



# DÁIL ÉIREANN

*Déardaoin, 5 Deireadh Fómhair, 2023*

*Thursday, 5th October, 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 road safety measures being considered and implemented, including a reduction in speed limits. — Martin Kenny. [43058/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Transport if he supports the proposal by a group (details supplied) to abolish the M50 and East Link tolls so as to incentivise motorists not to pass through the city centre, thereby reducing congestion and air pollution and facilitating public transport and active travel in the city centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43386/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the funding structure for TII projects; how funding is drawn down; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [43059/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the negative affect the increase in the number of suburban DART services on the Intercity services from Belfast/Dundalk/Drogheda (such as the Enterprise) during peak times; the ticket checking processes that occurs to prevent dangerous overcrowding at peak times (details supplied); if he has plans to increase the number of tracks from 2 to 4 on the Malahide to Connolly stretch of the line, similar to the improvement that has already been carried out on the Cork line from Heuston to Hazelhatch; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [43236/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on any engagement he or his officials have had with stakeholders in relation to the A5/N2 upgrade plans. — Martin Kenny. [43065/23]

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

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

6. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans there are for improved bike security measures, turning points for buses, electric vehicle charging points, and car parking measures at Portmarnock train station; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [42897/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on running a national communications campaign to address driving to, and engine idling at, school gates, to help improve education and

awareness of the need for safe roads and clean air for children and to support the rollout of the green schools: 'safe routes to school' programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [41927/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to enhance the impact of the work of smarter travel workplaces and campus programmes in relation to workplaces located in business parks on the outskirts of towns and cities where the planning and design of the parks have resulted in over-reliance on the private car; whether he has considered the provision of electric shuttles and bike share schemes to assist with modal shift in these locations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [41928/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which it might be possible to ensure the availability of extra carriages to meet commuter demands affecting the towns of Kilcock, Maynooth, Leixlip, Confey and Celbridge, Hazelhatch, Sallins and Newbridge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43077/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the N4 upgrade; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [43166/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is satisfied with discussions between the NTA and other agencies and a private developer in relation to privately developed transport infrastructure (details supplied). — Richard Bruton. [43050/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that the promised bus routes and improved services for students attending Blachardstown TU in Dublin 15 will be initiated before the promised 2025 deadline. — Paul Donnelly. [42831/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to accelerate delivery of active travel networks in order to provide appropriate infrastructure for persons with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43183/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Transport to intervene and arrange a meeting with the NTA with public representatives and a resident representation regarding the removal of several bus routes in Dublin (details supplied), as to date the NTA has refused to do so. — Joan Collins. [42970/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Transport if he supports the abolition of fees for park-and-ride facilities at outer public transport stops, such as the Red Cow and Cheeverstown, to incentivise greater use of public transport and reduce car dependency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43108/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the R312; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43082/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the development of Kishogue train station; when this can be expected to be completed; the additional cost to works caused by the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [43175/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the commitment in the Programme for Government to maintain the existing road network to a high standard and fund safety improvements; if he will ensure that much-needed additional funding will be provided for the non-national road network, taking into account the urgent requirement for additional investment

due to the very substantial increase in costs that have arisen over the past two years in road maintenance products and construction work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43113/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the situation whereby lifts in train stations across Dublin seem to be out of order on a regular basis, causing an issue for the elderly and people with disabilities; who has the maintenance contact; the frequency with which the lifts are serviced; when they were last upgraded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Donnelly. [42832/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to reduce air pollution from traffic in order to comply with World Health Organisation limits; his views on the recent research finding (details supplied) that almost everyone in Ireland is breathing dangerously polluted air; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43109/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he will make further resources available to the NTA to ensure that it can provide capacity along rural routes to ensure that passengers are not regularly left stranded at bus pick-up points because buses are full; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [42785/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Transport the efforts he is making to improve the 109 and 109A bus services in County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42983/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the mechanisms available to a resident in north Louth (details supplied) whose home has sustained over €50,000 worth of damage following three serious road traffic accidents on the road in the past six months, including one fatal accident; when Louth County Council will install a crash barrier or other traffic mitigation measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [43040/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a detailed update on a road project (detail supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [43093/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the southern relief road in Carlow. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43010/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline if he is satisfied with the public consultation aspect of active travel projects supported by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [42891/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that a portion of the Luas line, which is expected to extend into Finglas, has not been included in the National Development Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [43066/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Transport what engagement he has had with TFI and bus service providers in North County Dublin regarding the regular occurrence of buses not turning up, and thus leaving commuters with no service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [42895/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he is aware that there are bus routes on the rural link services where bus stops are up to 14km apart, thus rendering them unsuitable for use by people living in dispersed rural communities; if he is aware of the issue, the steps he has taken to ensure in dialogue with the NTA that all rural dwellers have access to these services along the routes they travel on, similar to the basis that Bus Éireann provides pick-up for passengers along rural routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [42784/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will allocate funding for building the Metro West Liffey bridge, ahead of the construction of Metro West, in order to facilitate walking and cycling and a more direct W4 bus route from Dublin 15 to Tallaght (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43110/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that sufficient funding is allocated to allow the N2 Clontibret-to-the-Border and the N2 Ardee-to-Castleblayney bypass road schemes to progress to the next respective stages without further delay. — Matt Carthy. [43043/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Transport his engagement with the RSA regarding the danger of wild deer on our roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [43145/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Transport the total spent so far, as of September 2023, on the MetroLink project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [42893/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he will consider provision of a bus route to upper Glanmire, Glenville and other rural areas in Cork. — Thomas Gould. [43061/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 410 of 11 September 2023, for a status update on the rollout of park-and-ride in Galway city; for an update on the site location analysis; the expected timeline for the rollout of park-and-ride in the identified areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [42976/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are any plans to improve the Dublin to Sligo rail service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [43167/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans/strategies are being introduced to reduce waiting times in Cavan's driving test centre; if he is aware of the lengthy waiting times at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [41551/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of the fine applied to the NCT operator (details supplied) by the Road Safety Authority; if he will outline the timeline when this occurred; when his Department became aware of the fine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [43094/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on Shannon Airport permanently remaining part of the regional airports programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43155/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that Local Link services can accept school transport tickets when those services provide the most effective arrangements for pupils. — Matt Carthy. [43042/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Transport to make whatever arrangements are necessary to ensure that full Part 8 planning requirements are followed with regard to active travel schemes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [42892/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will allocate funding from the active travel budget to fund monitoring stations to determine air quality on streets undergoing active travel projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43182/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Transport what engagement he has had with the Dublin Airport Authority, Fingal County Council, the Irish Aviation Authority and residents of Fingal regarding the excessive aircraft noise over residential areas, as of September 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [42894/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide the details of the Local Link services currently available in County Cavan; if he will outline plans for additional routes or an expansion of this service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [41550/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the most industrious bus routes in Cork city and county are under resourced and unable to fulfil their obligations at peak times; the reason that schoolchildren are waiting up to two hours to get on a bus (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [42833/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Transport the up-to-date position regarding progressing the N86 Tralee to Dingle Road upgrade and the N22 Farranfore to Lisivigeen (Killarney bypass) projects in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43052/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Transport the action his Department is taking to progress the North Ring Road in Cork city; what level of funding will be allocated for the coming year, in view of the large volume of traffic which is now forced to travel through Mayfield, including traffic heading for the port facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43081/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to reduce fares in Budget 2024, in light of the cost of living and climate crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43106/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will allow the Mallow bypass to proceed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43057/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Transport if consideration is being given to designing a new grant for EVs in Budget 2024, bearing in mind the current grant will be reducing from €5,000 to €3,500 in July 2023; if further incentives are being considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [30142/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the need to introduce traffic signals at the junction of the Shanaway Road and N85 just outside of Ennis, as part of an overall solution to improve safety at this location and access for the communities nearby; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43051/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered increasing the off-peak frequency of the Luas to encourage greater use of public transport and reduce car dependency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43107/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the proposed changes by BusConnects for services that operate through Clondalkin, particularly the 13 and 68 bus services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [43176/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on plans to increase capacity on train lines serving Clondalkin, Hazelhatch and Adamstown; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [43039/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Transport if the National Transport Authority will consider a surrender grant for non-wheelchair taxi licence holders, so as to increase the overall supply of wheelchair taxis. — Paul McAuliffe. [43181/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is satisfied with the manner in which transport planning and road and transport infrastructures respond to the needs of fast-growing population areas, particularly around our cities. — Richard Bruton. [43049/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has undertaken a review of the availability of charging points for electric buses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [43067/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Northern Ring Road for Cork. — Thomas Gould. [43060/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to increase frequency on existing routes and expand the number of routes and reduce fares, in light of the climate and cost-of-living crises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43120/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Transport to devolve powers to local authorities to enable them to erect bus shelters as their councillors and engineers are best placed to decide on the safest and most appropriate location; and to change the current process whereby the funding is administered by the National Transport Authority. — Brian Stanley. [42411/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the implementation of a full W6 route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [43038/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are uniform guidelines or matrixes for local authorities on traffic management and calming measures and their implementation in housing estates; if not, if he plans to introduce them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [43041/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to resolve the ongoing problems with the 59 bus route and many other Go Ahead routes; his views on whether it is now time to reabsorb these routes back into the Dublin Bus network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43119/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Transport if he stands over the NTA's refusal to meet public representatives and residents in relation to a request from this Deputy to meet the NTA before



