



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 19 Deireadh Fómhair, 2023

Thursday, 19th 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 Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán: To the Minister for Tourism, Culture; Arts; Gaeltacht; Sport and Media.

1. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide the most recent update in relation to the two ongoing reviews she has commissioned into governance, culture, contractor fees, human resources and other matters in RTÉ, including timelines for their completion; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [45983/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the Government will consider reintroducing a large-scale sport infrastructure fund; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [45984/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to comment on the ongoing campaign led by Irish Equity seeking to end the practice of Irish performers and writers facing obstacles such as needing to sign so-called buy-out contracts in order to work in the audio-visual arts, including projects funded by her Department; and if she will ensure that the issuing of funding of cultural certificates by her Department will be contingent on eradicating this practice and supporting performers and writers. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [45920/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will address concerns expressed by the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation that the recent increase in the VAT rate has eroded competitiveness; if she agrees that at a minimum, the 9% VAT rate should be kept under review for the food services sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [45981/23]

5. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán maidir le Ceisteanna Parlaiminte Uimhreacha 67 den 13 Iúil agus 385 den 20 Meán Fómhair, soiléiriú a thabhairt ar an athbhreithniú atá faoi chaibidil ag Údarás na Gaeltachta faoin bpunann iomlán maoinne atá acu agus faoi na féidearthachtaí forbartha atá ann; an bhfuil an taighde críochnaithe; soiléiriú a thabhairt ar an bplean ag eascairt as an taighde sin agus ar na hacmhainní airgeadais a bheidh ag teastáil chun an plean a chur i gcríoch; soiléiriú a thabhairt ar shonraí na teagmhála a bhí ag an Aire leis an Údarás maidir leis na hábhair sin; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [45986/23]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

6. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when a five-year plan for tourism will be announced for the Lee Valley area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [45708/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline how the increases in funding for women in sport, announced in Budget 2024, will take shape. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [45182/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the action she is taking in relation to the reduction in tourist accommodation resulting from the refugee crisis. — Robert Troy. [45705/23]

9. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán maidir le Ceist Pharlaiminte Uimh. 98 den 13 Iúil 2023, cén dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis an obair athbhreithniúcháin ar na chéad 10 bplean teanga a ceadaíodh faoi Acht na Gaeltachta, 2012; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [45677/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she is reviewing the performance of the RTE board in the context of any future further financial aid to RTE from the State; if she has considered the evidence and discussion at Oireachtas Committees; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [45797/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for an update on the large-scale sports infrastructure fund; the number of projects that were allotted funding under the previous round and an update on progress from these projects; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [45100/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what plans her Department will undertake with regard to Ireland's co-hosting of Euro 2028; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [45082/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if additional funding will be provided towards the development of sports facilities in view of the increasing financial costs incurred by clubs of all sporting disciplines in providing much needed new and upgraded facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [45523/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department has conducted any analysis of the potential impacts of the construction of the Boyne Greenway on tourism in County Meath. — Peadar Tóibín. [44818/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the Irish bid for co-hosting the 2028 European Football Championships includes a back-up stadium in the event that Casement Park, Belfast is unavailable. — Cathal Crowe. [45070/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she continues to promote Ireland as an attractive holiday location through the arts, sports

and culture given the particular market that exists in these areas at the present time; the extent to which it is expected for this to be of benefit to the hotel and catering sectors, on and off season; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45648/23]

17. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an bhfuil aon mhaoiniú breise ar fáil i mBuiséad 2024 do mhná tí na gColáistí Samhraidh Gaeltachta chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim ina bhfuil 30% díobh éirithe as ó 2018; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Mairéad Farrell. [45644/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will elaborate on the “targeted measures to support downstream business impacted as a result of the war in Ukraine” announced on Budget Day 2024. — Cathal Crowe. [45069/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media that an area (details supplied) will be included in any tourism plan for the Lee Valley area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [45709/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her views on how the sports capital programme will support sports clubs to invest in projects that will reduce their emissions and lead on climate action within their communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [45594/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when she expects to allocate funds under the major or minor grants/schemes administered by her Department; the extent to which she can assist communities where cost overruns due to Covid are affecting projects; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45649/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of licence fees paid to date in 2023; how does that compare year on year with 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [45802/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to increase support for grassroots clubs in the League of Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [45607/23]

24. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an bhfuil sé i gceist aici Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge a thabhairt ar ais an bliain seo chugainn; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [45591/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the estimated expenditure relating to the hosting a major sporting event (details supplied) for each year in advance of the event and including the year of the event; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [45738/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund will open for applications. — Paul McAuliffe. [45220/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline the way she is supporting community radio stations across the country; the community radio stations

that she has supported in the past; the amount of support each has received; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [45047/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will outline the progress being made on the implementation of the recommendations of the report on section 481 Film Tax Credit, produced by the Oireachtas Budget Scrutiny Committee; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [45369/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for an update on her Department's work to ensure that Dublin is prepared to host the UEFA Euros 2028 tournament, particularly in relation to sufficient tourist accommodation. — Paul McAuliffe. [45219/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will outline the engagements her Department has had with the Department of Finance and other Government Departments to progress the establishment of the stakeholders' forum, one of the recommendations of the recent report on section 481 Film Tax Credit produced by the Oireachtas Budget Scrutiny Committee; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [45368/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide an update on the impacts of stock displacement within the tourism sector with 30,000 beds now under contract to Department Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, of which 25,000 are hotel beds; if she will consider a business support scheme in regional areas with the highest occupancy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [45524/23]

32. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cad iad an maoiniú agus na tacaíochtaí nua atá curtha ar fáil don Ghaeltacht agus don Ghaeilge; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [45547/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of applications received under the recent sports capital grant scheme; the likely timescale for processing and approval; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [45522/23]

34. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cén méadú atá i meastacháin a Roinne do 2024 ar an gcaiteachas reatha agus caipitil don Ghaeilge agus don Ghaeltacht; cé mhéad de sin a bhaineann le soláthar caiteachais breise do phá agus tuarastail in Údarás na Gaeltachta agus Foras na Gaeilge; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45690/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way she is supporting traditional Irish music across the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [45031/23]

36. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán céard í an fhaisnéis is déanaí maidir le toghcháin phoiblí do bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Mairéad Farrell. [45645/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media further to Parliamentary Question No. 130 of 12 July 2023, and as per the Performance Delivery Agreement

between her Department and Galway Culture Company; the number of quarterly reporting meetings held to date with all public funders of Galway Culture Company, and the dates of same; if minutes are taken and published in respect of these meetings; the details of any management reports received by her Department to date from Galway Culture Company; the status of the drawdown of the €1 million in Galway 2020 legacy funding; the amount drawn down to date; the details of where any funds drawn down have been allocated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [45679/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if there are any specific funding streams available for sports clubs to construct disabled facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [45682/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her Department's role in monitoring and ensuring that social media platforms are not being used to amplify and enable hate groups to orchestrate campaigns around the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [44147/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the position regarding any Department-led initiatives that seek to improve the integration of people fleeing the war in Ukraine into sports clubs and sporting activities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [45595/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of tribunals, public investigations and commissions of investigations in process; the length of time each has been underway; when each will conclude; the cost to date of each; and the estimated cost of each at completion. — Peadar Tóibín. [44814/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide a timeline for a detailed breakdown in each of the sub-headings, A to E, in the Department's budget 2024. — Imelda Munster. [45557/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department sees the value in the unscripted TV sector; if she has requested additional tax incentives to be provided for unscripted tv production; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [45798/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline any plans her Department has to repurpose vacant and or derelict commercial sites as creative spaces for artists. — Gary Gannon. [45742/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will outline the number of sport capital and equipment grant applications per county, in tabular form, spitting them into capital and equipment applications; if she will outline the applications per sport (i.e., GAA/soccer/rugby etc.); when she forecasts that her Department will have these assessed by; if there will be a process for appeals after the initial announcement of allocations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [45801/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way the Sports Capital Programme will help clubs and National Governing Bodies lead and respond to the climate crisis and drive climate action within communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [45546/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to confirm how much Government expenditure was spent on tourism supports and projects in Cork in 2022 and to date in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45753/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide increased support to community radio in respect of high inflation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [45766/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the increase provided for in the estimates for 2025 in funding for TG4 and RTE respectively; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45689/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her plans to promote the famine walkway. — Robert Troy. [45704/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the total amount of Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Funds that have been allocated and issued; the amount of funds that remain unallocated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [45737/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media how the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme can assist sports clubs and national governing bodies to champion localised measures and adaption to the ongoing climate crisis and drive the adoption of positive climate action across the wider community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [45549/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media whether she supports the calls of representatives of actors, writers and directors for an end to use of buy-out contracts by film producers as a condition for those producers continuing to receive public funding for film productions in Ireland. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45792/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the progress she has made in convening the film industry stakeholder forum as recommended in the recent report by the budget oversight and scrutiny committee on section 481 film tax credit and the Irish film industry. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45790/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what percentage of the overall Budget 2024 has been allocated to the promotion of Irish language and the Gaeltacht; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [45681/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to explain where the funding is being repurposed from within her Department's arts and culture programme to fund the increases announced for the Arts Council, Culture Ireland, Screen Ireland, Safe to Create, and Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, given the overall programme budget is only increasing by 0.7% in Budget 2024. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [45588/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if Carlow will benefit from the changes for the screen industry announced in Budget 2024. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [45183/23]

58. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an dtacaíonn sí leis an bPlean Fáis atá foilsithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [45590/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what further actions, if any, has she taken to address the concerns repeatedly raised by representatives of actors, writers, directors and film crews in relation to their remuneration, conditions and contracts of employment and the failure of film producers in receipt of public funding to meet the requirement of quality employment and training. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45791/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline what measures were included in Budget 2024 to support tourism; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45754/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what action, if any, she intends to take to ensure recognition of service of film crew in the Irish film industry and to address the vulnerability of film crew to black-balling given the ongoing use of successive fixed-term contracts for the employment of crew by film producers who are in receipt of public funding for film production. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45793/23]

62. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán soiléiriú a thabhairt maidir le Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge; cén uair a bheidh an scéim i bhfeidhm; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [45676/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline women's sport that will be advanced and supported at all levels with the announcement of a doubling in funding for women's sport; the plans that are underway to ensure more women and girls participate in all sports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [45548/23]

64. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cé mhéad limistéar pleanála teanga nach bhfuil oifigeach pleanála teanga fostaithe iontu faoi láthair; soiléiriú ar an anailís atá faoi chaibidil ag an Roinn maidir leis an ábhar sin; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [45680/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department has had discussions with major film and TV studios on potential plans to expand their operations in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [45606/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to report on tourism figures for summer 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [45083/23]

67. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán maidir le Ceist Pharlaiminte Uimh. 88 den 13 Iúil 2023, cén dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis an obair athbhreithniúcháin atá idir lámha ag Údarás na Gaeltachta i ndáil leis na córais agus leis an gcur chuige atá i ngníomh ag an Údarás faoi láthair chun tacú le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge sna cliantchuideachtaí agus i ndáil leis na bealaí ina ndéantar an t-ábhar a bhaineann leo a riar; cathain a fhoilseofar toradh na hanailíse; cén dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis an scéim phiolótach; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [45678/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide an update on the National Sports Policy 2018 - 2027, in particular projects or initiatives supported in County Meath as part of it; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [45586/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide an update on the UK and Ireland's bid to host Euro 2028; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [45525/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to list any initiatives, projects and developments planned by her Department for Dublin's north inner city due to begin in 2024. — Gary Gannon. [45743/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline how the additional €10 million provided for overseas marketing of Ireland as a holiday destination in Budget 2024 will be spent. — Gary Gannon. [45744/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she engages with other Government Departments and/or State agencies to ensure that there is sufficient hotel accommodation in rural communities in order to enhance the economic potential of every region. — Matt Carthy. [41279/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the interaction his Department has had to date with the statutory committee set up under the Official Languages Act 2021 to plan for the requirement under the Act that 20% of public servants being recruited from 2030 will have competency to do business with the public in Irish; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45688/23]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

74. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the rationale for the one-off cost of living measures in Budget 2024 associated with his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45691/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will, in light of the Independent National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers, review his recent announcement and bring the stipends of all (not just SFI and IRC funded) PhD researchers up to the living wage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45985/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason there was such an absence of measures related to purpose built student accommodation in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45692/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps he is taking to assist members of the Travelling community in accessing third level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [44897/23]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

78. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current number of apprentices waiting for off-the-job training at levels 2, 4 and 6 in addition to the numbers waiting for such training in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45695/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide the full details of what was announced in Budget 2024 for students and how they might avail of the various schemes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [45260/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on his efforts to increase the number of graduate entry medicine places; the reason he has not tried to reduce fees as a means to attract more applicants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45694/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the progress on enabling technological universities to borrow to supply student accommodation. — Robert Troy. [45799/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to discuss the development of Cavan Institute as a hub for further education and training. — Niamh Smyth. [45259/23]

83. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to confirm the number of students that will benefit from measures aimed at those in further and higher education in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45740/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to address the sharp increase to 15% in undergraduate drop-out rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45701/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the SUSI grant will be amended to cover part-time students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [45527/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to the announcement of the significant funding that Magee University would receive from the Share Island Initiative, to expand its capacity, if he will provide details of the nature of the arrangement; the way it will work in practice; the benefits it will bring in terms of workforce planning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45696/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress in the assigning of new schools of veterinary and pharmacy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [45218/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if consideration can be given to allowing an apprentice butcher who lives in the south and who has been offered an apprenticeship place at a suitable facility in the north (details supplied) to be accepted onto the Solas apprenticeship course; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [45367/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is ensuring that the National Maritime College has the required level of funding to continue in providing the essential training in green technology and skills; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45697/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has engaged with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in regard to the need for regulation of digs-style accommodation arrangements. — Holly Cairns. [45584/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on his efforts to increase the number of graduate dentists into the health system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [45693/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the status and timeframe for a centre of excellence for electric vehicle management in Mullingar. — Robert Troy. [45800/23]

93. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta an bhfuil sé i gceist aige straitéis a fhorbairt, nó an cas reatha a fhiosrú, maidir le soláthar cúrsaí tríú leibhéal trí mheán na Gaeilge; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [45593/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason why the optimum target of €25,000 for the PhD stipend as recommended by the first report of the National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers, was not implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [45541/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there is a timeline for the publication of the final review report on supports for PhD researchers in Ireland that deals with the status of a PhD researcher and classification as either a student or an employee. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [45539/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department has any input into the types of questions posed by “Student Survey”; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [44896/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will commit to funding purpose built affordable accommodation for students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [45795/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the total allocation of capital grants (devolved capital grant and the further education capital grants) to the Cork Education and Training Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [45550/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in light of his recent announcement to increase the stipend for SFI and IRC PhD Researchers if he will now commit to a minimum national stipend for all PhD Researchers, regardless of their current funding source; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [45685/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for the up-to-date position on a new building for an adult education centre (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [45706/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the supports available to graduate entry medicine students, and to clarify if he will extend existing supports to graduate entry medicine students. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [45540/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 94 of 30 March 2023, if he will provide an update on the position regarding Ireland's application to join the CERN programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [45803/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to expand the availability of accommodation for students at South East Technological University; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [45582/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science whether post-graduate students studying medicine on dedicated courses in third level institutions to become medical practitioners are or will be able to avail of SUSI grant-aid while attending university on these courses, in view of the need to urgently increase the supply of doctors in the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45687/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the development of a digital skills action plan to drive the commitments in the National Digital Strategy, 'Harnessing Digital: the Digital Ireland Framework' to address both the digital talent pipeline and, workforce development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [45532/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the justification for only raising PhD stipends to a meagre €22,000 per annum, when an independent national review of State support for PhD researchers last May recommended a figure of €25,000 per annum. — Gary Gannon. [45748/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will agree to ensuring that a threshold of core funding is put in place to enable supported training organisations to continue to carry out their critical role in providing education and training for the most vulnerable students across our education system; if he will ensure that immediate funding pressures for 2023 are addressed as a matter of urgency through the process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [45683/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the Programme for Government commitment to further promote a culture of lifelong learning within the workforce, focusing on increasing the lifelong learning rate

from the current rate of 9% to 18% by 2025; what the current rate is in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [45533/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which a continuous supply of graduates in the academic and technical areas is provided for in order to meet requirements of industry and education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45641/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the Adult Literacy for Life, or ALL Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [45575/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will make a commitment that other PhDs directly reliant on government funding outside of IRC or SFI will receive an increase in their PhD stipend. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [45542/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to support staff and students of further and higher education who are parents, in order to make education more accessible those returning or continuing education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [45544/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the actions being taken by his Department or by any agency under the aegis of his Department to better understand the trends and to consider the causes and effects of grade inflation on further and higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [45029/23]

114. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the action his Department are undertaking to tackle student accommodation shortages. — Gary Gannon. [45747/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans for legislative changes for the future operation of the National Training Fund, as signposted by Minister Donohoe in his Budget 2024 statement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [45217/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how he is increasing access to apprenticeship for under-represented groups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [45554/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to discuss the steps that have been taken on the establishment of a veterinary school on a third level campus; and when a decision can be expected on this matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [45545/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the action he is taking to expand the capacity of apprenticeships, and to expand the supports available to learners and employers who take up apprenticeship opportunities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [45534/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for an update on the long outstanding issue of regularising the terms and conditions of adult education tutors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [45553/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to comment on the take-up of apprenticeship schemes in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [45080/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the new Statement of Strategy for his Department; when he expects this to be completed and published; the outcome of the consultation period earlier this year; the specific areas that the strategy will build on following the previous 2021-2023 strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [45531/23]

122. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta an bhfuil cur chun cinn na litearthachta i nGaeilge mar chuid den Straitéis Litearthachta Fadsaoil do Dhaoine Fásta a sheol sé i mbliana agus ráiteas a thabhairt ar chur chuige an Rialtais maidir le litearthacht a spreagadh sa Ghaeilge. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [45592/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which provision is being made or will be made to meet the full requirement of student accommodation adjacent to schools or colleges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45640/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of Solas instructors that are available to provide pipe fitting training as part of in-class training phases on apprenticeship programmes; the measures that are being taken to address delays currently experienced on in-class training phases on all apprenticeship programmes for which apprentices are waiting over six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [45707/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures that will be introduced for the 2023/2024 academic year to reduce costs for students in further and higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [45538/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for an update on the funding for the construction of affordable student accommodation in Galway, announced in November 2022; to clarify if the State will own or partially own the units, once built; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [45734/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the total allocation of capital grants (devolved capital grant and the further education capital grants) to the Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [45581/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to address precarious work in third level institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45702/23]

129. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the supports that have been made available for third level students, those attending further and higher education and apprentices in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45739/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the measures his Department is taking to deliver green skills, as outlined in the climate action plans annexe of actions 2023; to report on the progress to date to accelerate the delivery of green skills apprenticeships and to increase the number of courses and places across the six centres of excellence; what annual targets, if any, have been set; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [45221/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of learners across the country will benefit from the removal of fees for PLC courses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [45579/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of apprentices that will benefit from the once-off reduction of 33% in the contribution fee in higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [45576/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason why the €1,000 reduction in student contribution fees in Budget 2024 has been deemed a once off measure by his Department. — Gary Gannon. [45746/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the plans he has to resolve the funding crisis facing the provision of supported training; if he and his Department will meet with providers such as (details supplied) as a matter of urgency to agree sustainable funding levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [45684/23]

135. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of craft apprenticeship places that are planned for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [45574/23]

136. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will outline the number of completed apprenticeships across counties Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal per year between 2018 to 2022 and to date in 2023; the support mechanisms that are in place to keep apprentices within the system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [45639/23]

137. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 111 of 21 September 2023, for a status update on the proposed new further education college in Galway city; the status of the development of the preliminary business case; if it has been completed and returned to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [45733/23]

138. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will give an update on any progress made to resolve the terms and conditions of employment of personal assistants who work in some Education and Training Boards; if he will provide a timeline for when the issue is expected to be resolved; if he will outline the engagement

he and his Department has had with others in relation to the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [45366/23]

139. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how further education learners have been prioritised in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [45580/23]

140. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the total allocation of capital grants (devolved capital grant and the further education capital grants) to the Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [45529/23]

141. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department has undertaken any research to determine what students in what faculties or courses are most and least likely to emigrate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [44816/23]

142. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how Budget 2024 will invest in apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [45536/23]

143. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the total allocation of capital grants (devolved capital grant and the further education capital grants) to the Tipperary Education and Training Board in 2023; the proposed allocation for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [45535/23]

144. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when PLC fees are to be abolished for further education students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [45577/23]

145. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will increase HEI block grants to facilitate an increase in university awarded PhD stipends in line with the stipends awarded through the Science Foundation of Ireland and the Irish Research Council. — Holly Cairns. [45583/23]

146. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the way PhD students are to receive extra support following Budget 2024; if he anticipates an increase in the number of PHD students as a result; his targets, if any, with respect to the number of PhD students in the coming years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [45030/23]

147. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there are any plans to shorten the length of time an apprentice waits for training; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [45552/23]

148. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how many students have started on the new farming apprenticeship in a school (details supplied) respectively; how his Department plans to increase places on apprenticeship programmes such as this moving forward; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [45551/23]

149. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the assistance that is available for students and their parents who cannot avail of SUSI grants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [45528/23]

150. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the amount that has been allocated in Budget 2024 to student accommodation; the number of units this will supply; how he will ensure the affordability of this accommodation for students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45699/23]

151. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science considering the chronic shortage of skilled labour, the reason he chose to reduce fees by only €1,000 and to make this only a once-off; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [45700/23]

152. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide supports for non-State funded PhD students and if he will move to have their employment status recognised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [45796/23]

153. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the total allocation of capital grants (devolved capital grant and the further education capital grants) to the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board in 2023; the likely allocation for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [45555/23]

154. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way his Department is acting to supporting workforce and talent development of Irish SMEs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [45530/23]

155. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the measures his Department is taking to expand retrofit in education and further education sectors; how many retrofits have been completed in the further and higher education sector in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; what the target is for 2024 and 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [45222/23]

156. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will consider in fast-tracking SOLAS apprentice applications to shorten the backlog of apprentices in college; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [45804/23]

157. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department is partaking in any work to assess the difficulty and accessibility of the SUSI application process; and if he will consider making the process easier to complete for applicants. — Gary Gannon. [45745/23]

158. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide an update on current and future development plans for the Drogheda Institute for Further Education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [45543/23]

159. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if Atlantic Technological University, Sligo has been approved for purpose-built student

accommodation funded by his Department; if he will outline the process of a Higher Education Institution receiving approval to build student accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [45638/23]

160. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will ensure that the €1,000 reduction in the student contribution fees for higher education students as announced in Budget 2024 is applied to students studying outside this State, such as Northern Ireland and Britain; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [45537/23]

161. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide an update on progress with regard to (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [45079/23]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*162. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he is taking every action possible to evacuate Irish citizens from Gaza, including children (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [45955/23]

*163. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a passport application by a person (details supplied) will be reviewed and expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [45972/23]

*164. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on recent statements by the President of the European Commission in support of Israel's breaches of international law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46046/23]

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

*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there is a grant available for a person under the age of 60 years for the replacement or upgrade of an oil boiler and copper cylinder, outside of the housing adaptation grants as these are for people over 66 years of age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [45949/23]

*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there is a grant available for a person under the age of 60 years for the replacement or upgrade of an oil boiler and copper cylinder, outside of the housing adaptation grants provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [45950/23]

*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the policy of his Department in relation to redundancies in Bord na Móna; the number of redundancies proposed; whether these will be all voluntary redundancies and whether it will be open to all existing staff

members to apply as Bord na Móna moves away from its original core business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45960/23]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*168. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he will instruct the NTA to engage with an organisation (details supplied) on issues arising from the MacCurtain street active travel scheme. — Thomas Gould. [45808/23]

*169. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason why at a time when road traffic deaths are on the rise again, BoxyMo supervisory type insurance which could prevent at least 100, and possibly up to 200 road traffic accident deaths per year, and has been in use in Ireland for over ten years, is not made mandatory and rolled out nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [45880/23]

*170. To ask the Minister for Transport if a motorist can receive a refund on their motor tax in a scenario (details supplied). — Louise O'Reilly. [45882/23]

*171. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review the taxi licensing system in view of dropping numbers and a lack of services particularly in rural towns and villages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [45914/23]

*172. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the difficulties fully qualified HGV drivers from outside the State (details supplied) who are experiencing in obtaining an appointment with the National Driver Licence Service in order to get an Irish HGV driving licence; if he has plans to further resource the National Driver Licence Service in order to expedite this process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [45980/23]

*173. To ask the Minister for Transport how the people of Clare will benefit from his Department's allocations in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46038/23]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*174. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will address an anomaly in vehicle registration system (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [45877/23]

*175. To ask the Minister for Finance to examine a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [45878/23]

*176. To ask the Minister for Finance to outline the supports in place for a person who has been approved a mortgage but refused mortgage protection based on medical grounds (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [45947/23]

*177. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department and all the agencies who report to his Department fully respects a judgement (details supplied) which was ruled on in March 2020. — Alan Kelly. [45957/23]

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.

*178. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform when the ESRI review of the NDP was commissioned, completed, or will be complete and when it will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [45863/23]

*179. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the total projected capital spend in 2023, broken down by core and non-core and what it represents as a percentage share of Total Government spending and core spending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [45864/23]

*180. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the total projected capital spend in 2024, broken down by core and non-core and what it represents as a percentage share of total Government spending and core spending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [45871/23]

*181. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the total projected capital spend in 2025; what it is projected to represent as a percentage share of total Government spending and core spending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [45865/23]

*182. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform when arrears of pension owing since 2021 will be paid to retired general operatives and supervisors that worked for the Office of Public Works; the reason for the delay in making these payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45965/23]

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

*183. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to provide an update on the addition of a bespoke seasonal employment permit scheme for foreign workers for fruit-picking and other seasonal employments in the horticulture sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45895/23]

*184. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on continued trade with the state of Israel, following its breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46045/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*185. To ask the Minister for Education if any financial supports are available through her Department to facilitate the board of a school (details supplied) in purchasing off-road parking; if he is aware of the urgency of this matter, in light of a near-tragic incident occurring on the N56, with children crossing the road to attend the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [45886/23]

*186. To ask the Minister for Education if she will examine a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [45837/23]

*187. To ask the Minister for Education if certain correspondence between her Department and an organisation (details supplied) has not put the funding for or the work by an educational charity in Cork city in jeopardy. — Duncan Smith. [45838/23]

*188. To ask the Minister for Education if all steps will be taken within her remit to ensure that an educational charity (details supplied) secures a patron, and copper fastens the future of the educational charity in years to come. — Duncan Smith. [45848/23]

*189. To ask the Minister for Education the timeline for when the promised modular building to accommodate the ASD unit at a school (details supplied) will be delivered and operational; the details of any engagement her Department has had with the property management company in this regard; the details of any engagement her Department has had with the school management and parent representatives with regard to the delay in delivering the promised modular building; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [45849/23]

*190. To ask the Minister for Education to examine an application for special education transport (details supplied). — Peadar Tóibín. [45862/23]

*191. To ask the Minister for Education to review correspondence (details supplied); if she can indicate where these supports are locally in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [45881/23]

*192. To ask the Minister for Education the reason a person (details supplied) was not paid for the full forty hours of work they provided under the 2023 home based programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [45908/23]

