them to physically attend work or operate against Covid-19 guidelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30865/20]

\*79. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to identify and make provision for a fallout from Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30871/20]

\*80. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which the State is experiencing increasing competition for foreign direct investment; the degree to which the State continues to achieve in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30872/20]

\*81. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to make provision to ensure a fair and competitive position for the State in the aftermath of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30873/20]

\*82. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which his Department expects to combat the negative aspects of Covid-19 in the year ahead with particular reference to maintaining the highest possible levels of activity in the areas of trade,

enterprise and employment; the extent to which he expects to achieve success in respect of each; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30874/20]

\*83. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he foresees the availability of sufficient resources to ensure adequate investment and activity in both the manufacturing and services sectors; the extent to which investment has fluctuated in each in the past twelve months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30875/20]

\*84. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to make provision for alternative routes to their markets for exporters here in the aftermath of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30876/20]

\*85. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which industry and trade here have made sufficient and adequate provision to meet the challenges arising from Brexit and Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30877/20]

\*86. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to encourage new, indigenous and foreign direct investment in all regions here thereby addressing particular economic issues that may arise or have arisen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30878/20]

\*87. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the ten countries with which the State continues to have the most trade in terms of imports and exports; the opportunities that might arise in these areas in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30879/20]

\*88. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the job creation in both the services and manufacturing sectors here in the past five years, respectively; his views on that which the future holds for these prospects over the next five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30881/20]

\*89. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department have evaluated increased costs to industry here that might impact on job creation in the coming year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30882/20]

\*90. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the extent to which women continue to head up new enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30883/20]

\*91. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of new enterprises in both manufacturing and services sectors in which a woman is chief executive; the extent to which this number has fluctuated in the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30884/20]

\*92. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent of job creation arising from indigenous investment and foreign direct investment in County Kildare in the

past five years; the prospects for the future in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30885/20]

\*93. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of people employed in the manufacturing and servicing sectors in County Kildare, respectively; the degree to which this number has fluctuated in the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30886/20]

\*94. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the level of IDA sponsored investment in western areas of County Meath in the period 2015 to 2019 inclusive on a yearly basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [30891/20]

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

\*95. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to introduce a waste waiver for persons and families with disabilities. — Sean Sherlock. [30649/20]

\*96. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the date on which high-speed broadband will be facilitated in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30716/20]

\*97. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the options available to a person (details supplied) whose internet provider is providing an inadequate service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [30753/20]

\*98. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the date on which the home of a person (details supplied) will be connected to high speed broadband under the National Broadband Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30775/20]

\*99. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if he will address matters raised in correspondence (details supplied) in relation to broadband issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergal O'Dowd. [30794/20]

\*100. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications if he will defer the community contribution required under the just transition fund in view of the difficulty for communities to fundraise during Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30796/20]

\*101. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 191 of 6 October 2020, if he will provide a breakdown of the over 8,000 homes on the scheme waiting list by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [30843/20]

\*102. To ask the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30896/20]

*Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.*

\*103. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to introduce specific supports for travel agencies operating through Covid-19 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [25988/20]

\*104. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason a company (details supplied) is using the airfield in Abbeyshrule, County Longford to train pilots. — Sorca Clarke. [30638/20]

\*105. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of projects (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [30657/20]

\*106. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on persons that booked flights to non-green list countries with airlines that will not refund them or offer credit for these flights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [30659/20]

\*107. To ask the Minister for Transport if a person (details supplied) will be called for a driving test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30707/20]

\*108. To ask the Minister for Transport if a clear face visor will be supplied to driving test applicants at driving test centres as an alternative in cases in which cloth face masks are not suitable for applicants with conditions such as anxiety and breathing difficulties (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [30708/20]

\*109. To ask the Minister for Transport if a person (details supplied) will be called for a driving test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30710/20]

\*110. To ask the Minister for Transport if an Irish Rail district engineer in Limerick Junction will review line speed on the Ballybrophy to Limerick line in view of the fact that a continuous welded rail track is now in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30730/20]

\*111. To ask the Minister for Transport if an additional midday service on the Ballybrophy to Limerick rail line will be considered in addition to the morning and evening trains; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30731/20]

\*112. To ask the Minister for Transport if an Irish Rail regional line manager for the Ballybrophy to Limerick rail line will be appointed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30732/20]

