



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 4 Márta, 2021

Thursday, 4th March, 2021

CEISTEANNA QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of data centres that are currently operational and the number that are under consideration including pre-planning stage by county; the average number of long-term jobs a data centre creates; the job numbers in data centres by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12359/21]

*2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on whether the development of data centres would be better served by State involvement to ensure they align with economic, social and environmental goals and provide a return to the Exchequer other than development levels and commercial rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12362/21]

*3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has met with representatives of the wedding industry to discuss the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on weddings and the supports needed for businesses involved in the sector; and if not, when he plans to do so. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12247/21]

*4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to provide specific supports for the wedding industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12249/21]

*5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the process for non-EU nationals who urgently need a passport renewal to renew their employment permit but cannot do so due to embassy closures during level 5 restrictions; the person or body persons in this situation can contact; the steps being taken to address this; if he will ease rules surrounding renewal of employment permits during the current restrictions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [12266/21]

*6. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of applications made to banks under the €2 billion Covid-19 credit guarantee scheme; the number refused; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [12277/21]

*7. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the funding and grants available for companies developing disruptive technologies. — Louise O'Reilly. [12372/21]

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

*8. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 36 of 13 October 2020, if the issue of repeat upgrades was included in the scheme; and the amount allocated in Budget 2021 for such schemes given that a sizable number of persons had minor works done in the past and are being advised that they are not entitled to further upgrades. — Joan Collins. [12276/21]

*9. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if clarification will be provided on the Programme for Government commitment to reduce polluting emissions by an average of 7% a year and by 51% in total by 2030. — Robert Troy. [12330/21]

*10. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if clarification will be provided on the actions to be taken following a recommendation by the Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action to ban the importation of fracked gas and specifically to ban LNG terminals to Ireland. — Robert Troy. [12331/21]

*11. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the risks to the State or to local authorities of data centres being developed by special purpose vehicles; the life expectancy for data centres currently being developed; and the person or body with the ultimate responsibility in cases where they are obsolete given the special purpose vehicle model of ownership. — Ged Nash. [12361/21]

*12. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if post offices will be enabled to provide additional financial services in view of the serious reduction that will occur in banking services due to recent announcements by banks (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [12367/21]

*13. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will consider the proposal that National Broadband Ireland employ much greater numbers of employees to conduct the necessary surveys for the roll-out of fibre broadband in rural areas (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [12380/21]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*14. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is funding available for a group (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [12200/21]

*15. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the fact that those looking to renew their driver licence are experiencing difficulties in doing so online; and the options available to those without public services cards to renew their licence given that they cannot do so in person (details supplied). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12204/21]

*16. To ask the Minister for Transport the appeals mechanism available to those who dispute their motor tax liability. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12205/21]

*17. To ask the Minister for Transport the consideration being given to cases such as in the case of a person (details supplied). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12206/21]

*18. To ask the Minister for Transport when driver tests will restart for non-essential workers; and the number currently on the waiting list in the Mullingar area. — Robert Troy. [12211/21]

*19. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of persons waiting to sit their driving test at the end of February 2021, by test centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12255/21]

*20. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of persons currently registered to sit their driver theory test by test centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12256/21]

*21. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of driver testers employed by the RSA at the end of February 2021; the number employed by the RSA at the end of February 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12257/21]

*22. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of approved driving instructors registered at the end of February 2021; the number that were registered at the end of February 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12258/21]

*23. To ask the Minister for Transport when driver theory and driver tests will take place (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [12290/21]

*24. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding retired wage staff of the CIÉ group with regard to pension increases pro-rata with staff wage increases within the group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [12317/21]

*25. To ask the Minister for Transport the efforts he is making to ensure that persons who need driver licences for work, education or caring responsibilities can avail of driver tests and driver theory tests in a timely manner. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12319/21]

*26. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to prohibit so-called ghost flights to avoid the payment of refunds to customers; the amount still owed to Irish customers as a result of Covid-19-related flight cancellations; his plans to prohibit exorbitant fees being charged to families to change flight dates in line with public health advice (details supplied) and the no flight-change fee advertisements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12363/21]

*27. To ask the Minister for Transport if further progress has been made in respect of the Meath County Council draft appraisal for the proposed Julianstown bypass; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [12375/21]

*28. To ask the Minister for Transport the current timeline for announcing the preferred bidder for the DART expansion programme. — Joe Flaherty. [12376/21]

*29. To ask the Minister for Transport if the business case for the DART expansion has been put to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform; and if not, when he expects it will be put forward. — Joe Flaherty. [12377/21]

*30. To ask the Minister for Transport the projected cost for the DART expansion programme. — Joe Flaherty. [12378/21]

*31. To ask the Minister for Transport if the DART expansion project been delayed due to Covid-19. — Joe Flaherty. [12379/21]

*32. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will extend the greater Dublin area to include all of Drogheda, County Louth and its environs which are in the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [12391/21]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*33. To ask the Minister for Finance the impact of Covid-19 on the tax position of frontier workers who have previously been eligible for transborder workers relief (details supplied); the impact on the businesses that employ them; if any tax adjustment has been made due to Covid-19; if any tax adjustment will be made post-pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12190/21]

