



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Máirt, 15 Nollaig, 2020
Tuesday, 15th December, 2020

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

1. To ask the Taoiseach the progress of his plans for a high-level review of the economy to be led by his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [41491/20]
2. To ask the Taoiseach the progress of his plans for a high-level review of the economy to be led by his Department. — Paul Murphy. [43141/20]
3. To ask the Taoiseach if his Department has convened the well-being expert group as committed to in the Programme for Government. — Paul Murphy. [43143/20]
4. To ask the Taoiseach the progress of his plans for a high-level review of the economy to be led by his Department. — Alan Kelly. [43179/20]
5. To ask the Taoiseach the progress of his plans for a high-level review of the economy to be led by his Department. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43544/20]
6. To ask the Taoiseach the progress of his plans for a high-level review of the economy to be led by his Department. — Mick Barry. [43555/20]
7. To ask the Taoiseach if he will consider a review of the appraisal processes used in decision making to ensure better balanced regional development and greater transparency across the appraisal and decision-making process. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [41617/20]
8. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the economic division of his Department. — Alan Kelly. [41651/20]
9. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the establishment of the high-level task force on Covid-19 vaccination. — Alan Kelly. [41648/20]
10. To ask the Taoiseach the person or body that represented his Department at the first meeting of the high-level taskforce on Covid-19 vaccination. — Paul Murphy. [41722/20]
11. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the High-Level Task Force on Covid-19 Vaccination which includes representatives from his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43140/20]
12. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the establishment of the high-level task force on Covid-19 vaccination. — Mick Barry. [43556/20]

13. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee dealing with housing will next meet. — Alan Kelly. [41650/20]

14. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee dealing with housing will next meet. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43542/20]

15. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet committee dealing with housing will next meet. — Mick Barry. [43557/20]

16. 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. [41652/20]

17. To ask the Taoiseach the role of the social policy unit in his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [41797/20]

18. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of public service, justice and policing reform division of his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43138/20]

19. 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. [43543/20]

20. To ask the Taoiseach the details of his engagements with the UK Prime Minister on the shared island unit and the commitments made. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [41790/20]

21. To ask the Taoiseach if the shared island unit in his Department will conduct an economic appraisal to ascertain the benefits and challenges that a united Ireland will present. — Matt Carthy. [42652/20]

22. To ask the Taoiseach the infrastructure projects that will be prioritised under the shared island fund in his Department. — Neale Richmond. [43144/20]

23. To ask the Taoiseach the next steps to engage young persons in the shared island dialogue in his Department. — Neale Richmond. [43145/20]

24. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent phone call with the UK Prime Minister. — Mary Lou McDonald. [41795/20]

25. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent phone call with the UK Prime Minister. — Alan Kelly. [43180/20]

26. To ask the Taoiseach if he has read the recent NESC publication entitled The Position of the Self-Employed. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [42006/20]

27. To ask the Taoiseach if he has read the recent NESC publication entitled Housing Policy: Actions to Deliver Change. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [42007/20]

28. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of staff in his Department on the antiviral social media campaign. — Paul Murphy. [42052/20]

29. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the European Council meeting. — Cian O'Callaghan. [42537/20]

30. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his attendance at the European Council meeting of 10 and 11 December 2020. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43541/20]

31. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his attendance at the European Council. — Alan Kelly. [43548/20]

32. To ask the Taoiseach further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 9 to 11 of 9 December 2020, if he will report on any other consultancy work that has been commissioned by his Department. — Alan Kelly. [43178/20]

33. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his dialogue and meetings with faith leaders. — Peadar Tóibín. [43328/20]

34. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his most recent dialogues with the Government in the USA and President Donald Trump. — Peadar Tóibín. [43329/20]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

35. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if all public institutes of higher education have now agreed to provide refunds for unused accommodation; the actions his Department has taken to help students again battling with private accommodation providers for refunds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43159/20]

36. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the fact that circa €1.7 billion has been spent in the university sector and that less than 1% has been delivered to the south-east which accounts for 10% of the student population; if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that the south-east has experienced a pronounced decline in that period; if he is satisfied with the current capital allocations process; his plans going forward to manage the process ensuring that it is delivering fair and equitable direct value equally to the regions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [43567/20]

37. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the €250 will be extended to include all students in full-time third-level education; the way in which students in final year who have already paid their fees can avail of the support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43160/20]

38. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the provision being made for third-level students who paid accommodation fees before the announcement was made that the colleges would not reopen in view of the fact many have not been refunded the accommodation fees paid up to Christmas 2020; the advice for third-level students for the 2021-2022 semester in relation to paying for accommodation up to summer 2021; if students will be refunded if colleges do not reopen for on campus lectures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [43551/20]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

39. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the €50 million scheme that grants €250 to Irish and EU higher-level students studying in Ireland who have been impacted by Covid-19 which excludes Irish students studying in other EU jurisdictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [40234/20]

40. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to develop an action plan for education but with specific reference to his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43150/20]

41. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the work of the European Commission and the consultants appointed by the Directorate-General for Structural Reform that are aiming to investigate methods of increasing the sustainability of higher and further education provision in Ireland. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [41757/20]

42. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to address the proliferation of precarious and unpaid work in the academic sector as highlighted in a recent report (details supplied); if his attention has been drawn to the fact that some postgraduate students in a university were expected to teach as part of their postgraduate studies with no remuneration; his plans to address this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [41673/20]

43. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the way in which the new Munster Technological University will benefit the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43310/20]

44. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the practice of postgraduate students being expected to do unpaid teaching hours. — Paul Murphy. [41659/20]

45. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the estimated number of academic and apprentice graduates expected to be available for employment on an annual basis over the next five years; the degree to which these numbers can increase in line with demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43198/20]

46. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which the number of graduates specialising in innovation, research and science is likely to increase on an annual basis in the future with particular reference to increased skills in their respective areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43199/20]

47. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on whether third-level fees should be reduced to reflect the reality of students not physically attending college in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [41645/20]

48. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has met with NPHEET regarding the way to manage the return to campus-based learning in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [41674/20]

49. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures he has taken to urge universities to compensate postgraduate students for the move to online teaching and the much reduced student experience promised in their prospectus and marketing campaigns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43162/20]

50. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 177 and 178 of 11 November 2020 and 663 of 24 November 2020, if he has requested a copy of the report from the University of Limerick; if he has requested a copy of the high level outcomes and recommendations from the report; his views on the recommendations of the report; the action he plans to take in response to the findings of the report; if the outcomes of the review have now been shared with the Higher Education Authority; if so, the response of the Authority to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43312/20]

51. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason post-leaving certificate students do not qualify for the €250 additional payment in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43153/20]

52. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the development of the Munster Technological University; his views on the areas in which technological universities will fit in the further and higher education landscape in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43219/20]

53. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to review the administration of the SUSI grant system to ensure the criteria used in allocating grants is fit for purpose in ensuring vulnerable low income students can avail of proper supports, specifically the use of criteria around qualifying payments for the special rate grant and the interpretation of 391 days and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43217/20]

54. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide additional information on the €20 million in budget 2021 for SUSI that will see the funding returned to 2019 levels; the projections on demand upon which this is based; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43163/20]

55. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if third-level institutions will provide rent refunds to students in on-campus accommodation whose courses are now being delivered online for the 2020-2021 academic year; if he has had discussions with the third-level institutions on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43177/20]

56. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has had discussions with the higher education sector regarding their landbanks and plans for available land within their control; and if he has a role in the way in which State-funded universities, colleges and institutes develop their land. — Eoghan Murphy. [41269/20]

57. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the 440 academic staff in universities and institutes of technology were in continuous employment in excess of two years but not on a contract of indefinite duration. — Holly Cairns. [43300/20]

58. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the priorities of his Department in relation to scientific research funded by Science Foundation Ireland; the emphasis in this strategy on blue skies research; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [41109/20]

59. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures he will take to further increase places in third-level courses should there be indications of significant CAO point inflation for 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [43315/20]

60. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the capital projects his Department will fund in County Monaghan over the years 2020 to 2025. — Matt Carthy. [43175/20]

61. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the interactions his Department has had with student accommodation providers during the covid-19 pandemic. — Pa Daly. [41663/20]

62. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to enhance co-operation between colleges of further education and colleges of a similar status in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43181/20]

63. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the engagements his Department has had with Dundalk IT regarding its pathway to technological university status; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [41792/20]

64. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the practice in some third-level institutions of withholding exam results for exams taken during the year for those students who have not fully paid their fees; if he will consider instructing institutions to stop the practice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [43316/20]

65. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on refunds for student accommodation in which universities have switched to all or mostly online learning in which large deposits were paid by those students. — Pa Daly. [41664/20]

66. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the discussions he has had with his counterpart in Northern Ireland in relation to the opportunities to enhance and intensify co-operation on an all-Ireland basis in further and higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43182/20]

67. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will examine the way in which the anomaly in the SUSI grant criteria can be corrected by which applicants who started third-level education living with their parents as a dependent but are now married are still being assessed as a dependent child. — Brian Stanley. [41285/20]

68. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on building links with further and higher education institutions with schools to further develop an interest in computer science and build on successful initiatives (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Cannon. [43306/20]

69. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if funding will be made available to fund a bursary scheme for student nurses who have worked during the pandemic. — Pearse Doherty. [43309/20]

70. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to support the development of Munster Technological University following its establishment. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [41758/20]

71. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans for a return to campus to allow students to enjoy a full third-level experience; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43158/20]

72. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has received allegations of sexual harassment at third-level; his plans to extend consent information across third-level institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43152/20]

73. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of students who were initially awarded SUSI grants that have since had the grants withdrawn from them by SUSI. — Peadar Tóibín. [43307/20]

74. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department has contacted colleges regarding the failure by some accommodation quarters to issue refunds to students due to Covid-19; if his attention has been drawn to the issue; if so, the steps he is taking to address the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43146/20]

75. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when universities and colleges will be permitted to reopen. — Peadar Tóibín. [43308/20]

76. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the funding allocated to Monaghan Institute in 2020; and the proposed allocation in 2021. — Matt Carthy. [43174/20]

77. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number and or proportion of academics and researchers employed in third-level institutions in Ireland who hold short-term contracts and rely on social welfare to supplement their income; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [43303/20]

78. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the funding and other supports that have been given to universities and colleges to support their students to engage with their studies online; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [43304/20]

79. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans for reforming pay for students on work placements as part of their education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [42536/20]

80. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to promote and further develop the lifelong learning sector and increase participation numbers in the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43149/20]

81. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a college (details supplied) will be provided with the necessary funds to secure a permanent building; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [41676/20]

82. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of plans to overhaul existing apprenticeships, traineeships and education programmes as promised in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [35066/20]

83. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the need to ensure that Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and associated institutions continue their multi-campus format as the Connacht Ulster Alliance Technological University progresses given their importance to communities in the west and north-west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43147/20]

84. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if SUSI will issue an amnesty on all repayments due to grant overpayments arising from the 2020-2021 academic year considering the extreme effects on Covid-19 on student employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [42788/20]

85. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the impacts that the Covid-19 restrictions have had on the mental health of third-level students; the measures he has taken to ease their introduction to third-level in the current environment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [43336/20]

86. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way in which he plans to support students enrolled in third-level institutions to get back to college campuses in 2021 after Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [41644/20]

87. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department has carried out reviews of the criteria for SUSI grants regarding the definition of a dependent child and when they become an independent adult with their own home during the same third-level course. — Brian Stanley. [41286/20]

88. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if universities are in a position to assure students applying from Northern Ireland that under no circumstance they will be charged international fees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43164/20]

89. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when retrofitting centres of excellence will open in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43155/20]

90. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way in which he will provide clarity to students in terms of on-campus time in the next semester given the experience of the last semester; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43161/20]

91. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on supporting the establishment of units similar to a facility (details supplied) in all universities and institutes of technology. — Holly Cairns. [43302/20]

92. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he is taking to address workers' rights for postgraduate researchers in universities and institutes of technology. — Holly Cairns. [43298/20]

93. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the rationale for excluding post-leaving certificate students from a recently announced €250 payment for students. — Michael Moynihan. [41756/20]

94. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if it will be investigated if Fingal would benefit from the development of a training centre under the training centre program offered by the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [43172/20]

95. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he plans to review the employment status of postgraduate students who also work for third-level education institutions as part of their degree. — Paul Murphy. [41658/20]

96. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to provide supports to post-leaving certificate students who are not eligible for a €250 payment which has been made available to third-level students. — Michael Moynihan. [41755/20]

97. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will meet with representatives of construction workers to discuss the impact of recent price rises from the Solas administered safe pass scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43216/20]

98. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to provide continuing education facilities in Ballincollig, County Cork for school leavers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [43297/20]

99. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way in which the perspectives and experiences of current and former students will feature in the full-scale review of SUSI. — Holly Cairns. [43299/20]

100. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures being considered or undertaken to address mental health issues experienced by school leavers and third-level students due to difficulties they are experiencing during the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions; the way in which students are being identified who are at risk of increased mental health issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [42353/20]

101. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to provide a bursary to nursing students whilst on work placement to cover living costs

and loss of earnings due to the danger of cross contamination whilst working in a healthcare environment. — Alan Dillon. [43148/20]

102. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the contact he has had with his counterpart in Northern Ireland on all-island education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43156/20]

103. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 661 of 24 November 2020, the status of the higher education staffing agreement; when the principles will be agreed; the engagement there has been with workers and higher education institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43313/20]

104. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has had contact with Carlow College, St. Patrick's, Carlow with regard to bringing about the full integration of Carlow College, St. Patrick's, into the higher education framework and system in the south-east region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [41537/20]

105. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the total amount of repayments due to grant overpayments over 2020-2021 academic year sought by SUSI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [42787/20]

106. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to extend third level and apprenticeship opportunities for persons with intellectual disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43151/20]

107. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the recent OECD report on the reform of the leaving certificate which highlighted the lack of engagement of higher and further education institutions and of the enterprise sector in the development of reforms; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [43170/20]

108. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a mechanism will be introduced for fourth year student nurses not in receipt of SUSI to receive the €250 refund in view of the fact that they will not be on campus in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43176/20]

109. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the Covid-19 related supports available to third-level and further education colleges for 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43220/20]

110. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the courses available to older persons to improve their digital skills by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43218/20]

111. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the breakdown of the 16,700 laptops made available to students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Cannon. [43305/20]

112. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to 11,200 lecturers working on a temporary or casual basis in recent years across Irish universities and institutes of technology. — Holly Cairns. [43301/20]

113. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress which has been made to date in getting Departments to commit to recruiting a cohort of apprentices each year. — Richard Bruton. [43171/20]

114. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to reform the CAO form to include further education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [43173/20]

115. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to provide work placements for students studying physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy as many in these professions have been redeployed to Covid-19 testing; if these placements will be delayed; if the qualification date for these students will be delayed; the supports that will be put in place for these students if their placement and qualification date are delayed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [42418/20]

116. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has or will issue regulations regarding the way in which publicly-funded higher education bodies may or may not use their land for commercial or other activities. — Eoghan Murphy. [41270/20]

117. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way in which the new Munster Technological University can best work with stakeholders in the region to produce greater employment opportunities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43311/20]

118. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to encourage qualitative research methodology in Irish research given a shift towards quantitative methods in recent years and the importance of qualitative research in developing rich and deep understandings of human behaviour. — Thomas Gould. [43215/20]

119. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has ring-fenced funding from budget 2021 for covering the cost of providing rapid testing and tracing on college campuses in the years ahead; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [41675/20]

120. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the increase in the income limits that have taken place in relation to the means testing of the SUSI grants since 2010; the increase in the average income during that period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [41110/20]

121. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of a technological university for the south-east; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [42535/20]

122. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if student nurses who have been rejected for SUSI grants and who are unable to work outside of nursing due to Covid-19 can apply for their application to be assessed and reassessed given their changed circumstances; if this change of circumstances is being taken into account; the number of

SUSI applicants who have had their application successfully reviewed on these grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [41677/20]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

*123. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the economic division of his Department. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43545/20]

*124. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the establishment of the high-level task force on Covid-19 vaccination. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43546/20]

*125. To ask the Taoiseach if professional fees are paid by his Department on behalf of employees; if so, the total number involved; and the amount of each fee. — Bríd Smith. [42709/20]

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

*126. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current status of a skills audit by the IDA for County Laois; the results of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [42948/20]

*127. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of visits the IDA has carried out in each county in each of the past five years in counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [42949/20]

*128. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of jobs sponsored by the IDA in each county in each of the past five years in counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [42950/20]

*129. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the amount the IDA has invested in job creation in each county in each of the past five years in counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [42951/20]

*130. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of meetings the IDA has held with elected members of Dáil Éireann in each county in each of the past five years from counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath in tabular form. — Peadar Tóibín. [42952/20]

*131. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of intra-company transfer employment permits issued in each of the past three years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43122/20]

*132. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if changes have been made to eligibility criteria for the Covid restrictions support scheme to ensure workers in the

music and entertainment sectors and dance teachers can avail of the scaffolding funding they were promised before budget 2021 if they do not have a business premises; if not, the steps he will take to provide necessary support for workers and businesses in these sectors; and if he has spoken with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to funding supports. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43133/20]

*133. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the procedure to be followed to obtain an up to date work permit by a person (details supplied) who previously held the holder of a work permit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43396/20]

*134. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of data access requests the CCPC has made to telecommunications and social media companies in the past three years to date in 2020 under the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011; the number of access requests that were approved and declined by the companies that the data was requested from; and the reason the data was sought. — Catherine Murphy. [43436/20]

*135. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current financial supports available to a business (details supplied) that operates in this jurisdiction but whose headquarters are in Northern Ireland. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [43451/20]

*136. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will permit Santa grottos to operate in indoor shopping centres in cases in which they adhere to level 3 safety guidelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [43461/20]

*137. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his attention has been drawn to the concerns such as those of a person (details supplied) regarding the lack of capital available to start-up companies due to additional restrictions in the banking sector linked to Covid-19; the measures he has taken to ensure a continuing pipeline of viable start-up companies necessary for economic growth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [43566/20]

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

*138. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will establish a scheme for farm waste tyre disposal to alleviate the expense to farmers wishing to move away from pit silage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43347/20]

*139. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if an Eircode will be assigned to a house (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [42848/20]

*140. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of fibre broadband availability to a property (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [42885/20]

*141. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to provide access to high-speed fibre broadband to the area of Knockanamohilly, Newtown, Nenagh, County Tipperary in view of the fact that his Department has confirmed the area is in the AMBER zone of the high speed broadband map and therefore falls under the remit of the State for intervention (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [42916/20]

*142. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of smart meters that have been installed to date; the number of homes retrofitted to date; the number of electric vehicle charging points that have been implemented to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42940/20]

*143. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the time frame for phasing out of BER F-G in the private rental market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [42965/20]

*144. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the estimated amount it would cost in 2021 to recruit two additional full-time petroleum exploration specialists for his Department. — Martin Browne. [43109/20]

*145. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if plastic processed through pyrolysis infrastructure will be considered as recycled plastic for the purposes of national statistics collection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [43136/20]

*146. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will commission an independent report incorporating international industry expertise to examine the technical feasibility and cost of undergrounding the north south interconnector in line with the resolution of Dáil Éireann of 16 February 2017; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43268/20]

*147. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will investigate the feasibility of a proposal (details supplied) in the context of the midlands just transition process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43427/20]

*148. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the project status and estimated timeline for start and completion of the EirGrid north Connacht 110kv electricity infrastructure project between the Moy substation near Ballina and Tonroe substation near Ballaghaderreen; the overall benefits to the western region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43470/20]

*149. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the recently reported comments from an ambassador to Ireland (details supplied) that European security is heavily dependent on cyber resilience; his further views on the implications of their further statement that 30% of European cloud data is stored in Ireland; his views on whether Ireland is disproportionately responsible for Europe's cyber resilience and thus Europe's security; and if so, the way in which he plans to urgently strengthen Ireland's capabilities. — Ged Nash. [43573/20]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*150. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Common Travel Area under Brexit agreements with the United Kingdom will be extended to allow UK driver licences to remain in operation by residents in Ireland. — Sean Sherlock. [42748/20]

*151. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he has assisted or can assist the provision or improvement of rural transport nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43517/20]

*152. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he has assisted or can assist with the provision and improvement of rural transport in County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43518/20]

*153. To ask the Minister for Transport if the option of postal renewal will be provided for the renewal of driver licences as many elderly drivers and those with underlying health conditions are not familiar with using the internet and are nervous of travelling to a NDLS centre due to Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [42867/20]

*154. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the DART plus West upgrade; the expected time frame for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42876/20]

*155. To ask the Minister for Transport when he expects to bring forward legislation regulating e-scooters and e-bikes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [42877/20]

*156. To ask the Minister for Transport if a dedicated Oireachtas helpline and email address can be created for both the NDLS and the RSA in view of fact the current waiting times for proper communication are unsustainable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [42890/20]

*157. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of zero emissions buses in operation in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42911/20]

*158. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans for upcoming changes and or cessation and or alterations to bus routes in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [42915/20]

*159. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the pension scheme negotiations ongoing in Irish Rail; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42920/20]

*160. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans for road improvements along the R404 and the Hazelhatch Road linking north County Kildare train stations in particular to improve cycling and walking infrastructure on these routes. — Catherine Murphy. [42935/20]

*161. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the proposed new DART station at a location (details supplied); the timeline for the proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42942/20]

*162. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of applications for the wheelchair accessible vehicle grant scheme in 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of grants awarded in each year; the amount awarded in 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42957/20]

*163. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of electric SPSVs in operation to date in 2020; the number of hybrid SPSVs in operation to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42958/20]

*164. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of applications for electric vehicle grants for SPSVs in 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of individual grants awarded in both years; the value awarded in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42959/20]

*165. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of applications for plug-in hybrid electric vehicle grants for SPSVs in 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of individual grants awarded in both years; the value awarded in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42960/20]

*166. To ask the Minister for Transport the budget allocation for the rural transport programme in each of the years 2016 to 2020; the number of passengers carried in each of the years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42961/20]

*167. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of passengers carried in each county on the rural transport programme in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42962/20]

*168. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of individual buses assigned to the rural transport programme by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42963/20]

*169. To ask the Minister for Transport the estimated cost to Ireland of the A5 upgrade, the Narrow Water Bridge, a high-speed rail connection upgrade on the Belfast-Dublin-Limerick Junction Cork line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42964/20]

*170. To ask the Minister for Transport the schemes, grants and supports in place in his Department for car rental firms in particular for their extensive fleets of cars that have not been utilised during the pandemic; and if further supports are under consideration for such companies. — Cormac Devlin. [43014/20]

*171. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address the anomaly with applications for the over 70s driver licence given that a five year licence can be accessed by post but a ten year licence requires the applicant to attend in person; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43015/20]

*172. To ask the Minister for Transport the number waiting for driver tests by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43017/20]

*173. To ask the Minister for Transport the number waiting for driver theory tests by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43018/20]

*174. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will request the NTA to arrange a limited Nitelink service over the Christmas 2020 period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43020/20]

*175. To ask the Minister for Transport the State funding provided to Bus Éireann in each of the years 2010 to 2020; the number of passengers carried in each year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [43033/20]

*176. To ask the Minister for Transport the State funding provided to Iarnród Éireann in each of the years 2010 to 2020; the number of passengers carried in each year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [43034/20]

*177. To ask the Minister for Transport the projects that fall under the remit of his Department that will be funded between 2021 and 2030 under Project Ireland 2040; the funding that will be

allocated to each project; the current status of each project in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [43035/20]

*178. To ask the Minister for Transport if drivers who had their driver licences extended beyond the deadline due to Covid-19 will not have to resit their driver test in order to renew their licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43036/20]

*179. To ask the Minister for Transport when the post of chairperson of the Shannon Group will be filled. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43092/20]

*180. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the referral under section 41(7) of the Irish Aviation Authority Act 1993 of the matter of IAA staff pensions; the reason increases in pension payments have not been awarded in recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [43115/20]

*181. To ask the Minister for Transport the efforts being made to reduce waiting times for driver tests across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [43202/20]

*182. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the fact that free travel passes are expiring without notification to users causing the users to be refused access to transport and that reactivation is occurring of these passes; if he has disseminated this information to transport workers in respect of extensions to travel passes (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43211/20]

*183. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to develop a by-pass at Claregalway, County Galway to alleviate traffic congestion through the village; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43231/20]

*184. To ask the Minister for Transport the PSO funding provided to Bus Éireann in each of the years 2010 to 2020; the number of passengers carried in each year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43234/20]

*185. To ask the Minister for Transport the PSO funding provided to Iarnród Éireann in each of the years 2010 to 2020; the number of passengers carried in each year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43235/20]

*186. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a list of projects that fall under the remit of his Department that will be funded between 2021 to 2030 under Project Ireland 2040; the funding that will be allocated to each project; the status of each project in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43236/20]

*187. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding drawn down by each local authority in 2020 for spending on cycling infrastructure in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43324/20]

*188. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will intercede with Kildare County Council with a view to addressing the serious traffic problems that exist in Celbridge, County Kildare (details supplied); if these matters will be addressed with maximum urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43350/20]

*189. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide clarity for those holding driver licences from Northern Ireland and the UK; the way in which Brexit will affect such persons after 31 December 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [43358/20]

*190. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No.124 of 8 December 2020, when he will sign off on a pension agreement (details supplied); if there is a time frame in relation to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [43375/20]

*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of passengers travelling into Ireland that have booked Covid-19 tests at airports here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43380/20]

*192. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address a matter regarding hackney licences (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43405/20]

*193. To ask the Minister for Transport the regulatory status of electronic scooters; if a licence is required; if insurance is required; if other obligations apply to users of electronic scooters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [43441/20]

*194. To ask the Minister for Transport the regulatory status of electronic bicycles; if a licence is required; if insurance is required; if other obligations apply to users of electronic bicycles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [43442/20]

*195. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of passengers arriving into Ireland on a weekly basis from 26 October 2020 by country of departure including seaports and airports in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [43467/20]

*196. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of a report (details supplied) carried out in 2019 as part of the review of search and rescue services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43572/20]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*197. To ask the Minister for Finance if persons who have purchased a vehicle, are in possession of that vehicle and have sought an appointment prior to 31 December 2020 are rateable based on 2020 VRT rates in view of the delays in the processing of vehicle registration tax payments and the change in VRT rates planned for 1 January 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [42888/20]

*198. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to include existing owners of derelict properties in the help to buy scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick O'Donovan. [43117/20]

*199. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will facilitate access to CRSS for businesses (details supplied) who do not currently qualify for the payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [43129/20]

