



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 12 Deireadh Fómhair, 2023

Thursday, 12th October, 2023

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

1. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is aware of the specific barriers that women founders of technology companies face in accessing State supports. — Louise O'Reilly. [44353/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has plans to future proof Sectoral Employment Orders, Employment Regulation Orders and Registered Employment Agreements (REA) in response to increases in the minimum wage. — Louise O'Reilly. [44354/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the length of time it is taking to issue work permits (details supplied), given that businesses are struggling to recruit workers. — Richard O'Donoghue. [44606/23]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

4. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he plans to expand the critical skills occupations list to address skills and labour shortages in the construction industry especially in view of demand in the area of residential construction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [44370/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the reason he has referred the Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021 to the Department of Social Protection, despite it being within his remit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [44424/23]

6. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider expanding the range of financial supports currently available under the local enterprise offices nationally to include domestically focused retail, personal services, professional services and construction services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [44427/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the details of any review carried out by his Department with regard to removing dental nurses from the ineligible list of

occupations for employment permits; his plans to review same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [44204/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his proposals for an AI advisory council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [44173/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider introducing a export credit guarantee scheme to support companies looking to increase their international trading opportunities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [44194/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the progression of the introduction of a living wage, as committed to in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [44415/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider using unused funding for TBESS to fund grant support for businesses that were badly affected by LPG costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [44322/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for a progress report on the National AI Strategy. — Willie O'Dea. [44169/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide details of the number of IDA visits to Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43520/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 51 of 29 June 2023, for a status update on his Department's engagement with the Department of Foreign Affairs with a view to developing a new business and human rights action plan and implementation body; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [44203/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will give an update on the work that is being carried out by his Department, with other Government Departments and State agencies, to find solutions for those who live in the North of Ireland and work remotely for southern-based companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [44395/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when specific additional financial supports will be introduced to assist local authorities and community development organisations in the development of enterprise centres, in view of their importance in providing workspace for start-up businesses and small enterprises and the lack of such accommodation at present in areas such as County Cavan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44465/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider specific supports for small and medium operators in the retail sector due to the significant increased costs of operating a business, some that are out of the Government's control and some that are directly related to Government decisions. — Marian Harkin. [43827/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is satisfied that Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) is providing a much-needed timely and cost-effective service to the public in assessing personal injury insurance claims. — Seán Haughey. [44202/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will outline the engagement he, along with his Department and the IDA, have had with the State's tech sector in the past three months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [44396/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the continued efforts of his Department in isolating and identifying the cause of the rising costs of energy and the negative impact on manufacturing, services and distribution sectors; the extent to which efforts continue to provide replacement sources by whatever means, preferably locally sourced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44463/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the engagements his Department is conducting in conjunction with the Department of Further and Higher Education with regard to the role of apprenticeship schemes in businesses within the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [43845/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is aware of the practice of so-called 'buy-out' contracts in the film industry, and the campaign by Irish performers and writers to secure their future residual payments from work on film through stronger implementation of the European Copyright Directive; the action, he plans to take to address their concerns and ensure that Irish performers are not forced to work for worse terms and conditions than performers from other countries working on the same films; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [44317/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on progress in the implementation of the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan; the potential future funding for the plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [44197/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will comment on a report (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [41862/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on progress on the South East Regional Enterprise Plan; the funding for the plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [44290/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the way he is encouraging businesses to engage on new sustainability reporting standards. — Robert Troy. [44193/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the details of any engagement he has had with an organisation (details supplied) with regard to addressing the shortage of dental nurses and dentists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [44206/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on his meeting with the CEO of the Electoral Commission (details supplied) to discuss digital issues, in particular the use of artificial intelligence tools. — Michael Moynihan. [44180/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the measures that are being taken to increase climate literacy in his Department, to implement green public procurement and to retrofit his Department's buildings as noted in the Climate Action Plan and in his Department's Climate Action Roadmap September 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44288/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the position regarding the progression of a new IDA advance facility at Kerry Technology Park; the position regarding the existing facility (details supplied); the employment data relating to this facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44401/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how he is ensuring that artificial intelligence is fostered and deployed in a way that is safe, trustworthy and builds the confidence for innovation to flourish; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [44177/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on the lack of progress to date on the Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021, and the lack of alternative wording from his Department that would support the progression of the proposed Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brid Smith. [44422/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the supports available to businesses with the rising cost of energy in running a business. — Niamh Smyth. [44133/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will detail the most recent data on the level of Enterprise Ireland-supported jobs in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the number of additional jobs created in each county since March 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [44139/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how Budget 2024 will help the SME sector. — Joe Flaherty. [44196/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a team has been appointed to conduct a review of the occupations on the critical skills occupation list and ineligible occupations list for employment permits; when this review will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44399/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the IDA has a presence in China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [44149/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the status of the remote working code of practice being drafted by the Workplace Relations Commission; if he will provide a timeline as to when the code of practice will come into effect; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44309/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the implementation of the Personal Injuries Resolution Board Act 2022. — Michael Moynihan. [44181/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of applications made under the scheme to assist businesses with the price of kerosene in counties Roscommon and Galway, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44346/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide a timeline on the delivery of an advanced building solution in Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [43519/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has plans to address the challenges to Irish competitiveness outlined by the National Competitiveness Council. — Richard Bruton. [44199/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps his Department is taking to ensure that SMEs can continue to grow and create jobs in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [43844/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what action he is taking assist SMEs with the cost of doing business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [44198/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he can provide an update on efforts that his Department, in conjunction with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Clare County Council are undertaking to secure new enterprise for the former Roche site in Clarecastle, County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [44148/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on his recent participation in the inaugural meeting of the Responsible Business Forum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [44176/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will detail how he intends to improve employment prospects for the area of mid-Louth, considering the high number of commuters in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [44296/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the reason he has referred the Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021 to the Department of Social Protection; the particular areas he is seeking clarification on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [44425/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 85 of 11 May 2023, for an update on the implementation of the white paper on enterprise; the details of the first update report, which was scheduled for Q3 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [44207/23]

50. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta an bhfuil aon dul chun cinn déanta maidir le comhráite idir a Roinn agus an feachtas ar son pacáistiú dátheangach sna siopaí; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [44318/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on job creation in counties Roscommon and Galway from January 2023 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44345/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the status of the living wage; the expected year at which the minimum wage will reach a living wage as based on current Government projections; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44310/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the National Digital Strategy. — Seán Haughey. [44201/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the establishment of the artificial intelligence advisory council; the level of expression of interest to date; and if the council will contain worker representatives from the trade union movement. — Louise O'Reilly. [44312/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on the IDA advanced building solution to be provided on the purchased IDA land bank in Mell north Drogheda; the expected timelines on the delivery of the ABS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [44295/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if, as reported in May 2023 (details supplied), he plans to further examine if new reporting mechanisms are required for companies such as supermarket chains that would oblige them to provide details on their margins; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [44372/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the work to incorporate into legislation the recommendations on collective bargaining made by the high-level group on collective bargaining and industrial relations; if he will provide a timeline as to when the matter will be legislated for; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44308/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has analysed the main sources of pressure on business costs at present; and how he believes these might best be addressed. — Richard Bruton. [44200/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans for regulation of technology in business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [44168/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on progress being made to acquire an IDA Ireland purpose-built facility in Longford town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [44195/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if a new IDA advance facility will be considered for the Killarney area, given the relative lack of new foreign direct investment in the area in recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44402/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the action being taken by the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to support new businesses and jobs in County Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [44291/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 60 of 29 June 2023, for an update on the implementation of the West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024; for a status update on the development of the BIA Innovator Campus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [44205/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will expedite progression of the proposed the Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brid Smith. [44423/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 407 of 25 July 2023, if he will outline the details of the smart regional enterprise innovation scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [44466/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how he proposes to ensure that AI is developed and used in a manner that is human-centred, ethical, and trust-based, and underpins our engagement in national and international fora; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [44174/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor the causes of inflation, both internal and external, and their effects on business, trade and enterprise; the efforts to date in identifying possible remedies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44462/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will meet with retail and security workers regarding workplace safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [44311/23]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*69. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 56 of 25 July 2023, when a decision will be reached regarding an individual's application to the foreign birth register; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [44499/23]

