



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 30 Márta, 2023
Thursday, 30th March, 2023

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

Déardaoin, 30 Márta, 2023
Thursday, 30th March, 2023

CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

1. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will outline the interaction he has had with the Department of Justice and the Department of Health in regard to surrogacy and the recognition of parentage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15920/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he has met with An Taoiseach and the Minister for Health regarding vacancies in children's disability network teams. — Sean Sherlock. [15714/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the action he has taken in light of a review (details supplied) into the handling of child sexual abuse allegations within an organisation; his views on assurances Tusla provided regarding the organisation's current safeguarding child protection procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15391/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the steps he is taking to improve the operation of the Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022 in assisting relevant persons, as defined in the Act, in accessing personal information. — Holly Cairns. [15561/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the progress made with implementing the white paper on ending direct provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [15392/23]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

6. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to the Order of Business/Questions on Promised Legislation debate of 21 March 2023, if he will outline the way that young adults with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual disabilities, can access additional personal assistance support specifically to travel to training centres and workshops in a post-second-level setting; the funding streams that can be used for this purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [15772/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth ~~the~~ measures his Department is taking to inform all public bodies of their immediate obligations

under the convention to prioritise disabled persons' organisations in all consultations affecting disabled people; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15766/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the improvements his Department has implemented to improve payments to hotels offering accommodation to refugees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15666/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of staff that will be impacted by new wage agreements in early years' education. — Sean Sherlock. [15717/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of tourist accommodation centres and hotels that are currently under contract with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth are expected to revert to the tourism trade for this year's tourist season; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [8565/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the current vacancies within the children's disability network teams in CHO9, Dublin; the number of posts assigned to this team; the current status of the vacant posts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [15745/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will report on his plans for improving gender equality. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [12862/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when he expects paid domestic violence leave to come into effect; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [15654/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm the number of complaints made to Tusla's 'Tell Us' complaints portal in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; what the most common complaint was; how these complaints were dealt with; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15393/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will review the funding criteria for family resource centres in particular centres (details supplied) in Ballynacargy and Athlone, County Westmeath, whose funding has remained largely the same since they first opened despite a significant expansion of services being provided. — Robert Troy. [14842/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will revisit his emergency accommodation policy published on 24 January that announced a pause in provision of emergency shelter to international protection adults arriving to Citywest; the number of international protection adults who are currently without accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15764/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of childcare providers that have exited the ECCE scheme since 2022. — Sean Sherlock. [15716/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his views on the use of ward of court process when vulnerable persons are transferred to long-term nursing home care. — Robert Troy. [6614/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the way his Department is providing assistance to young adults with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual disabilities, to travel to training centres and workshops; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [15771/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware that advocates for domestic violence sufferers are very critical of his failure to offer full pay to victims while out on leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15767/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures he has undertaken to ratify the Optional Protocol of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [15777/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the steps he is taking to provide respite services for disabled people and children with disabilities, and their families in County Cork. — Holly Cairns. [15564/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he monitors the extent to which local authorities are applying the criteria of need for childcare places in the issuing of conditions surrounding new developments. — Richard Bruton. [14947/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the assessment of needs waiting lists for occupational and speech therapy; the measures his Department is taking to tackle these waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [15661/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he has identified the need for new supply in early childhood education and childcare; and if he has developed any proposals for capital support in areas of shortage. — Richard Bruton. [14946/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if the definition of youth work in the Youth Work Act 2001 will be updated to reflect the additional roles, responsibilities and significance that youth workers have within their communities; if he has engaged with youth workers in relation to this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [15789/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 85 of 9 February 2023, the status of the review of projected timelines for the implementation of the White Paper to end Direct Provision and to establish a new international protection support service; his plans to publish the outcomes of the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [15740/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children who died, either while in State care or while known to child protection services, in each of the past ten years and to date in 2023. — Peadar Tóibín. [14889/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide details of his engagements with survivor and relative groups concerning potential interventions at the sites of former mother-and-baby homes. — Holly Cairns. [15562/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the status of the Programme for Government commitment to end direct provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [15741/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the children's disability services in Cork. — Thomas Gould. [15707/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason for the delay in payments to those providing accommodation for asylum seekers; his plans to ensure that these payments going forward are made in a prompt manner to ensure that these providers do not decide to remove the provision of their accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [15774/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the actions being taken to resolve the staffing crisis in children's disability services in Cork. — Thomas Gould. [15708/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if pay scales for youth workers will be reviewed and updated to reflect their counterparts within the public sector; if youth work will be recognised as a profession; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [15790/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on progress being made to address the backlog of applications through the tracing.ie portal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15394/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the plans to ensure that child protection statements provided by organisations are adhered to and implemented to the correct standards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [15100/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if it is proposed to introduce a grant scheme to assist in the provision of large-scale pre-school accommodation and the upgrading of existing accommodation, as existing grant levels will not be sufficient to ensure adequate childcare accommodation in the coming years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15755/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the steps he is taking to provide capital funding to family resource centres. — Holly Cairns. [15565/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures his Department is taking to improve monitoring and oversight of disability services; if there are plans to introduce a statutory authority to audit disability standards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [15662/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there are any plans to introduce a disability awareness card in conjunction with the European Disability Card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [15655/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there will be an increase in his Department's core funding to support the childcare sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15665/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he has engaged with childminders regarding their concerns about increased regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [15557/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the targeted domestic and international recruitment campaigns that are in place to hire staff for the children's disability network teams; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [15558/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the steps he is taking to address staffing shortages among children's disability network teams in County Cork. — Holly Cairns. [15563/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the progress being made to regularise childminders into Government supports. — Sean Sherlock. [15718/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children in CHO9, Dublin, currently awaiting an assessment of need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [15746/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what supports he will put in place for people with disabilities facing eviction after the lifting of the eviction ban this week; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15765/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the plans his Department has to instruct local authorities on using their sensitivity and discretion on any reporting of families to Tusla if the lifting of the eviction ban comes into force, with outstanding parents affected already being hugely concerned for the welfare of their children, with the added stress of fearing a report being made on a procedural basis, simply due to a prospective inability to find suitable accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [14645/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the actions his Department is taking to combat child trafficking in the State. — Peadar Tóibín. [14888/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the level of capital funding available to his Department this year for the upgrading of existing childcare facilities and the provision of new childcare accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15754/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what stage the recruitment and training of new staff for a premises (details supplied) is at in order to progress

to a seven-day service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [15553/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason that funding was not put in place to retain a respite centre (details supplied), as currently there is no provision of separate respite for children and adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [15773/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will examine additional payments for foster carers in order to recruit more foster carers into the system. — Sean Sherlock. [15715/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the actions his Department is taking to support those still in direct provision that have been naturalised to exit the system and integrated into society. — Brian Stanley. [15170/23]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

55. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he will take to increase the number of apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15918/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will outline his strategy for addressing student accommodation ahead of the next academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15919/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to the recently announced pathway for learners initiative as part of the North West Tertiary Education Cluster, the plans there are for expanding the collaboration within the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [15406/23]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

58. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has engaged with the Department of Justice regarding the national review of State supports for PhD researchers in relation to visa and immigration status of non-EEA PhD researchers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [15747/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department will address an anomaly where recently approved applications under the undocumented scheme are precluded from the SUSI grant support scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [15551/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of non-EU students taking up medical places in universities in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [7503/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the plans his Department has to celebrate the European Year of Skills this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [15560/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which it is expected to match the skill requirement of industry with the skills and qualifications of those exiting education in the current year, based on previous years' experience; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [15657/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the work of the National Skills Council; what the Council's proposed workplan is for 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [15656/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on departmental plans to address inequities that may emerge between State-funded PhD researchers and other PhD researchers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [15748/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures he is taking to support the number of college entrants to speech and language courses in the disability and mental health sectors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15668/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the ongoing PhD review; if it will include wider stakeholder engagement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [15594/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on any problems being reported surrounding the online safe pass renewals; his further views on past success rates on the in-house safe pass renewal courses versus the current pass rates on the online system now in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [15555/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is confident that apprenticeship training will help meet the targets of the national retrofitting scheme; if he will provide an update on a recent report on the Analysis of Skills for Residential Construction and Retrofitting; 2023 to 2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [15593/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the Budget for the near zero energy building training centres of excellence; if that budget has been drawn down; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [10516/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the provision of student accommodation in Carlow; if his

Department has plans to expand the offering of accommodation to students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [15710/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide for a veterinary school to be situated at the University of Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [15779/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide details for a new veterinary college; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [15705/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he has taken to ensure that regional universities and technological universities and institutions will be equipped to train the offshore renewable energy workforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [15778/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the Government undertakes any analysis of the number of people from the Traveller community who enter third-level education per year; and if so, if he will provide data on same. — Peadar Tóibín. [15230/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the national review of State supports for PhD researchers; if he will commit to continuing the examination of the working status of PhD researchers, including consultation with all stakeholders and an examination of international comparators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [15757/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way his Department is providing assistance to young adults with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual disabilities, to travel to training centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [15761/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the integration of Carlow College into St. Patrick's; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [15709/23]

78. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he and his Department continue to ensure a steady stream of graduates to meet the demand in education, health and engineering, given the demands likely to emerge now and in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15698/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science given the recent recognition by the Minister for Health that Ireland needs to approximately double the number of healthcare professionals it is training, what steps are being taken to deliver this increased provision of healthcare education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15732/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will commit to the abolition of all third-level and postgraduate fees in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [15749/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he intends to allocate the necessary funds in Budget 2024 to meet the demands of an organisation (details supplied) for a living wage for all PhD researchers, regardless of funding source; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [15751/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on veterinary provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15731/23]

83. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the participation to date by the public service and the multinational sector in traditional apprenticeships and new apprenticeships; and the initiatives planned to promote greater participation. — Richard Bruton. [14944/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 66 of 14 February 2023, if he will provide a status update on the proposed new further education college in Galway city; the status of the development of the preliminary business case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [15752/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the actions he has taken, in conjunction with the HSE and the Higher Education Authority, to identify capacity gaps within children's disability network teams and provide additional places on third-level courses to fill these gaps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [15775/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of apprenticeships registered to date in 2023; his plans to promote apprenticeship; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [15744/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if additional places in further education will be provided in 2023 and 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15760/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has data on the take-up of learning opportunities by people after their first job in higher education programmes, and further education programmes; and the initiatives planned to promote greater participation. — Richard Bruton. [14945/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures being put in place to assist students who are facing huge pressures in living costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15667/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of medical places available in universities in Ireland; if there are plans to increase this; the number of places on these courses are taken by non-EU students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [7504/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if student fees will be maintained at the level of €2,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15734/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way he is tackling the skills shortages in the workforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [15664/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which provision continues to be made for increasing the supply of graduates at technical level in sufficient numbers to meet the demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15697/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the position regarding Ireland's application to join the CERN programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [15706/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide details of any engagement he has had with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine with a view to further expanding apprenticeships in the agricultural sector, for example, in the wool sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [15753/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the up-to-date position and timelines for the redevelopment of the former Pretty Polly site in Killarney as an education centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [15786/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on any progress made to resolve the terms and conditions of employment of personal assistants who work in some education and training boards; if he will provide a timeline for when the issue is expected to be resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [15102/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is aware of the issues raised by the chief financial officer at University College Cork surrounding the funding of third-level universities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [15556/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the level of capital funding available to his Department in 2023; the general areas which will benefit from such investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15759/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there are plans to introduce the teaching of human skills, also known as soft skills, into further and higher education courses in the State, as employers increasingly seek them from graduates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [15669/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of persons that availed of the third-level access course in each year since it was established. — Peadar Tóibín. [15229/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the ongoing engagement his Department and the Department of

Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform regarding the position of adult tutors in the Education and Training Boards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [15663/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the up-to-date position and timelines for the construction of the new STEM building at Munster Technological University, Tralee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [15787/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will outline his plans to ensure access to public service pensions for research staff in all higher education institutions across the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15735/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the ongoing PhD review; if he will consider bringing forward emergency measures to help PhD researchers deal with the cost-of-living crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [15733/23]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*106. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if there are any grants/funding assistance for a small landscaping business (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [15807/23]

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

*107. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the Telecom Éireann pension fund; and if former Telecom Éireann workers will soon see an increase under the pension scheme, due to them since July 2022. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [15826/23]

*108. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the analysis that has been carried by his Department on the purchasing of carbon credits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16020/23]

*109. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the work of the Heat and Built Environment Delivery Taskforce; the members of the taskforce; his plans regarding a new policy statement on heat; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [15804/23]

*110. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if and when modern, effective broadband services are likely to be made available to the people of Martinstown, Kilmore, Enfield, County Kildare which also covers the motorway service facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15827/23]

