



## **DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Déardaoin, 23 Feabhra, 2023*  
*Thursday, 23rd February, 2023*

---

**CEISTEANNA**  
**QUESTIONS**



*Déardaoín, 23 Feabhra, 2023*  
*Thursday, 23rd February, 2023*

---

**CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL**  
**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**

**CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH**  
**QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY**

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

1. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the development of a rural-proofing mechanism, as outlined in Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [8768/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the scheme for funding new community centres will be open for applications, given that said scheme has now been announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [9206/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the steps being taken to deal with the retention of staff in community development projects given large numbers of staff are leaving to fill roles in the HSE and local authority-run projects; and if there is a plan to introduce pay parity to encourage more people to join the sector. — Paul Donnelly. [9207/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amount of funding that has been allocated to Cork-south-west since the rural regeneration and redevelopment fund grant aid commenced; where it has been allocated to; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Collins. [9426/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 401 of 19 January 2023, the date on which the new policy for the islands will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9410/23]

**CEISTEANNA EILE**  
**OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

6. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the way her Department is supporting men's sheds and sister sheds; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9020/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of the progress in relation to repairs and works to be carried out on the piers for the Islands; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [8369/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if the constituency of Cork east will receive funding under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme. — James O'Connor. [9273/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the Streetscape Enhancement Initiative for Ballyconnell, County Cavan. — Niamh Smyth. [9231/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the role her Department is taking in the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy. — Thomas Gould. [9262/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if the 2023 town and village renewal scheme will open for applications; the priorities or themes that will be central to this coming year's scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [9228/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of community groups in counties Cavan and Monaghan that are in receipt of funding under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme. — Niamh Smyth. [9232/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will outline the funding programmes available to men's and women's sheds from her Department. — Holly Cairns. [8588/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development how her Department is engaging with local communities to encourage awareness and applications to the community recognition fund; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [8977/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 401 of 19 January 2023, the date on which the new policy for the islands will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9083/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has assessed the potential for the rural economy of the development of circular economy strategies; and the extent to which initiatives with a focus on more sustainable use of products and materials, and on recovery and reuse are figuring among projects receiving support from her Department. — Richard Bruton. [8133/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will consider a reform of the funding model for the local improvement scheme, in view of the unsustainably long waiting lists in counties such as Kerry, notwithstanding the substantial provision of funding to County Kerry in recent years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [9268/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 320 of 14 December 2022, if she will provide an update on the development of Caladh Mór pier on Inis Meáin; if her Department has received the draft business case to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9084/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her views on increasing the annual funding for the LEADER programme. — Holly Cairns. [8586/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the funding drawn down to date for a project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [9223/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the way her Department encourages and supports the development of community representative organisations, especially in areas where none currently exist; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9019/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the steps being taken to implement a community wealth building strategy in rural Ireland similar to that of Preston City Council and Ayrshire County Council. — Brian Stanley. [8945/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will give an update on the work being carried out on remote working hubs and broadband connection points; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [8153/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the works on a building (details supplied) in Kilrush, to be funded by the building acquisition measure of the town and village renewal scheme. — Cathal Crowe. [9042/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will report on her recent attendance at the Future Forum on Rural Development in Berlin. — Peadar Tóibín. [8424/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will report on the outcomes of the pilot bike and e-bike upcycling initiative; her plans to bring additional organisations into the initiative; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [9229/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the steps she is taking to address the growing challenges libraries face in affording e-books and the increasingly restrictive terms applied by publishers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [9275/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to increase funding for the social inclusion and community activation programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [9240/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the high-speed internet hubs announced under the National Broadband Plan will be delivered; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2039/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will outline the mechanism open to local authorities who wish to provide seating and viewpoints on mountains enjoyed by walkers such as the Cooley Mountains in County Louth; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [8154/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the public realm improvements scheme for the enhancement of the River Barrow in

Bagenalstown, County Carlow, due to be completed under the town and village renewal scheme. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [9022/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she has received correspondence for representatives of the agricultural sector related to a recent EPA report (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [8425/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the roll-out of the towns first policy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [8976/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when work commenced on the development of an Island Plan or Policy; when it is now hoped to publish it; the reason for the delay in doing this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9176/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the measures her Department is taking to address poverty and social exclusion across Ireland. — Willie O'Dea. [9253/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 321 of 14 December 2022, the status of the 2023 community centres investment fund which will be targeted for new build community centres; the details of the funding that will be allocated to new build community centres under the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9086/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the purchasing of vacant and derelict properties for future development as community assets by Cork City Council and Cork County Council under the building acquisition measure; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [9256/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she has met with the Working Group established to review the Control of Dogs Act 1986; if a timeframe for the completion of the review has been established; her views on the composition of the group; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [8797/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the role her Department is taking in the Town Centres First policy initiative. — Thomas Gould. [9263/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the rural regeneration and development fund to date; if she will provide an update on the list of all projects which are scheduled for completion in Cork in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [9255/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 401 of 19 January 2023, the status of the examination of the draft Islands policy by her Department; when she expects to bring the approved policy before Government; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9082/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development further to Parliamentary Question No. 319 of 14 December 2022, if she will provide an update on the development of the

pier on Inis Oírr; the status of the CPO process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9085/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to provide grants to community centres in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [9239/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the supports available to community groups facing rising running costs due to inflation and energy price increases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [9021/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if remote working hubs could be provided in rural areas. — Willie O'Dea. [9254/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the islands strategy; when the strategy will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [8587/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will outline her programme for rural and community development throughout the country in the coming year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9178/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the building acquisition measure for a property (details supplied) in Mitchelstown. — James O'Connor. [9272/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will expand the dog warden service in Cork city and county; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [8796/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her views on the very short application window for the community recognition fund 2023, launched on 14 February, with a closing date for submission of expressions of interest of 24 February 2023; how such a short timeframe is considered acceptable for applications to a fund offering a minimum of €25,000; her further views on whether such a short timeframe could be considered exclusionary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [9276/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the date of the last meeting of the mobile phone and broadband taskforce; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2038/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department will consider increasing the funding under the local improvement schemes allocated to County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [9041/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the interaction his Department has had with an organisation (details supplied) and other stakeholders to consider the role and development of co-operatives in rural communities. — Brian Stanley. [8944/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development what a service that was formerly provided by a company (details supplied) will look like under the direction of her