*70. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when a response will issue to correspondence sent to his Department by a person (details supplied) in County Mayo in relation to an error in respect of their foreign birth registration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [44565/23]

*71. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the way his Department applies the whole-of-Government approach regarding Ireland's policy on differentiation between Israel and the illegal settlements on occupied Palestinian land; the practical steps his Department takes in relation to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [44620/23]

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

*72. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide a schedule of lands and buildings his Department and bodies under his aegis acquired by using a compulsory purchase order in the past 20 years to date; and the amount expended on same. — Catherine Murphy. [44549/23]

*73. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the criteria for individual SEAI grants will be extended to include windows and doors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [44588/23]

*74. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the amendments to the existing non-domestic microgeneration scheme; if the amended scheme has led to an increase in uptake; the number of grants that have been awarded over the lifetime of the scheme and since it was amended; the average amount of award over the schemes lifetime and since it has been amended; what is Ireland's non-domestic solar capacity; the 2030 target; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [44289/23]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*75. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the steps taken to monitor and minimise contamination from water runoff on our national road network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44563/23]

*76. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the work undertaken by his Department to introduce mandatory accessibility requirements, similar to road safety standards for motorists, rather than design guidelines for persons using walking infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44477/23]

*77. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the members and participation of the National Guidelines and Standards Group in his Department; the work completed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44478/23]

*78. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline representation and participation by disability advocates or persons with disabilities in the work of the National Guidelines and Standards Group currently operating in his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44479/23]

*79. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline work undertaken by his Department and by the National Guidelines and Standards Group to remove shared space guidelines from national documents, standards and circulars including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44480/23]

*80. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 28 of 22 June 2023, and in light of the October 2022 TII briefing report on possible fatalities and serious injuries, if he will consider a further allocation of funding this year to progress the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road improvements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [44482/23]

*81. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 136 of 20 September 2023, if the Government will commit to make funding available for the N6 Galway city ring road should the project be given the go-ahead by An Bord Pleanála rather than referring the question to Transport Infrastructure Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [44496/23]

*82. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [44498/23]

*83. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will expedite a driving test for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [44504/23]

*84. To ask the Minister for Transport for an indicative date by which the two vacant positions on the Board of the Road Safety Authority will be filled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Crowe. [44507/23]

*85. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will give consideration to an issue (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [44512/23]

*86. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a detailed list of spend to date in relation to programmes (details supplied) since 1 January 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [44525/23]

*87. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will re-instate the Dublin to Galway direct airport service stopping in Athlone. — Robert Troy. [44538/23]

*88. To ask the Minister for Transport what measures are being undertaken to ensure greater bicycle storage facilities on rail carriages. — Robert Troy. [44539/23]

*89. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a schedule of lands and buildings his Department and bodies under his aegis acquired by using a compulsory purchase order in the past 20 years to date; and the amount expended on same. — Catherine Murphy. [44551/23]

*90. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the steps taken to monitor and manage contamination from water runoff on our national road network; the steps taken by TII in the management of attenuation ponds to treat such contaminated water before its discharge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44562/23]

*91. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will re-instate the Galway to Dublin airport route via Athlone. — Robert Troy. [44567/23]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*92. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will outline any approaches or negotiations engaged in by Ireland with other EU Member States to waive the exemption on aviation fuel tax

for intra-community flights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [44476/23]

*93. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the Primary Medical Cert Appeals Board; and if this Board is up and running and dealing with appeals. — Danny Healy-Rae. [44514/23]