*111. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps his Department is taking to ensure wholesalers and retailers who sell fruit and vegetables in plastic packaging do so in an environmentally friendly manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [15854/23]

*112. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide the pre- and post-BER ratings of all deep retrofits completed under all SEAI schemes, by scheme, pre-BER, post-BER, and the number completed in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [15885/23]

*113. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there is any grant scheme for solar panels (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [15887/23]

*114. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the up-to-date position concerning the proposed North-South Interconnector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15921/23]

*115. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the recent review on the proposed North-South Interconnector following his announcement that the Cabinet had noted this review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15922/23]

*116. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is aware of the total opposition of communities in Monaghan, Cavan and Meath to the present proposals regarding the proposed North-South Interconnector, with particular reference to the concerns about transmission cables being put overground; if he will ensure that if the project proceeds, the transmission cables are put underground, as proposed for other major energy projects in this country and throughout the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15923/23]

*117. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is aware of the inadequacy of the review of the proposed North-South Interconnector carried out in 2018, given it did not take into account the concerns of householders, farmers and communities in relation to a number of aspects of this proposed project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15924/23]

*118. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in the roll-out of the national broadband programme in counties Cavan and Monaghan; if he will outline the further progress that will be made throughout 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15976/23]

*119. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will detail all carbon credits purchased by the State or its agencies under any scheme since 2015 to date; if the Co2 equivalent totals of such credits and the monetary costs involved will be included; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15980/23]

*120. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the benefits of warmer homes schemes other energy saving entitlement might accrue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16044/23]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*121. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on Dublin Bus plans to convert its site at the Broadstone bus depot into offices and a training centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [15805/23]

*122. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review the standard of bus being used for the LocalLink services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15844/23]

*123. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 274 of 21 March 2023, if he will confirm that he has submitted the business case and consent request to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform as required regarding a company's (details supplied) approved pension increase as submitted to him in July 2022. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15881/23]

*124. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeframe for commencement and completion of the Dart South West project and its infrastructural works; if he will provide the details of the proposal for a station in Ballyfermot; the timeframe for the delivery of same; if Irish Rail has a dedicated liaison office to liaise with residents in area such as Kylemore, Ballyfermot whose property may be affected by the works involved; if CPOs on gardens have been issued to these residents; if negotiation and consultation will take place with these residents ahead of any such CPO or proposed works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15925/23]

*125. To ask the Minister for Transport if the active travel scheme has been collectively assessed under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 to determine if the scheme complies with the Act, bearing in mind that it includes plans to build out 1,500 km of footpaths and cycleways; if he will publicise the results of the assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [15973/23]

*126. To ask the Minister for Transport if the authors of the report (details supplied) commissioned by the NTA on fare-free public transport can provide a figure for Co2 emission savings from a 1% decline in car usage; and if the authors can provide a figure for the total reduction in kilometres travelled by car users as a result of a 1% decline in car usage. — Bríd Smith. [15981/23]

*127. To ask the Minister for Transport the total cost of a report (details supplied) on fare-free public transport. — Bríd Smith. [15982/23]

*128. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will itemise or detail the potential categories of internalised benefits that were not part of the report (details supplied) into fare-free public transport; the reason such benefits did not form part of the scope of the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15983/23]

*129. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to improve the bus connectivity and links to Dublin City University in Dublin 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [16000/23]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*130. To ask the Minister for Finance why cohabitating couples are assessed as individuals by the Revenue Commissioners; if the option to be jointly assessed will be introduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [15809/23]

*131. To ask the Minister for Finance what rate of stamp duty applies to a commercial building that is being purchased to convert it to a domestic house; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [15811/23]

*132. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department intends to actively engage with lending institutions to communicate a clear set of lending policies in “taking on” a vacant or derelict property for the purposes of home ownership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15867/23]

*133. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will give consideration to the granting of a tax rebate over a period of ten years to support the conversion/renovation of multi-occupancy buildings to residential use, similar to the living city initiative scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15868/23]

*134. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department will engage with lending institutions for the purposes of designing a one-lender type product for the purposes of renovation of properties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15869/23]

*135. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department will engage with lending institutions for the purposes of considering ‘green lending’ to assist in renovating units for residential use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15870/23]

*136. To ask the Minister for Finance the tax incentives or expenditures which exist with respect to modern methods of construction within the construction sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [15909/23]

*137. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the operation of the temporary business energy support scheme to date; the number of businesses in counties Cavan and Monaghan that have applied; the number of businesses in each county that were successful in their applications; the estimated value or worth of the support to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15951/23]

*138. To ask the Minister for Finance the status of the review of the real estate investment trust and Irish real estate fund regimes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [15958/23]

*139. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the role of institutional investment in the provision of housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [15959/23]

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.

*140. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform when the details of the PEACE PLUS programme will be announced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15968/23]

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

*141. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what the legislative timeline is for the Registration of Short-Term Tourist Letting Bill 2022 to be introduced and passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas; the timeline for it to enter into force; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [15960/23]

*142. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the Fáilte registration scheme for short-term tourist lettings will be launched; when the six-month clarification period following the launch of the Fáilte Ireland registration scheme will begin; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [15961/23]

*143. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the launch of the Fáilte registration scheme for short-term tourist lettings requires the prior enactment of the Registration of Short-Term Tourist Letting Bill 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [15962/23]

*144. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will invoke Article 6(7) of EU Directive 2015/1535 (details supplied) to ensure the register of short-term lets comes into effect without delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [15841/23]

*145. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an bhfuil sé i gceist aici deontais chaipitil a chur ar fáil do theaghlaigh a bhíonn ag coinneáil scoláirí faoi Scéim na bhFoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge le huasghrádú a dhéanamh ar a dtithe, ag tógáil san áireamh an síor-ardú sna caighdeáin tithe a mbítear ag súil leo; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [15910/23]

*146. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when hosts (details supplied) can expect to receive full details of the short-term letting register; when this register will become active; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16019/23]

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

*147. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number and percentage of cases before An Bord Pleanála (ABP) that are currently taking more than the statutory 18 weeks to determine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15801/23]

*148. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number and percentage of An Bord Pleanála cases that are currently undetermined despite having been with ABP for more than 6, 9 and 12 months, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15802/23]

*149. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has confidence in An Bord Pleanála; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15803/23]

*150. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the position regarding any proposed amendments to public rights of way under the current draft of the Planning and Development Bill; how they differ from the existing rules; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [15810/23]

*151. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the engagement his Department has had with Wexford County Council authority in order to plan for the impact of the lifting of the eviction ban; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [15812/23]

