



# DÁIL ÉIREANN

*Déardaoin, 22 Meitheamh, 2023*

*Thursday, 22nd 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 Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.**

1. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on public private partnerships which facilitate tolls on eight of our motorways. — Martin Kenny. [30139/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Transport if, assuming he is very much aware of the import/export benefit opportunity that has been developed as a result of the Ballina Rail Corridor which connects through Waterford Port, he can outline his Department's position to developing 'Ballina-type' railhead in perhaps the Kildare area to connect to Waterford port, which would counter increasing traffic congestion in the capital and have a positive impact on national freight distribution sustainability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [29764/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Transport to detail what upgrades are currently underway in relation to rail infrastructure, including the Western Rail corridor, DART services, and the MetroLink. — Martin Kenny. [30196/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will urgently review the decision by the NTA to remove Ardfinnan Bridge from its 2023 list of projects, particularly given previous commitments from Government on the matter; the reason the NTA is going against the view of the consultants engaged on the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [30023/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the provision of funding for the progression of the N17 Collooney – Claremorris upgrade for the years 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028. — Marian Harkin. [30137/23]

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

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

6. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the review of the framework for setting of speed limits, with specific consideration of the introduction of a 30kph default speed limit in urban areas to improve road safety and take up of active travel, as outlined in the RSA Action Plan 2021 – 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [30186/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on engagement he has had in relation to the N17 upgrade. — Martin Kenny. [30140/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a timeframe in relation to the yet-to-be-published data relating to the proposed Irish Rail Review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [29766/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Transport the outputs from the climate delivery transport taskforce since its establishment, as indicated in the 2023 Climate Action Plan Annex of Actions; what specific areas and initiatives of climate delivery are currently under its focus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [30185/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans on improving bus connectivity in Galway city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29223/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the reported underspend by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30223/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of Limerick to Scariff and Limerick city to Shannon greenway projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [30202/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to improve public transport for students forced to make long commutes due to a lack of accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29224/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 53 of 4 May 2023, if he will provide a status update on the rollout of park-and-ride facilities in Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30010/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to reopen the Western Rail Corridor for freight and passengers from Collooney to Athenry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30161/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Transport if the upgrade of the N22 (Macroom to Ovens phase) is a priority of his Department; if he recognises its strategic importance for connectivity in the southwest region; if he will provide an estimated timescale that all stages of such a project would take, an outline of what the scheme would entail, and an estimated cost in today's money for this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30099/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will move to build the Adare bypass now that judicial reviews will not be taking place; if he will provide details of costs of all stages of the project and estimated timelines for these; if he recognises the difficulty to socio-economic activity that the lack of this infrastructure causes in the mid-west and south-west regions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30100/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can explain the reason that, despite his Department having an underspend of €97 million on transport and infrastructure, this Deputy has been informed by Kildare County Council that there 'are no funds' to repair and resurface dangerously deteriorated sections of road in Kildare South; when, if ever, he intends to allocate these funds to already financially pressed local authorities to be used, or if those funds have or

are intended to be re-allocated for other purposes; and if so, what purposes. — Patricia Ryan. [30211/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Safe Routes to School programme in Cork, in particular setting out, in tabular form, the number of schools which will be included in the programme; to provide a status update on the rollout of these projects under round 1 schemes and round 2 schemes in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30115/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will clarify how his Department is carrying a nearly €100 million underspend in the first three months of the year; if there have been projects postponed or delayed which has led to the underspend; if so, if he will list those projects affected; if he will outline how he and his Department plan to address the situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [29769/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has data on the modal split in Dublin since Covid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [30112/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will give consideration to establishing a fund specifically aimed at noise mitigation/sound barriers to mitigate the impact of major motorway construction projects on local residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [29879/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Transport what engagement has taken place between his Department and the DAA, with a view to having the appropriate level of car parking spaces available in Dublin Airport and Cork Airport ahead of the summer months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30116/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 49 of 4 May 2023, the status of the promised feasibility study for light rail in Galway; if the feasibility study has commenced; the details of any engagement he or his Department has had with the team carrying out the feasibility study since the appointment of the team; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30009/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the basis on which funding will be made to local authorities to fund mobility hubs for the different elements which can be provided; and when he expects that the first ten such hubs will be in place. — Richard Bruton. [30111/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has explored alternative measures to alleviate the financial burden of public transport for students; if he will provide an update on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30204/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Transport how many extra carriages have been allocated on the Dublin to Waterford train line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [30220/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Transport if, in view of the very substantial increase in road maintenance and road construction costs, he will ensure that additional funding will be provided for the Non-National Roads Programme for 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30090/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Transport to detail the measures that are in place to deal with anti-social behaviour on buses and trains; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [30175/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Transport how it is proposed that the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road scheme will be progressed this year, as due to changes in Government policy and design standards, additional design works are needed and the project team has indicated that more funding will be required to close out and complete the current Phase 3 design process, but TII has not indicated that more funding will be forthcoming; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [30208/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has had discussions with the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána relating to ensuring sufficient policing of public transport during the busy summer period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [30133/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he expects to be in a position to make fundamental improvements to the national road structure given that some areas have been in need of investment for several years and that failure to address the issue may necessitate much higher expenditure in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30094/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the CMATS rail in Cork. — James O'Connor. [30209/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the Dunkettle Interchange; if he will outline when the project will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [29880/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Mallow relief road; and if the funding will be made available by the end of the year. — James O'Connor. [30210/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of and supports plans by the DAA to extend its operations; if his Department has had any discussion with the DAA about planned expansions and increases in aviation travel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [30117/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to introduce restrictions or additional levies/taxes on the use of private jets in the State; if he is aware of figures suggesting a large increase in the use of such jets in the State; if this increase is supported by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30135/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of the consultation that was undertaken with disabled persons' organisations with regard to the tendering and purchase of new buses and trains; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [30176/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to provide a public transport link from Finglas to Dublin Airport. — Paul McAuliffe. [30132/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on his plans to increase the number of e-bike sharing schemes in Dublin city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [30131/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline plans for the further development of the rail connection from Limerick to Shannon Airport over the next five years; if his Department intends to increase investment in new stations on the Ennis - Limerick - Foynes rail corridor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [30203/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has had discussions with public transport providers on ensuring public order and safety of passengers onboard their services during the busy summer period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [30134/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the progress being made toward the delivery of a rail service from Navan to Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [29445/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to develop a bypass of Innishannon, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [29562/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can detail the average number of passengers who have travelled on the new BusConnects Route 60 since its introduction per week/month; the passenger numbers for Route 79 in the last three months of its operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [30121/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding provided for major improvement works on national secondary roads in each of the past five years; his policy in relation to providing sufficient funding to bring all national secondary routes up to a standard that maximises road safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30162/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the rollout of the new bus ticket pricing structure by Bus Éireann outside of Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [30146/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will confirm what progress has been made in relation to the reduction of waiting times for those waiting to be tested following the announcement of the addition of 75 new testers earlier in the year; when he envisages that the current average wait of 21 weeks will be significantly reduced, and to what level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [29768/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Transport how many buses have been provided for the Town Bus Link; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [30219/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the status of a project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [30043/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress on delivering a light rail system planned for Ballincollig to Mahon in Cork city; what stops are planned for the route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [30147/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Transport when he will announce the Athenry to Claremorris portion of the Western Rail Corridor and an anticipated commencement date; if he will now begin assessing the potential for the next phase of the Western Rail Corridor from Claremorris to Collooney; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30167/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Transport what consideration his Department is giving to further infrastructural investments in the rail transport sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [30191/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the N17; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30168/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he expects to achieve a balance between road and rail transport in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30095/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are any plans to curtail access for HGVs in urban towns following the example from a town (details supplied) where eight pedestrians have been killed in the past ten years in incidents involving HGVs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30226/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Government will commit to funding 50% of the A5 upgrade project as agreed in the St. Andrew's Agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30076/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Transport if, in view of the importance of regional and local roads for rural communities and the substantial increase in costs for road maintenance and road construction over the past two years, he will ensure that substantial additional funding will be provided to Cavan and Monaghan local authorities for the Non-National Road Works Programme in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30091/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the actions and initiatives undertaken by his Department to assist the freight industry in reducing emissions. — Alan Dillon. [30205/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update as of June 2023 for the development of the MetroLink project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30227/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the rollout of the Shared Island Sports Club EV Charging Scheme; and if such charging facilities under the scheme will be made available in Cavan Monaghan. — Niamh Smyth. [30156/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has examined any proposals around the use and possible banning of SUV private vehicles in city and urban areas; if he would support such a move; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [30120/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered allowing a project (details supplied) to proceed this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [30044/23]



64. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to a number of active travel interventions in Cork City Council that have decreased accessibility for those with mobility issues or disabilities and, in some instances, caused serious concern for cyclists; and the level of engagement he has had on these issues. — Thomas Gould. [30089/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the measures Iarnrod Éireann have in place to foster biodiversity along their routes and landbanks; the funding provided for and actions that have been taken on biodiversity since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [28432/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Transport the current earliest projected timeline for completion of the N2 Clontibret-to-the-Border and the N2 Ardee-to-Castleblayney road schemes; and if he will provide additional funding for these schemes in 2023. — Matt Carthy. [30078/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the rollout of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan. — Niamh Smyth. [30155/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to install more sheltered bus stops in Cork South West. — Holly Cairns. [29563/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps being taken since the ending of Covid-19 air travel restrictions to address the imbalance in the regional spread of air traffic routes across the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [30173/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline any engagement he has had with management at Waterford Port, including any plans related to upgrading the current infrastructure in the area. — Martin Kenny. [30141/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Transport if an update can be provided regarding the status of the Ten-T project which will fund three sections of road in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30077/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can clarify the position of the Government in relation to investment in the Western Rail corridor; if he supports further investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [30119/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide details of the funding allocated to the N24/N25 project for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [29767/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will meet with a campaign group (details supplied) to discuss development of the south east rail; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30225/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update with respect to future rail transport plans in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30154/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of times he has met with the CEO of Irish Rail/Iarnród Éireann since he took office. — Peadar Tóibín. [29446/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will meet with the members of Monaghan County Council to discuss the need for additional funding in 2023 for the N2 road schemes. — Matt Carthy. [30079/23]

78. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the implementation of BusConnects for Swords, County Dublin, and Malahide, County Dublin, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [30190/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Northern Ring Road in Cork. — Thomas Gould. [30088/23]

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

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

80. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the recent increase of interest rates by the ECB; his assessment of its impact on mortgage borrowers; and if he will introduce temporary and targeted mortgage interest relief. — Pearse Doherty. [30241/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware of the recent opinion poll showing overwhelming public support for abolition of the Universal Social Charge; if he will give a commitment to announce the abolition of the charge in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [30486/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Finance the input he and his Department have had in the establishment of a multi-annual strategy to combat economic crime and corruption, including fraud and scams; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30242/23]

83. To ask the Minister for Finance when he will publish the revised criteria to qualify for the primary medical certificate which will be fit for purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [30097/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Finance when the medical criteria to obtain a primary medical certificate in order to benefit from the disabled drivers and disabled passengers scheme are expected to be updated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [30017/23]

### **CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

85. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has had any engagements with the retail banks to promote switching for mortgage loans held by vulture funds into the mainstream mortgage market. — Mairéad Farrell. [30158/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Finance the key messages of his Department's recent publication: Future-proofing the Public Finances – the Next Steps. — Robert Troy. [30039/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the recommencement of the work of the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; if alternative facilities and secretarial services

have been established since the National Rehabilitation Hospital indicated that it wishes to cease its involvement with the scheme; the reasons given by the NRH to cease its involvement with the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [30174/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Finance the date he expects to announce Budget 2024; the factors he will consider when deciding the timing of the event; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30085/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on his proposals for a long-term savings fund. — Michael Moynihan. [30036/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Finance if he can detail the work being done with local authorities in regard to extending insurers for local community events and festivals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [30110/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on his engagement with mortgage lenders and representative bodies with respect to forbearance measures, financing solutions and the mortgage loan treatment of mortgage holders where their loans are secured against properties affected by defective blocks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30178/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the continuing high inflation and the eroding real wages in Ireland, with disposable incomes and living standards continuing to be under strain; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [30149/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will announce in Budget 2024 the abolition of the Universal Social Charge for those earning under €100,000 per year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [30169/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the review of the personal tax system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [30034/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Finance what measures are being taken to ensure that any policy responses to international inflation do not embed inflationary expectation into the domestic economy, to ensure our competitiveness; the domestic reforms being considered to boost productivity and reduce costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [30150/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking to address rate insurance premiums faced by SMEs. — Holly Cairns. [29564/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the situation facing mortgage holders whose loans are held by vulture funds; and what action could be taken to reintegrate them into the retail banking mortgage market. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [30222/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce new obligations on the recipients of Section 481 film tax relief to end the use of buy-out contracts for performers, writers and artists which deny them their IP rights under copyright law, and a further obligation on producer company recipients of the credit to take direct responsibility as the employer for film crew on film productions so that their rights under fixed-term workers' legislation can be vindicated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [30201/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Finance how he proposes to maintain a secure, sustainable and progressive tax base; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30041/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he will be taking to ensure that budgetary policy is calibrated so as to avoid adding to inflation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [30032/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce a windfall tax on banks and vulture funds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [30200/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on the ongoing review of the disabled drivers and disabled passengers scheme; to confirm when he anticipates the commencement date for the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; to disclose the current number of pending appeals before the board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30206/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce a cap on mortgage interest rates to prevent families being forced into poverty and homelessness by rising interest rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30164/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Finance his assessment of the performance of the domestic economy to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [30030/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Finance for a report on modified domestic demand to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [30031/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Finance his assessment of Exchequer returns to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [30028/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has engaged with the retail banking sector regarding the provisions for forbearance measures and financing for mortgage holders whose homes are affected by defective blocks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30165/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Finance to outline his current engagement with the International Monetary Fund, in particular on the subject of its commitment to aid in developing countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [28857/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on VAT receipts to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [30026/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware that on 14 June 2023, the CEO of a charity (details supplied) outlined to the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight wealth tax measures that the Government could take which could raise up to €8 billion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [30199/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on the second review of Home Building Finance Ireland, which he published last month. — Barry Cowen. [30033/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has engaged with mortgage lenders regarding forbearance measures and finance options for mortgage holders whose properties are affected by defective blocks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [30157/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Finance if he agrees with the chief IMF representative to Ireland during the Troika bailout, Ashok Mody, that Ireland is a “well-established tax haven” and that “for much of the world, Ireland is regarded as a corporate tax haven” (details supplied); if not, what alternative explanation he would provide for the recent boom in corporate tax revenue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30163/23]

114. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider a reduction in VAT to zero on heat pumps, similar to the treatment of VAT on solar panels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [29886/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Finance the current status of the disabled drivers and disabled passengers scheme; when the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal will recommence hearings; the number of appeals and request for appeal hearings that have been lodged since November 2021; and his response to the recent annual report of the Ombudsman with respect to same. — Pearse Doherty. [30180/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Finance how many people in Cork have benefitted from the enhanced help-to-buy scheme launched in July 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [30143/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Finance his response to the recent European Commission spring forecasts for the Irish economy in 2023 and 2024. — Michael Moynihan. [30035/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has engaged with the retail banks to enable switching for mortgage loans held by vulture funds into the retail banking mortgage market. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30166/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he is taking to address the risks around corporation tax windfall receipts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [30029/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps he is taking to address the rates charged to hospitality businesses by financial institutions for transactions carried out with cards. — Holly Cairns. [29565/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on credit union SME lending in the State; the plans he has to assist credit unions in reaching an increased number of SMEs with their lending offering; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [30171/23]

122. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide information from Revenue as to the numbers of employees with Southern addresses and who are working in Northern-based companies; the numbers of employees who work in Southern companies and who have Northern addresses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [30109/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide a report on the Ministerial Trade Visit to Money 2020 Europe 2023 in Amsterdam; the way in which he supported the IDA and

Enterprise Ireland to achieve their objectives on this visit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [29962/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on his Department's review of the IREF and REIT tax regimes; his views on whether IREFs and REITs are paying sufficient tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [30177/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on corporation tax receipts to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [30027/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Finance the situations under which it would be considered appropriate to withdraw funds from the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund. — Thomas Gould. [30087/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on credit union mortgage lending in the State; the plans he has to assist credit unions in reaching an increased number of first-time home buyers with their lending for retrofitting offering; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [30114/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update into the review of the primary medical certificate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30153/23]

129. To ask the Minister for Finance for a report on the trend in corporation tax revenue stream since just before the pandemic. — John Lahart. [30037/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Finance his Department's current projection for inflation in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [30042/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Finance his assessment of the vulnerabilities the public finances face from a revenue perspective. — Robert Troy. [30040/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will ensure that tax relief for parents in respect of the accommodation costs for students attending further or higher education colleges is applicable in respect of all students, whether studying in this jurisdiction or elsewhere; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30144/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on income tax receipts to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [30025/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce a cap on mortgage interest rates to prevent families being impoverished and forced into arrears by rising interest rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [30198/23]

135. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on his engagement with Revenue with respect to the current tax rules regarding the importation of vehicles from Britain and the North with respect to their impact on North-South trade and the domestic motor vehicle market. — Pearse Doherty. [30179/23]

136. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent of the domestic financial services and the international financial services sectors in Ireland, in terms of the number of people employed and



the value to the Exchequer by way of corporation taxation; his views on the future growth of both these sectors in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [30113/23]

137. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 70 of 9 May 2023, the status of the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; when he expects a new board to be in place; the details of the body that will provide the facilities and secretarial service to the board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30011/23]

138. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is satisfied with progress to date on the Women in Finance Charter, which was developed in partnership with various stakeholders (details supplied), whereby signatories of the Charter commit their organisations to improving the number of women in management and board-level positions to achieve better gender balance and a more inclusive working environment. — Colm Brophy. [30024/23]

139. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on Ireland's bid to host the new EU AML Authority; if Ireland having a strong AML, legal and administrative framework will assist in this bid; the next steps that will be taken in order to advance Ireland's bid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [29963/23]

140. To ask the Minister for Finance his perspectives on the report concerning the factors influencing the cost and accessibility of finance for residential development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30207/23]

141. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration has been given to allocating some of the general Government surplus to investment into sustainable transport infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [30152/23]

142. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will detail any action he and his Department are considering, and engagements he has had with the retail banking sector and Central Bank, to promote switching and the reintegration of mortgage borrowers with loans held by vulture funds into the mainstream mortgage market. — Pearse Doherty. [30181/23]

143. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide the details of the flat-rate expense allowances for the building industry allowed by Revenue, to include an itemised list for all the sub trades of this sector; the way in which apprentices are treated for flat-rate expenses in the building industry; if he will rebalance any variances upwards for all those workers operating in the building industry in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [30172/23]

144. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of times he has corresponded or met with the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council; and if he will list the dates upon which these meetings/instances of correspondence took place. — Peadar Tóibín. [29448/23]

145. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has engaged with the retail banking sector and representative groups regarding the provision of financing and treatment of mortgage loans with respect to homeowners in Donegal impacted by defective blocks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [30221/23]

146. To ask the Minister for Finance his estimate of the level of windfall receipts since the start of 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [30038/23]

147. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will outline the progress made to date by the Office to Promote Competition in the Insurance Market as it continues to work to help to attract new entrants into the Irish market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [29961/23]

148. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which fraudulent claims are having a negative impact on the price of premiums for private motor/car insurance, home insurance, and public liability insurance for businesses in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30013/23]

149. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent of the impact that ‘micro sectoring’ by the insurance industry in Ireland is having on the availability of insurance cover for niche markets such as thatched cottages, adventure tourism, playcentres and community events; whether a fairer balance can be achieved in these instances so that cover can be more readily available for those seeking insurance in such niche markets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30014/23]

150. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will detail what lessening of personal taxation has occurred since 2011 in terms of entry points, rate changes, band changes, tax credits, and so on; if he will provide examples of how these changes have affected earners from both single-income households and double-income households on €25,000, €45,000, €65,000, €85,000 and €105,000, providing comparisons in each case of net pay in 2011 versus today; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30084/23]

151. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on the progress of the Credit Union (Amendment) Bill 2022; to outline the engagement at Ministerial and official level with the credit union representative bodies this year on the Bill; the way in which the Bill will assist the modernisation of credit unions and help future proof financial services for their members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Damien English. [29816/23]

152. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide, by county, in tabular form, the name of each credit union, the euro amount of assets for each credit union, the euro value of loans on issue by each credit union, and the loan-to-asset ratio in each instance; how he envisages additional lending by credit unions to be enabled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Damien English. [29815/23]

