



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 9 Samhain, 2022

Wednesday, 9th November, 2022

**CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS**

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

*1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the basis on which critical skills are added to or removed from the critical skills occupations' list; the last time that this list was amended; the next time that it is intended to be amended; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [55720/22]

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

*3. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reason that standing charges on gas and electricity have increased exponentially given that these type of charges are within Ireland's own competency rather than influenced by outside factors; and if he will direct policy to ensure that standing charges are reduced substantially, or waived, given the huge increases in energy prices. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [55678/22]

*4. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reason that the standing charge for night-rate electricity usage is much more expensive than the day rate, especially given that the public is constantly encouraged to use off-peak electricity. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [55679/22]

*5. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has set a deadline for the establishment of the approved body to run the deposit return scheme for beverage bottles and cans; the estimated total cost of the scheme; the proposed deposit to be charged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [55726/22]

*6. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the impact, if any, the flooding of the bogs in the midlands will have on flood attenuation in the Shannon catchment; the progress to date on re-wetting the Bord na Móna bogs across the Shannon catchment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [55770/22]

*7. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on his plans for the inclusion of Labasheeda, County Clare in the rollout of the

National Broadband Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [55870/22]

*8. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his attention has been drawn to the widespread concern of businesses trading in household energy products due to smoky coal products being imported illegally into the State; the resources that he is providing to local authorities to counteract such illegal trade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55886/22]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*9. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*10. To ask the Minister for Transport the number and location of charging points for electric vehicles in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [55779/22]

*11. To ask the Minister for Transport his Department's plans to dramatically improve the number of charging points for electric vehicles in County Clare; if he will provide a timescale for this roll-out; the proposed locations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [55780/22]

*12. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that he will take to ensure that NCT tests across the country are carried out by suitably-qualified testers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [55688/22]

*13. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to reports that a company (details supplied), which currently has a contract with the NCT, has been hiring unqualified workers to carry-out the safety tests on vehicles as part of the strategy to reduce car-testing waiting lists thus raising serious public-safety concern. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [55689/22]

*14. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will introduce the appropriate safeguards to ensure that all mechanics and NCT inspectors are fully-trained and certified before being able to pass cars on their NCT; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [55690/22]

*15. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will clarify the circumstances of a specific night flight at Dublin Airport which took place on 29/30 October 2022 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55708/22]

*16. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 6 of 22 September 2022, the status of the appointment of the promised specialist team which will assist the National Transport Authority in conjunction with Galway City and County Councils, in undertaking the work to update the Galway transport strategy; the timeline for when the team will be in place; the selection criteria for each role on the specialist team; the terms of reference of the specialist team; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [55753/22]

*17. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the National Transport Authority does not operate out of Nenagh train station and instead operate from Kickham Street, Nenagh which in turn contributes to traffic congestion in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [55777/22]

*18. To ask the Minister for Transport if the new proposed dual railway lines from Cork to Cobh and Cork to Midleton will have new carriages which will be fully compliant with the Disability Act; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pat Buckley. [55781/22]

*19. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has received correspondence from an organisation (details supplied) regarding changes to the Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021 and the national fleet database; when he intends to respond to the organisation; and if a copy of this response can be made available to all members of the Oireachtas Transport Committee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [55803/22]

*20. To ask the Minister for Transport the current rate of “islander” car tax; the basis on which this is paid; if cars taxed for “island only” use are exempt from undergoing the NCT; the steps that he intends taking on ensuring that it is attractive for islanders to purchase plug in hybrids or electric vehicles for island use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55806/22]

*21. To ask the Minister for Transport when consideration was first given to the possibility of locating the west Connemara base for the Coastguard at the airstrip in Cluain Leacht an Abba, Cleggan, County Galway; the progress made to date with this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55807/22]

*22. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason that a waiting time of eight to ten weeks exists for driving tests; the steps being taken to shorten these waiting lists; if certain categories of applicant who require full driving licences for essential work can get their applications expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55821/22]

*23. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures that his Department is taking to encourage the public to avoid purchasing vehicles that are larger than their needs; his views on whether there is a carbon reduction benefit that can be achieved in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55230/22]

*24. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that he is taking to ensure that the broader south Dublin area has sufficient access to public transport in light of increased building and population growth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [55849/22]

*25. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that he intends taking to support the taxi industry in view of the unprecedented rise in overhead costs over the past two years, and the lack of taxis in many parts of the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55879/22]

*26. To ask the Minister for Transport when on-board catering services on Iarnród Éireann's Intercity network will resume; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [55895/22]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*27. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*28. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of calls received by the Revenue Commissioners by month from 2017 to date in 2022, in tabular form; the number of calls per category; the average waiting time to be connected to a Revenue official; the number of calls left unanswered or disconnected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55728/22]

*29. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Revenue Commissioners is currently writing to carers, widow's pensioners, people on invalidity pensions and other DSP recipients, with no other income sources requesting them to complete income tax return before 31 October 2022 and 16 November 2022 for previous years 2019, 2020 and 2021 due to PAYE underpayments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55729/22]

*30. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of recipients of the temporary wage subsidy scheme who will be expected to pay back tax in 2022 and in 2023, by county in tabular form; the number who had underpayments for 2020 and also received TWSS; the amount of persons with TWSS underpayments; the average TWSS underpayment per person; the total amount of outstanding TWSS under payments; his plans, if any, to scrap the TWSS tax bill for affected workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55730/22]

*31. To ask the Minister for Finance if, as part of the retail banking review currently under way by his Department, consideration is being given to reducing the 10% reserve requirement for credit unions, which are now operating current accounts and banking services as a result of the large amount of new customers that they are receiving, due to the exit of banks (details supplied) from Ireland; if his attention has been drawn to the significant difficulties that this 10% requirement is now having for new customers of credit unions who have chosen them as their new banking service given the limits on the amounts of funds allowable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55737/22]

*32. To ask the Minister for Finance the price achieved for each disposal of shares in banks (details supplied) since 1 January 2020; the number of shares sold in each of those transactions; the number of remaining shares he holds in each bank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55771/22]

*33. To ask the Minister for Finance the price achieved for shares in a bank (details supplied) in each transaction since he began selling down the State's shareholding following the financial crash; the total yield and individual price per share in each of those transactions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55772/22]

