



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 13 Deireadh Fómhair, 2021

Wednesday, 13th October, 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 Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta: To the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research; Innovation and Science.

1. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps that have been taken to address the student accommodation crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [49752/21]

2. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the National Student Accommodation Strategy given that the last progress report was in Q3 of 2019 and further noting the significant hardship the class of 2022 has experienced in finding sufficient and adequate places to live; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49585/21]

3. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason that many third-level students remain studying predominantly online; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [49753/21]

4. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the efforts he is making to provide dedicated student accommodation in the recently established university towns of Clonmel and Thurles, County Tipperary. — Mattie McGrath. [50015/21]

5. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of the 10,000 new apprentice registrations promised per year by 2025 that will be earmarked as craft apprenticeships pursuant to the Apprenticeship Action Plan; the analysis his Department has carried out with regard to identifying the sectors most in need of apprentices particularly in view of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50133/21]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

6. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he will take to improve the interface between the wider research community and the Houses of the Oireachtas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [49175/21]

7. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way the University of Limerick campus will expand in future years into County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [49629/21]

8. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to further expand the range of apprenticeship schemes in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [49751/21]

9. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to develop and support further and higher education in County Monaghan. — Matt Carthy. [49541/21]

10. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the plans that are in place by his Department to expand third-level programmes for persons with intellectual disabilities, such as a facility (details supplied) across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [49762/21]

11. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps being taken to ensure that Northern Ireland is involved in the Horizon Europe research programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [49456/21]

12. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there are plans to offer new and additional courses at the technological university located in Ennis, County Clare particularly engineering courses, considering the growing need for qualified engineers vis-à-vis the development of the Green Atlantic programme over the next decade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [49583/21]

13. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to address student poverty particularly poverty arising from extortionate costs of accommodation and the burden of fees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [49872/21]

14. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will support proposals to develop a training centre for students of the University of Limerick's bachelor of science in paramedic studies course at the new Civil Defence building in Ennis, County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [49628/21]

15. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress on the full integration of Carlow College, St. Patrick's into the higher education system in the south-east region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [49806/21]

16. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of planned and allocated capital investment for the Carlow campus of the Technical University of the South-East; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [49805/21]

17. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress of delivery of technical university status; the details in relation to Dundalk Institute of Technology; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [49878/21]

18. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way the distances for adjacent and non-adjacent third-level SUSI grants are set; the progress that has been made on the current review of SUSI; if recommended changes will be implemented for 2022-2023 applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [49831/21]

19. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to increase the uptake of third-level STEM courses by girls and women. — Thomas Gould. [49850/21]

20. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the changes he is proposing to the allocation of research funding through Science Foundation Ireland in view of the fact that significant new money was awarded in 2020 despite existing and previous grant approved research projects being bypassed nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49587/21]

21. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if more consideration can be given to an apprentice type approach for childcare courses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [49832/21]

22. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if Ireland will consider applying to join CERN due to the enormous scientific and research benefits associated with membership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49716/21]

23. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the plans in place to promote the take-up of new apprenticeships by more women, migrants, persons with disabilities and mature applicants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [49811/21]

24. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress to date under the Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025 launched in April 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [49817/21]

25. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the engagement he has had with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to tackling the ongoing crisis in accommodation for third-level students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [49877/21]

26. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the lack of student accommodation in Athlone, County Westmeath for students attending the Technological University Shannon Midlands Midwest; and the steps he will take to engage with the technological university to address the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [49855/21]

27. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the total funding provided by the Higher Education Authority to the Connaught-Ulster Alliance consortium in seeking technological university status since 2015; the way this funding was spent; the progress on the submission; when a decision will be made on its status; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49852/21]

28. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 509 of 15 September 2021, his Department's plans to encourage more young persons to take-up an apprenticeship and to support existing apprentices in their training; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [49750/21]

29. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he continues to remain satisfied regarding the availability of adequate third and fourth level graduates to meet the demands of the workforce now and in the future with particular reference to the need to ensure the availability of the skills at both academic and technical levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49801/21]

30. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which his Department continues to facilitate the development of apprenticeship and upskilling educational and or retraining facilities to ensure the availability of sufficient numbers of skilled operatives for the workforce to meet the needs of the recovering and expanding economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49800/21]

31. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the detail of the official advice from his Department regarding in-person lectures and classes in third-level institutions (details supplied). — Marian Harkin. [49757/21]

32. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of students who to date in 2021 have applied for the SUSI grant; the number who have been awarded funding; the number of applications rejected; and the number of applications yet to be processed. — Peadar Tóibín. [49689/21]

33. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of works to deliver a home economics teacher training course for Mary Immaculate College, St Patrick's Campus, Thurles, County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [49624/21]

34. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to prioritise investment in the research areas of agriculture, forestry and horticulture which will be significant components of future carbon mitigation activity in the climate plan in the programme of a new TUSE; his views on whether these objectives go far enough to meeting obligations (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49588/21]

35. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to assist in the delivery of purpose-built student accommodation for the Mary Immaculate College and Technological University of the Shannon campuses in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [49625/21]

36. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to develop a new pact with businesses across the country to address skills shortages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [49823/21]

37. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he is taking to respond to the shortage of student accommodation. — Holly Cairns. [49538/21]

38. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will offer clarity on whether or not receipt of the pandemic unemployment payment in 2020 or earlier in 2021 would disqualify a student from being awarded a SUSI grant. — Peadar Tóibín. [49690/21]

39. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the level of funding that has been provided to UCC and the Munster Technological University to enable the safe reopening of on-campus education along with other college activities in autumn 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49717/21]

40. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the proposals there are to intensify co-operation in the further education sector on a cross-Border and all-Ireland basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49875/21]

41. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to facilitate those in education namely cyber-security courses to progress to high-level apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [49879/21]

42. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if arrangements have been made for students who continue to pay huge costs for accommodation that is not being used due to the fact certain third-level colleges are holding online lectures and classes. — Marian Harkin. [49758/21]

43. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the policy of his Department in relation to the provision of third-level education through the medium of Irish; the location in which details of this policy are published; the steps taken to implement the policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49840/21]

44. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress made on the reform of the SUSI grant; the expected date for any changes to come into effect; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [49808/21]

45. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the Erasmus Plus programme for the current academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [49455/21]

46. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the technological university application with respect to Waterford IT and IT Carlow; when he expects a decision to be finalised; the subsequent timeline for designation of technological university status; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49847/21]

47. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress to foster inclusion as provided for in the Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [49824/21]

48. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a commitment will be given to provide the necessary capital expenditure required to ensure the expansion of the existing WIT footprint to enable a seamless move to a technical university status in Waterford; his views on whether this expansion will be sufficient to cater for the increased demand; the expected measures to be taken to facilitate the planned population increase in Waterford city

and surrounding areas (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49589/21]

49. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason pension contributions are disregarded for one student's application but not the other student of the same family when applying for a SUSI grant (details supplied). — Marian Harkin. [49761/21]

50. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when the SUSI review will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [49756/21]

51. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current and planned developments regarding implementation of the Framework for Consent in Higher Education Institutions: Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive: Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [49812/21]

52. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will review the income criteria for the SUSI grant with a view to removing the income of students who defer a year to work and save for college, work part-time or during their holiday periods and not consider this as reckonable income; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [49176/21]

53. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the efforts that are being made to provide student accommodation for those attending the Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands Midwest; the plans in place to deal with the limited capacity of technological universities to borrow in order to build their own student accommodation; if a study to determine the capacity and capacity needs of Clonmel and Thurles to accommodate students of the Technological University of the Shannon has been carried out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [49844/21]

54. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department will consider funding the higher education institutions to support the construction of new affordable accommodation. — Marian Harkin. [49760/21]

55. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will increase the SUSI grant thresholds to reflect the increased cost of living. — Marian Harkin. [49759/21]

56. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the determining factor that results in students of only some third-level educational institutes having access to the student hardship fund. — Matt Carthy. [49540/21]

57. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the new proposed construction commencement date for two new PPP science buildings in the Waterford and Carlow campuses; if a commitment will be given to a de facto authorised commencement order; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49590/21]

58. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will establish a science and technology policy fellowship within the civil service to provide

opportunities to scientists and engineers to learn first-hand about policymaking and contribute their knowledge and analytical skills in policy development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [49174/21]

59. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the plans that are being developed to increase student accommodations units for 2022-2023 academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [49414/21]

60. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the full range of measures in place to help students in financial difficulty in third-level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [49810/21]

61. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of plans to reform the CAO; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [49829/21]

62. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the threshold of repair funding he is proposing to sanction for repair works at WIT given that previous repair applications of up to a total €20 million were requested to deal with building refurbishment on teaching and laboratory buildings some of which are close to 40 years old (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49591/21]

63. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the shortfall in psychologists which is preventing the HSE from progressing the recruitment of staff for their children's disability network teams; if he will raise this issue with the Higher Education Authority with a view to expanding the number of places available in this subject area in third-level institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [49177/21]

64. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress made under the Fund for Students with Disabilities and other supports aimed at supporting students with disabilities to access and engage with further and higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [49827/21]

65. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way it is envisaged higher and further education institutions will assist in the provision and expansion of adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills courses as provided for in the recently-launched strategy. — Emer Higgins. [49626/21]

66. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will give consideration to reviewing the way the pandemic unemployment payment is assessed as income earned outside of term-time for the purposes of the SUSI grant (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [49854/21]

67. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the specific proposals there are to expand the further education sector in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49874/21]

68. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there is evidence of a decline in the number of new registrations on construction related apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [49754/21]

69. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the university courses that put on additional places to meet demand of demographics and grade or point inflation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [49830/21]

70. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if additional funding will be provided in Budget 2022 to financially assist third-level students given the ever-increasing cost of living; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [49839/21]

71. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the student contribution charge is currently set at an appropriate level; when he will bring forward a sustainable funding model for third-level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [49755/21]

72. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to increase the number of learners engaging with literacy and language support by 20,000 by expanding the range of courses available over the first half of the Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy 10 Year Strategy's lifetime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [49828/21]

73. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is satisfied that all contracts issued to staff who teach and research in all higher education institutions are secure and provide for progression. — Sean Sherlock. [48750/21]

74. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way the funding for capital works and equipment at higher and further education institutions in Limerick will be disbursed; and if the funding will be put to use in the 2021-2022 academic year. — Kieran O'Donnell. [49853/21]

75. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the progression of an application by a college (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49851/21]

76. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to address the demand for food banks in UCC. — Thomas Gould. [49849/21]

77. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the role he foresees for the new university campus in Ennis, County Clare of the Technological University of the Shannon; if its plans to link with local business and innovation will include the Shannon Aviation Cluster and the Green Atlantic Project based in Moneypoint to provide renewable energy for the entire country and beyond; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [49536/21]

78. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of development of the next national research and innovation strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [49814/21]

79. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the role of his Department in future-proofing certain industries as Ireland progresses towards carbon reduction goals; if there will be oversight from his Department in realigning third-level courses

towards a more sustainable economy and future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [49584/21]

80. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the immediate actions that have been taken to alleviate the student housing shortage for this academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [46014/21]

81. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will report on the initiatives that he has facilitated to encourage the recruitment of mature apprentices; if he is considering additional measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [49347/21]

82. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures in place or planned to increase the supply and affordability of student accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [49816/21]

83. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the supports available to assist universities in the construction of purpose-built student accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [49813/21]

84. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the increase in SUSI grant amounts for students that have taken place since 2011; the increase in the eligible income limits; the changes that have taken place for postgraduate students in these grants; if he plans on increasing the grants or income limits for the 2022-2023 academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49841/21]

85. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the position regarding the percentage of third-level courses that have not yet returned to full-time in person learning; the steps he is taking to reduce this figure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [49346/21]

86. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to acquire sites in counties Waterford and Wexford and the level of capital allocation required to develop these sites into the future in respect of the commitment given in the National Development Plan to develop the footprint of a university of the southeast offering; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49848/21]

87. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to extend the SUSI eligibility criteria to include holders of exceptional stamp 4 permissions including children and young persons in the care of the State or aftercare and dependent children and young persons who hold stamp 3 permissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [49876/21]

88. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the detail of the work and engagement his Department has had with third-level institutions in relation to sexual violence, information campaigns, reporting tools and support; if there are plans in the near future to further expand such engagement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [49763/21]

89. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will address the multiple problems faced by trainee psychologists including the difficulty of

supporting themselves through their doctorates, the lack of availability of appropriate and funded placements for educational and counselling trainees, the cost of registering an MSc from abroad and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [49873/21]

90. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the details of and progress regarding the 18 consortia-led apprenticeships in development in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [49807/21]

91. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps that are being taken to address the current student accommodation crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [49838/21]

92. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he is taking to increase the uptake of apprenticeships. — Holly Cairns. [49539/21]

93. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to the difficulties students have faced in finding accommodation in 2021-2022; and the steps that can be taken to provide more suitable units for students. — Brian Stanley. [49415/21]

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.

*94. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to remove hospitality workers from the ineligible list of occupations for employment permits in view of the ongoing recruitment issues facing the hospitality sector as it continues to reopen in line with the Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [49993/21]

*95. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he plans to amend the Limited Partnership Act 1907; if not, if he will take other measures to prevent the use of limited partnerships in the State to facilitate offshore tax evasion or money laundering; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [50022/21]

*96. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the policy steps he will take in response to the release of documents (details supplied) and Ireland's role in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [50023/21]

*97. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has received a work permit application by a person (details supplied); and if so, when it will be processed. — Michael Creed. [50056/21]

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

*98. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the way it is proposed to increase the geographic coverage of the existing 4G network to address blackspot areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49964/21]

*99. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will give further consideration to a submission by a union (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50001/21]

*100. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will address the lack of broadband in parts of rural Ireland which is making remote working extremely difficult; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [50017/21]

*101. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps being taken to ensure that hedgerows will be included in calculations relating to carbon sequestration figures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [50021/21]

*102. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there is a more accurate timeline available for the connection of broadband to a premises (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [50047/21]

*103. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when micro-generated energy providers will be in a position to sell their surplus domestic generated energy to the national grid; if there is an EU Directive on this issue; if so, if Ireland is compliant with this regulation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [50055/21]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*104. To ask the Minister for Transport when the feasibility study into the double tracking of the rail line from Athenry to Galway city is commencing; when the findings will be published; and if the public will have an opportunity to make submissions to the study. — Ciarán Cannon. [49931/21]

*105. To ask the Minister for Transport if additional funding will be provided to the rural transport programme and TFI LocalLink in Budget 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49963/21]

*106. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is a commitment in the National Development Plan to fund two relief roads projects in Killeagh and Castlemartyr, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pat Buckley. [50113/21]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*107. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration will be given to extending stamp duty relief to young trained farmers until December 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49945/21]

*108. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration will be given to extending stock relief until December 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49946/21]

*109. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason a person (details supplied) cannot get insurance due to their age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50003/21]

*110. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 1225 of 9 September 2021, if he will address further matters regarding VRT (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [50005/21]

*111. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider instructing his Department to begin collecting the data either through research or as a standardised component of the tax return on which research and development activity is carried out in order to allow for an assessment of the effectiveness of the research and development tax relief incentivizing companies to deepen such activity within the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [50062/21]

*112. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide the Department calculations by that reportedly project a revenue loss of €2 billion a year following a corporate tax rate increase to 15% (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50076/21]

*113. To ask the Minister for Finance the action that will be taken by statutory agencies in relation to the threat posed to retailers and communities by criminal gangs selling illicit roll your own tobacco and the impact that this criminality has on areas such as the Border region; if his attention has been drawn to the relatively minimal infrastructure required for criminals to produce counterfeit tobacco; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50080/21]

*114. To ask the Minister for Finance if the recent large scale seizures of raw tobacco reported by the Revenue Commissioners indicate the possible presence of one or more illegal tobacco factories operating on the island of Ireland; if he has discussed this threat with enforcement authorities with a view to protecting communities and legitimate retailers from the availability or illegally manufactured tobacco; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50081/21]

*115. To ask the Minister for Finance the supports available to older and vulnerable households in order to assist them in submitting their local property tax revaluation given that many persons are unable to access the online valuation tool and other information online; if he will establish a helpline in order to provide assistance to persons for this process; if he will arrange a follow-up awareness campaign to inform persons that such a helpline exists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50154/21]

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

*116. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if veterinary practices, dentist surgeries, physiotherapy clinics, holistic healing centres and other such services are entitled to apply for a Covid-19 commercial rates waiver from their local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [49933/21]