153. To ask the Minister for Finance if, in light of the Taoiseach’s plans to organise a half-day seminar to review the outcome of the Wellbeing Framework, led by the Department of the Taoiseach, his Department has considered creating an additional dimension within the Wellbeing Framework dealing with language and culture, as has been done in New Zealand and Wales; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [29887/23]

154. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will detail the salaries of the top ten highest paid civil servants in his Department. — Peadar Tóibín. [29447/23]

155. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will amend the conditions applicable to eligibility for the rental tax credit for parents of students in relation to accommodation costs while attending further or higher education college to include students studying outside of this jurisdiction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30145/23]



156. To ask the Minister for Finance what plans there are to reform the disabled drivers and disabled passengers scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30224/23]

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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.*

\*157. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason expressions of interest with a closing date of 26 May 2023 had been sought for places on the election observer roster; the conclusions and findings that arise from this process; if persons that did not express interest can apply; if so, if they will be at any disadvantaged over those that expressed interest; the date that the full competition will be published; the number of places available; whether separate panels will be formed for long-term election observers and short-term election observers; if he plans to have any reserved places for people with disabilities or politicians or others; if so, will he detail the number of reserved places and the persons eligible to apply for them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30232/23]

\*158. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he plans to visit the United States before the end of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [30282/23]

\*159. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when applications for passports on behalf of siblings (details supplied) will be issued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30315/23]

\*160. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his Department is aware of the increasing number of fraudulent Irish passport renewal websites operating; what action his Department is taking to have these websites removed; and if his Department is planning to run a public awareness campaign regarding this problem. — Chris Andrews. [30472/23]

\*161. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide a response to matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [30489/23]

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

\*162. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30258/23]

\*163. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide clarification on the reasons an applicant (details supplied) to the warmer homes scheme was refused funding for new windows; if the applicant’s urgent medical needs were taken into consideration during the assessment process by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland; what specific criteria or guidelines are followed by the SEAI when evaluating applications which

may need window replacements under the warmer homes scheme; if there are any provisions or exceptions in place to accommodate applicants with urgent medical needs, especially when it pertains to improving indoor air quality, insulation, and overall living conditions; in light of the applicant's urgent medical needs, what alternative solutions or recommendations can be provided to ensure their health and wellbeing are adequately addressed within the framework of the warmer homes scheme, as it is crucial to understand the rationale behind the refusal and to ascertain if appropriate consideration was given to the applicant's urgent medical requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [30283/23]

\*164. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the current 5G population coverage; the steps being taken progress the deployment of 100% population 5G coverage by 2030; the timeline for the delivery of this objective and interim targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30304/23]

\*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the timeline for the publication of the general scheme of legislation to establish the National Cyber Security Centre on a statutory footing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30305/23]

\*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will consider engaging with the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities to examine allowing micro-energy generating customers using day/night meters who do not have a smart meter to use other independent sources, such as the installer data to calculate refunds due from energy supplied to the grid rather than a basic minimum as is currently the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [30312/23]

\*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the proposed EU Telecoms tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30433/23]

\*168. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when he will publish Ireland's national hydrogen strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30434/23]

\*169. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when he intends to launch a public consultation on private wires/direct lines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30435/23]

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

\*170. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will grant an exception to the two-year rule for the submission of the case of recommendation (details supplied) similar to that afforded to the case of a person and Jadotville medal award; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30289/23]

\*171. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will support the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30290/23]

\*172. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if it is intended to amend the regulations in relation to awarding medals for gallantry to allow the awarding of medals to persons (details

supplied) who died in action in 1999 at Post 6-42 in south Lebanon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30309/23]

\*173. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to outline the timelines for application decisions and the appeals process for applicants to the 2023 Army cadetship competition; how a candidate can request feedback; when the next round of applications will be opened; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [30415/23]

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

\*174. To ask the Minister for Transport what supports will be available for people required to upgrade machinery or cars to be e10 petrol compatible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [30487/23]

\*175. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline his Department’s position regarding upgrade investment to N24 Waterford-Limerick road; when such investment might happen; the scale of investment under consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [29765/23]

\*176. To ask the Minister for Transport if assistance will be provided in relation to a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30234/23]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [30236/23]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider adding an additional train journey on the Waterford to Dublin line weekdays leaving Waterford around 4pm, to allow for commuters returning to Dublin from areas outside the city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30244/23]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that people looking to reduce their motor insurance costs by changing their provider are being requested to submit a valid NCT certificate for their vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [21496/23]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has or is planning to develop a policy to support the development of active travel infrastructure serving healthcare facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [26727/23]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is committed to making public transport in rural areas accessible to passengers with mobility limitations; the improvements he is making in that regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29908/23]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the status of the northern ring road for Cork that is included in the NPF. — Thomas Gould. [22062/23]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the roads projects being delivered in Cork south west under the National Development Plan. — Holly Cairns. [21882/23]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Transport the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance

of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30269/23]

\*185. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that taxi drivers who rent their plate will be represented when filling the current vacancy on the advisory committee on small public vehicles. — Robert Troy. [30296/23]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the fact that no new taxi plates are being issued despite figures from his Department which indicate 131 new licenses issued per month from September 2022 to March 2023. — Robert Troy. [30297/23]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Transport if provision will be made on the cost of resitting a driving test; and the efforts that are being made to reduce the waiting times for repeat tests. — Paul Donnelly. [30324/23]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he proposes to ensure an adequate balance in investment in transport between urban and rural communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30455/23]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he continues to ensure that both urban and rural communities have access to adequate transport options; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30456/23]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he continues to make adequate provision for increased numbers of commuters using the rail services in County Kildare, with particular reference to increasing the number and frequency of carriages and services to areas like Kilcock, Maynooth, Leixlip and Confey; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30457/23]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he continues to make adequate provision for increased numbers of commuters using the rail services in County Kildare, with particular reference to increasing the number and frequency of carriages and services to areas like Hazelhatch, Sallins and Newbridge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30458/23]

\*192. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which it still remains possible to extend the DART beyond Kilcock, County Kildare, to serve an increasingly populous catchment area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30459/23]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which it might be possible to provide an appropriate bus/taxi service for older people throughout north Kildare who may not be sufficiently ambulant to avail of public transport or their own private transport, with particular reference to shopping; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30460/23]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent, if any, to which research is being done to identify any shortcomings and provide for future transport needs of current or future commuters across north Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30461/23]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an indicative timeline for the electrification of the Maynooth rail line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30462/23]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which adequate provision continues to be made for the minor roads throughout County Kildare currently experiencing increased traffic volumes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30463/23]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he continues to ensure that the appropriate roads throughout North Kildare continue attract sufficient levels of investment by way of whatever schemes are available such as LIS or direct funding from his Department or other Government Departments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30464/23]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason a mobility scooter will not be accepted on the Enniscrone to Ballina and Enniscrone to Sligo Bus Éireann bus routes; and if an assessment will be carried out on this scooter, as has been requested, as a matter of urgency. — Marian Harkin. [30020/23]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Transport for a definitive reason for the exclusion of the Maugheraboy stop on the new No. 981 bus route from Coolaney, to St. Angela's College in Sligo, given that this stop was referred to in all press releases when the route was announced; and when this stop will be included in the route. — Marian Harkin. [30022/23]