*34. To ask the Minister for Finance the price achieved for shares in a bank (details supplied) in each transaction since he began selling down the State's shareholding following the financial crash; the total yield and individual price per share in each of those transactions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55773/22]

*35. To ask the Minister for Finance the dividends received on shares held in banks (details supplied) since 1 January 2020; the dividend per share; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55774/22]

*36. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has held any meetings with Irish banks about the rate of interest paid on customer deposits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55775/22]

*37. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will clarify the situation as it applies to separated couples in respect of the standard tax rate cut off point where there is a legal separation and shared custody of children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [55776/22]

*38. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the recruitment of members of the disabled drivers' medical board of appeal; when he expects the new board to be up-and-running; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [55831/22]

*39. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has had discussions with the insurance industry in relation to the large difference in insurance premiums being charged by the insurance industry to new entrants to the taxi industry compared to existing operators, which is a major disincentive to new persons in getting involved in the industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55880/22]

*40. To ask the Minister for Finance if he intends amending the help-to-buy scheme for persons building on their own site, in order that the minimum percentage borrowed would be 70% of the construction cost rather than 70% of the imputed cost including a value on the site (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55893/22]

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

*41. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the status of the review of public ethics legislation, ongoing since 2021; if he will make public the findings of the consultation initiated by his Department; if he will provide details of the timeline that he is working towards for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [55680/22]

*42. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if his attention has been drawn to a payroll issue of a person (details supplied). — Richard Bruton. [55747/22]

*43. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*44. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform when final flood maps and reports will be published by the Office of Public Works for the Carnmore and Claregalway area of Galway as these are required urgently in order that applicants have up to date data in relation to flood risk when making planning applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55789/22]

*45. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the OPW intend providing funding for the cleaning of a channel (details supplied) in County Galway that was previously allocated funding that was never spent; if so when it is likely to happen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55790/22]

*46. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if all pensioners who are getting occupational pensions from the Civil Service or wider public service and are not receiving the State pension (contributory) as they only paid a modified PRSI contribution while working and who are suffering like all pensioners from the effects of the increase in fuel prices and the cost-of-living, will receive a double payment of their pension this autumn; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55811/22]

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

*47. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of civil servants in her Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*48. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the reason that the public was excluded from 2022 national famine commemoration day on 15 May 2022, when other State events such as the 1916 rising commemoration held on 17 April and the earlier St. Patrick's day celebrations on 17 March were all open to the public. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [55696/22]

*49. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the date and venue when the 2023 national famine commemoration day events will be held; and if it is intended to proceed with an international/twinning An Gorta Mór day next year as intended before. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [55697/22]

*50. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Meáin, Ealaíon, Cultúir, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an bhfuil i gceist aici deontas bliantúil a chur ar fáil leis na barr-chostais a chlúdach i gcomhair ionaid atá in úsáid mar choláistí Gaeilge de bharr na mbarr-chostasí mór a bhaineann lena leithéid anois; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55792/22]

*51. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she intends setting up an independent enquiry to examine issues of concern that have arisen in relation to Irish dancing competitions run under the auspices of an organisation (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55809/22]

*52. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cén uair a chuirfear an grúpa oibre ar bun le scrúdú a dhéanamh ar fhorbairt agus todhchaí na gColáistí Gaeilge; an t-amscála a bhainfidh leis an athbhreithniú; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55818/22]

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

*53. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*54. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a national schedule on a county basis of properties he has identified in the context of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Displaced Persons from Ukraine Temporary Protection) Regulations 2022 in respect of accommodating persons. — Catherine Murphy. [55783/22]

*55. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount spent by local authorities on HAP, broken down by local authority, the total number of recipients, the average payment and total expenditure in each of the past five years, in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [55694/22]

*56. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update on the forthcoming legislation arising from the review of the Planning and Development Act 2000; and if he intends to request pre-legislative scrutiny on any general scheme to ensure adequate public and sectoral scrutiny of proposed legislation. — Eoin Ó Broin. [55702/22]

*57. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the plans, if any, that he has to change the legislation establishing the private Residential Tenancies Board to set out a legal requirement for the organisation to address its practice of failing to respond to legitimate queries regarding the registration and re-registration of properties by landlords; his views on whether it is acceptable that a public organisation should act in such a manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [55732/22]

*58. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a schedule of the properties his Department is progressing and/or developing that have been identified to accommodate persons from Ukraine and or seeking international protection on a county basis. — Catherine Murphy. [55786/22]

*59. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will instruct both Galway City Council and Galway County Council to give equal consideration to applicants for housing who are on the housing list of one local authority, but who express a preference for housing in the other local authority as allowed (details supplied) to ensure equality of treatment of all applicants; if he has given consideration to instructing both councils to hold a joint housing list data base for this purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55804/22]

*60. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has received any update from the Public Appointments Service in relation to when it intends advertising the position for a permanent chief executive in Galway County Council; the explanation, if any, that it provided as to the reasons for the delay in doing so; the discussions that his Department has had with the PAS in relation to this matter since the requirement was made known to the PAS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55827/22]

*61. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of 'Housing First' tenancies delivered in each county to date in 2022, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [55841/22]

*62. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he intends introducing an incentive for persons who are council tenants and could afford to build or buy their own house, to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55862/22]

*63. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the proposed ban on evictions during the winter period covers the rent-a-room scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [55896/22]

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

*64. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*65. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs when a foreign birth registration application will be processed for a child (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [55659/22]

*66. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of passport applications that have been requested to be resubmitted by the Passport Office as a direct result of officials in that office being unable to contact Garda stations that are not operating on a 24-hour basis in each of the years 2018 to 2021 and to date in 2022; the policy in place in such instances; if consideration has been given towards updating the process for the logging of Garda signatures for new passports in an online system, as opposed to the current physical book system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55736/22]

*67. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs if he can assist a family (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [55738/22]

Chun an Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*68. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*69. To ask the Minister for Education the number of civil servants in her Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if

the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*70. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the building for a school (details supplied). — Emer Higgins. [55666/22]

*71. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on tendering for the long-awaited extension of a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [55667/22]

*72. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 461 of 15 February 2022, if she will include the CHO1 area in the extension of the pilot of the school inclusion model; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [55681/22]