*34. To ask the Minister for Finance if there are regulations preventing lenders from refusing credit or mortgage applications on the grounds of geography such as refusing credit or a mortgage application on the grounds that the applicant was resident in County Donegal. — Pearse Doherty. [12191/21]

*35. To ask the Minister for Finance the investigation or analysis that has been carried out by his Department to ascertain whether any part of the Irish Strategic Investment Fund is being invested in companies linked to grave human rights abuses against the Uighur population of Xinjiang, China; his plans to ensure that in future no monies of the Irish Strategic Investment Fund will be invested in these companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12212/21]

*36. To ask the Minister for Finance the details of the State's investments under the Irish Strategic Investment Fund in the arms industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12213/21]

*37. To ask the Minister for Finance the details of the State's investments under the Irish Strategic Investment Fund in the tobacco industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12214/21]

*38. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of companies that are excluded from the NTMA's list of possible investments; the names of these firms; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12215/21]

*39. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the introduction of a digital Euro; the assessment of its likely impact on Ireland that has been carried out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [12224/21]

*40. To ask the Minister for Finance the representations that have been made to him on the issue of a digital Euro to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [12225/21]

*41. To ask the Minister for Finance the assessment his Department has carried out on the possibility of financial instability or reduction in the tax base due to the use of cryptocurrencies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [12226/21]

*42. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will direct the extension of VAT rates at 21% beyond 1 March 2021 in view of the exceptional impact of Covid-19 restrictions and the continuing lockdown of business activity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [12262/21]

*43. To ask the Minister for Finance if an exemption can be made in the case of a family (details supplied) being billed for import tax in view of the extenuating circumstances. — Cathal Crowe. [12265/21]

*44. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to a number of banks issuing notices to customers regarding the introduction of negative interest rates including solicitor client accounts which will have knock-on charges for mortgage applicants who will see charges for transferring their deposit through this transactional account; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [12302/21]

*45. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of appeals made to the Revenue Commissioners by businesses and persons against determinations made that the businesses and persons in question do not qualify for the Covid restrictions support schemes since the beginning of the scheme disaggregated by appeals made per week and the county of residence of the business or person making the appeal. — Pearse Doherty. [12303/21]

*46. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of successful appeals made to the Revenue Commissioners by businesses and persons against determinations made that the businesses and persons in question do not qualify for the Covid restrictions support schemes since the beginning of the scheme disaggregated by appeals made per week and the county of residence of the business or person making the appeal. — Pearse Doherty. [12304/21]

*47. To ask the Minister for Finance if he had discussions with a bank (details supplied) in view of its recent announcement in relation to branch closures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [12374/21]

*48. To ask the Minister for Finance if a help-to-buy scheme application will be concluded in the case of a person (details supplied); if all outstanding matters will be brought to a successful conclusion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12470/21]

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

*49. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of the review of the freedom of information dispute resolution process; and the status of cases (details supplied) currently in the dispute resolution process. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12210/21]

*50. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if childcare allowances are made for OPW employees who cannot avail of external childcare facilities at present; and if OPW employees who have to care for their children on a number of days per week due to the pandemic have been instructed that they must use holidays for such days. — Robert Troy. [12321/21]

*51. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if State bodies can now make greater use of commercial cloud computing in delivering public services including in cases involving the processing, hosting or storing of personal information in view of his comments welcoming the publication of the Office of Government Procurement guidance note on cloud services and in order

to support the public sector being at the forefront of digital transformation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [12339/21]

*52. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if correspondence has taken place between his Department and the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces regarding the desire of an organisation (details supplied) for trade union status; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12345/21]

*53. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his views on the European Committee on Social Rights report 2018 regarding the European Organisation of Military Associations v. Ireland Complaint No. 112/2014 (details supplied) that found Ireland had violated various articles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12347/21]

*54. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform his views on whether organisations (details supplied) were meaningfully consulted by his Departmental officials during the recent national pay negotiation talks; if the current structure for engagement with these organisations is necessary and sufficient for future national pay talks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12350/21]

*55. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if all bodies under his aegis are in compliance with the Web Accessibility Directive EU 2016/2102 with regard to websites from 23 September 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12351/21]

*56. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the bodies under his aegis which procure their legal services through the Office of Government Procurement framework; the bodies which do not procure their legal services through the framework; the last time agencies that were not part of the framework tendered for legal services; if such procurement was carried out in accordance with circular 05/13; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12352/21]

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

*57. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she met with representatives of the wedding industry to discuss the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on weddings and to ensure that these needs of businesses involved are taken into account by Fáilte Ireland when developing guidance on weddings; and if not, when she plans to do so. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12251/21]

*58. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her attention has been drawn to the importance of weddings to the domestic tourism industry; and the role of Fáilte Ireland in outlining guidelines for weddings. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12252/21]

*59. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the qualification criteria for the outdoor dining grant announced by Fáilte Ireland; if this grant will allow restaurants to carry out capital works to provide outdoor dining facilities; if it will apply in every area of the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [12259/21]

*60. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media further to Parliamentary Question No. 51 of 1 October 2020, if the revised scéim pobal Gaeilge has been launched (details supplied). — Martin Browne. [12281/21]

*61. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if funding or grants are available in circumstances (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [12288/21]

