



## **DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Déardaoin, 15 Meitheamh, 2023*

*Thursday, 15th June, 2023*

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**CEISTEANNA  
QUESTIONS**



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

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

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

1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he will introduce to ensure that the issuing of passports can be expedited in urgent cases. — Matt Carthy. [29060/23]

2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on his preparation for the upcoming ‘Consultative Forum on International Security Policy’; if he will advocate a change to the State’s foreign policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [28834/23]

3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his response to the recent incursion of Israeli forces into Ramallah; his engagements with his EU counterparts on this matter; and if he has raised objections with the Israeli government. — Matt Carthy. [29061/23]

4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the further measures his Department is considering to alleviate some of the difficulties being experienced with first-time passport applications particularly when additional information is requested and the timeframe added to the application in that instance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [29063/23]

5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on his recent engagements with representatives of the British government. — Matt Carthy. [29062/23]

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

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

6. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action is being taken to improve processing times of paper-based renewal and first-time passport applications, in view that the current processing time is eight weeks, and in particular the efforts to fast-track those applications of which queries have been raised as this can often lead to extended delays in the processing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [28824/23]

7. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 26 of 27 April 2023, if he will provide an update on his bilateral engagement to-date in 2023 with his Israeli counterpart with regard to the ongoing demolition and seizure of Palestinian

property in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as the escalating violence by Israel on Palestinians; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28816/23]

8. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has given consideration to the opening of a passport office in Northern Ireland. — Matt Carthy. [28848/23]

9. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on the implementation of the Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [28096/23]

10. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the proposed timeline to honour the government commitment to recognise the state of Palestine. — Matt Carthy. [28846/23]

11. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is aware that many journalists, trade union leaders, judges, civil society activists and politicians, including the Speaker of the Tunisian parliament (details supplied) have been arrested in Tunisia in recent weeks in concerted acts of state repression; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [28774/23]

12. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the intended timeframe to hold a referendum in relation to voting rights in presidential elections. — Matt Carthy. [28849/23]

13. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he supports Ireland's historic position of neutrality; his views on the government's current position is regarding Irish neutrality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [28826/23]

14. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on efforts to restore the political institutions in Northern Ireland established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [27335/23]

15. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on the most recent engagement he has had with an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [28870/23]

16. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how he and his Department will lead on the scaling up of Ireland's international climate finance and strengthening whole-of-Government efforts on climate diplomacy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [28092/23]

17. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the action he is taking to promote accountability for the most serious international crimes; the support being provided for the work of the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [28104/23]

18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on a recently published article to mark World Environment Day, recalling that Gaza lacks a safe, clean, and sustainable environment, Al Mezan detailed how Israeli policies and practices, including a 16-year-old blockade, adversely impact local capacity to protect the environment and ultimately hinder Palestinians' right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Donnelly. [28776/23]

19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he and his UN colleagues remain aware of the escalation of the war in the Ukraine whereby Russia is clearly determined to bring about the destruction of the Ukrainian economy by way of attack on vital infrastructure in a way which is clearly indicative of the future whereby it appears to be intended to reduce the built environment to rubble; whether any new initiatives are being considered to prevent an escalation of this policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28835/23]

20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he will be taking to strengthen his Department's effectiveness in the new Statement of Strategy recently issued by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [28101/23]

21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he will be taking to serve communities under his Department's new Statement of Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [28102/23]

22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, if he will detail how he and his Department are working to bring the relevant North and South bodies together to progress engagement and work to safeguard the GFA into the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [27990/23]

23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what interactions there have been with his UK counterparts on the Council of Europe's decision on the Northern Ireland legacy issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [28852/23]

24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the reforms agreed to EU migration and asylum laws; to outline the position taken by Ireland during the negotiations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [28825/23]

25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the outcome of his most recent discussions with the political parties in Northern Ireland in relation to the need to have the Assembly and the Executive restored at an early date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [28844/23]

26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how he and his Department will support efforts to enhance international oceans governance and the protection of the global marine environment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [28091/23]

27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the efforts of him and his Department to assist in re-establishing the Northern Ireland Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [27989/23]

28. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when he expects the final report of the Consultative Forum on International Security to be published; if he has given the chair a timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28617/23]

29. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his engagements with the Ukrainian government. — Matt Carthy. [28850/23]

30. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how his Department is contributing to the delivery of the Shared Island initiative; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [28138/23]

31. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the position regarding the proposed rebranding of Irish Aid to the Government of Ireland Development Programme Overseas as indicated last December; if an assessment of the potential impacts has been completed; the timeline for the delivery of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [28740/23]

32. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on long-term solutions to address the challenges faced by the undocumented Irish in the US and his work to continue to seek new immigration pathways for Irish citizens; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [28737/23]

33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the action he will take to develop our relationship with China and the principles that will inform this action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [28098/23]

34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if any progress is being made with regards to the undocumented Irish in America; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [28783/23]

35. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had communications with his EU counterparts on the Council of Ministers in relation to the Russian attack on the Nova Kakhovka dam; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [28851/23]

36. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on the evacuation of Irish citizens from Sudan in the last month. — Gary Gannon. [28868/23]

37. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs whether the European Union plans initiatives in response to the destruction of the dam at Nova Kakhovka; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [28797/23]

38. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the Government will offer assistance to Moldova to help them prepare for EU membership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28616/23]

39. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for his assessment of issues with the current passport express process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [28738/23]

40. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of the recent acts of severe repression carried out by the army and state institutions in Pakistan against opposition politicians; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [28775/23]

41. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he will be taking to support peace and reconciliation at home under his Department's new Statement of Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [28095/23]

42. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is tracking the emerging situation in Myanmar; and if he will indicate what leverage the international community can exercise to ensure citizen rights are respected. — Richard Bruton. [28796/23]

43. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the action he is taking to ensure that Ireland's security policy is fit for purpose in the modern European and global security environment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [28097/23]

44. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on efforts to restore the power sharing executive in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28139/23]

45. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what plans there are to extend Ireland's diplomatic presence. — Robert Troy. [28784/23]

46. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the British government has responded to his communication sent regarding the 1973 killing of a person (details supplied) by the Royal Ulster Constabulary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [22421/23]

47. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if there has been any further engagement with the family of a person (details supplied) who was shot dead by the RUC in 1973; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [28042/23]

48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he will be taking to strengthen and protect the global multilateral system under his Department's new Statement of Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [28099/23]

49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the position regarding Russian diplomatic presence in Ireland; their numbers and specific purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28881/23]

50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 21 of 27 April 2023, to provide an update on Ireland's efforts at EU and UN level to stop the war in Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28817/23]

51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what engagement he and his Department have had at EU Council level and with Cabinet colleagues in relation to human rights abuses of Palestinians annexed by the present Israeli regime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [28753/23]

52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on how we can further support Ukraine in any way; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28882/23]

53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide an update on his Department's work with regard to developing new humanitarian missions overseas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [28874/23]

54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the role he and his Department will play in defending and promoting a safe, secure, free and open global cyberspace, with robust

telecommunication infrastructures and regulated by international law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [28103/23]

55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to comment on his Department's efforts to increase efficiency with regard to passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [28873/23]

56. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the Consultative Forum on International Security Policy will examine the future of the triple lock procedure; if it will also examine the need for unanimity in relation to decisions on Common Foreign and Security Policy issues in the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [27336/23]

57. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the percentage of GNI allocated to overseas development aid in the years 2017 to date. — Matt Carthy. [28847/23]

58. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to indicate in the context of cross-Border issues identified in the Good Friday Agreement and thereafter as being in need of advancement with particular reference to infrastructural deficiencies needing urgent attention, if he can undertake to give his full support to such issues in order to improve these infrastructural deficiencies in line with the Good Friday Agreement. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28836/23]

59. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the Government will formally recognise the state of Palestine; and if not; if he will make a statement as to why not. — Gary Gannon. [28869/23]

60. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on the implementation of his Department's Climate Action Roadmap; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [28093/23]

61. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his Department recognises Israel's oppression of Palestine as apartheid (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [28866/23]

62. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what engagement he and his Department have had with their EU counterparts and Cabinet colleagues in the past 12 months in relation to the issue of cross-Border remote workers, with particular emphasis on the issues emerging whereby some of these workers are unable to avail of bank card facilities in the opposite jurisdiction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [28752/23]

63. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to advise what action his Department is taking to ensure that there are no delays in the processing of passport applications during the busy summer months, in particular the efforts to fast-track those of which queries have been raised as this can often lead to extended delays in processing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [28823/23]

64. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will commit to using the upcoming budget to ensure that UNWRA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) will receive adequate funding so their essential work can continue unabated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [28214/23]



65. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his Department recognises Western Sahara as a sovereign state in the wake of reports that Israel will recognise the country as a Moroccan territory. — Gary Gannon. [28867/23]

66. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he will be taking to enhance Ireland's global engagement and prosperity under his Department's new Statement of Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [28100/23]

67. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how he will ensure that Ireland's international development programme makes a clear contribution to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [28094/23]

68. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if preparations are underway ahead of the 2023 SDG Summit convening this September in New York and in particular for the role Ireland will play as co-facilitator of a negotiated political declaration as an output from the summit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [28739/23]

69. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the action he is taking to unlock the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [28137/23]

70. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the outcome of his most recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland concerning legacy issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [28845/23]

71. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on the Consultative Forum on International Security Policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28140/23]

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

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

72. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the action he is taking to ensure savings on the wholesale price of electricity are passed on to customers; the reason that savings have not been passed on to date; the dates on which he has met with energy providers to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [28912/23]

73. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the efforts he has made to ensure a reduction in carbon emissions in the residential sector by 40% as outlined in the Climate Action Plan 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [28833/23]

74. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the Government's energy security review and, separately the review by a person (details supplied); when he expects both to be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [28919/23]

75. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the Climate Action Plan will be urgently revised in light of the recent EPA analysis which stated that even in the event that all actions were implemented fully, that it would only result in a 29 per cent reduction in emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [28778/23]

76. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what, if any, assessments have been made by the Government regarding the best way to implement a windfall tax here in order to capture excess revenues in the energy sector in the year 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [28914/23]

## **CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

77. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the Local Government Management Agency has submitted draft codes of practice so that standards can be set for the operation of CCTV by local authorities to tackle illegal dumping; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28614/23]

78. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in relation to offshore wind, when the individual parts of the planning-led system, including D-Maps, will be made publicly available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [28755/23]

79. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how does he assess the exclusion of 9 million tonnes of GHG abatement measures in The Climate Plan from the Environmental Protection Agency's recent projections for emissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [28680/23]

80. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress of the expansion of the national air quality monitoring network under the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [28883/23]

81. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the results of the geothermal study conducted at Carlinn Hall have been received; when he plans to make them available; the next steps in relation to finalising a lasting solution for the residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [28754/23]

82. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will outline the potential of universal broadband connectivity to transform livelihoods and the delivery of services; if he will indicate the discussions and the planning which he is undertaking to deliver this potential; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28743/23]

83. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update regarding improving measures to avoid disconnections for energy customers. — Gary Gannon. [24647/23]

84. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what additional measures are being taken by the Government to ensure that our grid has the capacity to accommodate the required increase in connections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [28915/23]

85. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he can detail the actions that the Climate Action Plan for 2024 will take that will address the projected overshoot in the first carbon budget identified in the Environmental Protection Agency projections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [28757/23]

86. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the measure being taken by his Department to facilitate offshore wind energy development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [28879/23]

87. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the steps he is taking to support rural post offices. — Holly Cairns. [28552/23]

88. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the recently published report by the EPA that Ireland is set to miss out on its 2030 climate targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28040/23]

89. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how it is intended to have each of the major sectors adopt a circular approach; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [28682/23]

90. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has plans to ensure the Commission for Regulation of Utilities will regulate the prices charged to consumers on district heating systems; if he has plans to change the current charging system that apply to district heating systems; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [28759/23]

91. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the projected timeframe for completion of the North South Interconnector; the number of landowners that will be affected by the development; and the number therein that have given approval for their lands to be used for this purpose. — Matt Carthy. [28549/23]

92. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for the Government's strategy for mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting sustainable development; if he will elaborate on the key policies and measures being implemented in Ireland to achieve the country's climate goals, particularly in the areas of the farming sector, transport, renewable energy, carbon reduction and fostering a green economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [28785/23]

93. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will detail the extent to which the mandate and resourcing of the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities provides for an assessment of the hedging practices of energy companies and, separately, investigation of price gouging and prosecution of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [28918/23]

94. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his attention has been brought to the recently published EPA report "Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2022-2040: June 2023", which outlined that Ireland is not on track to meet the 51%

emissions reduction target by 2030; his response to the EPA report; what engagement he or his Department has had with other Government departments on foot of the findings of the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28818/23]

95. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will outline the potential of renewable energy to transform livelihoods and the scope for regional economic development; and if he will indicate the discussions and the planning which he is undertaking to deliver this potential, particularly in onshore employment and new sources of farm income. — Alan Dillon. [28742/23]

96. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has considered introducing a windfall tax to capture the windfall profits of energy producers accrued from March to November 2022, the revenue foregone by exempting windfall profits accrued from March to November 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [21542/23]

97. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will indicate the progress in embedding a public sector climate mandate; the key performance indicators which are being used and if he will outline how the progress of individual bodies is monitored and reported. — Richard Bruton. [28681/23]

98. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department should have more stringent guidelines in place for contractors to ensure that ESBN NC6 applications are submitted in a more uniform and timely manner to ensure that customers are given access to feed-in tariff payments at the earliest opportunity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [28747/23]

99. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of applications received in the first quarter of 2023 for Cork County under the SEAI Free Energy Upgrades; the current timeline from surveyor allocation to contractor allocation on these applications received for Cork county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [28853/23]

100. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is aware of the difficulties many householders and business owners are having in relation to accessing adequate broadband speeds in cases where these customers were provided service by commercial providers and not covered by the NBS; if he is aware that many are not achieving the 30mbps speeds that were promised; if he is aware that many would have been far better off under the NBS, if he will examine what can be done to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28744/23]

101. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department has engaged with energy providers to ensure that all electricity customers with smart meters, and regardless of tariff plan, are given access to their real-time data; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [28748/23]

102. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will introduce a community energy advice service; and if there are existing plans within his Department in relation to its creation. — Gary Gannon. [24646/23]

103. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will clarify when his Department will issue a money message or a reasoned response for the Petroleum and other Minerals Development (Climate Emergency) Amendment Bill; if he can clarify why this has taken his Department this length of time to issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [28758/23]

104. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan for each of the deployment areas across the Lee Valley; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [28854/23]

105. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in the roll-out of the National Broadband plan in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [28878/23]

106. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 103 of 27 April 2023, the status of the review of the security of energy supply of Ireland's electricity and natural gas systems for the period to 2030; the timeline for the publication of the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28819/23]

107. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the proposals, if any, there are to have additional publicity programmes regarding the need to deal with the proliferation of littering problems throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [28877/23]

108. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 123 of 27 April 2023, the expected timeline for the implementation of local authority decarbonising zones; the details of any engagement he or his Department had with Galway city council or Galway County Council in 2023 with regard to their Local Authority Climate Action plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28820/23]

109. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is concerned at the deviation in trends between wholesale gas and electricity prices and what consumers are paying; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Brophy. [28745/23]

110. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is satisfied that the State is at a proper preparedness level to counteract any possible cyberattacks on the national grid and other essential services by bad actors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [22807/23]

111. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to indicate the full extent of the progress to date in making high speed modern broadband available throughout the country, in urban and rural areas; the progress to date in the linking up of those areas currently in need of but without service; the progress in bringing the entire operation to a speedy and efficient conclusion with a specific deadline; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28842/23]

112. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how the challenge of artificial intelligence is being integrated into Ireland's National Cyber Security Strategy. — Emer Higgins. [28683/23]

113. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the findings of the EPA's Ireland's GHG Emissions Projections 2022-2040 report; his plans to revise the Climate Action Plan to achieve the 51% emissions reduction target; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [28843/23]

114. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which priority can be given to measures to offset and combat cyber-attacks in the future; the extent to which this issue is being raised at Council of Minister meetings in Brussels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28841/23]

115. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 110 of 28 February 2023, the status of the small-scale generation support scheme; the expected timeline for the launch of the scheme; the details of the community participation element of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28821/23]

116. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when he intends to present legislation to Dáil Éireann for a Just Transition Commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [28829/23]

117. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline his plans to support the production of biomethane; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [28880/23]

118. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when the 2% pension increase due to An Post workers will be authorised; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28615/23]

119. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the community projects under RESS 1 and RESS 2; his plans to publish any analysis carried out by his Department into the operation of the community category in RESS 1 and RESS 2, particularly in light of the decision to discontinue the community category under RESS 3; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [28822/23]

120. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he can clarify if recent EPA projections of GHG emissions for the next two carbon budget adequately account for the projected overshoot in emission in the budget to 2025; if the subsequent budget for 25-30 reflects a reduced budget as a result of the first budget overshoot; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [28827/23]

121. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what engagement his Department is having with local fishermen around the coast about the construction of offshore wind infrastructure; if he agrees that the impact on traditional fishing grounds should be minimised; that adequate financial compensation is provided, and that agreements reached in advance of construction are adhered to; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [28746/23]



122. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the review of security of energy supply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [28749/23]

123. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what assessments, if any, the Government have made concerning the remunicipalisation of waste and the various models that are available and operating successfully in other European countries, in particular the ‘franchise’ model; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [28917/23]

124. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has engaged with the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in order to secure additional funding to address rising inflation costs and to ensure just transition projects proceed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [28795/23]

125. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he plans to review the application of the PSO levy given the disproportionate burden it currently places on households, in particular low-income households; if alternative funding models, including direct state investment have been considered to support renewable projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [28916/23]

126. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide an update on Ireland cybersecurity infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [28872/23]

127. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline what short and long-term measures his Department is currently seeking to ease the burden of energy costs for the constituents of Sligo Leitrim South Donegal and North Roscommon. — Frankie Feighan. [28876/23]

128. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will clarify whether the Energy Security Review must include liability and insurance cover in the consideration of new energy projects; if he will comment on the contraction in the market of insurers willing to extend cover to the construction of new LNG terminals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [28431/23]

129. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to report on the current work being undertaken by his Department on security of energy supply; to outline, in the context of the Government decision to build over 2,000 megawatts of new gas-powered electricity plants; if it has been considered that an indigenous gas supply would provide a reliable source of low emission energy for Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [28741/23]

130. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the timeframe for the enacting of legislation that will permit local authorities to install CCTV cameras in the vicinity of bottle banks and other waste collection locations. — Matt Carthy. [28550/23]

131. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update as to whether a process has been agreed by which full-time residents in mobile homes can access a much-needed electricity credit; if he will confirm how such a payment will

be drawn down to further support persons in, or at risk of, energy poverty to ensure these vital credits are received by the thousands of full-time mobile home residents who to date have been unable to access the Government credit despite their being in one of the most vulnerable sections of society; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28041/23]

132. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to comment on the recent agreement between Ireland and Germany with regard to Green Hydrogen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [28871/23]

133. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to report on the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan; the number of premises that were passed and connected as of May 2023; and the way that he plans to accelerate the delivery of the plan in counties Sligo and Leitrim. — Frankie Feighan. [28875/23]

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

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

\*134. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the position on US sanctions imposed on Cuba in relation to banking operations and how that aligns with current EU policies on those sanctions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [21314/23]

\*135. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he expects to be in a position to interact with the authorities in Northern Ireland post-local elections to the benefit of people and economies North and South. — Bernard J. Durkan. [21789/23]

\*136. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the context of North South Cooperation and mindful of the need to make a contribution to the Good Friday Agreement, the number of major and minor projects likely to be helpful and achievable in the short and medium-term under the guise of the mission statement of his Department. — Bernard J. Durkan. [23213/23]

\*137. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he continues to explore and promote the values of the Good Friday Agreement with authorities and voluntary groups in Northern Ireland. — Bernard J. Durkan. [24619/23]

\*138. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor and examine progress in respect of the spirit and the letter of the Good Friday Agreement; and the extent to which he can take further initiatives to promote those elements of the agreement which refer to or require continued action by his Department. — Bernard J. Durkan. [24995/23]

\*139. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the new initiatives he intends to pursue to bring about a restoration of the Northern Assembly or the outstanding issues relating to the Good Friday Agreement. — Bernard J. Durkan. [26379/23]

\*140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which it is possible to elevate the debate on the aftermath of the Good Friday Agreement to ensure a higher level



of cooperation at local level with particular reference to projects already under discussion and other areas likely to have a strong and positive impact on such discussions. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28329/23]

\*141. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he expects to be in a position to interact with the authorities in Northern Ireland post-local elections there to the benefit of people and economies North and South; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28837/23]

\*142. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the context of North South Cooperation and mindful of the need to make a contribution to the Good Friday Agreement, the number of major and minor projects likely to be helpful and achievable in the short and medium-term under the guise of the mission statement of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28838/23]

\*143. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he continues to explore and promote the values of the Good Friday Agreement with authorities and voluntary groups in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28839/23]

\*144. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor and examine progress in respect of the spirit and the letter of the Good Friday Agreement; the extent to which he can take further initiatives to promote those elements of the agreement which refer to or require continued action by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28840/23]

\*145. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the sabotage of the Nova Kakhovka dam has implications for security on a wider scale and for other countries. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28328/23]

\*146. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to indicate the ongoing role for his office/Department in the development of supports for the Good Friday Agreement/Shared Island Initiative which requires his participation and support. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28569/23]

\*147. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the evolution in EU or Irish policy towards China in the wake of the Ukraine war, and the heightened rivalry between the USA and China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [28956/23]

\*148. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when a decision will be made on an application for a passport in respect of siblings (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [29015/23]

\*149. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the bilateral aid programme continues to reach those for whom it was intended with the least interference; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29028/23]

\*150. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which he and his EU/UN colleagues continue to monitor the situation in various trouble spots globally including Yemen, Syria and on the African continent with particular reference to non-compliance with international human rights standards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29029/23]

\*151. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which the UN continues to challenge the activities of the Boko Haram and Al Shabaab; whether cases are being referred the International Court of Justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29030/23]

\*152. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which he and his EU colleagues continue to positively influence the political situation in the Western Balkans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29031/23]