*73. To ask the Minister for Education if the age limit for school bus drivers can be extended from 70 to 75 years, given that most of these drivers are retired men and women who do this work on a part-time basis and are fully capable of driving until that age; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [55693/22]

*74. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the fact that teachers who have qualified as primary teachers in the UK cannot return to do their on-the-job training year; and if such a requirement could be waived given the shortage of teachers being experienced at present. — Richard Bruton. [55727/22]

*75. To ask the Minister for Education if she can assist in a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [55735/22]

*76. To ask the Minister for Education if an application for an additional SNA will be approved for a school (details supplied); and if she will expedite a positive outcome. — John McGuinness. [55746/22]

*77. To ask the Minister for Education the number of places in each teacher training college for initial teacher training for primary school teachers for the past five years, including 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [55766/22]

*78. To ask the Minister for Education when a decision will be made on an application by a school (details supplied) for funding for a new SEN 2 base along with the replacement of four sub-standard classrooms; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55791/22]

*79. To ask the Minister for Education when a decision will be made on an application by a school (details supplied) for funding for a new SEN 2 base along with the replacement of four sub-standard classrooms; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55793/22]

*80. To ask the Minister for Education if there are any new ASD units opening in County Tipperary in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [55881/22]

*81. To ask the Minister for Education if she will expedite a school bus ticket for a pupil (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [55902/22]

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

*82. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the one-off payments in Budget 2023 will be counted as income when applying for a means tested social protection payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [55722/22]

*83. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of civil servants in her Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*84. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the community employment ex-gratia payment for supervisors and assistant supervisors will be made in respect of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [55530/22]

*85. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a PPS number will issue in the case of a person (details supplied) who has submitted the required documentation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55676/22]

*86. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress to date in the determination of an appeal in the case of a person (details supplied) in respect of an alleged overpayment; if their appeal can be expedited given the stress that this ongoing case is causing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55677/22]

*87. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will be made in relation to a guardian's payment for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [55684/22]

*88. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her views on a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [55685/22]

*89. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the case of a person (details supplied) who applied for the working family payment in August 2022 and has yet to receive any decision on their application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [55692/22]

*90. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will address the concerns outlined in detail in relation to the pension entitlement of a person (details supplied); if she will have the decision to reduce the pension payment reviewed as a matter of urgency, taking into account all of the relevant data; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55716/22]

*91. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the correct level of fuel allowance payable in the case of persons (details supplied); if the full amount is being paid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55734/22]

*92. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the date for the publication of the Child Maintenance Review Group Report; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [55754/22]

*93. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) did not receive any payments when caring for her elderly father before he passed away; the reason she has been declined carers allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [55756/22]

*94. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extra assistance provided by her Department in Budget 2023 in terms of double payments and so on to pensioners who are not entitled to the State pension (contributory) as they were public servants and paid a modified PRSI contribution and who are suffering like all pensioners from the effects of the increase in fuel prices and the cost-of-living; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55810/22]

*95. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason that persons who are in receipt of illness benefit for a period similar to the qualification period for qualifying for the double payment of welfare for recipients of supplementary allowance and jobseeker's allowance benefit, were not entitled to the recently announced double payment of welfare payments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55819/22]

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

*96. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will consider extending the building block strand B funding for childcare providers application deadline given the difficulty in getting quotes from providers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [55665/22]

*97. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when a payment will issue to a commercial accommodation provider of Ukrainian refugees (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55733/22]

*98. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there will be extra compensation under the mother-and-baby homes to children of African descent who were born in covered institutions, given that they were often subject to differential treatment due to racial prejudice, thus affecting lifelong outcomes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55897/22]

*99. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will outline his engagement and that of his Department with an organisation (details supplied) with regard to mother-and-baby home trials; the timeline of this engagement; the feedback from the organisation at those particular points in time; the conclusions drawn by his officials; if he will provide an outline of the briefings supplied to him at these points in time; the current status of the engagement between his Department and the organisation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [55901/22]

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

*100. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update in respect of the current status of Erasmus+ programmes: his plans for a funding scheme to support third level students studying in the Republic of Ireland to

participate in educational visits in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [55700/22]

*101. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

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

*102. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of civil servants in her Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*103. To ask the Minister for Justice if a stamp 3 provided in the cases of persons (details supplied) can be upgraded to stamp 4, given that their mother is an Irish citizen, that all persons have been in Ireland since 2006, who have all attended primary and secondary school in Ireland, who are unable to contribute given their pending citizenship applications, whose father is a Canadian citizen with a stamp 4, and whose parents both work in healthcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55683/22]

*104. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of an application as part of the undocumented persons' scheme in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55714/22]

*105. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of visa applications in the case of persons (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55719/22]

*106. To ask the Minister for Justice the outcome of the public consultation following the Report of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality on Reform on the Family Law System, with particular reference to parental alienation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55721/22]

*107. To ask the Minister for Justice the current and expected residency status in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55903/22]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*108. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the Freestyle Libre2 application for reimbursement on the HSE's long-term illness scheme through the community-funded aids and appliances. — Kieran O'Donnell. [55668/22]

*109. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the 2021 application to HSE to have the NovoPen 6 and the NovoPen Echo Plus smart insulin pens included for reimbursement on the

long-term illness scheme; and the reason that this particular application still has not concluded over 12 months after the application was submitted. — Kieran O'Donnell. [55670/22]

*110. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE plans to include the omnipod tubeless, wireless insulin patch pump on the list of approved insulin pumps that have been added to the insulin pump and transmitter pricing agreement. — Kieran O'Donnell. [55669/22]

*111. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending University Limerick Hospital Group adult diabetes service and using insulin pump therapy to manage their condition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [55671/22]

*112. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with diabetes who are awaiting their first appointment to the adult outpatients' diabetes clinic in any of the UL Hospitals Group hospitals; the number of persons waiting for time periods (details supplied) in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kieran O'Donnell. [55672/22]

*113. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent posts for consultant endocrinologists, advanced nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, staff nurses and dietitians currently in place at the University of Limerick Hospital Group's adult diabetes service in tabular form. — Kieran O'Donnell. [55673/22]