*200. To ask the Minister for Finance the position regarding the Revenue Commissioners arrangements related to the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [42995/20]

*201. To ask the Minister for Finance the schemes, grants and supports in place in his Department for car rental firms; and if there are further measures under consideration for such companies. — Cormac Devlin. [43008/20]

*202. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider amending regulations in relation to local property tax to allow more flexibility for persons who have been in receipt of Covid-19 payments for more than six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43013/20]

*203. To ask the Minister for Finance the options available to a person (details supplied) who cannot receive a response from an insurance company in relation to an outstanding claim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43037/20]

*204. To ask the Minister for Finance if surfing will be considered for the reduced 9% VAT rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [43039/20]

*205. To ask the Minister for Finance the efforts his officials have made in view of the revised ECB guidance on Covid-19 moratoria for loans to ensure this is being implemented for businesses and consumers in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43042/20]

*206. To ask the Minister for Finance the position of eligibility to the new CRSS from sports clubs with a bar registered under the Clubs Act 1904 and so on as it seems the system of the Revenue Commissioners is refusing such applications; the reason this should be as the CRSS was projected as a replacement for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment local authority reopening scheme which did apply to sports clubs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [43055/20]

*207. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has spoken formally with his Czech Republic counterpart recently. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43091/20]

*208. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reconsider making the CRSS available to the direct marketing companies and tour operators. — Catherine Murphy. [43114/20]

*209. To ask the Minister for Finance when the legislative effect to the existing medical card criteria will come into effect (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [43189/20]

*210. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans for reform for the motor insurance industry; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that some motor insurance companies are loading premiums in cases in which motorists move to an area of disadvantage and high density population; if actuarial data is made available to his Department which could be used to validate such loading; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [43223/20]

*211. To ask the Minister for Finance the costs incurred by the State Claims Agency in respect of non-medical negligence claims over the time period 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020. — Catherine Murphy. [43226/20]

*212. To ask the Minister for Finance the way in which VRT for used imports pre-September 2018 will be calculated; if a circular will be published by the Revenue Commissioners; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43263/20]

*213. To ask the Minister for Finance the position regarding the review of an application by a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [43291/20]

*214. To ask the Minister for Finance the taxes that will apply to used cars imported from the UK after 1 January 2021. — Paul Murphy. [43373/20]

*215. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of legislation to protect consumers on PCP. — Sean Sherlock. [43410/20]

*216. To ask the Minister for Finance the progress the Central Bank has been making in ensuring that all retail banks and payment services providers will be ready in time to implement the strong customer authentication requirements of the Payment Services Directive 2 in time for 1 January 2021; if all retail banks will be ready in time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43426/20]

*217. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to an anomaly (details supplied) that may exist in the Finance Bill 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [43531/20]

*218. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to an anomaly (details supplied) that may exist in relation to the July Stimulus package and a 2020 tax return; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [43533/20]

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

*219. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of the reopening of the Fitzgibbon Street Garda station that was due in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [43524/20]

*220. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of a closed Garda station (details supplied) in County Kerry if it is still in the possession of the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [42875/20]

*221. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if retired public servants will receive an increase under the national wage agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42992/20]

*222. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of the WRC ruling of 9 June 2020 regarding the funding of the CIÉ pension scheme that is currently being assessed by his Department and the Pensions Authority. — Mairéad Farrell. [43282/20]

*223. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the amount allocated in 2021 for public sector pay increases and the part of this that has been earmarked to address pay issues in the section 39 sector. — Róisín Shortall. [43535/20]

*224. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the current market value of the State art collection as an entire collection; if he will provide a schedule of the items and value of items that are unaccounted, lost and or missing as of 11 December 2020 (details supplied); the number of items that are on display outside the State; and the number of thefts that have been

reported from the entire collection over the past ten years to date in 2020. — Catherine Murphy. [43560/20]

*225. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of those on the State payroll who have purchased benefit under the public service single scheme pension purchase facility in its first year of operation since 1 October 2019; the number who have purchased benefit categorised by Department, State agency or other; the reason purchase is available through lump sum payment only rather than through periodic payments as applies to earlier public service pension schemes; his plans to put in place a more user-friendly purchase facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43574/20]

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

*226. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an aontaíonn sé leis an méid a deir an tAire Stáit ag a bhfuil freagracht na Gaeltachta, go bhfuil struchtúr Bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta ag feidhmiú go sásúil; an bhfuil sé fós ag geallúint go dtabharfar toghcháin Údarás na Gaeltachta ar ais agus é ina Thaoiseach anois; agus cén t-am faoina mbeidh an gealltanais sin comhlíonta. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43030/20]

*227. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the rationale for allowing certain GAA games other than elite level games to proceed whilst prohibiting similar age group games at GAA and soccer level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [43416/20]

*228. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her views on a matter raised in correspondence by a person (details supplied) in relation to indoor training for a sport; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [42861/20]

*229. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if an organisation (details supplied) will receive support in fastracking its application for membership of Sport Ireland given the impact this will have on its ability to train under level 3 Covid-19 restrictions. — Thomas Gould. [42886/20]

*230. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason underage soccer players have been advised that they are unable to return to training and matches while in level 3 restrictions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42919/20]

*231. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her plans to allow for sport to resume among children both in and outside of school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42924/20]

*232. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the rationale behind the decision taken regarding the operation of inline figure skating under level 3 of the Living with Covid Plan. — Mary Lou McDonald. [42967/20]

*233. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she has met with or plans to meet with an association (details supplied) to discuss its concerns regarding the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on its members; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [42968/20]

*234. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will consider allowing instrumental music at weddings under strict regulations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43009/20]

*235. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will consider allowing 50 persons to attend weddings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43010/20]

*236. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an raibh comórtas oscailte ann chun comhlacht dearaidh ghrafaigh a roghnú chun lógó nua Údarás na Gaeltachta a dheardh; an roinnfear aon sonraí faoin bpróiseas roghnúcháin sin; cén comhlacht dearaidh ghrafaigh a roghnaíodh agus cén praghas atá ar an gceann a roghnaíodh; agus cad é an costas iomlán a bhaineann leis an lógó a athrú. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43028/20]

*237. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cén staid ina bhfuil an t-athbhreithniú ar struchtúr rialachais Údarás na Gaeltachta a gealladh sa Chlár Rialtais; cathain a bheidh an t-athbhreithniú sin críochnaithe; agus an bhfuil sí ag dul siar ar an ngealltanais a thug duine (sonraí tugtha) go dtabharfar toghcháin Údarás na Gaeltachta ar ais agus é ina Thaoiseach. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43029/20]

*238. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when an application will be finalised for a community council (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43076/20]

*239. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of times she has meet the Director General of TG4 (details supplied) in the past three months. — Martin Browne. [43108/20]

*240. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the rationale for demanding the past three years accounts, 2019 tax return, tax clearance certificate and bank balance in respect of the Ireland based inbound agents business continuity scheme; if criteria to access this scheme can be reviewed in order to make it less cumbersome; and if she has considered the timeline involved in producing the level of documentation requested in particular by persons that are sole trading. — Catherine Murphy. [43112/20]

*241. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of applications in respect of the Ireland based inbound agents business continuity scheme that have been received since it was launched; the number of applications refused; and if there is an appeal process for applications that are refused. — Catherine Murphy. [43113/20]

*242. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if inline skating and figure skating are allowed to operate under level 3 restrictions. — Sean Sherlock. [43123/20]

*243. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if changes have been made to eligibility criteria for the Covid restrictions support scheme to ensure workers in the music and entertainment sectors can avail of the scaffolding funding they were promised before budget 2021 if they do not have a business premises. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43132/20]

*244. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the promised oversight committee will be established to appraise the recommendations of the Arts and Culture Recovery Taskforce. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43134/20]

*245. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the guidelines being made to allow the completion of the present underage elite football season; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [43295/20]

*246. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will consider allowing inline figure skating, a solitary sport, to resume indoor training so that skaters can avail of the many benefits of the sport for physical and mental well-being; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [43314/20]

*247. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if matters raised in correspondence by a person (details supplied) will receive a response; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43391/20]

*248. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if there was an open competition to select the company or organisation that would manage the music industry support package schemes on behalf of her Department; if so, the way in which this process was advertised; the reason the decision was made to appoint only one organisation to manage all schemes under the music industry support package; if other companies and organisations were considered to manage any or all of the schemes before the decision was made to award management of all schemes to a company (details supplied); and the criteria used to determine what company or organisation should manage the schemes. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43490/20]

*249. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of applicants that submitted applications for funding under the music industry support package schemes; the number that were successful and unsuccessful, respectively; the criteria by which their success or lack of success was determined; and if unsuccessful applicants have been informed as to the reason they were not successful. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43491/20]

*250. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way the members of the expert panel were selected to assess applications for the music industry support package schemes; the person or body that selected them; and the criteria by which they were they selected. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43492/20]

*251. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her attention has been drawn to artists not currently resident in Ireland being awarded funding under the music industry support package schemes. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43493/20]

*252. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the involvement of a music distribution company (details supplied) in the recording stimulus scheme; the process by which it was decided to involve the company in the scheme; and if the company has received financial benefit from its involvement in the scheme. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43494/20]

*253. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her attention has been drawn to artists or acts that were announced as receiving funding under the music industry support package schemes despite not having applied; if so, the way in which this occurred; and the steps she plans to take to ensure this was not a more widespread practice and is rectified. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43495/20]

*254. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the steps that were taken to ensure no conflict of interest existed between persons involved in the management of a company (details supplied), the expert panel selected to assess applications and those applying

for and ultimately receiving the music industry support package schemes. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43496/20]

*255. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason the decision was made not to establish different categories of music industry support package schemes to ensure up-and-coming and struggling artists were not forced to compete with established, successful and well-known artists for the same funding. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43497/20]

*256. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way in which the song writing camps will be overseen once funding is given under the music industry support package. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43498/20]

*257. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if and the way in which funding awarded will be affected if artists do not complete activity under the song writing or recording schemes by 23 December 2020. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43499/20]

*258. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán briseadh síos a dhéanamh ar chomhaltaí boird TG4, de réir na hionadaíochta atá ann do dhaoine as na ceantair Ghaeltachta éagsúla. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43520/20]

*259. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her attention been drawn to calls to initiate a pilot project for reopening theatres; her views on the feasibility of such a pilot; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [43526/20]

*260. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the online safety and media regulation Bill will contain specific mention of image-based sexual abuse and online harassment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43586/20]

*261. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason the decision was made to allow some artists receive multiple grants under the various music industry support package schemes while many were refused any funding. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [43587/20]

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

*262. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to regularise the application process for foreshore licences to ensure a statutory timeline for the issuing of such licences to enable ports here to develop to their full potential; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [42912/20]

*263. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the timeline for the introduction of the payment of Bord Pleanála fees online and or the submission of documentation online; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [42849/20]

*264. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the keeping of dogs or cats is not permitted in many residential tenancies, particularly in apartment buildings; if he will consider regulating to removing the ban providing that norms of noise and hygiene are respected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [42850/20]

*265. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the capital expenditure allocation for Irish Water to replace water mains pipes over the period 2021 to 2024. — Thomas Gould. [42871/20]

*266. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the budget allocation for Irish Water for salaries, maintenance, repairs, burst pipes and overdrafts in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [42873/20]

*267. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of planning applications received by each local authority in each of the past three years; the number of staff employed in each local authority to deal specifically with planning applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42897/20]

*268. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he received a protected disclosure from a person (details supplied); and the details of the action taken as a result of the disclosure. — Bríd Smith. [42913/20]

*269. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service will conclude; the amount budgeted in budget 2021 to carry out subsequent changes and reforms as a result of the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42938/20]

*270. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the progress made in establishing the wildlife crime unit; the funding being allocated to the new unit; the resources including the number and types of staff due to be allocated to the new unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42939/20]

*271. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the policies in place to help accidental landlords who kept their rent low and are now trapped in rent pressure zones and unable to raise their rent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42945/20]

*272. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps he will take to extend the public consultation period for draft development plans currently being worked upon by local authorities in order to take into account the difficulty of securing full public consultation during Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [42988/20]

*273. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will address a matter regarding a housing list (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43004/20]

*274. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of property owners who availed of the derelict housing scheme; the amount spent on the scheme; his assessment of the impact of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43005/20]

*275. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps he is taking to provide housing for the 501 persons and 65 families who are homeless in the south-west region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43006/20]

*276. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to review the Urban Development and Building Heights Guidelines for planning authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43043/20]

*277. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if she will accept a proposal (details supplied) that seeks to allow every Irish citizen on the island of Ireland a vote in general elections. — Emer Higgins. [43077/20]

*278. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to include existing owners of derelict properties in the Rebuilding Ireland home loan scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick O'Donovan. [43117/20]

*279. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans for the development of a municipal wastewater treatment plant for Craughwell, County Galway to serve estates (details supplied) to allow future development in this growth centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43222/20]

*280. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans for the development of a municipal wastewater treatment plant for Corofin to serve Castlegrounds, Cloch Chora, Garrai Glas, An Dunan, Caislean Cuirte, Rockley Court and Brocklodge to allow future development in this growth centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43227/20]

*281. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans for the development of a municipal wastewater treatment plant for Abbeyknockmoy to serve the Granary, Cois na hAbhainn, Cnoc na gCaor and Radharc an Mhuilinn to allow future development in this growth centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43228/20]