*152. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a breakdown of the housing stock of Mayo County Council (details supplied), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15828/23]

*153. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of houses in the ownership of Mayo County Council that are not in use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15830/23]

*154. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update regarding a project (details supplied) in County Mayo; the stage this project is at; if the works have been put out to tender; if funding has been drawn down for this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [15849/23]

*155. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when works will commence on a project (details supplied) in County Mayo; when the works will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [15851/23]

*156. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will review the terms of the tenant purchase scheme to include individuals on carer's allowance (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [15853/23]

*157. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if under the croí cónaithe towns fund scheme, he will consider including feasibility grants for the purposes of assessing the overall viability of the project, whereby such monies would ascertain the level of funding needed to inform the level of grant funding necessary to renovate a property for homeowner use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15855/23]

*158. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if under the croí cónaithe towns fund scheme, he will consider granting tranche payments to improve cash flow rather than at the end of the renovation as is currently the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15856/23]

*159. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider conducting a review of the relevant Building Regulations (Part B fire and Part A Structure) to address challenges with renovating existing units to residential use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15857/23]

*160. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will engage with the relevant agencies to provide specific and technical guidance documents for renovating older buildings to assist construction professionals, builders and owners to better understand buildings regulations and to achieve compliance in older buildings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15858/23]

*161. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if will consider funding a campaign to promote living over the shop; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15859/23]

*162. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider extending the first home scheme to include renovation project, subject, if required, to the retention of a modest equity stake; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15860/23]

*163. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider extending the repair and lease scheme to include private sector tenants as well as social tenants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15861/23]

*164. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider developing a national registry to identify vacant and derelict sites, with clear definitions in relation to same, for the purposes of identifying how best to utilise such properties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15862/23]

*165. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will engage with local authorities with a view to introducing amended rates relief for commercial property, whereby the rate of relief available on commercial property would be reduced each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15863/23]

*166. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department will engage with local authorities in adopting a more proactive policy in relation to implementing compulsory purchase order powers in relation to properties that have been left vacant for a significant period of time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15864/23]

*167. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider ring-fencing dedicated funding to enable local authorities to purchase and renovate vacant buildings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15865/23]

*168. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of a business case submitted by Dublin City Council regarding the pension entitlements for workers retiring in the coming years; if he can provide an estimated timeframe for the response to this request: when the workers can expect a response; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [15879/23]

*169. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he would consider increasing the specification of house and the funding for houses being built by dedicated housing associations for permanent use for people with significant disabilities, so that these houses can accommodate support staff as well as service users, and they are suitable for people with a high dependency and needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [15911/23]

*170. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the launch of the Fáilte registration scheme for short-term tourist lettings requires the prior publication of planning guidelines issued by the Minister to local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [15962/23]

*171. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is satisfied with the progress made to date in the upgrade of 21 wastewater treatment plants announced on 30 September 2021 under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [15990/23]

*172. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there are any circumstances in the tenant purchase scheme where a derogation can be given to an applicant in respect of the ten-year social support requirement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [15999/23]

*173. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the 2023 allocation will be made to local authorities for the voids programme, given the importance of this scheme in bringing vacant local authority homes back to habitable use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16010/23]

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

*174. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of personnel employed in the Passport Office in March 2022; the number currently employed in the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [15797/23]

*175. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of passport applications received by the Passport Office each month from September 2022 to February 2023 inclusive; the number of applications processed in each of those months; the current average processing times for each application type; the total number of applications currently awaiting processing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [15798/23]

*176. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if consideration has been given to notifying passport holders that their current passport will expire within a certain period for example, six months, thereby prompting renewal applications in a timely manner. — Robert Troy. [15848/23]

*177. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if passport applications for two siblings (details supplied) in County Mayo will be processed on time for their travel with their family. — Michael Ring. [15992/23]

*178. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on his efforts to secure the release of a person (details supplied) who is currently being held in an

Iranian prison; if he is aware of their declining health and the urgency this poses in terms of their release; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [16009/23]

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

*179. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence given the time that has elapsed since receipt of the Independent Review Group Report into the Defence Forces, when it will be published; if the Government has considered the report; if there is a delay in publication due to advice received from the Attorney General; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [15832/23]

*180. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence in relation to the work of the Independent Review Group, what is to happen to the transcripts of submission made to the IRGDF by the victims and survivors of abuse, bullying and wrongdoing; if he will ensure that these transcripts are carefully maintained and not destroyed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [15833/23]

*181. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will confirm or deny that among the recommendations of the IRGDF report is the establishment of a tribunal of inquiry to expose and address any cultural issues within the Defence Forces with regard to abuse, bullying sexual harassment, and other wrongdoing. — Marc MacSharry. [15834/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*182. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the transfer of the School Completion Programme to her Department; if consideration has been given to governance of the Programme; if it is likely the Programme will move away from localised management to a more centralised governance structure; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [15791/23]

*183. To ask the Minister for Education if she will outline what, if any, supports or resources are available to mainstream, non DEIS schools regarding home school community liaison, administration, counselling and therapeutic funds; and if she Department intends to increase supports in these areas. — Eoin Ó Broin. [15792/23]

*184. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware the teacher shortage is still impacting schools in the Clondalkin, Dublin 22 area; if she is aware there is no sub panels available to the schools; if she is aware this is having a negative impact on the school experience of pupils due to staff in place being diverted; and what action her Department is taking to ensure solutions are found. — Eoin Ó Broin. [15793/23]

*185. To ask the Minister for Education which schools in the Clondalkin, Dublin 22 area have had their building projects paused due to funding issues; and if she will provide a comprehensive update on actions her Department is taking to ensure the projects are delivered at the earliest opportunity. — Eoin Ó Broin. [15794/23]

*186. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department has any plans to centralise and take over responsibility for the project management of school building projects and tenders; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [15795/23]

*187. To ask the Minister for Education what action her Department is taking to increase capacity across secondary schools in the Clondalkin, Dublin 22 area given each secondary school reports oversubscription for the coming school year 2023/2024; if she will provide an update on efforts of her Department to ascertain the true extent of capacity issues in the area as advised in previous responses on this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [15796/23]

*188. To ask the Minister for Education if any contact has been made with a school (details supplied) regarding the commencement of construction on a building; if she is aware of the urgency of the matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [15813/23]

*189. To ask the Minister for Education if she will review a decision on a grant for assistive technology for a child (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15824/23]