*114. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment for an echocardiogram in Letterkenny University Hospital; if they are on the urgent or routine waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [55682/22]

*115. To ask the Minister for Health the new actions that he is proposing to take, in light of the news that over 27,000 persons left Ireland's emergency departments before receiving treatment between July and September 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [55686/22]

*116. To ask the Minister for Health if supports will be put in place for persons who are experiencing long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55687/22]

*117. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the procedure in place for ensuring that NIAC recommendations are put into practice; the procedure to be followed to ensure the procurement of vaccines, as recommended by NIAC; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55691/22]

*118. To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds operational at a medical setting (details supplied) in County Kerry; the number that are vacant; the reason that they are vacant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [55695/22]

*119. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [55698/22]

*120. To ask the Minister for Health if he can ensure that a bed can be provided in Letterkenny University Hospital psychiatric unit for a person (details supplied) in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [55699/22]

*121. To ask the Minister for Health if an MRI scan can be provided for a person (details supplied) in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [55701/22]

*122. To ask the Minister for Health his views on matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [55715/22]

*123. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that in Mullingar Covid testing centre, the National Ambulance Service will take over Covid testing capacity and be on standby in the event of a winter surge, given that it has been well documented nationally that the NAS does not have enough personnel to cover the ambulance service; and if he will provide details of the way in which the NAS expects to manage in the event of a winter surge of Covid. — Paul Murphy. [55724/22]

*124. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that there are concerns from residents that the greater midlands area will now be left with a very reduced Covid testing service, given that at its busiest last winter, the Mullingar Covid testing centre alone swabbed on average 800 to 1,000 persons per day; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [55725/22]

*125. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide recognition and professional status for highly qualified staff in the National Ambulance Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [55731/22]

*126. To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm that the necessary support services would be provided to women who have opted for a home birth delivery, and that no new guidelines or regulations would be put in place which would place restrictions on such a service where the person is not living immediately adjacent to a maternity unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [55740/22]

*127. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a progress update on the new east Meath primary care centre; the latest expected date for completion of the project and for services to commence locally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [55758/22]

*128. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 710 of 17 May 2022, if he will provide an update on the National Cervical Screening Laboratory at the Coombe; the date it will be operational; the specific work that will be undertaken there; the number of staff required and the number recruited to date; the qualifications and grades of recruited staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [55765/22]

*129. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review the HSE recommendation to limit home births to women who live within 30 minutes of a maternity hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [55785/22]

*130. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in accessing the CAMHS service in Galway City and county; the urgent action being taken to provide a quality service to young people in the county who require these services urgently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55787/22]

*131. To ask the Minister for Health when homecare workers employed during the Covid-19 pandemic will receive their €1,000 bonus payment; the reason for the delay in paying this; if he can assure this Deputy that all outstanding payments of the bonus to all entitled to it will be paid by Christmas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55788/22]

*132. To ask the Minister for Health the reason that pensioners who used to work for the HSE and received their salaries on a fortnightly basis receive their pension on a monthly basis in arrears; if he intends instructing the HSE to pay these pensions at the same frequency as they were paid their salaries while working; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55794/22]

*133. To ask the Minister for Health the number of district medical officers on salary from the HSE in the State; the location of each; the increase in salary for these in the past ten years; the basis on which their salary is set; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55795/22]

*134. To ask the Minister for Health if he has raised concerns at EU level in relation to the short-term effect of the Medical Device Regulation which came into effect on 26 May 2021; if subject to a risk-based roll-out he will be looking for the deferment of the implementation of the directive from 2024 to 2027 and allow the use of existing stock after 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55796/22]

*135. To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid to consultants by his Department in each of the years 2011 to 2021 and to date in 2022; the name of each organisation used; the reason that each organisation was appointed; the cost to the State, and the person who approved these appointments in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [55805/22]

*136. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1079 of 2 November 2021, the progress made regarding the preparation of a care plan for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55808/22]

*137. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the engagement that the national oversight group for the HSE national home birth service had with women's health stakeholders such as midwives, clinicians, representative organisations (details supplied) or women's health advocate groups; if the national oversight group for the HSE national home birth service can confirm if its engagement with women's health stakeholders impacted its decision to recommend a restriction on home birth deliveries to women who do not reside within 30 minutes of a maternity hospital; if the national oversight group for the HSE national home birth service took into account that the proposed changes would have the greatest impact on those living in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [55817/22]

*138. To ask the Minister for Health when persons working in non-HSE nursing homes will receive the pandemic bonus of €1,000; the reason for the delay with these payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55822/22]

*139. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to delays in processing registration applications at the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland for those who were qualified outside of Ireland; if so, if there is a reason for the delays; and if this will be addressed given the shortage of nurses at the present time. — Eoin Ó Broin. [55830/22]

*140. To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the National Ambulance Service does not report on call-out times on a county-by-county basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [55865/22]

*141. To ask the Minister for Health if he will request that the National Ambulance Service report on call-out times on a county-by-county basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [55866/22]

*142. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report of the call-out time of each National Ambulance Service call-out in County Clare in 2020 and 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [55867/22]

*143. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a report of the average call-out time per month of each National Ambulance Service call-out in CHO3, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [55868/22]

*144. To ask the Minister for Health the length of time that each of the children referred and waiting to be seen by Clare children's disability network team is waiting, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [55871/22]

*145. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the case of a person (details supplied) in expediting an appointment for them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [55894/22]

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

*146. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of civil servants in his Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

*147. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will engage with Coillte with a view to increasing the pension payments for retired workers, given that their pensions have not been increased for many years, and that for some, pensions have not increased since they retired; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [55711/22]

*148. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason that Ireland is accepting 134,995 horses for slaughter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [55717/22]

*149. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to reports that each Irish horse racing track is averaging at least one death per meeting (details supplied), and that Punchestown is a particular worry, as are some of the other tracks, where figures of deaths outweigh the number of meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [55739/22]

*150. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if it is intended to repeal the Noxious Weeds Act 1936/37 in view of the new understanding of the need for biodiversity and

the need to avoid unnecessary spraying; the number of prosecutions taken under the Act in the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55855/22]