*282. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to support Irish Water to take in charge existing private wastewater treatment plants in existing housing estates in which there is no public treatment plant available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43229/20]

*283. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to address the serious issue in County Galway regarding the fact that Galway County Council and An Board Pleanála have refused planning permission for small housing developments in rural towns and villages due to the fact that both planning authorities refuse proposals for individual septic tanks or private waste water treatment plants (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43230/20]

*284. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to create an equalisation fund to increase the local government fund for local authorities such as Galway County Council whose fund is one of the lowest per head of population despite the fact that the county has the second largest in the country and has a diverse range of issues including islands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43232/20]

*285. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has considered the report of the Joint Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government on building defects in houses; and if he has identified the recommendations which his Department plans to implement during this term of Dáil Éireann. — Richard Bruton. [43254/20]

*286. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the details of the new sewage treatment scheme announced recently in local media in County Clare for the village of Broadford to be administered by local authorities; if it is still possible to have Mullinahone, County Tipperary included as a pilot scheme; the criteria or competitive process used to select Broadford as the pilot project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43363/20]

*287. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which the rare habitats of Killarney National Park are being protected; the way in which sustainable development is being promoted in the larger Kerry biosphere reserve; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43376/20]

*288. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of a housing project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [43388/20]

*289. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he have had an engagement, or his officials, with a local authority on the Cork event centre. — Sean Sherlock. [43409/20]

*290. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the NPWS would continue to make use of a predator control contractor if its attention was drawn to the fact that the contractor accessed private land without permission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43486/20]

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

*291. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the efforts he can undertake to raise awareness through the EU of the plight of a journalist (details supplied) who has been tortured and is being detained illegally in Belarus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [43054/20]

*292. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures his Department takes to capture information on disability provided by election observers; and the way in which the data collected in the EU and OSCE profiles, the only criteria for selection of election observers, is incorporated in his Department's selection of observers. — Patrick Costello. [43062/20]

*293. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the legal rights in regard to disability possessed by persons serving as election observers who have been nominated by his Department; the number of disabled observers on the roster; his Department's obligations to persons with disabilities in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [43063/20]

*294. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has spoken formally with the South Korean Ambassador to Ireland in the past three months; and if so, the issues discussed. — Martin Browne. [43104/20]

*295. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if there has been consideration of a scheme allowing long-term residents in Ireland from the UK to apply for an Irish passport in the aftermath of Brexit. — Paul McAuliffe. [43203/20]

*296. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if Irish citizens or businesses based in Hong Kong have been affected by the rise in the freezing of bank accounts of those linked to pro-democracy protests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43246/20]

*297. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of the response of his Department to the recent rise in pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43247/20]

*298. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if a national audit of Brexit preparedness and readiness has been carried out; if so, if such an audit will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [43277/20]

*299. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions he will take to assist a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43348/20]

*300. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 309 of 8 December 2020, if he will provide a schedule of costs incurred on consultancy, construction and decoration of the embassies that have been refurbished to date in 2020 (details supplied); and if he will include the budgets for same in respect of embassies that are scheduled to be refurbished in 2021. — Catherine Murphy. [43360/20]

*301. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 406 of 10 November 2020, if US military aircraft never carry arms, ammunition or explosives, are never engaged in intelligence gathering or never form part of military exercises or operations when travelling through Irish airspace or landing at an Irish airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43368/20]

*302. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 406 of 10 November 2020, if the same conditions are applied to the granting of permits for overflights by US military aircraft and military aircraft from all other countries; if not, the reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43369/20]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*303. To ask the Minister for Defence if a club (details supplied) will be permitted to use the GAA grounds in Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, Dublin 6; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [42918/20]

*304. To ask the Minister for Defence if a new recruitment campaign for the Military Police will start early in 2021. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43088/20]

*305. To ask the Minister for Defence the establishment, strength and vacancies of the Permanent Defence Forces in the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [43120/20]

*306. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of promotional positions waiting to be filled throughout the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [43121/20]

*307. To ask the Minister for Defence the position with regard to the proposed commission on defence; when the commission will commence; if the commission members have been selected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43288/20]

*308. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of submissions received by his Department in relation to the forthcoming commission on defence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43289/20]

*309. To ask the Minister for Defence if the terms of reference of the proposed commission on the Defence Forces will include a review of the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43290/20]

*310. To ask the Minister for Defence when the Defence Forces built infrastructure plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43344/20]

*311. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of fatalities suffered by the Defence Forces on duty with UNIFIL; and the identity of the cause of death by military grouping including Israeli forces and Hezbollah in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [43432/20]

*312. To ask the Minister for Defence the breakdown of Army and Naval Service personnel deaths accidental and non-accidental death while in service for the past 20 years to date by categories. — Catherine Murphy. [43532/20]

*313. To ask the Minister for Defence when the last review of his Department took place; the conclusions derived from the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43570/20]

*314. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of submissions received in regard to the terms of reference for the Commission on Defence; the submissions that called for a review of his Department and a review of the Ministers and Secretaries Act 1924 and for both to be included in the terms of reference of the Future Commission on Defence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43571/20]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*315. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the current increased level of vehicular traffic bringing children to school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe McHugh. [43110/20]

*316. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to a Covid-19 outbreak at a school (details supplied); the rationale behind the existing protocols in such circumstances given the multiple cases associated with this outbreak; and if a change in these protocols is envisaged. — Michael Creed. [43449/20]

*317. To ask the Minister for Education when the ASD class at a school (details supplied) will be established; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43477/20]

*318. To ask the Minister for Education her views on a matter raised in correspondence by a person (details supplied) regarding the issues in relation to the sharing of information with a school principal when a child attending the school tests positive for Covid-19. — Brendan Griffin. [42860/20]

*319. To ask the Minister for Education when approved funding for assistive technology for a student (details supplied) will be made available. — Peadar Tóibín. [42862/20]

*320. To ask the Minister for Education the sanctions in place for schools that fail to meet the legal requirement to include in their admission policies detailed arrangements for those not attending religious instruction. — Paul Murphy. [42887/20]

*321. To ask the Minister for Education the status of efforts to secure a permanent site for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe O'Brien. [42934/20]

*322. To ask the Minister for Education the progress of a school site in Celbridge which has been identified as a preferred new location for three schools (details supplied); the delays currently being experienced; the resolution that presents to same; the timeline for progression of the project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [42969/20]

*323. To ask the Minister for Education if a child (details supplied) will be granted a place in the ASD class in a school. — Chris Andrews. [42979/20]

*324. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for the delay in the installation of prefabs in a school (details supplied) which were applied for in March 2020 and are having an effect on secondary school places in the wider Castleknock area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42980/20]

*325. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the proposed campus development at Donaghcumper, Celbridge, County Kildare which is due to accommodate three schools (details supplied); the stage the project is at; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42981/20]

*326. To ask the Minister for Education when the sale for the site from NAMA for the school campus at Donaghcumper, Celbridge, County Kildare will be completed; if there are obstacles to the purchase of the site; if so, the obstacles; the way in which they will be overcome; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42982/20]

*327. To ask the Minister for Education the amount her Department has spent on temporary accommodation for a school (details supplied) since its foundation; the number of prefabs currently in use; the potential additional capacity which might be available in the short term; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42983/20]

*328. To ask the Minister for Education the amount her Department has spent on a school (details supplied) since its inception on site development, site rental, rental of prefabs and all ancillary services; if her attention has been drawn to the fact that there is no further capacity on the site for expansion; if there is projected unmet need in Celbridge in 2021 and 2022 for same; if so, the way in which it is planned to provide for the unmet need; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42984/20]

*329. To ask the Minister for Education the way in which she plans to provide for the 40 children in a school (details supplied) in addition to the 15 who are waiting for classes; the way in which they are currently being provided for; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42985/20]

*330. To ask the Minister for Education the age of the prefabs at a school (details supplied); the lifespan of the prefabs; if her attention has been drawn to maintenance problems and the fact that some of the prefabs are not watertight; if she will arrange for an inspection of the school buildings

and a subsequent report on the adequacy of these buildings for children being cared for and educated there; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42986/20]

*331. To ask the Minister for Education the amount her Department has spent on prefabs at a school (details supplied); the number that were purchased; when they were purchased; the number that are rented; the date from which they have been rented; the site availability there is for expansion; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [42987/20]

*332. To ask the Minister for Education if she will address the matter regarding ensuring access to the ex-gratia scheme and the publication of the action plan regarding these issues which survivors have been seeking since the ECRH judgement on 28 January 2014; when the report will be published; when exactly the survivors will be able to access the remedy and relief programme with specific reference to future protection of Irish school going children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [42994/20]

*333. To ask the Minister for Education the reason the sibling first policies have been removed from some primary schools and in particular a school (details supplied). — Paul Donnelly. [43026/20]

*334. To ask the Minister for Education the cost of putting on extra school buses in response to Covid-19; and if she will consider keeping the extra buses allocated in order to deal with the extra demand for services which takes place each September; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe McHugh. [43099/20]

*335. To ask the Minister for Education when the ASD class which has been sanctioned for a school (details supplied) will commence. — Chris Andrews. [43128/20]

*336. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider the inclusion of a phone line message system on the payroll telephone number of her Department to inform callers of the other options, for example, e-mail contact details for obtaining information on payroll issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [43255/20]

*337. To ask the Minister for Education the efforts made to ensure that issues pertaining to site acquisition to facilitate the new building for a school (details supplied) are resolved; the expected date for completion of the project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43269/20]

*338. To ask the Minister for Education the basis on which private operators are selected for the provision of school transport; the calculation of rates offered based on the €135 million allocation from her Department; the methodology applying to the overall selection criteria; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [43275/20]

*339. To ask the Minister for Education the status of plans for the replacement of primary school facilities at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43281/20]

*340. To ask the Minister for Education when a person (details supplied) will receive their payment under the school transport grant; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [43366/20]

*341. To ask the Minister for Education if she will expedite the additional accommodation application by a school (details supplied) that has been with her Department since 2016 waiting for approval given the oversubscription of post-primary schools in Drogheda, County Louth. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43439/20]

*342. To ask the Minister for Education if she will amend a circular based on circumstances (details supplied). — Niall Collins. [43458/20]

*343. To ask the Minister for Education the status of and time frame for the site acquisition, planning and start of the new school for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43473/20]

*344. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a school capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43474/20]

*345. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a building project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43478/20]

*346. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to address the needs of the pupils who currently attend a unit at a school (details supplied) considering the plans to close this unit in 2021; if she will examine the feasibility to keep this unit open; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43487/20]

*347. To ask the Minister for Education if a commitment will be given and initiated to ensure remote learning options for school children who are living with a person in the very high risk category also referred to as extremely vulnerable for Covid-19 in 2021 as a strategy for mitigating the risk of transmission from festive gatherings and following ECDC suggestions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [43527/20]

*348. To ask the Minister for Education the progress made on the issuing of a tender for the development of a school (details supplied); the associated timescales for the project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43529/20]

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

*349. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the practice by dental hygienists of an additional charge of €25 for a clean and polish on top of the payment for having the required contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [43024/20]

*350. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if it will be ensured that when a person applies for the pandemic unemployment payment that the Revenue Commissioners and or her Department include in their calculation a person's annual income for the purposes of deciding upon the appropriate rate of PUP any income from State benefits including maternity or parental benefits to avoid discriminatory underpayment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43093/20]

*351. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an application by a person (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [43392/20]

*352. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of a pension application appeal by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [42884/20]

*353. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to allowing the free travel pass to be used for wheelchair accessible taxis particularly for persons with severe disabilities and those who live in isolated locations and cannot access public transport; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [42975/20]

*354. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of recipients of the State pension (contributory) whose pension entitlement is reduced as a result of the pension rate band changes introduced in 2012; the proportion of contributory pension recipients so affected; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [42976/20]

*355. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the processing of PPSN applications (details supplied); her plans to resume normal operations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43046/20]

*356. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43047/20]

*357. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding the treatment benefit scheme eligibility review; if consideration has been given to extending the scheme to retired persons who paid a class D PRSI contribution; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43061/20]

*358. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the social welfare payments considered when assessing eligibility for the Christmas bonus for persons with a combination of payments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43067/20]

*359. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person who has been out of work since March 2020 owing to Covid 19, has been in receipt of the temporary wage subsidy scheme, employment wage subsidy scheme and the pandemic unemployment payment, consecutively qualifies for the Christmas bonus; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43068/20]

*360. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to reconsider the means test for those in receipt of the blind pension; her plans to ensure those with a visual impairment are eligible to take up income opportunities should they arise; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [43095/20]

*361. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will postpone social welfare audits on persons with disabilities during Covid-19 restrictions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [43096/20]

*362. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) is entitled to an extension of their current participation on a community employment scheme to bring their participation up to the maximum of three years. — Michael Creed. [43124/20]

*363. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an issue (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [43125/20]

*364. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons waiting for an appointment after applying to be issued a PPS number. — Seán Crowe. [43191/20]

*365. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) in County Cork has an entitlement to carer's benefit. — Michael Creed. [43192/20]

*366. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of expired PSC free travel cards still in use as a result of Covid-19 restrictions of accessing in-office services that her Department provides; the timeline in respect of rectifying this issue; and if this issue has been notified to auditors at her Department. — Catherine Murphy. [43196/20]

*367. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will automatically extend the free travel passes expiring in 2020 and 2021 for a three-year period given that no letters advising persons that their cards are due to expire are issuing to free travel pass holders and is causing them to be refused access to buses and trains in circumstances in which they no longer have an active card (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43208/20]

