



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 18 Samhain, 2021
Thursday, 18th November, 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 Gnóthaí Eachtracha: To the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

1. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the decision by the European Union to grant €100 million in funding to Cyprus for the construction of the EuroAsia Interconnector given that this project will make Europe complicit in the Israeli annexation of Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56492/21]

2. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the action taken to address the humanitarian crisis developing on the Belarus-Polish and Belarus-Lithuanian borders in particular to bring relief to the thousands of migrants stuck in makeshift camps on the borders of the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [56502/21]

3. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when the foreign birth registration system will be reopened; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56751/21]

4. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will reaffirm the commitment to reaching a spend of 0.7% of GNI on official development assistance by 2030; the status of a roadmap to achieve this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [56772/21]

5. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the efforts that are being made at European Union level and the United Nations Security Council to bring an end to the conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia particularly given the risk of famine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56752/21]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

6. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his assessment of the recent election in Nicaragua. — Jim O'Callaghan. [56373/21]

7. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason for the delay in the provision of passports for children (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [56350/21]

8. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of the situation in Belarus. — Barry Cowen. [56375/21]

9. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent visit to Lithuania. — Cormac Devlin. [56489/21]

10. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent visit to Palestine and Israel. — Barry Cowen. [56374/21]

11. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the average length of time it is currently taking to process passport applications and issue passports; when he plans to increase the number of representations that the Houses of the Oireachtas members can make per week on behalf of persons; his views on requests for further information being issued to applicants in close proximity to the estimated date of issue on the passport tracker; his views on the level of demand that the passport office will face over the coming year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [56466/21]

12. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on the ongoing issues regarding implementation of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56288/21]

13. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of discussions in relation to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [56372/21]

14. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if there will be a reduction surrounding first-time passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [56562/21]

15. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will notify the Israeli government of Ireland’s objection and opposition to the forcible transfer and major dispossession of Palestinian property in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan in occupied East Jerusalem (details supplied). — Joan Collins. [56446/21]

16. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will call in the Israeli Ambassador to raise with them the detention of six Palestinian men who are currently on hunger strike under administrative detention which allows these men to be held indefinitely without charge, without trial and without evidence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [56503/21]

17. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the delay in processing passport applications for first-time passports for children and new citizens; the steps his Department is taking to alleviate this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [56351/21]

18. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of passport applications submitted in 2021 to date that were found to have an error on the consent form at checking stage; if he has plans to simplify the consent form or amend it to reduce possible future errors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56299/21]

19. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland regarding the need to implement in full the Stormont House Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56352/21]

20. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent attendance at the second Plenary Session of the Conference on the Future of Europe. — John Lahart. [56376/21]

21. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the steps that are being taken to rectify some of the impact the disruption to the operation of the foreign birth register during Covid-19 has had on applicants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56529/21]

22. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of persons awaiting their passport to issue; the measures being taken to address the current backlog; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [56468/21]

23. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if the European Union is proposing action against Israel on the issue of Palestinian hunger strikers and demanding an end to their administrative detention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [56568/21]

24. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had engagement with his counterparts in the European Union on the situation of Palestinian hunger strikers that are demanding an end to their administrative detention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56567/21]

25. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the efforts Ireland is making at both European Union level and at the United Nations Security Council to bring an end to the conflict in Yemen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56495/21]

26. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the work being carried out by his Department to ensure speedy processing of passport applications and minimising delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [56296/21]

27. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when the Government in view of the British plans to issue an amnesty for troubles related crimes will legislate for legacy mechanisms with specific reference to the Independent Commission on Information Retrieval. — Patrick Costello. [56581/21]

28. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will raise with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the long-standing concerns of the families of the victims of the Springhill Westrock Massacre of July 1972 in relation to the totally unacceptable delay in holding an inquest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56353/21]

29. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions Ireland has taken at the United Nations Security Council and at the European Union to help bring an end to the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia; the funding Ireland has provided in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [56297/21]

30. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if the Passport Office plans to reduce the length of time it takes for corrected documentation to be uploaded to a passport application; if these applications which have been already been initially checked can be processed immediately on receipt of the corrected information rather than the turnaround time being extended further; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56348/21]

31. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions Ireland will be advocating for at European Union level in response to ongoing efforts by the right-wing Polish government to undermine the judiciary in Poland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56493/21]

32. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the clashes between junta forces and forces of the militant group in Rakhine state in Myanmar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56496/21]

33. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which Ireland's overseas aid programme bilateral and multilateral continues to meet the needs of the populace in the various locations for which it is intended with particular reference to the need to alleviate starvation and human rights abuses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56456/21]

34. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of outstanding passport applicants that were submitted more than one, two, three, four, five and six months ago; and the envisaged timeframe to clear the backlog in passport applications. — Matt Carthy. [56439/21]

35. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he expects the United Kingdom to invoke Article 16 in relation to the Northern Ireland Protocol. — Dara Calleary. [56511/21]

36. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the role the United Nations can take to protect citizens and their rights in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [55589/21]

37. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if his Department has evacuated all Irish citizens from Afghanistan. — Cathal Crowe. [56320/21]

38. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if passport cards will still be recognised as a valid travel document by the United Kingdom going forward post-Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [56295/21]

39. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason Members of the Houses of the Oireachtas are restricted to making five enquiries regarding passport applications per week even in circumstances in which the enquiries relate to passport applications which have already exceeded the stated timeframe for processing. — Michael McNamara. [56302/21]

40. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the preparatory measures that have been taken in the event Article 16 of the Northern Ireland protocol being triggered by the UK; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [56467/21]

41. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on engagement he has had with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus on the situation facing migrants on the Belarussian-Polish border; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56564/21]

42. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions he has taken to ensure that the United Nations Security Council brings pressure to bear on the leaders of the coup in Sudan to make way for the civilian government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and also use their influence with regional allies of the Sudanese junta to withdraw their financial support for the military regime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [56504/21]

43. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the role the United Nations can usefully take to protect citizens and their rights in Myanmar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [55588/21]

44. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on Israel's plans for the construction of around 3,000 settlement units in the West Bank. — Dara Calleary. [56510/21]

45. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had correspondence with the Irish Ambassador in Addis Ababa regarding the situation facing the Tigray in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [56573/21]

46. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the participation of his Department at the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow; his views on the way in which the Conference proposals will help to progress collective international climate action efforts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [56183/21]

47. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he plans to raise the situation in northern Ethiopia with the United Nations Security Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56565/21]

48. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the progress being made in the Nordic Strategy. — Cormac Devlin. [56488/21]

49. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions Ireland and the European Union are taking to support political prisoners in Belarus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [56459/21]

50. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the position regarding the speed of applications being processed through the Passport Office; his views on the best way to improve to process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [56561/21]

51. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on the efforts being made by Ireland at the United Nations to help to resolve the crisis situation in Yemen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [56184/21]

52. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had an engagement with the European Union on the migrant situation in Belarus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [56572/21]

53. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had an engagement with either the United Nations Security Council, the European Union or the Ethiopian authorities regarding the current situation pertaining to the Tigray people; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [56569/21]

54. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when the Government will recognise the state of Palestine as previously committed to. — Matt Carthy. [56440/21]

55. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the response to the recent coup in Sudan; the efforts Ireland is making at European Union level and at the United Nations Security Council to push for a negotiated return to democracy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56494/21]

56. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he plans to raise the coup in Sudan at the United Nations Security Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56566/21]

57. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the preparations the Government is making for the potential triggering of Article 16 by the British Government. — Patrick Costello. [56580/21]

58. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has raised concerns with the British or Northern Ireland authorities in relation to security policing in certain areas (details supplied); the response he received to these concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56481/21]

59. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions his Department is taking to support the provision of education in developing countries in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [56507/21]

60. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the engagement he has had with his counterparts at European Union level regarding the continuation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement particularly in view of Israel's ongoing treatment of the Palestinian people and its human rights obligations under Article 2 of the Association Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [56538/21]

61. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his attendance in October 2021 at the 2021 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Ministerial Council meeting. — James Lawless. [56378/21]

62. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent visit to the port of Dunkirk for the inauguration of the Irish terminal. — John Lahart. [56377/21]

63. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the actions his Department is taking to support the provision of education in developing countries in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [56486/21]

64. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on the work he and his Department have undertaken to date to evacuate and support Irish citizens and persons with a connection to Ireland from Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [56289/21]

65. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the likely status of international agreements such as Brexit in the future given the stated intention of one of the signatories to set its principles aside with obvious consequences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56455/21]

66. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the position regarding the continued success of the Irish Fellows Programme which provides educational opportunities in Ireland for persons from developing countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [56487/21]

67. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the issues with passport express; the way these may be resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [56506/21]

68. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if an update will be provided on the expected new target delivery of passports following the announcement that over 450 new staff will be hired within the passport service; the way in which the passport service is preparing for the expected busiest year ever in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [56290/21]

69. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason Members of the Houses of the Oireachtas are restricted to making five enquiries regarding passport applications per week; and the reason a follow-up query regarding the same application is considered a new query. — Michael McNamara. [56303/21]

70. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56287/21]

71. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the position regarding his meeting with the French Secretary of State for European Affairs in October 2021. — James Lawless. [56379/21]

72. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his attendance at the recent General Affairs Council of the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [56298/21]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

73. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent of the subsurface surveillance capabilities of the Naval Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56757/21]

74. To ask the Minister for Defence the action he has taken to address the service limits that apply to personnel who enlisted in the Permanent Defence Forces after 1 January 1994; when he proposes to bring clarity to these persons in relation to their service contracts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [56304/21]

75. To ask the Minister for Defence the way the emissions from the Defence Forces are accounted for under the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings given the increasing acknowledgement that climate and defence will be intrinsically linked in view of the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference. — Sorca Clarke. [56516/21]

76. To ask the Minister for Defence if qualified members of the Defence Forces are available to help medical teams in hospitals, to operate additional ambulances or to help with care of the elderly in their homes given the additional demands that are placed on staff due to Covid-19 and other illnesses. — Danny Healy-Rae. [56753/21]

77. To ask the Minister for Defence the progress that has been made towards the resolution situation in relation to post-1994 contracts particularly given the impact on members of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56758/21]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

78. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans for the future development of the Curragh Military Camp; the capital funding allocated for this purpose in each of the coming five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [56533/21]

79. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent and detail of military co-operation with Israel including the purchase of military equipment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56498/21]

80. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will report on his attendance at the 2021 annual delegate conference of an association (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [56485/21]

81. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will report on the fourth independent monitoring group for the Defence Forces which should have been initiated in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [56371/21]

82. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will report on the efforts to ensure the target of reaching 9,500 members of the Defence Forces is achieved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56189/21]

83. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of plans to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the battle of Jadotville; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [56532/21]

84. To ask the Minister for Defence the way his Department intends to address the serious issues that have emerged through a documentary (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [56294/21]

85. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of new recruits that have enlisted in the Reserve Defence Forces to date in 2021; when the next recruitment campaign will take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56381/21]

86. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will provide details on his recent attendance at the annual delegate conference of an association (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56577/21]

87. To ask the Minister for Defence when the replacement aircraft for the current Casa CN 235 maritime patrol aircraft will arrive; if he is satisfied with Ireland's current capacity to patrol its maritime territory; if he has plans to further expand the Air Corps capacity to patrol territorial waters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [56539/21]

88. To ask the Minister for Defence the details of discussions he has held with Drogheda Port in respect of the proposed deep-water port development at a site at Bremore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [56292/21]

89. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to purchase training jets for the Air Corps; and the locations in which they will be stationed. — Cathal Crowe. [56318/21]

90. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of the independent review into allegations of bullying, harassment and sexual harassment in the Defence Forces. — Holly Cairns. [56514/21]

91. To ask the Minister for Defence the review of the central recruitment that has taken place regarding the ongoing recruitment issues highlighted in both the press and at committee by the Reserve Defence Forces representatives; and the outcome in terms of improving the pathways to becoming a member of the Reserve Defence Forces. — Sorca Clarke. [56519/21]

92. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of the independent review to examine the effectiveness of the policies, systems and procedures currently in place for dealing with bullying, harassment, discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual assault in the Defence Forces; the terms of reference for the review; the person or body that will be carrying out the review; the timeline for the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [56531/21]

93. To ask the Minister for Defence the way his Department intends to ensure the target strength of 9,500 members of the Defence Forces is achieved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [56293/21]

94. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of new recruits that have enlisted in the Permanent Defence Forces to date in 2021; when the next recruitment campaign will take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56380/21]

95. To ask the Minister for Defence the role of the Office of Emergency Planning as it relates to dealing with extreme weather events in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56575/21]

96. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to commit Irish personnel to serve in MINURSO. — Patrick Costello. [56578/21]

97. To ask the Minister for Defence the efforts being made by him and his Department to address the retention of post-1994 personnel some of whom face discharge from the Defence Forces in December 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [56583/21]

98. To ask the Minister for Defence the details of his engagement with a group (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56574/21]

99. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of women at all ranks currently in the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps; the extent to which ongoing recruitment exists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56458/21]

100. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will report on the efforts being made by his Department to encourage and increase diversity in the ranks of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [56185/21]

101. To ask the Minister for Defence if his Department has carried out a threat assessment in relation to Belarus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [56547/21]

102. To ask the Minister for Defence the details of the plans which are underway to ensure the target strength of 9,500 members of the Defence Forces is achieved in the coming years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [56291/21]

103. To ask the Minister for Defence the estimate allocation for Defence in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [56409/21]

104. To ask the Minister for Defence the progress to provide a new cadet school at the Defence Forces Training Centre in the Curragh; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56497/21]

105. To ask the Minister for Defence if he has had recent engagement with the representative organisations from the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [56479/21]

106. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to expand the Defence Forces remit in the area of cyber-security. — James Lawless. [56408/21]

107. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of discussions with an organisation (details supplied) on the recommendations to resolve the issue of post-1994 contracts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [56300/21]

108. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to review patrol allowances for the Naval Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [56499/21]

109. To ask the Minister for Defence the work being done to increase the number of members of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [56187/21]

110. To ask the Minister for Defence when he expects the number in the Defence Forces to reach 9,500; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [56478/21]

111. To ask the Minister for Defence his plans to apply for a supplementary budget estimate in anticipation of the forthcoming report of the Commission on the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [56306/21]

112. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of members recruited to the Defence Forces to date in 2021; the number that have left; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56483/21]

113. To ask the Minister for Defence the level of capital funding for the upgrade and modernisation of military equipment with a focus on the funding provided in Budget 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56190/21]

114. To ask the Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 373 of 15 September 2021, the efforts being made by his Department to increase the strength of the Reserve Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [56186/21]

115. To ask the Minister for Defence his proposals to negate the impact of reports regarding the spiralling cost of living on serving members of the Permanent Defence Forces. — Sorca Clarke. [56517/21]

116. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will provide information regarding the average 17.5 patrol days that were reported to be cancelled each month in 2019, which rose to 30 per month to date in 2021; the purpose of the patrols; and the reason for cancellation. — Sorca Clarke. [56520/21]

117. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of persons that have left the Permanent Defence Forces to date in 2021; the number of new recruits there have been over the same period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [56500/21]

118. To ask the Minister for Defence the improvements that have taken place in the pay and conditions of members of the Defence Forces since this Government was formed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56482/21]

119. To ask the Minister for Defence the nature of the support provided and the corresponding hourly equivalent including the number of trips and kilometres provided by the Civil Defence in support of the HSE operations relating to Covid-19. — Sorca Clarke. [56518/21]

120. To ask the Minister for Defence the key defence measures under the new National Development Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [56501/21]

121. To ask the Minister for Defence when the vacant position of third-party adjudicator for the Permanent Defence Forces conciliation and arbitration scheme will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [56370/21]

122. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will produce a report for discussion on Defence Forces salaries; and his views on the fact that Defence Forces personnel have to access family income supports. — Mark Ward. [56301/21]

123. To ask the Minister for Defence his future plans for lands owned by his Department at Knockalisheen, Meelick, County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [56317/21]

124. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will consider a reform of the process by which medals are awarded and honour the service men and women following on from the independent review into medals awarded to those involved in the Jadotville siege; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [56546/21]

125. To ask the Minister for Defence the action he will take regarding the vacant position of adjudicator to the Defence Forces conciliation and arbitration scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [56305/21]

126. To ask the Minister for Defence the current strength of the Defence Forces in each of the services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [56484/21]

127. To ask the Minister for Defence if an update will be provided on the work being done to address the issues that emerged in a documentary (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [56188/21]

128. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which he and his Department continue to liaise with the Defence Forces with a view to the resolution of matters outstanding including the strength of all branches, matters relating to pay and conditions or other issues of concern; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56457/21]

129. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of Irish troops serving in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56576/21]

130. To ask the Minister for Defence the steps he is taking to improve reporting mechanisms for Defence Forces personnel experiencing sexual abuse, harassment and bullying. — Holly Cairns. [56513/21]

131. To ask the Minister for Defence if his attention has been drawn to the financial difficulties being experienced by members of the Naval Service; the practical measures he plans to take to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [56545/21]

132. To ask the Minister for Defence the provisions in view of recent violence and rioting in Northern Ireland that are being made by the Defence Forces to deal with potential paramilitary activity from loyalist paramilitaries. — Patrick Costello. [56579/21]

133. To ask the Minister for Defence the actual measures or protocols in place to protect undersea fibre optic cables that run under Irish waters from interference or tampering by foreign or hostile agents; if a risk assessment of the likelihood of such an incident has been carried out by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [56548/21]

134. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason Ireland has withdrawn two officers from the MINURSO mission in Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [56549/21]

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.

*135. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when he will be legislating for blended and flexible working arrangements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [56626/21]

*136. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of an application by a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56681/21]

*137. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a sport and cultural employment work permit will be expedited in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56693/21]

*138. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of IDA properties in Tipperary town; the number of IDA properties that have been sold in the town in the past five years; and the number of vacant IDA properties in Tipperary town. — Martin Browne. [56706/21]

*139. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the discussions he or his Department have had with the Companies Registration Office in relation to extending the deadline for the submission of company returns from 25 November 2021 in view of the recent upsurge in Covid-19 cases and the disruption this is causing to accountancy businesses; the result of these discussions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56726/21]

*140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his Department is making exceptions for permit holders applying for a stamp 4 support letter who were paid less than that specified on their critical skills employment permit due to the Covid-19 pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [56759/21]

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

*141. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when the necessary funding will be put in place to carry out the necessary works to comply with regulations in view of the EPA report that raised concerns regarding Kilgarvan and 11 other towns and villages in County Kerry in which wastewater treatment must improve to help protect freshwater pearl mussels. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56597/21]

*142. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of applicants that have successfully drawn down funding in relation to the support scheme for renewable heat; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [56606/21]

*143. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of legislation to allow for the use of anti-dumping CCTV by local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56656/21]

*144. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress being made to ensure that there are standardised bin colours used across Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56657/21]

*145. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when a premises (details supplied) will be connected by National Broadband Ireland; the reason the date for the completion has moved from 2021 to 2025; the reason for this delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [56700/21]

*146. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the amount applied for and drawn down to date under the encroachment element of the contingency subsidy that is capped at €100 million in the context of the National Broadband Plan; and if he has received a request to decrease or increase that capped threshold. — Catherine Murphy. [56719/21]

