



## **DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Déardaoin, 9 Samhain, 2023*  
*Thursday, 9th November, 2023*

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**CEISTEANNA**  
**QUESTIONS**



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

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

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

1. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to specialist cardiovascular services and the new stroke strategy for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [48895/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) has stated that 312 children are awaiting scoliosis surgery, that surgery targets have not been met and that ongoing failures lead to life-long health complications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49192/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [48897/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the direct support his Department has provided to Ukrainians living in Ukraine in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [48996/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to carry out an audit of the provision of long-term residential care for older persons in Galway city and county provided by HSE West, to include an assessment of the number of beds vacant in each facility, the number of people on waiting lists in each facility and the average wait times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [48549/23]

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

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

6. To ask the Minister for Health if he intends to introduce an adult immunisation programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [48824/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the mental health supports available for stroke victims; to provide an update on the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [48832/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an overview of plans his Department has for Inis Ghile Centre in Parteen, County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [48823/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on plans to expand the provision of services at Cappagh Hospital. — Paul McAuliffe. [49073/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Monaghan Hospital for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [48991/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the 1,500 new hospital beds that he announced earlier in 2023; when he expects these to come on stream; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [48985/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the National Maternity Strategy for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [48899/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the national sepsis programme for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [48901/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the RCSI Hospital Group for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [48974/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the investment and enhancement in services at a hospital (details supplied) since he assumed office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [48127/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Tipperary University Hospital for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [49064/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to primary and community care reform programmes for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [48902/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the progress made to date in expanding community-based care by increasing opening times for unscheduled care, radiology, and diagnostic services. — Frankie Feighan. [48867/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider providing a funded bandage scheme for those battling with epidermolysis bullosa; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [49084/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Health what measures are being taken to supply home supports to all people approved and waitlisted in the Cork-Kerry community healthcare area; to lift the recruitment freeze on securing additional home support workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [49046/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the National Cancer Strategy for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [48898/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be provided to deliver a MRI scanner to Monaghan Hospital. — Matt Carthy. [48992/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details on his Department's latest work in tackling overcrowding in hospitals. — Frankie Feighan. [48866/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the delivery of the primary health care centre in Finglas. — Paul McAuliffe. [49072/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to expand the virtual home hospital services within the HSE for early supported discharge in order to reduce strain on the hospital service during the winter surge; if he will provide an update on existing pilot programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [48608/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Health to outline his Department's efforts to reduce the number of patients on hospital trollies this Winter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49045/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review the health services that are covered by the medical card, with a view to including such costs as signed letters from a GP or nurse and blood tests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [49085/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the provision of a primary care centre in Tullow, County Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [48988/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to CHO7 for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [48994/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Health what preparations have been carried out to provide for the health care needs of the 950 people to be accommodated in Stradbally under the temporary international protection scheme and the existing local population. — Brian Stanley. [47528/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on his plans to end hospital overcrowding, especially in Cork hospitals which experienced record overcrowding this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [48607/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the inquiry into the historical licensing and prescribing of sodium valproate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [48477/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Health when he expects the Commission on Care for Older People to convene; the impact that the additional funding secured in Budget 2024 will have on expediting this process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [48616/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the capital projects associated with Mayo University Hospital, the ED and 75-bed ward; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [48458/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has investigated the dangers of nitrous oxide on young people; if there are plans to bring forward legislation to regulate the sale of nitrous oxide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [48989/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Donnelly. [48894/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Health the steps he and his Department are taking to address the large volumes of people being treated on trolleys at University Hospital Limerick, where the 2023 numbers have exceeded those of 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [49007/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the current waiting times for orthodontic appointments in the Cork public system (details supplied); what measures are in place to reduce these; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [48993/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) has criticised the allocation of just €13 million to €14 million for the development of new measures in mental health in 2024, that it has been said “the lack of new funding announced on 12 October 2023 will threaten the viability of mental health services in 2024, and that the organisation says that €85 million is required next year for the development of new measures to address unmet need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49020/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the review underway into matters in Letterkenny University Hospital (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [48770/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) recently stated that at three-quarters of the way through 2023, instead of the targeted reduction of around 51,700 people set in the Government’s 2023 Waiting List Action Plan, the latest NTPF figures confirm that 13,250 additional people have been added to the three main waiting lists – a