*117. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which a local authority can apply for funding to employ a full-time biodiversity officer; the number of

officers that he proposes to be employed nationally; and the local authorities that currently employ a biodiversity officer in tabular form. — Steven Matthews. [50162/21]

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

*118. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of an application by a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [49986/21]

*119. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will make representations to the Passport Office to expedite the processing of the passport application of a person (details supplied) in view of the fact that the family have been waiting for six months for the passport application to be processed due to an error on the part of the Passport Office which has caused a significant delay. — Catherine Connolly. [49988/21]

*120. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if there are plans for processing of foreign birth registrations to recommence in the near future; and if so, the date. — Joe Flaherty. [50012/21]

*121. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will examine a case regarding a passport application by a person (details supplied); when a passport will be issued to the applicant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50070/21]

*122. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will examine a case regarding a passport application by a person (details supplied); when a passport will be issued to the applicant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50071/21]

*123. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 462 of 9 September 2021, the status of a passport application for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 11; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50077/21]

*124. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if a passport application will be processed without further delay in the case of a person (details supplied). — Marian Harkin. [50152/21]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*125. To ask the Minister for Education the amount spent on renting prefabs at a school (details supplied) in each of the years 2014 to 2020, in tabular form. — Denise Mitchell. [49938/21]

*126. To ask the Minister for Education if she will address a matter (details supplied) regarding substitute teachers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [49989/21]

*127. To ask the Minister for Education the status of an application for increased SNA support by a school (details supplied) in County Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [49994/21]

*128. To ask the Minister for Education when school transport will return to 100% capacity. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [49998/21]

*129. To ask the Minister for Education if the current release day allocation of one release day per week for teaching principals will be maintained beyond the academic year 2021-2022 pursuant to circular 50/2021; the analysis her Department has carried out in this regard; the engagement her

Department has had with teaching principals on this matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50050/21]

*130. To ask the Minister for Education the details of the quality assurance testing and calibration carried out on the CO2 monitors delivered by her Department to schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50051/21]

*131. To ask the Minister for Education the analysis her Department has carried out into the possibility of continuing the system of banking substitution days for the current academic year; the analysis her Department has carried out into the impact of the revised sequencing of access to substitution for primary teachers on the continuity of learning for children with additional learning needs pursuant to circular 50/2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50052/21]

*132. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the adequacy of the school capitation grant levels for primary schools; if she will report on the basis for the discrepancy between the per pupil allocation between primary and secondary school students; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [50058/21]

*133. To ask the Minister for Education if the level of retirement from the primary school system is matched by the number of newly qualified teachers; the research her Department has commissioned to ensure the system is future-proofed in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [50059/21]

*134. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the requests from a union (details supplied) to restore the level of AP1 and AP2 posts in primary schools to pre-2010 levels; if her attention has been drawn to the need to restore these positions to ease the burden on school management; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [50063/21]

*135. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding the average pupil teacher ratio in primary schools at a national level if only schools with a full-time administrative principal are included (details supplied); the steps she is taking to improve this position; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [50064/21]

*136. To ask the Minister for Education if she will address issues concerning the primary education sector as outlined in correspondence (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50082/21]

*137. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider allowing schools that have to use special education teachers to cover staff absences due to Covid-19 given that no other substitute is available to bank the hours to use for the purpose of special education teaching provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [50101/21]

*138. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the upgrading of a facility (details supplied). — Duncan Smith. [50102/21]

*139. To ask the Minister for Education when she proposes to commence section 8 of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018; and the reason for the delay in commencement. — Ivana Bacik. [50114/21]

*140. To ask the Minister for Education the steps that are to be taken when local arrangements that facilitate the pupils to be supervised in a manner that does not involve them being split between existing classes as under circular 50/21 section 6; and her views on whether this amounts to removing special education teacher support to supervise classes when no substitute is available. — Gary Gannon. [50115/21]

*141. To ask the Minister for Education the number of hours that were banked nationally past year; and the way this would equate on a pro-rata basis if school buildings had been open for the full 183 days of the school year. — Gary Gannon. [50116/21]

*142. To ask the Minister for Education the level of engagement with the education stakeholders prior to the announcement of circular 50/21 section 6; and if it was accepted by them. — Gary Gannon. [50117/21]

*143. To ask the Minister for Education when she will establish the estimated costs of fully implementing the remaining sections and subsections of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004; if she plans to review the Act in view of changing needs and priorities as stated by her colleague Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion in February 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [50118/21]

*144. To ask the Minister for Education the average, maximum and minimum times taken for reviews on SNA allocation to be completed by the NCSE over the past three years in tabular form. — Gary Gannon. [50119/21]

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

*145. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the waiver for fixed line charges for pensioners was abolished. — Thomas Gould. [50008/21]

*146. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the timeline for the completion of a research project undertaken by the civil registration unit on the process of registration for babies born outside of the criteria for still birth and related matters; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [49974/21]

*147. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of the community employment supervisors dispute regarding entitlement to a pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [49985/21]

*148. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason the working family payment for a person (details supplied) was refused; if they are being penalised due to their pandemic unemployment payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [49987/21]

*149. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person who received the fuel allowance while on the jobseeker's allowance and continued to receive fuel allowance when they went on a community employment scheme will retain their fuel allowance when they transfer from a community employment scheme back onto the jobseeker's allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [49995/21]

*150. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the allowance for electricity units for the elderly and persons claiming such entitlements can be increased due to planned increases from energy suppliers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [50019/21]

*151. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [50036/21]

*152. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to provide dedicated supports in addition to illness benefit for persons who are unable to work due to long Covid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [50040/21]