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

*151. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of civil servants in her Department that are seconded to State agencies or other public bodies and in receipt of a higher duty/acting allowance; the number that have been seconded for more than 10, more than 20 and 30 years; if the higher duty allowance is not pensionable; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [55767/22]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 10 SAMHAIN, 2022
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 2022**

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

1. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he continues to remain satisfied that adequate measures have been taken to confront inflation here, and control any incoming inflation to the greatest extent possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55812/22]

2. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the ESRI post-budget analysis which suggests that permanent tax changes made in Budget 2023 will disproportionately benefit higher earners; if he is concerned that full-time workers who are on the minimum wage will not see the full benefit of the planned 80c an hour increase in the national minimum wage due to the failure to entirely adjust all relevant PRSI and tax bands to account for this increase; his plans, if any, to address this issue at Committee or Report Stage of the Finance Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55838/22]

3. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated annual revenue forgone as a result of stamp duty not being applied to share buybacks not effected by means of a stock transfer form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [55908/22]

4. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reconsider the BIK changes introduced in Budget 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [55675/22]

5. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps that he is taking to fulfil the commitment in the Programme for Government for credit unions to become a key provider of community banking. — Holly Cairns. [55634/22]

6. To ask the Minister for Finance the way that farmers are to be included in the temporary business energy support scheme. — Ciarán Cannon. [53235/22]

7. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the publication of the draft residential zoned land tax maps by local authorities; the scope of the tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [55890/22]

8. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the work of his Department to bring VAT rules into line with common EU priorities such as fighting climate change; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [55913/22]

9. To ask the Minister for Finance the supports that can be given to companies which may be required to repay EWSS or TWSS payments which they received correctly during the pandemic and which are now being re-called, due to a more forensic application of the rules of qualification for such payments, but the repayment of same would lead to the closure and loss of jobs in such companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [53837/22]

10. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of applicants and successfully approved recipients of the temporary business energy support scheme (TBESS); if he plans to attach any conditions on companies accessing the scheme for example restricting the payments of dividends and senior management bonuses to firms in receipt of funds under the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55835/22]

11. To ask the Minister for Finance if the EU taxonomy has yet started to influence the pattern of investment in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [55848/22]

12. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider a tax rebate for homeowners impacted by defective properties. — Francis Noel Duffy. [46887/22]

13. To ask the Minister for Finance if the TBESS will open by end of this month; if payments will be made before the end of 2022.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [55802/22]

14. To ask the Minister for Finance if the temporary business energy support scheme to help businesses with their energy costs will be applied to creches and montessori schools to support their rising energy costs this winter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50110/22]

15. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will detail where tax revenues stood by the end of October 2022 or the most recent available month in 2022; the way in which it differs to 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [55590/22]

16. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will ensure that the temporary business energy-support scheme is modified to enable SMEs to claim support for energy bills relating to the July and August 2022 period. — Holly Cairns. [53861/22]

17. To ask the Minister for Finance the basis on which his Department set the new vacant home tax at three times the value of the LPT; his views on whether it will be adequate to bring vacant homes back into use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55850/22]

18. To ask the Minister for Finance the way in which the funding model for housing has evolved since the financial crash; and if finance remains a constraint on reaching the Government's housing targets. — Richard Bruton. [55847/22]

19. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will review section 38 of the Finance Act 2018 which removed the VAT on the VRT repayment scheme for the car hire industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54959/22]

20. To ask the Minister for Finance the assessment that his Department has made regarding the significant fall in dividend withholding tax paid by Irish real estate funds in 2021; the proposals that his Department is considering to ensure that Irish real estate funds are taxed equitably; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [55911/22]

21. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on resumption of primary medical cert appeals process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [55801/22]

22. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce a refundable tax credit equivalent to one month's rent for struggling renters in Budget 2023 in light of deepening unaffordability in the rental sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [47356/22]

23. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will extend the 9% rate of VAT applicable to the tourism and hospitality sectors beyond 28 February 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [55648/22]

24. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans for the implementation of the residential zoned land tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [55892/22]

25. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the review of the disabled drivers' and disabled passenger's scheme; when he expects the review to be completed; the engagement that he or his Department have had with the Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [55674/22]

26. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is satisfied that there are adequate measures available to the Revenue Commissioners and other statutory agencies to tackle illicit cross-Border trade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55872/22]

27. To ask the Minister for Finance the current status of the disabled drivers medical board of appeal; the number of unassessed appeals before the Board; the status of the review of the disabled drivers and passengers scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [55910/22]

28. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will clarify, if firms who have returned a profit for the financial year ahead and who have applied for and received the temporary business energy support scheme (TBESS) will be required to return any amounts received from the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55863/22]

29. To ask the Minister for Finance the plans, if any, that he has to amend the disabled drivers and disabled passenger's scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54960/22]

30. To ask the Minister for Finance the results of the review into the status of farm contractors regarding the carbon tax. — Matt Carthy. [55400/22]

31. To ask the Minister for Finance his progress to date in insurance reform; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [55891/22]

32. To ask the Minister for Finance the taxation policies of his Department which are intended to encourage farmers to adopt rooftop solar PV. — Matt Carthy. [55713/22]

33. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to phase out the help-to-buy scheme; the timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [55839/22]

34. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures that are under consideration to alleviate the huge increases in the cost of energy to small and medium businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54997/22]

35. To ask the Minister for Finance the way that the fishing industry is being supported through taxation measures to mitigate the high cost of fuel; his further plans, if any, in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [55885/22]

36. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider instructing the Revenue Commissioners to collect and publish data on tax collected on rental income from non-tax residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [55898/22]

37. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated number of properties that the proposed vacant homes' tax will return to use; and if he has considered an annually increasing approach to the tax. — Thomas Gould. [55825/22]

38. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he remains confident that budgetary measures taken here are adequately focused in order to discourage inflation, self-generated or imported; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55813/22]

39. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on his recent meeting with the Eurogroup. — Peadar Tóibín. [55583/22]

40. To ask the Minister for Finance if any data centres have applied for and have been approved to draw down support under the temporary business energy support scheme; his plans, if any, to restrict data centres and other large energy users from availing of the TBESS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55836/22]