\*153. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the international community continues to intervene to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers at various global locations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29032/23]

\*154. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the current position in regard to EU enlargement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29033/23]

\*155. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which Irish Embassies abroad continue to be actively involved in the promotion of increased volumes of trade with this country with particular reference to the aftermath of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29034/23]

\*156. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the efforts being made to identify with and support the needs of undocumented Irish in the US; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29035/23]

\*157. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the most vulnerable locations globally to which Irish aid continues to be directed, the success or otherwise of such operations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29036/23]

\*158. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent if any to which efforts are ongoing within the European Union to address the issue of Euro-scepticism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29037/23]

\*159. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when a passport will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29052/23]

\*160. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason post passport applications are not being processed at the same rate as online passports applications; and if the Government plan to introduce measures to enable both applications (i.e. online and post) to be processed in similar timeframes. — Mattie McGrath. [29100/23]

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

\*161. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will outline his assessment of fuel poverty and the success of measures taken to tackle this challenge. — Richard Bruton. [24648/23]

\*162. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he and his Department have considered including solar panel systems in the warmer home scheme provided

through the SEAI, to ensure that those with the lowest income and most vulnerable persons have the ability to install solar panels which will help this cohort manage the extortionate energy prices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28897/23]

\*163. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he and his Department are considering the introduction of low-interest loans or State-provided finance for the provision and installation of solar panels for households in order to help meet Ireland's climate targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28903/23]

\*164. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the required establishment of dedicated resources within regional lead authorities to provide co-ordination, expertise and advice to ensure enforcement of the new air-quality regulations nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28905/23]

\*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will sanction the payment of increases due to An Post pensioners; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [28938/23]

\*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the considerations to be made by local authorities when deciding on whether or not to re-municipalise waste collection services; if legislative or regulatory barriers prevent local authorities from re-municipalising waste collection services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [23491/23]

\*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the timeframe for the roll-out of at least 30mb broadband speeds to a location (details supplied) in County Donegal as part of the national broadband plan; if such areas with poor or no broadband coverage shall be prioritised during the roll-out phase as part of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [29002/23]

\*168. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the degree to which the programme to provide broadband nationwide is progressing and achieving its targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29039/23]

\*169. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to indicate highest demand for electricity recorded in the past five years; the extent to which this demand is likely to fluctuate in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29040/23]

\*170. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the total amount of electricity currently generated from oil, coal, gas, biomass, solar, wind or wave generation; the extent to which this is expected to change within the next five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29041/23]

\*171. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which each sector in the economy can contribute to greenhouse gas reduction over the next five years without negatively impacting on economic output; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29042/23]

\*172. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which efforts continue to be made to reduce the use of plastic with particular reference to banning certain products and activities to protect our seas and marine life; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29044/23]

\*173. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which waste reduction and management can be improved to make a more serious contribution to threats to the environment with particular reference to the need to reduce the use of landfills and the utilisation of the most modern methods that waste management in order to protect the environment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29045/23]

\*174. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which his Department continues to have plans to utilise existing natural resources and invest for the future in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29046/23]

\*175. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what steps he can take to speed up the provision of broadband services through the medium of fibre-optics throughout County Kildare with particular reference to known blackspots; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29047/23]

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

\*176. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans in hand to develop an adequate number of charging stations to facilitate the growing electric car sector in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29038/23]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will set out the mandatory accessibility requirements and/or the provisions set in statute in respect of accessibility standards for public transport and public infrastructure projects, to include the planning, design and construction of cycle lanes, bus islands, pedestrian cross walks, pedestrian footpaths and pedestrian shared spaces. — Catherine Murphy. [28887/23]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Transport how many local authorities have published active travel plans to date. — Darren O'Rourke. [28899/23]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Transport which local authorities have published active travel plans to date. — Darren O'Rourke. [28900/23]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Transport which local authorities have drawn down funding to establish active travel teams. — Darren O'Rourke. [28901/23]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Transport which local authorities have active travel teams in place. — Darren O'Rourke. [28902/23]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on a load line survey application for the hebble dredge ship in Drogheda and if a certificate or exemption has been issued; and if so, the expected date of removal of the ship from the River Boyne. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28906/23]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Transport how much of the active fund has been drawn down by local authorities overall, in 2022 and then in Q1 2023, in tabular form. — Darren O'Rourke. [28970/23]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has any plans to install an EV charging point in Templemore, considering the closest charging point for electric vehicles in this town is in Roscrea, almost 20km away, and these points often have queues for charging vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28974/23]

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

\*185. To ask the Minister for Finance if an individual who paid €750 in private healthcare for a minor medical procedure can claim this payment back against their taxes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28961/23]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Finance to clarify if the 'net spending' rule referenced in Stability Programme Update 2023 includes tax changes, for example, including any tax reducing measures within the quantum of spending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [29022/23]

*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.*

\*187. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to indicate based on scientific evidence available the full extent of climate change alleviation projects needed to address the issues of flooding throughout the country; the extent of his proposals to deal with the issues arising; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29043/23]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if the OPW will help with an issue of erosion on a river (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [28953/23]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he is aware that insurance companies are using incorrect maps in an area (details supplied); if he is aware that these incorrect maps, indicating a flood plain, are resulting in properties being denied flood cover; if there is a mechanism to ensure that these insurance companies are alerted to this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [28964/23]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the visitor numbers to each visitor attraction operated by the Office of Public Works for each month in 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [29000/23]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if his Department is aware of or has sanctioned the use of poisons on land at Castletown Estate, Celbridge, where there are new signs that have never appeared before stating that a particular area of the lands (details supplied) where there are protected species of birds/wildlife,

is poisoned; if his Department has ensured that legal pesticides were used and that the landowners are licensed and trained to lay poison on the land; if the records are appropriately maintained in line with pesticide regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [29020/23]