Department; and if she will give a commitment that the information available will be easily accessed and not restricted. — Paul Donnelly. [9236/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the support made available by her Department for communities in order to respond to the accommodation of people arriving from Ukraine or for International Protection; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [9044/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the proactive steps her Department is taking to work with the Department of Transport to explore and realise the potential of e-bikes for rural communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [9230/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has assessed the potential of the high-speed broadband network to create potential for rural development and the number of projects emerging for support from her Department's programmes which utilise its potential. — Richard Bruton. [8132/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development how her Department is supporting island-specific projects within the development of local development strategies under stage 2 of the LEADER programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [8975/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amount of funding that has been provided to County Kerry in recent years under the local improvement scheme; the amount that was requested by Kerry County Council each year versus the amount allocated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [9269/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the forthcoming Islands strategy; when the strategy will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [8973/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she has had any interaction with a project (details supplied) that provides a blueprint for advanced skills and trainings in the social economy; and if a commitment will be given to work with the project. — Paul Donnelly. [9237/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the roll-out of the community recognition fund; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [8490/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development in relation to the announced allocation of €12.5 million to the local improvement scheme for 2023, if further funding is being considered for this scheme given the demand; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [8974/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the degree to which she continues to fund infrastructure throughout the country, in such a way as to encourage the retention of jobs and the attraction of investors in jobs throughout the regions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9177/23]



65. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her views on increasing the annual funding for the CLÁR programme. — Holly Cairns. [8585/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the progress made to date in improving the pier facilities in Inis Oirr and at an Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin; the next steps in progressing each project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9175/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her views in relation to expanding the number of community recreation officers within local authorities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [8491/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the position regarding the National Action Plan on the Development of the Islands; its expected date for completion; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [9043/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the steps her Department is taking to support the development of walking and cycling trails, greenways and outdoor swimming facilities under her Department's Embracing Ireland's Outdoors Strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [9227/23]

### **CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY**

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

70. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has read a report (details supplied); if he has plans to amend the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2018 to ensure where extra hours are available that longer-term workers seeking additional hours are prioritised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [9181/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will support the progress to Committee Stage of the Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021; the proposals his Department has to enhance the representative rights of retired workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [9411/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of young people, aged 16 to 19 years, in work, excluding training and apprentices, who are being paid below the minimum wage; if he intends to legislate to remove sub-minimum rates of pay; if there will be a public consultation on sub-minimum rates of pay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [9171/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the way to stimulate the establishment of indigenous businesses in the renewable energy supply chain through a national renewable energy business accelerator programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [9401/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide details of the plan for the implementation of the White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030, including a detailed timeline with key milestones; the details of the plans, under the White Paper, to support

indigenous enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9165/23]

## CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

75. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on the work to improve processing time of work permits; the work being done to improve the efficiency of the work permit system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [9260/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of enquiries made in respect of the IDA site in Ballyadam, Carrigtwohill, County Cork in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; the reason the site is not being developed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9018/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he is taking to support existing levels of employment in regional towns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2049/23]

78. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [8921/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has any plans to undertake a formal review of the operation of the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [9000/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he plans to extend financial supports to businesses involved in import substitution from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2050/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to make grants available to SMEs to ensure that their websites are accessible for those with disabilities; if it will become a requirement of the trading online voucher scheme that websites are accessible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2047/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has concerns regarding the negative impact on Ireland of the relaxation of EU State aid rules which has seen France and Germany account for 77% of the €672 million EU-approved programmes since 22 March 2022 following the Franco German Leaders' meeting in Paris; the discussions he has had with other EU partners on this potential competitive distortion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [4005/23]

83. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the further supports planned for businesses challenged by high energy costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [8979/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will outline the engagement his Department has had with the Department of Finance in relation to the review

and improvement of the business energy support scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [8146/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he intends to equalise minimum wage for those under 20 years. — Thomas Gould. [9247/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the reason for paying 17-, 18- and 19-year-olds below the minimum wage per hours worked. — Gary Gannon. [6174/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will outline the contact his Department has had with a large multinational company (details supplied) with workforces in counties Louth and Dublin that have announced cuts to its global workforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [8147/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the total spend on the provision of advance industrial units by the IDA in each county for the past five years. — Brian Stanley. [8916/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the preparations that have been undertaken in his Department to develop a circular economy strategy in key economic sectors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [8134/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if preparatory work has begun to incorporate into legislation the recommendations on collective bargaining made by the high-level group on collective bargaining and industrial relations; if he will provide a timeline for when the matter will be legislated for; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [9169/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the IDA commitment to deliver an advanced building solution in Longford town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [9093/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his attention has been drawn to a recent survey (details supplied) showing that the vast majority of workers have not received wage rises in line with inflation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [9251/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps his Department has taken to mitigate further lay-offs in the technology sector. — Peadar Tóibín. [8423/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a progress report on the IDA's target of 76 investments for the mid-west region in the period 2021 to 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [8922/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will amend the Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2018 to prevent employers from treating the upper range of banded hours as a cap when additional hours are being distributed (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [9249/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of employment permits issued in respect of non-EEA home care workers since the changes in December 2022

