



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 16 Meán Fómhair, 2021

Thursday, 16th September, 2021

**CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS**

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

1. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide assurances that the State will not face blackouts in winter 2021 as a result of the demands on the electricity generation and transmission network including from data centres; the steps he is taking to address the increasing number of amber alerts and supply and demand challenges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44107/21]

2. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps he plans to take to ensure that Ireland will have a just transition towards meeting Ireland's international emissions reduction goals in advance of COP 26 and in view of the recent report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the climate crisis. — Ivana Bacik. [44137/21]

3. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the process and timeline for the introduction and implementation of carbon budgets in view of the recent IPCC report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44108/21]

4. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the analysis his Department has carried out to date regarding the use of energy by data centres including their effect on energy prices and the impact their energy demand will have on Ireland's capacity to reach renewable energy targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44120/21]

5. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the introduction of the microgeneration scheme; when the scheme will be in operation; the way it will operate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44109/21]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

6. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the Celtic Interconnector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43992/21]

7. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on his approach to preparation for the COP26 summit in Glasgow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [44063/21]

8. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on windfarms; and if he will consider transitioning to off-shore windfarm developments from now on as is being implemented in Denmark. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44139/21]

9. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the policy measures being taken by his Department to ensure the resilience and security of energy supply at times of peak demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43931/21]

10. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reason an area (details supplied) is one of the few areas in the country to have not been prioritised to date in the implementation of the National Broadband Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44059/21]

11. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans for potential investment in offshore wind and tidal projects in County Mayo; his further plans to increase the renewable energy infrastructure in County Mayo; the way in which he plans to support this investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [44216/21]

12. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his attention has been drawn to the lengthy application process for end of waste licences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44122/21]

13. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the involvement his Department will have in future developments across Ireland to ensure they are sustainable and climate conscious; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43721/21]

14. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the remedial actions under the National Development Plan contract his Department has put in place with NBI to address the impact Covid-19 has had on the delivery of the project; and the way he plans to accelerate the program in the months ahead. — Alan Dillon. [43996/21]

15. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on expected electricity demand and supply for winter 2021 following recent Eirgrid amber alerts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [43419/21]

16. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on potential electricity outages in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44161/21]

17. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the implementation of the National Broadband Plan in Dún Laoghaire; the delays that are expected as a result of Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43720/21]

18. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the publication of the NESC Report No. 154 Digital Inclusion in Ireland: Connectivity, Devices and Skills. — Alan Kelly. [33503/21]

19. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps he intends to take to ensure that no proposal for a LNG terminal will be developed in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43673/21]

20. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the commencement date of the feed-in tariff scheme for the national grid. — Patrick Costello. [43479/21]

21. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he requested the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to issue a Ministerial policy directive as per section 29 of the Planning Act 2000 to An Bord Pleanála that reflected the Government's policy statement on the importation of fracked gas which includes a moratorium on the development of LNG terminals pending the review of security of supply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44121/21]

22. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on claims made in advertisements relating to carbon offsetting and neutrality by companies that provide little detail on such claims; if he will strengthen legislation in this area to prevent misleading advertisements or greenwashing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44101/21]

23. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will place a levy on construction and demolition waste under the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44125/21]

24. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the estimated total energy use in 2021 for all operational data centres in Ireland; the estimated amount by which it is expected to increase by 2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [44231/21]

25. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the work underway in his Department to support the speed up the implementation of the National Broadband Plan; the position regarding Covid-19 and its impact on any penalties for delays in the implementation of the plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [44224/21]

26. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the policy of his Department with regard to the production and use of green hydrogen in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43930/21]

27. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will investigate the role played by data centres in relation to recent shortfalls in electricity availability; the extent to which data centres add to greenhouse gas emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [44064/21]

28. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his attention has been drawn to the shortfall to some homes on scope of works being provided under the warmer homes scheme free energy upgrades; if he is satisfied that all upgrades available are being provided

to homes under this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [44086/21]

29. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of a review into the north-south interconnector. — Matt Carthy. [43527/21]

30. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the current status of the working group established to examine national end-of-waste applications backlog; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42527/21]

31. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he plans to establish on a statutory footing a just transition commission with a remit that covers all relevant sectors and areas across Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44124/21]

32. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the latest date by which it is expected that all premises private and business will have a fibre telecommunications connection available to them; the steps he is taking to expedite same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [43878/21]

33. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the unprecedented number of scam phone calls and texts that are being received by persons at present; the efforts being made by his Department to address these scams; his views on the actions that can be taken by the phone and communications companies to address this disruption; the discussions that he has had with the companies concerned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [44222/21]

34. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the supports for local authorities in terms of litter awareness and anti-dumping; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43991/21]

35. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the Government review on the north-south interconnector; the number of times the review group has met; when its report will be finalised and published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44098/21]

36. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress made to date with the roll-out of offshore wind, wave and tidal renewable energy harnessing; the amount of energy being generated at present in this way; the projected amount that will be generated in this way by 2030 by type of generation; the steps being taken to expedite same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [43877/21]

37. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the way in which he plans to enforce the new standards for all domestic solid fuels which he plans to introduce across the State; the way in which he plans to prevent suppliers from Northern Ireland from selling non-compliant fuels; the body which will be responsible for enforcing these new regulations; if he plans to increase the funding and resources to the body responsible for enforcing these new regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [44146/21]

38. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the changes he plans to make to current Government policy on climate action in light of the recent IPCC report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43674/21]

39. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the anticipated impact of the upcoming new solid fuel standards on persons on lower incomes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [44135/21]

40. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of homes and businesses connected to high-speed broadband in 2021 under the National Broadband Plan; the number of homes and businesses passed under the scheme; the reasons for delays to date; his plans to ramp up the scheme in the time ahead; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44100/21]

41. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of premises connected, not surveyed, to broadband by National Broadband Ireland in counties Roscommon and Galway to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44112/21]

42. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 78 of 1 June 2021, if he will provide an update on the engagement he has had to date with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to supporting and promoting efforts at local government level on climate action, particularly in relation to County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43966/21]

43. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the measures he is taking to address the increasing number of scam and nuisance phone calls and texts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44102/21]

44. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the implementation of the National Broadband Plan is on schedule for 2021; if not, the measures which can be taken in order to expedite it; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44060/21]

45. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the position in relation to the national broadband roll-out; the delays encountered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [44217/21]

46. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans for future iterations of the warmer homes, better energy communities and SEAI schemes due to the need to ramp up retrofitting of homes, the need to fast-track current applications and delivery of such schemes; the current number of applications being processed by county and by the length of time for works to be carried out in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [44225/21]

47. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan; the advances that have been made following Covid-19 delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [44229/21]

48. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress in the past year towards the extension of high-speed, high-quality broadband to all areas throughout

the country; the degree to which the infill of gaps in the services is being tended to; the extent to which the programme continues in line with expectations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44154/21]

49. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the action he has taken in response to the findings of a report (details supplied) published in 2020 regarding the future of the post office network; the engagement he has had with a union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44113/21]

50. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the take-up of retrofitting grants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [44145/21]

51. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to meet retrofitting targets; if he will set out year-on-year targets by retrofitting programme; if he has examined other funding mechanisms for retrofitting houses given the number of homes that need to be retrofitted and the high up-front cost to households; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [44099/21]

52. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 227 of 3 June 2021, his plans to introduce a minimum requirement in respect of the number of members a renewable energy community can have; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43967/21]

53. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the way Ireland can ramp up production of renewable energy in order to prevent future energy supply issues. — Cathal Crowe. [44230/21]

54. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date of Bord na Móna’s large-scale peatlands restoration project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42536/21]

55. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has considered regulations on the usage of energy by data centres in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [44232/21]

56. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when the feed-in tariff legislation will be in place to allow homes with micro-generation to sell excess electricity back to the grid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [44134/21]

57. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the way his Department will support persons with long-term incontinence with respect to the disposal of medical incontinence wear; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44132/21]

58. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on Ireland’s contributions to the international preparation for COP26 in November 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [43420/21]

59. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on introducing a public service obligation of approximately €17 million per annum for the post office network. — Holly Cairns. [44131/21]

60. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the progress of the Climate Action Plan 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [44144/21]

61. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which progress is being made towards achieving climate action targets as set out; the degree to which efforts continue to be made to encourage full participation in achieving such targets while at the same time ensuring the continuation of the agri-food sector which in the past has proven to be the main stay of the economy; if efforts continue to be made to ensure that hedgerows, boglands and Ireland’s existing natural sequesters of carbons are fully included in climate change alleviation calculations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44155/21]

62. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when funding for climate action staff and for the development of local authority climate action plans will be provided; if this funding will result in more staff at local council level or through the CARO offices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44123/21]

63. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is satisfied with the pace of roll-out of the National Broadband Plan; the number of homes expected to have the service available; the actual number achieved at the end of 2020 and to date in 2021; the steps he plans to take to increase the pace of roll-out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [44085/21]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

64. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Aviation Taskforce Report and the Aviation Restart Plan; his plans to sustain the aviation sector and aviation jobs over the upcoming winter period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [44104/21]

65. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the Ardee bypass project (details supplied). — Peter Fitzpatrick. [44462/21]

66. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of BusConnects in Dublin; if he has engaged with Dublin Bus management and unions to try to resolve the current dispute over pay and working conditions at the company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [44105/21]

67. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address a series of matters (details supplied) regarding road infrastructure in west County Cork. — Michael Collins. [44395/21]

68. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to reduce the number of private cars used on journeys to and from centres of primary, secondary and third-level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [44106/21]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

69. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to support public transport outside of the major urban centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44067/21]

70. To ask the Minister for Transport the level of funding in place for N22 surfacing works at Coolcower, County Cork; when contractors will be appointed to carry out the works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [44088/21]

71. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on any recent communication he has had with Dublin Bus management or trade unions in relation to industrial relations matters in the company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [44062/21]

72. To ask the Minister for Transport the new cycling infrastructure projects which have been approved in Fingal as of September 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43938/21]

73. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the Ardee bypass; the funding spent to date on the project; the targeted timelines for commencement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43908/21]

74. To ask the Minister for Transport when a chairperson will be appointed to the board of the Shannon Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [44116/21]

75. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on his efforts to clear the driving test backlog including the plan to hire additional driving testers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44094/21]

76. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of plans to expand the DART to Drogheda and the electrification plans for the northern line; the expected timeline for the proposed diesel hybrid fleet to commence services to Drogheda ahead of the electrification; if any other relevant detail will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43907/21]

77. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide additional funding to the National Transport Authority in order to increase the frequency of the LocalLink service in a town (details supplied) from two days per week to four days per week given the demand for the service and the ability of the service provider to provide the increased service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44119/21]

78. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding his Department has made available to facilitate the design and construction of relief roads around towns and villages, such as Castlemartyr, County Cork; his policy on same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43932/21]

79. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to take measures to accelerate the provision of active travel infrastructure as pandemic restrictions recede; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [44133/21]

80. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the appointment of the CEO for the Shannon Group and the proposed review of the Shannon Group governance structures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44157/21]

81. To ask the Minister for Transport when he expects the railway order application for MetroLink to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43941/21]

82. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on the future extensions to the Luas in Dublin. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [44223/21]

83. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans for the creation of safe walking and cycling space on rural roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44159/21]

84. To ask the Minister for Transport the discussions he has had with the RSA regarding the need to increase driving testing and theory testing capacity to clear the current waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [44227/21]

85. To ask the Minister for Transport the discussions he has held in relation to the directly elected mayor of Limerick regarding the provision of powers to the mayor in relation to Limerick's transport strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [44127/21]

86. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress being made in making safer the N22 between Macroom and Ballincollig, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [44087/21]

87. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he and his Department intend to undertake to address the workplace relations concerns between the Irish Aviation Authority and air traffic control workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [44103/21]

88. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the N26 in County Mayo; and if a commitment will be given for its inclusion in the forthcoming review of the NDP. — Dara Calleary. [43217/21]

89. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to sign the statutory instrument to allow for agreed pension entitlement changes to the CIÉ regular wages scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43681/21]

90. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the work being carried out in relation to the issuing of driver licences to applicants for international protection, that is, asylum seekers which is currently not permitted; the timeline for introduction of legislation to the Houses of the Oireachtas as committed to in the Government White Paper to end Direct Provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43725/21]

91. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures his Department is taking to ensure better air connectivity to Ireland's regions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [44117/21]

92. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress in reducing the use of fossil fuels in the public transport fleet including the use of electric vehicles; the timeline for the use of such vehicles in cities such as Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [44226/21]

93. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has had any engagement with Dublin Bus drivers or their trade unions in relation to the current industrial relations dispute at the company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44114/21]

94. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will engage with a company (details supplied) and all other employers at Cork Airport to ensure that no worker is laid off or disadvantaged in terms of pay and conditions whilst runway works are ongoing for a period of 10 weeks from now until November 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [44110/21]

95. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline for the implementation of regulations for scooters and ebikes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [44233/21]

96. To ask the Minister for Transport the financial supports he will put in place over the next two to three years to secure the recovery of Cork Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [44111/21]

97. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to concerns regarding the public consultation process on a company (details supplied) proposal of the preferred red corridor route including accessibility of information being provided, availability of one-on-one meetings, the short timeframe and a lack of a public meeting in view of the considerable impact this proposal could have on a large number of residents in County Wicklow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44158/21]

98. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to phase out fossil fuel powered vehicles from the fleet operated by the public sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [44136/21]

99. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to expand capacity on the Luas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43994/21]

100. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline for the delivery an updated national cycle manual in view of the letter received from 28 groups (details supplied); if the guidance in the manual will be integrated with the design manual for urban roads and streets; his views on whether there is a need to adopt interim standards to ensure quality of infrastructure rolled out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [44082/21]

101. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to review speed limits for rural and urban roads particularly in view of recent road fatalities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [44083/21]

102. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress in making the LocalLink service more accessible to persons with disabilities, including expanding the geographical and temporal span of services and ensuring all services are fully wheelchair accessible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44129/21]

103. To ask the Minister for Transport the average wait times to complete a theory test and driving test at the Castlebar and Ballina NDLS centres, County Mayo; and the steps his Department and the RSA are taking to address this backlog. — Alan Dillon. [43995/21]

104. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the trial use of hydrogen powered buses in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [43993/21]

105. To ask the Minister for Transport when the ongoing review of the Navan rail line will be completed; if he has received a cost estimation of reopening the rail line; the steps that will be taken in the next 24 months on this proposed project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44093/21]

106. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding and status of the initial introduction of phase one of BusConnects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43724/21]

107. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on plans to install new bus shelters in County Cork in the next year. — Holly Cairns. [44130/21]

108. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to commission a feasibility study that would assess the prospect of delivering rail infrastructure through County Monaghan. — Matt Carthy. [44066/21]

109. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the challenges in the bus and haulage sectors in terms of rising costs and difficulty to recruit staff; the measures he plans to take to address these issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44095/21]

110. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are plans to legislate for mandatory speed reduced school zones or slow zones in residential estates and built-up areas for vulnerable users nationwide separate from local authority bye-laws; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43910/21]

111. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has had any engagement with front-line maintenance workers at Dublin Airport regarding attempts by the Dublin Airport Authority to outsource front-line maintenance work at the airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44115/21]

112. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 50 of 17 June 2021, the progress made in relation to the identification of suitable sites for park and ride in Galway; when this service will be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43906/21]

113. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps being made to ensure the urgent investment needed to prepare Rosslare Europort as the most strategically preferred port for the construction of an off-shore wind farm construction base; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [44126/21]

114. To ask the Minister for Transport the way in which his Department is improving rural transport services under the Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [38321/21]

115. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to support the taxi industry in the time ahead in view of the fact that work volumes remain significantly reduced related to Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44096/21]

116. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to help small rural communities move to more environmentally sustainable modes of transport in cases in which on-demand transport may not be economically viable. — James O'Connor. [44234/21]

117. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made in relation to projects associated with the school active travel programme in County Mayo; and the level of investment and future proposals to support these future initiatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [44235/21]

118. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has had examined the role of his Department in the case of a person (details supplied); if he has had discussions with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the use the European fisheries funds to seek compensation for the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [44050/21]

119. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding and status of the initial introduction of BusConnects phase one, which was introduced in north-east Dublin during the summer. — Emer Higgins. [43876/21]

120. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason there were no air traffic controllers available at State airports, namely Cork and Shannon airports, during dates in July 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [44128/21]

121. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will examine the decision to cease the 20 and x20 Bus Éireann route from Galway to Dublin in view of the importance of this route as a link to Portiuncula Hospital especially for older persons living in nearby rural towns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44118/21]

122. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the introduction of legislation for the use of e-scooters and associated vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43933/21]

123. To ask the Minister for Transport the advice sought and given on the safety measures and mitigations required for public transport workers and users in the return of services to 100 % capacity; if he will publish same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [43810/21]

124. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on the progress of the investment in greenway projects arising from the carbon tax fund of €4.5million that was allocated for 26 projects. — Emer Higgins. [43875/21]

125. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will facilitate the recruitment of additional driving testers to address the existing backlog. — Matt Carthy. [44065/21]

126. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will further extend the deadline for expiring learner driver permits due to the continuing effects on the service due to the pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43937/21]

127. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has instructed the NTA to engage with local residents and business owners in Kimmage in relation to the BusConnects plans following a recent Dublin City Council motion and signed letter from locals and elected representatives. — Patrick Costello. [43478/21]

128. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will meet representatives of workers in CIÉ who face reduced pension entitlements as a result of the delay in signing a statutory instrument to give effect to agreed changes to the CIÉ regular wages scheme; the timeframe for signing the statutory instrument given the numbers of workers adversely affected by the continued delay in signing same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [43682/21]

129. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will initiate a radical rethink in the way existing space on rural roads is utilised; his views on whether there is underutilisation of space that could be more appropriately utilised for safer walking and cycling; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44160/21]

130. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 53 of 17 June 2021, his plans to commission a stand-alone feasibility study of light rail in Galway which would feed into the upcoming review of the Galway Transport Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [43905/21]

131. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will commit to a study of the benefits of free public transport in his Department such as have taken place in Estonia and Luxembourg; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43939/21]

132. To ask the Minister for Transport the engagement between his Department and the National Transport Authority with regard to the provision of replacement Bus Éireann route 20 services for passengers using free travel passes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44068/21]

133. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the preparation of the NDP review and the inclusion for a commitment on the development of the western rail corridor within that review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [43218/21]

134. To ask the Minister for Transport the proposals in place to address the personnel shortage in the HGV driving fraternity to ensure supply chains are not interrupted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [43840/21]

135. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are plans to carry out a review of the implementation of slow zones in accordance with Jake's Law nationwide; if data has been collected on a county-by-county basis of county speed limit reviews; if there are plans to put in place a streamlined speed limit review process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43909/21]

136. To ask the Minister for Transport the discussions and consultations and their outcomes with public transport workers and their representatives in advance of the direction to return to 100% capacity on services; when such discussions and consultations took place; the public health advice regarding same for the workers and users; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [43809/21]

137. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has received representations from air traffic controllers requesting his immediate intervention and investigation into the activities and conduct of members of the executive team of the Irish Aviation Authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44097/21]

138. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on his engagements with transport workers and trade unions regarding the move to full capacity on public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [44061/21]

139. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to extend the LocalLink service throughout County Cavan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [44147/21]

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.

*140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he or the Minister of State in his Department have signed the employment regulation order for the security industry which provides for a pay increase for the sector from 1 September 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44242/21]

*141. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a series of queries (details supplied) in respect of the Companies Registration Office will receive a response; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [44244/21]

*142. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a dedicated helpline and email address will be created for business owners in the hospitality industry to seek clarity on the permissibility of planned events in advance of the planned lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in October 2021. — Ivana Bacik. [44345/21]

*143. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44371/21]

*144. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if ratification of the ILO Convention C190 Violence and Harassment in the Workplace requires amendments to domestic legislation; if so, the type of legislative amendments that will be required; and the outcome of his officials stakeholder consultation with the social partners and other interested parties. — Mary Lou McDonald. [44385/21]

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

*145. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when a new national energy efficiency action plan will be drafted to reduce energy use including behavioural and awareness aspects of energy efficiency such as building and data management in view of the growth of data centres in the country and in line with commitments under the Programme for Government. — Jennifer Whitmore. [43746/21]

*146. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the recent EPA report regarding the burning of soft plastic in Ireland; and his plans to increase the recycling rate of soft plastic. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [44237/21]

*147. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to combat Ireland’s declining recycling rates. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [44238/21]

*148. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the design of the new energy efficiency obligation scheme which will operate from 2022 to 2030; the envisaged targets for the scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44313/21]

*149. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 156 of 8 July 2021, the reason a detailed reply has not yet been received by this Deputy as promised in the reply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [44332/21]

*150. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in achieving emission reduction targets in line with the Programme for Government whilst at the same time protecting economic progress in the agri-food business or other sectors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44347/21]

*151. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in the programme to provide broadband of a high quality and high speed nationally with particular reference to blackspot prone rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44348/21]

*152. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which the broadband roll-out throughout the country can be expedited with a view to ensure the availability of sufficient connectivity to enable the maximum number of citizens to work from home or from hubs where available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44349/21]

*153. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of new broadband connections in the past 12 months to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44350/21]

*154. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which air quality is being protected; the degree to which the measures in place are achieving the desired result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44351/21]

*155. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in achieving targets as set out in the waste action plan for a circular economy with particular reference to the reduction of plastic; if targets set in respect of a ban of single-use plastics have been met or are on target to be met; if he has in mind further plans to help eliminate the use of plastic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44352/21]

*156. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of broadband connection points installed in County Kildare in the past 12 months to date; the number of installations planned over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44353/21]

*157. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the percentage of Ireland's electricity which is produced from renewable sources; if this is in line with expectations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44354/21]

*158. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in introducing a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium cans as set out in the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44355/21]

*159. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which steps can be taken to rapidly improve the roll-out of broadband in towns, villages and rural areas throughout County Kildare, having particular regard to the increased demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44356/21]

*160. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which meeting carbon reduction targets continues; if it is in line with or ahead of expectations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44357/21]

*161. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which he expects to rely on onshore and off-shore wind-generated electricity over the next ten years; the extent to which he expects to meet overall targets in respect of alternative energy production throughout the period in question; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44358/21]

*162. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which his Department continues to meet climate change targets in conjunction with the protection of the agri-food business; the main issues of conflict that exist; his proposals for the resolution of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44359/21]

*163. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which the quality of mobile telephone services can be improved nationwide in both urban and rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44360/21]

*164. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44372/21]

*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps being taken to put an adequate broadband service in place for a school (details supplied). — Brian Stanley. [44389/21]

*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps he is taking in response to the finding in the EPA report Packing Waste in Ireland in 2019 that Ireland produced 1,124,917 tonnes of packaging waste in 2019, an increase of 11% on 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44403/21]

*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to ban the sale of imported peat briquettes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [44409/21]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*168. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address the lack of driving test capacity particularly for young persons (details supplied). — Michael Collins. [44396/21]

*169. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on and the position regarding the state of the aviation sector since reopening for travel in July 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [43940/21]

*170. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will engage with employers at Cork Airport to ensure that no worker is laid-off or disadvantaged in terms of pay and conditions whilst runway works are ongoing for a period of ten weeks from now until November 2021; and if aviation workers will be protected generally over the course of the recovery of the industry in the next two to three years. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [43756/21]

*171. To ask the Minister for Transport the engagement there has been with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to ensure sufficient signage along the N22 bypass for the towns and villages and their various attractions for this tourism market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [33240/21]

*172. To ask the Minister for Transport the discussions that have taken place between his Department and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in regard to the development of a free zone at Rosslare Europort; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [43837/21]