*190. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question Number 266 of 23 March 2023, if this reply is reflective of the Cabinet decision on the review of the School Building Programme of 21 March 2023 and decisions taken and announced subsequently; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [15831/23]

*191. To ask the Minister for Education if she will outline a specific timetable for the construction and delivery of a new school building for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [15852/23]

*192. To ask the Minister for Education if discussions are expected to allow Irish to be an optional subject at post-primary level (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [15875/23]

*193. To ask the Minister for Education if there is any grant scheme for solar panels (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [15886/23]

*194. To ask the Minister for Education if a person (details supplied) can avail of employment in the Irish education system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [15912/23]

*195. To ask the Minister for Education if she has published the National Council for Special Education policy advice on education provision in special classes and special schools submitted to her Department on 12 January 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15977/23]

*196. To ask the Minister for Education the current status of the new school building for a school (details supplied); when the temporary classrooms will be provided on the site; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [15984/23]

*197. To ask the Minister for Education the reason the teacher allocation for a school (details supplied) did not account for the fact that it had a higher ratio than the teacher-pupil ratio of one classroom teacher to every 23 pupils; if schools which have a higher ratio are required to go through the appeals process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [15991/23]

*198. To ask the Minister for Education the grounds on which a school may refuse a student the right to repeat a year at primary school level; who makes this decision; what form of appeal exists; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [15995/23]

*199. To ask the Minister for Education if the procurement process for school bus contracts for extracurricular activities such as sports matches, swimming lessons or day trips considers the distance a company has to travel to and from a school; how this fits in with reaching Ireland's Climate Action targets; if she will review the procurement process for school bus contracts with the view of ameliorating this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [15996/23]

*200. To ask the Minister for Education if she will confirm that the proposal to build a new primary school in Blarney (details supplied) can now proceed to the next stage, and that an application for planning permission can now be submitted, in view of the fact that the current school has its number of pupils capped at 306, which is inadequate due to the huge increase in population in the area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [16007/23]

*201. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which a second level school place is likely to become available for the child of a person (details supplied). — Bernard J. Durkan. [16041/23]

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

*202. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) in County Cork will have their disability allowance appeal approved. — Michael Creed. [15788/23]

*203. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration has been given to allowing for the admission of retired people to the newly expanded community employment scheme at a half rate payment similar to the half rate carer's allowance payment; her future plans, if any, to allow those who are retired to take part in the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [15799/23]

*204. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) is entitled to a reinstatement of their travel pass as a secondary benefit. — Michael Creed. [15874/23]

*205. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will clarify the position in respect of a person's pension entitlement (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [15978/23]

*206. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total pension amount received for the year ending 31 December 2022 by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16029/23]

*207. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total pension amount received for the year ending 31 December 2022 by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16030/23]

*208. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason for refusal of working family payment and supplementary welfare allowance in the name of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16034/23]

*209. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current position in regard to application for unemployment assistance or related payment in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16035/23]

*210. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an appeal and review of a decision to refuse disability allowance in the case of a person (details supplied) can be facilitated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16036/23]

*211. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the manner in which a person (details supplied) was adjudged to have no entitlement or reduced entitlement to the guardians payment resulting in an overpayment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16037/23]

*212. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which any ameliorating measures can be evoked in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16039/23]

*213. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 792 of 22 March 2023, if a review might be undertaken of the decision to refuse payment given the dispute that has arisen; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16042/23]

*214. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which the mother of a person (details supplied) qualifies for a top-up pension on the basis of her entitlement in her home country, and potentially in this country, in respect of a pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16045/23]

*215. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current position in relation to entitlement to a disability allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16046/23]

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

*216. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if discussions are expected to increase the staffing levels in the services for children with special needs in Limerick County; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [15877/23]

*217. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the progress that has been made to date in enhancing the role of therapy assistants to provide treatment for children, particularly in disciplines where there are unacceptable delays in children accessing services, such as Cavan and Monaghan, due to a lack of therapists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15934/23]

*218. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children on disability service waiting lists for children's disability networks teams, by CHO/CDNT for January, February, and March 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the average length of wait; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15948/23]

*219. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of people on disability service waiting lists for each service type, excluding children's disability network teams, for January, February, and March 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15949/23]

*220. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children on waiting lists for an assessment of need for January, February, and March 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the number overdue for completion; and the average length of wait. — David Cullinane. [15950/23]

*221. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the estimated cost of increasing the current minimum rate of pay for an early years educator (€13 per hour) to the new living wage of €13.85; and the estimated cost of equivalent increases for all other grades covered by the Employment Regulation Order. — Kathleen Funchion. [15395/23]

*222. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a Director of Authorised Interventions has been appointed yet; when he expects an appointment; if he will confirm whether Bessborough will be looked at alongside Tuam. — Kathleen Funchion. [15396/23]

*223. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what plans his Department has to expand funding for the Barnhaus/OneHouse model of therapeutic treatment for children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15397/23]

*224. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm whether he intends to bring forward any further amendments of the Childcare Act 1991, particularly reforms of voluntary care arrangements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15398/23]

*225. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm what measures he expects to take in Budget 2024 to address concerns around pay and conditions raised by foster carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15399/23]

*226. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm the number of voluntary care arrangements Tusla entered into in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15400/23]

*227. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm when the review of the public consultation into enhancing enforcement powers of the Tusla Early Years Inspectorate will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15401/23]

*228. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm which other Departments will be feeding into the interdepartmental committee to develop policy recommendations on the wording of the proposed equality referendum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15402/23]

*229. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what measures he has taken to reduce the regulatory burden on providers as set out in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15403/23]

*230. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the progress being made on the next national policy framework for children and young people 2023-2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15404/23]

*231. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will confirm whether the Programme Board which has been tasked with overseeing the design and implementation for a dedicated State agency for Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) will publish an interim report in its initial six months; the proposed frequency of board meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15405/23]

*232. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will report on his plans for improving gender equality. — Bríd Smith. [12865/23]

*233. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to clarify what are the policies for State bodies (details supplied) responding to mothers' requests for their records, under the Birth Information and Tracing Act, including information about their child and are these policies publicly available; how are mothers being informed and notified about their rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [15817/23]

*234. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if it is the case that that any child with a moderate or severe/profound disability and who is in crisis must first go through the Tusla Child Protection Criteria (Reasonable Grounds/Thresholds) in order to be considered for residential funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [15836/23]

*235. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which the concerns of parents of children with mental health problems are regularly monitored with a view to ensuring the availability of adequate residential places; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15898/23]