to the employment permits system for workers from outside the EEA to address skills shortages in the home care sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9167/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement; and the progress made on securing enforceable commitments on matters relating to sustainable development, the environment and deforestation. — Matt Carthy. [8317/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a progress report on the IDA's 40 investments for the mid-east region in the period 2021 to 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [8942/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he is taking to assist private sector employers to support employees working from home and digital co-working hubs in local towns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2048/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide details of the grants and supports available from his Department to assist persons with disabilities in establishing, building and sustaining their own businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9091/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the measures he is taking to improve the work permit process for sectors of identified shortage; if there is dedicated focus on the potential of those seeking asylum here to address some of that shortage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [8320/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the digital transformation supports and initiatives his Department is providing for businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [8943/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how the new White Paper on Enterprise will help reduce the cost of doing business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [9096/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has discussed with Enterprise Ireland the way to stimulate the establishment of indigenous businesses in the renewable energy supply chain through a national renewable energy business accelerator programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2045/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the action his Department and the relevant State agencies under the remit of his Department, have taken or plan to take to facilitate remote working in all its forms; his views on the extent of remote working at present and on likely trends; his views on the impact that working remotely will have on future development of enterprise and on foreign direct investment in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9017/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on whether the Joint Labour Committee is working effectively; if he has any designs on increasing its powers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [9168/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when his Department will move to recognise long-Covid in healthcare workers and others as an occupational injury, after they contracted Covid-19 on the frontline, often when PPE was sparse; the current liaising that is taking place with the Departments of Health and Social Protection on same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [8519/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the reason the general scheme of the Co-operative Societies Bill 2022 makes no provision for the re-establishment of a Co-operative Development Unit given its success in the establishment of co-ops when operational; if he is aware of the work of the Co-operative Development Unit in Scotland, especially its work in the establishment of hugely successful employee owned co-ops in Glasgow, which is now designated a Co-Op city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [9172/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the proposed Co-Operative Societies Bill 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [9217/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the provision of an advance technology building via the IDA at Kerry Technology Park, Tralee, County Kerry; if he will help drive this important project for Kerry given the relative underperformance of the county in terms of employment figures under IDA-supported companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [9271/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a progress report on the IDA's target of 25 investments for the midlands region in the period 2021 to 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [8920/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current strategy in place to assist small businesses through the current cost-of-living crisis; if any further initiatives are contemplated in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9179/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on a report (details supplied) which was commissioned by a trade union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [9001/23]

114. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the early experience with the small company rescue scheme is showing it has the capacity to allow viable businesses restructure arrangements in order that jobs and livelihoods can be sustained. — Richard Bruton. [8135/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the uptake to date by businesses in relation to energy costs supports; his plans to extend supports to businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [9264/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if any economic assessment has been undertaken by his Department regarding the economic impact of the continued housing shortage on the State's FDI proposition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [3150/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the number of advance industrial units provided by the IDA in each country in the past ten years. — Brian Stanley. [8915/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of IDA-supported jobs delivered in County Monaghan in each of the years 2018 to date in 2023; and the target number for creation in 2023. — Matt Carthy. [8318/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the funding his Department has provided for the temporary business energy support scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [8978/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on the operation of his Department's Budget 2023 package to help businesses with escalating energy costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [9192/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a report on his attendance at the informal EU Competitiveness Council in Stockholm; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [8940/23]

122. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will outline his efforts to attract foreign direct investment in Ireland in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [8489/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 83 of 13 December 2022, the status of the cross-departmental group, co-chaired by his Department, to oversee implementation of the transition from the atypical scheme for non-EEA crew in the Irish fishing fleet to the employment permits scheme; the terms of reference of the group; the membership of the group; the number of times the group has met to date; if minutes are taken in respect of the group's meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9092/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how the new White Paper on Enterprise will help businesses in the Border region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [9095/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an overview of the new White Paper on Enterprise; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [9193/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on non-compliance by private security firms with the Employment Regulation Order for the security industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [9252/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when the IDA will put out to tender the construction of a new advanced manufacturing building on its site at Marlinstown, Mullingar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [8884/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Duffy-Cahill report. — Thomas Gould. [9246/23]



129. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the IDA advanced factory in Carlow; the action being taken to attract businesses to the factory; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [8911/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on the progress of the Programme for Government commitment to progress to a living wage over the lifetime of the Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [8918/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the Government has a strategy to ensure that supports are available to new forms of aviation, such as drone technology. — Cathal Crowe. [9258/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the South-East Regional Enterprise Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [8910/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the IDA's delivery of an advanced building solution for Castlebar; if a strategic land bank has been procured; when the advanced building solution will proceed to planning stage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [9225/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the development of the new IDA site in Drogheda; when it will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [9002/23]

135. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his response to the report by an organisation (details supplied) which shows that nearly two-thirds of retail workers are earning less than €451 per week. — Holly Cairns. [8584/23]

136. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a progress report on the IDA's 118 investments for the south-west region in the period 2021 to 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [9218/23]

137. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will be taking any new measures to help businesses with inflation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [9094/23]

138. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [8923/23]

139. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the employment regulation order for the security industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [8917/23]

140. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on his meeting with technology companies in the USA. — Peadar Tóibín. [8422/23]

141. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment as he prepares to address a cross-Border business conference in Dundalk next month, the new supports he will put in place to

help businesses in the Dublin to Belfast economic corridor to cope with the continuing challenges of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [9003/23]

142. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the stability of the technology sector in Ireland in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [8488/23]

143. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will abolish sub-minimum rates of pay for young workers and ensure that all workers receive at least the national minimum wage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [9250/23]

144. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will meet with representatives of workers of a supermarket chain (details supplied) who have been employed there since before 1998 and who have faced numerous attacks on their status by the company, including the refusal by the company to award them pay rises given to other staff; if he can clarify the protections that are presently in place or are planned by his Department to stop employers like the aforementioned company from targeting senior staff in this way; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [9248/23]

145. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to strengthen co-operatives in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [8941/23]

146. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the reasons for excluding domestically trading companies from direct financial assistance to facilitate expansion or growth activities in the White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [9274/23]

147. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 123 of 13 December 2022, if he will provide a status update on his Department's engagement with the Department of Foreign Affairs with a view to developing a new action plan on business and human rights and to advancing effective action in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9166/23]

148. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when the new regional enterprise development fund will be open to applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [8883/23]

149. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to expand the regional business innovation centres to include the Midwest region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [9221/23]

---

### CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

\*150. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has received assurances from any of the large US technology companies that operate in Ireland that there are no further



job loss announcements scheduled, following his recent visit to the United States of America; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [8919/23]

\*151. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the total number of businesses in each local authority that were funded under the restart grant scheme; and the total amount in euro given to support businesses under the scheme, by county, in tabular form. — Cathal Crowe. [8045/23]

\*152. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9387/23]

\*153. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of applicants for work permits currently awaiting approval; the extent to which it is expected to meet these requests in early date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9446/23]

\*154. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which various sectors in industry are being accommodated by way of work permits in line with their requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9447/23]

\*155. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which various sectors in industry are being accommodated by way of work permits in line with their requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9447/23]

\*156. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which Ireland's trade within the European Union and with third countries continues to prosper; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9448/23]

\*157. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which foreign direct investment continues at pace; if any particular issues have arisen which might require an early response; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9449/23]

\*158. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which efforts continue to be made to identify the causes of price increases likely to impact on employment or employment prospects, with a view to ongoing remediation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9450/23]

\*159. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the degree to which trade with Northern Ireland and or the UK continues at pace; the extent to which prospects for the future remain positive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9451/23]

\*160. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which his Department continues to monitor developments in the manufacturing and service sectors, including retail, with a view to endeavouring to address potential threats at an early date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9452/23]

\*161. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which the market for Irish exports continues to develop in a sustainable fashion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9453/23]

\*162. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the degree to which the future for Irish manufacturing and services sectors remains positive or is likely to come under threat from any particular area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9454/23]

\*163. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he continues to assist both the manufacturing and service sectors, in order to deflect the impact of costs increases, whether generated internally or externally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9463/23]

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

\*164. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when his Department will provide clarity to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and affected defective concrete block homeowners on the level of SEAI grant funding and the criteria for accessing that funding that will be available in conjunction with the defective concrete block grant scheme and the forthcoming enhanced scheme to ensure an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly home, in line with modern building regulations. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [9409/23]

\*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how the 2009 special dividend from ESB worth €176 million, following windfall profit due to the sale of generating plant to a company (details supplied), was allocated to different large energy users; if all LEUs benefitted equally; if some LEUs benefitted more than others; and if he will outline the value of the highest benefit, lowest benefit, average benefit, and median benefit that was received by a large energy user, in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [9296/23]

\*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the Clean Export Premium feed in tariff Euro rate per/kWh that residential and domestic solar microgeneration customers may anticipate getting when they sell surplus residential solar microgeneration electricity back to the national grid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [9297/23]

\*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan in an area (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [9312/23]

\*168. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if a physical reading is required for a smart meter, along with an automated one; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [9373/23]

\*169. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the assistance available from his Department or agencies funded by his Department to assist organisations or companies involved in waste diversion projects to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase the amount of reuse and recycling of all types of material that both domestic and

commercial business are disposing of; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9377/23]

\*170. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9388/23]

\*171. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will request ComReg, while recognising its statutory independence, to provide further clarity in relation to the licence coverage conditions applying to the specific locations in the multi-band-spectrum-award; if the licences require any coverage within and throughout the buildings at these locations; if so, the timeframe for provision of same at each location; the specific testing regime it might use to assure performance and compliance at, within, or throughout these buildings given the likely number of simultaneous users; and if he will make whatever response ComReg might provide available to the Houses of the Oireachtas and the public. — Robert Troy. [9414/23]

\*172. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will publish the instructions and environmental and biodiversity-impact requirements his Department has issued in the matter of certain storage facilities (details supplied) planned in the State; the regulator he has appointed; the stated regulations that will oversee and guide the operation of any such facilities; if he is satisfied that any such facility can guarantee operation at a standard that will not adversely affect biodiversity; if he will publish the advices on same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [9425/23]

*Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.*

\*173. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has discussed maintaining regular Cork to Bristol flights with airlines given the strong connections between the two regions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [9568/23]

\*174. To ask the Minister for Transport if a Bus Éireann route (details supplied) can be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [9279/23]

\*175. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to reports that the National Driver Licence Service office in Cavan town is to close; the actions he is taking to ensure that this office remains open; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [9317/23]

\*176. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has engaged with airlines regarding the reinstatement of the Cork to Bristol route. — Thomas Gould. [9346/23]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to a petition calling for the reinstatement of the Cork to Bristol route. — Thomas Gould. [9347/23]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on projects currently under progress under TII's greenway funding programme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [9348/23]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on projects that have been funded under TII's greenway funding programme but have yet to commence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [9349/23]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide in tabular form the number of NTA-funded active travel officer roles filled and vacant in each local authority; the number of these roles filled through internal transfers within the local authority system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [9368/23]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Transport if free travel scheme holders have to book train journeys online in order to use their pass; if this is the case for all public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [9369/23]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of the works to be carried out with the €400,000 allocation for 2023 for the Bellaghy to Collooney Greenway for 2023; if the route for this greenway has been selected, and whether it will compromise the possibility in both the short and long-term of re-opening the Collooney to Claremorris railway line ahead of the report of the Strategic Rail Review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9370/23]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Transport the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9400/23]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will expedite the issuing of a motor tax refund to a person (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [9412/23]