*173. To ask the Minister for Transport the supports his Department will be providing to enhance Rosslare Europort's trade competitiveness as Ireland's most strategic port; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [43838/21]

*174. To ask the Minister for Transport the discussions his Department has had with other Departments to support and protect the free flow of trade supplies through Rosslare Europort in view of the huge increase in import and export trade transport through Rosslare Europort since January 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [43839/21]

*175. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will investigate the activities and conduct of the executive management team of the Irish Aviation Authority (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [44241/21]

*176. To ask the Minister for Transport if a driving test will be expedited for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [44265/21]

*177. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention was drawn to the decision by Dublin Bus to withdraw the airline service to Dublin Airport prior to the announcement by the company; if the NTA has issued any licences to private operators to run additional services to the airport over the past year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [44266/21]

*178. To ask the Minister for Transport when he will sign the statutory instrument to give effect to agreed changes to the regular wages scheme pension of CIÉ workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [44267/21]

*179. To ask the Minister for Transport the engineering assessment that was done on the extension of DART west to Kilcock; the findings of the assessment; the estimated cost of provision of a double track or a siding between the proposed new depot located on the outskirts of Kilcock; if he has discussed this matter with the NTA; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [44299/21]

*180. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the introduction of legislation for the use of e-scooters and other such vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44311/21]

*181. To ask the Minister for Transport the supports that will be provided to regional airports to build back routes and services following the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44312/21]

*182. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the case of a person (details supplied) and other similar cases wherein a person has failed to submit their certificate of competency within the two years of the date of issue due to extraordinary circumstances of Covid-19 and accompanying uncertainty with regard to extension of permits; his further views on whether it is fair that those who have failed to submit their certificate during this Covid-19 period should be required to re-sit and pass a driving test again to obtain a full licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [44319/21]

*183. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on correspondence in relation to the Irish Aviation Authority (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [44324/21]

*184. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44383/21]

*185. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to make electric vehicle usage more affordable for consumers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44162/21]

*186. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding persons who obtained their driving licence for buses and lorries since 2013 and who are required to carry out a CPC course each year to renew their licence but in advance of this are required to do a theory test and do the procedures regarding theory tests apply to persons who had licences issued in earlier times that do not require the theory test; if there is a provision for a person to do a course without a theory test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [44394/21]

*187. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of an application for a driving test for a person (details supplied) who requires a licence for work. — Holly Cairns. [44405/21]

*188. To ask the Minister for Transport if he or his Department have engaged with the Road Safety Authority or the National Roads Authority on measures to combat accidents given the recent tragedies on motorways; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [44406/21]

*189. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to deal with the backlog in driver theory tests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [44407/21]

*190. To ask the Minister for Transport if additional funding will be provided for the non-national road network in areas such as counties Cavan and Monaghan in the event of a reallocation of capital funding within his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44413/21]

*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding a driving test date for a health professional (details supplied) in Dublin 11; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [44418/21]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*192. To ask the Minister for Finance the current requirements to qualify for a primary medical certificate; if he plans changes to the current criteria; if so, the details of those changes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [44298/21]

*193. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will remove fox hunts and an animal shooting organisation from the Revenue Commissioners list of sports bodies that have been granted tax exemption given the fact that they are not involved in promoting athletic or amateur games or sports as required for qualification under section 235 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [44280/21]

*194. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to insurance companies refusing house insurance to homes along river courses throughout the State in ever growing numbers; his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [44305/21]

*195. To ask the Minister for Finance the projected cost in 2022 of extending tax relief applicable to farmers under section 664A of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 with respect to the carbon tax to agricultural contractors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [44336/21]

*196. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of persons who claimed remote working relief from the Revenue Commissioners in the most recent tax year for which data is available; the amount of relief provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44362/21]

*197. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44373/21]

*198. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 226 of 9 September 2021, the way the cash flow impact was estimated; and if it was calculated on the basis of the excess amount paid fully as a cash payment instalment not earlier than the relevant tax pay and file date for the company's accounting period in which the qualifying expenditure was made. — Pearse Doherty. [44391/21]

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

*199. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 232 of 9 September 2021, if there was any type of contract in place of any nature to maintain, operate and monitor the Fermoy north pumping station at the time when the flooding occurred. — Sean Sherlock. [44268/21]

*200. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will publish the work programme under the arterial drainage scheme maintenance programme; the works that are planned; the dates; the screening processes required; and the publication date of the screening reports. — Eoin Ó Broin. [44321/21]

*201. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the way in which he understands the obligation to publish in a timely manner the appropriate assessments reports for works under the arterial drainage scheme maintenance programme; and if he will undertake to publish them three months before work. — Eoin Ó Broin. [44322/21]

*202. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the internal processes for conducting appropriate assessment for works under the arterial drainage scheme maintenance programme; if there has been any external review of the adequacy of the reports; and the consultation which has occurred with NGOs regarding screening. — Eoin Ó Broin. [44323/21]

*203. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44379/21]

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

*204. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if an additional financial allocation will be provided to her Department given the number of applications received and the associated costs of projects submitted under the current round of the sports capital grants scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [44325/21]

*205. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will address a matter raised in correspondence in relation to children's choirs (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [44310/21]

*206. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of sports capital grant applications received from County Cork under the current application round; the number and individual details of these applications that she has visited; when it is anticipated that allocations will be made under the current round; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [44326/21]

*207. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will ensure that all staff in her Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other

employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44382/21]

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

*208. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there is a national policy by which a person must be resident in an area for a certain period of time before being allowed to access homelessness services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [44269/21]

*209. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason the RHD2 exclusion zone specified in the 2021-2022 hare coursing licence has been reduced from 25km to 3km and does not now cover the discovery of infected rabbits; and if he will revoke the coursing licence following a warning from the NPWS that the catching of hares in nets, their transportation in boxes and the collection and holding of hares in confined areas can all be considered to increase the risk of disease spread (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [44270/21]

*210. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will revoke the coursing licences he issued in view of concerns that a form of myxomatosis that has crossed over to hares could have a devastating impact on the species if it surfaces in Ireland. — Paul Murphy. [44271/21]