*153. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will respond to correspondence from an organisation (details supplied); if she will ensure that senior representatives of her Department, the organisation and other key stakeholders can have further engagements in relation to the most pragmatic and collaborative way forward and ensure constructive discussions regarding the continued provision of local employment services for communities in Ireland by members of the organisation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50069/21]

*154. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on an appeal of the decision on a widow's grant application by a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50072/21]

*155. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a PPS number will issue for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 9; the reason for the delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50075/21]

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

*156. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his plans to address the issues of the former residents of the Bethany homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [49977/21]

*157. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his plans for the restoration of pay for section 56 and section 59 organisations in line with the Workplace Relations Commission brokered agreements for pay restoration for section 39 workers; his views on whether due to the fact that section 56 and 59 workers fall under a different Departmental funding stream they should not be excluded from the pay restoration awarded to section 39 workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49990/21]

*158. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his plans to restore funding for youth work services to pre-2008 levels; if his attention has been drawn to a campaign (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50034/21]

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

*159. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of protected disclosures received by his Department since June 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [49815/21]

*160. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a commitment will be given that funding and development for the WIT campus at Waterford will

proceed regardless of other developmental issues that may arise in the other campus areas of Carlow and Wexford with respect to the revised National Development Plan which stipulates expansion of the WIT campus area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [49586/21]

*161. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the training fund which was promised to the former workers of a company (details supplied). — Thomas Gould. [43799/21]

*162. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an estimate of the number of emails he has received over the past three months from students experiencing difficulties with applying for the SUSI grant. — Peadar Tóibín. [45190/21]

*163. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to reduce the share of adults in Ireland without basic digital skills from 47% to 20% as committed to in the Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy 10 Year Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [49825/21]

*164. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of students who had the points for entry to high-demand courses such as veterinary science or medicine but who lost out on the lottery and received another offer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [49826/21]

*165. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will request that purpose-built student accommodation ceases to be offered to tourists during term-time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [49976/21]

*166. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of sitting days of the student grant appeals board in each year since 2016; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [50032/21]

*167. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of annual registrations that would be required in order to maintain an apprenticeship population of 40,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [50033/21]

*168. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure continued access to third level for all students seeking to avail of third-level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50141/21]

*169. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which the higher level education sector is in discussion with business and enterprise with a view to matching requirements in the workplace with suitable graduates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50142/21]

*170. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which male and female students continued to be attracted in equal proportions to participation in the sciences; if a corrective measure or inducement is needed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50143/21]

*171. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the efforts being made to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of graduates at third and

fourth level in order to attract inward investment here in the specialised areas of medical science; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50144/21]

*172. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which adequate resources and expertise remain available to ensure sufficient emphasis and investment in medical science here; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50145/21]

*173. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which his Department continues to liaise with the business sector with a view to maximise the use of innovation in manufacturing, marketing and services in Ireland in the future with particular reference to the need to achieve standards and opportunities on par with the best globally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50146/21]

*174. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure that in future years the effect of Covid-19 will not materially affect the supply of qualified academic and technical graduates to the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50147/21]

*175. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to specifically target the areas of key demand in the economy with particular reference to science, information and communications technology and engineering; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50148/21]

*176. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of new educational programmes and qualifications in the past three years developed to reflect the demands of the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50149/21]

*177. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he and his Department have identified specific issues likely to contribute to further improvement and achievement in the further and higher educational sectors with a view to establishing a reputation equal to the best globally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50150/21]

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

*178. To ask the Minister for Justice the actions her Department is taking to combat the trafficking of human beings into Ireland; if her Department has identified significant obstacles to the successful prosecution of those charged with such offences; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49940/21]

*179. To ask the Minister for Justice the funding provided to the National Protective Services Bureau within An Garda Síochána; the number of staff currently assigned; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49941/21]

*180. To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to reports from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission that an emerging trend in human trafficking into Ireland involves the trafficking of pregnant women for the purposes of illegal adoption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49942/21]

*181. To ask the Minister for Justice the details of the collaboration that exists between her Department and a group (details supplied) with respect to combatting human trafficking; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49943/21]

*182. To ask the Minister for Justice if a person born in the UK has the right to claim Irish citizenship as a result of marrying an Irish-born citizen. — Robert Troy. [49966/21]

*183. To ask the Minister for Justice the average waiting time for refugee travel documents issued to date in 2021. — Ivana Bacik. [50038/21]

*184. To ask the Minister for Justice the average waiting time for temporary travel documents issued to date in 2021. — Ivana Bacik. [50039/21]

*185. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí that will enter training in 2022. — Ivana Bacik. [50043/21]

*186. To ask the Minister for Justice the details of and figures for the allocation of resources to community policing in the Dublin south inner-city area. — Ivana Bacik. [50044/21]

*187. To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to recent reports which raise concerns regarding child protection and governance policies and practices within an organisation (details supplied); the extent of funding provided to that organisation; and if she plans to provide a mechanism for the exchange of information regarding child protection concerns on a cross-Border basis between Ireland and Northern Ireland. — Ivana Bacik. [50045/21]

*188. To ask the Minister for Justice the way in which a member of the Houses of the Oireachtas can raise an issue on behalf of a person (details supplied) which affects the constituents civil rights of the person given past history wherein analogous situations ultimately became the subject of a public enquiry; if it is accepted that a member of the public has the right to raise with Parliamentary representatives any such matter in strict observance of the principles of openness, transparency, accountability and democracy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50151/21]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*189. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a matter in relation to legislation on cannabis (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [50073/21]

*190. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the development of the central sterile services department at Roscommon hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42546/21]

*191. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the Portiuncula Hospital 50 bedroom ward block development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [42547/21]

*192. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to introduce a no-fault vaccination compensation scheme for severe adverse reactions to State-promoted vaccination programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [48277/21]