*62. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department has strategies in relation to areas (details supplied). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12314/21]

*63. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the responsibility the Arts Council has in relation to dance; and the proportion of Arts Council funding that has been given to dance each year over the past ten years. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12315/21]

*64. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the responsibility the Arts Council has in relation to Irish dancing; and the proportion of Arts Council funding that has been given to Irish dancing each year over the past ten years. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12316/21]

*65. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the outdoor dining grant will be inclusive of all businesses impacted by Covid-19. — Louise O'Reilly. [12370/21]

*66. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the date on which the live performance support scheme will open for 2021; the amount available under the fund for 2021; and her plans to increase the amount that was available in 2020. — Catherine Murphy. [12389/21]

*67. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the status of funding for a walkway (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [12402/21]

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

*68. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will address a matter regarding the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [12287/21]

*69. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will extend the hedge cutting season in recognition of the recent level of rainfall. — Carol Nolan. [12305/21]

*70. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has received and or requested a risk assessment report in relation to the closure of the construction sector as a result of public health advice. — Catherine Murphy. [12201/21]

*71. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of constructions sites and projects that remained open and or operational for January, February and March 2021, by county. — Catherine Murphy. [12202/21]

*72. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if persons (details supplied) who have outstanding renovation works on their home from before 31 January 2021 are exempt from Covid-19 restrictions. — Joan Collins. [12242/21]

*73. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the types of heating systems installed in new public and social housing in the past three years for which figures are available; and the breakdown by percentage of heating type in these new dwellings including air source, electrically powered heat pumps and other types of heating such as gas and oil. — Francis Noel Duffy. [12298/21]

*74. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he plans to establish a comprehensive redress scheme for houses affected by historic defects and pyrite as recommended by the 2018 Safe as Houses report by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government; if so, the progress that has been made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [12313/21]

*75. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the Land Development Agency has yet to acquire any sites on which it is currently working or if all the projects are currently partnerships between the Agency and the relevant landowner. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12322/21]

*76. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which national policy objective 58 in the National Planning Framework (details supplied) is being overseen and implemented; if he will provide a progress report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12381/21]

*77. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which regional planning objective 7.22 of the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (details supplied) is being overseen and implemented; if he will provide a progress report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12382/21]

*78. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which regional planning objective 7.23 of the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (details supplied) is being overseen and implemented; if he will provide a progress report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12383/21]

*79. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of persons who applied for the Rebuilding Ireland home loan from 2018 to 2020 and to date in 2021; the number who were successful by county council that operated the scheme in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [12384/21]

*80. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there has been an update to the 1987 Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government document A Policy for the Provision and Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Areas by Local Authorities; if not, if this remains the only national advice specifically for local authorities providing for parks, open spaces and outdoor recreational activities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12411/21]

*81. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the legislative, statutory and regulatory framework for the provision of public green space in urban areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12412/21]

*82. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there has been an audit of public green space provision in Dublin commuter belt areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12413/21]

*83. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if it is still the case that guidance (details supplied) applies in terms of green space provision in urban areas. — Darren O'Rourke. [12414/21]

*84. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the specific policy tools in place to ensure commuter belt communities which saw huge housing development in the Celtic Tiger and subsequent years are not left without public green space; if there are specific requirements on local authorities and developers to deliver green infrastructure in advance or in tandem with residential development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12415/21]

*85. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the specific central or EU funding available to support local authorities and communities to deliver public parks and green space; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12416/21]

*86. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the type and number of engagements his Department has had with the HSE and Public Health regarding public green space provision in urban areas in 2018, 2019 and 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12417/21]

*87. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which local authorities can be included in new house building programmes with particular reference to the urgent need to ensure the building of an adequate number of local authority houses to meet the demand in their administrative area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12436/21]

*88. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will ensure that the local authority housing loan system and the Rebuilding Ireland loan scheme are restructured in such a way as to meet 40% of local authority demand in their administrative area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12437/21]

*89. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he can authorise the allocation of the necessary funding to meet local authority housing demands throughout Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12438/21]

*90. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of local authority housing applicants currently registered in each local authority; the extent to which an additional effort can be made to meet their housing needs on annual basis over the next five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12439/21]

*91. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of Rebuilding Ireland loans issued through local authorities over the past three years to date by month; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12440/21]

*92. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications received by local authorities for Rebuilding Ireland loans in each of the past three years to date; the number approved and rejected, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12441/21]

*93. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he expects local authorities to be in a position to have a plan to build houses for all of the applicants on their

local authority housing lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12442/21]

*94. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he expects Kildare County Council to have a plan to build houses for all of the applicants on its housing list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12443/21]

*95. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has formulated plans for an annual sizeable reduction in the number of applicants on local authority housing waiting lists by way of a local authority house building programme; the number of applicants likely to be facilitated as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12444/21]

*96. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has formulated plans for an annual sizeable reduction in the number of applicants on the Kildare County Council housing waiting list by way of a house building programme; if so, the number of applicants likely to be facilitated as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12445/21]

*97. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he has considered plans for the protection and restoration of heritage structures and listed buildings which might be deemed at risk throughout Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12446/21]

*98. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans for the development of local authority serviced and subsidised sites as a means of dealing with the housing crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12447/21]