\*113. To ask the Minister for Transport if an extension for driver licences that have expired since 1 September 2020 will be considered in view of the appointment backlog. — Cathal Crowe. [30762/20]

\*114. To ask the Minister for Transport the national roads that have been selected to go ahead in the national plan; and the roads that have been deselected from the national plan. — Michael Ring. [30780/20]

\*115. To ask the Minister for Transport the supports he plans to put in place for the licensed limousine sector in view of the medium-term outlook for the sector due to Covid-19 and its effect

on the limousine trade (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30823/20]

\*116. To ask the Minister for Transport if a driver test will be expedited for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30868/20]

\*117. To ask the Minister for Transport the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30908/20]

*Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.*

\*118. To ask the Minister for Finance if he plans a reduction in the VAT rate to 9% for the restaurant, café and pub sectors. — Peadar Tóibín. [29970/20]

\*119. To ask the Minister for Finance if applications are being assessed for primary medical certificates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [30795/20]

\*120. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to a request made by an association (details supplied) that employers would provide the €3.20 a day to cover the additional costs of working from home such as heat, light and electricity which is the same level of payment as the tax-free allowance the Revenue Commissioners provide; if he will consider same in view of the huge number of persons working from home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [30802/20]

\*121. To ask the Minister for Finance when applications for primary medical certificates will recommence; the reason same ceased; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [30857/20]

\*122. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason the disabled drivers' scheme has been suspended for new applicants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [30867/20]

\*123. To ask the Minister for Finance if, in the context of discussions on taxation at European level, due regard has been given for the peripheral geographic locations here in respect of the rest of Europe in the context of international trade and costs for industry here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30880/20]

\*124. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the fact that persons with type one diabetes are being turned down for life insurance and mortgages due to the Covid-19 crisis; and the steps he will take to assist these affected persons. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [30760/20]

\*125. To ask the Minister for Finance if in his engagement with the banks regarding payment breaks, the issue of borrows repaying interest only was raised; his views on the merit to the proposition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30787/20]

\*126. To ask the Minister for Finance if a new company is eligible for the employment wage subsidy scheme if the previous company was availing of the scheme in cases in which the trading operations of a company change from one company to another. — Joan Collins. [30791/20]

\*127. To ask the Minister for Finance if the issues relative to the land title in the name of a person (detail supplied) have been resolved; if the documents submitted in June 2020 to the stamps office will be processed without delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [30797/20]

\*128. To ask the Minister for Finance if the recommendations of the CCPC report PCP Car Finance Market in 2018 are being progressed (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [30800/20]

\*129. To ask the Minister for Finance if a bank (details supplied) has been awarded State contracts in each of the years 2016 to 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30814/20]

\*130. To ask the Minister for Finance outcome of his recent meeting with a bank (details supplied) in particular the outcome of his conversation with the bank in relation to the recent statement by its parent company that it was reviewing the position of the bank in the market here; if he has seen the terms of reference for the review; and if he has further meetings planned. — Ged Nash. [30815/20]

\*131. To ask the Minister for Finance if the Central Bank plans to update the code of practice governing bank branch closures (details supplied) that would ensure that at a minimum an impact assessment is carried out that would include among other things extending the notice period of branch closures to six months and inserting a 12 month notice of closure for a branch that is the last branch in a particular area. — Ged Nash. [30816/20]

\*132. To ask the Minister for Finance if the recent actions of a bank (details supplied) in closing four branches are in compliance with article 3.12 of the consumer protection code 2012; his views that the consumer protection code should be updated to protect staff and consumers that rely on branch banking including consumers in areas with poor broadband connectivity. — Ged Nash. [30817/20]

\*133. To ask the Minister for Finance the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30897/20]

\*134. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of the stay and spend scheme; if the effectiveness of it has been assessed to date; if he will seek an extension of the scheme beyond April 2021 in view of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions; if the Revenue Commissioners have provided feedback on the scheme to him; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [30617/20]

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

\*135. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the procedure for a public servant that has to travel abroad for an essential health procedure and must self-isolate on return here; and if this person must claim sick pay or use holiday pay on their return. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30771/20]

\*136. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the Commissioner for Environmental Information sought an order for costs in respect of cases (details supplied) in cases in which it either succeeded or the other party withdrew the appeal; if an order for costs was

granted, the amount of legal costs recovered in each case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [30806/20]

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

\*137. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her plans to introduce specific grants and supports for the live events section of the economy (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [25985/20]