*193. To ask the Minister for Health the role of genomic medicine in Ireland; his plans for a national genomics strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [48278/21]

*194. To ask the Minister for Health if he will increase the number of neurology nurse specialists across Ireland including five extra nurses for Beaumont Hospital to bring Ireland in line with national and international guidelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [49936/21]

*195. To ask the Minister for Health if parents of children in a school (details supplied) will be fully updated on the results of an evaluation carried out by the HSE of services provided in the school; if recommendations provided in the evaluation will be implemented in the school; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [49937/21]

*196. To ask the Minister for Health if a medical assessment can be redone due to the unsatisfactory way the original assessment took place in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49939/21]

*197. To ask the Minister for Health the number of capital projects approved under the winter planning within the Covid-19 pandemic October 2020–April 2021 plan; the projected number of additional beds to be provided; the total capital outlay committed; the number of projects completed to date, the additional beds provided; the capital drawn down; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [49944/21]

*198. To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of the additional 85 therapy posts provided for the HSE children's disability network team speech and language, physiotherapist and occupational therapists; the number of posts filled since that announcement; and the locations in which these new posts are based. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [49947/21]

*199. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will be called for a cataract appointment. — Robert Troy. [49948/21]

*200. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on waiting lists for treatment at Naas General Hospital in each of the past five years; the number waiting for lengths greater than three and six months and one and two years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [49968/21]

*201. To ask the Minister for Health if Naas General Hospital is operating with its full complement of medical staff; if not, the number and kind of medical staff missing, for example, general nursing, specialist nursing, physiotherapy, radiology, surgical, consultant and so on; the length of time these roles or posts have been unfilled; his plans to fill same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [49969/21]

*202. To ask the Minister for Health if according to best public health practice and per population County Kildare has sufficient numbers of general practitioners; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [49970/21]

*203. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public healthcare workers in County Kildare at all levels of the health service that are or have been on sick leave or extended leave due to work conditions and stress or injury in each of the past five years and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [49971/21]

*204. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public healthcare workers at all levels of the health service that are or have been on sick leave or extended leave due to work conditions and stress or injury in each of the past five years and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [49972/21]

*205. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that sufficient resources and personnel are in place in 2022 to provide an improved level of mental health services in areas such as counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49973/21]

*206. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 425 of 5 May 2021, the status of a review of thresholds for still birth registrations. — Ivana Bacik. [49975/21]

*207. To ask the Minister for Health when he will establish a Ministerial stakeholder group as agreed by him in November 2020 to review and strengthen current risk reduction measures for women of childbearing potential prescribed valproate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49978/21]

*208. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recruit four unfilled epilepsy nurse specialist posts agreed in 2018 for the implementation of the pregnancy prevention programme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49979/21]

*209. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that based on the population number living in the catchment area of Tallaght University Hospital, national and international guidelines recommend that there should be 20 neurology nurse specialists employed in the neurology department and that there are currently 3.5 nurses; his plans to increase the level of neurology nurses at Tallaght University Hospital; the timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49980/21]

*210. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the Covid certificate of recovery is only valid for 180 days from 11 days after a positive PCR result when the HSE is treating the period of immunity following Covid-19 as existing for nine months and informing those that have recovered that they do not need to restrict their movements and so on if they are a close contact for a period of nine months after having Covid-19; the reason the certificate of recovery is only valid for six months when the period of immunity is a period of nine months; if he will extend the certificates of recovery in line with the HSE official position on immunity, a period of nine months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [49984/21]

*211. To ask the Minister for Health the reason family support networks no longer have a seat on the National Oversight Committee; and when this will be restored. — Thomas Gould. [49996/21]

*212. To ask the Minister for Health the progress on establishing a national family support network. — Thomas Gould. [49997/21]

*213. To ask the Minister for Health if he plans to review the current blood donation ban on sexually active gay and bisexual men; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [49999/21]

*214. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 633 of 15 September 2021, when a response will issue (details supplied). — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [50000/21]

*215. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [50002/21]

*216. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will be rescheduled for a recently cancelled procedure in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [50004/21]

*217. To ask the Minister for Health the supports his Department provides for research into motor neuron disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [50009/21]

*218. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) is waiting so long for a referral to the public dentist in Cavan General Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50011/21]

*219. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the overcrowding and the lack of beds at UHL Limerick; his plans to alleviate the problem (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [50016/21]

*220. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the increase in the number of persons that are seeking mental health support and taking medication for such issues in the knowledge that this medication is highly addictive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [50018/21]

*221. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50020/21]

*222. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will undertake research to discern the number of persons in Ireland that are living with long Covid and to produce recommendations to him regarding a national response to long Covid including provision of occupational therapy, physiotherapy, nutrition and dietetics and counselling. — Ivana Bacik. [50041/21]

*223. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has developed a plan to deliver best practice guidelines, guidance and training to general practitioners treating long Covid patients. — Ivana Bacik. [50042/21]

*224. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) cannot get a hip operation; the reason for the delay; the reason the hospital has no record of an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50053/21]

*225. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has finalised a draft general scheme to amend the Mental Health Act 2001; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50065/21]

*226. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the increase in applications for involuntary admission from An Garda Síochána as outlined in the Mental Health Commission Annual Report 2020; his views on the same; if he plans to amend the Mental Health Act 2001 in respect of involuntary detention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50066/21]

*227. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in each county that have opted out of the dental treatment services scheme in 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Imelda Munster. [50067/21]

*228. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in each county that are working under the dental treatment services scheme in tabular form. — Imelda Munster. [50068/21]

*229. To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the progress in establishing a Ministerial stakeholder group as agreed in November 2020 to review and strengthen current risk reduction measures around the use of sodium valproate to treat epilepsy in women of child-bearing potential; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [50103/21]