the NTA attempts to implement changes to bus services (details supplied). — Joan Collins. [42973/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to increase capacity on Irish trains. — Peadar Tóibín. [42632/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is a safety programme for the N80, given that numerous incidents have occurred on the road, including a fatal collision. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43011/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Transport the action his Department is taking to progress the Mallow relief road project; what level of funding will be allocated for the coming year, in view that €100,000 was allocated in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43080/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress, if any, to upgrade the N25 between Carrigtwohill and Youghal, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43069/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 247 of 25 July 2023, for a status update on the feasibility study on light rail in Galway; the expected timeline for the public consultation on the draft Galway metropolitan area transport strategy; the expected timeline for the completed updated strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [42977/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent, if any, to which the best possible traffic management can be brought into play to effectively manage traffic congestion on some workdays where there is an obvious need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43076/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on Intercity rail services between Westport and Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43083/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has undertaken any study to determine if car use on roads has been increasing or decreasing since he took office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [42633/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Transport what measures are being put in place to increase driving test capacity to address the long delays experienced by learner drivers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [43144/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Transport for a statement on what plans there are to increase the number of public charging points for electric vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [42896/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Transport if additional funding will be provided to Cavan and Monaghan local authorities for the non-national roadworks programme, taking into account the importance of this particular road network for both counties and the substantial increase in costs for road maintenance and construction over recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43114/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Transport the efforts he is making to improve the 103, 103X, 105 and 105X bus services in County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [42982/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Transport if consideration will be given to providing targeted grants for electric vehicles for workers in the home care sector in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43173/23]

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

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

78. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce temporary and targeted mortgage interest relief to support struggling households with rising mortgage costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [43390/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is concerned at the low numbers who pay the domicile levy; if he plans to reform the levy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43387/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Finance if he or his Department are considering tax measures to support households with the rising cost of home heating oil; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [43391/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of vacant properties upon which the vacant homes tax will be levied; the source of this calculation; his plans, if any, to expand the cohort of liable properties; the expected revenue from this new tax; the steps the Revenue Commissioners will take in the event of a non-payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43388/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Finance his Department's position on the European Commission's 'own resource' proposal based on company profits; the estimated additional contribution the proposal would require on annual basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [43392/23]

## **CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

83. To ask the Minister for Finance to confirm that consideration would be given to increasing the small gift exemption for capital acquisitions tax from €3,000 to €5,000 from each person per year, due to the increase in the cost of living; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43079/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Finance his views, and the Department's analysis, of the capacity and number of borrowers eligible to switch from lenders to the mainstream mortgage market under the recently published eligibility criteria published by the Banking and Payments Federation and retail banking sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [43138/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Retail Banking Review. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [43179/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Finance what his engagement to date has been with the Central Bank of Ireland and the Irish banking sector to increase the availability of long-term, fixed-rate mortgages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [43146/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount taken in by the Government in fuel tax in each of the past ten years and to date in 2023, by fuel type, and in monetary value. — Peadar Tóibín. [42634/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount the State has taken in for tax receipts for income tax, corporation tax and VAT to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43078/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the progress being made on the funds review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [43169/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will be bringing forward any new tax measures to support indigenous businesses looking to develop export markets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [43165/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 137 of 22 June 2023, the status of the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; the details of any engagement between his Department and the National Rehabilitation Hospital with regard to resolving issues which led to the withdrawal of its services in February 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [42980/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on corporation tax receipts to for the first three quarters of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [42878/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of businesses in Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal that successfully applied for inclusion under the temporary business energy support scheme, in tabular form; the estimated value or worth of the support in each county; if he has plans for any other similar scheme in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [42870/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reduce the taxes applied to building activity and materials in respect of residential construction to reduce the cost of building a dwelling; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43056/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of individuals who have benefitted from the help-to-buy scheme in County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43084/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Finance to report on any work his Department has undertaken to advance the recommendations contained in the Commission on Taxation and Welfare’s report on capital taxes; if he agrees that the balance between income and capital taxes needs to change; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43053/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Finance what his engagement to date has been with the Central Bank of Ireland and the Irish banking sector about the interest rates available to lending and savings customers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [43147/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update of the number of people in Dublin that are currently availing of the rent tax credit, in tabular form; if he has plans for any changes to the credit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [42863/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has any plans to amend the VAT treatment of the hiring of means of transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [43164/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 55 of 9 May 2023, his plans for the phasing out of the help-to-buy scheme; the details of any planned changes to the criteria of the scheme in the interim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [42981/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will extend the bike-to-work scheme to those who are self-employed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43085/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department has engaged with the NTMA regarding the ISIF investments in companies that are listed on the UN Human Rights Council Database of business enterprises involved in certain activities related to the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, published by the UN Human Rights Council in February 2020, A/HRC/43/71; if so, the outcome of any such engagements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [43045/23]