\*138. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the restrictions that apply to yoga studios, dance classes and stage schools in view of level three Covid-19 restrictions. — Sorca Clarke. [30634/20]

\*139. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if support will be provided to a leisure facility (details supplied); the supports open to this facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [30653/20]

\*140. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the date on which a freedom of information request (details supplied) sent to her Department on 2 September 2020 will be replied to; the reason for the delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30807/20]

\*141. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the date on which the next round of the sports capital programme will open for applications; the budget of same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30808/20]

\*142. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if Covid-19 grant assistance is available for a group (details supplied) in County Limerick; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [30839/20]

\*143. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason restaurants that do not sell alcohol have been excluded from the Covid-19 Adaption Fund; her plans to open the Fund up to these restaurants; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [30846/20]

\*144. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the level to which boxing clubs can operate under Covid-19 restrictions; the engagement she has had with an organisation (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30859/20]

\*145. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if additional supports and resources will be provided for Foras na Gaeilge, Údarás na Gaeltachta, TG4 and Raidió Rí-Rá in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [30870/20]

\*146. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by her Department or agencies under the remit of her Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30907/20]



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

\*147. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider issues raised in correspondence from a local authority (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30655/20]

\*148. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the date on which the towns first strategy will be published; if consultation will be involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [30713/20]

\*149. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the increasing number of homes impacted by defective building materials in County Clare; if he will consider expanding the pyrite and mica scheme to County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [30728/20]

\*150. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to suspend or extend the county development plan preparation and consultation processes in view of the restriction on public gatherings as a consequence of Covid-19. — Dara Calleary. [30763/20]

\*151. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the legal ownership of open green areas in estates that have been taken over by a respective local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30820/20]

\*152. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will advise on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30847/20]

\*153. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the date on which funding will be made available to a county council (details supplied) that applied for funding to deal with waste water treatment plants in housing estates to allow it to take these estates in charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30848/20]

\*154. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30901/20]

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

\*155. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain; his plans to raise these issues as part of membership of the UN Security Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe O'Brien. [30718/20]

\*156. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the increase in demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures in the West Bank (details supplied); the response of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30754/20]

\*157. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to a school in Ras Al Tin near Ramallah (details supplied) that is at risk of imminent demolition; the steps his Department has taken to prevent the demolition of the school and other schools and structures in

the West Bank; and the steps his Department has taken to secure compensation for demolished or seized aid. — Patrick Costello. [30755/20]

\*158. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of members on the election observation roster; the steps taken to establish the number of roster members able and willing to volunteer for overseas election observation missions in view of the Covid-19 pandemic; if he will make temporary additions to the roster by the appointment of experienced observers in order to ensure Ireland is in a position to make a meaningful contribution to international election observation missions as they arise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30840/20]

*Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.*

\*159. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of persons employed by his Department that are in receipt of the working family payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [30645/20]

\*160. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of career break applications in the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps in each of the years 2016 to 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of career breaks granted in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30695/20]

\*161. To ask the Minister for Defence the cost of increasing military service allowances by 10%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30696/20]

\*162. To ask the Minister for Defence the cost of increasing technical pay by 10%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30697/20]

\*163. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of discharges being processed and or pending from the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30698/20]

\*164. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to provide employment protection legislation for reservists to allow for the undertaking of courses, exercises or other activities within the Defence Forces; the cost of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30699/20]

\*165. To ask the Minister for Defence the cost implications of excluding wages paid to reservists from income tax for 2019 and 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30700/20]

\*166. To ask the Minister for Defence the cost of establishing two Naval Service crews for each ship; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30701/20]

\*167. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to modernise the public sector Circular 51 of 1978 that provides reservists leave for training with the Defence Forces but does not provide cover for other situations such as aid to civil power; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30702/20]

\*168. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to invest in accommodation to be provided to military families to ease the financial burdens on them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30703/20]

\*169. To ask the Minister for Defence the strength of the Defence Forces and Reserve Defence Forces CIS units; the established strength of each; his plans to enhance cyber security protections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30704/20]

\*170. To ask the Minister for Defence if all members of the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps are provided with a Defence Forces email address upon joining to facilitate easier communication throughout the organisation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30705/20]

\*171. To ask the Minister for Defence the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30894/20]

*Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.*

\*172. To ask the Minister for Education the progress made in relation to a report (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [30821/20]