41. To ask the Minister for Finance if he intends to address the concerns, recently raised by an organisation (details supplied), that those in receipt of section 481 tax relief are not compliant with the EU's copyright directive in relation to the intellectual property rights of actors and performers and the remuneration that they should receive for their work in films funded by the relief; and further the issues raised by film crew that the DAC structure in Irish film productions funded by section 481 makes vindication of film workers' rights under the Protection of Employees (Fixed-Term Work) Act 2003 impossible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55854/22]

42. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans, if any, to levy a tax on derelict properties; his further plans to incentivise the upgrade of such properties to encourage them to be brought back into use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [55882/22]

43. To ask the Minister for Finance if he intends introducing a mortgage interest tax credit for first time buyers of new or second-hand properties to assist them deal with the challenge of ever-increasing interest rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55043/22]

44. To ask the Minister for Finance the position regarding the forecasted income from corporation tax in 2023; and the potential ramifications of a global recession on corporation tax income in Ireland. — James O'Connor. [55741/22]

45. To ask the Minister for Finance the role that FDI multinationals and technology companies play in supporting Ireland's economy; and the latest Exchequer returns from corporation tax. — Alan Dillon. [55889/22]

46. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on tax receipts and revenues to end-October 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [55874/22]

47. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the contribution taxation policy is making in relation to the cost of building and renting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55857/22]

48. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of persons with disabilities who are awaiting an appeal hearing with the disabled drivers' medical board of appeal; the length of time that applicants have been waiting by county or CHO; if there is an indicative date for the resumption of the DDMBOA while the NDIS transport working group carries out its review of transport options for persons with disabilities, and develops next-step proposals; if emergency additional funding will be made available if the criteria is expanded; if the working group will consider expanding the scheme to include persons with Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [55899/22]

49. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of mortgage owners currently in short and long-term arrears in tabular form; if his Department or the Central Bank will conduct an analysis on the potential impact of rising ECB rates on mortgage arrears; if he is satisfied that the 2013 Code of Conduct on Mortgage arrears is adequate to protect customers in the current environment of rising rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55834/22]

50. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the work of the Revenue Commissioners to implement the zoned land tax. — Thomas Gould. [55826/22]

51. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce an amendment to section 481 that clearly establishes that the producer company who receives tax relief under this section must be the legally responsible employer for all those who are employed on section 481 funded film productions rather than the DAC which only has a transitory existence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55851/22]

52. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered the implications to the sustainability of the hospitality sector given the increase of VAT to 13.5%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [55757/22]

53. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered providing a differentiation in benefit-in-kind rules for company cars for someone who receives a car as a work benefit versus

someone who uses the car as a part of their job; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [55873/22]

54. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of companies in Dublin 6w, 8, 10, 12, 20 and 22 which received the EWSS and TWSS; the number that are being asked to re-pay either or both the EWSS and TWSS; the number of employees in those companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [53838/22]

55. To ask the Minister for Finance the position regarding business energy supports; the number of businesses applying; if it is sufficient; the updated costings from the scheme based on uptake; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [55829/22]

56. To ask the Minister for Finance if his attention has been drawn to a prediction by the Central Bank governor that interest rates will continue to rise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [55584/22]

57. To ask the Minister for Finance if a full list of all companies applying for and receiving the temporary business energy support scheme will be published; when such information will be available; if the amounts claimed for each company will also be publicly available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55864/22]

58. To ask the Minister for Finance the work being done in his Department to fix the anomaly in which many workers that live in the North and work in the South are precluded from working from home because of the significant revenue implications for their employers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54998/22]

59. To ask the Minister for Finance if he and his Government will instruct the Revenue Commissioners, and by extension Revenue sheriffs, to place a suspension on the reported avalanche of revenue debt enforcement referrals, pertaining to the collection of tax debt on SMEs until at least the end of 2023, given that small businesses are struggling with the fallout from forced pandemic lockdowns and are now dealing within an energy costs crisis; and if he will accept that pursuing this debt enforcement would cause many otherwise viable businesses to fail, with wide-scale job losses for tens of thousands of small Irish businesses and their employees. — Mattie McGrath. [51439/22]

60. To ask the Minister for Finance the consideration and engagement he has had with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on the current carbon tax and excise duty levies on bio-fuels for home heating given the environmental benefits from the use of biofuels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [55799/22]

61. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide a timeline for the roll-out and implementation of the cargo bike scheme; the oversight that will be in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [55828/22]

62. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the review of the disabled drivers' and disabled passenger's scheme; the expected timeline for the completion of the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [55840/22]

63. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on whether the new renters' tax credit is adequate to support renters given the extraordinarily high level of rents; if he will ensure that all

renters can avail of this credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55853/22]

64. To ask the Minister for Finance the effective tax rate applied to three banks (details supplied) in each of the years 2020 and 2021; his views on restricting their ability to reduce their corporate tax liability through historic losses in the context of heightened interest income and profitability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [55909/22]

65. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department is considering options to amend the temporary business energy support scheme, to provide additional support for smaller firms with limited resources, revenue and reserves to meet rising energy costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [55912/22]

66. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reconsider the BIK changes introduced in Budget 2023 given that the changes will have huge impact on workers financially given the current economic climate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [55800/22]

67. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide a detailed report on the effectiveness of the vacant site levy; if he needs to reconsider the timeline and the rate of the new zoned land tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55852/22]

68. To ask the Minister for Finance the additional energy rebates or energy tax considerations that the Government is considering to apply to the SME sector in order to retain jobs and businesses over the coming six months given the significant energy cost difficulties facing many SMEs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [53736/22]

69. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered the tax costs associated with bringing derelict buildings back into use as homes; if he will move to reduce or eliminate these costs particularly for first-time buyers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55856/22]

70. To ask the Minister for Finance the progress to date in introducing a temporary business energy support scheme; the projected number of businesses to avail of this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55878/22]

71. To ask the Minister for Finance the average response time for an online revenue query; if he is satisfied that the Revenue Commissioner is adequately resourced to respond to such queries in a timely fashion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [55837/22]

72. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount of PAYE, USC and PRSI payable in 2022 by a one income family with an income of €100,000 with only basic tax credits, including the homemakers tax credit, as compared to a two-income family with each earning €50,000; the reason for the disparity in the amount paid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55042/22]