103. 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. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43154/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on Revenue's work on the implementation of a vacant homes tax. — Thomas Gould. [43070/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department has undertaken any study to determine the merit of a public banking system. — Peadar Tóibín. [42635/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Finance the total USC income collected by the State for each year since its introduction; if he will provide a breakdown, per annum, of the rates and amounts collected in each rate category; if he will provide details of the percentage of overall income tax collected that the USC has represented each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43055/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Finance if, with respect to Annex III of the Reduced VAT Rates Directive (details supplied), his Department is considering the potential implications on lowering the VAT rate applied to newspapers and periodicals either on physical means of support or supplied electronically; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [42189/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of people in Cork and Kerry that are currently availing of the rent tax credit, in tabular form; if he has plans for any changes to the credit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [42865/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on whether tax policy can play a more active role in incentivising climate action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [43048/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the outlook for job creation in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [31675/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Finance if, in Budget 2024, all insulation products, for example, solar panels, attic insulation, wall insulation and foam insulation, will be VAT-free, thus enabling those on low incomes the opportunity to insulate their homes. — Michael Collins. [42056/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the operation of the defective concrete products levy, its application to precast concrete products and autoclave aerated concrete, its impact on residential construction costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [43135/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of businesses in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, and Wexford that successfully applied for inclusion under the temporary business energy support scheme, in tabular form; the estimated value or worth of the support in each county; if he has plans for any other similar scheme in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43188/23]

114. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of businesses in Cork and Kerry that successfully applied for inclusion under the temporary business energy support scheme, in tabular form; the estimated value or worth of the support in each county; if he has plans for any other similar scheme in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [42864/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Finance regarding revenue duty and charges levied on motor dealers, traders, and registered vehicle importers during and after the Brexit period; as the Minister is aware Revenue demands specific documentation before granting clearance and releasing vehicles to their owners; if he is aware that Revenue is currently re-evaluating the duty and charges applied to vehicles imported into Ireland from the UK over the past three years; if he is also aware that Revenue is now imposing an additional 10% fee on these vehicles; the reason why Revenue introduced new guidelines and altered the requirements; if he concurs that the imposition of this additional 10% levy appears unjust, especially considering that motor dealers, traders, and registered vehicle importers had diligently adhered to Revenue's requirements at the time of import; furthermore, if he could explain the removal of the 2020/21 guidelines for compliance that were initially provided to motor dealers, traders, and registered vehicle importers on the Revenue website; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [42886/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the review of national payments strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43131/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of people in Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal that are currently availing of the rent tax credit, in tabular form; if he has plans for any changes to the credit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [42871/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will introduce a scheme to help people unable to obtain a mortgage due to unfortunate medical history; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [42850/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Finance for a report on the operation of the living city initiative; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43129/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Finance what the Government’s priorities are in respect of insurance competition work and reform of the insurance market for the remainder of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairi Ó Murchú. [42888/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Finance his views, and his Department’s analysis, of the recent departure of companies from Euronext Dublin; the causes of these departures and potential policy measures to support the Irish stock exchange; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [43139/23]

122. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the operation of the vacant homes tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43130/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has any plans with regard to the application of VAT to returns under the deposit return scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [43168/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of people in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary that are currently availing of the rent tax credit, in tabular form; if he has plans for any changes to the credit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [42867/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an overview of the trends in corporation tax receipts in the recent past. — John Lahart. [42890/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Finance his assessment of Exchequer returns for the first three quarters of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [42879/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is considering additional tax measures in Budget 2024 on information and communication companies, including social media and digital streaming companies, to fund public broadcasting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43150/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Finance the value of uncollected local property tax in 2022 as a consequence of exemptions and deferrals; if he will provide the figure as a percentage of gross; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [42849/23]

129. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of people in Offaly, Laois, Longford and Westmeath that are currently availing of the rent



tax credit, in tabular form; if he has plans for any changes to the credit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [42869/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of businesses in Offaly, Laois, Longford and Westmeath that successfully applied for inclusion under the temporary business energy support scheme, in tabular form; the estimated value or worth of the support in each county; if he has plans for any other similar scheme in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [42868/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Finance if the Office for the Promotion of Competition in the Insurance Market produce end of year reports on the progress made on its aims, objections and targets, and if not, will the Minister commit to doing so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [42887/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Finance the details of the uptake from the rent credit tax from Budget 2023; how many people applied for the tax credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [43092/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update of the number of businesses in Dublin that successfully applied for inclusion under the temporary business energy support scheme, in tabular form; the estimated value or worth of the support in Dublin; if he has plans for any other similar scheme in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [42862/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on his Department's latest projections for windfall corporation tax revenues; the possible uses for these revenues that he is considering in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43152/23]

135. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department is considering further emergency measures to reduce fuel prices in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [43091/23]

136. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is considering any changes to the tax treatment of REITs and other property-related investment vehicles in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43151/23]

137. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will be reviewing the tax reliefs available for the SME sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [43190/23]

138. To ask the Minister for Finance what measures he intends to apply in Budget 2024 to reverse the trend in sales of large and heavy vehicles for private use, in recognition of the increased safety risk to vulnerable road users posed by heavier and larger vehicles, the increased demand for fuel and energy and the overall impact on the carbon budget for the transport sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [43174/23]

139. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of businesses in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary that successfully applied for inclusion under the temporary business energy support scheme, in tabular form; the estimated value or worth of the support in each county; if he has plans for any other similar scheme in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [42866/23]

140. To ask the Minister for Finance what he is doing to ensure that public bodies maintain their existing payment methods in relation to cash acceptance. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [43178/23]

141. To ask the Minister for Finance what action he will be taking on the regulation of the provision of cash services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [43172/23]

142. To ask the Minister for Finance when the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal will again begin to hear appeals. — Matt Carthy. [43046/23]

143. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he remains aware of the needs of the people throughout the country, given the continued challenge of inflation/cost of living increases; the extent to which he can assist in these areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43075/23]

144. To ask the Minister for Finance if, with respect to Annex III of the Reduced VAT Rates Directive (details supplied), his Department is considering the potential implications on lowering the VAT rate applied to bicycles, including electric bicycles, and supply of services relating to the transport of passengers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [42188/23]

145. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the establishment of an interdepartmental mortgage arrears group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43148/23]

146. To ask the Minister for Finance to report on his attendance at the National Economic Dialogue. — Mick Barry. [30627/23]

147. To ask the Minister for Finance if any changes are planned in regard to the regulation of ATM machines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [43149/23]

148. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he can support the affordable housing programme/local authority housing to meet the challenges of an increasing population and its ongoing housing requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43074/23]

149. To ask the Minister for Finance to comment on the increasing number of first-time buyers receiving mortgage approval; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [32907/23]

150. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is concerned at the low number of individuals who pay the domicile levy; if he has any plans to reform the levy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43054/23]

151. To ask the Minister for Finance the legislation, Irish or EU, that must change before Irish credit unions are able to avail of the same ECB deposit interest rates as commercial retail banks. — Brian Stanley. [42609/23]

152. 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. [43137/23]

153. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he is taking to ensure that cash payments continue to be accepted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43132/23]

154. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on a county basis of the number of people in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, and Wexford that are currently availing of the rent tax credit, in tabular form; if he has plans for any changes to the credit in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43189/23]

155. To ask the Minister for Finance when it can be expected to see the Credit Union (Amendment) Bill 2022 completed and enacted. — Brian Stanley. [42608/23]

156. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the OECD BEPS process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [43171/23]

157. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on his engagement with the retail banking sector, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and representative groups of homeowners affected by defective concrete blocks with respect to bridging finance and the significant funding shortfall homeowners face to remediate their homes. — Pearse Doherty. [43136/23]

158. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) recently published wealth tax measures that the Government could take that could raise up to €8 billion; if he will announce measures such as this in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43153/23]

159. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is considering any measures to leverage the billions in savings accounts held by Irish people into investment opportunities in areas such as state affordable housing vehicles or other investment vehicles directed towards the public good; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [42889/23]

160. To ask the Minister for Finance how the international economic outlook will bear on Ireland's economic performance and budgetary strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [43047/23]

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

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

\*161. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reasons the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is no longer providing grants for the replacement of heat pumps; to specify what financial supports or grant funding can be obtained by persons whose existing heat pump systems are beyond economic repair and who have been informed by

engineers that it is more cost-effective to replace than repair; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43192/23]

\*162. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will review a case in County Cavan (details supplied); if the case can be escalated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43198/23]

\*163. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for a breakdown by county on SEAI home energy upgrades support by the Government from January 2023 to June 2023. — Richard Bruton. [43306/23]

\*164. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for a breakdown by county on free energy upgrades for low-income households from January 2023 to June 2023. — Richard Bruton. [43307/23]

\*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department had any engagements with or made submissions to the Department of Justice with respect to the establishment of the new planning and environment division of the High Court; if he will share any submission made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43313/23]

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

\*166. To ask the Minister for Transport if the review of the Irish Coast Guard will formally recommend that the ICGRA is a representative association for the ICG volunteers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43261/23]

\*167. To ask the Minister for Transport if the review of the Irish Coast Guard in its deliberations formally meets with all serving volunteers of IRCG who wish to engage with the review in order to for it to gain the most wide range view points on the roll operation and well-being of IRCG; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43266/23]

\*168. To ask the Minister for Transport to request that the review of the Irish coast guard volunteers formally establishes and recommends that the coastal unit advisory group CUAG has not represented IRCG volunteers in dispute resolution issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43267/23]

\*169. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the negative impact the proposed new Irish Rail timetable will have on commuters from Dundalk (details supplied); if he has plans to increase the number of trains between Drogheda and Dundalk; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [43237/23]

\*170. To ask the Minister for Transport the action his Department is taking to improve the bus service in Cork in view that there are recurring issues with reliability and capacity; if additional funding will be provided to improve the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43199/23]

\*171. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on progress made to date on the Banduff Road Scheme project; the level of funding will be provided by the Department for the project in the coming year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43200/23]

\*172. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps his Department is taking to address the recommendations of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice's Report on an Examination of Enforcement of Road Traffic Offences. — Brian Leddin. [34021/23]

\*173. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 192 of 30 May 2023, when he expects the review of the Strategic Assessment Report for a project (details supplied) to be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [41160/23]

\*174. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on progress in respect of a project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [41168/23]

\*175. To ask the Minister for Transport if a transfer of undertakings protection of employment rights (TUPE) will apply to all Irish Coastguard staff as regards the transfer from VHC Ireland to Bristow following the new tender being awarded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43226/23]

\*176. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 336, 337 and 338 of 11 September 2023 where it was stated that Bristow Ireland supports the principles of TUPE in relation to the transfer of the Irish Coast Guard staff, to outline in detail what these principles that Bristow supports are; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43227/23]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Transport whether Irish Coast Guard workers can be allowed access to the search and rescue tender document recently awarded to Bristow under FOI or by any other means; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43228/23]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Transport whether the tender documents for the new contract for the Irish Coastguard recently awarded to Bristow referenced TUPE and to provide the details of this reference; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [43229/23]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Transport if a transfer of undertakings protection of employment rights (TUPE) will apply in the transfer of the search and rescue contract for the Irish Coastguard to a new company (details supplied) to protect the terms and conditions of the workers who are transferring, if not, the reason this is stated to be the case on his Departments website under 'your questions answered'. — Pauline Tully. [43231/23]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Transport the current length of waiting lists for driving tests in Cork, by test centre, in tabular form; and to detail the measures he is taking to reduce waiting times. — Holly Cairns. [43286/23]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Transport the current length of the waiting lists for driving theory tests in Cork, by test centre, in tabular form; and to detail the measures he is taking to reduce waiting times. — Holly Cairns. [43287/23]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied); if he can provide an update on this driving test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43309/23]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (details supplied); if he can provide an update on this driving test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43310/23]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Transport to review a case (details supplied); if he will refer this to Bus Éireann for a response; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43311/23]