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

\*200. To ask the Minister for Finance to reintroduce tax relief for first-time mortgage holders in light of the increasing interest rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [30098/23]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Finance the date he will be publishing the terms of reference for his review of Section 110 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997; the work he has undertaken to date with respect to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29025/23]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans for the additional regulation of fintech companies providing banking services and holding an Irish banking licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [29294/23]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Finance the total spend on consulting services and on 'business-as-usual' outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30259/23]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 195 of 20 April and 381 of 13 June 2023, if he will explain the discrepancy between the figure provided for CBI spend on consultant services in 2022; if he will provide details of the companies and purpose of the contracts with the CBI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30278/23]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 195 of 20 April and 381 of 13 June 2023, if he will explain the discrepancy between the figure provided for NTMA spend on consultant services in 2022; if he will provide details on the companies and purpose of the contracts with the NTMA; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30279/23]

\*206. To ask the Minister for Finance the breakdown of the ‘business as usual’ outsourcing cost of the Central Bank of Ireland, including companies and purpose of contract, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30280/23]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Finance the steps that are being taken domestically and at EU level, to ensure that public access to the Register of Beneficial is restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [30313/23]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Finance the reasons the Government plans to transpose the Credit Servicers Directive by Statutory Instrument, and not primary legislation; if the Government is making efforts to have the trading of mortgages explicitly excluded from the terms of the Directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30397/23]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Finance his views, based on the experience of the EWSS, on the need to embed a modernised short-time work scheme modelled on the successful German Kurzarbeit scheme, especially in light of the threat of 650 layoffs at the Tara Mines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30398/23]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is considering providing any assistance to mortgage-holders impacted by the series of interest rate increases from the ECB over the past twelve months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30399/23]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Finance if he intends to introduce a tax credit for unscripted content; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30424/23]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Finance the changes that the OECD Pillar Two will have on Ireland’s R&D tax credit; whether certain corporations will end up receiving less of a credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30425/23]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Finance if he intends to increase the R&D tax credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30426/23]

\*214. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the proposed digital euro; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30427/23]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which provision continues to be made to ensure adequate safety measures to safeguard the fundamentals of the economy in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30443/23]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he and his Department continue to maintain the competitiveness of the economy in the context of European and international markets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30445/23]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he and his Department have identified that extent to which unforeseen budgetary surpluses need to be set against Government



borrowing in order to ensure adequate provision for the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30446/23]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which savings in the various financial institutions have fluctuated over the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30447/23]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor the levels of bank charges being imposed by various banks; the basis for such charges, nationally and internationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30448/23]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he remains satisfied that this country remains a competitive economy and attractive to indigenous investors and foreign direct investors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30449/23]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Finance how Ireland's economic performance currently compares with other EU countries in the Eurozone or outside; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30450/23]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which this country remains in a safe position in terms of borrowing to meet the current international crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30451/23]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent, if any, to which investment funds are currently funding the house building markets at higher-than-average interest rates; whether this market should be filled by the Irish pillar banks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30452/23]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which he remains satisfied that cash remains readily available to customers through the banks via ATMs or other means; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30453/23]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Finance if the role of the banks in this jurisdiction is being replaced by investments funds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30454/23]

*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.*

\*226. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the extent to which he continues to ensure adequate and prudent public and current spending policies in the future with an adequate balance between capital and current spending while at the same time ensuring that a meaningful reserve is maintained to meet emergency calls; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30444/23]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform when works can be carried out at Ross Castle, Killarney (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30229/23]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform how a person offered employment in the civil service can apply to have a determination made as to whether they are entitled to incremental salary credit for their existing public service; if they must give up their existing employment in order to have a such determination made; the rules governing the awarding of such incremental salary credit the review or appeal processes that are open to a person unhappy with an opening determination made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [30230/23]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30264/23]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if consideration will be given to permitting those who retired early from the public service or State agencies to take up employment again in the public service or State agencies without losing their current public service or State agency pension; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30292/23]

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

\*231. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current status of the advanced manufacturing facility committed by IDA for Marlinstown, Mullingar. — Robert Troy. [30233/23]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30257/23]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the expected timeline for the transposition of EU Directive 2022/2941 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union; the status of the preparation to date for the transposition of the directive; the steps required for full transposition of the directive, and in particular the provisions relating to collective bargaining; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30276/23]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to outline Ireland’s position in respect of the European Union’s Artificial Intelligence Act; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30419/23]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to outline the Irish Government’s main priorities for its upcoming presidency of the D9+ Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30421/23]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on Ireland’s place as a leader in Europe’s digital policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30422/23]



\*237. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the EU Chips Act; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30423/23]

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

\*238. To ask the Minister for Education what funding has been allocated for ICT grants for schools on an annual basis from 2011 to date, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [30238/23]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Education the amount of funding that was originally allocated for the ICT grant for the 2023-2024 school term; the specific reason that it has been stopped; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [30239/23]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Education the total spend on consulting services and on 'business-as-usual' outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of her Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30256/23]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an overview of the objectives and scope of the Pilot Programme of Counselling Supports in Primary Schools (details supplied); how many primary schools will be selected to participate in the pilot; the criteria that will be used for their selection; the specific supports and resources that will be provided to the schools taking part in the pilot; if there will be any specialised training or professional development opportunities offered to school staff to enhance their ability to identify and address students' mental health needs effectively; the measures that will be put in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot programme; if she will review correspondence from a concerned primary school principal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [30277/23]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Education if she will assist a case (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [30286/23]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on a school building project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [30311/23]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the progress made regarding the timely delivery of modular units before the start of the upcoming academic year for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30395/23]

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

\*245. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the total spend on consulting services and on 'business-as-usual' outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of her Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30268/23]

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

\*246. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30262/23]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the 20 local authority housing units approved for construction in a location (details supplied) in May 2015 have finished construction; if so, their completion date; the final number of units delivered; the total cost of the project; if the development was officially opened by a Minister; if so, when that happened; if not, the reasons for the project not proceeding; the current status of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30270/23]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the AHB housing unit approved for construction in a location (details supplied) in January 2016 has finished construction; if so, its completion date; the total cost of the project; if the development was officially opened by a Minister; if so, when that happened; if not, the reasons for the project not proceeding; the current status of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30271/23]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the ten AHB housing units approved for construction in a location (details supplied) in January 2016 have finished construction; if so, their completion date; the final number of units delivered; the total cost of the project; if the development was officially opened by a Minister; if so, when that happened; if not, the reasons for the project not proceeding; the current status of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30272/23]