*368. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of free travel passes that expired in 2020; the number that were extended and reissued; the number due to expire in 2021 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43209/20]

*369. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will advise free travel pass users via social media or online advice platforms that they will not be receiving a notification letter three months prior to the expiration of their free travel pass as no online notification of this exists (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43210/20]

*370. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of cases of carer's allowance under review; the number of reviews commenced per quarter in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43237/20]

*371. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of cases of domiciliary care allowance under review; the number of reviews commenced per quarter in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43238/20]

*372. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of cases of disability allowance under review; the number of reviews commenced per quarter in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43239/20]

*373. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of cases of invalidity pension under review; the number of reviews commenced per quarter in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [43240/20]

*374. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when she expects re-rate arrears will be paid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [43241/20]

*375. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the recommendation of the Labour Court will be implemented in relation to the community employment supervisors scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [43245/20]

*376. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated cost to pay the annual Christmas bonus 2020 to those in receipt of the family income support payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [43252/20]

*377. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to including recipients of the family income support payment in the bonus payment scheme for 2021 (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [43253/20]

*378. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed who had their fuel allowance disallowed on reaching 66 years of age; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [43274/20]

*379. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the guidelines and procedures in place to ensure applicants get a fair assessment of their applications; and if they have been followed in the case of a non-contributory pension application by a person (details supplied). — Aindrias Moynihan. [43351/20]

*380. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on a request for further backdating of a carer's allowance award in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43385/20]

*381. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the national social target for poverty reduction; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43398/20]

*382. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current status of targets under the national social target for poverty reduction; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43399/20]

*383. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025; the reason no national anti-poverty strategy was in place for the years 2017-2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43400/20]

*384. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on the new youth guarantee; her plans and intended deadlines to ensure those under 29 years of age can receive an offer of employment, education, traineeship or apprenticeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education as committed to under the new youth guarantee (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [41672/20]

*385. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will clarify the position regarding the means test for social welfare payments as it applies to jobseeker's allowance and non-contributory old age pensions with regard to the treatment of capital on deposit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [43446/20]

*386. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason those in receipt of maternity benefit do not receive the Christmas bonus; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43583/20]

*387. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason those in receipt of illness benefit do not receive the Christmas bonus; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43584/20]

*388. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason those in receipt of carer's allowance cannot avail of the fuel allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43585/20]

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

*389. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if advance local consultation now takes place in respect of proposed direct provision centres to be provided by private operators; if such local consultation takes place in respect of a possible centre at a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [42870/20]

*390. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the status of legislation on the gender pay gap. — Sean Sherlock. [43406/20]

*391. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if Tusla undertook a root and branch assessment of the current service before deciding to initiate changes to the service provision with regard to the expansion of the geographical area in mid-County Kerry; if all the local community services and agencies in the region with local knowledge were invited by Tusla at the planning stage to input and provide feedback regarding these changes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [42908/20]

*392. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there will be an increase in funding and staff numbers for Tusla to cover the service area proposed within the new system; if so, the percentage; and if not, the way in which the current staff will carry out their present role and cover the rest of the county as well. — Michael Healy-Rae. [42909/20]

*393. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if young persons and families will be referred immediately by neighbourhood youth projects with regard to the expansion of the geographical area of Tusla; and if not, if there will be a social work type of centralised referral system such as used currently by Tusla (details supplied). — Michael Healy-Rae. [42910/20]

*394. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of adults and children who accessed Tusla-funded domestic violence refuge accommodation to date in 2020; the average length of time families spent in such accommodation; and the number of beds available on a given night in 2019. — Eoin Ó Broin. [42921/20]

*395. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of adults and children remaining in direct provision centres after their leave to remain has been granted for the most recent date available. — Eoin Ó Broin. [42922/20]

*396. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of families and the number of unaccompanied children who have arrived in Ireland from the Moira Camp in Greece to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42936/20]

*397. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the timeline for publication of the white paper to replace the current direct provision system; the funding that will be provided for reforms required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42937/20]

*398. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the progress in bringing forward the start date for the extended paid parent's leave to earlier in the new year than was originally proposed in budget 2021; when the leave will commenced for parents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42943/20]

*399. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of residential care units for children provided by Tusla directly; the cost of this provision; the number of children placed in such residential provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43137/20]

*400. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the method by which the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes is obliged to make every reasonable effort to notify persons who gave evidence to the confidential committee of their entitlement to request that their personal information be redacted prior to that evidence being deposited with his Department as part of the Commission's archive; and if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Commission has contacted persons by phone and not in writing in the first instance. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43204/20]

*401. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extra supports that will be available to survivors of mother and baby homes (details supplied); the services over and above the National Counselling Service that will be available to survivors of mother and baby homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [43206/20]

*402. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if his attention has been drawn to the fact that all providers must adhere to health and safety and fire safety regulations to be able to re-register in 2019 for the coming year; if he will consider allowing providers to use these funds towards other important capital improvements to their facilities in this round; and if there is a facility for providers to recoup same given that many services have already heavily invested in fire safety from their own funds to re-register. — Kathleen Funchion. [43207/20]

*403. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if the reason Tusla has not provided payment to a person (details supplied) will be investigated; if the payment will be expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43267/20]

*404. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his views on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43322/20]

*405. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of persons that were made wards of court in 2019 and to date in 2020; the reason for the discrepancies in the figures provided by his Department in Parliamentary Question No. 441 of 8 December 2020 which stated that 385 persons were declared wards in 2019 and 269 persons to date in 2020, and the figures provided by the Department of Justice in Parliamentary Question No. 488 of 8 December 2020 which held that 346 persons were declared wards of court in 2019 and 271 to date in 2020; the correct figure for the number of persons who were declared wards of court in 2019 and to date in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43383/20]

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

*406. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason students are unable to claim the normal holiday allowance from SUSI when applying for the student grant scheme if they were in receipt of the pandemic unemployment payment during the holiday periods of Easter, Summer and Christmas 2020 given it is a payment in lieu of working; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [42978/20]

*407. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department finalised the agreement with colleges in the UK to ensure that Irish students do not have to pay higher fees or be considered as international students if they apply to UK colleges for courses including postgraduate courses for 2021-2022 due to Brexit. — Danny Healy-Rae. [43552/20]

*408. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the technological university resources will now be rebalanced to align with the aspirations of Project Ireland 2040 to support regional growth given that the university sector has grown by 40% since 2000 and the institute of technology sector has grown by 3% which is feeding the perception that Dublin with its multiple universities is sucking the life out of the rest of the country. — Matt Shanahan. [43568/20]

*409. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if students living here and attending university in Northern Ireland who are not in receipt of the SUSI grant are eligible to receive the €250 once off grant; if so, the way in which a student (details supplied) can apply for the grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [42858/20]

*410. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if postgraduate students are eligible to receive the €250 once off payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [42859/20]

*411. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when universities will implement his policy statement of 6 December 2020 (details supplied) that any college-owned accommodation refunds should be provided for; if such rent refunds will be backdated; if so, the date from which they will be backdated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [42944/20]

*412. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 697 of 1 December 2020, if students who had to return to college in order to carry out placements (details supplied) which were cancelled due to Covid-19 and have not had to pay fees for 2020 are included in the small number of cases in which alternative arrangements will be made for the payment of the monies to students given the disruption caused to them in having to return to college due to Covid-19. — Claire Kerrane. [43040/20]

*413. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the supports in place for postgraduate students given Covid-19 regulations around face-to-face learning in particular if institutions will consider refund of fees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43045/20]

*414. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures and supports that have been put in place for third-level students with dyslexia and

other conditions that secured them supports at second level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43284/20]

*415. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the details of the independently appointed consultants conducting the economic evaluation of the funding options presented in the Report of the Expert Group on Future Funding for Higher Education under Commission DG Reform Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43285/20]

*416. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if, in relation to SUSI grants, a student who qualified for the special rate support grant in their first year on an undergraduate course can be subsequently removed from this rate if their parent comes off the qualifying payment (details supplied); if this can happen regardless of the household's income which continues to be under €24,500; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43286/20]

*417. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if third-level institutions will provide rent refunds to students in on-campus accommodation for which courses are now being delivered online for the 2020-2021 academic year; if he has had discussions with the institutions on the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42227/20]

*418. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if third-level institutions will provide refunds to students for which courses are now being delivered online for the 2020-2021 academic year; if he has had discussions with the institutions on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42228/20]

*419. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the supports in place for students attending third-level institutions for the first time who may be struggling to adjust to the lack of college and course interaction due to current restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43356/20]

*420. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will establish a payment or bursary system for students of nursing and midwifery in the interests of encouraging more students to study nursing and midwifery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43417/20]

*421. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will examine a payment or bursary system to ensure that nursing and midwifery graduates are not graduating with high levels of debt given the high level of emigration by graduate nurses and midwives; if he will address the lower level of pay for these graduates compared to graduates of other healthcare disciplines with whom many of them share classes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43422/20]

*422. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the rationale for the fees of over €15,000 a year for graduate entry medicine which means many students of this course leave university with loans of up to €100,000 which often results in emigration and exacerbates the staff shortages in medicine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43423/20]

*423. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if financial support will be given to a person (details supplied) in the high-risk category for Covid-19 who is taking part in an online masters course having been refused a SUSI grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [43558/20]

*424. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of full-time further education students by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43563/20]

*425. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the details of the decline in apprentice entrant numbers to FET courses as a result of Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43564/20]

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

*426. To ask the Minister for Justice the plans that exist for an independent policing historical investigation unit to investigate incidents related to the troubles to the State. — Patrick Costello. [42863/20]

*427. To ask the Minister for Justice if the An Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission has plans for the implementation of a historical investigations directorate in relation to crimes committed during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. — Patrick Costello. [42864/20]

*428. To ask the Minister for Justice the actions she has taken regarding the specific recommendations in the 2019 report Addressing the Legacy of Northern Ireland's Past by the former Northern Ireland Commissioner for Victims and regarding the needs of victims in the State in relation to the Troubles conflict with specific reference to recommendation 12 and 47 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [42865/20]

*429. To ask the Minister for Justice the process by which persons of Irish descent can retire in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [43244/20]

*430. To ask the Minister for Justice when a person (details supplied) will receive a full reply to their correspondence. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [42868/20]

*431. To ask the Minister for Justice the details of the specific directions given to GNIB offices in relation to the granting of immigration permissions in particular to clarify the conditions that lead to an individual renewing their immigration registration not being granted permission for the length of time specified by the INIS; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [42880/20]

*432. To ask the Minister for Justice the position regarding the Legal Aid Board law centre, Canada Street, Waterford; if her attention has been drawn to concerns raised locally regarding the planned relocation of the offices; if she will engage with management and staff of the law centre with a view to addressing the concerns; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [42894/20]

*433. To ask the Minister for Justice if she plans to reform the operations of GSOC particularly; if she plans to allow for appeals of persons whose initial complaint to the Commission are refused; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [42914/20]

*434. To ask the Minister for Justice the steps taken to date to carry out a review of the Offences Against the State Act 1939 provisions as committed to by her predecessor on 24 June 2020 during a debate in Dáil Éireann; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [42993/20]

*435. To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43016/20]

*436. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí assigned to the K district; the number of gardaí assigned to different departments; and the number of vehicles attached to stations in the K district in tabular form. — Paul Donnelly. [43032/20]

*437. To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43041/20]

*438. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of full-time forensic accountants currently in the Criminal Assets Bureau and Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau in tabular form; if further accountants will be recruited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43048/20]

*439. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of new marked and unmarked Garda cars and vans allocated to the Garda dog unit in 2019 and to date in 2020; the number of vehicles withdrawn during the same period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43049/20]

*440. To ask the Minister for Justice if gardaí have access to interpreter services on a 24/7 basis on the roadside when dealing with members of the public who have little or no English; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43050/20]

*441. To ask the Minister for Justice the number or percentage of Garda vehicles that are aged over 12 years in each Garda division within the Dublin region as of 4 December 2020, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43051/20]

*442. To ask the Minister for Justice if funding will be provided for the purchase of additional unmarked Garda public order unit vans; the number of unmarked Garda public order unit vans within the fleet; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43052/20]

*443. To ask the Minister for Justice the estimated full-year cost of the budget for the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43053/20]

*444. To ask the Minister for Justice the number and percentage of roads policing unit fleet that are fitted with a LED matrix sign on the back window of the vehicle. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43089/20]

*445. To ask the Minister for Justice the estimated cost in 2021 if the budget for Garda youth division projects increased by 7.5%. — Martin Browne. [43105/20]

*446. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí by rank attached to Garda human trafficking investigation and co-ordination unit as of 7 December 2020. — Martin Browne. [43106/20]

*447. To ask the Minister for Justice if she has formally met with the CEO of an organisation (details supplied) since her appointment; and if so, when she will next meet the CEO. — Martin Browne. [43107/20]

*448. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of an application for citizenship in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43127/20]

*449. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in respect of the determination of an application for citizenship in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43187/20]

*450. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí assigned to each Garda station in Limerick; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [43242/20]

*451. To ask the Minister for Justice the way in which property management companies are regulated; the provisions that exist for their effective regulation; and her plans to introduce further and stronger provisions for the regulation of property management companies. — Louise O'Reilly. [43250/20]

*452. To ask the Minister for Justice if the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission issued correspondence to her Department with regard to the processing of immigrant investor programme applications for investments within the beef processing sector; if the correspondence made reference to submissions by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43256/20]