*236. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which health services for children with special needs are being improved; his plans for the future in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15899/23]

*237. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which he proposes to address issues affecting persons with disabilities, whether in relation to access to jobs, housing or social services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15900/23]

*238. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which he continues to promote integration in all circumstances throughout Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15901/23]

*239. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which he continues to prioritise for funding the childcare sector with a view to continued improvements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15902/23]

*240. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which his Department continues to receive updates in respect of children at risk and act upon same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15903/23]

*241. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the steps he proposes to take to address any or all inequalities affecting children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15904/23]

*242. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which his Department has noted various experiences of women and children who may be under threat from domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, including those in the care of the State and or by orders of courts; his plans to address this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15905/23]

*243. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which projects that fall within the aegis of his Department and are within the revised national development plan are at an advanced stage at present or are in course thereof; the extent to which preliminary work has taken place or on-site works are in hand or proposed; the expected delivery date of each; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15906/23]

*244. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which his Department continues to monitor the treatment of children in residential care or fosterage, or those placed with a guardian by Court Order, with particular reference to the need to ensure their welfare and well-being on follow-up in relation to issues of any concern; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15907/23]

*245. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the Tusla supports and safeguards in place for people who find themselves in a situation where their parental status is in doubt; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [15713/23]

*246. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 303 of 23 March 2023, the expected dates when the relevant sections of both Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022, and the necessary Statutory Instruments permitting certain persons to access the register, will become operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [15917/23]

*247. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of critical incidents reported to his Department in relation to the accommodation or welfare of beneficiaries of temporary protection and international protection; the breakdown of reports per month since March 2022 to date in 2023; the nature of the reported issues; and the number still under investigation. — Catherine Murphy. [15970/23]

*248. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of providers of emergency accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection and international protection that are currently contracted by his Department in each county; the standards being used to determine their suitability; the number of contracted accommodation locations that have been inspected to assess their suitability; and if he will clarify whether HIQA has the authority to inspect the centres. — Catherine Murphy. [15971/23]

*249. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will consider the provision of respite services for children and adults with a disability by approved private providers where this is an inadequate public service at present, such as in Cavan/Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16001/23]

*250. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when additional respite places for children and adults with a disability will be provided in Cavan/Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16002/23]

*251. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when additional places will be provided for trainees (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16003/23]

*252. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide a list of accommodation locations being provided for IPAS in Dublin 1, 3, 7 and 9. — Seán Haughey. [16006/23]

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

*253. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which the higher education grant or similar payment can be made available to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16038/23]

*254. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which efforts continue to be made to ensure the availability of adequate qualified staffing levels to meet the requirements of the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [9180/23]

*255. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps his Department is taking to ensure that there is sufficient construction workers to meet demand. — Peadar Tóibín. [11119/23]

*256. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science whether students will have to pay full student fees for the 2023/2024 academic year; if there is any reduction in costs for students not in receipt of a grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Anne Rabbitte. [15815/23]

*257. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline what plans he has for increasing the number of places for those wishing to study veterinary medicine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [15825/23]

*258. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if this jurisdiction is likely to experience a shortage of graduates in the future within a particular area to meet the demand of the corresponding workforce; his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15888/23]

*259. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the total number of apprentices currently available; the extent to which this is sufficient to meet requirements; his plans to introduce new apprenticeship programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15889/23]

*260. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he continues to liaise with the technical sector with a view to ensuring

adequate provision in respect of graduates in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15890/23]

*261. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he continues to liaise with the academic sector with a view to ensuring adequate provision in respect of graduates in this sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15891/23]

*262. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he continues to research future requirements in the education sector with a view to ensuring an adequate supply of graduates throughout; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15892/23]

*263. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will indicate, arising from his discussions with the academic and technical sectors, the extent to which he is satisfied that adequate provision continues to be made in both areas with a view to meeting demand and job specifications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15893/23]

*264. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which his Department is focused on the health sector in terms of ensuring a steady supply of graduates with a view to ensuring the filling of the maximum number of posts in the health services here as possible in the coming years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15894/23]

*265. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate to which his Department continues to monitor incidents of professional bullying throughout the higher education system; the extent to which bullying is evident in colleges throughout the country; the action taken or being taken to counter this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15895/23]

*266. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure continued access to third-level for all students seeking to avail of education at this level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15896/23]

*267. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he and his Department have identified any specific obstacles which may impede improvement and achievement in the further and higher educational sectors and impact our ability to continue to establish Ireland's reputation as equal to the best globally in Higher Education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [15897/23]

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

*268. To ask the Minister for Justice what the next steps are for an applicant (details supplied) regarding their family reunification application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [15882/23]

*269. To ask the Minister for Justice if he will advise of the procedure for family reunification in a situation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [15883/23]

*270. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of Ukrainian nationals, who may have lost their own documentation, who have been granted Irish citizenship since the beginning of the Russian invasion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [16026/23]

*271. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide an update on an application for family reunification for a refugee (details supplied). — Holly Cairns. [15820/23]

*272. To ask the Minister for Justice the total cost to the State of running Immigration Service Delivery, previously Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, by year, from 2013 to date, excluding the International Protection Office service delivery. — Patrick Costello. [15838/23]

*273. To ask the Minister for Justice the total cost to the State of creating and issuing IRP, formerly GNIB cards, by year, from 2013 to date, excluding IRP cards issued to persons granted international protection. — Patrick Costello. [15839/23]

*274. To ask the Minister for Justice if further to Parliamentary Question No. 1122 of 18 January 2023, the new incident types and related offences under the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 were configured and deployed to PULSE on 7 February 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [15846/23]

*275. To ask the Minister for Justice the proposals, if any, there are to provide additional supports to the Independent Commission for the location of Victims' Remains in view of the absolute importance of this work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15935/23]

*276. To ask the Minister for Justice the up-to-date position regarding the provision of Garda services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15974/23]

*277. To ask the Minister for Justice if a Ukrainian national who has arrived in Ireland and who has lost all ID documentation due to the Russian invasion, can apply for and legitimately obtain Irish citizenship; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [16028/23]

*278. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in regard to an application for family reunification in the name of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16031/23]

*279. To ask the Minister for Justice the residency status of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16032/23]

*280. To ask the Minister for Justice the residency status with reference to access to education and employment in the case a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16033/23]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*281. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) on a waiting list can expect an appointment for the Stroke Speciality Programme in the National Rehabilitation Hospital. — Pa Daly. [15808/23]