*99. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he expects to achieve a reasonable waiting period for local authority housing applicants to be housed and rehoused; if this is likely to be in line with best international practice in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12448/21]

*100. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he plans to restore listed buildings deemed to be at risk by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12449/21]

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

*101. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will contact his counterpart in Northern Ireland for a report on the status of the investigation into the death of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12241/21]

*102. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when the passport office will resume processing applications that are non-emergency given passports are important pieces of identification that are needed for purposes other than travelling; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12203/21]

*103. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans to call for the establishment of a UN commission of inquiry into the actions of China with regard to the Uighur population in Xinjiang in view of Ireland's current role on the UN Security Council; if he has raised the plight of the Uighurs

in China to date in his role on the Security Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12216/21]

*104. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when a passport will issue in the case of persons (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12291/21]

*105. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans to facilitate the processing of passports for Irish citizens living abroad in cases in which a valid passport of at least six months issue is required for visa and identification purposes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [12390/21]

*106. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if there is ongoing engagement across Departments and statutory agencies with businesses and with the authorities in Northern Ireland in relation to the new controls on trading that will come into effect from 1 April 2021 following Brexit; if adequate measures are in place to minimise disruption to trade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [12419/21]

*107. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which Ireland, through the UN, has focused on various worldwide abuses of human rights including the use of child soldiers, trafficking in women and young girls, the use of rape as method of war, ethnic cleansing, genocide and total disregard for democratic principles; if the international courts are being used to the fullest extent possible to counter such activity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12450/21]

*108. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he expects Ireland as a member of the UN Security Council to be in a position to focus on the various worldwide abuses of human rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12451/21]

*109. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the action taken to date by the international community to assist a person (details supplied); if the EU and UN will intercede on their behalf; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12452/21]

*110. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the steps taken or in hand by the EU and UN to address the situation in Myanmar in which the president has been deposed; if action will be taken against the instigators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12453/21]

*111. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the UN can be reformed to assert itself as a human rights defender at various conflict locations globally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12454/21]

*112. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which a peace process is proposed in the Middle East with particular reference to the need to ensure the existence of a body to which complaints can be reported; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12455/21]

*113. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if the international community can devise a means by which atrocities punishable by law can be referred quickly to the international courts with a view to bringing about a cessation of such violence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12456/21]

*114. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which the attention of the international community has been drawn to the atrocities taking place in Yemen; the actions taken or pending to bring the perpetrators to justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12457/21]

*115. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the international community can take action to bring about a cessation of atrocities in Ethiopia and Sudan; if the perpetrators will be referred to the International War Crimes Court such as happened in Liberia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12458/21]

*116. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if preparations will be made to refer the perpetrators of the various conflicts and abuses of human rights which appear to be going unchallenged by the international community to the International Criminal Courts; the number of locations and perpetrators globally who fall into such a category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12459/21]

*117. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the top twenty most serious locations globally in which conflict and crimes against humanity are most prevalent; the extent of efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice through the EU or UN; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12460/21]

*118. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he expects Ireland to use its position on the UN Security Council to highlight and challenge international trafficking in women and children, the suppression of human rights, the disregard for the rule of law and the imprisonment on spurious grounds of various ethnic or other groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12461/21]

*119. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the steps now being taken to restore the status of the UN as an internationally respected entity in peacekeeping or peace enforcement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12462/21]

*120. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which UN peacekeeping forces can be relied upon to protect persons at various locations in which abuses are currently taking place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12463/21]

*121. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the situation in the western Balkans continues to be monitored with a view to eventual EU membership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12464/21]

*122. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the activities of the Boko Haram and Al Shabaab continue to be monitored by the international community; if a peacekeeping intervention will be possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12465/21]

*123. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if the EU, UN and the international community in general can assist with a view to bringing about peace in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12466/21]

*124. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which bilateral and multilateral overseas development aid continues to be targeted at those locations most in need globally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12467/21]

*125. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the business sector on the island of Ireland continues to meet the challenges of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12468/21]

*126. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions taken by the EU directly or in conjunction with the UN to address issues such as the imprisonment of opposition leaders in the Russian Federation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12473/21]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*127. To ask the Minister for Defence if his Department was contacted by the by CHO8 to assist in nursing homes in early April 2020; if so, the details of any such communications and actions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12356/21]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*128. To ask the Minister for Education when retired teachers who receive their pension payments through the PSSC and NSSO will receive the 2% increase in the pay and the restoration of allowances (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [12268/21]

*129. To ask the Minister for Education if the practical music exams are going ahead for leaving certificate students; and if so, the format in which the practical music exams will be undertaken. — Robert Troy. [12188/21]

*130. To ask the Minister for Education if additional funding will be made available to support second-level students who are blind or vision impaired on their return to the classroom given that they face additional difficulties in their home-school studies as resource teaching and special needs assistant supports are not available to them in a home-school setting; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12199/21]

*131. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to revise the plan for the March 2021 return to school in order that in cases in which there is a confirmed case of Covid-19 in a class that the whole class, the class teacher and any learning support teachers or SNAs who have been physically in the classroom will be required to isolate and be sent for testing given the high prevalence of the new more transmissible Covid-19 variants in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12227/21]