\*250. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the seven AHB housing units approved for construction in a location (details supplied) in January 2016 have finished construction; if so, their completion date; the final number of units delivered; the total cost of the project; if the development was officially opened by a Minister; if so, when that happened; if not, the reasons for the project not proceeding; the current status of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30273/23]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the 24 local authority housing units approved for construction in a location (details supplied) in January 2016 have finished construction; if so, their completion date; the final number of units delivered; the total cost of the project; if the development was officially opened by a Minister; if so, when that happened; if not, the reasons for the project not proceeding; the current status of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30274/23]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the 12 local authority housing units approved for construction in a location (details supplied) in January 2016 have finished construction; if so, their completion date; the final number of units delivered; the total cost of the project; if the development was officially opened by a Minister; if so, when that happened; if not, the reasons for the project not proceeding; the current status of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [30275/23]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the Government will publish its comprehensive response to the Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [30288/23]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if consideration will be given by his Department to engaging with Uisce Éireann with a view to reducing the cost of connection charges for first-time purchasers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30291/23]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason a person living in voluntary housing, having been on the local authority housing list and been nominated by the local authority for voluntary housing originally, cannot apply to and get on the council transfer list if their circumstances change; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30308/23]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how a vacant property is defined under the vacant property refurbishment scheme; if a stand-alone chalet at the rear of another dwelling house qualifies under the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [30321/23]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update on the enhanced defective concrete block redress scheme. — Alan Dillon. [30323/23]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline what supports, financial or otherwise, are available for a person with a disability elected to a local authority, either by his Department or the local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30383/23]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the timeline for delivery of the URDF project in Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [30394/23]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if all board members have been appointed to MARA; if so, the full list of members; the name of the new CEO; how many board meetings have been held; the dates and locations of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [30401/23]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he expects the enhanced grant scheme for the remediation of dwellings damaged by the use of defective concrete blocks in County Clare to open; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30402/23]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide additional resources to a local authority (details supplied) to assist the public in completing applications under a scheme; if so, what those resources will be; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30403/23]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on when the remediation scheme will be introduced for homeowners impacted by defective properties; if he will be introducing an interim scheme to allow homeowners to cover costs of remedial works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [30408/23]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to change the requirement for those seeking a postal vote due to medical or disability grounds, to have their application form certified by a medical practitioner, as this is costing €60 to €70 (details supplied). — Brian Stanley. [30479/23]

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

\*265. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the pathway for a parent to claim an increase for a qualified child on a payment after being awarded primary custody of the child but when the other parent refuses to relinquish their payment and continues to claim for them despite no longer being the primary caregiver; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [30237/23]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of her Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30266/23]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will examine a case (details supplied). — Réada Cronin. [30316/23]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a respite carer’s grant will be made available to a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30466/23]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress to date in respect of an appeal for a carer’s allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30467/23]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the grounds upon which a payment for disability allowance has ceased in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30468/23]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the grounds upon which an application for a top-up of the State pension was refused in the case of a person (details supplied) has been refused; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30469/23]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if recently attributed home carer credits will entitle a person (details supplied) to a top-up on their State pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30470/23]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an application for disability allowance will be reviewed as a matter of urgency in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30471/23]

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

\*274. To ask the Minister for Justice for an update on the public consultation on spent convictions launched by her Department in October 2020; if there will be a report issued; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30235/23]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason there was a net reduction in with respect to the number of refuge spaces available in County Louth from 15 in Q3 2022 to 13 in Q2 2023, the only net reduction of spaces in the country; how this will be addressed through the provision of additional spaces in the near future; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [30240/23]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Justice the total spend on consulting services and on 'business-as-usual' outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of her Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30263/23]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Justice if a family reunification application by a person (details supplied) will be prioritised; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30281/23]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Justice if it is intended for the new Section 16 Irish associations comprehensive guidelines to retrospectively apply to applications that predate it; if decisions on such applications are currently on hold until the development and publication process has been concluded; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [30301/23]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will outline the circumstances in which waivers are sanctioned in naturalisation applications; if she will confirm the naturalisation application process; if she will outline the criteria to meet eligibility; if she will outline the current timeframes for processing applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [30410/23]

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

\*280. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total spend on consulting services and on 'business-as-usual' outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30254/23]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will set out in detail the evaluation criteria that is used for the decision-making process for the granting of tree planting licences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30294/23]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if under the New Forestry Programme 2023-2027, it is intended to maintain the heathlands that emerged following the deforestation of our ancient woodlands or native woodland re-establishment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30295/23]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what economic measures, other than the Jim Power Report (2021), he employed when deciding on the level of funding to be given to the Irish greyhound racing industry from the Exchequer in Budget 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30416/23]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the Irish Coursing Club has received any reports in the past five years of non-coursing greyhounds presented for

microchipping/earmarking being older than the specified age of 12 weeks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30417/23]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he shares the concerns of many people that non-coursing greyhounds are being microchipped/earmarked at a much later age than that of the specified age of 12 weeks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30418/23]

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

\*286. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the rationale for the two years and eight months entry age for the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme; and if flexibility might be considered in cases where a child is marginally under the entry age. — Eoin Ó Broin. [30247/23]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the successful applicants from child care facilities for the blocks grant strand B, by company name and geographical area, that is, either country or Dublin postal code, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [30252/23]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30255/23]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures her Department will take to ensure that greater funding is provided for parents under the national childcare scheme to reduce the cost of childcare along with greater availability of full-time places in childcare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [30287/23]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when he will publish the study commissioned by his Department to evaluate the processes for implementation of three equality strategies, the National Strategy for Women and Girls as well as the Migrant Integration Strategy and the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy due to be completed early in 2023. — Mary Lou McDonald. [30317/23]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when a person (details supplied) will receive a decision on an application for increased and consistent respite services. — Eoin Ó Broin. [30318/23]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will liaise directly with a person in respect of an inspection (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [30414/23]

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

\*293. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the current pharmacy fee structure review as part of the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017; when the review is due to be



published; when he will communicate with an organisation (details supplied) on this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [30195/23]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the recruitment campaign for a day centre (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [30228/23]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30231/23]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Health the money spent, broken down by category, in each of the years 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form, on the review into the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [30243/23]

\*297. To ask the Minister for Health the status of braces for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30245/23]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Health on behalf of a person (details supplied) the reason an employee is told they are not entitled to the pandemic bonus payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30246/23]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Health if it is possible for a person (details supplied) to submit an application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [30253/23]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Health the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30261/23]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Health if an appointment for a person (details supplied) will be expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [30284/23]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Health if urgent consideration will be given to the concerns of a national organisation (details supplied) regarding the proposed reduction in the existing level of services; if he will ensure that adequate services are provided for this region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [30285/23]