*453. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of barricade hostage incidents involving gardaí in the first eleven months of 2020; and the number in 2019. — Michael McNamara. [43273/20]

*454. To ask the Minister for Justice the options explored in relation to the socially-distanced swearing in of juries for trials in Tralee Courthouse; if any venues were examined; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43319/20]

*455. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination for citizenship in the case of a person (details supplied); when a decision is likely to issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43367/20]

*456. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of persons that were made wards of court in 2019 and to date in 2020; the reason for the discrepancies in the figures provided by her Department in Parliamentary Question No. 488 of 8 December 2020 which stated that 346 persons were declared wards in 2019 and 271 persons to date in 2020, and the figures provided by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in Parliamentary Question No. 441 of 8 December 2020 which held that 385 persons were declared wards of court in 2019 and 269 to date in 2020; the correct figure for the number of persons who were declared wards of court in 2019 and to date in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43384/20]

*457. To ask the Minister for Justice the estimated number of persons that will be required to exchange their existing immigration residence permit card for a new, different residence permit due to new rules affecting non-EEA family members of UK citizens resident in Ireland under the Withdrawal Agreement; the additional resources that will be given to the Garda National

Immigration Bureau to deal with the increase in demand for registration appointments; and her plans to raise awareness of this new requirement among affected migrant communities. — Sean Sherlock. [43389/20]

*458. To ask the Minister for Justice when an application for a joint family visa (details supplied) will be processed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43393/20]

*459. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of persons who have availed of assisted voluntary return following service of a deportation order in each month since March 2020. — Sean Sherlock. [43433/20]

*460. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of data access requests GSOC and CAB have made to telecommunications and social media companies in the past three years to date in 2020 under the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011; the number of access requests that were approved and declined by the companies that the data was requested from; and the reason the data was sought. — Catherine Murphy. [43435/20]

*461. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of data access requests the Data Protection Commission has made to telecommunications and social media companies in the past three years to date in 2020 under the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011; the number of access requests that were approved and declined by the companies that the data was requested from; and the reason the data was sought. — Catherine Murphy. [43437/20]

*462. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of data access requests the special detective unit of An Garda Síochána has made to telecommunications and social media companies in the past three years to date in 2020 under the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011; the number of access requests that were approved and declined by the companies that the data was requested from; and the reason the data was sought. — Catherine Murphy. [43438/20]

*463. To ask the Minister for Justice the numbers of knives seized by An Garda Síochána in 2019 and to date 2020. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43457/20]

*464. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 8 of 10 September 2020, if she will ensure further investigations are carried out into the Belturbet bombing of December 1972 following the submission of a report to her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43504/20]

*465. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 4 of 10 September 2020, the progress to date in publishing the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2018; when it will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43528/20]

*466. To ask the Minister for Justice when a decision will be made on an application for citizenship by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43565/20]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*467. To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to implement the pay restoration for section 39 organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [42947/20]

*468. To ask the Minister for Health if there are age limits in Ireland on the consumption of energy drinks which can contain concentrated amounts of caffeine or other stimulants; if not, if there are plans to introduce age limits for energy drinks for those under 16 years of age as is the case in other jurisdictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [43031/20]

*469. To ask the Minister for Health the costs incurred by the State Claims Agency in respect of medical negligence claims in 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020; and the amount the agency has paid out in legal costs and in respect of the pay-outs. — Catherine Murphy. [43226/20]

*470. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the European Court of Justice decision that CBD is not a narcotic under EU law; the impact this will have for hemp cultivation in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43264/20]

*471. To ask the Minister for Health the details of his engagements with the National and Midwifery Board of Ireland regarding the annual retention fee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [41793/20]

*472. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there is no age limit regulating the sale of vape products; and his plans to rectify the situation. — Thomas Gould. [43374/20]

*473. To ask the Minister for Health if an exemption can be made for a person (details supplied) who has been informed by a company that it cannot process receipts for health services which are more than six months outside the end of the insurance year in question; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43395/20]

*474. To ask the Minister for Health his plans in 2021 for the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine on college campuses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43424/20]

*475. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding pay restoration for section 39 workers. — Michael Creed. [43445/20]

*476. To ask the Minister for Health the amount allocated in 2021 for pay restoration for section 39 workers; the specific measures this funding covers; the number of section 39 employers this funding is earmarked to fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43534/20]

*477. To ask the Minister for Health his position in relation to addressing the differentials in pay experienced by those working in section 39 organisations in comparison to those working in identical positions in section 38 and public sector organisations; if it is his policy to address these pay differentials; and if so, the target date for completion of this process. — Róisín Shortall. [43536/20]

*478. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the funding to date provided to section 39 organisations in respect of pay restoration is insufficient to meet the costs of full pay restoration in those organisations as it does not cover costs such as associated pension costs, employers PRSI increases and certain part-time posts; the basis on which these allocations have been decided; his plans to address this issue; and the time frame he is working to. — Róisín Shortall. [43537/20]

*479. To ask the Minister for Health the different supports available to keep elderly persons in their homes for as long as possible and the way in which to access those supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [42846/20]

*480. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that while all NHS and social care workers in Scotland are receiving a £500 payment to thank them for working on the frontline during Covid-19, Irish nurses are having to pay a €100 registration fee to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland; if he will request that this fee is waived; if not, the reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [42847/20]

*481. To ask the Minister for Health if he will advise on a matter raised in correspondence (details supplied); if the pension abatement rule for public sector pensions applies to employment with section 38 and 39 organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [42869/20]

*482. To ask the Minister for Health the latest engagement with organisations (details supplied) on Covid-related changes to work practices, the provision of additional paramedic posts and the nature of proposed changes to work practices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [42874/20]

*483. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting over 12 months to see a speech and language therapist by CHO in tabular form. — Denise Mitchell. [42878/20]

*484. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting over 12 months to see an occupational therapist by CHO in tabular form. — Denise Mitchell. [42879/20]

*485. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider extending the free flu vaccine scheme to children up to 17 years of age in view of the relatively low rates of take-up of the nasal flu vaccine by children aged two to 12 years of age. — Paul Murphy. [42889/20]

*486. To ask the Minister for Health the health promotion campaigns that have been carried out in 2020 by his Department or the HSE to encourage the public to boost their immune system (details supplied) specifically to aid in the fight against Covid-19. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [42893/20]

*487. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients waiting for pain relief treatment at University Hospital Galway by outpatients and inpatients; the number of years on waiting list and age profile; the longest length of time a patient has been on the waiting list; the steps he plans to take to deal with the inordinately long waiting times for pain relief in Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42899/20]

*488. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients waiting for pain relief treatment at each hospital; the average length of time spent on the waiting list in each case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42900/20]

*489. To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent consultant posts currently filled nationally; the number of permanent consultant posts which are currently not filled on a permanent basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42901/20]

*490. To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent consultant posts which are currently unfilled nationally; the number of such posts which are filled on a temporary, locum

or agency basis, respectively; the number which are vacant, by area; if it is at hospital level or community level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42902/20]

*491. To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent consultant posts currently unfilled in the Saolta University Healthcare Group, by hospital and specialty; the number of such posts which are filled on a temporary, locum or agency basis, respectively; the number which are vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42903/20]

*492. To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent consultant posts currently unfilled in the CHO2 area, by specialty; the number of such posts which are filled on a temporary, locum or agency basis, respectively; the number which are vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42904/20]

*493. To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent consultant posts which have been unfilled; the length of time the post has been unfilled; the speciality and area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42905/20]

*494. To ask the Minister for Health when the currently unfilled permanent consultant posts will be filled; the number planned to be permanently filled in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [42906/20]

*495. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the case of a person (details supplied) regarding additional help at weekends; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [42907/20]

*496. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the payment of travel allowances which are owed to student nurses from placements which took place almost one year ago; and if these allowances will be paid without further delay. — Emer Higgins. [42923/20]

*497. To ask the Minister for Health the clinical grounds on which referral for specialist services abroad has been refused in the case of a person (details supplied); the actions proposed given that the course of treatment currently in place is not working; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [42925/20]

*498. To ask the Minister for Health if he will put in place additional adult service supports in CHO8 to assist patients dealing with eating disorders. — Robert Troy. [42926/20]

*499. To ask the Minister for Health if he will appoint a full-time dietician to adult services in CHO8. — Robert Troy. [42927/20]

*500. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider putting funding in place to provide treatment centres or community specialist services to support those with eating disorders in CHO8. — Robert Troy. [42928/20]

*501. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a new elective hospital location in Cork; and when the process on site selection will be completed. — Sean Sherlock. [42930/20]

*502. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide additional supports as a matter of urgency for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [42932/20]

*503. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the new primary healthcare centre for an area (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [42941/20]

*504. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to situations in which dental practices are no longer providing treatments to patients under the medical card scheme; the action he is taking to address the situation in view of the significant financial pressure this is placing on medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [42946/20]

*505. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the 48 bed hospital extension for Mallow General Hospital, County Cork; the status of the extension; and the costings and timelines for same. — Sean Sherlock. [42953/20]

*506. To ask the Minister for Health if additional home service supports will be provided for a person (details supplied) as a matter of urgency. — Robert Troy. [42954/20]

*507. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting time for appointments and the number waiting for appointments for HSE child dental services in County Laois; and the action he is taking to address the backlog due to Covid-19. — Peadar Tóibín. [42955/20]

*508. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting time for appointments and the numbers waiting for appointments for HSE child dental services in County Meath; and the action he is taking to address the backlog due to Covid-19. — Peadar Tóibín. [42956/20]

*509. To ask the Minister for Health if special services are being developed for long Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [42966/20]

*510. To ask the Minister for Health the baseline unit cost for formal out-of-home respite services; the baseline unit cost for formal in-home respite; the baseline unit cost for recreation and holiday respite breaks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [42970/20]

*511. To ask the Minister for Health if the calculation of a pension charge for a person (details supplied) will be assessed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [42971/20]

*512. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the HSE CAMHS waiting list by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [42973/20]

*513. To ask the Minister for Health when a final decision will be made on an application for the reimbursement of the drug dupilumab; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42974/20]

*514. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the drug dupilumab (details supplied) which has been under assessment since November 2018; his plans to provide access to the drug for persons with eczema here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [42977/20]

*515. To ask the Minister for Health the duties home helps can perform; and if his attention has been drawn to a situation in which persons are being informed home helps will now only perform personal care duties. — Thomas Gould. [42990/20]

*516. To ask the Minister for Health his views on a matter (details supplied) regarding wearing masks during physical education in secondary school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43027/20]

*517. To ask the Minister for Health the numbers of teachers, special needs assistants and classroom assistants who have contracted Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43038/20]

*518. To ask the Minister for Health the changes arising from budget 2021 in relation to specific supports for persons suffering from Parkinson's; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43044/20]

*519. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43056/20]

*520. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the wait time for speech and language therapy assessments in CHO area 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43057/20]

*521. To ask the Minister for Health the expected time frame for a speech and language therapy assessment for a person (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [43058/20]

*522. To ask the Minister for Health if there are supports for low income persons or households for transport to hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43060/20]

*523. To ask the Minister for Health if all nursing home operators should facilitate an indoor visit under level 3 of the Covid-19 framework once a week for one family member for a duration of up to one hour while also providing window visits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43064/20]

*524. To ask the Minister for Health if mesh injury will be recognised as a long-term illness; his plans for reparations for mesh injury; if there will be a public inquiry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43065/20]

*525. To ask the Minister for Health if residents of nursing homes will be able to leave their nursing homes as in previous years to spend a period of time celebrating Christmas and the New Year with their respective families in their own homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43066/20]

*526. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which nursing shifts, lunch breaks and toilet breaks have been affected at University Hospital Kerry due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43069/20]

*527. To ask the Minister for Health the monthly breakdown of the patient-to-nurse ratio across all acute hospitals to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43070/20]

*528. To ask the Minister for Health the number of solely administrative staff recruited to University Hospital Kerry in each of the years 2015 to 2019 and to date in 2020; the number that

were new positions; the number that were filling retired or departed staff in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43071/20]

*529. To ask the Minister for Health the details of protocols in relation to staff wearing of masks within acute hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43072/20]

*530. To ask the Minister for Health the amount allocated to mental health and wellness supports for staff within the acute hospital system; the breakdown of this allocation for each acute hospital in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43073/20]

*531. To ask the Minister for Health the policy of the HSE on accepting of donations of food or goods from the public during the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43074/20]

*532. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the Covid and non-Covid-19 wards of University Hospital Kerry; if staff were kept operationally separate from between these wards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [43075/20]

*533. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 228 of 30 September 2020, if savings are achieved through the use of agency staff or if it is more expensive to use agency staff; the cost-benefit analyses that have been conducted over the past decade on the use of agency staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43083/20]

*534. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to allow a companion of choice at birth for women during Covid-19 restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43084/20]

*535. To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant psychiatrist posts allocated to each CHO in tabular form; and if he will provide the same figures as of 1 December 2018 and 1 December 2019. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43085/20]

*536. To ask the Minister for Health if the post of clinical lead for the National Clinical Programme for Dual Diagnosis has been filled on a permanent basis. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43086/20]

*537. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of recruiting two additional full-time senior pharmacists for the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43087/20]

*538. To ask the Minister for Health if the drug dupilumab which is a treatment for atopic eczema will be approved for Irish patients soon; the reason this treatment which is available throughout Europe and in Northern Ireland has still not been approved here given its benefits as a targeted treatment for atopic eczema; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [43098/20]