*147. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when broadband will be rolled out to a school (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [56729/21]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*148. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the management companies of some apartment buildings are refusing to permit the installation of electric vehicle charging points despite the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland awarding residents grants for same; the steps he is taking to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [56664/21]

*149. To ask the Minister for Transport if a disabled parking space that is not located on a public road such as in a private car park for a shopping centre or other building, is legally unenforceable if a non-disabled driver uses it; if so, his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [56611/21]

*150. To ask the Minister for Transport the policy in relation to dogs travelling on LocalLink bus services, regional bus services, trains and other forms of public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56638/21]

*151. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress being made with the Athy distributor road; the target date for opening the road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56639/21]

*152. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that driving instructors whose car is being used by a pupil to undertake their driving test are afforded shelter and access to a toilet at RSA driving test centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56640/21]

*153. To ask the Minister for Transport if the young adult travel card will be extended to include privately operated bus routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56645/21]

*154. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will extend the DART+ South West Project to Newbridge, County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56646/21]

*155. To ask the Minister for Transport if the number of trains serving Athy railway station will be improved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56648/21]

*156. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will revisit the young adult travel card scheme in order that it includes commercial coach operators with the attendant good effects of opening up more routes and choice and increasing the opportunity for young persons to travel reliably on public over personal transport and tackle emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [56680/21]

*157. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of persons who took part in the tax saver scheme in each year since 2016 in each county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [56683/21]

*158. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason improvements to rail services have not been referenced in the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan; and the plans of the NTA regarding rail services in the context of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan. — Martin Browne. [56703/21]

*159. To ask the Minister for Transport when the strategic rail review will be completed; if the review will take into account a review of the timetables on the Limerick Junction, Waterford and the Limerick to Ballybrophy services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [56704/21]

*160. To ask the Minister for Transport when the National Investment Framework for Transport will be published; the proposed purpose of the framework; the elements that will be contained in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56720/21]

*161. To ask the Minister for Transport the studies that have been carried out by his Department in developing its transport strategy on the percentage of persons that choose to commute by walking, cycling and e-scooters in cases in which there is good walking, cycling and e-scooters infrastructure; the results of such studies by distance, age, disability and weather; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56721/21]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*162. To ask the Minister for Finance the total tax take on a litre of petrol retailing at €1.10, a litre of diesel, retailing at €1.10 and on a litre of LPG retailing at €1.10, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56592/21]

*163. To ask the Minister for Finance the total tax take on a litre of petrol retailing at €1.50, on a litre of diesel retailing at €1.50 and on a litre of LPG retailing at €1.50; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56594/21]

*164. To ask the Minister for Finance the total tax take by his Department on petrol sales for February 2021 compared to the total tax take for this product for October 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56596/21]

*165. To ask the Minister for Finance the total tax take on sales of diesel for February 2021; the way this figure compares this to the total tax take for this product for October 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56599/21]

*166. To ask the Minister for Finance the total tax take on sales of LPG for February 2021; the way this figure compares to the total tax take for this product for October 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56602/21]

*167. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to address rising inflation and the resulting increase in the cost of living; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56629/21]

*168. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will remove VAT from the cost of making a will if a charitable bequest is included; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56641/21]

*169. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider increasing the category A, B and C thresholds for capital acquisitions tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56691/21]

*170. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider extending tax exemptions for community sports clubs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56696/21]

*171. To ask the Minister for Finance if expenditure on Covid-19 tests for health appointments can be claimed as a health expense under Med 1; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [56755/21]

*172. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 78 of 10 November 2021, the assumptions on which the estimates are based particularly with regard to household and general carbon consumption in each of the years to 2030; if they are based on projections; and if so, the projections and the details of same in tabular form. — Pearse Doherty. [56823/21]

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

*173. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform when he will be legislating for blended and flexible working arrangements for public service workers in possible circumstances; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [56627/21]

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

*174. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the discussions she has had with Sport Ireland in relation to the reason that adult non-vaccinated players cannot take part in basketball matches given younger unvaccinated players are allowed play in such competitions; if Sport Ireland has provided her with medical evidence supporting its policies; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56723/21]

*175. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason a business (details supplied) in County Kerry that commenced trading in July 2020 and provided outdoor dining is being excluded from the outdoor seating grant scheme; if this decision will be reviewed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [56762/21]

*176. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if further consideration will be given to the development and promotion of monastic trails either as standalone tourism projects or as part of walking and cycling trails within the State and on a cross-Border basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56814/21]

*177. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason a business (details supplied) in County Kerry that commenced trading in 2021 and provided outdoor dining is being excluded from the outdoor seating grant scheme; if this decision will be reviewed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [56821/21]

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

*178. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will relieve community sports clubs from paying commercial rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [56695/21]

*179. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if newly married couples are no longer permitted to take wedding pictures in Killarney National Park (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56595/21]

*180. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if consideration will be given to facilitating dialogue between local authorities regarding the possibility of an intercounty housing transfer system for tenants wishing to seek a housing transfer from one local authority to another; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56649/21]

*181. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to simplify the voter registration process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56650/21]

*182. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of inspections to examine the standards of rental accommodation undertaken by Kildare County Council in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021; the number of improvement notices issued in each year as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56658/21]

*183. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of long-term leases approved to date in 2021 by local authority area including an average cost per unit for each local authority area; the number of leased properties in each local authority area that have a single owner; and the number of leased properties that are in multi-unit developments owned by a single individual or corporate entity or portfolios of properties owned by a single owner or corporate entity in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [56659/21]

*184. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the housing capital underspend to date in 2021; the amount he expects will be carried forward into 2022; if this will exceed the 10% cap; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [56663/21]

*185. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if funding is available from his Department to support local authorities in hosting fireworks displays at Halloween and on New Year’s Eve. — Thomas Gould. [56668/21]

*186. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of foreshore licence applications by Irish Water which have been received in the past 12 months; the time involved in processing of these applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [56710/21]

*187. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is considering legislative changes that would enable statutory bodies to proceed with planning applications for public infrastructure whilst simultaneously pursuing compulsory purchase orders on the lands to be developed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [56711/21]

*188. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if Ireland has formally communicated a request for a new nitrates derogation to the European Commission pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC; if so, the basis on which it was determined appropriate to apply for such a derogation in advance of the finalisation of a new nitrates action plan; if he will provide this Deputy with the documents supporting the request for a new derogation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [56761/21]

*189. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the fact that three towns in County Wexford were subject to boil water notices due to the lack of ultraviolet treatment facilities in the water plants serving these towns; if he will ensure that funding is provided to Irish Water to install these urgently needed facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [56813/21]