\*303. To ask the Minister for Health when a HSE settlement discussion will be put in place for a person (details supplied) and/or a hearing date to be set for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [30298/23]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Health if a tender was published for the commissioning of the report of the Public Consultation Relating to the Review of the (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2015; how a company (details supplied) was selected for the position; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [30299/23]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Health when the new digital healthcare framework will be published; the current status of the roll-out of the electronic health record system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30306/23]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on efforts by officials to restore the supply of basic medications as listed by the HPRA; if he will consider reviewing regulations to allow Irish pharmacists substitute prescribed items and/or Irish residents access the online services of UK or EU-based pharmacies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [30310/23]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Health whether he intends extending the existing private hospital claims cover for compensation claims over €1.3 million to outpatient clinics providing private health services in order to reduce the hospital waiting lists for such services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30314/23]

\*308. 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. [30320/23]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Health if there are any plans to provide specialised Parkinson nurse specialists into the communities to work alongside community nurses. — Peter Burke. [30322/23]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the total capital spend at each level 4 hospital from 2016 to 2022, broken down by year and by hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30325/23]

\*311. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all capital projects to be either partially or fully funded by the HSE for primary, community and acute health services for Waterford into the future as in plans submitted; what stage the project is at; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30326/23]

\*312. To ask the Minister for Health if financial assistance can be given to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30327/23]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing homes operating in this State, broken down by publicly run HSE facilities, community nursing units, not for profit organisations and by private providers, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30328/23]

\*314. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing homes operating in this State as of 1 May 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, broken down by publicly run HSE facilities, community nursing units, not for profit organisations and by private providers, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30329/23]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Health the number of registered nursing home beds in this State in 2019 and to date, further broken down by categories, publicly run HSE facilities, community nursing units, not for profit organisations and by private providers, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30330/23]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of increasing NTPF funding to private nursing homes under the fair deal and nursing home support scheme by 10%, by 20% and by 30%, excluding any increase in contributions by residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30331/23]



\*317. To ask the Minister for Health how many workers who are eligible for the pandemic payment are still waiting to receive payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [30332/23]

\*318. To ask the Minister for Health when catering and cleaning staff in a facility (details supplied) will be paid their pandemic payment. — Duncan Smith. [30333/23]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated completion date and cost estimate for the National Children's Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30334/23]

\*320. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all meetings attended by him in 2022 and 2023 relating to the NCH, to list each meeting, the location and the date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30335/23]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all meetings attended by assistant secretary responsible for health infrastructure in his Department in 2022 and 2023 relating to the NCH, to list each meeting, the location and the date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30336/23]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Health the number of design changes made to the National Children's Hospital since the original design; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30337/23]

\*323. To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm if talks on settling claims arising from the NCH between the contractor and a company (details supplied) ended without agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30338/23]

\*324. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of works carried out by a company (details supplied) for the NPHDB; the cost of such works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30339/23]

\*325. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of works carried out by a company (details supplied) for CHI on the NCH; the cost of such works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30340/23]

\*326. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of the works carried out by a company (details supplied) regarding the NCH; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30341/23]

\*327. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of change orders given to a company (details supplied) regarding the NCH; to outline the nature of the change order, where the instruction came from, the date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30342/23]

\*328. To ask the Minister for Health if any element of the NCH was found not to be in compliance with HTM standards; if so, the nature of the failure in standards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30343/23]

\*329. To ask the Minister for Health to outline how many directions were issued to BAM under Clause 4.4.1 -1(a); the nature of the direction; the date the direction was issued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30344/23]

\*330. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of the work carried out by architects (details supplied) regarding the NCH; the cost of such works to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30345/23]

\*331. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of the work carried out by HAON re the NCH; the cost of such works to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30346/23]

\*332. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of the work carried out by Mercury re the NCH; the cost of such works to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30347/23]

\*333. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the nature of the work carried out by a company (details supplied) re the NCH; the cost of such works to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30348/23]

\*334. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the details of any correspondence between a company (details supplied) and BAM representatives in December 2022; the nature of the correspondence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30349/23]

\*335. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of meetings held by the NPHDP from 2022 to date; the time and location of such meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30350/23]

\*336. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of meetings of the Design Sub Committee (DSC) of the NPHDP from 2021 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30351/23]

\*337. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of meetings of the Design Sub Committee (DSC) of the NPHDP where reports from STS were discussed; the time, date and location of such meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30352/23]

\*338. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of meetings of the Design Sub Committee (DSC) of the NPHDP where directions issued to BAM under Clause 4.4.1 -1(a) were discussed; the time, date and location of such meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30353/23]

\*339. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of claims made by BAM on behalf of other contractors employed by the Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30354/23]

\*340. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the current estimated Capital Investment Requirement for the NPH Project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30355/23]

\*341. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the current cost savings not achieved regarding the NCH; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30356/23]

\*342. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the current design team fees for the NCH, to further outline who the fees are payable to; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30357/23]

\*343. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of design engineers employed or contracted for the NCH; the names of the design engineers as in the company; the amount paid to date to each company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30358/23]

\*344. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all conditions attached to the guaranteed maximum price agreed between the NPHDB and BAM; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30359/23]

\*345. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of quantity surveyors employed or contracted for the NCH; the names of the companies involved; the amount paid to date to each company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30360/23]

\*346. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all costs as a consequence of underestimation re the NCH; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30361/23]

\*347. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all provisional sums made re the NCH; the total provisional sum amount, broken down individually; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30362/23]

\*348. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of claims made re the NCH that relate to schedule adherence or slippage against the agreed schedule; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30363/23]

\*349. To ask the Minister for Health to outline if a Project Assurance Strategy exists re the NCH, when it was put in place; the scope of the strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30364/23]

\*350. To ask the Minister for Health to outline any review made regarding the scope and responsibilities of the advisory firms that constitute the Design Team of the NCH; the nature of the reviews; the dates the reviews were made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30365/23]

\*351. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the full revenue and capital cost of the last community nursing unit built and completed; the date it was opened, the number of beds, the number of staff employed in the unit; the length of time it took from design to completion; the revenue and capital funding allocated each year to the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30366/23]

\*352. To ask the Minister for Health the average weekly cost of contracting a community step down or recovery bed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30367/23]

\*353. To ask the Minister for Health the different types of community beds contracted by the HSE, broken down by bed type, the number of beds contracted by bed type, the average weekly cost by type, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30368/23]

\*354. To ask the Minister for Health if he is considering a centralised referral system for patients referred into acute hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30369/23]

\*355. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with scoliosis waiting for surgery on 1 May 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30370/23]

\*356. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with spina bifida waiting for surgery on 1 May 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30371/23]

\*357. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider hiring directly employed GPs, the work that has been carried out in his Department to progress this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30372/23]

\*358. To ask the Minister for Health the number of salaries or directly hired GPs working for the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30373/23]

\*359. To ask the Minister for Health the number of salaried or directly hired GPs hired by the HSE from 2014 to date, broken down by year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30374/23]

\*360. To ask the Minister for Health to outline what additional funds were made available to GPs in Budget 2023 to assist in delivering additional GP-only cards; how that money was spent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30375/23]

\*361. To ask the Minister for Health when the promised extension of GP-only cards, as announced in Budget 2023, will be delivered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30376/23]

\*362. To ask the Minister for Health to outline any cost-saving measures identified in health in Budgets 2016 to date; the amount of money saved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30377/23]