*539. To ask the Minister for Health the date the next national recruitment campaign for dental nurses will commence. — Martin Browne. [43100/20]

*540. To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time spinal nurses specialists working in each of the paediatric hospitals in each of the past three years in tabular form. — Martin Browne. [43101/20]

*541. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost in 2021 of recruiting seven extra clinical nurse coordinators for children with life limiting conditions. — Martin Browne. [43102/20]

*542. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE Midwest CHO3 is cancelling clinical agency staff hired to perform swabbing, while it is seeking assistance from the Defence Forces and the National Ambulance Service and redeploying primary care staff at overtime rates; if so, the reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43111/20]

*543. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the continued closure of bowling alleys. — Thomas Gould. [43116/20]

*544. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the continued closure of bowling alleys under current restrictions given the ability for social distancing within such a business and the reopening of businesses which are of a similar risk level. — Pat Buckley. [43118/20]

*545. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) who missed the HPV vaccine four years ago can avail of it now. — Dara Calleary. [43119/20]

*546. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to put in place a holistic aftercare package for those suffering from long Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43131/20]

*547. To ask the Minister for Health the reason access to HSE files under freedom of information can be refused under section 15(1)(c) if it is felt that there are too many documents to retrieve and examine; his views on whether this denial of access can have grave and far reaching implications for those who need their files; if consideration will be given to re-examining this particular reason for denying access in view of the negative impact it has on those who need to see their files; if there is a right to appeal this decision; if so, if the appeal can be conducted by an independent reviewer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [43135/20]

*548. To ask the Minister for Health if a person who attends and pays for a consultation with a private consultant can then be referred to the top of a public waiting list by this consultant with no fees should the medical need be great enough. — Robert Troy. [43190/20]

*549. To ask the Minister for Health if pilates classes are allowed under level 3 restrictions in instances in which participants are more than two metres apart throughout and instructors wear appropriate PPE. — Paul McAuliffe. [43195/20]

*550. To ask the Minister for Health if a facility (details supplied) can open under level 3 restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43197/20]

*551. To ask the Minister for Health if he will allow dance classes to open during level three restrictions (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [43205/20]

*552. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) will be referred for a hip replacement under the treatment purchase scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43221/20]

*553. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a campaign led by nurses that seeks to have the annual retention fee paid to the NMBI waived for 2020 to

reflect their service during the pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [43224/20]

*554. To ask the Minister for Health the costs incurred by his Department in respect of medical negligence claims in 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020; and the amount paid out in legal costs and in respect of the pay-outs. — Catherine Murphy. [43225/20]

*555. To ask the Minister for Health if he will encompass EMTs, paramedics, advanced paramedics and so on who work with PHECC-approved voluntary organisations such as organisations (details supplied) under category 2 for the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine; if so, the way in which such persons will be identified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43233/20]

*556. To ask the Minister for Health if overnight respite care will be reinstated for a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43243/20]

*557. To ask the Minister for Health the number of students accepting Covid-19 tests in each third-level institution in which the HSE is offering mass Covid-19 testing in tabular form. — Sean Sherlock. [43248/20]

*558. To ask the Minister for Health when a full-time child psychiatrist will be assigned to Limerick in addition to the one that travels from Dublin a couple of times a month. — Peadar Tóibín. [43249/20]

*559. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to work with an organisation (details supplied) as part of the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43251/20]

*560. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to rolling out the Sligo scheme for cataract treatment nationwide (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [43258/20]

*561. To ask the Minister for Health if carers will be specifically included in the vaccination allocation programme. — Sean Sherlock. [43260/20]

*562. To ask the Minister for Health the position in the vaccination allocation programme of persons under 18 years of age with underlying conditions. — Sean Sherlock. [43261/20]

*563. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) can avail of a medical access programme licence. — Joe Flaherty. [43262/20]

*564. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the strategy known as zero Covid; if his Department or NPHEC has carried out an analysis on the feasibility of a zero Covid strategy; if copies of advice NPHEC provided to his Department on a zero Covid strategy will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43271/20]

*565. To ask the Minister for Health if copies of all of the correspondence between NPHEC and his Department that was used to consider the move to level 5 restrictions in October 2020 will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43272/20]

*566. To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid to a consultancy firm (details supplied) by his Department from 1 January 2019 to date in 2020; the reason for such contracts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43276/20]

*567. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the agreement reached at the Workplace Relations Commission in 2018 on a process of pay restoration for section 39 organisations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43278/20]

*568. To ask the Minister for Health when the Covid vaccination roll-out plan adults caring for vulnerable children will be vaccinated; his views on the need to vaccinate adults caring for vulnerable children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43283/20]

*569. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 165 of 18 November 2020, the status of the December HSE Drugs Group meeting at which two applications for dupilumab were reconsidered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [43287/20]

*570. To ask the Minister for Health if he will urge the NMBI to waive the €100 retention fee for nurses to retain their name on the live register; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [43292/20]

*571. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration for the inclusion of bipolar disorder to the diseases and disabilities covered by the long-term illness scheme has been examined; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [43293/20]

*572. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the vaccine taskforce is defining housing overcrowding; if it will include persons living in direct provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [43318/20]

*573. To ask the Minister for Health the full details of the decision made by the HSE drugs group to support reimbursement of dupilumab for the treatment of moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis in both adults and adolescents of 12 years of age and older who are candidates for systemic therapy which was on the group's agenda for its December 2020 meeting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [43321/20]

*574. To ask the Minister for Health if patients with cerebral palsy are included in the 18 to 64 years of age group with medical conditions Covid Vaccine Allocation Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [43323/20]

*575. To ask the Minister for Health the reason medically vulnerable persons aged under 65 years of age have been placed in vaccine group 7; the group persons with cystic fibrosis and immunocompromised conditions are in; the reason for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [43317/20]

*576. To ask the Minister for Health if the State will pay the registration fees for nurses and midwives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43345/20]

*577. To ask the Minister for Health the actions he will take to ensure older persons will get their full visit entitlement under Health Protection Surveillance Centre guidelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43349/20]

*578. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the maternity restrictions in Mayo University Hospital as there are currently no reported cases in MUH; his plans to allow birthing partners attend scans and births as this is causing huge anxiety to couples; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43353/20]

*579. To ask the Minister for Health when the Covid-19 report will be available on Mayo University Hospital; the recommendations that have been identified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43354/20]

*580. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide clarification on the position of posted workers (details supplied). — James Lawless. [43359/20]

*581. To ask the Minister for Health the data obtained by his Department relating to self-harm presentations to emergency departments per day and emergency departments during the period 27 March to 31 August 2020, collected and collated by the HSE National Clinical Programme for the Assessment and Management of Patients presenting to emergency departments following self-harm, as opposed to the scant data collected and collated by the National Self-Harm Registry, which has been provided to this Deputy pursuant to Parliamentary Question No 196 of 18 November 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43364/20]

*582. To ask the Minister for Health if the incident report has been prepared with regard to the serious incident review as referred to in a HIQA response (details supplied) relating to the tragic Covid-19 breakout in a nursing home in 2020; and if so, if a copy of the report will be released. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43372/20]

*583. To ask the Minister for Health if he will waive NMBI registration fees for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43386/20]

*584. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the scoliosis waiting list; if there is a waiting list for treatment; if so, if the waiting list is being addressed; if not, the reason; if there is a facilities shortage; and if there is a funding shortage in relation to same. — Robert Troy. [43387/20]

*585. To ask the Minister for Health if a public health nurse will be arranged to call again to a person (details supplied); if this can be arranged a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43397/20]

*586. To ask the Minister for Health the date on which the national adult critical care capacity and activity census report 2020 will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43401/20]

*587. To ask the Minister for Health the date on which the national service plan 2021 will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43402/20]

*588. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the investigation into a protected disclosure made by a worker from a HSE facility (details supplied); if there has been engagement with the whistleblower; the details of this engagement and any future engagements planned; the estimated date for completion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43403/20]

*589. To ask the Minister for Health if he is satisfied that children who are fostered do not face obstacles in accessing services provided by his Department, for example, by requiring additional

documentation or compliance requirements; and if he will consider the policies and practices now in place to ensure no unnecessary obstacles stand in the way of children who are likely to have priority needs. — Richard Bruton. [43411/20]

*590. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the continued closure of dance schools which is causing stress to operators and to the children who are missing out on the opportunity to dance in a properly regulated setting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [43412/20]

*591. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to use the old Wicklow District Hospital building for respite and long-term care support in the form of a day care centre for the elderly of County Wicklow. — John Brady. [43413/20]

*592. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to reopen 20 beds in the former Wicklow District Hospital in Wicklow town; and his plans for same. — John Brady. [43414/20]

*593. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter regarding the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43415/20]

*594. To ask the Minister for Health if there will be a Traveller mental health strategy developed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [43420/20]

*595. To ask the Minister for Health if there will be a Traveller representative on the monitoring committee for the implementation of Sharing the Vision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [43421/20]

*596. To ask the Minister for Health the representatives appointed to the monitoring committee for the implementation of Sharing the Vision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [43418/20]

*597. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which a service can nominate a person to the monitoring committee for the implementation of Sharing the Vision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [43419/20]

*598. To ask the Minister for Health if the guidelines of the HSE for pregnant women are in line with international research; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [43425/20]

*599. To ask the Minister for Health the schemes available to persons who need to avail of medical expertise not available in this jurisdiction but available in the UK; the processes through which a patient can apply for these schemes if the tests and procedures required are available here but expertise for interpretation are not; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [43428/20]

*600. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to engage with an organisation (details supplied) to resolve ongoing disputes regarding charging for routine phlebotomy services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43429/20]

*601. To ask the Minister for Health the reason medicinal cannabis must be sourced from the Hague; if other exporters are available; and if consideration has been given to sourcing the product from other sources. — Thomas Gould. [43430/20]

*602. To ask the Minister for Health if he has contacted his counterparts in the UK and Northern Ireland to discuss their arrangements for the importation of medicinal cannabis. — Thomas Gould. [43431/20]

*603. To ask the Minister for Health when residential care will be provided for a person (details supplied). — Duncan Smith. [43440/20]

*604. To ask the Minister for Health if additional on standby payments made to nursing home staff who have agreed to be on call 24 hours a day in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak can be reimbursed to nursing home facilities (details supplied) through the temporary assistance payment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43447/20]

*605. To ask the Minister for Health the costs incurred by his Department and or the HSE in the commissioning and production including professional fees of advice from a company (details supplied) on Covid-19 restrictions published online on 27 October 2020; and if further expenditure was incurred on external services or consultants for advice on Covid-19 restrictions for the period since 17 October 2020. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [43448/20]

*606. To ask the Minister for Health if an appointment will be scheduled for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [43450/20]

*607. To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional beds that have been provided to date under the Winter Plan; the breakdown under each category of bed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [43452/20]

*608. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which he is monitoring implementation of the Winter Plan; if he is receiving regular updates; when he last received an update on implementation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [43453/20]

*609. To ask the Minister for Health the number of critical care beds now in place as provided for under the Winter Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [43454/20]

*610. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an itemised list of each section 39 organisation that to date has not yet had pay restored since the agreement at the WRC in October 2018; if he will provide a list of those that to date have had pay restored; the projected cost of resolving the outstanding bodies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [43455/20]

*611. To ask the Minister for Health the projected additional spend on Covid-19 in the health service in 2020; the spend to date; the breakdown of the figures by the amount spent on additional staff and on testing, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [43456/20]

*612. To ask the Minister for Health the rationale behind the decision taken regarding operating of yoga classes and studios under level 3 of the Living with Covid Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43459/20]

*613. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to allowing yoga classes proceed (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [43460/20]

*614. To ask the Minister for Health if those eligible for the free flu vaccine through the HSE immunisation programme will be eligible for reimbursement after HSE procured supplies are exhausted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [43462/20]

*615. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the planned introduction of a statutory homecare scheme in Ireland; the status of the proposed timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43463/20]

*616. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1470 of 3 November 2020, the number of HSE staff currently redeployed to the testing and tracing system from other areas of the health service; the number from each specialty that are redeployed in tabular form; the additional breakdown of specialties for those redeployed from the health and social care professions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43464/20]

*617. To ask the Minister for Health the level of compliance in filling out the passenger locator forms on a weekly basis from 26 October 2020; the number of forms which were correctly and incorrectly completed on a weekly basis, respectively; and the number of persons that refused to fill out the form on a weekly basis in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [43465/20]

*618. To ask the Minister for Health the number of follow-up calls made to incoming passengers on a weekly basis from 26 October 2020; and the number of calls which were successfully answered on a weekly basis in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [43466/20]

*619. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nasal spray child flu vaccines administered to date; the date of expiration for the circa 600,000 nasal spray doses bought by the HSE in 2020; the steps he will take to ensure increased uptake before their expiry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43468/20]

*620. To ask the Minister for Health the status of projects (details supplied) related to commitments made within Project Ireland 2040; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43469/20]

*621. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recruit a full-time consultant neurologist for Wexford General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [43471/20]

*622. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1370 of 8 September 2020, the reason there are no dedicated neuropsychology posts for children or adults in the HSE South East Community Healthcare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [43472/20]

*623. To ask the Minister for Health the steps which will be taken to ensure the HSE has the capacity to process primary medical certs from 1 January 2020; the outcome of the meeting on 9 December 2020 between Minister of State with responsibility for Disability at his Department and the Department of Justice and the Secretary General; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43475/20]