*132. To ask the Minister for Education the definition of a close contact with regard to primary schools in the context of Covid-19; if this definition has been updated in view of the high prevalence of the new more transmissible variants in Ireland and the fact that primary school children are not required to wear face masks; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12228/21]

*133. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to an application by a family (details supplied) for assistive technology for their child which has been rejected despite the recommendations of their doctor; and if there is another way the required assistive technology can be provided. — Martin Browne. [12246/21]

*134. To ask the Minister for Education if details with regard to oral examinations will be clarified (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [12253/21]

*135. To ask the Minister for Education if a course (details supplied) will be accredited at an early date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [12254/21]

*136. To ask the Minister for Education her views on a matter (details supplied) regarding accreditation for SNAs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [12269/21]

*137. To ask the Minister for Education the number of placements available to a special school for a child aged 7 in north County Dublin; and the actions that can be taken for a child who has been offered a place in mainstream school with a SNA which is totally unsuitable for the child. — Duncan Smith. [12282/21]

*138. To ask the Minister for Education if a special needs assistant is permitted to work until the age of 70 years if they wish to do so, the social welfare and pension entitlements of a SNA in the case that they must retire at an earlier age than 70 years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12294/21]

*139. To ask the Minister for Education if she will allocate a dedicated home school community liaison coordinator to a school (details supplied). — Róisín Shortall. [12307/21]

*140. To ask the Minister for Education if she will maintain the early start programme in all schools currently enrolled in the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12308/21]

*141. To ask the Minister for Education the number of classrooms that are to be provided in a new school (details supplied) in County Dublin. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12320/21]

*142. To ask the Minister for Education her plans for a new special needs school in Crumlin, Dublin 12; the location of the school; the capacity of the proposed school; and the timeline for its completion. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12327/21]

*143. To ask the Minister for Education the education supports and school place options available for a person (details supplied) who currently is not able to access a school place appropriate to their special needs. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12328/21]

*144. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 712 of 30 July 2020, if the stage 2b report for new school building works at a school (details supplied) has now been submitted; if so, when the board of management will be contacted; the date on which building works will commence; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [12340/21]

*145. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding the new school build for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [12388/21]

*146. To ask the Minister for Education when school building works for a school (details supplied) in County Dublin will commence; the reason for the delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [12418/21]

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

*147. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if payment will be made to a person (details supplied) as a matter of urgency notwithstanding the normal requirements for payment of basic social welfare entitlement without reference to six-month bank statements given that the applicant has been homeless for the past two years and that they have provided information in response to all other requests; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12471/21]

*148. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of childcare workers who are in receipt of the pandemic unemployment payment on a weekly basis from 21 December 2020 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [12207/21]

*149. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to extending the short-term work payment for persons (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [12236/21]

*150. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of a jobseeker’s allowance application appeal by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [12238/21]

*151. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if stamps from an ESB pension can be converted to stamps for a contributory pension; if stamps can be bought towards a contributory pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12243/21]

*152. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she plans to review the eligibility criteria for community employment schemes for those over 55 years of age who have been moved from jobseeker’s allowance due to changes in Budget 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [12244/21]

*153. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the amount that has been paid into the social fund from employers who have made employees redundant in each of the years 2010 to 2020; the amount in cases in which the State had to pay for each of the years; the number of family homes on which a charge is being placed or executed each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [12263/21]

*154. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if PRSI contributions will be paid to those persons in receipt of the new interim payment in which they retire at the age of 65 years and are in receipt of the interim payment until they are eligible for the State pension at 66 years. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12318/21]

*155. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in receipt of carer’s allowance; the number who are on a reduced rate of carer’s allowance; the breakdown of these rates by the number of persons receiving a carer’s allowance payment of under €100, €150 and €200, respectively in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [12324/21]

*156. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in receipt of the half-rate of carer’s allowance; the corresponding social welfare payment they are in receipt of; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [12325/21]

*157. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason workers in the aviation industry on casual contracts due to Covid-19 are not entitled to the pandemic unemployment payment. — Louise O'Reilly. [12368/21]

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

*158. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he has considered updating the application criteria for the Covid-19 operating support payment to ensure as many providers as necessary can avail of these supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [12301/21]

*159. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will urgently address a situation which has arisen in which children who do not return to take up their ECCE place within four weeks of 8 March 2021 will lose their place on the scheme; and if families who choose to care for their children at home during this continued period of risk will not lose their qualification for ECCE. — Robert Troy. [12326/21]

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

*160. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which he proposes to continue to support joint cross-Border activities on the island of Ireland with particular reference to addressing concerns arising from Brexit; if his Department will continue to support initiatives such as apprenticeship training or retraining with a view to addressing issues of social or economic deprivation on the island of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12469/21]

*161. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if support will continue to be provided through the free fees initiative and SUSI grants for students that have to repeat a year due to the impact of Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [12217/21]

*162. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will consider including the pandemic unemployment payment received by students within the income disregard for the SUSI grant scheme; if his Department has conducted an analysis on the impact pandemic unemployment payments will have on access to SUSI for the 2021-2022 academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [12218/21]

*163. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the fee arrangements that will be in place for Irish students attending Scottish universities in autumn 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [12299/21]