*193. To ask the Minister for Education if she will ensure that a school bus ticket can be provided for a child (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [45917/23]

*194. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) will receive an update and approval to proceed to the next stage on a matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [45925/23]

*195. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the issues in providing a school bus service (details supplied); if efforts are ongoing to resolve this issue; if a timeline for a resolution can be provided; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [45926/23]

*196. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the plans, if any, for an ASD class in Monaghan town. — Peadar Tóibín. [45948/23]

*197. To ask the Minister for Education the amount of IT funding that is provided for primary and secondary schools in County Tipperary for the years 2013 to 14 October 2023, by year and by primary and secondary education, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [45954/23]

*198. To ask the Minister for Education whether there will be a grant available to primary schools this year, similar to what happened previously for the upgrading of technology and ICT; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45961/23]

*199. To ask the Minister for Education if school transport will be provided to students (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [45967/23]

*200. To ask the Minister for Education when a decision will be issued regarding the application for a personal special needs assistant for a child (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [45979/23]

*201. To ask the Minister for Education whether the principal of a children's school has given sufficient attention to their mother's right to nominate an appropriate second school of her choice for her children in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46030/23]

*202. To ask the Minister for Education whether both parents or only one parent was consulted in respect of the most appropriate second level school for the children of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46031/23]

*203. To ask the Minister for Education the terms of reference for the working group charged with developing policy on students who are exceptionally able or gifted; the membership of the working group; if she agrees that parents or guardians of students who are exceptionally able or gifted ought to be represented on the group; when the group will report to her; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [46034/23]

*204. To ask the Minister for Education her estimate of the number of secondary students in counties Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal that will benefit from the introduction of free school books next year; the number of primary students that are currently benefiting from free school books in each of the counties; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [46042/23]

*205. To ask the Minister for Education how much the increased capitation announced in Budget 2024 will be worth to schools in counties Cavan, Monaghan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [46043/23]

*206. To ask the Minister for Education if she considers it acceptable that a premises used by Medmark for workplace health and safety assessments on behalf of her Department is not accessible to those with mobility issues; if she will ensure that Medmark is compliant with Article 15 of the General Data Protection Regulation, which grants individuals the right to request a copy of their personal data being processed by controllers, as well as other relevant information; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [46050/23]

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

*207. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to clarify if her Department is working to establish a dedicated mitigation fund for downstream businesses in counties Offaly, Laois and elsewhere impacted by the lack of hotel and guesthouse beds and accommodation that are currently being utilised for international protection applicants or beneficiaries of temporary protection; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [45982/23]

*208. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cad é suim an deontais reáchtála a ceadáíodh do gach comharchumann agus gach comhlacht

pobalbhunaithe Gaeltachta sa bhliain 2023; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Mairéad Farrell. [45969/23]

*209. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which hotel bed spaces continue to remain sufficiently available throughout Dublin city and greater areas, with a view to ensuring that tourists and those seeking hotel accommodation are not pressured into paying exorbitant prices; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45999/23]

*210. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the degree to which opportunity exists for winter holidays in the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46000/23]

*211. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department continue to use the arts and Irish culture as a means of attracting tourism here; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46001/23]

*212. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she expects a reconstruction of RTE, with particular reference to recent issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46002/23]

*213. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she continues to be satisfied regarding the availability of adequate hotel accommodation throughout the country in order to provide for increased numbers of tourists seeking autumn, winter, spring and/or summer holidays here; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46003/23]

*214. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which particular emphasis is being placed on business tourism/international conferences here with a view to maximising employment in the sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46004/23]

*215. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department remain in contact with the various applicants for major and minor sports grants throughout Kildare north in an effort to ensure maximum response to an area experiencing rapid population increase; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46005/23]

*216. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department continue to promote the Irish language and culture in Gaeltacht areas throughout the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46006/23]

*217. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her office continue to encourage cultural projects at local and national level with a view to ensuring maximisation of economic benefit through the medium of culture and tourism; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46007/23]

*218. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department continue to encourage all forms of the arts, including the stage and

film industry, local voluntary groups and those interested in the promotion of the arts at amateur and local level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46008/23]

*219. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the degree to which she continues to engage with cultural groups of local and national importance throughout the country and County Kildare with a view to maximisation of culture as a means of promoting business and boosting the economy at local and national level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46009/23]

*220. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which this country remains an attractive base for film location; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46010/23]

*221. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the degree to which she continues to ensure the continued growth and viability of all portfolios under her aegis with obvious benefit for tourism, culture, arts, sport and media; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46011/23]

*222. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the emphasis she expects to place on sport in the coming year, with particular reference to the need of facilities in all areas throughout the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46012/23]

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

*223. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide a breakdown of Vote 34 in Budget 2024 providing the total capital and current expenditure for each individual programme within Heads A, B, C, D, E and F; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [45887/23]

*224. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to clarify the situation where a tenant receives a notice to quit a tenancy and the reason given by the landlord is that they intend to sell the property; can the local authority step in at this stage whilst the tenant is in place and attempt to negotiate a tenant-in-situ property purchase; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [45918/23]

*225. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications received by his Department to date for the vacant property refurbishment grant; the number of applications awarded to date broken down by local authority, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [45937/23]

*226. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the extension on the RZLT draft county development plan review will mean that landowners who missed the appeal deadline of 1 January 2023, can now appeal the designation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [45951/23]

*227. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of skeletons removed from an island (details supplied); whether it is intended to return all of them for reburial or only some; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45964/23]

*228. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the new Dunleer fire station in County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [45970/23]

*229. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the efforts to protect heritage sites in County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [45587/23]

*230. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will review the length of time a property must be vacant from two years down to six months to be eligible for funding under the croí cónaithe scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46049/23]

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

*231. To ask the Minister for Social Protection what child benefit supports are in place in 2023 for parents whose school-going children reach the age of 18 years in the upcoming school year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [45809/23]

*232. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to examine a case with regard to an application for a carer's support grant (details supplied). — Peadar Tóibín. [45888/23]

*233. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) is entitled to a carer's payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [45892/23]

*234. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when an application for a working family payment will be processed and a decision made (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45921/23]

*235. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a review of a carer's allowance payment will be carried out (details supplied) as requested by the carer due to a change in means; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45922/23]

*236. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason recipients of the partial capacity benefit will not receive a once-off lump sum payment; if she will review this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [45971/23]

*237. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if assistance will be provided to a person (details supplied) in relation to the renewal of their PSC. — Catherine Murphy. [45978/23]

*238. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if social welfare entitlements can be paid to Celbridge Post Office, Main Street, Celbridge in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46019/23]

*239. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which a person (details supplied) qualifies for contributory/non-contributory State pension, keeping in mind their husband's entitlements; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46020/23]

*240. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which a person (details supplied) currently on a CE scheme, qualifies for fuel allowance or other supports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46021/23]

*241. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which a person (details supplied) qualifies for non-contributory State pension notwithstanding recent decision to the contrary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46023/23]

*242. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to what extent any social protection supplement can be awarded in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46024/23]