*94. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 441 of 11 September 2023, if he is aware and if he will agree that the Revenue Commissioners methodology of taxpayer units includes all unearned income and part-time workers, and that if unearned income was removed along with part-time workers, the amount of the population that pays the top rate of tax at 40% would be higher; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Damien English. [44523/23]

*95. To ask the Minister for Finance the details of any regulation or policy that governs the provision of ATMs in public places that are not physically connected to a commercial bank; and if there is any obligation or regulation on the providers of such ATMs to ensure these ATMs are not removed, thus potentially leaving a community without access to cash. — Joe O'Brien. [44554/23]

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.

*96. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 202 of 20 September 2023, if he will provide an update in respect of the OPWs attempt to make use of the CPO process to acquire lands in the common good. — Catherine Murphy. [44541/23]

*97. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he will provide a schedule of lands and buildings his Department and bodies under his aegis acquired by using a compulsory purchase order in the past 5 years to date; and the amount expended on same. — Catherine Murphy. [44550/23]

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

*98. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the timeline for the full transposition of the EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages; if he will provide an update on the work of his Department in developing, with the relevant LEEF sub-committee, the Action Plan to be presented to the European Commission no later than November 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [44371/23]

*99. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the reopening of a mine (details supplied); how likely this is, and when; if he realises specialised skillsets are leaving the country to go abroad and work in the sector due to its closure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [44488/23]

*100. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of applications for work permits granted in of the past five years; the number of applications currently awaiting decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44570/23]

*101. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which applications for work permits can be expedited where the information has been provided previously; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44571/23]

*102. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he continues to assist both the manufacturing and service sectors in order to deflect the impact of costs increases, whether generated internally or externally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44572/23]

*103. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which Ireland's trade within the EU and with third countries continues to prosper; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44573/23]

*104. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which the market for Irish exports continues to develop in a sustainable fashion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44574/23]

*105. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the total number of jobs believed to have accrued from foreign direct investment in each of the past ten years to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44575/23]

*106. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he continues to liaise with the tech industries in order to minimise any negative impact due to worldwide downturns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44578/23]

*107. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which diversification throughout the manufacturing and services sectors has resulted in increased employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44579/23]

*108. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the incentives currently available for small and start-up enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44580/23]

*109. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which new markets for Irish exports overseas are being sourced on an ongoing basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44581/23]

*110. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider permitting people 65+ years-of-age to work 2-3 days within Government Departments in order to assist in solving staffing problems; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [44596/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*111. To ask the Minister for Education if she will outline the current access to NEP's psychology services for a school (details supplied); if she will further outline in detail what steps

are being taken to ensure the necessary services are re-instated without further delay. — Robert Troy. [44481/23]

*112. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) that completed a Stage 2B submission on 2 June 2023 to the building unit of her Department under the additional accommodation scheme will be permitted to proceed to tender for this project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [44522/23]

*113. To ask the Minister for Education if she intends to change the requirement for school caretakers to sign on during school holidays. — John McGuinness. [44527/23]

*114. To ask the Minister for Education if the school transport bus route that operates from Kiltewan to Dunmore can return to its original route passing to accommodate children (details supplied) that would benefit from this stop; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [44529/23]

*115. To ask the Minister for Education for an update with regard to proposed works at a school (details supplied). — John Lahart. [44542/23]

*116. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update with regard to the outstanding works that are necessary at a school (details supplied). — John Lahart. [44543/23]

*117. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the request by a school (details supplied) for a new school building. — John Lahart. [44553/23]

*118. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update with regard to a new school announced last year (details supplied). — John Lahart. [44555/23]

*119. To ask the Minister for Education the number of primary and post-primary pupils respectively suspended in each of the past five years; the corresponding number for the number of students expelled; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [44560/23]