*164. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the GMIT Mayo campus mid-term review report of the independent assessor; if a date has been scheduled for when the report will be presented to the finance and governance section of the HEA in quarter 1 of 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [12332/21]

*165. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason a university (details supplied) is proceeding with student work placements in food processing plants during the current level 5 restrictions; and if his Department has provided guidance to the university on this matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [12336/21]

*166. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the average time it is currently taking apprenticeship students to complete their qualifications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [12337/21]

*167. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current wait times for each off-the-job training phase; if this in line with the period of time advised by SOLAS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [12338/21]

*168. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if funding and grants are available for mature students to purchase electronic devices to aid with their studies given courses have moved online due to Covid-19. — Louise O'Reilly. [12371/21]

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

*169. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason no decision has been made on an application by a person (details supplied) for naturalisation despite the fact the application was lodged in 2017; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [12189/21]

*170. To ask the Minister for Justice the training given to gardaí on implementation of the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010. — Thomas Gould. [12271/21]

*171. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 533 of 20 October 2020, the status of the reply given that no correspondence has been received in relation to the matter. — Pa Daly. [12283/21]

*172. To ask the Minister for Justice the projected Garda recruitment in 2021; and the impact of Covid-19 on same. — Pa Daly. [12284/21]

*173. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to establish a formal accredited training service for oversight personnel employed in GSOC to further empower them to critically investigate Garda actions; the analysis her Department has carried out into the cost of same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12295/21]

*174. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to establish a historical investigation directorate in GSOC with its own dedicated staff which would be added to the existing staffing GSOC complement along the lines of the directorate set up in 2010 within the office of the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12296/21]

*175. To ask the Minister for Justice the current processing time for applications made by local authorities for authorisation to operate a CCTV system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [12342/21]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*176. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has conducted research on the way to safely reopen the wedding industry at different levels of restrictions of the COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead plan. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12252/21]

*177. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the case of a five-year-old profoundly deaf child (details supplied) who has been waiting for over four years for a speech language therapist. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12180/21]

*178. To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech language therapists employed by the HSE who have Irish sign language; and if a list of the areas they work in will be provided. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12181/21]

*179. To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech language therapists employed by the HSE who had Irish sign language in the past five years; and if a list of the areas they work in will be provided. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12182/21]

*180. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) was refused a medical card. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12183/21]

*181. To ask the Minister for Health if advice will be provided in relation to the circumstances of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [12184/21]

*182. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which a timescale and regime has been agreed for Covid-19 vaccinations for undertakers with particular reference to those in the front-line who have direct contact with nursing homes and hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [12185/21]

*183. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 550 of 20 January 2021, if he will provide a full and accurate breakdown of the assessment of needs requests by primary concern listed on the application forms between 2016 to the latest date in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12192/21]

*184. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 550 of 20 January 2021, if he will provide a full and accurate breakdown of the assessment of needs requests by suggested supports listed on the application forms between 2016 and to date in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12193/21]

*185. To ask the Minister for Health the yearly breakdown of ophthalmology waiting list figures between 2016 to the latest date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12194/21]

*186. To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of ophthalmology waiting lists by CHO area between 2016 to the latest date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12195/21]

*187. To ask the Minister for Health if mental health supports such as counselling and psychotherapy are provided specifically to persons with newly diagnosed vision impairment and sight loss; and the funding breakdown for these services. — Mark Ward. [12196/21]

*188. To ask the Minister for Health if he has considered providing specialist mental health supports for the blind and vision impaired; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12197/21]

*189. To ask the Minister for Health the process for a parent obtaining a companion therapy dog for their child who is on the ASD spectrum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12198/21]

*190. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider offering Covid-19 vaccinations to 16 to 18 year olds who work in a high risk environment such as a pharmacy or in healthcare in view of the recent inclusion of 16 to 18 year olds with health conditions in the vaccination programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12208/21]

*191. To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff including agency staff, front-line staff who are in contact with patients and back office administration staff that are awaiting Covid-19 vaccine; the number of those who have received the vaccine in Sligo University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [12209/21]

*192. To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of the number of persons in CHO1 who have been awarded homecare hours but are still waiting to receive the allotted hours due to a shortage in homecare staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [12223/21]

*193. To ask the Minister for Health the position of Irish Sign language home tutors on the Covid-19 vaccination schedule; and when those who teach Irish sign language within students' homes can expect to receive the vaccine particularly those in the profession who have asthma. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [12229/21]

*194. To ask the Minister for Health the reason carers are not considered healthcare workers in relation to the Covid-19 vaccination roll-out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12230/21]

*195. To ask the Minister for Health if the costs of antigen tests are covered by the temporary assistance scheme for nursing homes; the supports in place to help cover the costs of antigen tests in nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [12231/21]

*196. To ask the Minister for Health if the costs of antigen tests are covered by the temporary assistance scheme for nursing homes; the supports in place to help cover the costs of antigen tests in nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [12232/21]

*197. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of vaccines that Ireland will receive by the end of February, March, April, May and June 2021 (details supplied); the number of vaccines that will be administered by the end of each month in the same period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12233/21]