*211. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on whether allowing wood pigeons to be shot for a 12-month period between 1 May 2021 and 30 April 2022 breaches the EU Birds Directive; and if he will remove the birds from the directive derogations or reduce the period during which they may be shot. — Paul Murphy. [44272/21]

*212. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason threatened, red-listed birds of high conservation concern are included in the latest open seasons order; and if he will remove them from the order. — Paul Murphy. [44273/21]

*213. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the standards that have been set to avoid problems with pyrite or MICA where the oversight takes place on material removed from a quarry and which is used in buildings either in infill or blocks; when those standards were set; if it is planned to amend the standards; the person or body that carries out the oversight; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [44300/21]

*214. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the position regarding and the status of the new national heritage plan, Heritage Ireland 2030. — Thomas Pringle. [44318/21]

*215. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44377/21]

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

*216. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of staff who are now back working onsite in the Passport Office; the number who are still working from home; when he plans to have the full complement of staff back into the office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [44243/21]

*217. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when the public offices of the Passport Office in Dublin and Cork will reopen in order that persons can make an appointment to submit a passport application in person; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [44245/21]

*218. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the average processing time for passports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [44252/21]

*219. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason there continues to be a stay on processing working holiday authorisation applications for Canadian persons wishing to travel to Ireland; when the processing of these applications will resume; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [44281/21]

*220. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the action Ireland is taking to provide humanitarian and other relief to persons suffering as a result of the recent military coup in Myanmar; the steps the Government has taken through its role on the UN Security Council and by other means to bring about a peaceful solution to the current situation in Myanmar given that the parallel government has recently declared a defensive war against the military coup; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [44288/21]

*221. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the assessment he has made of a recent independent report (details supplied) which found that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea enforces absolute denial of religious freedom; the actions he will take to address this particular violation of human rights in the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [44289/21]

*222. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the assessment he has made of the growing trend of passing so-called anti-conversion laws in recent years in India, Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar; the actions he has taken and will take to address the violations of religious freedom these laws impose on the citizens of countries and states which have adopted them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [44290/21]

*223. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions he has taken to express concern to the Indian Government at the new anti-conversion law recently passed in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state which will affect over 200 million persons and will curtail their religious freedom; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [44291/21]

*224. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 411 of 9 September 2021, the expenses claimed and paid to a person (details supplied) in relation to work done in securing the UN seat and any other project given that this information was requested but not provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44320/21]

*225. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are

provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44374/21]

*226. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the outcome of the most recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in relation to the unacceptable proposals put forward by the British Government concerning a troubles-related amnesty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44415/21]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*227. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44369/21]

*228. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will establish a full independent investigation to determine the extent of sexual abuse, harassment and assault in the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44402/21]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*229. To ask the Minister for Education the analysis her Department has carried out into the possibility of re-evaluating the leaving certificate examination results in respect of students who completed their leaving certificates in 2019 and 2020 but have missed out on their chosen course of study for the 2021-2022 academic year due to grade inflation in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the calculated grades system; the research or analysis that has been carried out into the number of students adversely affected by grade inflation in 2020 and 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [44239/21]

*230. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a site for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [44240/21]

*231. To ask the Minister for Education when the transition rates from post-primary to higher education figures will be published for 2019, 2020 and 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44293/21]

*232. To ask the Minister for Education the position with regard to the provision of a new school (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [44304/21]

*233. To ask the Minister for Education when applications for the establishment and patronage of the new post-primary school for an area (details supplied) will open; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44307/21]

*234. To ask the Minister for Education if a school building project (details supplied) will proceed within the current framework; and if her Department anticipates requests for additional funding to complete the project. — Sean Sherlock. [44333/21]

*235. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to introduce saliva testing in primary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44337/21]

*236. To ask the Minister for Education if the cost of a school bus ticket for a child (details supplied) can be covered by their medical card; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [44366/21]

*237. To ask the Minister for Education if she will ensure that all staff in her Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44370/21]

*238. To ask the Minister for Education when she expects the National Council for Special Education to complete and submit its policy advice on education provision in special classes and special schools first commissioned in September 2018. — Mary Lou McDonald. [44390/21]

*239. To ask the Minister for Education when it is proposed to increase school bus capacity in view of the difficulties that have occurred for many families in having school transport provided for their children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44412/21]

*240. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to improve supports for children with special needs and to ensure that such supports are put in place in a timely manner and eliminate delays in sanctioning posts; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44416/21]

*241. To ask the Minister for Education the steps that are being taken to get a broadband connection for a school (details supplied). — Brian Stanley. [44421/21]

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

*242. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of domiciliary care allowance applications that have been made for phenylketonuria; and the number of applications that have been rejected in each of the past five years. — Peadar Tóibín. [44284/21]

*243. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that the decision to reduce or phase out the pandemic unemployment payment over the coming months with recipients moving to a more traditional social welfare payment, is causing significant anxiety particularly among low income families who are fearful of a marked decrease in income coming up to Christmas; if she will give compassionate consideration in view of the very difficult past 18 months to delaying the reductions in the pandemic unemployment payment and transition to other payments until after the holiday period in order that families can enjoy Christmas without additional financial stress during this time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [44292/21]

*244. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a child benefit or family benefit application dating back to 2014 which is now under appeal with a request for an oral hearing will be expedited and approved for a person (details supplied). — John McGuinness. [44316/21]

*245. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a full review will be undertaken of the social insurance record of a person (details supplied) with a view to awarding a higher rate of pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [44331/21]

*246. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if with the partial but incomplete opening of the performing arts sector and the uncertainty in relation to the sector she intends temporarily increasing the earnings cap for persons in receipt of the pandemic unemployment payment from the performing arts industry until the sector is totally reopened, particularly in view of the importance of the industry for mental health reasons and the number of planned but constrained autumn festivals that are also planned; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [44334/21]

*247. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons with enhanced illness benefit for Covid-19 that were transferred over to disability allowance after the ten week payment period had expired; the number of these claims that were in payment for more than two weeks; the number of such claims that were rejected or pending; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44365/21]

*248. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will ensure that all staff in her Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44381/21]