\*185. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a schedule indicating the number of requests for a refund of motor tax that are outstanding by county; and the amount of motor tax refunded in the past ten years to date by county. — Catherine Murphy. [9413/23]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason a person (details supplied) is waiting so long for their driving test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [9423/23]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will confirm that he will not sign any amending Statutory Instrument changing the benefits of members of the CIÉ '1951 Scheme' because the '1951' Committee of Trustees' independent actuary has confirmed that the '1951 Scheme' now meets the minimum funding standard provisions of the Pensions Act 1990 and is solvent. — Catherine Murphy. [9456/23]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will direct CIÉ to provide a detailed explanation, including all of the outstanding information sought by the statutory '1951 Scheme' Committee of Trustees, in respect of the failure of the CIÉ Board to act in a timely manner in relation to investment decisions from the end of March 2020 to 13 May 2020, and which lead to an as yet unspecified financial loss to the pension scheme it was responsible for; and if he will provide answers to the preliminary questions outlined in the Elected Trustee Bulletin, dated 20 February 2023. — Catherine Murphy. [9457/23]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will request specific details from CIÉ (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [9458/23]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will direct CIÉ to respond to the queries posed by this Deputy's Elected Trustees in relation to Agreed Actuarial Protocols, as outlined in its Elected Trustee Bulletin, dated 20 February 2023. — Catherine Murphy. [9459/23]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline for beginning the project of automating the remaining gate keeper crossings on the Limerick-Nenagh-Ballybrophy railway line; if the overall running costs of the line will be reduced when these crossings are automated; if he expects new services to be introduced following this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [9461/23]

*Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.*

\*192. To ask the Minister for Finance the way a divorced single person can access the help-to-buy-scheme under the fresh start principle; when this can take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [9290/23]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Finance if carbon tax is levied on domestic and commercial electricity bills; if so, the rate levied; how a person can determine the financial amount levied by the utility supplier on each electrical bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [9292/23]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Finance if a full tax exemption for any income earned from excess residential solar microgeneration provided back through the National Grid can be explored, given that such a tax exemption would incentivise households to migrate to renewable energy options, such as solar PV; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [9293/23]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Finance the total cost of capital allowances related to accelerated depreciation in each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [9295/23]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department has considered the impact of the Professional Services Withholding Tax (PSWT) on the cashflow of eligible businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9318/23]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on overcoming the barriers affecting people requiring life cover who have been refused from life assurance companies due to underlying health conditions; if there are plans by the State to introduce life cover at a reasonable cost to policy holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [9355/23]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reconsider the BIK tax as it is having a big impact on the people that have company vehicles with the escalating cost-of-living and the fact that electric vehicles cannot cover the distance daily with one charge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [9362/23]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reconsider the VAT increase to the hair and beauty industry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [9363/23]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Finance the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9389/23]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Finance when a decision will be made by the National Excise Licence Office of revenue on an application lodged for an auto fuel traders licence by a company (details supplied) on 23 November 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9404/23]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 188 and 189 of 14 February 2023, the revenue raised by increasing the natural gas carbon tax by €7.50 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted; the revenue foregone by decreasing the natural gas carbon tax by €7.50 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted, to year end-2022 and in full-year terms. — Pearse Doherty. [9420/23]

*Chun an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadta ar an bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, agus Athchóirithe: To the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.*

\*203. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he is aware of the Custom House History Museum and its exhibition, which fails to mention An Gorta Mór and the role of the administration in the Custom House at the time played; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [9374/23]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the progress made to date by the OPW in re-instating the pier at the East End, Inishbofin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9381/23]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9395/23]

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

\*206. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will consider a matter in relation to the Saint Patrick's Festival (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [9306/23]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by her; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9399/23]

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

\*208. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if an update of the numbers of species in Cork harbour that would be considered important bird area (IBA) triggers



has been done, given the original study was in 1995 and that it would allow for information on the success of conservation efforts. — Thomas Gould. [9433/23]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a full update in respect of his review of local property tax baselines and if he has finalised baselines for 2024 and 2025. — Catherine Murphy. [9358/23]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will report on the waiting time figures for emergency calls for ambulances for the north Dublin area; the measures being taken to reduce them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [9359/23]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of any retention issues among emergency response paramedics in the health services. — Duncan Smith. [9360/23]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there are sufficient ambulance and paramedic staff in both the National Ambulance Service and Dublin Fire Brigade serving the Dublin area; if there are unfilled vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [9361/23]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9393/23]

*Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

\*214. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the timeframe for the establishment of a new election observation roster; the body that will be responsible for conducting the competition; where will it be advertised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [9288/23]

\*215. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the case of an Irish citizen imprisoned in Iran (details supplied); the efforts being made to assist this person; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [9315/23]

\*216. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9390/23]

\*217. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide details of his priority discussions with his European Union counterparts at the Foreign Affairs Council in January 2023 on the situation of the occupied Palestine territory, as referenced in a recent Parliamentary Question reply; if there were any outcomes as a result of these discussions; the further steps he intends to take in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9405/23]

\*218. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the context of his recent reply concerning the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory, how he proposes that the international community should practically support the Palestinian Authority in its recourse to legal and political responses to the occupation; the role he envisages for civil society in this regard; the action that has been taken by Ireland's European Union partners to impede the further development of illegal settlements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [9406/23]

\*219. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the prospects for a two state solution given the new Israeli Governments' stated position that Jews alone have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the land of Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [9419/23]

\*220. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a passport can issue on time for travel for a minor (details supplied) in County Mayo, in order that they can accompany their family. — Michael Ring. [9431/23]

*Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Cosanta: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence.*

\*221. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9385/23]

*Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.*

\*222. To ask the Minister for Education the number of new ASD classrooms for County Tipperary, and their locations. — Martin Browne. [9299/23]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the additional funding that was approved for the school transport scheme as part of the budgetary process; and if any additional funding was allocated in Cork to add additional capacity to cater for pupils who did not get a seat on school transport for the 2022/2023 school year. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [9300/23]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Education if there are any plans to increase the capacity of a school (details supplied) for the academic year beginning September 2023. — Denise Mitchell. [9314/23]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Education if a person (details supplied) can apply for a refund for monies paid for transport for her child when approval was granted but services had not commenced. — Sean Sherlock. [9350/23]