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

\*192. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has considered a partnership between Iceland and Ireland to develop data centres by utilising the data cable between Iceland and Ireland, while also availing of the cheaper, cleaner and renewable energy available in Iceland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [28993/23]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will issue a circular to nursing homes clarifying that health care assistants with Indian nursing qualifications approved by QQI NARIC Ireland do not need to complete a level 5 health care assistant course to renew their general employment permits (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [28935/23]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to outline the work that is being carried out at European level to strengthen competitiveness; and his views on its relevance to Ireland. — Richard Bruton. [28955/23]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the evolution in EU or Irish trade and competition policy towards China in the wake of the Ukraine war, and the heightened rivalry between the USA and China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [28957/23]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how many applicants and how many permits were granted of the 1,500 critical skills employment permits introduced on 16 December 2022 for the role of bus and coach drivers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [28969/23]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is aware of the additional excise duty applied to goods coming into Ireland from other EU countries but shipped through the UK; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [29008/23]

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

\*198. To ask the Minister for Education to clarify her Department’s position on bus drivers aged 70 years and over when medically certified is not permitted to drive a school bus for Bus Éireann; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28983/23]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware that a special needs child (details supplied) cannot find an ASD unit for the third year. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [28885/23]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Education when she expects the updated HP Deprivation Index to be generated by Pobal, which will feed into the DEIS programme and allow new schools to



gain the much-needed status; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28904/23]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department is currently considering the provision of further primary and post primary schools for the south Drogheda and east Meath area, with consideration to the recently published census figures which show in the St. Mary's rural electoral division alone, the population has risen from 11,864 to 16,438; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28954/23]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Education the present position regarding the provision of SEN accommodation at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [28962/23]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Education the progress to date in relation to providing additional permanent accommodation and upgrade existing accommodation at a school (details supplied); when this project will proceed to the next stage; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [28963/23]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the building works at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [28965/23]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Education when her Department intends to pay the ICT grant to schools this year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28976/23]

\*206. To ask the Minister for Education when a person (details supplied) will be allocated a placement in a special school setting; and the efforts that are being made by her Department and the NCSE to ensure an appropriate placement is available to the person at the earliest opportunity. — Eoin Ó Broin. [28998/23]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Education the measures being taken to address the issue regarding the recent Leaving Certificate maths exam paper 1, given that concerns have been expressed by teachers and students about the wording and structure of the Leaving Certificate maths exam paper, which has caused confusion and uncertainty among students who sat the exam, to ensure fairness for all affected students; how impacted students will be accommodated in terms of grading and assessment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [28999/23]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the scheme for awarding incremental credit to secondary school teachers for relevant experience in a non-teaching role; if she can provide guidance on what constitutes relevant work; if she will list the type of work which could be considered relevant for a teacher of home economics; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [29003/23]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the scheme for awarding incremental credit to secondary school teachers for relevant experience in a non-teaching role; if she can confirm if work with children of secondary school age who have challenging behaviours and who are dealing with issues such as recovery from drug addiction and who have been mentored by the teacher seeking credit can be included in the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [29004/23]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will examine and act upon the information outlined in correspondence from a person (details supplied), in relation to their experience regarding the nearest available school, to ensure that in this coming academic year, children are guaranteed the bus places they need on the basis of eligibility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [29007/23]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Education her views with regard to the schedule of enrolment of pupils governing in the appointment and retention of mainstream class teachers in ordinary schools, Gaelscoileanna and Gaeltacht national schools (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [29010/23]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Education the reason that the ICT grant has been stopped; the measures being put in place to support schools which have planned expenditure in place or require reimbursement for outstanding expenditure; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [29023/23]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Education if a suitable school place to facilitate 5th and 6th year second level education can be arranged for a student (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29056/23]

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

\*214. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide an update on the provision of a night-time economy manager in Drogheda to help develop a night-time economy strategy; when the role is expected to be filled; the grade of the role; the time period of the contract; if other relevant information will be provided; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28895/23]

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

\*215. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reasons that a reduction in a HAP payment is now considered in line with a reduction in a working family payment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [28892/23]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if an application by an organisation (details supplied) for the erection of a notice board at a national monument has received approval; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [28936/23]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the NPWS is seeking or being granted CPO powers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [28920/23]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts in relation to the proposed EU law on nature restoration; the result of these discussions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28678/23]



\*219. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if a detailed land use survey has been carried out to calculate the effect of the proposed EU law on nature restoration up to 2050 on agriculture in Ireland and the amount of land currently in use for productive agriculture that would have to be rewilded or rewetted, including the geographic areas that would be most affected, under the proposed law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28679/23]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of thatching grants paid by his Department in each of the past five years; the total cost of the scheme each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28984/23]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the grant assistance available for rethatching vernacular houses; the conditions attached to receipt of the grant; the changes he proposes making to both the level of grant and the conditions in order to make it more affordable for people to protect this vital and irreplaceable part of our heritage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28985/23]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his officials have any future plans to delist Lough Melvin in the Border counties of Leitrim and Fermanagh as a Special Area of Conservation and Natura 2000 site considering that the SAC holds a stock of vulnerable Atlantic salmon (EU Habitats Directive Annex II) and unique brown trout subspecies of sonaghen, gillaroo and ferox; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29001/23]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what consultation his Department intends to carry out regarding plans to respond to the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the Seanad university panels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [29009/23]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the stage 4 approval process to select a contractor to build 38 new homes on (details supplied); how long the tender process has been ongoing and when he anticipates stage 4 approval being granted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29026/23]