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

*249. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a transfer between direct provision centres will be expedited for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [44254/21]

*250. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which it is expected to provide extra funding for early years education to include all the required facilities including teachers, buildings and adequate staff payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44317/21]

*251. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he has read a recent report (details supplied) on working conditions and staffing in the early years sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [44346/21]

*252. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44368/21]

*253. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the proposals he has to improve childcare provision under the national childcare scheme for children whose parents are not working or in education or training; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44414/21]

*254. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will engage with the ECCE scheme service providers regarding the need to ensure that children who are not toilet trained will be allowed attend their crèches; if he will ensure that crèches have sufficient funding and resources to ensure that staff have time to take children out of the room to change

nappies and also to install nappy changing facilities in crèches; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [44420/21]

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

*255. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the expenditure under the Human Capital Initiative for each year for which it has been in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44296/21]

*256. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the amount of funding spent on private colleges for each year of the Human Capital Initiative in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44297/21]

*257. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44375/21]

*258. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when apprenticeship off-the-job training will return to full capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44386/21]

*259. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 822 of 9 September 2021, the average duration of time it takes to complete each type of apprenticeship in practice rather than the intended duration in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44387/21]

*260. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the amount of direct Government and indirect Government research capital funding received by each higher education institution since 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44388/21]

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

*261. To ask the Minister for Justice if she plans to legislate for the adoption of family-friendly measures in the Office of Wards of Court for its dealings with minors in view of the ongoing implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015; and if such measures will be provided for in the unpublished Family Court Bill. — Ivana Bacik. [44335/21]

*262. To ask the Minister for Justice the status of the work of her Department to address the delays in the Garda vetting process of those in the homecare sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [43656/21]

*263. To ask the Minister for Justice if her Department's scheme to regularise undocumented migrants in Ireland will include persons who have been issued a deportation order; if not, if she will give consideration to such a proposal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [44342/21]

*264. To ask the Minister for Justice if she plans to create a renewable toleration status for persons who do not have permission to remain in the State but who are prevented from returning to their country of origin due to persecution or medical reasons as an alternative to a deportation order; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [44343/21]

*265. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will ensure that all staff in her Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44378/21]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*266. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with special needs living in south-western areas of Dublin; the number of therapists working in the area to provide essential services for these children; his plans to ensure that these services which are crucial for the families of these children will resume to pre-Covid-19 levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [44246/21]

*267. To ask the Minister for Health the funding and supports that are available to cover the cost of hearing aids for adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [44247/21]

*268. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 2566 and 2567 of 27 July 2021, the dates on which the working group to revise the Drug and Alcohol Task Forces Handbook in line with Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery have met online or in person since its establishment by his Department in tabular form; and if he will commit to an ongoing interagency approach involving community and voluntary representatives to this work as was the case when the working group was first established as it finalises its work by the end of 2021. — Mary Lou McDonald. [44248/21]

*269. To ask the Minister for Health the way consultants and surgeons triage a patient for surgery in relation to elective surgeries; and the location in which this is recorded. — Paul Murphy. [44249/21]

*270. To ask the Minister for Health the body or agency in which waiting lists of patients who are pending surgeries are recorded in relation to elective surgeries. — Paul Murphy. [44250/21]

*271. To ask the Minister for Health the way consultants and surgeons communicate with the admissions office in relation to elective surgeries regarding patients and waiting lists changes. — Paul Murphy. [44251/21]

*272. To ask the Minister for Health the length of time a person who is fully vaccinated needs to quarantine if travelling from Brazil; and if this requirement is subject to change. — Mark Ward. [44253/21]

*273. To ask the Minister for Health the number of young persons, that is age 16 or under, who have presented to hospitals with suicide attempts, self-harm or deliberate poisoning; the number that are linked to an overdose of paracetamol; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [44255/21]

*274. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the connecting for life plan; and the details of the plan with a particular reference to CHO7. — Mark Ward. [44256/21]

*275. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the Garda surveillance project that will collate the real time suicide data; and the details of the project with particular reference to CHO7. — Mark Ward. [44257/21]

*276. To ask the Minister for Health if a national director for mental health has been appointed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [44258/21]

*277. To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the national clinical care programme for dual diagnosis; and the location in which and when it will be rolled out. — Mark Ward. [44259/21]

*278. To ask the Minister for Health the number and type of referrals, the number of assessments by gender and the breakdown of diagnosis in 2019 and 2020, for patients with eating disorders managed outside of the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [44260/21]

*279. To ask the Minister for Health the access times for both assessment and treatment in 2019 and 2020 for persons with eating disorders treated outside of the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [44261/21]

*280. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients treated outside the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders in 2019 and 2020 that were admitted as an inpatient in the HSE mental health unit, acute hospitals, private hospitals and via the treatment abroad scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [44262/21]

*281. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons being treated for an eating disorder in 2019 and 2020 outside the National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders who were discharged to reliable or partial recovery, to general practitioner and primary care, or who died due to the condition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [44263/21]

*282. To ask the Minister for Health if there is a standardised operational transition process in place across CHOs for young persons transitioning from CAMHS to adult services who are receiving treatment with eating disorders outside of the National Clinic Programme for Eating Disorders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [44264/21]

*283. To ask the Minister for Health if he will reconsider the requirement on those with lived experience of mental health challenges to work at least 15 hours a week when they wish to co-facilitate HSE recovery workshops; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44283/21]

*284. To ask the Minister for Health the plans that are being put in place to assist those patients who are affected by the many long-term effects of Covid-19; if he will ensure access to health services for all those suffering with long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [44285/21]

*285. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans for the establishment of multidisciplinary post-Covid-19 clinics around the country; if so, if they will be accessible to all, including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, nutritionists and counsellors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [44286/21]

*286. To ask the Minister for Health if the full range of supports and services required by a person (details supplied) will be expedited; and if a social worker will be appointed to their case to assess their requirements for care at home and at school. — John McGuinness. [44287/21]

*287. To ask the Minister for Health the number of HIQA site inspections that were carried out to date in 2021 in Mayo University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44294/21]