\*173. To ask the Minister for Education the number of pupils in primary schools in the Malahide, Portmarnock and Kinsealy areas; the number of pupils in post-primary schools in the same areas; her plans to expand the number of primary and post-primary places; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe O'Brien. [30651/20]

\*174. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a new building for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [30665/20]

\*175. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [30666/20]

\*176. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a new building for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [30667/20]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to ensure that the staff numbers for a school (details supplied) in County Cork will not be reduced in view of a marginal and temporary decline in enrolment numbers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [30670/20]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Education if she will address matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); her plans to change the home tuition scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [30688/20]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Education the date on which a reply will issue to correspondence (details supplied); the reason for the delay in same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30720/20]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Education the number of leaving certificate students in 2020 that received results downgrades from their teacher-predicted grades through the standardisation process in two, three, four, five, six and seven subjects respectively, in view of the upward revision of the grades of 6,100 leaving certificate students after coding mistakes were found in the calculated grades process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30734/20]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Education the number of teacher-predicted leaving certificate grades that were downgraded in the standardisation process by more than 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 percentage points respectively, in view of the upward revision of the grades of 6,100 leaving certificate students after coding mistakes were found in the calculated grades process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30735/20]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Education the analysis her Department has carried out into the number of leaving certificate 2020 students that have lost out on third-level places due to the issuing in error of almost 15,000 grades of which 8,000 were higher than they were supposed to be; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30736/20]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Education the gender breakdown of the 7,943 students that received higher leaving certificate grades than they should have as a result of coding errors in the calculated grades process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30737/20]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Education the number of the 6,100 students awarded improved leaving certificate grades as a result of the review of the calculated grades system that received improved grades in one, two, three, four, five, six and seven subjects; the gender breakdown of same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30738/20]

\*185. To ask the Minister for Education the analysis carried out by her Department that the junior cycle class weighting system used in the leaving certificate 2020 calculated grades process constitutes a form of school profiling; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30739/20]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Education the number of leaving certificate students in 2020 that received results upgrades from their teacher-predicted grades through the standardisation process in two, three, four, five, six and seven subjects respectively in view of the upward revision of the grades of 6,100 leaving certificate students after coding mistakes were found in the calculated grades process; the gender breakdown of same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30740/20]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Education if remedial teachers are included as part of the overall teacher numbers in schools for calculating the pupil-teacher ratio (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30741/20]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking to avert strike action by school secretaries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30742/20]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the increased broadband needs at schools arising from Covid-19; if she will put forward plans for upgrading the broadband and HEANET capacity at (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [30743/20]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 459 of 29 September 2020, the way in which she expects schools to be able to continue to pay the wages of secretaries and caretakers that were increased between 2016 and 2019; if she is withdrawing the financial support that made the increases possible; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30751/20]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Education if the Teaching Council will allow the registration of a person (details supplied) to proceed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [30758/20]

\*192. To ask the Minister for Education if she will respond to an application submitted to her Department by a school (details supplied); if she will engage with the schools to bring about the best outcome for the school community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [30769/20]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Education if a reply will issue to a query from a person (details supplied). — Michael Ring. [30772/20]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Education if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed; the status of the application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [30784/20]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to reduce class sizes as outlined in the Programme for Government; and if there are additional allocations in Budget 2021 to progress the reduction of class sizes. — Joe O'Brien. [30809/20]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to invest in special needs assistants as committed to in the Programme for Government; and if there have been allocations in Budget 2021 to progress this aim. — Joe O'Brien. [30810/20]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to increase the capacity of the NEPS; and if there were additional allocations in Budget 2021 to progress same. — Joe O'Brien. [30812/20]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to ensure that all primary school children have adequate IT access in order that they can avail of home based or blended learning should the Covid-19 pandemic require a further closure of schools. — Joe O'Brien. [30813/20]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Education the educational provision available for a person (details supplied); and her plans to make additional specialist placements available at their school. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [30825/20]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Education if school transport will be provided in an area for persons (details supplied); her plans to provide a direct service from the general location of the homes of the persons; the reason this transport issue has not been resolved; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [30826/20]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Education the number of applicants for the school bus transport scheme for the academic years 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, by the categories of concessionary and eligible. — Darren O'Rourke. [30844/20]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Education the measures being examined to improve pay and conditions for school secretaries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [30855/20]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Education if further consideration will be given to the issues raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30861/20]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Education if children and young persons with underlying health conditions that make them vulnerable to Covid-19 are allowed to participate in school remotely and are exempt from physical attendance rules; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30866/20]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Education the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by her Department or agencies under the remit of her Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30895/20]