\*363. To ask the Minister for Health to outline all secondary non-health benefits associated with having a full medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30378/23]

\*364. To ask the Minister for Health to outline, in tabular form, the cost of increasing funding to the NTPF to ensure a 10%, 20% and 30% increase in the fair deal and nursing home support scheme above current funding, broken down by public, private and voluntary providers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30379/23]

\*365. To ask the Minister for Health to outline how the pricing mechanism works to determine the fair deal rate for nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30380/23]

\*366. To ask the Minister for Health to outline, in tabular form, the average weekly cost of care in HSE nursing homes; the average weekly cost of care in private/voluntary nursing homes; the percentage differential between the average weekly cost of public vs private/voluntary fee, and further broken down by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30381/23]

\*367. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the number of public, private or voluntary nursing homes that have closed since 2016; the number of beds per home lost, and further broken down by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30382/23]

\*368. To ask the Minister for Health who is responsible for tracking availability of medicines, issuing warnings if there are shortages and monitoring of supply of medicines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30384/23]

\*369. To ask the Minister for Health who reports to him regarding medicine shortages; what reports of shortages he received in 2022 and to date in 2023; to outline the nature and date of the reporting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30385/23]

\*370. To ask the Minister for Health if he is considering the introduction of a serious shortage protocol regarding medicine supply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30386/23]

\*371. To ask the Minister for Health if he is considering increasing fees for pharmacists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30387/23]

\*372. To ask the Minister for Health if he is considering a new contract for optometrists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30388/23]

\*373. To ask the Minister for Health if he will develop a population-wide strategy for ear and hearing care in the Irish population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30389/23]

\*374. To ask the Minister for Health in tabular form, the capital funding allocated to each level 3 and level 4 hospital from 2016 to date, broken down by year, by hospital, and by hospital group; if he will itemise each capital allocation provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30390/23]

\*375. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the changes that have been introduced to speed up delivery of capital projects in health care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30391/23]

\*376. To ask the Minister for Health to provide, in tabular form, the amounts spent by the HSE and or each individual hospital and his Department and management consultancy for the years 2016 to date, by year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30392/23]

\*377. To ask the Minister for Health to outline, in tabular form, all health strategies in place; the total funding provided to each strategy from 2016 to date, broken down by each strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [30393/23]

\*378. To ask the Minister for Health if the prescribing of a drug (details supplied) is correct practice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30400/23]

\*379. To ask the Minister for Health the vacancies that currently need to be filled in a hospital (details supplied), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30404/23]

\*380. To ask the Minister for Health the vacancies that currently need to be filled in a hospital (details supplied), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30405/23]

\*381. To ask the Minister for Health the GPs in County Clare currently engaged in the general medical services scheme, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30406/23]

\*382. To ask the Minister for Health the practices in County Clare that are in receipt of a grant (details supplied), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [30407/23]

\*383. To ask the Minister for Health what plans he has to end geographical inequality in children's eye care across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [30409/23]

\*384. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the end of a national HSE contract (details supplied); the efforts he is making to ensure that there is no reduction in service for the counties impacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [30411/23]

\*385. To ask the Minister for Health how much of the allocated Budget for reimbursement of medicines has been spent to date since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30428/23]

\*386. To ask the Minister for Health if a new liaison person within his Department has been appointed to oversee implementation of the National Rare Disease Plan; if a review conducted by the former liaison person will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30429/23]

\*387. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the ARDCI Rare Disease Pledge; whether he agrees with each of its recommendations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30430/23]

\*388. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline Ireland's national position in respect of the European Commission's proposed Pharmaceutical Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30431/23]

\*389. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the expected legislative timeline of the Public Health (Nicotine & Inhaling Products) Bill 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [30432/23]

\*390. To ask the Minister for Health to address the long waiting lists for orthodontic treatment in Westmeath. — Robert Troy. [30442/23]

\*391. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which he can assist the mother of a person (details supplied) who is psychotic and requires urgent residential care; if arrangements can be urgently made to such care is provided as a matter of priority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [30465/23]

\*392. To ask the Minister for Health if he will establish a national referral pathway for children with scoliosis; if he will issue information to GPs outlining the service options for children with scoliosis such as one (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [30480/23]

\*393. To ask the Minister for Health his response to the recently implemented programme to improve the offering and safety for those who required a texture modified meal in a hospital (details supplied); if he is examining the potential for this programme to be rolled out to other hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30483/23]

\*394. To ask the Minister for Health his views on maternity hospitals permitting visits by siblings to see new-born children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30484/23]

\*395. To ask the Minister for Health if he will expedite an appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [30485/23]

\*396. To ask the Minister for Health when the new increased income threshold for GP-only cards will come into effect; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [30488/23]

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

\*397. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of his Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30260/23]

\*398. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will introduce a Ministerial Order that will recognise the new generation apprenticeships that are, and will, progress from the construction skills certification scheme model to the more advanced apprenticeship model, in light of the possible solution identified in the answer provided to Parliamentary Question No. 296 of 25 May 2023 now not being viable (details supplied). — Ged Nash. [30412/23]

\*399. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the position regarding the Departmental review of PHDs; if he will provide a timeline for its publication; if his attention has been drawn to recent concerns raised by an organisation



(details supplied) regarding the process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [30413/23]

\*400. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to provide PhDs classified as non-EU with updated residency visas with a four-year duration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30473/23]

\*401. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure that PhD researchers have access to PRSI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30474/23]

\*402. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure that PhD researchers have access to sick leave and/or parental leave; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30475/23]

\*403. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure that PhD researchers have access to the Workplace Relations Commission in order to resolve disputes with their university; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30476/23]

\*404. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to establish minimum standards for the provision of funding for PhD researchers in Ireland, including minimum standards of pay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30477/23]

\*405. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the consideration he has given to resolve the matter of employee status for PhD researchers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [30478/23]

\*406. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if those PhDs classified as non-EU will be provided with updated residency visas with a four-year duration, similar to the hosting agreement scheme used for attracting non-EU research talent; if PhD researchers will be given access to the PRSI system; if he will mandate that PhD researchers have access to sick leave and/or parental leave; if PhD researchers will to have access to the Workplace Relations Commission in order to resolve disputes with their university; his plans on establishing minimum standards for the provision of funding for PhD researchers in Ireland, including minimum standards of pay (such as the national minimum wage) and the employee status for PhDs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30481/23]

\*407. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the funding options available to Irish students pursuing degree programmes in other jurisdictions when there is no comparable course available in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [30482/23]

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

\*408. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total spend on consulting services and on ‘business-as-usual’ outsourcing, as differentiated under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 for each commercial public body under the aegis of her Department for 2022. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [30265/23]



\*409. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will list the dates of meetings of the reconstituted mobile phone and broadband taskforce; the progress to date in overcoming barriers to the deployment of 100% population 5G coverage by 2030; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [30303/23]

\*410. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when a decision will be made on an application by a group (details supplied) to participate in the Community Services Programme; the reason for the delay with the decision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [30319/23]