*288. To ask the Minister for Health the number of primary medical certificates that have been applied for in 2020 and 2021; the number that were refused; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [44298/21]

*289. To ask the Minister for Health if a medical exemption to the EU Digital COVID Certificate will be accommodated in the case of a person (details supplied); his plans to address current deficiencies in legislation to accommodate a person in such circumstances; if there are future plans for the allowance of a hybrid vaccination in Ireland with specific reference to the Covid-19 vaccines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44301/21]

*290. To ask the Minister for Health if a person should be charged for a B12 injection when they are in possession of a full medical card, the person in question is being charged €20; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [44302/21]

*291. To ask the Minister for Health if a person should be charged for blood tests when they are in possession of a full medical card, the person in question is being charged €20; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [44303/21]

*292. To ask the Minister for Health the steps his Department has taken to ensure that Ireland benefits from the inaugural Leadership Summit on Tobacco Control as it provides a clear opportunity for Ireland to re-establish its tobacco control credentials on the international stage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44314/21]

*293. To ask the Minister for Health the steps his Department will take to work with health ministries in other EU states to ensure that the conference outcomes will be progressed at a European level ahead of EU tobacco tax directive, the EU tobacco products directive, the EU cancer beating plan and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control conference of parties scheduled for November 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44315/21]

*294. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in providing a residential placement for a person (details supplied); the steps being taken to resolve the situation; and when a placement will become available further to the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 282 of 18 February 2021. — Peadar Tóibín. [44327/21]

*295. To ask the Minister for Health the amount each maternity hospital has paid for public relations advice each month since March 2020 to September 2021, in tabular form; the name of the companies; and if they are on a retainer or not. — Sean Sherlock. [44328/21]

*296. To ask the Minister for Health if saliva testing could be used as a public health screening tool in primary schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44338/21]

*297. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of saliva testing in 10% of the primary school population on a fortnightly basis for three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44339/21]

*298. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of saliva testing all unvaccinated children under 12 years of age every fortnight for three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44340/21]

*299. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for the implementation of the National Rare Disease Plan 2014-2018; and the status of the review of same. — Ivana Bacik. [44344/21]

*300. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to issue Irish citizens who are resident in Northern Ireland and who have been fully vaccinated for Covid-19 by the NHS with an EU Digital COVID Certificate. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [44361/21]

*301. To ask the Minister for Health the uptake rate for the flu vaccine in winter 2020 in adults, children over 12 and children under 12 years of age; his plans to encourage increased vaccination rates in each age group during winter 2021; his plans to extend the nasal vaccine to a wider age group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44363/21]

*302. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adult and child flu vaccine doses respectively received by the HSE to date in September 2021; the number that have been distributed to doctors and pharmacies; the number of adult and child flu vaccine doses respectively, to be delivered by 30 September, by 15 October, by 31 October and by 30 November 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44364/21]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44376/21]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health if Irish citizens can access public funding, either on a standard or exceptional basis for medical treatment outside of the EU, EEA, Switzerland or the UK; the authority that authorises same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [44392/21]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department can identify the Irish surgeons who are available to fully and safely remove mesh implants; if the HSE will update its website accordingly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [44393/21]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reopen a South Doc service in Kinsale, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44404/21]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health the number of healthcare professionals who applied to have their professional qualifications recognised in this jurisdiction in 2020 and to date in 2021, by county in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [44410/21]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health the number of healthcare professionals whose application to have their professional qualifications recognised in this jurisdiction were unsuccessful 2020 and to date in 2021, by county in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [44411/21]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to media reports (details supplied) that the HSE's audit and risk committee will not sign off on the corporate structure outlined in the Mulvey proposal for the move of the National Maternity Hospital to St. Vincent's at Elm Park due to the fact that it would not adequately protect the public interest and would give effective control to St. Vincent's Healthcare Group; the steps he will take to address this matter; if he will give consideration to an alternative site to progress this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [44417/21]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health when it is expected to finalise arrangements for a Covid-19 vaccination booster programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44419/21]

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

*311. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of paid views registered on Greyhound Racing Ireland's pay-per-view online channel (details supplied) by week, track and country of viewer since its launch in March 2021; and the associated revenue generated and the cost of running the channel. — Paul Murphy. [44275/21]

*312. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of horses injured and that died or were killed at Galway Racecourse to date in 2021; if an investigation will be carried out into the high level of fatalities; and if consideration will be given to ending State funding to Horse Racing Ireland in view of the growing number of horse deaths. — Paul Murphy. [44276/21]

*313. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the direct or indirect funding provided to an organisation and a publication (details supplied) in the past ten years up to September 2021. — Paul Murphy. [44277/21]

*314. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will stop Horse Racing Ireland's major financial supports to foxhunting groups for point-to-point races of more than €10 million since 2001 given that this funding is sustaining foxhunts whose hunting activities are opposed by a majority of citizens due to the animal cruelty involved. — Paul Murphy. [44278/21]

*315. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of culled badgers that are tested for TB; the number of badger post-mortems for TB that have been carried out by county in each of the past ten years; and the number of badgers that tested positive and negative, respectively for TB. — Paul Murphy. [44279/21]

*316. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of badgers vaccinated and culled in 2020 and to date in 2021; and if he will immediately end the cull in view of the findings of his Department funded study which concluded that vaccination could be a highly effective means of reducing the incidence of tuberculosis in badger populations. — Paul Murphy. [44308/21]

*317. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will ensure that all staff in his Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44367/21]

*318. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps he is taking to reduce the administration costs of schemes under the new Common Agricultural Policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44398/21]

*319. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps he is taking to ensure a clear and enforceable definition of an active farmer is provided in the implementation of the new Common Agricultural Policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44399/21]

*320. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps he is taking in relation to an incident in which farmed salmon were found in a river (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44400/21]

*321. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps he is taking to increase tillage production in the new Common Agricultural Policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44401/21]

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

*322. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will ensure that all staff in her Department and public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit who, by necessity of their work have to come into close proximity with others, including other employees or members of the public are provided with medical grade masks in the EN14683 category; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44380/21]