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

\*206. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) cannot avail of the back to education scheme. — Sorca Clarke. [30643/20]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons employed by the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Defence that are in receipt of the working family payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [30647/20]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the removal of the age of 67 from receipt of the payment from the Social Welfare and Pensions Act. — Catherine Murphy. [30652/20]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to extend farm relief for farmers over 66 years of age in view of the fact that the pension age will increase to 67 in January 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [30656/20]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the policy in relation to welfare payments for persons with no fixed abode; if claimants are permitted to use An Post's Address Point as an address; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [30668/20]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the criteria for invalidity pension payments will be examined; and if the introduction of a measure that will allow recipients of invalidity pension to work up to 10 hours per week while in receipt of the full payment will be examined (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [30690/20]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an oral hearing can be facilitated in the case of a person (details supplied) in respect of a carer's allowance appeal overpayment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30709/20]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the way in which JobPath is operating in the context of Covid-19 restrictions; the number of persons referred to the scheme since 1 March 2020 to date in October 2020, by service provider and location. — Catherine Murphy. [30745/20]

\*214. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if persons that lose their employment due to Covid-19 continue in educational placements with the Covid-19 pandemic unemployment payment. — Sean Sherlock. [30749/20]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a community employment scheme will be extended for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30750/20]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will address matters raised in correspondence (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [30766/20]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the date on which the increase of the State pension to 67 years of age will be removed from the Social Welfare and Pensions Act; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30792/20]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has received the report carried out by external consultants to review all current contracted public employment services; when the report will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [30801/20]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the date on which a decision will be made in relation to an application made by workers of a company (details supplied) for casual docket jobseekers while they were in receipt of temporary wage subsidy scheme support; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30819/20]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to amend the law to allow persons that are on the pandemic unemployment payment and likely to be so for some time to retain their pandemic unemployment payments while attending a one year post-leaving certificate or university course to improve their employability or to retrain; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30822/20]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) in County Cork who is receiving the pandemic unemployment payment no longer qualifies for fuel allowance in view of the fact that they had been in receipt of fuel allowance in advance of their pandemic unemployment payment award. — Sean Sherlock. [30860/20]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by her Department or agencies under the remit of her Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30905/20]

*Chun an Aire Leanaí, Míchumais, Comhionannais agus Lánpháirtíochta: To the Minister for Children, Disability; Equality and Integration.*

\*223. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the reason community employment scheme income is assessed as reckonable income when calculating childcare fees. — Sorca Clarke. [30642/20]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the steps being taken to monitor and screen for child trafficking victims in foster care or vulnerable situations that may be more easily recruited into exploitative situations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30724/20]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration his plans to honour the Workplace Relations Commission recommendation regarding the pay claim of the county childcare committees' coordinators in Budget 2021. — Sorca Clarke. [30636/20]

\*226. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if a group can be considered a youth work organisation under the terms of a plan (details supplied) and be approved

to operate under the pandemic related restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30744/20]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if his Department will revisit a decision not to grant a CEC payment for a person (details supplied) on a community employment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30748/20]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration if his attention has been drawn to the staffing crisis in the early years sector in County Meath; the steps he is taking to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [30845/20]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration further to Parliamentary Question No. 792 of 8 September 2020, the reason his answer included the standard of one family place per 10,000 women when this is not the standard used in the Istanbul Convention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30864/20]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30893/20]

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

\*231. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30712/20]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason a person (details supplied) was offered a place in youthreach in Limerick to complete their leaving certificate but refused a place thereafter; if this decision will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30764/20]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if additional supports will be made available to college students that have paid full college fees but are advised to remain home under Covid-19 guidelines; if supports will be made available for students that have paid accommodation fees up front; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [30793/20]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30899/20]

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

\*235. To ask the Minister for Justice if funding will be provided for parents that have to take time off work without pay to take care of children that are sick in particular due to Covid-19 when families have to isolate; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [30788/20]