\*185. To ask the Minister for Transport if an issue will be rectified with CIÉ for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43343/23]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Transport whether his Department and the RSA (Road Safety Authority) have engaged with the Irish Motorcycle Association for Ireland (details supplied); if he and the RSA will consider scheduling a meeting with them at their earliest convenience; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43348/23]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Transport whether his Department and the Road Safety Authority have recently initiated discussions with an organisation (details supplied) regarding the implementation and deployment of floating bus islands and cycle lanes as integral components of active travel initiatives; if he and the RSA will to arrange a meeting with the organisation to gather the insights and perspectives on these novel active travel initiatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43351/23]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will increase the number of noise monitors for aircraft in the Dublin bay north area, with particular reference to those areas under or beside flight paths. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [43352/23]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will expedite applications lodged with the NDLS in respect of three persons at a company (details supplied) in order for them to commence their employment. — Catherine Murphy. [43367/23]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address an issue (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43368/23]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he proposes to maximise sufficient places on commuter trains serving north Kildare with a view to ensuring that sufficiently seating places are available throughout the journey in both directions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43426/23]

\*192. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which efforts can be made to manage the traffic, particularly at peak times, on all roads to Dublin city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43427/23]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which the electrification of the commuter lines to Maynooth is progressing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43428/23]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Transport whether it is intended that the public consultation progress/hearings in respect of the electrification of the Maynooth, Kilcock, Confey, Louisa Bridge and Enfield is likely to receive any further consideration along the lines suggested by

Kildare County Council and the public representatives of north Kildare in relation to the need to move to terminus/parking complex nearer to Enfield in order to provide for a wider catchment area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43429/23]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Transport when it is expected that work on the upgrade and extension to the Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock commuter rail link might commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43430/23]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Transport when it is expected that work on the upgrade and extension to the Celbridge, Hazelhatch, Newbridge and Sallins commuter rail link might commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43431/23]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which trains serving north Kildare and west Dublin continue to arrive and depart on time as advertised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43432/23]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Transport if consideration is likely to be given to the opening of any extra rail stations on the north Kildare rail commuter routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43433/23]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which any action can be taken to reduce the number of road traffic accidents currently taking place on the M4, N4, N7, N9 and all routes towards the capital city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43434/23]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which all bus services from Naas to Blanchardstown are in need of improvement, with particular reference to reliability, availability and punctuality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43435/23]

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

\*201. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered recommendation one of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare that, given the medium-to long-term threats to the State's fiscal sustainability, the taxbase should be broadened; if he will commit to implementing this recommendation; if he intends to act on this key recommendation in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [43389/23]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he continues to monitor cost-of-living increases in the context of the forthcoming budget; the extent to which he remains conscious of the cost-of-living/price increases affecting people in both rural and urban settings, with a view to addressing these issues in the most realistic and effective ways; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [41344/23]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Finance if and when he plans to reinstate the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; if he plans to amend the criteria of the Primary Medical Cert process; if he plans on implementing a comprehensive needs-led transport support scheme to replace the mobility allowance and motorised transport grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [43235/23]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the progress made to date on the reestablishment of the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; if the engagement with the

National Rehabilitation Hospital has been successful in retaining their service; and the number people currently waiting on an appeal. — Pauline Tully. [43242/23]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Finance if correspondence will be reviewed in light of Budget 2024 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43249/23]

\*206. To ask the Minister for Finance whether he intends changing the rules that to qualify for agricultural relief for capital acquisitions tax that the farm must represent 80% of the recipient of lands assets, in view of the fact that this rule mitigates against farmers on smaller holdings or holdings on poorer land particularly in the west of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [43330/23]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide, in tabular form, a sectoral breakdown of the estimated annual costs to the Exchequer of reverting to the previous temporary 9% VAT rate for tourism-related industries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [43336/23]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide the estimated annual cost to exchequer of creating a specific 9% VAT, as opposed to the current 13.5% VAT rate, which would apply only to food sales, let it be restaurant, take-away, hotel food sales and so on, assuming that ‘bed and breakfast’ deals would simply attract the current rate of 13.5%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [43337/23]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department has conducted a balancing exercise to determine the impact of the reversion of temporary VAT rate of 9% to the current VAT rate of 13.5% for tourism-related activities, in the context of reduced employment, closures, and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [43338/23]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department has not conducted a balancing exercise to determine the impact of the reversion of temporary VAT rate of 9% to the current VAT rate of 13.5% for tourism-related activities, in the context of reduced employment, closures and so on, if it will do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [43339/23]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Finance if he or his Department has considered splitting VAT rates on accommodation between rural accommodation providers and urban accommodation providers, given the vast differences in rates and price gouging being engaged in by some urban accommodation providers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [43340/23]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will reinstate the VAT equalisation measure for rental cars in Budget 2024 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43341/23]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Finance if consideration will be given to reinstating the VAT equalisation measure for rental cars in Budget 2024 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43377/23]



\*214. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which economic/fiscal policy here continues to be conducive to good and careful management of the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43437/23]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he remains satisfied this country continues to remain an attractive location for investments in jobs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43441/23]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which Ireland remains competitive both within and without the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43442/23]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which the OECD taxation provisions in respect of inward investment are currently in place and operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43443/23]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which financial entities operating here in the housing market are obliged to charge interest rates in line with the pillar banks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43444/23]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware of the renewed vigour with which some investment funds are now pursuing mortgage holders whose mortgages have been sold to them from the pillar banks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43445/23]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Finance when the operation of funding for primary medical certificates is likely to be restored; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43446/23]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which inflation is being brought under control, with consequent reductions in the cost-of-living; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43447/23]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which any particular economic features require amendment or refocus in order to avoid difficulties in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43448/23]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he remains satisfied with the performance of Ireland's economy when compared to all others in the eurozone; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43449/23]

*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.*

\*224. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if his attention has been drawn to issues regarding land ownership and access to Castletown House; if his Department have at any point in the past made efforts to secure lands around Castletown House; if he and or his officials have assisted the OPW in attempts to secure the lands by purchase and or lease; and if he will involve himself in the current discussions between the OPW and land owners. — Catherine Murphy. [43230/23]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform his proposals for Castletown Estate, Celbridge, County Kildare with particular reference to, in the first instance, unimpeded access to the lands already owned by the OPW in the estate and thereafter as may be required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43416/23]

\*226. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if a matter will be investigated (details supplied); if a proposal of work to remedy the problem be put in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43250/23]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if the employment policy of the Civil Service supports the implementation of gender quotas when hiring new staff; if so, the steps that have been taken to implement such a policy from 2020 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43281/23]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the reason the OPW took the decision to prevent a concert taking place at a venue at the last minute (details supplied); the steps being taken to ensure that as far as possible, this will not occur again; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [43326/23]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if a health and safety risk assessment was conducted in advance of the opening of Castletown House's main entrance to vehicle traffic; if a vehicle and pedestrian management plan has been developed; and if he is satisfied that the new arrangements meet the needs of persons with a disability and or that require use of mobility aides. — Catherine Murphy. [43380/23]