shortfall of almost 65,000 against the Government's own targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49022/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the injury clinic unit for Carlow town and county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [48987/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Health the status of negotiations between Fórsa and the HSE over industrial action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [49011/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the throughput of patients being treated in key categories and the trends in patient numbers compared to the corresponding period in 2022 and to the equivalent period in 2019, before Covid struck. — Richard Bruton. [48359/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Health to consider extending the pandemic special recognition payment to nurses and staff of the Irish Blood Transfusion Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [48997/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Health to report on the take-up of vaccinations under the Autumn vaccination programme to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49044/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, for 2024; what these new developments will entail; if they will include additional bed capacity; what the expected timeline is for delivery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [48936/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a list of hospitals he has visited over the past 12 months. — Peadar Tóibín. [48771/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Health his views on further extending local injuries unit- and medical assessment unit-opening hours in CHO3, in view of significant overcrowding at University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [49025/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Health when construction will recommence on Ballyhaunis primary care centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [48457/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Health the details of any recruitment process underway to increase staffing levels in the Áras Mhic Dara community nursing unit in Carraroe to facilitate the use of all available beds in the unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [48473/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the Nenagh medical assessment unit for 2024 to increase capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [49065/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) has stated that 10,538 patients, including 273 children, went without a bed in October and has stated that targeted recruitment and retention plans are needed in each hospital and community care area to allow for more nurses and midwives to be recruited at the pace in which they are needed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49021/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the facilities of Midleton Hospital after the devastating floods during Storm Babet; if he will provide the details of the funding available for repairs to the hospital; if he will provide a timeline for a return of the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [48224/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which he and his Department have identified blockages in the delivery of health services, with particular reference to addressing such issues in any way possible in order to ensure a seamless access to health services including A&Es, GPs and all public health services without restriction; if he will outline the actions already taken in this regard and any further action planned in the future in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [48152/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Health the current resources and organisational structure of the climate change unit in his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49031/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, for CAMHS services in CHO8 in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [48937/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Health how the extra funding of €4.6 million in Budget 2024 will increase the provision of transitional care to make sure that older people get the care they need leaving hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [48617/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has provided to his Department to date the detailed costings and an implementation plan requested which will inform a decision in relation to the inclusion of the chickenpox vaccine in the primary childhood immunisation programme; when a decision on this is expected to be made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [48926/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Health what further plans are being considered to deal with the ongoing crisis at Letterkenny University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [48213/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the ongoing situation with Letterkenny University Hospital where GPs and consultants continue to voice their concerns about the future of the service; if any further resources will be provided to the hospital to help it deal with the crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [48220/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Health what extra capacity has been added to the local health services to provide for the additional 950 asylum seekers in Stradbally and for the local population; who will provide these services; and if they are now in place. — Brian Stanley. [47529/23]



63. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) recently stated that the Budget 2024 capital allocation for Health will not result in the opening of the 1,500 additional rapid build hospital beds, six surgical hubs and four elective hospitals promised by him; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49023/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update regarding wait times for both adult and child occupational therapy services in Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathcoole, Newcastle, Saggart and Brittas; what efforts are being made to increase staff in the services and to reduce waiting times in the areas outlined; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [48923/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made regarding the establishment in Limerick of the trial 24/7 mental health de-escalation unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [49008/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the Cancer Strategy for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [48995/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) recently stated that the planned HSE NCHD recruitment freeze is “in breach of NCHD contract”, that NCHDs are suffering unprecedented levels of work-related stress and burnout, and that the freeze will lead to even more dangerous conditions for patient care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [49024/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the three new elective hospitals in Cork, Galway and Dublin, as promised under the National Development Plan; when he expects work to begin on the development of these hospitals; when he expects them to be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [48986/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to eating disorder residential and community support services in the State for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [48975/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor, assess and remedy any shortcomings in the delivery of health services, whether in regard to access to homecare, general medical services, and capacity requirements in whatever area, with a view to resolution in the short term in order to make the health services in this country a more attractive place in which to work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [48153/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Health if he will respond to reports of high and unmanageable stress levels amongst CAMHS staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [49010/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 46 of 21 September 2023, the status of the examination by the HSE of the completed SAR/PBC for the

new emergency department, women and children's block at University Hospital Galway; if the HSE has completed the examination to date; the timeline for the delivery of the new emergency department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [48434/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Health his plans, if any, for the further development and expansion of South Lee Mental Health Services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [47766/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the status of all primary care centres under construction or opened in Dublin mid-west; the staffing levels of each centre; the dates for commencement of services in those ready for opening; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [48924/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Health how many patients are awaiting discharge from all hospitals under the South/South West Hospital Group due to no home supports being in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [49047/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the issues highlighted with respect to referrals to CAMHS teams in CHO3 identified in a report (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [49026/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Health the progress of the ongoing implementation of Action 1.5 in the Health Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019-2024 to ensure effective health service planning for climate resilience; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49032/23]

78. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to deliver the promised 1,500 rapid-build hospital beds for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [49087/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Health how his Department will utilise the additional €2.6 billion in funding for mental health and older persons announced in Budget 2024 to provide enhanced services for people with dementia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [48831/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Health if he would provide an update on any HSE facilities that were damaged after the devastating floods during Storm Babet; if he will provide the details of the funding available for repairs to these facilities; if he will provide a timeline for a return of the hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [48225/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on plans to develop a primary care centre and day care centre in Youghal, County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [49075/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the throughput of the National Treatment Purchase Agency in 2023; and the plans for 2024. — Richard Bruton. [48358/23]

## CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

83. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an explanation for the ongoing delay in the provision of emergency funding for essential fire safety and other works for homeowners with Celtic Tiger-era building defects; and the reason for the delay with the drafting of the legislation underpinning the full redress scheme. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49143/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on the prevalence of vacancy and dereliction; his further views on the adequacy of Housing for All as a means of converting voids; if he will report on his representations to the Minister for Finance in respect of the number of vacant homes which may be subject to the vacant homes tax; his plans to address delays in the restoration of local authority properties to use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [49194/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of affordable homes delivered by Q3 2023 by local authorities, approved housing bodies, and the LDA under the affordable housing fund, the cost-rental equity loan and project tosaigh. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49144/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he will introduce the ‘use it or lose it’ clause to ensure sites with planning permission are developed without delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [49193/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to confirm when he intends to publish the report from the Housing Commission on the Right to Housing; and when he intends to bring a memo to Cabinet on the issue of the referendum on the right to housing. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49145/23]

## CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

88. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if consideration can be given to extending the completion deadline for croí cónaithe grant applications from the current 13 months, to allow successful applicants the time to finish the refurbishment of the property; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [49086/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of mortgage-to-rent applications completed since the review commenced; and to provide an update on the review into the mortgage-to-rent scheme. — Thomas Gould. [43068/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of domestic septic tanks nationally; the number of inspections of domestic septic tanks; the take-up of grant aid for treatment systems in the high-status objective catchment area scheme; the take-up of grant aid for treatment systems in prioritised areas for action; the take-up of grant aid for