\*236. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to reconsider Operation Fanacht and Garda checkpoints in view of the disruption to persons commuting to and from work. — Sorca Clarke. [30648/20]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to support small and medium businesses that cannot trade due to Covid-19 and that are unable to meet their rental liability on their premises; her plans to introduce a pause on commercial rents; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [30660/20]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Justice the average waiting times for the processing of visa applications; if the waiting times have increased during the Covid-19 pandemic; the measures that will be taken to increase staff numbers in her Department to bring waiting times down; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [30669/20]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Justice the steps she is taking to review and introduce further regulations to protect workers in the fishing sector in view of an organisation (details supplied) grading the Government an F for the third year running for failing to protect workers in the fishing industry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30721/20]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to review regulations to protect potential trafficking victims in the fishing sector in view of the downgrading of Ireland to a tier two watch list country for not doing enough to combat trafficking; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30722/20]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress made to improve access to supports for victims of human trafficking; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30723/20]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Justice the timeline for delivering the ability to apply for driver licences and bank accounts for persons resident in direct provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30725/20]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Justice the status of the Consultative Council on Penal Policy in particular its membership and its work; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30726/20]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Justice the legal aid fees paid to solicitors and barristers in each District Court and Circuit Court area; the reason for the delay in the payment of fees from the time that the application is made for payment of fees to the date that same are paid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30776/20]

\*245. To ask the Minister for Justice her views on investing €1.5 million in an assistive technology passport in Budget 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30863/20]

\*246. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Dlí agus Cirt an bhfuil aon rún aici an dlí a athrú de bharr breithiúnas cúirte a rialaigh nach raibh cumhacht ag na Cúirteanna Dúiche ordú a thabhairt chun ordú athshealbhaite ar shealúchas a chur i bhfeidhm; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30869/20]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Justice the date on which it will be possible to obtain information in respect of the residency status of a person (details supplied) with particular reference to the length of time that they have been in the immigration system; if it is in the interest of transparency and due

process not to give information on their position within the system in view of the difficulty of some persons such as refugees or asylum seekers to source legal advice and in cases of their difficulty with the language if their case might be responded to in order that factual information will emerge at a time of noticeable increase in human trafficking; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30887/20]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Justice if a transfer to the international protection accommodation services will be accommodated in the case of a person (details supplied); if the case will be expedited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30888/20]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of an application for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30889/20]

\*250. To ask the Minister for Justice if a stamp 4 will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); if so, the date on which same will issue; if the process will be expedited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30890/20]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Justice the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by her Department or agencies under the remit of her Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30902/20]

*Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.*

\*252. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a charge (details supplied); his plans to review this charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [30781/20]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Health the reason in-person speech and language therapy sessions have not been provided to a person (details supplied) since February 2020; and the reason the person has not been transferred to a primary care centre in which speech and language sessions have been taking place during the same period. — Sorca Clarke. [30637/20]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Health if clarity will be provided on a statutory instrument (details supplied) as it relates to yoga and pilates studios. — Sorca Clarke. [30639/20]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to offer screening appointments at the mobile breast screening unit at a care centre (details supplied). — Sorca Clarke. [30640/20]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a business (details supplied) was not closed for deep cleaning following five confirmed cases of Covid-19 there. — Sorca Clarke. [30641/20]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE waited 13 days to inform the manager of a centre (details supplied) following a suspected Covid-19 case that the other members of a class at the centre needed to isolate for 14 days from the day of contact; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [30644/20]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a home (details supplied); when the home will be open; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [30650/20]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Health if he will request the NRDO to report on its initiatives for the treatment and provisions of supports through the HSE to persons that have EDS; the initiatives planned by the NRDO to provide treatment through the HSE for EDS; if the NDRO plans to provide financial support for persons that need treatment for EDS to travel abroad for treatment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30654/20]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Health if personal care or home help will be provided to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30671/20]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter regarding Covid-19 contact tracing (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30693/20]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved consultant posts in the health service; the number of vacant approved posts; the number of recommended consultant posts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30694/20]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Health the status of an operation for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30711/20]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied) regarding special needs day-care service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30715/20]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [30733/20]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Health the status of an application for a long stay bed for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30746/20]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that dental practices are not facilitating appointments for medical card holders; the steps he is taking to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [30752/20]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Health the status of residential care for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [30756/20]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Health the status of an appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30757/20]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons from County Laois waiting on HSE cataract procedures and hip surgery; the waiting times for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [30759/20]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Health the date on which the cardiac rehab services will resume at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny; and if same will be expedited. — John McGuinness. [30761/20]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to carry out research as to the reason Covid-19 infection rates are higher in poorer areas of the greater Dublin area. — Joe O'Brien. [30765/20]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to a delay in supposed weekly Covid-19 testing in meat plants in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [30767/20]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests carried out in meat plants for the past two months by week and county in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [30768/20]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review the decision of the HSE to not grant maximum financial assistance to a person (details supplied); if the financial assistance will be backdated to the date on which they became resident of the nursing home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [30774/20]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Health the funding for each of the cancer centres under the National Cancer Control Programme 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. [30777/20]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Health the posts funded by the National Cancer Control Programme in each cancer centre; the year in which funding began for each post; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30778/20]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Health if additional funding will be provided to enable the HSE to directly employ a general practitioner at a health centre (details supplied). — Pa Daly. [30785/20]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons from Ireland that received treatment under the Cross Border Directive in Northern Ireland; the number of persons from Northern Ireland that received treatment in Ireland under the Cross Border Directive since 2015; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30786/20]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Health if a mechanism in which families that are forced to go private for assessments and occupational therapy due to significant delays in the public system can claim money spent back will be introduced. — Sean Sherlock. [30789/20]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Health the average cost per child of assessment of need. — Sean Sherlock. [30790/20]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Health when normal respite services will resume in a facility in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30803/20]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Health if a notice has issued on the eTenders website in respect of the tender issued for the building of a second Waterford cath lab; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [30811/20]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Health if banks will be added to the list of workplaces in which the wearing of face masks is mandatory (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30818/20]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Health the arrangements that have been made to move patients with suspected Covid-19 from islands in order to cause minimum risk of infecting others; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30824/20]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Health the contacts he and his Department have had with the private hospital association since he took office (details supplied). — Alan Kelly. [30827/20]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Health if surgery will be expedited for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [30842/20]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Health the date on which a person (details supplied) will receive a hospital appointment. — Darren O'Rourke. [30849/20]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Health if a mental health unit for children and young adults will be provided for Counties Wexford and Waterford (details supplied); the number of adolescent mental health units in operation Counties Wexford and Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [30850/20]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Health the options available for a British pensioner here to access the cross-border treatment directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [30851/20]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to introduce free GP care for children under 12 years of age; and the timeline for the phased roll out of same. — Emer Higgins. [30853/20]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Health the governance the National Cancer Control Programme 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. [30856/20]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a number of dental practices have made a decision to not provide treatment to medical card holders (details supplied); the steps he will take to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [30858/20]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Health if yoga and pilates are included within the statutory definitions of SI No. 347 of 2020 Health Act 1947 (Section 31A - Temporary Restrictions) (Covid-19) (No. 4) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 as they meet the requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30862/20]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Health the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30900/20]

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

\*296. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans for the development of the wool industry in line with the Programme for Government commitment; if he will consider supporting a scouring plant for wool which is presently exported to the UK for this process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [25986/20]

\*297. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to support the potential of the wool industry to develop projects and increase the return to farmers and create jobs in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [25987/20]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the early retirement scheme will be provided to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30673/20]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on the reports of widespread abuse of workers' rights and terms and conditions in the fishing industry; the steps he will take to deal with same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30727/20]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a 2015 and 2016 area of natural constraints payment will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30747/20]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of an application for forestry approval by a person (details supplied). — Michael Ring. [30773/20]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if documentation submitted by a person (details supplied) showing grazing rights for a 2020 basic payment scheme will be accepted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30782/20]

\*303. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 319 of 8 October 2020, the location of a review (details supplied); and if a copy of the review will be provided. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [30783/20]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he was consulted by an organisation (details supplied); if he or his predecessors were consulted; the full cost of the rebrand; if he will provide details of the consultancy firm that carried out the rebrand; the reason for the rebrand; if funds granted from his Department were used for the rebrand; and if so, the amount used. — Catherine Murphy. [30798/20]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the cost of the Review of Approval Processes for Afforestation in Ireland; if this was co-funded by third parties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30854/20]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by his Department or agencies under the remit of his Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30892/20]

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

\*307. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if an appeal (details supplied) will be considered; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [30719/20]

\*308. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the value of regional aid granted under the regional aid guidelines granted by her Department or agencies under the remit of her Department in each of the past seven years; the value by county or lowest possible NUTS level over the period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [30904/20]