73. To ask the Minister for Finance the different tax exemptions available for young farmers and for all farmers; if he has secured European Union approval to continue the exemptions, following his Budget 2023 speech in which he outlined that he was seeking same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [55844/22]

74. To ask the Minister for Transport the options open to a community (details supplied) in north County Louth, which is campaigning for traffic-calming measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54989/22]

75. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures that he is taking to support the delivery of the RSA road safety strategy; if he will outline a timeline for associated enabling legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [55358/22]

76. To ask the Minister for Transport the present emissions profile of the Irish public transport fleet; the past and future trends; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [55845/22]

77. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to increase the shared station less e-bike schemes in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [55884/22]

78. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to develop the port infrastructure here to enable the deployment of offshore wind farms, particularly on the west coast, in view of a report finding that Belfast Harbour is the only port capable of supporting large fixed and floating wind projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [55750/22]

79. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 55 of 22 September 2022, the progress on the roll-out of park and ride facilities in Galway; the status of the draft park and ride study for Galway, and if it has been presented to both Galway City and County Councils to date; the status of the site options analysis and feasibility studies for each of the zones identified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [55752/22]

80. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to implement a public transport security strategy; if he plans to include An Garda Síochána in such a strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [55761/22]

81. To ask the Minister for Transport if he intends to intervene directly with bus transport companies in relation to the current crisis in driver shortages and recruitment; the way in which the BusConnects programme can be implemented in Dublin, given the failure to retain and recruit sufficient drivers needed for the expansion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55704/22]

82. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps which he is taking to increase passenger numbers on regional rail services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54972/22]

83. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to reduce the waiting times at NCT test centres throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [55762/22]

84. To ask the Minister for Transport the proposals that he is working on to assist the Irish haulage industry to reduce its costs as fuel prices continue to soar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [55396/22]

85. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has examined a recent report (details supplied) on transport by the Climate Change Advisory Council and the OECD; his views on whether it

confirms the failure of a policy based on private car usage in the State; if he will re-examine the current policy of trying to replace petrol and diesel cars with 1 million EVs given that this still leaves a transport system that is dependent on the private car being intact; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55706/22]

86. To ask the Minister for Transport when it is expected that the young adult leap card will be extended to 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in third-level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [55589/22]

87. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures that are being taken to reduce the current long wait times to secure NCT appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [55797/22]

88. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on expenditure on active travel by Cork County Council in 2021 and to date in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [55369/22]

89. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to ensure that adequate resources are made available to the NTA to provide frequent, good quality commuter services for approximately 100km around Ireland’s towns and cities with either a third level college or a major hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55045/22]

90. To ask the Minister for Transport the level of engagement with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications on the roll-out of the EV commercial fleet trial; if he is satisfied with the uptake on this Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland scheme to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [55798/22]

91. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that he is taking to address the bus driver shortage in Ireland; if he will address the delay in issuing licences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [55357/22]

92. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the adequacy of existing timetables for rural and PSO bus services; if any discussions have been held with service providers with a view to providing later evening services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [55183/22]

93. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent, if any, to which heavy vehicles use the main arterial routes to and from the city at peak travel times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55814/22]

94. To ask the Minister for Transport if consideration is being given to allowing parts of motorway hard shoulders to be used as bus corridors, such as the one going into Belfast; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54990/22]

95. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has an active travel strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [55246/22]

96. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on ensuring that Castletownbere is classified as a larger town within the connection Ireland plan to ensure that the Beara peninsula is assigned the necessary scale of routes. — Holly Cairns. [55633/22]

97. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the Connecting Ireland initiative, including an overview of the time and the status of procurement for services for rural areas scheduled to be implemented in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [55710/22]

98. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to a policy change by the company operating the NCT service which sees unqualified staff conducting vehicle tests; if his Department has any concerns over the safety issues of using unqualified staff in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55703/22]

99. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to recent fare increases affecting Bus Éireann services in Sligo, specifically the numbers 23 and 64, and single journey fares; the way that such increases are permitted in light of the current policy of a 20% fare reduction across public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55705/22]

100. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on progress in allowing electric vehicle charging points to be installed in apartment complexes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neale Richmond. [55192/22]

101. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 183 of 22 September 2022 and 227 of 25 October 2022, the details of the promised feasibility study for light rail in Galway; the status of preparations for the carrying out of the feasibility study; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [55820/22]

102. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding any assessments or reports carried out by his Department into extending an electrified train service to Wicklow town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [55187/22]

103. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline any future upgrades on a regional road (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [55887/22]

104. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans for the south Wexford rail line in terms of both freight and passenger service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [55858/22]

105. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered making resources available to Irish Rail to provide a high-speed rail service between Cork, Dublin and Belfast; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [55877/22]

106. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has received a public service obligation application from management of Shannon Airport, in respect of establishing a route to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [55641/22]

107. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the need to fund a midday service for the Ballybrophy to Limerick rail line and to tailor timetables to suit the needs of commuters. — Martin Browne. [55370/22]

108. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 118 of 14 June 2022 and 34 of 22 September 2022, the position with respect to the need for legislative measures

for the introduction of red light cameras (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [55904/22]

109. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures which he is taking to enhance the level of cover provided by the Irish Coast Guard service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54974/22]

110. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the process used in the awarding of a PSO route to a private transport firm (details supplied); if this route was tendered out in the normal fashion by the National Transport Authority; if not, the reason that tendering was not undertaken; if any other company such as Bus Éireann was approached to operate this route; the duration of the current contract with the private transport firm; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [55707/22]

111. To ask the Minister for Transport when he expects the transfer of managerial responsibility for Shannon Heritage properties in County Clare to transfer from the Shannon Airport Group to Clare County Council; the Government funding that will be made available to make this transfer a success; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [55642/22]

112. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount of funding given to local councils for cycling and active travel routes in 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Carroll MacNeill. [55184/22]

113. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the status of the Northern Ring Road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [55574/22]

114. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to a decision by Bus Éireann to no longer offer a single fare from Kenmare to Cork city; and if he will instruct the provider to resolve this situation, given the increase in fare prices. — Thomas Gould. [55823/22]

115. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 39 of 21 September 2022, the way he exercises his responsibility for overall policy and Exchequer funding in relation to the National Roads Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [55876/22]

116. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that increased funding will be provided to local authorities such as Cavan and Monaghan for the non-national road network in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55860/22]

117. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Dunkettle project is on track to be completed by February 2024; if any further delays are envisaged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [55575/22]

118. To ask the Minister for Transport if he anticipates any delay to the completion of the all-island strategic rail review as a result of the Assembly being down in Northern Ireland; if he will provide assurances that there will be no impact on progressing the western rail corridor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [55900/22]

119. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures which he is taking to provide park-and-ride facilities to reduce traffic congestion and emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54975/22]

120. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on his recent attendance at the Rural Ideas Forum. — Peadar Tóibín. [55582/22]

121. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline his Department's intention to improve Iarnród Éireann's Intercity network, especially the Westport to Dublin Heuston route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [55888/22]

122. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to improve the standard of urban cycle lanes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54976/22]

123. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to improve the frequency of the bus service in the Dublin area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [55883/22]

124. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that his Department is taking to meet the NX bus demand. — Peadar Tóibín. [55581/22]

125. To ask the Minister for Transport the way the decision to extend the contract of bus services (details supplied) by 12 months was reached, given the companies serial fines for missing service targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [55760/22]

126. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures that his Department is taking to ensure that bus services in Dublin are adequately staffed and that buses run as scheduled. — Eoin Ó Broin. [55748/22]

127. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has any plans to extend the ten-year taxi vehicle licensing rule to 15 years, in view of the significant increase in cost of used cars and scarcity of used electric vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [55759/22]

128. To ask the Minister for Transport the issues causing a recent report (details supplied) of a deterioration in bus services in Dublin city; the remedies being applied by his Department and the various public and private bodies involved in bus transport in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [55875/22]

129. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that he is taking to increase the provision of sheltered bus stops. — Holly Cairns. [55632/22]

130. To ask the Minister for Transport the pace of growth of the EV fleet in the main vehicle categories; the main barriers to further adoption; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [55846/22]

131. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on his Department's engagement with the Department for Rural and Community Development regarding co-funding the local improvement scheme, given that his Department used to have responsibility for this scheme and the significant demand on the scheme with regard to rural roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [55709/22]

132. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the possible early opening of part of the new N22 around Macroom town on the Cork/Kerry road; the date when the road will be open to traffic; if additional costs have been incurred or will be incurred to open the road early and if so, the monetary amount involved; if there are any implications regarding future liability in the event of defects or snags associated with an earlier opening date; if he will provide an update detailing the works that are currently completed on this section of new road; if he will provide an update on the remaining section between Macroom and Baile Bhuirne with an anticipated completion timeline for this section also; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55816/22]

133. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will issue a policy direction to the National Transport Authority to ensure that students from County Donegal and other border counties in the State travelling to their third level education in the North of Ireland can avail of the same price reductions for the use of public transport as all other students. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [55769/22]

134. To ask the Minister for Transport the current spend on BusConnects Cork to date; and the estimated timeline for the delivery of same. — Thomas Gould. [55824/22]

135. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on his Department's active travel spend, broken down by local authority for 2022, in tabular form; his plans to ensure fair distribution and management of this funding, including clear project timelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [55355/22]

136. To ask the Minister for Transport the improvements that are being undertaken to improve the waiting times for driving test appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [55397/22]

137. To ask the Minister for Transport the way that his Department can help communities affected by the poor roll-out and implementation of the G-Spine Bus Connects route. — Patrick Costello. [55585/22]

138. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider the establishment of a small capital grant for mountain and sub-aqua rescue and recovery groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54973/22]

139. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will examine the booking facilities which old age pensioners currently have to use, in order to travel (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [55843/22]

140. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that there is a fully integrated, fully accessible transport system across the country including a door-to-door service and that this would be covered by the free transport scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55023/22]

141. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to continue the work ongoing on the western rail corridor connecting Foynes to Westport, Ballina and Sligo; the progress made to date in upgrading these lines for both passenger and freight; the reason for the delay in progressing construction particularly on the sections of the lines closed at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [55044/22]

142. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to scale capacity, service and increase line speed on the Waterford to Limerick line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [55859/22]

143. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to extend youth fare reductions to commercial operators. — Matt Carthy. [55402/22]

144. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the Connecting Ireland rural mobility plan for County Meath; if he intends to accelerate the roll-out of the plan, given the lack of public transport options in rural Ireland and the need to accelerate the reduction in emissions from the transport sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [55356/22]

145. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will extend the 20% fare reduction to commercial bus operators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [55359/22]

146. To ask the Minister for Transport the up-to-date position regarding the construction of the south Kerry greenway; when he expects works to commence; if the necessary finance is in place to meet the costs of the project; if he will provide an anticipated timeline for completion of the project; if any phases of the project can be completed at an earlier date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [55842/22]

147. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has been assured that road, footpath and boundary realignments arising from the electrification of the north Kildare rail routes will be minimised to ensure the least impact on the existing population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [55815/22]

148. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the Government refused to financially support the City of Derry Airport for over 10 years even though 40% of the passengers that use the airport are from County Donegal and if he is aware of the serious additional financial strain placed on the rate payers of Derry city and Strabane District Council due to this ongoing refusal. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [55768/22]

149. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding provided under Budget 2023 for the N2 Clontibret to the border road scheme. — Matt Carthy. [55403/22]

150. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to allocate additional capacity to PSO bus routes in east Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [55744/22]

151. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will introduce in 2023 a funding stream for the local improvement scheme as existed in his Department's estimates up to 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [55861/22]

152. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has any plans to consolidate public transport ticketing in one monthly ticket, such as the €49 monthly ticket scheme for all regional public transport in Germany announced in November 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [55763/22]

153. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the Cork metropolitan area transport strategy rail projects in Cork city and county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [55745/22]

154. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made by the steering group to advance the flood mitigation works at Ballycar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [55751/22]

155. To ask the Minister for Transport the additional supports that he is providing to the National Transport Authority and Dublin Bus to ensure that peak-time bus services are increased to meet the recent increase in demand. — Eoin Ó Broin. [55749/22]

156. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans regarding the chronic problems with delays and no shows (details supplied) routes across the city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [55024/22]