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

\*225. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on an application for a disability allowance (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28896/23]

\*226. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the case of a person (details supplied) which has been ongoing for months; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [28910/23]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of employees with a disability who applied for the wage subsidy scheme in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022; the number of those who were not successful in their application over the same period; the number of those who were successful in their application over the same period; in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [28940/23]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people with disabilities who availed of the wage subsidy scheme in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022; her Department's expenditure on the wage subsidy scheme over the same period; the average number of hours worked by participants in the wage subsidy scheme, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [28941/23]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to review the pension rate of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [28959/23]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the qualification criteria for a person on a jobseeker's payment to go on an educational course and retain their payment; if it is intended to review these criteria to encourage more people on social welfare payments to go on educational courses; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28996/23]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current and/or expected position in relation to jobseeker's benefit in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29054/23]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an application for disability allowance or alternative might be considered in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29055/23]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a pension based on joint contributions, or combination of contributions and means test in respect of the old age pension in the case of a person (details supplied) can be facilitated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29058/23]

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

\*234. To ask the Minister for Justice if a central single Garda vetting process will be introduced for people who volunteer with multiple community and sporting organisations to avoid duplication; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [28865/23]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Justice when a 'spouse of an Irish national' application (details supplied) will be processed, as it has been with her Department for over 12 months and is still in the queue for processing, given that the Department repeatedly states that applications can take approximately 12 months to finalise, and yet this application has not even begun processing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28891/23]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress that has been made to date in the determination of an application as part of recent undocumented scheme in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28937/23]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of an appeal for visa in the case of a person (details supplied); when a visa is likely to issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [28907/23]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will explain the process of setting up the Firearms Expert Committee; what the terms of reference for the committee were; who set the terms of reference; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28929/23]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will outline the criteria used to appoint members to the Firearms Expert Committee and the credentials required for membership of that committee; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28930/23]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Justice how many people applied to become members of the Firearms Expert Committee; how many people were shortlisted and interviewed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28931/23]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will outline who the members of the interview panel were who appointed members of the Firearms Review Committee; what credentials those interviewees had; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28932/23]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 417 and 418 of 18 May 2023, when she plans to publish both the research report and the policy paper following the public consultation on the issue of parental alienation as part of the Justice Plan 2022 on her Department's website; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [28934/23]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Justice the working target for her Department to process atypical visa applications; the number of atypical visa applications that are currently being processed; the number of applications that have been issued in 2023 to date; the length of time it is taking to process these visa applications on a graduated basis; if the length of time it is taking to process such applications reflects the urgency fill positions in which skill shortages have been identified; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [28946/23]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Justice for an update on her work in relation to spent convictions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [28966/23]

\*245. To ask the Minister for Justice the action in conjunction with the Garda Commissioner she will take to increase the number of community policing officers in this division within the context of the next two passing out parades from the Garda Training college in Templemore; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29027/23]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Justice if a person (details supplied) can be joined by their family. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29048/23]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in regard to an application for naturalisation by a person (details supplied); if provision can be made for a late renewal in respect of their stamp 4 residency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29050/23]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Justice if favourable consideration will be given to facilitating the children of a person (details supplied) to join them here in this jurisdiction. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29051/23]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Justice if an extension of time can be given to facilitate an application for GNIB renewal in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29053/23]

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

\*250. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has tested land at an area (details supplied) following the use of poisons on land at Castletown Estate, Celbridge, and assessed its impact on human health where the area is widely used by the public and adjacent to a river that a particular area of the lands are poisoned where there are protected species of birds/wildlife on these lands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [29018/23]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department sanctioned the use of poisons on land at Castletown Estate, Celbridge (details supplied); if his Department ensured that legal pesticides were used and that the landowners are licensed and trained to lay poison on the land and if the records are appropriately maintained in line with pesticide regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [29019/23]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department sanctioned the use of poisons on land at Castletown Estate, Celbridge, where there are new signs that have never appeared before stating that a particular area of the lands (details supplied) where there are protected species of birds/wildlife, is poisoned; if his Department has ensured that legal pesticides were used and that the landowners are licensed and trained to lay poison on the land; if the records are appropriately maintained in line with pesticide regulations (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [29017/23]

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

\*253. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will investigate the reason that an autistic person's home support hours have been reduced by an autism support service (details supplied); what process to appeal this reduction is open to the person affected; if this person's care plan can be unilaterally changed like this; if the HSE will ensure that their hours are reinstated with appropriate and necessary home support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [28933/23]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children in care who have been allocated a social worker in 2023; the number of children in care who are waiting allocation of a social worker on three-monthly increments in 2022 and to date in 2023, by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [28947/23]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will expedite a residential service for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [29006/23]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when a child (details supplied) will receive an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28884/23]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the supports and services available to adults with special needs to continue to live independently in the

community following the death of a parent who had previously cared for them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [28888/23]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if an organisation (details supplied) will be facilitated with its request for a meeting with Department officials. — Marian Harkin. [28921/23]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of refugees being housed by the State in Roscrea, Nenagh, Thurles, Borrisokane, Clonmel, Cashel, Tipperary Town, Cahir and Carrick-on-Suir, either under the temporary protection system for Ukrainian refugees or under the international protection system, in tabular form per town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28975/23]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if his attention has been drawn to the financial challenges that new parents are experiencing due to the rising cost of baby formula; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [28992/23]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware of the funding challenges for an initiative (details supplied) which had funding from Tusla in the past; if his Department can offer alternative funding for the initiative; and if Tusla is changing its policy approach. — Richard Bruton. [29013/23]