*198. To ask the Minister for Health the reason persons (details supplied) have been refused a full medical card; and if their case will be considered to allow them to keep their full medical card. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12234/21]

*199. To ask the Minister for Health if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [12235/21]

*200. To ask the Minister for Health if he has given consideration to the ways in which a system could be created to appoint a person as a named visitor to a care home resident and in which that person could be vaccinated in order to allow visits to care homes to take place safely; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12237/21]

*201. To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided by the HSE to ShannonDoc in each of the years 2016 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Niall Collins. [12245/21]

*202. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has conducted research on the way to safely reopen the wedding industry at different levels of restrictions of the COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead plan. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12248/21]

*203. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has conducted research on how to safely reopen the wedding industry at different levels of restrictions of the Living with COVID Plan. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [12250/21]

*204. To ask the Minister for Health his views on a matter in relation to visits at care homes (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [12260/21]

*205. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports of inconsistencies in the distribution by the HSE of the Covid-19 vaccine among general practitioners in south Connemara (details supplied); the actions he is taking to rectify these inconsistencies which are causing confusion and concern in the local community; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12261/21]

*206. To ask the Minister for Health when a vacancy in Kilbarrack east and west mental health services (details supplied) will be filled; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [12267/21]

*207. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the mental health services at the pine and ash wards in Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dessie Ellis. [12273/21]

*208. To ask the Minister for Health the mental health services that are currently available at Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dessie Ellis. [12274/21]

*209. To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff, the role of each and availability of each that are currently attached to the mental health services at Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dessie Ellis. [12275/21]

*210. To ask the Minister for Health the position of school bus escorts for children with special educational needs on the vaccination schedule; and when school bus escorts who are back working in school settings can expect to receive the vaccine. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [12285/21]

*211. To ask the Minister for Health when a primary medical certificate will be processed for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [12286/21]

*212. To ask the Minister for Health if a family (details supplied) will be permitted to have a kitchen fitted in their home given that they are currently without a kitchen. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [12289/21]

*213. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration has been given to when limited visits by family members to nursing homes in which all residents have been vaccinated against Covid-19 can resume; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe O'Brien. [12292/21]

*214. To ask the Minister for Health if a front-line worker who is unable to take a vaccine (details supplied) as advised by their general practitioner will be prioritised for another vaccine. — Robert Troy. [12293/21]

*215. To ask the Minister for Health if appropriate measures will be taken to facilitate women who have had their smear tests misinterpreted and who have since been diagnosed with cervical cancer in order that they can avoid High Court actions to be considered for compensation; the position regarding the scheme for compensation for these women; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [12300/21]

*216. To ask the Minister for Health when the legislation that will reform the nursing home support scheme or fair deal will be introduced; the reason for the ongoing delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [12306/21]

*217. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the appointment of an advanced nurse practitioner in the diabetes clinic at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise; if there has been progress on an adult diabetic pump clinic at the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [12329/21]

*218. To ask the Minister for Health the date vaccination of the over 70 years of age cohort will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [12333/21]

*219. To ask the Minister for Health the supports in place for persons with rare diseases in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [12334/21]

*220. To ask the Minister for Health the meetings his officials have had with the Department of Social Protection relating to financial supports for persons with rare diseases in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [12335/21]

*221. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing homes that were late submitting NFO1 forms in 2020; the number of serious incidents that were reported to HIQA in 2020; if HIQA included serious incidents in its reports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12353/21]

*222. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing homes that were late submitting NFO1 forms in 2020; the number of facilities that submitted forms later than three days after the death of a resident in 2020; the way in which HIQA was keeping track of deaths and infection in nursing homes during Covid-19 if forms were not submitted in time, that is, three days; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12354/21]

*223. To ask the Minister for Health if the nursing home referred to in minutes of a meeting (details supplied) is a particular nursing home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [12355/21]

*224. To ask the Minister for Health if RCSI hospital staff provided assistance in a nursing home (details supplied) on 13 April 2020. — Ged Nash. [12357/21]

*225. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing homes he directly requested the CEO of the HSE to support and to examine the support needed in March and April 2020. — Ged Nash. [12358/21]

*226. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the HSE provision to co-respond to certain medical emergencies with the fire service in cases in which the ambulance service is occupied; the number of times co-responding has been utilised in County Kerry in 2020 and 2021 in cases in which the fire service has not been called on to co-respond in the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [12364/21]

*227. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the HPV vaccine programme in view of ongoing school closures; the plans in place to ensure its continuation for first years in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [12365/21]

*228. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the development and delivery of the world leading newborn screening program promised by the Minister and his predecessor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [12373/21]

*229. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a full-time podiatrist position in Wexford General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [12385/21]

*230. To ask the Minister for Health if statistical information in relation to CHO2 will be provided (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [12386/21]

*231. To ask the Minister for Health the status of an appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [12387/21]

*232. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12392/21]

*233. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12393/21]

*234. To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential places for persons with a disability currently being provided as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available by CHO in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12394/21]

*235. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability as of 31 December 2020 by local health office area in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12395/21]

*236. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available that were awaiting a first assessment from the HSE under the Disability Act 2005 in each local health office in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12396/21]