\*226. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the increase in bullying in schools; if more resources can be made available to schools to provide counselling services for students seeking help; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [9365/23]

\*227. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais cén fáth nach n-íoctar na teaghlaigh atá ag coinneáil scoláirí faoin scéim scoláireachta chuig scoileanna dara leibhéal ar na hoileáin gach mí; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9378/23]



\*228. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais fáth nach n-íoctar na teaghlaigh atá ag coinneáil scoláirí faoin scéim scolaireachtaí chuig scoileanna dara liebhéal ar na hoileáin ar laethannta nach bhfuil na scoláirí ann de bharr droch aimsire, tinneas, cluichí agus turais scoile de bharr go mbíonn othu na seomraí a choinneáil dóibh na laethannta seo agus go mór mhór le droch aimsir agus tinneas is minic a tharlaíonn sé gan choinne; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9379/23]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Education the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by her; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9386/23]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will reconsider the teacher allocation to a school (details supplied) for the 2023-2024 academic year, given the school has a projected figure of 518 students and will be just one student short for a further teacher allocation and given the demand for school places in the area is particularly high. — Eoin Ó Broin. [9416/23]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide schedules by school planning areas of current and future capital investment projects that will provide for the projected future need and to enrolment pressures in the Naas, Clane, Leixlip, Maynooth and the Celbridge areas in County Kildare; and if she will provide the same information in respect of Lucan, County Dublin, the Dublin 15 area, Dunboyne and Laytown, County Meath and Bray and Greystones areas of north County Wicklow. — Catherine Murphy. [9428/23]

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

\*232. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Clare will receive a decision on their jobseeker's allowance appeal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [9285/23]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the current rate provided to consumers via the free electricity allowance, in light of the ever-increasing charges on electricity; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [9311/23]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 352 of 6 December 2022, if those people already receiving a pension on a reduced rate due to extended caring responsibilities of over twenty years will have their pension reviewed and increased once the new enhanced State pension is implemented in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [9316/23]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if discussions are expected to increase the State pension by at least ten euro (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [9364/23]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by her; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9397/23]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department will carry out a review of the fuel allowance payment of a person (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [9442/23]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress to date in the determination of an application for household benefits in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9462/23]

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

\*239. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of employees in his Department who have taken sick leave or stress leave in each month since he assumed office, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [9294/23]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when an accommodation provider for Ukrainian refugees (details supplied) who is experiencing financial difficulties will receive payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [9298/23]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when a payment will be paid to a centre housing Ukrainian refugees (details supplied) as payment has not issued for the months of September, October, November, December 2022 and January 2023; the reason for the delay with these payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9375/23]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth whether consideration has been given to outsourcing the payment of refugee centres to an organisation at a location (details supplied) with a proven record of making payments on time on a regular basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9376/23]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9384/23]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on plans for year 2 of Core Funding for the early learning and childcare sector; when the details of the next pay agreement will be available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [9402/23]

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

\*245. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is concerned at the cost to students of undertaking degrees in medicine in order to qualify as a doctor; if his attention has been drawn to the impact the removal from the market of a scheme (details supplied) for medicine students has had on access to courses; if his Department is considering any scheme of financial supports for students where they or their families are on low or middle incomes in order to assist with the financial costs involved in studying medicine, such as bursaries with conditions attached, that would require beneficiaries to work in Ireland for a period following graduation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [9305/23]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9391/23]

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

\*247. To ask the Minister for Justice if he will provide an update on the mental health crisis de-escalation team in Limerick; the number of positions that are filled; the number of positions left to be filled; the expected opening of the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [9283/23]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Justice the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9394/23]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Justice if all documentation associated with the application for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied) has been received and processed; if there is any outstanding information required; if and when this might be dealt with and their application for citizenship approved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9455/23]

*Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.*

\*250. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the delays with the accreditation of cardio physiologists who require certification of their training to be approved by the Irish Institute of Clinical Measurement Physiology; the knock-on effects this is having on recruitment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [9280/23]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has any plans to provide for a new HSE primary care centre in Stillorgan, County Dublin, or the surrounding areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Josepha Madigan. [9281/23]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a full list of vacancies in both CAMHS mental health intellectual disability, community mental health teams in an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [9289/23]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Health if a person can access saxenda under a medical card if they have a BMI of above 35 and suffer from hypertension but where the person does not have prediabetic bloods; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [9291/23]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Health when the draft model of care for dual diagnosis will be approved by the College of Psychiatrists; the cause of this delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [9301/23]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Health if a building inspection has been carried out on the proposed site in CHO3 for the first adult dual diagnosis team; the reason this was carried out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [9302/23]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the recruitment of a consultant psychiatrist in the adult dual diagnosis team in CHO4; when this post will be filled; the reason recruitment for the multidisciplinary team supporting the consultant psychiatrist position has not started yet; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [9303/23]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the reopening of Keltai; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [9304/23]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on his Department's engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the rolling out of State-funded old-age villages (details supplied); the number of old age villages built or under construction by the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [9307/23]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Health the number and location of summer camp-based specialist services for children with complex support needs that will be established in County Tipperary for summer 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [9308/23]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Health the projected cost of establishing specialist summer camp-based services for children with complex support needs in County Tipperary throughout the summer months; if such services are included in the HSE Service Plan for 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [9309/23]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Health if a respite centre (details supplied) in County Tipperary will receive the necessary funding to run a summer camp for children with special needs in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [9310/23]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Health the reason KOSI have not issued all pandemic bonus payments; and the date that these will be issued. — Thomas Gould. [9332/23]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Health when a community neurorehabilitation team will be established within CHO4 to support the needs of people with neurological conditions (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Collins. [9351/23]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Health the number of women eligible for BreastCheck screening in each county; and the number of women currently on the waiting list for same; the number waiting 0-3, 3-6, waiting 6-12, and the number waiting 12 months, in tabular form. — Niamh Smyth. [9352/23]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider the reimbursement of cariban for people suffering from hyperemesis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [9353/23]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for shortage in supply of a medication prescribed for HRT (details supplied); if he was aware that individuals currently have to go to Northern Ireland to get their prescriptions fulfilled for this product; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [9354/23]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Health if he has made a decision regarding Ireland's participation in the EU4Health Joint Action on Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease; if the decision is not to participate in the joint action as a full member, if he will consider making a commitment for