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

\*230. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on plans for job creation at a vacant site (details supplied) matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43216/23]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide information on the educational seminars, radio marketing campaigns, expenditures on radio marketing, email campaigns, direct mail initiatives or any other related activities that have been conducted between 26 May 2023, and 1 October 2023, with the objective of raising awareness among both public and private employers and employees in Ireland regarding the Code of Practice for Indoor Air Quality; if he will provide information on any forthcoming activities scheduled for increasing awareness of the Code of Practice during the period from October to December 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43243/23]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if an assessment has been conducted regarding the awareness levels of employees and employers in Ireland, encompassing both the public and private sectors, with regard to the Code of Practice for Indoor Air Quality; if such an assessment has not been carried out, to outline the strategies and initiatives planned to enhance awareness among both employers and employees regarding the Code of Practice during the period from 1 October 2023, to 31 December 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43244/23]



\*233. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment whether he is confident that both public and private sector employees are well informed about the Code of Practice for Indoor Air Quality; if he will elaborate on the steps taken to ensure there is awareness of the Code of Practice for Indoor Air Quality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43245/23]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to work permits for the homecare sector, the number of work permit applications received since the scheme opened in January 2023; the number of work permits issued; the number of applications returned at initial applications pre-check stage; the number of other applications rejected and the number of applications currently in processing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [43305/23]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what assistance his Department can offer to the residents of Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary, in light of the recent closure of a factory (details supplied) and the resulting loss of approximately 50 jobs, which has placed significant hardship on the affected families; if he will commit to making every possible effort to aid the people of Carrick-on-Suir and actively seek an alternative company to take over the facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43319/23]

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

\*236. To ask the Minister for Education if she will clarify how schools apply to have solar panels installed under the Climate Action Fund, and how the application process works. — Cathal Crowe. [43222/23]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Education the current status of the payment of the school transport grant for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [43214/23]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Education if she will take action to ensure that a child (details supplied) will acquire a school place as soon as possible; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [43251/23]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will reimburse a school in County Donegal (details supplied) on an exceptional needs basis, for the severe loss of income and debt that they have faced due to the enrolment policy of the Department. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [43254/23]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on a project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43265/23]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will accelerate the processing of an application for additional accommodation submitted in March 2023, by a school (details supplied); if she will consider the unique circumstances of this school, which currently operates as a three-teacher school with only two classrooms; if she will take into account that using an SET classroom for the third teachers classroom is very unsatisfactory; if she will factor in the expected significant growth in projected enrolment numbers for the foreseeable future in the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43320/23]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Education if she has been apprised of the situation concerning a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43321/23]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 234 of 26 September 2023, if he will provide an update on this matter and confirm the current status of the provision of school transport for the person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43322/23]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Education if the development and implementation of a 'National Plan for the Support and Management of Exceptionally Able Children' in the Irish education system (details supplied) will be examined; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43333/23]

\*245. To ask the Minister for Education if she will engage with an organisation (details supplied), specifically regarding the need to draw up and implement a national plan for the support and management of exceptionally able children in the Irish education system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43334/23]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the steps that are being taken to incorporate nutrition on an inclusive basis into the curriculum, at both a primary and secondary level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe McHugh. [43335/23]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on plans to introduce new supports, to follow that provided under Caranua, for survivors of institutional abuse; what supports this will include; when they will be available to survivors; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [43344/23]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding the works granted to a school (details supplied) involving the construction of two mainstream classrooms and one SEN base for ASD special classes and the development of an additional outdoor grass-based play area. — Pauline Tully. [43350/23]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Education if she will confirm that cost comparisons have been undertaken to compare the modular classroom with traditional-built construction; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43353/23]

\*250. To ask the Minister for Education the expected life span of modular classrooms; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43354/23]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department has entered into contracts for the supply of modular classrooms; what company was successful with the tender; the value of such property; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43355/23]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Education what progress has been made in the delivery of a new secondary school planned for Oranmore, County Galway (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [43356/23]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Education the number of schools that applied for co-education in 2022 and in 2023; the number of schools that were successful, providing details of the names of

the schools deemed successful and those deemed unsuccessful; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [43382/23]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No 256 of 20 September 2023, to provide the data for school transport for 2023/2024 as available on 1 September, 2023, and to provide a breakdown in tabular form, by county, of the numbers of each of the cohorts separately, by each category, which automatically qualified for free school transport without having to reapply for the school years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. — Peadar Tóibín. [43394/23]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Education her Department's plans to invest in the education of gifted children (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [43395/23]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Education her views on increasing a grant (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43398/23]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Education her views on increasing a grant (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43399/23]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Education if she supports a €20 per child mental health support programme in schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43400/23]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she will take to roll-out an initiative (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43401/23]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Education if she supports the reinstatement of the 2,400 AP1 and AP2 posts of responsibility in primary and special schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [43402/23]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Education when a person (details supplied) is likely to achieve a post-primary school place for their son; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43414/23]

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

\*262. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he can assist in the provision of resources to the various local authorities in order to improve the availability and quality of emergency housing accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43436/23]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he monitors the availability of funding for housing with a view to making serious strides towards providing the necessary accommodation in the shortest possible time in order to alleviate the seriousness of the situation facing first-time renters and affordable house buyers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43439/23]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the plans in for place for the old Castleblayney fire station in view that the new one is in full operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43205/23]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will act to ensure that Waterways Ireland conducts a more inclusive consultation process on its new draft by-laws, including by conducting workshops with user groups, which could lead to the co-development of by-laws more suited to the current and future waterways users; his views on the issues raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43224/23]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the name of the external supplier procured by his Department in conjunction with the Public Appointments Service to assist in the search of a permanent replacement for the role of Chief Executive of Dublin City Council; the cost of the same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [43232/23]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his view on a matter raised in relation to Newgrange and related matters (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43259/23]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline any current assistance for a landlord who is renting a property but also has a mortgage on it and is now paying in excess of the rental amount due to increasing interest rates. — Robert Troy. [43290/23]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department had any engagements with or made submissions to the Department of Justice with respect to the establishment of the new planning and environment division of the High Court; if he will share any submission made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43314/23]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when Ireland will accede to the UN Water Convention; the timeline for this; the outstanding steps to be taken; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43327/23]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he might encourage the use of wooden or modular housing to meet the ever-increasing needs in both urban and rural settings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43438/23]