*243. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) qualifies for a contributory pension or part thereof notwithstanding the fact that he has a pension from employment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46025/23]

*244. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the normal five-year requirement can be waived in the case of a person (details supplied) given their disabilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46026/23]

*245. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when disability allowance or equivalent illness payment, including supplementary welfare, will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46027/23]

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

*246. To ask the Minister for Justice in light of the current backlog in citizenship applications, her plans to allow for the taking of declarations and undertakings in naturalisation applications other than in citizenship ceremonies, as provided for in the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [45812/23]

*247. To ask the Minister for Justice for an update on an application for citizenship for a person (details supplied); the timeline for completion of same; the reason for the delays in processing applications for naturalisation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [45836/23]

*248. To ask the Minister for Justice when electronic filing with the central office of the courts service will be available; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [45872/23]

*249. To ask the Minister for Justice to confirm the current status and provide an update on an application for citizenship (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45913/23]

*250. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí of any rank that have resigned in 2023, by rank and by month, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [45952/23]

*251. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí of any rank that have resigned for the years 2013 to 14 October 2023, by year, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [45953/23]

*252. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will introduce a family reunification scheme for Irish citizens and residents with family members trapped in Gaza. — Eoin Ó Broin. [45973/23]

*253. To ask the Minister for Justice her views on the recent ESRI survey which indicated that lotteries and scratch games make up the two highest rates of gambling participation in Ireland; if these figures are of concern to her; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Flanagan. [45976/23]

*254. To ask the Minister for Justice the current and expected residency status in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46013/23]

*255. To ask the Minister for Justice the current or expected residency status in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46014/23]

*256. To ask the Minister for Justice the current or expected residency status in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46015/23]

*257. To ask the Minister for Justice the procedure to be followed to regularise Stamp 4 residency/naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46022/23]

*258. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 287 of 14 February 2013, and 110 of 29 January 2015, if the matter can be urgently investigated with a view to the determination of progress in the case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46032/23]

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

*259. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an update on an application (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [45879/23]

*260. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of participants in the ACRES scheme; the number for which the Department have received the scorecard from the relevant ACRES advisors; the number of these that have been checked and validated to date; whether when this is done if participants will be informed of the detailed outcome and given a chance to appeal the scoring before payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45883/23]

*261. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide an update on the Ireland/New Zealand Joint Research Mechanism (JRM) pilot research initiative; what progress has been made to date on the four projects funded under the initiative; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [45897/23]

*262. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his Department's plans to rectify an anomaly in qualifying for a scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [45966/23]

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

*263. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth how his Department plans to address the lack of homecare capacity as in the case of a person (details supplied). — Martin Browne. [45977/23]

*264. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the estimated first, full year and annual cost of increasing the current minimum rate of pay for an early years educators, by 0.85cent, €1.00, €1.25, €1.50, €1.75 and €2.00; and the first, full year and annual estimated cost to increase all other grades covered by the early years employment regulation order. — Kathleen Funchion. [46033/23]

*265. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for clarification and assistance with a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [45814/23]

*266. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to review correspondence (details supplied); if he can offer any advice on funding for this facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [45884/23]

*267. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if, in recognition of financial need and the critical social value of the work they undertake, the additional Budget 2024 provisions for foster carers could be paid in full in January, without a delay of several months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [45933/23]

*268. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when foster care will come within pension provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [45934/23]

*269. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth why foster care payments are not index-linked and whether and when provision will be made to do so, given the criticality of the service provided and the fact foster care can be financially dynamic according the needs of a child; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [45935/23]

*270. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to outline what is being done within his Department to future-proof foster care as a critical component within the care system, so that in-home family care is the primary option, and available to as many children as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [45936/23]

*271. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth how much additional funding would have to be allocated to Section 39 bodies in 2024 to provide for pay parity with similar grades in the health service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45946/23]

*272. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what funding and assistance can be made available to a school (details supplied), which is at risk of closure due to the loss of its premises for the academic year 2024-2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [45968/23]

*273. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent, if any, to which Tusla has positively intervened in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46017/23]

*274. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which Tusla continues to oversee the health and wellbeing and conditions of the children of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [46029/23]

*275. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children on disability service waiting lists for children's disability networks teams, by CHO/CDNT at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the average length of wait; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [46039/23]

*276. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of people on disability service waiting lists for each service type, excluding children's disability network teams, at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [46040/23]

*277. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children on waiting lists for an assessment of need at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the number overdue for completion; the average length of wait. — David Cullinane. [46051/23]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*278. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE physiotherapists, dietitians and speech and language therapists working in Bantry General Hospital in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45815/23]

*279. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE radiographers working in Galway University Hospital and Portiuncula Hospital in the years of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; if this number will be further increased; and if so, when. — Duncan Smith. [45816/23]

*280. To ask the Minister for Health the budget allocation to Cappagh Orthopaedic Hospital in the years of 2021, 2022 and 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45817/23]

*281. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE senior pharmaceutical technicians working in Wexford General Hospital in 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45818/23]

*282. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE urologist registrars working in Cavan General Hospital in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45819/23]

*283. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE clinical specialist physiotherapists in developmental dysplasia of the hip at Beaumont Hospital in the years of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45820/23]

*284. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE addiction counsellors employed by the HSE in CHO1 in the years of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45821/23]

*285. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dermatology procedures carried out at CHI Temple Street in 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45822/23]

*286. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public nursing home beds in County Clare in 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45823/23]

*287. To ask the Minister for Health the number of applicants for home support who have been approved but placed on a waiting list in CHO9; and the average waiting times for those approved and waiting for services. — Duncan Smith. [45824/23]

*288. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide the management structure by grade and organisation chart for occupational therapists in County Wicklow. — Duncan Smith. [45825/23]

*289. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE chiropodists employed by the HSE in CHO3 in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45826/23]

*290. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ophthalmology appointments made in primary care centres within CHO9 in 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45827/23]

*291. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant in emergency medicine posts at Mercy University Hospital in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45828/23]

*292. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE nurses working in Croom Orthopaedic Hospital in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; if this number will be further increased; and if so when. — Duncan Smith. [45829/23]

*293. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE reconstructive plastic surgeons at St Luke's General Hospital, Kilkenny in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45830/23]

*294. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant neuroradiologists at Cork University Hospital in the years of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45831/23]

*295. To ask the Minister for Health the nature of refurbishment works that were carried out at Mallow General Hospital in the years of 2022 and to date, in 2023 in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45832/23]

*296. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE physiotherapists working in Donegal primary care services and services for older persons in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023; and the number of older persons waiting to see a physiotherapist in Donegal as of 11 October 2023. — Duncan Smith. [45833/23]

*297. To ask the Minister for Health the number of emergency ambulances, motorcycles and rapid response vehicles available in County Monaghan in the years of 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45834/23]

*298. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that presented to the accident and emergency department of St. Vincent's University Hospital in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Duncan Smith. [45835/23]