*120. To ask the Minister for Education to publish the formal policy/procedure for assistance given by her Department to parents/guardians of children without a school place to assist them in getting an appropriate tutor for their child, given parents/guardians themselves report serious, unassisted effort is necessary in such regard, and that not every child requiring a tutor might have parents/guardians with the necessary capacity and tenacity; whether she is satisfied, in those circumstances, that every child's educational access and needs are sufficiently catered for; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44582/23]

*121. To ask the Minister for Education to publish the hours and subjects offered to children in secondary school, but currently without a school place; whether her Department is satisfied these hours and subjects are sufficient for such children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44583/23]

*122. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the school bus transport application for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Anne Rabbitte. [44586/23]

*123. To ask the Minister for Education for assistance with a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44595/23]

*124. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department plans to increase bus capacity on the route from Birdhill to Newport, County Tipperary (details supplied). — Martin Browne. [44598/23]

*125. To ask the Minister for Education what protocol is in place for complaints being made against staff members (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [44600/23]

*126. To ask the Minister for Education the reason a hall at a school (details supplied) is inaccessible to the students attending a school; if it will be made available to the students for use; if so, when; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [44622/23]

*127. To ask the Minister for Education when work on a new school building for a school (details supplied) will commence; the timeframe for commencement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [44626/23]

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

*128. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what regulations exist for requiring apartment developments to provide green bins and ensure proper recycling facilities are in place. — Patrick Costello. [44475/23]

*129. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 904 of 11 September 2023, to clarify the reason I was informed on 11 September 2023 that the Clara fire station project was not included in his Department's construction programme, and would only be reassessed on an annual basis only for a decision to be made less than a month later approving the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [44491/23]

*130. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if funding is available for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44521/23]

*131. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason for the inordinate delay in considering the Kilkenny Wind Energy Strategy/Policy proposed by Kilkenny County Council and submitted to his office by the Office of the Planning Regulator; if he will outline the process involved in considering the matter; if outside expertise or consultants are engaged to assist in the process; if a timeframe for a decision will be set down and adhered to; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [44528/23]

*132. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide related to a Government-funded scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Browne. [44533/23]

*133. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 505 of 21 March 2023, the reason the widow's, widower's or surviving civil partner's contributory pension paid at €265.30 weekly is not an eligible payment under the tenant (incremental) purchase scheme, considering the State pension (contributory) paid at the same €265.30 weekly is an eligible payment, both are the same payment rate and both are

PRSI contribution related and therefore, sustainable; if he will examine the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [44566/23]

*134. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the Planning and Development Bill 2023; and the timeline for the enactment of the legislation. — Charles Flanagan. [44584/23]

*135. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether the grounds for exemption from application of the residential zoned land tax should include instances where land is not developable for reasons relating to phasing provisions in a land use plan and where factors outside the control of the landowner inhibit development. — Charles Flanagan. [44585/23]

*136. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the targets for property development issued to Kildare County Council, under their respective Housing Needs and Demand Assessments (HNDA) broken down by area, and by year; the number of areas that have exceeded these targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44587/23]

*137. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if a review took place in Q2 2023 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44589/23]

*138. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the actions the Government has taken, and plans to take, with respect to the implementation of a system of holding rental deposits in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44590/23]

*139. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will comment on the actions he has taken with respect to undertaking a full review of international best practice regarding the establishment of a system of holding rental deposits that is fit for purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44591/23]

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

*140. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an appeal by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [44487/23]

*141. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) in County Kerry will be permitted to transfer from disability allowance to invalidity pension now that he satisfies the social insurance contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44490/23]

*142. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review existing supports available to those in receipt of the State pension to include financial supports for those that are coeliac to assist with the cost of their dietary requirements; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [44502/23]

*143. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will expedite a decision on a carers allowance appeal by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [44503/23]

*144. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current status of a disability allowance application by a person (details supplied); when a decision will be made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [44509/23]

*145. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress to date in the determination of a review in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [44532/23]

*146. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason no reply has issued from the disability allowance section to a query submitted to 18 September 2023 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [44540/23]