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

\*272. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to respond to concerns raised in correspondence as regards the reform of disability payments (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [43225/23]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if, given the ongoing high cost of energy, she would consider changes to the fuel allowance threshold; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [43247/23]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an increase in the basic rate of social welfare for the disability sector will be considered (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43256/23]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if and when rent supplement will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43289/23]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [43312/23]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average wait time for an applicant to get a decision on a partial capacity benefit application. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [43315/23]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) has not had their disability allowance awarded as per section 210(1)(b) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 as amended and Article 137 of the Social Welfare (Consolidated Claims, Payments and Control) Regulations 2007 as amended; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [43318/23]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she is aware that staff working in citizens information services have not received any pay rise since 2008; if she will provide information on the efforts being made to address this issue and bring the compensation of staff in citizens information services in line with those working in equivalent positions within the public sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43323/23]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has received a request from citizens information services in County Tipperary asking for additional funding and permission to increase its current complement of information officer posts (details supplied); if she will consider and approve the request from citizens information services in County Tipperary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43325/23]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) qualifies for the fuel allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43411/23]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) might be eligible for a pension top-up; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43422/23]

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

\*283. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason behind the incorporation of payout limits (details supplied) within the Gambling Regulation Bill 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [43195/23]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Justice the rationale behind the introduction of pay-out limits (details supplied); if she has sought guidance from the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [43196/23]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will advocate for the investments (details supplied) in the upcoming Budget; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [43203/23]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 1221 of 11 September 2023, of the resignations outlined, the number that were in the Cavan Monaghan Division; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43212/23]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí that are out sick at present; the division they are in; if they are on long term sick leave; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43213/23]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí that are on career breaks at present; what division they are on leave from; when they are due back, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43215/23]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Justice if she has plans to restore criminal legal aid fees to pre-2008 levels in order to address the underfunding of the criminal legal aid system and ensure access to justice for all; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [43238/23]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Justice the funding allocation that will be made available to facilitate the operation of the proposed statutory agency with a dedicated focus on domestic sexual and gender-based violence; the number of staff she anticipates the agency will employ; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43316/23]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Justice when an application for citizenship might be approved or otherwise in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43412/23]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Justice the procedure to regularise their position in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43413/23]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Justice the process to be followed by a person (details supplied) to extend their visa, which is required for employment purposes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43415/23]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Justice if in the course of currently proposed reforms of family law, it is expected that expert witnesses can be challenged as of right; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43419/23]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Justice the procedure to be followed by a person (details supplied) to appeal against the decision to refuse them entry into the International Protection Programme, who has attempted to appeal online, with limited success; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43421/23]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in an application for family reunification in the case of a person (details supplied); the appropriate procedure to follow at this point to reunite the family; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43423/23]



\*297. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of an EU treaty rights application in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43424/23]

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

\*298. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will consider banning the importation of non-native honeybees given the threat they pose to the native Irish honeybee (*apis mellifera mellifera*) arising from introgression, crossing and cross-breeding; the research available to date to his Department regarding this problem; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [43317/23]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason a person (details supplied) did not receive his full payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43202/23]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a reply will issue to correspondence received (details supplied); the reason a reply has not issued to date; if this delay to respond is in breach of Departmental protocols and if this correspondence was discussed at the level of Secretary General of his Department. — Alan Dillon. [43248/23]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to speak with Coillte regarding a project (details supplied); and to provide an update on this matter. — Niamh Smyth. [43257/23]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when ACRES payment will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43262/23]

\*303. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if it is permitted to spread rock phosphate fertiliser in forestry all year around; if it is confined to certain periods of the year; if he will outline those periods; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43263/23]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the measures, if any, his Department is undertaking in conjunction with other Departments or by itself, to prevent bark beetle being imported from areas of Scotland or elsewhere where it is prevalent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [43308/23]

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

\*305. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will reimburse families who have to pay privately for speech and language therapy and occupational therapy, due to a lack of services in County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43239/23]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what services are available to young adults who require an assessment (details supplied) where the young adult can no longer access child and family psychology services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [43345/23]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he plans to reimburse parents who are forced to have their children seen privately in order to access assessments and therapies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [43346/23]

\*308. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures his Department is taking to improve recreational facilities and services for young people in County Westmeath. — Sorca Clarke. [43358/23]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth whether he is considering providing funding for running costs of providing transport including drivers to individuals to and from day services as outlined in the response received from the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [43381/23]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures being implemented to address the delays in the provision of therapies for children with additional needs in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43397/23]

\*311. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for his advice on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43204/23]

\*312. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he agrees that a minimum of 315 additional residential places for people with disabilities is required to meet emergency needs. — Paul Murphy. [43208/23]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a community neuro-rehabilitation team will be established in CHO4; and if so, the timeline for same. — Holly Cairns. [43264/23]

\*314. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 236 of 11 May 2022, if any improvement has been made in filling vacant therapist posts (occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology therapy) in County Wexford's four CDNTs; the plans he has to ensure that an adequate service for children in County Wexford is provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [43288/23]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of vacancies in the accommodation housing Ukrainian refugees; the reason there are Ukrainian refugees being housed in tents, when not all the centres for accommodating Ukrainian refugees are full; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [43328/23]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of vacant beds in a centre accommodating Ukrainian refugees; the reason for these vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [43329/23]

\*317. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to outline, in tabular form, the Members of the Steering Group established to develop a National Centre for Research and Remembrance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [43347/23]



\*318. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 970 Question Reference of 18 January 2023, if he will provide an update on the status of a person's (details supplied) redress claim within the mother-and-baby institutions scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43349/23]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which Tusla is in the course of following up on their recent meeting with a mother (details supplied) who continues to be denied access to their children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43420/23]

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

\*320. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm if an employer (details supplied) was approved for the pandemic recognition payment; if so, whether payment has been made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [43193/23]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Health if he agrees that pay parity with HSE staff should be introduced for Section 38 and section 39 organisations in order to address the crisis of recruitment and retention. — Paul Murphy. [43206/23]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Health if he accepts that 200 additional multi-disciplinary staff are needed to uphold the fundamental rights of people with intellectual disabilities. — Paul Murphy. [43207/23]

\*323. To ask the Minister for Health if he agrees that community psychiatric services need to be introduced for those who have a mild intellectual disability. — Paul Murphy. [43209/23]

\*324. To ask the Minister for Health if he agrees that community psychiatric services need to be introduced for those who have a mild intellectual disability. — Paul Murphy. [43209/23]

\*325. To ask the Minister for Health the reason recruitment for new genomic resource associate roles at the Department of Clinical Genetics at CHI Crumlin, as specified as part of implementation of the National Genetics and Genomics Strategy, is being held up, in spite of the fact that €2.7 million was allocated to implementation of the strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43210/23]

\*326. To ask the Minister for Health if it is the policy of his Department to support measures designed to ensure that the number of termination of pregnancies can be reduced year on year; the practical supports he is putting in place to ensure that the number of termination of pregnancies does not continue to grow year on year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [43211/23]

\*327. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in paying contractors that have completed works in hospitals throughout the country; if he will confirm the amounts due to contractors by each major hospital for completed work above a value of €50,000; and if he will expedite payment to all contractors affected. — John McGuinness. [43217/23]