*282. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for the payment of the enhanced travel and subsistence scheme for student nurses and midwives in years one to three of their training, whereby each will receive €500 per year; the details of the Departmental circular outlining the details of the enhanced scheme; the number of payments that have been made to-date under the enhanced scheme; the number of such payments outstanding; the reason for any delays in making the payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [15816/23]

*283. To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure that the pandemic special recognition payment which has been transferred to a private agency (details supplied) have been passed on to the relevant staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [15818/23]

*284. To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking in response to a disproportionate overrepresentation by a group (details supplied) in the thirteen maternal death inquests held, between 2007 and 2021, which returned verdicts of medical misadventure. — Holly Cairns. [15819/23]

*285. To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [15821/23]

*286. To ask the Minister for Health if more funding can be made available for a resource centre (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15837/23]

*287. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a fair deal application by a person of details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15840/23]

*288. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1513 of 21 March 2023, if the €750,000 funding announced for trainee counselling psychologists will include support for current trainees who are already undertaking their three-year doctorate programme; if not, if it will just be for first year students beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [15842/23]

*289. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1513 of 21 March 2023, the timeline he is working towards in announcing the details of the €750,000 funding for trainee counselling psychologists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [15843/23]

*290. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the ongoing discussions with the HSE and Section 39 workers in relation to payscale negotiations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [15847/23]

*291. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding citizens from outside the European Union who fail the Dental Council's registration exam twice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [15866/23]

*292. To ask the Minister for Health what progress has been made to date between his Department and an organisation (details supplied) regarding its request for the inclusion of certified athletic therapists in the CORU regulation process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15871/23]

*293. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration would be given to the inclusion of certified athletic therapists in the CORU regulation process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15872/23]

*294. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration would be given to the provision of additional support staff for CORU in view of the high number of different healthcare profession applications received by the multi-profession health regulator; if there is a need to review the funding and provide additional support in order that necessary registration systems can be set up for a whole range of groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [15873/23]

*295. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a final date for the remainder of the pandemic payments to be paid (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [15876/23]

*296. To ask the Minister for Health if a child (details supplied) can be transferred from the Children's Hospital, Crumlin to Letterkenny University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [15878/23]

*297. To ask the Minister for Health what flame retardant specification is being used for materials such as fabric, flooring and fixtures and fittings that are being used in the new children's hospital; and if he is confident that a higher specification is being used than the cigarette and match test for materials in the new children's hospital and elsewhere in the health service. — Peadar Tóibín. [15884/23]

*298. To ask the Minister for Health the reasons for the closing of the hydro pool in Galway University Hospital; the steps being taken to reopen the pool; and when it will reopen. — Mairéad Farrell. [15913/23]

*299. To ask the Minister for Health when a person will receive an appointment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [15914/23]

*300. To ask the Minister for Health when a healthcare facility will become operational (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15915/23]

*301. To ask the Minister for Health if the issues raised in correspondence (details supplied) will be considered. — Brendan Smith. [15916/23]

*302. To ask the Minister for Health the average patient experience time to admission via an emergency department for all patients for January, February, and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, state-wide and for each location, in tabular form; the average for all patients; the average for patients aged under 75 years; the average for patients aged 75 years or older; the number and percentage of patients waiting less than the average; and the number and percentage of patients waiting longer than the average. — David Cullinane. [15926/23]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who attended an emergency department in January, February, and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, state-wide and by location, in tabular form; the number and percentage of patients who were admitted via an emergency department; the number and percentage who were waiting 0-6 hours, 0-9 hours, 9-24 hours, and 24+ hours; the number for all patients; the number and percentage for patients

aged under 75 years; and the number and percentage for patients aged over 75 years. — David Cullinane. [15927/23]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health the maximum patient experience time to admission registered at each emergency department for each week in January, February, and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15928/23]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who left an emergency department without being seen in the month of January, February, and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, by hospital, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15929/23]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health the bed occupancy rates of each public and public voluntary hospital, by hospital group, for each week of January, February and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the national average; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15936/23]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against patients at HSE facilities in January, February and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15937/23]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against staff at HSE facilities in January, February and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15938/23]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of Clinical Status 1 ECHO and Clinical Status 1 DELTA incidents responded to by a patient-carrying vehicle in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less in January, February and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, nationally and by ambulance region, in tabular form; the average length of such response times nationally and by region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15939/23]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of incidents responded to by the ambulance service by clinical status and sub status in January, February and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive. — David Cullinane. [15940/23]

*311. To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, in each month of 2022 and in January, February, and March 2023; by hospital group and hospital in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15941/23]

*312. To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments and procedures which were cancelled in January, February, and March 2023, by hospital, for adults and for children, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15942/23]

*313. To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatient beds, by bed type, available at each acute hospital for January, February and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive; and the number of bed days provided. — David Cullinane. [15943/23]

*314. To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute inpatient beds available at the end of March 2020 and at the end of March 2023, by location in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15944/23]

*315. To ask the Minister for Health the number of delayed transfers of care in January, February, and March for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, location in tabular form; the number of delayed discharges and the number as a percentage of all discharges; the number of bed days lost and the number as a percentage of all bed days available for the period. — David Cullinane. [15945/23]

*316. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on primary care and community healthcare waiting lists, for each care service, for January, February, and March 2019-2023, inclusive in tabular form; the breakdown by length of wait and by age; the numbers waiting for initial assessment, initial therapy/intervention, and follow-up therapy/intervention for each specialty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15946/23]

*317. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for January, February, and March 2019-2023, inclusive in tabular form; and the breakdown by length of wait. — David Cullinane. [15947/23]

*318. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on CAMHS waiting lists by CHO and length of wait for January, February and March 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15952/23]

*319. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on waiting lists for Jigsaw by CHO and length of wait for January, February, and March 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15953/23]

*320. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on diagnostic waiting lists at the end of quarter 1 2023; the number for each quarter of 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15954/23]

*321. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists on the dental treatment services scheme at the end of each month of 2023 to date by LHO, in tabular form; the number at the end of each year 2017-2022; the number of dentists who submitted claims or were otherwise paid under the scheme in each full year; the number of claims made in each full year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15956/23]

*322. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of January, February, and March 2019-2023 to date, broken down by standard waiting times, by area, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [15957/23]

*323. To ask the Minister for Health if he will acknowledge that approximately 300,000 people in Ireland are currently living with a rare disease; if he will provide adequate resources for genetic services in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [15963/23]