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

\*262. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the review into the North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; when this review will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [28890/23]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Health if he will seek an update on the refurb, refit and extension of the Castlebellingham health centre to a new primary care centre; the total expected cost of the project; if he will provide a list of services that will be provided in the new premises; the expected completion date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [28893/23]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the expected timelines on the establishment of a new statutory home support scheme; how he plans to scope and plan for such a scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [28894/23]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update of the North East Doctor-on-Call service to address the major pressures on the current service which is leaving many persons unable to access out-of-hours GPs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [28898/23]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Health further to the publication of the Mental Health Commission’s annual report 2022, if he will consider frontloading investment in mental health services, rather than the current funding model; if he would like to see changes in the funding model going forward; how he intends to address the major issues highlighted in the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [28909/23]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Health the criteria that the HSE uses to consider whether it will provide funding to charities in the healthcare sector; how the HSE reviews its funding of charities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [28922/23]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Health his views on whether the HSE's decision to provide funding or withdraw funding from a charity influences the work of the charity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [28923/23]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department is sending a delegation to the WHO-convened Global Congress on Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes in Geneva in June 2023; if so, the composition of the delegation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [28926/23]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Health if he believes it appropriate that a State body, such as the HSE, has the power to influence charities through granting or withholding funding; the potential negative impact this has on the freedom of charities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [28928/23]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Health if additional funding could be made available to an organisation (details supplied) so that people over 65 years can receive services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [28943/23]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Health if he will seek the details on the total number of registered nursing homes in Ireland in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and the details of the total number of residents registered over the same years. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28944/23]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Health when former staff who worked in care homes during the pandemic will get the pandemic bonus payment (details supplied); the reason this matter has not yet been resolved over three years since the height of the pandemic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [28945/23]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Health if a study of a parcel of land to the rear of St. Patrick's Hospital, Cashel, to determine suitability for a community nursing unit has been completed; if not, if a study is due to be carried out; and the details of same. — Martin Browne. [28948/23]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Health if the study of a site on Palmers Hill in Cashel, County Tipperary to determine suitability for a community nursing unit has been completed; if not, if it is due to be carried out; and the details of same. — Martin Browne. [28949/23]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Health the number of sites that are being considered for the development of a community nursing unit in Cashel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [28950/23]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Health if any progress has been made with respect to recruitment of occupational therapists in County Louth which has reached critical levels; if neighbouring areas with suitable levels of occupational therapists could transfer or redirect services; if persons will be offered appointments in neighbouring areas, in order to deal with the absolutely unacceptable void in services in the Louth area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28951/23]



\*278. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update with respect to the projected opening date for the new 50-bed St. Joseph's Hospital development in Ardee, County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [28952/23]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will be called for scheduled surgery. — Robert Troy. [28958/23]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Health if an individual with a medical card who had a procedure performed on private healthcare can have a part reimbursement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28960/23]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of inpatient beds for CAMHS; the number of inpatient beds that are operational; the plans to reopen beds; the plans to expand inpatient bed capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [28968/23]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Health if he intends to review the fees that pharmacies receive from the State for all State drug schemes before the end of June 2023; if he will engage with representatives of an organisation (details supplied) on this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [28977/23]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons approved for homecare supports who are currently waiting on delivery of support hours in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28978/23]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons over the age of 75 years approved for homecare supports who are currently waiting on delivery of support hours in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28979/23]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Health the number of current clients approved for additional homecare support hours awaiting allocation of those additional hours in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28980/23]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new persons approved for HSE homecare support hours since 1 January 2023 who are currently awaiting delivery of support hours in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28981/23]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Health the number of new persons age 75 years and older approved for HSE homecare support hours since 1 January 2023 who are currently awaiting delivery of support hours in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [28982/23]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [28986/23]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of the €2.2 million allocated for the development of long-Covid services in 2022 that was spent exclusively on long-Covid services; the allocation drawn down by each clinic in 2022; the corresponding figures for 2023; the respective period of operation of each clinic; the number of new patients and recurring patients treated to date; the number of patients awaiting a first appointment in each clinic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28988/23]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 307 of 15 September 2022, the number of full-time posts allocated to post-acute and long-Covid clinics, by clinic and speciality; if the position has been filled; if an offer has been made; if a recruitment competition is ongoing; if the HSE recruitment process has commenced in view of the emerging evidence on long-Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28989/23]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 812 of 18 October 2022, if he will outline the metrics at each clinic in 2022 including the number of new patients seen and the number waiting at the end of the year; the corresponding figures for 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28990/23]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on excessive delays in the processing of the qualifications of an international recognition applicant (details supplied) by CORU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [28991/23]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) who worked as a frontline worker in the health sector through the Covid pandemic, will receive their Covid Bonus payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [28994/23]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the shortage of the pain medication (details supplied); if he is aware that this means that the smaller boxes are being purchased and paid for in full by persons on the drug payment scheme because they cannot purchase the prescribed amount; if there is any way for people to claim back this money; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [29005/23]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the rollout of free GP care for children aged six and seven years, as announced as part of Budget 2023; the timeline for the roll-out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [29014/23]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Health his response to a media report (details supplied); when this deficit in the Service Plan was identified by this Department; the action he proposes to take to address the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [29024/23]

\*297. To ask the Minister for Health the progress, if any, in respect of an application for a medical card in case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29057/23]

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

\*298. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current position in regard to the payment of a SUSI grant in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [29049/23]

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

\*299. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development how much funding from her Department has been granted since 2016 to Kerry County Council in respect of a town (details



supplied) in County Kerry; if she will provide the category, amount and purpose details of each grant; if she will clarify how much of each grant has been drawn down by Kerry County Council; the timescale involved for the drawdown; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29011/23]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will clarify how much of a grant from her Department (details supplied) has been drawn down by Kerry County Council; the timescale involved for the drawdown; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [29012/23]