*299. To ask the Minister for Health the average patient experience time to admission via an emergency department for all patients each quarter and for September for each year 2018-2023 to date, inclusive, Statewide and for each location, in tabular form; and the average for all patients, the average for patients aged under 75 years; and the average for patients aged 75 years or older. — David Cullinane. [45840/23]

*300. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who attended an emergency department for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, Statewide and by location in tabular form; the number and percentage of patients who were admitted via an emergency department; and the number and percentage who were waiting 0-6 hours, 0-9 hours, 9-24 hours, and 24+ hours; the number for all patients, the number and percentage for patients aged under 75 years; and the number and percentage for patients aged over 75 years. — David Cullinane. [45841/23]

*301. To ask the Minister for Health the maximum patient experience time to admission registered at each emergency department for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45842/23]

*302. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who left an emergency department without being seen in the month for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, by hospital, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45843/23]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated scheduled care cancellations, by appointment type, for each quarter and for September for each year 2022-2023 to date, inclusive by hospital group and hospital, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45844/23]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health the number of cancer-related appointments and procedures which were cancelled for each quarter and for September for each year 2022-2023 to date, inclusive, by hospital, for adults and for children, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45845/23]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatient beds, by bed type, available at each acute hospital for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive; and the number of bed days provided. — David Cullinane. [45846/23]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health the number of delayed transfers of care for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, at each location, in tabular form; the number of delayed discharges and the number as a percentage of all discharges; the number of bed days lost; and the number as a percentage of all bed days available for the period. — David Cullinane. [45847/23]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with scoliosis and the number of children with spina bifida on waiting lists at the end of September for 2019-2023, inclusive, by

specialty, including the number of suspended cases, in tabular form; and the number waiting 0-6 months, 6-12 month, 12-18 months, and 18+ months. — David Cullinane. [45850/23]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on paediatric orthopaedic waiting lists for at the end of each quarter and September for each year 2019-2023, inclusive, including the number of suspended cases, by specialty and by location, in tabular form; the number waiting 0-6 months, 6-12 month, 12-18 months, and 18+ months; and the average waiting time of all relevant patients on each list. — David Cullinane. [45851/23]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health the number of claims before the CervicalCheck Tribunal; the number of claims resolved by the Tribunal; the timeframe for completion of the Tribunal's work; the cost of the Tribunal to date, by cost type; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [45852/23]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists on the dental treatment services scheme at the end of September for each year 2019-2023 by LHO in tabular form; the number of dentists who submitted claims and the total number of claims in quarter 1 of each year and each full year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [45853/23]

*311. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of September of each year 2019-2023, broken down by standard waiting times, by area, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45854/23]

*312. To ask the Minister for Health the bed occupancy rates of each public and public voluntary hospital, by hospital group, for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, in tabular form; the national average; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [45855/23]

*313. To ask the Minister for Health for each model 3 and model 4 hospital, the number of days that full capacity protocols have been active, for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45856/23]

*314. To ask the Minister for Health the number of assaults recorded against patients at HSE facilities for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45857/23]

*315. To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of clinical status 1 ECHO and clinical status 1 DELTA incidents responded to by a patient-carrying vehicle in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive, nationally and by ambulance region in tabular form; the average length of such response times nationally and by region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [45859/23]

*316. To ask the Minister for Health the number and percentage of incidents responded to by the ambulance service by clinical status and sub-tatus for each quarter and for September for each year 2019-2023 to date, inclusive. — David Cullinane. [45860/23]

*317. To ask the Minister for Health average ambulance turnaround time at each emergency department for each month in 2023 to date, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45861/23]

*318. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on primary care and community healthcare waiting lists, for each care service, for at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023 in tabular form; the breakdown by length of wait and by age; the numbers waiting for initial assessment, initial therapy/intervention, and follow up therapy/intervention for each specialty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [45866/23]

*319. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form; the breakdown by length of wait. — David Cullinane. [45867/23]

*320. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on CAMHS waiting lists by CHO and length of wait at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45868/23]

*321. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on waiting lists for Jigsaw by CHO and length of wait at the end of each quarter and September 2019-2023, inclusive, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [45869/23]

*322. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on diagnostic waiting lists at the end of each quarter of 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [45870/23]

*323. To ask the Minister for Health how many people have died in Ireland from an illness (details supplied) per year from 2014 to 2021 inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [45873/23]

*324. To ask the Minister for Health how many people have died in Ireland from breast cancer per year from 2014 to 2021 inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [45874/23]

*325. To ask the Minister for Health how many people have died in Ireland from a condition (details supplied) per year from 2014 to 2021 inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [45875/23]

*326. To ask the Minister for Health how many people have died in Ireland from stroke per year from 2014 to 2021 inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [45876/23]

*327. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the provision of ceiling hoists as essential equipment for people with disabilities was passed from the HSE to local authorities with the responsibility and servicing costs having to be borne by persons who use the equipment; when the policy changed; and if the provision and servicing of ceiling hoists will be transferred back to the HSE. — Peadar Tóibín. [45889/23]

*328. To ask the Minister for Health to review a case (detail supplied); if he will ensure this matter is dealt with speedily; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [45890/23]

*329. To ask the Minister for Health the reason persons with a medical card suffering from hidradenitis suppurativa and who have been prescribed the drug ozempic to help with the condition, are not covered for the provision of the drug. — Louise O'Reilly. [45893/23]

*330. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide the population of each CHO area as of the 2022 census, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [45894/23]

*331. To ask the Minister for Health if he intends to conduct a cost benefit analysis into subsidising essential asthma medications which are excluded from the long-term illness scheme as a means of reducing unscheduled asthma-related GP, ED visits and hospital admissions (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45896/23]

*332. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the primary role and responsibilities of the National Director for Mental Health before this post was discontinued; the date this role was discontinued; to clarify which individuals in the HSE have assumed the roles and responsibilities previously held by the National Director for Mental Health; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45898/23]

*333. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the role of National Director for Mental Health within the HSE was discontinued; if, in light of the Mental Health Commission’s call for its reinstatement, if he will agree to this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45899/23]

*334. To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies in each of the 75 CAMHS teams, by post, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45900/23]

*335. To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to enhance the coordination and governance of community-based child and youth mental health services and establish a more cohesive and effective continuum of care, particularly given the number of HSE-funded service providers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45901/23]

*336. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the names and budgets of organisations funded by the HSE to deliver child and youth mental health services in each of the nine CHOs, in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [45902/23]

*337. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list for each CAMHS unit and the number of patients that have been waiting for over 6, 12, 18 and 24 months, in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [45903/23]

*338. To ask the Minister for Health the rates for acceptance on the first referral for each CAMHS unit, in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [45904/23]

*339. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the progress of the working group responsible for the roll-out of Health link and the relevant ICT software in CAMHS units; the expected timeline for implementation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45905/23]

*340. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the recommendation from the final report on the provision of child and adolescent mental health services in the State by a person (details supplied) for the Mental Health Commission to extend its regulatory remit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45906/23]

*341. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the review of North Kerry CAMHS, including information on the scope of the review, areas or periods it may exclude; the expected timeline for its completion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45907/23]