Ireland to become an observer member on this joint action, in order that the Government can track the benefits of the joint action with a view to future full participation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [9356/23]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the HSE will not assist with the cost of taxis for persons attending private medical appointments, even when an individual is being provided care at home by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [9357/23]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Health the procedures that are in place to ensure that persons who worked in more than one qualifying employment during the relevant timeframe to receive the pandemic special recognition payment will receive the full payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [9367/23]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on his Department and a third-party's engagement with an organisation (details supplied) in relation to the organisation's reported efforts to withdraw monies lodged with his Department and the HSE in the 1990s; if he will provide an up-to-date figure on the amount of money currently held by his Department and the HSE from the original account from the 1990s; if he will provide a copy of the agreement referred to in the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [9372/23]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Health the progress made with the provision of a new health centre in Inishbofin, County Galway; the reason for the delay with this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9380/23]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9392/23]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Health if an alternative GP could be found for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9403/23]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an explanation for the decision to change the paediatric and outpatient care centre service situated at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, from walk-in to appointment only; if clinical evidence was consulted and considered in the decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [9407/23]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the urgent care clinic for children at Connolly Hospital, open since July 2019, and designed as a walk-in clinic to treat children with emergent illness and injury as its title implies for example sprains, vomiting, minor cuts, mild asthma and so on and with the purpose of seeing 25,000 patients per year in addition to 17,000 outpatient appointments, appears set to operate on an appointment-only basis, though 'urgent' care need of a child, by its nature, cannot be foreseen; the plans his Department has to prevent or correct this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [9415/23]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that required supports and services are made available as a matter of urgency to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9417/23]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the policy, if any, with regard to officials in his Department and staff in agencies under the aegis of his Department, working remotely or in a hybrid manner, where possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9418/23]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Health if there is any current pathway for a person to claim compensation for what they believe to be illegal nursing home charges paid between 1977-1979 who have not as yet made any claim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [9422/23]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports that families involved in the CUH incineration scandal are still awaiting a meeting with the HSE following the publication of the report into the scandal. — Thomas Gould. [9429/23]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address issues raised in correspondence (details supplied) regarding the urgent care clinic for children at Connolly Hospital, Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [9460/23]

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

\*281. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide details of how he will approve grants for any State-backed forestry investment fund, given the clear judgment of the European Court in 2003 that legal persons owned and controlled by the State are eligible for aid to cover the costs of afforestation and maintenance of forests in the same way as any other natural or legal person, but that they are not, however, eligible for aid to compensate for a loss of income from agriculture; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9319/23]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide the cost-benefit analysis for Irish forestry provided as part of Ireland's current application for State aid; if he can assure this Deputy that the criticism of the Comptroller and Auditor General in 2018 that the previous cost benefit analysis for State Aid 2014 - 2021 failed to account for a number of factors, including the tax free status treatment of forestry, the cost of agricultural supports, and the displacement of other activities, have been fully and entirely addressed in the new cost-benefit analysis (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9320/23]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine given the advances in scientific knowledge about the emissions caused by forestry activities on organic soils summarised by the Environmental Protection Agency in July 2022, if the Government has revised the value of forestry sequestration from that used in the State aid application 2014 to 2021, when 39% of the benefit was calculated to come from carbon sequestration based on an assumed value of €39 per tonne of carbon dioxide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9321/23]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he, as a golden shareholder, will call an EGM to amend the principal objects of the State forestry board of Coillte Teoranta from its sole definition as 'commercial' to include 'environmental' and 'social' factors, as is required under the definition of 'sustainable development', to which Ireland is committed; if he