*624. To ask the Minister for Health the outcome of his meeting with the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability at his Department and the Department of Justice on developments at Portiuncula Hospital Ballinasloe; when the construction of the new ward block will commence;

when the existing CAT scan will be replaced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43476/20]

*625. To ask the Minister for Health his position on the continued farming of mink in Ireland with regard to the demonstrated decreased susceptibility to antibodies of a strain of Covid-19 in persons previously infected as cited by the Chief Medical Officer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43484/20]

*626. To ask the Minister for Health the number of times a student nurse has been rostered to work a shift of eight hours or greater since 19 October 2020, by hospital by one hour increments in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43485/20]

*627. To ask the Minister for Health if section 38 and 39 service providers have to provide a first aid qualified person at each location. — Alan Kelly. [43488/20]

*628. To ask the Minister for Health if a training grant is provided to section 38 and 39 organisations to provide first aid services at each location. — Alan Kelly. [43489/20]

*629. To ask the Minister for Health if all disability day service care workers or staff that were redeployed during Covid-19 have been returned to their original day service; the number of staff by service provider and location that have not been returned to their pre-Covid-19 location; and the number of service users that have had the service curtailed as a result in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [43500/20]

*630. To ask the Minister for Health the reason Ireland's rate of Covid-19 deaths per 100,000 is far higher relative to the incidence rate per 100,000 than other EU/EEA states with the lowest incidence rates. — Michael McNamara. [43501/20]

*631. To ask the Minister for Health if palliative care and respite beds will return to St. Brigid's facility, Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary; and if so, the date. — Alan Kelly. [43502/20]

*632. To ask the Minister for Health if alternative treatments provided to cancer patients are currently deemed essential; if not, if this will be reconsidered considering the mental and physical benefits offered to those suffering from a variety of illnesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [43503/20]

*633. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43521/20]

*634. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the rapid review of previous progress of Healthy Ireland that was undertaken by his Department; the details of the extensive stakeholder engagement; the details of the review of goals for alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [43522/20]

*635. To ask the Minister for Health if persons with cerebral palsy who are in the high risk category for Covid-19 are included in the Covid-19 vaccine allocation strategy, specifically the seventh group, persons aged 18 to 64 with certain medical conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [43523/20]

*636. To ask the Minister for Health if local authorities will be consulted on the Covid-19 vaccine to those in the group nine, persons aged living or working in crowded settings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [43525/20]

*637. To ask the Minister for Health his views on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43530/20]

*638. To ask the Minister for Health the target date for the completion of the current HSE review exercise with the 250 section 39 organisations that have received no funding for pay restoration. — Róisín Shortall. [43538/20]

*639. To ask the Minister for Health the reason ultrasounds for letters issued to women in the highest at risk category of ovarian cancer are saying the waiting list is six to 12 weeks when the women themselves are being informed that they are running at 27 plus weeks; and his views on whether this is an acceptable wait time for a scan to detect a cancer that is the fourth most common cancer in women in Ireland and has a significant fatality rate. — Louise O'Reilly. [43559/20]

*640. To ask the Minister for Health the cost of the HPV vaccine for medical and non-medical card holders who are advised to get the vaccine by their general practitioner or consultant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [43562/20]

*641. To ask the Minister for Health the evidence and reasoning behind the continued closure of yoga studios when similar facilities such as gyms have reopened; if he will allow yoga studios to reopen with relevant guidelines if there is no clear evidence to the contrary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43569/20]

*642. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to make the drug dupilumab available to those living with severe atopic eczema; the time frame for its roll out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [43575/20]

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

*643. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the products on the Biocidal Product Register which do not meet the WHO minimum standards for efficacy particularly regarding the levels of ethanol and other alcohols; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42851/20]

*644. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the personnel who carry out a desktop review of products for entry onto the Biocidal Product Register are sufficiently qualified and experienced in chemistry and regulatory techniques and procedures; if they are appropriately competent in interpreting the safety datasheets for the active ingredient, co-formulants and impurity profiles of toxicological significance of the applicant products for entry on the Biocidal Product Register; the minimum academic and laboratory qualifications required for the personnel deployed for this work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42852/20]

*645. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department's senior agricultural inspectors and or professionally qualified evaluators are reviewing the approval of products currently on the Biocidal Product Register while they are working from home; if not, the reason; the possible adverse consequences of same and danger to the public; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42853/20]

*646. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the methods of analysis used to test and evaluate the products on the Biocidal Product Register if statistically an appropriate surveillance schedule is in place to conform with best practice and established standards; if such procedures were and are in place; the reason his Department failed to identify the defective and substandard hand sanitisers prior to his Department being notified by the Revenue Commissioners; if the details of the schedule will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42854/20]

*647. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the attention of the professional personnel in his Department was drawn to a red flag warning which was widely reported in toxicology and regulatory circles and raised by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States of America earlier in summer 2020, detailing serious concerns regarding high methanol levels in some imported Mexican hand sanitiser products; if not, the reason; if his Department put in place effective measures and procedures to identify and locate these products in Ireland; if an assurance will be given that all entries into and on the Biocidal Product Register are now being appropriately reviewed and re-examined for adverse toxicological affects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42855/20]

*648. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of staff within his Department that have a flock or herd number registered in their name; the number of these staff that have received permission to represent themselves as flock or herd number holders on issues with his Department; the number of staff that are members of or are affiliated with a farm organisation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42856/20]

*649. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the way in which farmers are expected to meet the 5% reduction target as part of the BEAM scheme when the nitrates updates are only updated the month prior and figures are only available up until the end of October 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [42857/20]

*650. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if an application by a person (details supplied) in County Kerry for the beef finisher scheme will be processed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [42917/20]

*651. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the 2020 BPS payment will issue to a herdowner (details supplied) given that the delay is being caused by a software update which is beyond their control and in view of the fact that their entitlement position for 2020 has not yet been finalised by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [42933/20]

*652. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of racing greyhound litters registered annually with an organisation (details supplied) between 1 January 2010 and 30 November 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [42996/20]

*653. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of racing greyhound pups registered annually for racing with an organisation (details supplied) between 1 January 2010 and 30 November 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [42997/20]

*654. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of racing greyhounds microchipped annually between 1 January 2010 and 30 November 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [42998/20]

*655. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of greyhounds registered on the race management system annually between 1 January 2010 and 30 November 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [42999/20]

*656. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if greyhound racing trainers who have been banned from racing greyhounds in other jurisdictions are permitted to train and race greyhounds in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43000/20]

*657. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of record injuries and deaths of greyhounds that have occurred at greyhound racing stadiums and events organised by the Irish Greyhound Board between 1 January 2011 and 30 November 2020, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [43001/20]

*658. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the forthcoming greyhound traceability system will record racing greyhounds from birth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43002/20]

*659. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans for the winding down of the state aid agreement for the forestry sector due to end on 31 December 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43019/20]

*660. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the requirement will be relaxed that needs planning permission granted rather than pending before submitting an application under the scheme of investment aid for the development of the commercial horticulture sector due to the effects of Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [43094/20]

*661. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when his Department ceased posting letters to farmers regarding problems with ANC payments; his views on whether this is reflected in the steady rise in eligible farmers missing out on ANC payments for reasons other than stocking density since 2016; if he will consider reverting to posting letters to farmers in such cases given the age profile of the farmers involved and their associated lack of broadband and computer skills; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43188/20]

*662. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will clarify the entitlement and procedure for transferring a herd number from one named person to joint names for married couples; if this is a uniform arrangement throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [43193/20]

*663. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers by county and by each payment band that received ANC payments in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43265/20]

*664. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers that will see increase in ANC payments in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43266/20]

*665. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of the removal of a gate (details supplied) which is preventing access to walkers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [43279/20]

*666. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to the anger amongst the fishing community regarding large trawlers catching juvenile fish and sprat;

and if he will mediate between the groups pending the outcome of the appeal to the High Court. — Mairéad Farrell. [43320/20]

*667. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if an appraisal has been carried out of the outworking of the mandatory reduction obligation contained within the BEAM scheme; if he will amend the criteria in view of the challenges created by Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43339/20]

*668. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of the PGI application for grass-fed beef; if the PGI will operate on an all-Ireland basis; if he will proceed with a separate proposal for a suckler beef PGI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43341/20]

*669. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if it will be ensured that agriculture students attending Teagasc colleges will be eligible for the same financial supports as other third-level students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43342/20]

*670. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if compensation will be provided to poultry farmers affected by avian influenza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43343/20]

*671. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the proposed measures to be enacted under the tuberculosis eradication programme in 2021; the estimated costs of the measures; the level of funding that will be provided from the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [43338/20]

*672. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if an issue of title raised by a person (details supplied) on a forestry road licence application was fully considered; if there is a record of this consideration; if this was communicated to them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [43361/20]

*673. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of a forestry road licence application by a person (details supplied) which has been referred back to his Department by the Forestry Appeals Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [43362/20]

*674. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration will be given to changing the five-year time frame for young farmers to make the required investment for TAMS II young farmer capital investment scheme to an age-related deadline, for example, that the farmer must complete works before, for example, 35 years of age as opposed to within a five-year time frame. — Cathal Crowe. [43365/20]

*675. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps he is taking to implement the Programme for Government commitment to ensure that future funding of the greyhound sector from a fund (details supplied) be contingent on a guarantee of welfare standards being upheld on an annual basis; the specific welfare criteria which the sector will be required to meet; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43377/20]

*676. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the way in which funding committed to investment in greyhound welfare and rehoming programmes was spent in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43378/20]

*677. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps he will take to ensure the greyhound traceability system promised in the Programme for Government is rapidly rolled out; his views on whether this system will account for all greyhounds born here each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43379/20]

*678. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of greyhounds that ceased racing in each of the years 2016 to 2020, in tabular form; the number of greyhounds rehomed by an organisation (details supplied) in this period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43381/20]

*679. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of greyhound care centres funded following the issuing of a tender (details supplied); the location of these centres; the details of the ownership and management of these centres; the number of greyhounds being cared for at these centres; his views on the adequacy of the care provided at these centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43382/20]

*680. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there will be an opportunity for beef and suckler farmers to access the new organic farming scheme in 2021 specifically in the case of a person (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [43390/20]

*681. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration has been given to a funding package for farmers affected by TB outbreaks; if a package has been considered to cover the costs and time involved in retesting animals at regular intervals every few weeks; his views on whether farmers affected should not have to lie with the losses incurred in retesting and in power washing and disinfecting sheds and yards; and his further views on whether it is unfair that the farmer facing multiple tests will not be compensated for their costs or time while the other stakeholders in the process will be paid. — Dara Calleary. [43404/20]

*682. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the announced cull of minks will take place in line with the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43481/20]

*683. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the biosecurity protocols in place on mink farms generally; if these protocols have been expanded with regard to Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43482/20]

*684. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the calf grant investment scheme will be available in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43582/20]

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

*685. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if the funding that was allocated to the development of Inis Oírr pier in 2020 has been drawn down; if not, the reason; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [42882/20]

*686. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of vacancies by job title at the Charities Regulator; and the length of time each post has been vacant. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43090/20]

*687. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of a CLÁR application by an organisation (details supplied); when a decision is likely; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43130/20]

*688. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of a grant application by a council (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [43280/20]

*689. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when measure 3(b) of the CLÁR 2020 programme will be announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43370/20]

*690. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 914 of 17 November 2020, if the details of the transitional programme of funding for Leader projects has been finalised; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [43371/20]

*691. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if there has been progress on a library application (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [43407/20]

*692. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she expects the Leader funds to be of assistance to the various community groups throughout 2020 or in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43505/20]

*693. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she and her Department have interacted with various community based groups in County Kildare with a view to easy access to Leader or other support funds in 2020 having particular regard to the challenges of Covid-19; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43506/20]

*694. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the steps she has taken or plans to take to reach out to locally based community and voluntary organisations throughout the country with a view to ensuring access to available support from her Department in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43507/20]

*695. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she and her Department have provided funds for rural and community groups throughout County Kildare to date in 2020 whether through Covid-19 support payment or otherwise; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43508/20]

*696. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the cost value of supports made available by her Department to date in 2020 to rural community-based groups throughout the country in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43509/20]

*697. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which her Department has focused on specific areas of deprivation in urban or rural community sectors; the extent to which she has been in a position to offer assistance in one way or another to date in 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43510/20]

*698. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she and her Department have identified specific areas or instances of urban or rural isolation throughout

the country in the past year; the efforts made to assist current or pending; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43511/20]

*699. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which her Department has identified specific local initiatives throughout the country worthy of support by her Department since its inception; her ongoing proposals in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43512/20]

*700. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of applications nationwide for various supports available to her Department received in the past six months; the extent to which she has been in a position to respond to such requests; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43513/20]

*701. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which her Department has identified specific local initiatives in County Kildare worthy of support by her Department since its inception; her ongoing proposals in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43514/20]

*702. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of applications from County Kildare for various supports available to her Department received in the past six months; the extent to which she has been in a position to respond to such requests; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43515/20]

*703. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she and her Department have focused on rural isolation with a view to remedial measures; the extent of assistance offered; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43516/20]

*704. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll out of the Libraries Programme; the progress to date in respect of same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43519/20]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH,
I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉ CÉADA OIN, 16 NOLLAIG, 2020
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 2020**

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

I. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the National Reform Programme. — Mary Lou McDonald. [43540/20]