*147. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will advise on the best procedure for an individual planning to return to work on a part-time basis after being in receipt of the invalidity pension for a number of years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [44552/23]

*148. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current status of a wage subsidy scheme claim for a person (details supplied); when payment will be made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [44599/23]

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

*149. To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to the lack of immigration officers in Limerick (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [44556/23]

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

*150. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is concerned at the high number of horse deaths at the Listowel races from 20 to 23 September 2023 (details supplied); what actions he intends to take to stop the unnecessary suffering of these animals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [44483/23]

*151. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the basic income support for sustainability payment could be made earlier the year to facilitate farmers paying their contractors in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [44494/23]

*152. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide an update on the ACRES scheme; when farmers will be updated regarding the amount they are due to be paid; when payments will be made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [44501/23]

*153. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will send a herd profile to a person (details supplied) in County Cork. — Michael Creed. [44510/23]

*154. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [44513/23]

*155. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide a schedule of lands and buildings his Department and bodies under his aegis acquired by using a compulsory purchase order in the past 20 years to date; and the amount expended on same. — Catherine Murphy. [44548/23]

*156. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether each participant farmer has been given a detailed outline of the scoring scheme under the ACRES scheme by his Department; when farmers will be given their score for this year under the scheme; when the first payments will be made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [44564/23]

*157. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is aware that non-coursing greyhounds are being routinely raced at greyhound tracks around the country without the owner and trainer being named, in direct contravention of the rules of Rásaíocht Con Éireann; if he is aware that this is being done to allow trainers who are subject to an exclusion order to race, contrary to the rules of Rásaíocht Con Éireann; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [44601/23]

*158. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of people employed full-time and part-time, respectively by Rásaíocht Con Éireann, broken down by job title, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [44602/23]

*159. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason responsibility for horse and greyhound racing was transferred from the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation to his Department 2010; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [44603/23]

*160. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the former CEO of Rásaíocht Con Éireann (details supplied) resigned voluntarily from this position; if not, if their tenure as CEO was terminated by RCE; the terms or conditions were attached to their departure; if a severance package was paid to the individual in question; and if so, the amount; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [44604/23]

*161. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if non-coursing greyhound births are recorded contemporaneously on RCETS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [44605/23]

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

*162. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if discussions are expected regarding the Section 39 workers pay (details supplied); if this issue can be resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [44557/23]

*163. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will furnish a copy of the full contract between IPAS and a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44485/23]

*164. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason a child was removed from the NCS scheme without a parent's knowledge or consent (details

supplied); if he will review what additional recourse is now available to this child's parent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [44505/23]

*165. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 276 of 23 February 2023, the action taken in the interim to ensure that appropriate supports and services are made available to a person (details supplied); the supports and services that have been made available as a result of his intervention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [44506/23]

*166. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth whether he can provide details of a company (details supplied) in County Cavan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [44515/23]

*167. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of Section 3 investigations conducted by Tusla in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023, outlining the number in each geographical/educational area; and indicating whether primary school or secondary school, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44516/23]

*168. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of the Section 3 Investigations carried out in each of the years 2019 to 2023, inclusive, how many involved allegations in each of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect or multiple type of abuse in each year, in tabular form, and delineating whether primary or secondary and the geographical/educational areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44517/23]

*169. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the action he intends to take to ensure that those people working in Section 39 organisations (details supplied) will achieve pay parity with their counterparts in Section 38 organisations or the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [44518/23]

*170. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth how many panels were formed in relation to the higher executive officer roles within his Department to review HEO applications; what criteria and guidelines were used when choosing candidates for interview; how many candidates were chosen from each panel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [44531/23]

*171. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the current CDNT WTE vacancies across each of the 12 teams in CHO5; the number of administrative posts vacant; and the actions that are being taken to address those vacancies, in tabular form. — Martin Browne. [44545/23]