*342. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a detailed breakdown of his plans for the €100 million allocated to new measures in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45909/23]

*343. To ask the Minister for Health further to the allocation of €40 million to expedite the roll-out of the integrated financial management system, the timeline he is working towards; to provide a detailed breakdown of how he intends to spend this allocation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45910/23]

*344. To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided to digital health in Budget 2024; to provide a detailed breakdown of his plans for this allocation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45911/23]

*345. To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided for implementation of the Nurse Safe Staffing Framework in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [45912/23]

*346. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on an application (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [45915/23]

*347. To ask the Minister for Health for an accurate timeline on the development of the emergency department in Mayo University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [45916/23]

*348. To ask the Minister for Health if he will facilitate funding for a person to attend a facility (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [45923/23]

*349. To ask the Minister for Health to provide further detail on the internal HSE TAPS audit; the date it was received by the HSE, Minister and Department; to make a full copy of the results and recommendations of this audit available; when he intends to publish the final audit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [45927/23]

*350. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an annual breakdown of the number of reimbursements made via the primary care reimbursement scheme for first consultations for abortion care from 2019 to 2022, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [45928/23]

*351. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an annual breakdown of the number of reimbursements made via the primary care reimbursement scheme for second consultations for abortion care from 2019 to 2022, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [45929/23]

*352. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an annual breakdown of the number of reimbursements made via the primary care reimbursement scheme for third consultations for abortion care from 2019 to 2022, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [45930/23]

*353. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an annual breakdown of the number of abortions provided in hospital-based abortion services under Section 12 of the Health (Regulation

of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 from 2019 to 2022, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [45931/23]

*354. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an annual breakdown of the number of abortions provided by the community-based healthcare providers such as GPs, family planning clinics, women's health clinics, student health services under Section 12 of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 from 2019 to 2022, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [45932/23]

*355. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of what the non-core current allocation of €1,032 million will be used for in 2024; to which programmes or uses this will be applied; a breakdown of the €13 million in non-core capital spending; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45938/23]

*356. To ask the Minister for Health how much has been spent on agency staff in each of 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45939/23]

*357. To ask the Minister for Health how many additional acute hospital beds have been delivered in 2022 and 2023 to date; how many he expects for 2023 in total; what is the expected target in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45940/23]

*358. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the provision of the 1,500 rapid build hospital beds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45941/23]

*359. To ask the Minister for Health how much has been spent on the NTPF in 2022 and to date in 2023; what is the expected spend for 2023; what the allocation is now for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45942/23]

*360. To ask the Minister for Health how much has been spent on leasing capacity in private hospitals in 2022 and 2023, respectively; the projected spend in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45943/23]

*361. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm if additional funding has been secured in Budget 2024 for the implementation of the safe staffing; how much funding is in place for phase two of the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45944/23]

*362. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of allocations of spending under the waiting list action plan to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [45945/23]

*363. To ask the Minister for Health whether it is intended to officially recognise centres for ambulatory surgery which are carrying out work on, contract for the HSE on for example, patients who need hand surgery, so that the anaesthetic consultants in them do not face large increases in insurance premiums that would make such work prohibitively expensive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45962/23]

*364. To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to ensure that all medical card holders have access to a GP within their area, taking into account that more people are finding it harder and harder to get on a GPs list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45963/23]

*365. To ask the Minister for Health the status of home help provision (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [46035/23]

*366. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider allowing funds to be allocated to (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [46037/23]

*367. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the ability of a hospital group (details supplied), to comply with the HSE Urgent and Emergency Care Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46044/23]

*368. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the uptake of the winter flu vaccine in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46047/23]

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

*369. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 438 of 24 January 2023, if he will provide an update; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [46041/23]

*370. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the working of the Third Level Access Programme in universities. — Peadar Tóibín. [44898/23]

*371. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of tribunals, public investigations and commissions of investigations in process; the length of time each has been underway; when each will conclude; the cost to date of each; and the estimated cost of each at completion. — Peadar Tóibín. [44814/23]

*372. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline the benefits of recent budget changes in his Department. — Brendan Griffin. [45806/23]

*373. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to reform the SUSI grant programme to better accommodate students who are estranged and or independent from their parents/guardians (details supplied); and if he will review these criteria; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [45807/23]

*374. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will set out the supports his Department offers to students living in the Republic of Ireland who are studying in universities and colleges of further education in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [45810/23]

*375. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will review an application for a SUSI grant for a person (details supplied) who returned to third-level education as a mature student; if he will review the requirement that a three year gap occurs between leaving a course and commencing a further course to qualify for a SUSI grant, regardless of personal circumstances; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [45813/23]

*376. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the Killarney centre of excellence for tourism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [45805/23]

*377. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the work his Department is carrying out to address precarious employment in higher education as identified in a report (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [45924/23]

*378. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the financial supports that are available to assist apprentices through their courses of study in view of the substantial costs incurred by many apprentices in travelling and/or accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [45987/23]

*379. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if this jurisdiction is likely to experience a shortage of graduates in the future within a particular area to meet the demand of the corresponding workforce; his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45988/23]

*380. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the total number of apprentices currently available; the extent to which this is sufficient to meet requirements; his plans to introduce any new apprenticeship programmes in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45989/23]

*381. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to ensure continued access to third-level for all students seeking to avail of education at this level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45990/23]

*382. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he and his Department have identified any specific obstacles which may impede improvement and achievement in the further and higher educational sectors and impact our ability to continue to establish Ireland's reputation as equal to the best globally in higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45991/23]

*383. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the role he sees for the further and higher education, research, innovation and science sectors in the current year and future years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45992/23]

*384. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he and his Department propose to broaden the higher education opportunities for undergraduates with a view to maximisation of their opportunities in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45993/23]

*385. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to what extent he continues to liaise with the technical sector in education with a view to ensuring adequate provision in respect of graduates in both areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45994/23]

*386. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which higher education costs have increased over the past number of years; the

extent of financial assistance now available for all students seeking to avail of third-level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45995/23]

*387. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which he expects science to play an increased role in the higher education sector, with particular reference to ensuring an adequate number of graduates to meet the demands of the workplace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45996/23]

*388. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the degree to which he continues to make provision for an increased number of technical graduates/apprentices in order to meet the needs of individual sectors in the industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45997/23]

*389. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the individual areas in the academic or technical sectors showing the greatest requirement in respect of graduates; the extent to which he and his Department continue to respond to this need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [45998/23]

*390. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on a recent announcement (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [46048/23]

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

*391. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail cén uair a cheadófar deontas, mar atá iarrtha ag Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe le staidéar a dhéanamh ar na féidireachtaí cur le na saoráidí calaíochta ag Céibh an Chalaídh Mhóir in Inis Meáin; an fáth go bhfuil moil ag ceadú an staidéir seo; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45958/23]

*392. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development whether her Department is willing to fund or co-fund the provision of an undersea fibre cable to each offshore island that is included in the National Broadband Plan, out of the dedicated islands fund available to her Department, as mainland to island fibre was not provided for in the National Broadband plan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [45959/23]