*190. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the final report of the working group on the use of peat moss in the horticultural industry will be published; the reason for its delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [56820/21]

*191. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the work being carried out to collect the almost €60,000 in unpaid derelict sites levies in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [56822/21]

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

*192. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had discussions with the Minister for Justice in Northern Ireland or with the Secretary of State for Justice in Britain in relation to the unacceptable proposal by the British Government to introduce an amnesty for persons who committed crimes during the era of the Troubles in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [51632/21]

*193. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he has been able to highlight the level of violence against women and children both in conflict zones and non-conflict zones globally during his discussions with his European colleagues. — Bernard J. Durkan. [48343/21]

*194. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if an enumeration has been done of the number of Irish nationals living and working in Singapore currently seeking permission to return home but are encountering difficulties obtaining the relevant permission to re-enter Singapore; if the necessary assistance can be provided to these persons to ensure there is no discrimination occurring against Irish nationals wishing to re-enter Singapore to return to work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56593/21]

*195. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of plans to reopen the foreign birth registration application process in order that the application for persons (details supplied) can be considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [56620/21]

*196. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason a simple online adult passport renewal application by a person (details supplied) has been given an estimated target issue date of ten weeks from the receipt of the application considering that this persons last passport expired only months ago so it should only take ten working days for this application to be processed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56676/21]

*197. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the current difficulties surrounding the emergency passport service; if his Department is reviewing the emergency telephone line to increase capacity due to large volume of callers; if persons can get an immediate urgent appointment with the passport office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [56699/21]

*198. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which efforts continue to be made at all levels to ensure that the Northern Ireland peace process is not damaged by ongoing Brexit related developments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56773/21]

*199. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he has had discussions with the Northern Ireland and or the UK authorities with a view to ensuring that recent interpretations of Brexit are not allowed to damage the peace process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56774/21]

*200. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if political and economic issues that have arisen in the aftermath of Brexit have become problematic given that pre-Brexit no such situations arose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56775/21]

*201. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent of recent discussions he has had with the UK Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union to ensure that a renegotiation of the UK interpretation of Brexit is not allowed to damage the economy and security on the island of Ireland

and with particular reference to Northern Ireland given the excellent state of both economies pre-Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56776/21]

*202. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the steps he can take through the European Union or United Nations to address the refugee crisis in eastern Europe; if these matters can be dealt with at the highest level to ensure the maintenance of basic humanitarian standards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56777/21]

*203. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which he can activate the European Union and the United Nations to address the issue of refugees including women and children currently remaining in life threatening situations on the borders of Poland and the Baltic states; his views on whether it is possible to mount an international campaign to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56778/21]

*204. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the top 20 locations worldwide that are experiencing violations of human rights, lack of protection against starvation and the organised equivalent of ethnic cleansing; if the perpetrators are likely to be charged before the International Criminal Courts of Justice and Human Rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56779/21]

*205. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if serious efforts can be made to ensure that those encouraging the use of human rights abuses against vulnerable persons can be challenged in the international courts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56780/21]

*206. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which an organisation (details supplied) can be encouraged to assist refugees converging on the Baltic states; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56781/21]

*207. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the activities of Boko Haram are being or can be curtailed or restricted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56782/21]

*208. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the activities of Al Shabaab are being restricted, curtailed or challenged with particular reference to the need to protect their victims; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56783/21]

*209. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the kidnapping of women and children by Boko Haram is being challenged and restricted and the perpetrators incarcerated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56785/21]

*210. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which at European Union and United Nations level he continues to focus on the vulnerability of women and children who continue to fall victims to physical and mental abuse; the steps being taken to address these issues and incarcerate the perpetrators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56786/21]

*211. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which Irish Aid continues to target the appropriate locations globally with particular reference to ensuring that both multilateral and bilateral aid reaches those for whom it was intended; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56787/21]

*212. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he continues to raise at European Union Security Council level the ongoing worldwide abuses of women and children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56788/21]

*213. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the efforts that are being made at international level to challenge the activities of international abuses of human rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56789/21]

*214. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he through the United Nations and the European Union can continue to highlight abuses of human rights at various locations throughout the globe some in warzones and some not in which vulnerable persons continue to be abused, trafficked and murdered; if efforts have been made to bring the perpetrators to justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56790/21]

*215. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he can put in place an effective turnaround for applications for passport renewals or new passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56791/21]

*216. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which candidate countries for European Union membership continue to receive support for their cause; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56792/21]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*217. To ask the Minister for Defence if he will consider using qualified members of the Defence Forces to address the urgency and shortage of staff in hospitals. — Danny Healy-Rae. [56754/21]

*218. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of the work of the Commission on the Defence Forces; when he expects to receive the final report of the Commission; if he has received interim reports to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [56586/21]

*219. To ask the Minister for Defence the status of the implementation of the report by the independent review group on Jadotville; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [56587/21]

*220. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason the Air Corps Pilates PC9 aircraft is sent to Switzerland for inspections; if it relates to poor staffing levels in Casement Aerodrome; the cost of such inspections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56652/21]

*221. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason the Air Corps AgustaWestland AW139 aircraft is sent to Belgium for inspections; if it relates to poor staffing levels in Casement Aerodrome; the cost of such inspections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56653/21]

*222. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason the Aer Corps Casa CN 235 aircraft is sent to Spain for inspections; if it relates to poor staffing levels in Casement Aerodrome; the cost of such inspections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56654/21]

*223. To ask the Minister for Defence the amount paid to a company (details supplied) in each of the past two years to date in 2021; if these payments relate to aircraft maintenance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56655/21]

*224. To ask the Minister for Defence the steps he will take to reintroduce the service that was recently stopped in which members of the Civil Defence provide transport to persons who need to attend hospital appointments; the reason the service was stopped; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [56665/21]

*225. To ask the Minister for Defence if he plans to amend administrative instruction A10 in relation to the use of the national flag at funerals of deceased retired members of the Defence Forces to ensure that in all cases in which a deceased member had 20 years' service with a satisfactory record the family of the deceased would be presented with the national flag at the graveside or at the crematorium as a mark of gratitude for their long service to the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56737/21]

*226. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which the strength of the Defence Forces has fluctuated in each of the past five years to date; if it is planned to recruit to augment the numbers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56793/21]

*227. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which his Department continues to engage with representative bodies in the Defence Forces with a view to achieving an equitable resolution to outstanding matters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56794/21]

*228. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of outstanding positions to be filled within the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56795/21]

*229. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which the Air Corps continues to receive training on par with other forces throughout the European Union with particular reference to the need to ensure the ability to work together with other forces in the event of an emergency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56796/21]