*230. To ask the Minister for Health the progress of recruiting four unfilled epilepsy nurse specialist posts as agreed in 2018 for the implementation of the pregnancy prevention programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [50104/21]

*231. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50105/21]

*232. To ask the Minister for Health if he will expedite the purchase of an item of equipment for a person (details supplied) in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50112/21]

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

*233. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 862 of 28 September 2021, if he has taken into account concern for the welfare of the animals once they arrive in China; and if his attention has been drawn to the likely treatment that they face (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [50006/21]

*234. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the level of drawdown under TAMS of the grant aid for installation of solar panels; if a review has been carried out on the effectiveness of this initiative; if changes are envisaged to the eligibility and technical criteria involved with a view to increasing participation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [50054/21]

*235. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on the availability of green certificate courses during Covid-19 and the possible implications that a lack of these courses at that time is having or could have on prospective young farmers regarding their eligibility for the various benefits associated with the procurement of a certificate including the tax efficient transfer of family holdings; if he will further consider circumstances in which the Covid-19 pandemic impacted on the delivery of green certificate opportunities for a cohort who now by virtue of exceeding their 35th birthday may no longer be eligible for these tax incentives; the measures being taken or considered by his Department to facilitate this cohort of young farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [50057/21]

*236. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to the widespread concerns in relation to the inadequate pigmeat processing capacity at present due to shortage of qualified personnel; if measures will be implemented as a matter of urgency to address this matter as delays in processing pigs will lead to animal welfare issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50100/21]

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

*237. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if consideration will be given to the provision of additional rural working hubs in each rural town and village to enable remote workers to access social and technical facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49967/21]

*238. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the insurance indemnity schemes that are applicable to signed and looped walkways here (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [49983/21]

*239. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the €8 million funding sought by Clare County Council for the development of a maritime training centre in Kilrush which is capable of sustaining 28 jobs all-year round; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [50108/21]

*240. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the engagement her Department has had with other relevant Departments and agencies in addition to external stakeholders with regard to the connection of a new electricity cable, fibre optic cable and water pipe between the Aran Islands and the mainland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50153/21]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH,
I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 14 DEIREADH FÓMHAIR, 2021
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY,
FOR ORAL ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER, 2021**

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

1. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if there is a specific scheme within her Department for the upgrading of playgrounds. — Michael Ring. [50030/21]

2. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to support the development of women's sheds in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49403/21]

3. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the percentage of the EAFRD that must be utilised for the purposes of Leader; and the percentage she has sought for the programme for 2023-2027. — Sean Sherlock. [50094/21]

4. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the schemes that are available for local groups to avail of funding to establish community centres; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [49453/21]

5. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if additional funding will be provided for digital hubs particularly in north central areas of Cork city; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50120/21]

6. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the maximum permissible Exchequer co-funding rate for the purposes of Leader from 2023-2027. — Sean Sherlock. [50095/21]

7. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total capital allocation to her Department in 2021, broken down by sub-head; the amount spent to date; if she expects this funding will be totally expended in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49842/21]

8. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her level of engagement with Cork County Council in meeting its demands on delivery of upgrades works on rural roads and laneways due to increased funding to €21 million in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50106/21]

9. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the steps she has taken when it comes to incentivising persons to restore derelict properties in rural areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49837/21]

10. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of funding awarded and applications under consideration in counties Louth and Meath in respect of support for walking infrastructure such as trails given the importance of such local amenities particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [50156/21]

11. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the anticipated amount of funding that is expected to be provided to counties Laois and Offaly through the Leader programme in 2021. — Brian Stanley. [49417/21]

12. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will consider funding options for rural SMEs that would have space on their premises that could be made available for the establishment of remote working hubs in rural villages; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50107/21]

13. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the input she has had in the development of the CAP strategic plan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [50093/21]

14. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 114 of 15 July 2021, the status of the development of Caladh Mór pier on Inis Meáin; the status of the preparation of the simulation model of the harbour by the National Maritime College of Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50138/21]

15. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the reason the shop front improvement scheme will not be extended despite the short timeframe and difficulties shopkeepers have had in carrying out works due to bad weather; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [49846/21]

16. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will ring-fence funding for an improved shop front improvement scheme taking into account the difficulties experienced in 2021 by applicants working within a short timeframe and very limited time to complete works; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [49845/21]

17. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to further encourage the establishment of remote working hubs in rural communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50049/21]

18. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the actions that are being considered to simplify the process for small projects to apply for small amounts of funding in view of assurances given to review the process. — Paul Donnelly. [49981/21]

19. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will consider providing funding of the development of Schull town park; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [50134/21]

20. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll-out of broadband connection points; the number that have been connected to date by county; the number planned to be connected; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [50013/21]

21. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has plans to support rural information support services and assist those in rural communities to access supports they are entitled to. — Paul Murphy. [50088/21]

22. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the walks scheme in respect of new projects in County Mayo; the funding that has been allocated to these projects; the likely timeline for the development; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50111/21]

23. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will report on plans for a new location for the Limerick city centre library. — Paul Murphy. [50086/21]

24. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the specific funds available from his Department to provide for the delivery of public greenspace, public parks and playgrounds; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [45843/21]

25. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce is set to meet; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [48282/21]

26. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she is satisfied with the uptake of the rural regeneration scheme; the number of the schemes that have been completed; and when she expects to have the next round of the rural regeneration scheme. — Michael Ring. [50031/21]

27. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the promised €2 million scheme to fund the development of town masterplans; the details of the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50136/21]

28. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the measures being taken to ensure that Leader funding will be maintained at the current level as part of Ireland's Common Agriculture Policy Strategic Plan. — Martin Browne. [50157/21]

29. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll-out of broadband connection points across Ireland. — James Lawless. [50160/21]

30. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the date of the last meeting of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [48281/21]

31. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the expected timeframe for the establishment and operation of the mobile and broadband taskforce; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [50164/21]

32. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if the capital scheme for the rejuvenation of community centres as announced in the National Development Plan will be available to each local authority; the total sum of the scheme's allocation; when applications for the scheme will open; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [50109/21]

33. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of supports provided to community-based organisations in counties Louth and Meath that provide vital services such as cancer care transport services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [50155/21]

34. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the work of the interdepartmental committee for the development of the islands; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [50161/21]

35. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when she expects to announce the next round of allocations from the rural regeneration development fund; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49404/21]

36. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of playgrounds funded under the CLÁR scheme in each county both through community organisations and through schools. — Niamh Smyth. [49905/21]

37. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will consider establishing a fund for the building and enhancement of playgrounds in rural towns and villages; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [50140/21]

38. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if consideration has been given or will be given to reintroducing the additional 30% grant for Rapid and CLÁR areas under the sports capital grant. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [47794/21]

39. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the criteria her Department and Pobal have adopted for awarding grants and funding for units of an organisation (details supplied); if she will consider introducing a funding scheme for capital projects; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [49535/21]

40. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of applications received to date for the Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise, ARISE; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [49764/21]

41. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the progress made in the 2021 Work Programme for Our Rural Future; the number of measures which have been completed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49836/21]

42. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she plans to increase funding for local improvement schemes in 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49402/21]

43. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the dates on which LIS funding for 2021 was allocated to local authorities in 2021; the amounts allocated; the amount of expenditure to date by her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49843/21]

44. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the level of support to be provided by her Department in 2021 for the development of remote working hubs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50048/21]

45. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the next round of town and village funding will issue; if she will provide details of all County Kerry applications in the current round; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50132/21]

46. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when additional funding under the transitional programme for the Leader programme will be allocated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50083/21]

47. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if the next round of CLÁR funding will allow primary schools to apply for funding to develop playgrounds on their school grounds that can also be used by the wider public; the reason such developments have been excluded from the past two rounds of the programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [49904/21]

48. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department plans to share the draft policy strategy for the islands with representatives as requested by an organisation (details supplied) to ensure island communities can engage with the policy development process and provide insights to the strategy focus; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49834/21]

49. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the supports available from her Department to community groups and organisations that have obtained staff through various social protection schemes but now want to retain these staff permanently given their important role in community development. — Thomas Gould. [50097/21]

50. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the development of the rural proofing model promised in Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021–2025; the status of the assessment of international best practice in this area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50139/21]

51. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of a project (details supplied); when the project is likely to proceed to construction; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50110/21]

52. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the number of remote working hubs now up and running and available for use of the initial 400 that were identified; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49833/21]

53. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the level of funding for remote digital hubs provided for in Budget 2021 that has been disbursed; if additional remote working hubs will be considered going forward in view of the fact that these facilities are vital for both urban and rural communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [50014/21]

54. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the value of the dormant accounts fund that is to be available in 2022 to support community development; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49405/21]

55. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will employ additional rural recreational officers and ensure they are allocated according to the work plans being operated by the local development companies. — Holly Cairns. [50123/21]

56. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the new policy for the islands; when she expects to publish the policy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50135/21]

57. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has plans to support a local library for the City West area. — Paul Murphy. [50089/21]

58. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the next tranche of rural regeneration funding will be announced; the status of the application for Killorglin, County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50131/21]

59. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department plans to make funding available under the rural regeneration development fund for the installation of municipal waste water treatment plants in towns and villages in which no such services exist and development cannot progress; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [49401/21]

60. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme funding for walking infrastructure in County Carlow for 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50159/21]

61. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amount of funding that has been provided to counties Laois and Offaly through the LEADER programme in 2019 and 2020. — Brian Stanley. [49416/21]

62. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if additional funding will be provided for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme which is delivered by local development companies and is of great importance to many individuals and organisations in rural communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50084/21]

63. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has received an application for town and village renewal made by Clare County Council in respect of Clonlara Village, County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [49950/21]

64. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the work of the interdepartmental group which was established to develop a town centre first approach; the number

of times the group has met to date; when the group will bring forward its recommendations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50137/21]

65. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the level of support for remote working hubs; the amount of 2021 funding that has been disbursed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [49949/21]

66. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she expects to be in a position to address issues affecting rural life in the context of the National Development Plan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50129/21]

67. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of her engagement with an organisation (details supplied) regarding the employment of additional rural recreational officers. — Holly Cairns. [50122/21]

68. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the formal personal engagement she has had with communities and Leader providers on the rural development element of the CAP pertaining to her Department in view of the national CAP consultation undertaken by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. — Sean Sherlock. [50092/21]

69. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has received an application for town and village renewal made by Clare County Council in respect of Drumgeely Neighbourhood Centre, Shannon Town, County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [49951/21]

70. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she plans to expand the walks scheme to include walking trails in the Dublin mountains; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [49454/21]

71. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the roll-out of broadband connection points in north central areas of Cork city; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50121/21]

72. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the funding provided under the community enhancement programme for County Carlow in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50158/21]

73. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the engagement she has had with the Department of Transport in relation to the funding of the local improvement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49835/21]

74. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she continues to liaise with urban and rural communities with a view to addressing such concerns as isolation and the ongoing need for services to address issues arising; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50130/21]

75. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to ensure the development of sustainable communities with adequate provision and prioritisation of public greenspace, public parks and playgrounds; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [45842/21]