*324. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with scoliosis and the number of children with spina bifida on waiting lists at the end of March 2019-2023, inclusive, and at the end of June, September, and December 2019-2022, by waiting list, including the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6 months, 6-12 month, 12-18 months, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list. — David Cullinane. [15964/23]

*325. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists for March 2019-2023, inclusive, and at the end of June, September, and December 2019-2022, by waiting list, including the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6 months, 6-12 month, 12-18 months, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list. — David Cullinane. [15965/23]

*326. To ask the Minister for Health the number of paediatric orthopaedic appointments, by appointment type, cancelled in January, February, and March 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [15966/23]

*327. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children removed from paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists in January, February, and March 2023, by the reason for removal; the number removed without having a procedure carried out; and the reason. — David Cullinane. [15967/23]

*328. To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of the total number of GPs in Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary that are registered with the Type 2 Diabetes cycle of care. — Catherine Murphy. [15969/23]

*329. To ask the Minister for Health when he expects the x-ray facility to be installed in the primary care centre in Tuam, County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [15972/23]

*330. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 260 of 1 February 2023, the awards made following a tender process to management consultancy firms, by firm and by his Department, excluding aegis bodies and the Health Service Executive, in each of the years 2018 to date in 2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the purpose and a brief description of the awards; the value of the awards and the total amounts paid; the timeline or timeframe of the contracts; and the desired or completed output. — David Cullinane. [15975/23]

*331. To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the revision of the criteria for the nursing home support scheme medical assessment following the submission of the application for consideration, in light of the public concerns expressed with regard to its inadequacy by his Minister of State; when the review of this specific assessment procedure commenced within his Department; the timeline for the introduction of these changes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [15985/23]

*332. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) in County Donegal can expect to receive an appointment for an operation in Letterkenny University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [15997/23]

*333. To ask the Minister for Health when a person in County Donegal (details supplied) will expect to receive a date for an operation from St James's Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [15998/23]

*334. To ask the Minister for Health in the matter of a proposed new model of care for those with gender dysphoria, encompassing children, adolescents, young people and adults under the auspices of the HSE Chief Clinical Officer, if he will confirm the level of consultation, if any, with medical consultants in the National Gender Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [16004/23]

*335. To ask the Minister for Health if it is the case that Ireland has only half the staff it needs for genetic services; if he will address a matter arising in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [16005/23]

*336. To ask the Minister for Health if he will publish the HSE report of the Chief Clinical Officer on the matter of the referral of Irish children to the Tavistock Gender Identity clinic, London. — Charles Flanagan. [16008/23]

*337. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the funding available to psychology trainees undertaking doctorates for counselling and education psychology; the funding available for those outside of first year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16011/23]

*338. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on funding for counselling psychology trainee programmes, particularly pertaining to those currently enrolled (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [16012/23]

*339. To ask the Minister for Health if he has engaged with the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in respect of the existing qualification of health care assistants from abroad that work here in the context of QQI 5 level qualifications; and if he will provide an update in respect of a National Framework of Qualification QQI level 5 course for the occupation of Healthcare Assistant in Ireland. — Catherine Murphy. [16016/23]

*340. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the issue that has arisen in relation to healthcare assistants who came to Ireland from abroad to work in nursing homes and in hospitals who have nursing level-7 or level-8 qualifications and who are now being told that the HSE will require them to hold a level-5 qualification despite the fact that they already hold the higher level standard; if he will ensure that such persons who are a valuable part of Ireland’s healthcare support system are not required to repeat a level of qualification below that which they already have obtained; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [16017/23]

*341. To ask the Minister for Health if he will list any and all restrictions for use that have been placed on former nursing home buildings that have recently closed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16018/23]

*342. To ask the Minister for Health when a child (details supplied) will be called for a procedure to facilitate peg feeding; his views on whether it is acceptable for a child to be left two years waiting on such a procedure which is medically required due to the risk of choking; the reason the child has not been called to date; the alternatives that have been put in place to facilitate such procedures over the past two years; if the procedure is being performed in the other CHI sites; the reason the waiting list has to been transferred to another hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [16021/23]

*343. To ask the Minister for Health if he will respond to matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); the steps he is taking to improve access to genetic testing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [16022/23]

*344. To ask the Minister for Health the operational costs of running a CAMHS team, including a breakdown of staff by WTE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [16023/23]

*345. To ask the Minister for Health the number of CAMHS teams nationally; the target number of CAMHS teams by the HSE; the timeline for their rollout; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [16024/23]

*346. To ask the Minister for Health the number of community mental health teams nationally; the breakdown of staffing by WTE; the operational costs for each team; the intended expansion of professions within a team under Sharing the Vision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [16025/23]

*347. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which treatment at James' Connolly Hospital is progressing satisfactorily in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16040/23]

*348. To ask the Minister for Health when a full medical card will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16043/23]

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

*349. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the percentage of firewood felled that was exported in 2022; and if felling licences include a provision regarding destination of product. — Thomas Gould. [15908/23]

*350. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the up-to-date position on the Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector and when it will be announced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [15814/23]

*351. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the proposals, if any, there are to compensate farmers who have suffered substantial losses due to ash dieback; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15930/23]

*352. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will have dribble bars included in the next TAMS programme due to the importance of this machinery on smaller-scale farms and on farms with heavy soils and in drumlin terrain such as Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15931/23]

*353. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will ensure that water quality reports for 2022 will be included in the review of the nitrates action programme in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15932/23]

*354. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the measures that will be taken at EU and national level to help offset the additional farm input costs due to the increase in fertiliser costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [15933/23]

*355. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a person (details supplied) will receive the hen harrier scheme payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [15979/23]

*356. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number and area of Ash dieback RUS applications that are lodged with his Department that remain to be approved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [15986/23]

*357. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will confirm the number and area of Ash dieback RUS approvals that were eligible for the interim reconstitution scheme for Ash dieback, as outlined in circular 4 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [15987/23]

*358. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number and area of afforestation licences lodged with his Department that remain to be approved, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [15988/23]

*359. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the growing of trees and the managing of woodlands and forestry is a farming activity and that any farmer engaged in it, is an active farmer for CAP purposes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [15989/23]

*360. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number and area of private sector tree felling licences that are lodged with his Department that are not yet approved, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16013/23]

*361. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide details of the availability of private sector and Coillte logs for the processing sector in Ireland for 2023 and 2024; if he will outline the percentages of the total for each, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16014/23]

*362. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will upgrade the systems in the Forest Service of his Department to enable the accurate aggregated calculation of licenced volume available per year as per the detail submitted on each TFL application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [16015/23]