*230. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which members of the Air Corps continue to receive training on an ongoing basis with particular reference to the need to familiarise themselves with modern aviation technology; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56797/21]

*231. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which the Army including the Army Reserve continue to participate in modern training exercises in order to ensure the ability of the force to operate with other forces in the context of United Nations deployments and the need to maintain an ability to work alongside colleagues from the United Nations or the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56798/21]

*232. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which vessels in the Naval Service have been upgraded in line with best international requirements thereby facilitating their ability to engage in surveillance or rescue operations around Ireland's coast; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56799/21]

*233. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which he remains satisfied that all equipment used by the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps is in keeping with the best available in order to ensure their safety when operating on or offshore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56800/21]

*234. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which he remains satisfied that all aircraft available to the Air Corps are fully equipped with the most up to date navigational equipment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56801/21]

*235. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of training courses available throughout out the year to members of the Naval Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56802/21]

*236. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of training courses available throughout out the year to members of the Air Corps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56803/21]

*237. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of training courses available throughout out the year to members of the Army; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56804/21]

*238. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent of audits carried out to ascertain the extent to which all equipment, navigation and otherwise used by the Naval Service whether on a regular or occasional basis is up to specific standards of an international level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56805/21]

*239. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent of audits carried out to ascertain the extent to which all equipment, navigation and otherwise used by the Air Corps whether on a regular or occasional basis is up to specific standards of an international level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56806/21]

*240. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent of audits done to ascertain the extent to which all equipment, navigation and otherwise used by the Army whether on a regular or occasional basis is up to specific standards of an international level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56807/21]

*241. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which all seagoing vessels whether in permanent or occasional use meet international standards in respect of reliability or action worthiness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56808/21]

*242. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which all equipment used by the Air Corps whether in permanent or occasional use meets international standards in respect of reliability and have valid certification of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56809/21]

*243. To ask the Minister for Defence the extent to which he remains satisfied that the standard and quality of equipment used by the Army and available for regular use is kept at the highest standard in order to ensure reliability and safety during operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56810/21]

*244. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of women currently serving in the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps; the extent to which this number has varied over the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56811/21]

*245. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of women currently holding senior positions in the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps; the number of promotional posts likely to arise in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56812/21]

*246. To ask the Minister for Defence the policy position adopted by his Department with respect to the repurposing of decommissioned Army barracks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [56771/21]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*247. To ask the Minister for Education if the option of accredited grades will be offered to those due to sit the leaving certificate in 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [56584/21]

*248. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a special transport grant application by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [56600/21]

*249. To ask the Minister for Education if supports can be provided to a student (details supplied) with dyslexia; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [56601/21]

*250. To ask the Minister for Education the number of primary level teachers who graduated in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date 2021, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56671/21]

*251. To ask the Minister for Education the number of primary level teachers in schools in County Meath employed on full-time contracts in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Johnny Guirke. [56672/21]

*252. To ask the Minister for Education the number of primary level teachers in schools in County Meath employed on part-time or temporary contracts in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Johnny Guirke. [56673/21]

*253. To ask the Minister for Education the number of primary level teachers in schools in County Westmeath employed on full-time contracts in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Johnny Guirke. [56674/21]

*254. To ask the Minister for Education the number of primary level teachers in schools in County Westmeath employed on part-time or temporary contracts in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Johnny Guirke. [56675/21]

*255. To ask the Minister for Education if she has had discussions with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to a proposal by a group (details supplied) which proposes that the State would as a collaborative effort co-ordinated by the two Departments and including schools from all around the country, plant a native tree in a single site in a new national park for each school-going pupil in the State; her views in relation to same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56727/21]

*256. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais cén fhoireann bhreise agus cén maoiniú breise atá curtha ar fáil cheana féin don Aonad um Oideachas Gaeltachta chun beartas maidir le hoideachas trí Ghaeilge lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht a fhorbairt; cén fhoireann agus cén maoiniú breise a chuirfear ar fáil ina leith sin in 2022; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56735/21]

*257. To ask the Minister for Education if the State Examinations Commission plans to conduct an investigation into the reason a higher proportion of lower grades were awarded to students sitting the leaving certificate politics and society examination, particularly at ordinary level compared to

other subjects such as history, geography and business; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [56763/21]

*258. To ask the Minister for Education the additional resources made available by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment for leaving certificate politics and society students and teachers following the addition of 17 key thinkers to the ordinary level syllabus in 2019; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [56764/21]

*259. To ask the Minister for Education the State Examination Commission's plans to publish a more detailed marking scheme for the leaving certificate politics and society examination paper; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [56765/21]

*260. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) will be informed of a decision by her Department on two emergency works applications relating to electrical work and a fire alarm further to the provision by the school of all information requested to the emergency works team of her Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [56770/21]

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

*261. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will engage with union representatives (details supplied) of the rural social scheme supervisors and an organisation with a view to addressing pension claims; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [56605/21]

*262. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of students in receipt of the back to education allowance in each year since 2011; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56617/21]

*263. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide a list of the approved third-level institutions for the back to education allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56618/21]

*264. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the target month and year she is working to for the publication of the cost of disability research; the reason the report has not yet been published; and the actions that have been taken on foot of the report since she received it. — Duncan Smith. [56625/21]

*265. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the way in which the pension of a civil servant who has taken additional annual leave days more than their entitlement who has since retired is affected; the process and procedures in place to retrieve the overpayment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [56682/21]

*266. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there will be a provision in the request for tenders for the provision of regional employment services to ensure that full employment services will be available in the medium of the Irish including written and oral contact with the services themselves; if there will be a further requirement for all tenders to outline the way they propose delivering on such a provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56722/21]

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

*267. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures being taken by Tusla under section 3 of the Child Care Act 1991 to fulfil its statutory function to promote the welfare of children that are not receiving adequate care and protection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [56608/21]

*268. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of times that Tusla has applied to the District Court for child welfare order under section 13, 17 or 18 of the Child Care Act 1991 when it has found that a child or children are considered to be at immediate and serious risk; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [56609/21]

*269. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of times Tusla has made an application for section 17 orders, interim care orders with respect to newborn babies including in those circumstances in which a pre-birth case conference has taken place and a court has judged that the child will be at serious risk if they do not come into care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [56610/21]

*270. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will address concerns that there is no emergency accommodation available in County Offaly for victims of domestic violence; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that this situation has been ongoing for the past 25 years; the steps he is taking to rectify this service deficit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [56621/21]

*271. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if funding is available from his Department to support local authorities in hosting fireworks displays at Halloween and on New Year's Eve. — Thomas Gould. [56669/21]