*172. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide an update on the current progress in implementing the Transforming Lives Time to Move on from Congregated Settings strategy; the current number of individuals with a disability living in a congregated setting; the number of people with disabilities who have been transitioned to independent living from congregated settings annually since 1 January 2019 to date; the number of people with disabilities who have been admitted/housed in congregated settings annually since 1 January 2019 to present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44558/23]

*173. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the measures he will take following Budget 2024 to grow the base of personal assistants for people with disabilities in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44592/23]

*174. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 838 of 20 September 2023, when a response will be forthcoming regarding the transfer request of a person (details supplied) as it is now almost three weeks since the previous response was provided, and no update has been received. — Eoin Ó Broin. [44608/23]

*175. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if the quarter 2 Assessment of Need Process Management Report has been published; if so, if he will share it with this Deputy. — Pauline Tully. [44628/23]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*176. To ask the Minister for Health the funding that has been allocated for the national clinical programme for self-harm and suicide related ideation in the previous five years; where this funding has been allocated; if funding will be increased in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [44484/23]

*177. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [44486/23]

*178. To ask the Minister for Health what progress is being made on the implementation of measures (details supplied) considering that they apply with effect from the start of the 2022/2023 academic year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [44489/23]

*179. To ask the Minister for Health what funding options are available to the NCBI through the mental health budget to fund their counselling, well-being and emotional support services; how they can apply for such funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [44492/23]

*180. To ask the Minister for Health the number of Section 39 organisations that work within addiction and drug-related services; the number of staff employed in Section 39 organisations in this area; their rates of pay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [44495/23]

*181. To ask the Minister for Health when a child (details supplied) will be called for an urgent appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [44508/23]

*182. To ask the Minister for Health the reason those working in supported living received the Covid pandemic payment but those working in residential care did not receive this payment in Section 39 organisations; the rationale of his Department in relation to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [44530/23]

*183. To ask the Minister for Health the days that SouthDoc Blackpool has been closed or non-operational by day for the past two weeks, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [44534/23]

*184. To ask the Minister for Health the number of GPs employed in Cork, by facility, by SouthDoc in 2019 and currently, respectively, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [44535/23]

*185. To ask the Minister for Health the number of house calls made by the doctor in Blackpool on each of SouthDoc's opening days in the past three weeks. — Thomas Gould. [44536/23]

*186. To ask the Minister for Health the number of doctors currently allocated to the SouthDoc Blackpool facility, the Kinsale road facility and where Southdoc vehicles are usually located. — Thomas Gould. [44537/23]

*187. To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE-owned sites which are vacant or derelict; the locations of such sites; and the duration for which they have been vacant or derelict, in tabular form. — Ivana Bacik. [44546/23]

*188. To ask the Minister for Health the date he is working towards, to introduce legislation concerning safeguard proposals relating to deprivation of liberty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [44559/23]

*189. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide more parking spaces in the health centre in Killarney; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [44568/23]

*190. To ask the Minister for Health the measures he will take following Budget 2024 to increase the provision of HSE homecare in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [44593/23]

*191. To ask the Minister for Health to carry out a review of the decision not to award a medical card to a person (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [44594/23]

*192. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will be called for their hearing aid to be repaired; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [44597/23]

*193. To ask the Minister for Health when orthodontic appointments will be issued to children (details supplied) in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [44625/23]

*194. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that due to a lack of staff that the Limekiln Lane Health Centre in Dublin 12 has cancelled all two-year-old developmental checks; if he will acknowledge the upset and distress this has caused to parents (details supplied); the steps that are being taken to restore these checks; the timeframe for their resumption; if he will provide an alternative option for parents to access these important developmental checks during this time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [44627/23]

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

*195. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a person (details supplied) in County Donegal qualifies for the special rate of SUSI grant in

their exceptional circumstances; if any outstanding documentation is required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [44569/23]

*196. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if SUSI will provide assistance to an applicant (details supplied) locked out of their account; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [44623/23]