*237. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the physiotherapy waiting list in each local health area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number of persons waiting aged 0 to 4, 5 to 17, 18 to 64 and 65 years of age plus in each category in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12397/21]

*238. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy assessment waiting list in each local health area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number of persons waiting aged 0 to 17 and 18 years of age plus in each category in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12398/21]

*239. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy initial treatment waiting list in each local health area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number of persons waiting aged 0 to 17 and 18 years of age plus in each category in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12399/21]

*240. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the speech and language therapy further treatment waiting list in each local health area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number of persons waiting aged 0 to 17 and 18 years of age plus in each category in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12400/21]

*241. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the occupational therapy first-time assessment waiting list in each local health area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the number waiting less than 4, 4 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively; and the number waiting aged 0 to 4, 5 to 17, 18 to 64 and 65 years of age plus in each category in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12401/21]

*242. To ask the Minister for Health the provisions in place for the roll-out of mass rapid testing in schools and other community settings; the community settings which will be included in the plan; the number of staff required to perform the tests; if they will be recruited or redeployed from within the health service; when rapid testing will go live; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12403/21]

*243. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the developing views within his Department on vaccine passports given reports that the European Commission will propose legislation for same in February 2021; if he has ethical or legal concerns regarding the use of vaccine passports; if he is considering approval of same in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12404/21]

*244. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the introduction of minimum unit pricing for alcohol products which is a key measure in the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12405/21]

*245. To ask the Minister for Health if unused allocations of a vaccine (details supplied) in other EU countries will be redistributed throughout the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12406/21]

*246. To ask the Minister for Health if he is considering the application of different levels of Covid-19 restrictions on counties or regional areas based on local case numbers and trends as occurred in summer 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [12407/21]

*247. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the supply of PPE to dentists. — Róisín Shortall. [12408/21]

*248. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the fee which is payable to each of the professional categories that will be administering the vaccine; the basis on which these fees were agreed; and the reason for the wide variation. — Róisín Shortall. [12409/21]

*249. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new emergency places provided to persons with a disability as of 1 March 2021, by local health office in tabular form. — Michael Moynihan. [12410/21]

*250. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a podiatry appointment in primary care as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12420/21]

*251. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a ophthalmology appointment in primary care as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12421/21]

*252. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a audiology appointment in primary care as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12422/21]

*253. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a dietetics appointment in primary care as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12423/21]

*254. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a psychology appointment in primary care as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12424/21]

*255. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for a counselling appointment in primary care as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12425/21]

*256. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each local health office area waiting for a child and adolescent mental health services appointment as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks. — John Lahart. [12426/21]

*257. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to adult mental health units to date in 2021. — John Lahart. [12427/21]

*258. To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours currently being provided in each LHO area as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the way it compares to target in each LHO for the same time period; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for home

support hours in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus in tabular form. — John Lahart. [12428/21]

*259. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting placement under the fair deal scheme as of 1 March 2021 or the latest date available; the average waiting time; the number of persons currently awaiting placement under the scheme in each local health area in tabular form; and the length of time waiting. — John Lahart. [12429/21]

*260. To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical cards as of 1 March 2021; the number of general practitioner cards on the same date; and the number for each type of card issued on a discretionary basis on that date. — John Lahart. [12430/21]

*261. To ask the Minister for Health the number of delayed discharges in each public and voluntary hospital at the end of February 2021; and the number to date in 2021, in tabular form. — John Lahart. [12431/21]

*262. To ask the Minister for Health the number of bed days lost in each public and voluntary hospital owing to delayed discharges in January and February 2021, in tabular form. — John Lahart. [12432/21]

*263. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients aged 75 years or over that experienced an emergency department wait time more than 24 hours during January 2021; the number during February 2021; and the hospitals in which the wait occurred. — John Lahart. [12433/21]

*264. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance attendances at each emergency department nationwide in January 2021; the number of such ambulances that waited longer than 20 minutes to hand over patients, get their trolleys back and return to responding to calls; and the number that waited longer than 40, 60, 90, 120 and more than 180 minutes for same in tabular form. — John Lahart. [12434/21]

*265. To ask the Minister for Health the details in respect of both Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Temple Street Children's University Hospital for the end of February 2021 or the latest date available for the number of spinal fusion patients currently waiting less than four months for treatment; the number waiting 4 to 8, and more than 8 months; and if he will provide the same information for other spinal patients in tabular form. — John Lahart. [12435/21]

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

*266. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if capacity can be increased for a course (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [12179/21]

*267. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a decision on an ANC appeal by a person (details supplied) in County Kerry will be processed. — Brendan Griffin. [12240/21]

*268. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will consider changing the way horse statistics are presented (details supplied) to be more in line with the control of dogs' statistics headings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [12278/21]

*269. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of an ANC payment appeal made by a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [12279/21]

*270. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason that farming companies are locked out of their accounts on the website of his Department when their account has been inactive for three weeks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [12297/21]

*271. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will amend as a matter of urgency the arrangements in place at present for cattle sales with particular reference to pedigree cattle sales in view of difficulties that have arisen (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [12366/21]

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

*272. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when she last engaged with the National Broadband Plan; and if she is satisfied with the current roll-out in rural areas. — Sean Sherlock. [12474/21]