*272. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the additional supports being put in place in each county to support victims of domestic violence on a long-term basis; if his Department will review the need for a dedicated refuge in each county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [56677/21]

*273. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will review the restrictions on youth group work which are currently restricted to pods of six given the vast majority of volunteer led youth work has not been able to resume or to have open access services such as youth cafés and drop ins and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [56698/21]

*274. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when excavations will be carried out at the burial site of the former mother and baby home in Tuam; the reason for the delay in commencing same; if An Garda Síochána will be involved in the supervision of the excavation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56731/21]

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

*275. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the recently concluded agreement to include Israel in Horizon Europe until 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56530/21]

*276. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the higher education governance Bill; when the Bill is expected to be enacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [56612/21]

*277. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of enrolments and graduates from paramedic courses in each year since 2011, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56614/21]

*278. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when he will publish the economic evaluation of the Cassells report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56615/21]

*279. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of part-time students in public higher education institutes not including non-EU international students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [56616/21]

*280. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will consider amending Article 23 of the student grant scheme 2021 (details supplied) in order that capital allowances can be taken into account when calculating means; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [56689/21]

*281. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the advice that has issued from his Department to third-level colleges in relation to student placements at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [56692/21]

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

*282. To ask the Minister for Justice the extent to which the international community remains alert to the activities of terrorist gangs throughout Europe and further afield and currently involved in the trafficking of women and children; the number of prosecutions taken or pending to address these issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [56784/21]

*283. To ask the Minister for Justice the reports that she has received from the Independent Reporting Commission to date in relation to its work of building a peaceful Northern Ireland; the actions taken on foot of these reports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56480/21]

*284. To ask the Minister for Justice the information that has been brought into the public domain regarding the deaths of children at the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home at Tuam, County Galway that has been the subject of any criminal investigation; if excavations will take place at the site; the next steps that will be taken to secure the full information as the incidents which occurred at this home; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [56598/21]

*285. To ask the Minister for Justice when a person (details supplied) will receive a decision on a citizenship application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [56613/21]

*286. To ask the Minister for Justice if cautions given by gardaí to those found in possession of small quantities of cannabis can impact on Garda vetting they may need in the future; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [56619/21]

*287. To ask the Minister for Justice the timeline for the review and the publishing of the report into the Special Criminal Court. — Patrick Costello. [56694/21]

*288. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of road traffic collisions at Oberstown Cross, Oberstown, Tara, County Meath in the past 12 months; the dates of same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [56712/21]

*289. To ask the Minister for Justice the status of a citizenship application by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [56736/21]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*290. To ask the Minister for Health the investment by the HSE through its service level agreement with ShannonDoc for community healthcare services in County Clare in each of the years 2017 to 2021 inclusive. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [56690/21]

*291. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children screened or assessed for speech and language therapy at the Spraoi Centre, Portlaoise in 2020 and to date in 2021. — Brian Stanley. [56585/21]

*292. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list for speech and language therapy in the Spraoi Centre, Portlaoise; and the number waiting in excess of six and 12 months, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [56588/21]

*293. To ask the Minister for Health the locations in which the 96 community healthcare networks across Ireland in addition to the establishment of specialist community teams for older persons and those with chronic conditions as per the enhanced community care programme. — Richard O'Donoghue. [56589/21]

*294. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list for physiotherapy in the Spraoi Centre, Portlaoise; and the number waiting in excess of six and 12 months, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [56590/21]

*295. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the waiting list for occupational therapy in the Spraoi Centre, Portlaoise; and the number waiting in excess of six and 12 months, respectively. — Brian Stanley. [56591/21]

*296. To ask the Minister for Health when staff will be put in place in the resilience social care residential centre (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [56603/21]

*297. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a medical card application (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [56604/21]

*298. To ask the Minister for Health when an electric chair riser can be provided to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56607/21]

*299. To ask the Minister for Health the total mental health budget divided by its allocation to each of the nine CHO areas in each of the years 2018 to 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [56622/21]

*300. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new residential places that will be provided in 2022 not including those who have a residential service already and are transferring to a better living situation; and his proposals to deal with the urgent needs of the 800 persons minimum currently waiting. — Duncan Smith. [56623/21]

*301. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons under 65 years of age inappropriately placed in nursing homes that will be supported to leave nursing homes using the €5.5 million funding to be provided in 2022. — Duncan Smith. [56624/21]

*302. To ask the Minister for Health the way an Irish citizen or legal permanent residents who receive their vaccine in the United States of America can get their booster shot in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [56628/21]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting on an ASD service; the average waiting time after completion of an assessment of needs by CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [56630/21]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health the number of interventions received on average since their initial intervention after a child is identified as needing an ASD service after completion of an assessment of needs in the first 12 months by CHO area in the past five years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [56631/21]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on waiting lists for hearing aids through the medical card scheme in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56632/21]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on waiting lists for hearing aids through the medical card scheme in County Meath in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56633/21]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on waiting lists for hearing aids through the medical card scheme in County Westmeath in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56634/21]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on waiting lists for hearing aids through the medical card scheme in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56635/21]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health the average number of patients waiting for a hearing aid installation through the medical card scheme in County Meath by wait time intervals of 3, 6, 9, 12, and 18 months and over in each of the years 2015 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56636/21]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health the average number of patients waiting for a hearing aid installation through the medical card scheme in County Westmeath for wait time intervals of 3, 6, 9, 12 and 18 months and over in each of the years 2015 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56637/21]

*311. To ask the Minister for Health if pregnant healthcare workers will be afforded the opportunity to move to a non-patient facing role due to rising Covid-19 case numbers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56643/21]

*312. To ask the Minister for Health if medically vulnerable children over 12 years of age and medically vulnerable adults under 60 years of age will be included in the Covid-19 vaccine booster programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56644/21]

*313. To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on hearing aid installations for County Meath through the medical card scheme in each of the years 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56660/21]

*314. To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on hearing aid installations for County Westmeath through the medical card scheme in each of the years 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56661/21]

*315. To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on hearing aid installations in each county through the medical card scheme in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [56662/21]

*316. To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to address the lack of available home support service carers in an area (details supplied); the number of persons in the area who have been approved for home support but whose service has not commenced due to lack of carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [56670/21]

*317. To ask the Minister for Health if the Rapid Testing Expert Advisory Group has provided him with guidance and or advice since its last interim report; and if so, if he will publish that advice. — Catherine Murphy. [56678/21]

*318. To ask the Minister for Health when an inflatable seat will be granted for a person (details supplied) with very limited mobility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56679/21]