will indicate whether it is his intention to change Coillte's mandate along these lines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9322/23]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will instruct the State forestry board of Coillte Teoranta to use the same metrics as the EPA and LULUCF carbon accounting and stop its practice of including carbon embedded in manufactured wood products and saved through product substitution, which is misleading the public as to their forestry's contribution to Ireland's carbon budget; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9323/23]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to the 2022 United National Global Peatlands Assessment which suggests that the inclusion of climate concerns would, because of the enormous carbon density of peat, lead to more shallow thresholds for example, 10 cm (details supplied); if he will concede that a shallower threshold for Ireland than 50 cm is now required in view of this best available scientific advice and his sector's increasing failure to meet Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9324/23]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will ensure that no second or further forestry replanting is approved to take place on peat soils, given that the resulting emissions of greenhouse gases from the disturbance to these organic soils continue to peak on successive rotations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9325/23]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will detail the concerns of the European Commission over failures in Ireland's forestry SEA report of October 2022, if any; if he will outline his proposals to address these concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9326/23]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason the Forestry Service has not moved away from the inaccurate use of the sustained yield/clear fell and replant model whereby forested areas that are harvested are considered the same as standing forested areas if they are simply replanted, to an annual allowable cut proposed by the Forestry Policy Review Group in 2014 and included in a document (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9327/23]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of the 44,000 ha of poor quality sitka spruce planted on farms with no access roads or thinning identified in the Forestry Policy Review Group report in 2014; the health and status of all broadleaved and native woodland sites across the entire forest area public and private; if he will furnish this Deputy with a report/analysis; if he will also include underperforming conifer sitka and lodgepole pine plantations across the entire forest area public and private; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9328/23]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine where is the science behind the Forestry Service/Coillte decision to reduce harvest rotation length from the UK scientific sustained yield measure of 45-60 years used by the old public forest manager the Forestry Service for decades before Coillte called for it to be reduced down to 25-30 years, and the impact this is having on increased soil, water and biodiversity impacts as well as reduced carbon stocks from cutting younger trees which cannot store as much carbon as older trees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9329/23]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason the Government did not conduct an up-to-date cost benefit analysis based on the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable forest management of the new Forestry Strategy/Programme that included water and soil damage to decide public good value for money, given the huge expenditure of €1.3 billion announced for the next five years for forestry for public good value for money (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9330/23]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what has developed of the Coillte investment of 15 million punts worth of public forests used as equity in IFORUT in 1994 since Coillte have left IFORUT; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9331/23]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide this Deputy with a copy of the University College Dublin attitudes to forestry survey results focused on counties Wicklow and Kerry, conducted by a person (details supplied) in 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9333/23]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will verify a statement by a person (details supplied) related to the survey in 2020 that it was costing the Government approximately €17,000 per ha for an individual with yield class 22 to get €20,000 per ha at harvest time after 35 years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9334/23]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason Coillte and the forestry industry cannot provide full life cycle carbon accounting for its operations that include the full fossil fuel usage of the clear fell/replant model with high disturbance, especially given that Ireland is harvesting more with shorter rotations; the true carbon/fossil fuel cost of harvesters and loaders and trucks ferrying timber across Ireland to mills, and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9335/23]

\*297. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will outline how not having full life cycle carbon accounting affects the carbon measuring and accounting for the Climate Action Plan and EU LULUCF and UNFCCC climate reporting REF (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9336/23]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will outline how the full life cycle carbon accounting anomaly has been factored into the new Irish forestry strategy/programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9337/23]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on the 400 acres of public forestry lands sold to an organisation (details supplied) in 2016 for €230 million; if this public property was placed on the open market to obtain the best value for the public interest; if not, if it was sold in a private deal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9338/23]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the Land Commission was dissolved in 1989 with 2,500 ha's of agricultural land, if he can ascertain the amount of that land that was gifted to Coillte/NPWS; if so, if he will provide a breakdown by estate, area, acreage, and so on; the amount of this land that is still in Coillte/NPWS control; the amount



that has been sold off; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9339/23]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the Coillte lands at a location (details supplied) were originally in the Land Commission portfolio transferred to Coillte in 1989; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9340/23]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if Coillte had provided him with its five-year business plan; if this plan included a deal between Coillte and an organisation (details supplied); if a letter of expectation sent instructing Coillte to proceed with its plan referred to the five-year business plan; if it included the aforementioned deal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9341/23]

\*303. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of members of the Coillte board of directors who have experience or knowledge of forestry management; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9342/23]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will now place in the public domain the New Era Coillte Review Report, in light of the outpouring of public outrage at a deal (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9343/23]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total number of businesses established by Coillte since 1989 which are no longer operational, for example, Coillte landscaping, Griffner/Coillte timber houses, Coillte Hardwoods, Coillte Christmas Trees; the accumulated debts associated with those failed enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9344/23]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the value of the public forest estate, broken down into tree species and age, with all of the other assets such as forestry machinery, tractors, trucks, chainsaws, tools, and so on when the Forest Service was wound down to make way for Coillte in 1988; if he will outline what became of all the old assets, for example, forestry machinery, tractors, trucks, cars, chainsaws, tools, and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [9345/23]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by him; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9383/23]

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

\*308. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if there will be an increase in local improvement scheme funding in the budget for 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Collins. [9427/23]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when funding was made available for a project (details supplied) under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund; the amount made available at the time; the amount drawn down to date; the current status of the

project; the estimated time for completion of the project; the final drawdown of the funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [9282/23]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total capital allocation she has for works to be carried out on the offshore islands this year by county councils, exclusive of major island pier developments; the value of the submissions she recently received from county councils; when she will make a decision on the allocations for 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9371/23]

\*311. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when it is intended to approve the minor works programme for roads, piers, and so on, for islands this year, given that it will be absolutely necessary that an urgent decision be made on this if the money provided is to be spent in this calendar year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [9382/23]

\*312. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the current number of live studies, reviews and research undertaken or commissioned by her; and the date by which each study, review and research is scheduled to be completed, in tabular form. — Mary Lou McDonald. [9396/23]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will outline her Department's programme for addressing particular issues of need arising from cost-of-living increases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9436/23]

\*314. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the degree to which she has identified particular requirements in the area of rural and community development, with particular reference to the need to make specific interventions to help those affected by increasing demands; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9437/23]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she proposes to liaise with the community sector throughout the country, with a view to identifying and addressing issues as they arise at an early date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9438/23]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she continues to interact with urban and rural communities, with a view to continuing to identify priorities in a timely manner; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9439/23]

\*317. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she has, in the past twelve months, positively intervened to assist various sectors in urban and rural settings; if she expects to be in a position to do so in the coming year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9440/23]

\*318. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the degree to which she has directly or indirectly assisted rural community groups throughout County Kildare in the past twelve months; her intentions in this regard in the future; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9441/23]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she expects to introduce any new initiatives in the programme of assistance for rural and community

groups throughout County Kildare and throughout the country in the coming year based on any applications received to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9435/23]

\*320. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of projects assisted by her Department in County Kildare and throughout the country in the past twelve months; her intentions in this regard in the next twelve months; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9443/23]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she and her Department continue to monitor the needs of rural and urban communities, with a view to ensuring an appropriate and timely response as issues arise; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9444/23]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the extent to which she and her Department have identified a rapid response mechanism in respect of issues that tend to impact on communities, urban and rural; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9445/23]