\*328. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the provision for a new primary care centre in Rathdowney, County Laois; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [43218/23]

\*329. To ask the Minister for Health if he has received correspondence (details supplied) from the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation on behalf of nursing members across Tipperary, Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, and Waterford, who are employed in CareDoc (section 39) organisation as community intervention team nurses; if he is aware that this cohort of nurses has not received their Covid-19 pandemic payment from the HSE/Department of Health through KOSI; if he will support these nurses in receiving and addressing the non-payment of their Covid-19 pandemic payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [43219/23]

\*330. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in recruitment for new genomic resource associate roles at the Department of Clinical Genetics at CHI Crumlin, as specified as part of implementation of the National Genetics and Genomics Strategy, in view of the fact that the Minister allocated €2.7 million to implement the strategy. — Paul Murphy. [43220/23]

\*331. To ask the Minister for Health if a date for an operation for a person (details supplied) will be confirmed as the case is deemed to be urgent. — John McGuinness. [43221/23]

\*332. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the number of agency workers employed by the HSE at Ennis General Hospital on rolling short-term contracts, if any of those will be offered full-time contracts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [43223/23]

\*333. To ask the Minister for Health to clarify a matter raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [43233/23]

\*334. To ask the Minister for Health how he intends to ensure that people on lower incomes who are not entitled to a medical card are in a position to purchase emergency contraception; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [43234/23]

\*335. To ask the Minister for Health what assistance will be provided to a person (details supplied); when their application for funding for healthcare abroad will be approved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [43241/23]

\*336. To ask the Minister for Health the mechanisms now in place for medical card holders who currently do not have access to a GP and are unable to secure a GP practice to take them as a patient. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [43252/23]

\*337. To ask the Minister for Health if the temporary special leave with pay scheme for healthcare workers with long covid will be extended; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [43253/23]

\*338. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person in County Cavan (details supplied) has been refused the medical card in view of their serious diagnosis and the very negative impact that the lack of a medical card is having on this person; can this decision be looked at in view of the circumstances of this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [43255/23]

\*339. To ask the Minister for Health to ensure that people (details supplied) receive dental care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43258/23]

\*340. To ask the Minister for Health whether he or his Department received any communication from the Taoiseach or the Department of the Taoiseach in relation to the high complication rate at Temple Street hospital and the allegations that unlicensed implants had been used in children with spina bifida after the Taoiseach made a statement in Dáil Éireann (details supplied) and to outline the nature of that communication. — Paul Murphy. [43303/23]

\*341. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [43304/23]

\*342. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment for occupational therapy in order for them to have a report completed outlining required changes to their property to ensure they can live independently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [43332/23]

\*343. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant radiologists attached to Mullingar Regional Hospital in 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [43360/23]

\*344. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Bill 2023; and when this Bill will move to the next stage. — Sorca Clarke. [43361/23]

\*345. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of ICU beds in place; how many beds are funded; the all-in costs for a new ICU bed, support services and staffing; and the projected cost for 20 additional ICU beds. — Sorca Clarke. [43362/23]

\*346. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of providing the HPV vaccine free to adults who have not received it yet but want to access it through their GP. — Sorca Clarke. [43363/23]

\*347. To ask the Minister for Health if he will extend the free flu vaccination programme to include school staff and including teachers, given the current teacher shortage crisis; and if he can provide a rationale for their continued exclusion. — Catherine Murphy. [43364/23]

\*348. To ask the Minister for Health what the charges at hospitals will be from the start of 2024 for accident and emergency attendance for outpatient attendance for blood tests/diagnostic tests for in-patient care and for private beds from the start of 2024. — Richard Bruton. [43373/23]

\*349. To ask the Minister for Health when the review of cardiac services will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [43378/23]

\*350. To ask the Minister for Health the measures that will be implemented to improve the mental health services in areas like counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43403/23]

\*351. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) qualifies for free dental treatment on foot of a medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43417/23]

\*352. To ask the Minister for Health if he is satisfied that regular and programmed carer's service continues to be available for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [43425/23]

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

\*353. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the support options available to a person (details supplied) to assist them to remain in further education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [43331/23]

\*354. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the amount of funding provided by the Higher Education Authority towards the cost of installation of electric vehicle charging points at Irish universities in 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [43365/23]

\*355. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the estimated cost if the student contribution charge were reduced by €650 for the 2024-2025 academic year. — Sorca Clarke. [43366/23]

\*356. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will indicate his latest estimate of recipients of post-graduation student support from SUSI; if he will indicate their distribution between adjacent colleges and distance colleges, and within these categories at the special maintenance rate, at standard maintenance, at partial maintenance and at contribution reduction only support. — Richard Bruton. [43379/23]

\*357. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures he will implement to address the issues identified in the "Funding The Future" policy document of May 2022; if he will have the correspondence from an association (details supplied) given detailed consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [43396/23]

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

\*358. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in County Cavan are to receive funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Project Development Measure 2023, and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43291/23]

\*359. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in County Cavan received funding under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme for 2020; and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43292/23]

\*360. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in County Cavan received funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for 2021; and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43293/23]

\*361. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in County Cavan received funding under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme for 2022; and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43294/23]

\*362. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in south County Monaghan are to receive funding under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme project development measure 2023, and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43295/23]

\*363. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in south County Monaghan received funding under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme for 2020; and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43296/23]

\*364. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in south County Monaghan received funding under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme for 2021; and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43297/23]

\*365. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in south County Monaghan received funding under the outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme for 2022; and if so, if he will provide the details of same. — Niamh Smyth. [43298/23]

\*366. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in County Cavan are to benefit from the Community Centres Investment Fund – New Builds Measure 2023 and if so, to provide details of the project and amount to be received. — Niamh Smyth. [43299/23]

\*367. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in County Cavan benefitted from the Community Centres Investment Fund – Improvement and Refurbishment of Existing Community Centres 2022; and if so, to provide details of the project and amount received. — Niamh Smyth. [43300/23]

\*368. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in south County Monaghan are to benefit from the Community Centres Investment Fund – New Builds Measure 2023; and if so, to provide details of the project and amount to be received. — Niamh Smyth. [43301/23]

\*369. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if projects in south County Monaghan benefitted from the Community Centres Investment Fund – Improvement and Refurbishment of Existing Community Centres 2022; and if so, to provide details of the project and the amount received. — Niamh Smyth. [43302/23]

\*370. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when she intends to launch the 2024 Digital Innovation Fund; if the new round of funding will include supports to enable scale up to national level of projects which have been successfully trialled at county level (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [43342/23]

\*371. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the estimated cost in 2024 if the budget for the senior alert scheme increased by 20%. — Sorca Clarke. [43357/23]