*319. To ask the Minister for Health the number of primary healthcare centres in County Clare in each of years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [56684/21]

*320. To ask the Minister for Health the number of primary healthcare centre staff employed in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021 on a whole-time equivalent basis in tabular form. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [56685/21]

*321. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that have accessed day disability services in each of the years 2017-2020 and to date in 2021 in County Clare in tabular form. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [56686/21]

*322. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ShannonDoc services and locations that were operational across County Clare in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [56687/21]

*323. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent professionals that have been working in County Clare mental health services in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [56688/21]

*324. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the support for Irish survivors of thalidomide Bill; if he will meet with a representative organisation (details supplied) regarding this Bill; the reason he previously refused a request to meet with this organisation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [56697/21]

*325. To ask the Minister for Health his views on developing an entirety of life pathway for survivors of strokes; the work that has been carried out in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [56702/21]

*326. To ask the Minister for Health the overall operational spend in each hospital (details supplied) over the past five years; the whole-time equivalent number of staff in each for the period in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [56708/21]

*327. To ask the Minister for Health if he will undertake to withdraw a job specification for a position (details supplied) at University Hospital Waterford and readvertise the position for a cardiologist only in order to facilitate filling the post; if not, the clinical reasons this specification is required; the other percutaneous coronary intervention cath lab services nationally that demand and mandate such dual accreditation; the details of the changes that have occurred in the present University Hospital Waterford service delivery plan that require this dual accreditation; the way the retention and filling of this job specification will assist expanding the cardiac cath lab hours at the hospital which have remained static despite a commitment from the Government to provide adequate resourcing for such expansion to begin in February 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [56709/21]

*328. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on school age team or the new equivalent on the psychology waiting lists that have been also referred to primary care psychology by county in each of the years 2018 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [56713/21]

*329. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on school age team or new equivalent on psychology waiting lists that have been also referred to primary care psychology and that referral was not accepted by county in each of the years 2018 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [56714/21]

*330. To ask the Minister for Health the actions taken to date to address the longstanding difficulties in recruiting a psychologist to the disability services team in the HSE health centre, Longford Road, Mullingar as acknowledged by the complaints officer that the current staffing levels are not sufficient to provide a full service. — Sorca Clarke. [56715/21]

*331. To ask the Minister for Health if he will intervene on behalf of a child (details supplied). — Sorca Clarke. [56716/21]

*332. To ask the Minister for Health the number of complaints made to the Your Service Your Say that relate to psychology services in counties Longford and Westmeath in each of the years 2018 to 2020 and to date in 2021. — Sorca Clarke. [56717/21]

*333. To ask the Minister for Health the progress that is being made to reduce hospital car parking charges particularly for those with sick children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [56718/21]

*334. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of general practitioner practices in the country; the number of general practitioner practices at the moment that are awaiting the appointment of a permanent general practitioner to them by urban and rural areas; the steps he plans to take to address this issue through additional targeted incentives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56724/21]

*335. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of general practitioner practices located in areas in which the Irish language is used as a common daily means of communication; the number of these that can provide patient services in the Irish language; the steps he plans to take to attract Irish speakers to such positions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56725/21]

*336. To ask the Minister for Health if he plans to extend the opening hours of the Covid-19 testing centre in the National University of Ireland Galway by keeping it open seven days a week rather than five days as at present in view of its accessibility to persons particularly on the west side of the city and from Connemara and in order to increase testing capacity in the city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56734/21]

*337. To ask the Minister for Health if the EU Digital COVID Certificate will be updated to include details of the booster vaccine currently being administered to persons over 60 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [56739/21]

*338. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the Covid-19 vaccine booster programme; if consideration is being given to a shortening of the timeline between a person getting the second vaccine and their eligibility for the booster vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56747/21]

*339. To ask the Minister for Health when the portal will open for Irish citizens who have received a vaccine outside of the European Union and the UK to request an EU Digital COVID Certificate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [56748/21]

*340. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the Covid-19 vaccination booster programme; the timelines for delivery for all cohorts in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [56760/21]

*341. To ask the Minister for Health if an appointment will be expedited for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56767/21]

*342. To ask the Minister for Health when the updated HSPC guidelines regarding ventilation in respect of Covid-19 will be published. — Mary Lou McDonald. [56769/21]

*343. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 832 of 19 October 2021, if he will provide as had been requested the number of Covid-19 vaccines that have been procured for Ireland including both vaccines administered and vaccines available for administration; the number procured by vaccine type, that is, manufacturing company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [56815/21]

*344. To ask the Minister for Health if he will give consideration to issuing public health advice in relation to vitamin d supplementation in view of recent findings (details supplied) regarding the importance of vitamin d in protecting against Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [56816/21]

*345. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to provide a primary care centre for Finglas; the timescale involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [56817/21]

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

*346. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the promised food ombudsman will be appointed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [56651/21]

*347. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the case of a person (details supplied) is being expedited. — Sean Sherlock. [56707/21]

*348. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the outlook for the fishing industry and for fish processors in the coming six months given the new control plan in relation to weighing fish has not yet been approved by the European Commission and is not likely to be approved for some time; the steps he plans taking to mitigate the negative effects this will have on the fishing industry including alternative supports for the industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56728/21]

*349. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he plans to classify donkeys as heritage animals in view of their historic role in Irish society; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56733/21]

*350. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there are plans to provide funding towards urgent works that are needed for the oyster pier (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [56738/21]

*351. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department will commit to providing a written plan for the next 12 months that commits to baseline levels of licensing and inroads into the backlog in forestry licences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [56749/21]

*352. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason for the delay in the completion of control plan for fisheries landings (details supplied); the actions that are being taken to expedite the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [56756/21]

*353. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the proposals there are to intensify co-operation with international forestry organisations in relation to research projects which could be carried out in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [56768/21]

*354. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department records figures pertaining to the number of greyhounds referred to foster centres included on the panel of service providers since the introduction of the Rásaíocht Con Éireann traceability system in January 2021; and if so, if he will provide these figures. — Martin Browne. [56818/21]

*355. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of further information requests issued in relation to forestry licence applications in each of the years 2015 to 2020 and to date in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [56819/21]

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

*356. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if funding is available from her Department to support local authorities in hosting fireworks displays at Halloween and on New Year's Eve. — Thomas Gould. [56667/21]

*357. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the proposed changes to the Community Services Programme will be announced following on from the review carried out by a company (details supplied); the mechanism by which existing community groups and Community Service Programme companies can have an input into the ongoing consultation process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [56730/21]

*358. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if emergency funding will be made available to a community group (details supplied) to secure insurance for a community playground; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [56732/21]