domestic waste water treatment systems in houses selected under the EPA's National Inspection Plan, broken down by local authority over the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49037/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of housing commencements in Carlow to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [48956/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he expects to make a decision on the applications made to his Department in respect of developing sewage schemes for the villages of Broadford and Cooraclare, County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [48826/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there are plans to allow domestic violence victims to transfer their housing applications to other counties without losing their time on the waiting list. — Paul McAuliffe. [49071/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many local authority homes have been retrofitted to date in 2023; how many were retrofitted to a standard of BER B2 or above; how many were installed with heat pumps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [48962/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the emergency funding for interim fire safety works in buildings with fire safety and other defects; to provide a potential timeline on funding allocation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [48980/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider disregarding the working family payment as means for social housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [49083/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an overview of the €5.1 billion capital investment in housing in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [48892/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what measures will be put in place to tackle the record numbers of children living in homeless emergency accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [49015/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the target in place for housing completions in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [49079/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the delivery of 9,100 new-build social homes in 2023. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49054/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what funding is being provided for the affordable housing fund in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [48953/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of the growing anger and frustration amongst affected homeowners in Donegal and other counties at the serious limitations of the enhanced defective concrete block grant scheme; and if he will immediately work on an actual redress scheme similar to the pyrite remediation scheme rather than this second limited grant scheme. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [48828/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 297 of 10 October 2023, if he will report on the progress of the TOD Working Group in producing the report on transport-oriented development opportunities in limerick; the timetable of the assessment process and publication of the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [49058/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when Mayo County Council will receive the framework document to submit bids for the multi-annual rural water programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [48460/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on efforts to tackle vacancy and dereliction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [48893/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide details of the additional supports that his Department will provide for a local authority following the devastation of Storm Babet (details supplied); how quickly this funding will be made available to the same local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [48226/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he can identify through the various local authorities suitably developed sites on which builders can be contracted to provide extra homes in the shortest possible time and utilising variations of housing proposals to achieve these including modular homes and log cabins, as well as conventional methods to provide houses for both those on local authority waiting lists and those who have to date failed to qualify for a mortgage or an affordable house; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [48151/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Traveller Accommodation. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49051/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on the lack of progress in utilising off-site housing construction for the delivery of social housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [49040/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on plans for a Government deposit protection scheme for renters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [49027/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the timelines for the additional supports his Department will provide for a local authority following the devastation of Storm Babet (details supplied); if his Department will provide funding towards further machinery to help speed up the repairs across the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [48227/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many social homes are in the pipeline, either on site or at various stages of design and procurement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [48889/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will report on the progress of developing sustainable and compact settlements guidelines for planning authorities; whether these will support high density and high-quality transit-oriented development; the impact these guidelines will have on the current local authority development plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [49057/23]

114. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta cathain a fhoilseofar na Treoirínte Pleanála Gaeltachta; an gcinnteoidh sé go mbeidh ionadaíocht don phobal Gaeltachta ar an bhfochoiste idir-rannach atá bunaithe le práinn ag a Roinn agus ag Roinn na Gaeltachta; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [48385/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the up-to-date position regarding the success of the croí cónaithe scheme; if he will provide a breakdown of applications received, applications approved, and the monies paid out to applicants, per local authority; the number of applicants in receipt of monies, per local authority; the breakdown of rental versus primary residence, per local authority, in respect of all applications and approvals; the estimated budget for the scheme for the foreseeable future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [48522/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the delivery of social and affordable housing is on track to exceed last year's gains; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [48888/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if Cork City Council has been in contact with him and his Department in relation to extra supports following recent flooding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [48938/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has undertaken any study to determine what the average turnaround time is for reletting when a local authority house is vacated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [48724/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what action is being taken by Government to combat the mass decline of insects and wildlife in Ireland; and how the Government plans to prevent their extinction. — Bríd Smith. [34759/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a progress update on the planning measures he introduced two years ago to increase home ownership and restrict the practice of the bulk purchasing of homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [48955/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many local authority homes have been installed with solar PV to date in 2023; if there are plans to establish a dedicated stream for solar PV for the social housing stock; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [48963/23]



122. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what plans are in place to provide affordable housing in Cork county and specifically the Macroom LEA; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [49048/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to include decluttering support as part of the housing aid for older people grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [33773/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he expects the housing target for 2023 of 29,000 new homes to be achieved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [49078/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measure his Department is taking to ensure affordable housing is provided in Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will provide an update on same. — Niamh Smyth. [48129/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has responded to date to the Galway Social Housing Taskforce Chairperson's Report on Progress to end-2022; the details of any engagement between his Department, Galway City Council and Galway County Council with regard to resolving the staff retention issues highlighted in the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [48428/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of affordable purchase homes that have been delivered to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [48459/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if recent interventions, such as the tenant-in-situ initiative, are making an impact in providing secure long-term social and affordable tenancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [48890/23]

129. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many properties have now availed of the vacant property refurbishment grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [48954/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update on a review (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [49028/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what increase is being provided for the croí cónaithe fund in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [48978/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider expanding the croí cónaithe scheme to include a right-sizing grant, to enable persons who are currently over-accommodated to create one or more own-door units from their current homes (details supplied); if his officials will study census data to establish the extend of over-accommodation throughout the State and consider the optimal demographic target for such a scheme to factor in potential displacement of family homes from the sale or rental market in the short to medium term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [48523/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on a report (details supplied); the steps he is taking address the findings regarding large numbers being unable to access temporary emergency provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [49004/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the regional homeless forums have been turned down for funding for homeless actions in their areas; if so, which groups; what the funding was for; whether his Department decides the type and amount of funding that they can apply for; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [45975/23]

135. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider introducing new scheme of letting priorities which would allow councils to prioritise housing applications from those who are in employment but whose employment would not be sufficient to qualify for affordable homes or council mortgages, thereby ensuring that we are not inadvertently incentivising people to give up work to qualify for housing. — Robert Troy. [49039/23]

136. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the projected number of units to be delivered by the end of the Government's term, broken down by affordable purchase, cost-rental, social housing, and private homes. — Francis Noel Duffy. [48650/23]

137. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update in relation to reviewing the guidelines and definitions provided to city and county councils around dereliction properties; if he will send an updated circular to councils clarifying definitions and their role in utilising derelict properties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [48981/23]

138. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will establish a deposit protection scheme to protect renters from having their deposits unlawfully withheld; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [49016/23]

139. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the voids programme for 2024 will be finalised; the national allocation; the funding that will be made available for Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49035/23]

140. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the revised defective concrete block redress scheme. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49053/23]

141. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the action he is taking to support improved water supplies in rural Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [48976/23]

142. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will report on the new National Coastal Change Management Strategy. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [49077/23]

143. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many properties in Cork city and Cork county have availed of the vacant property refurbishment grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [48939/23]



144. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the social and cost-rental tenant-in-situ schemes, including the number of purchases to date. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49050/23]

145. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the policy with respect to the establishment of housing developments with self-contained apartments for older people, similar to a development (details supplied); the supports put in place by his department to encourage such developments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [49074/23]

146. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a report on the pilot scheme to provide grants for expert conservation advice to owners of vacant farmhouses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [48977/23]

147. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will change the rules governing the spreading of slurry to allow farmers to spread slurry after 30 September each year, by getting a permit from his Department to allow them spread slurry in dry weather (details supplied).; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [47190/23]

148. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to a report (details supplied), which found that only 27 properties were available within standard/discretionary HAP limits nationwide, the lowest number recorded across the 31 such reports carried out to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [48429/23]

149. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of money paid out under the vacant property refurbishment grant since it was established; and if he will provide details in relation to the qualification criteria for the grant. — Peadar Tóibín. [48725/23]

150. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what funding is being provided for the first-home scheme in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [48952/23]

151. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is concerned at the impact of pollution from agriculture on algal blooms in Blessington Lakes; the measures he will take to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [47008/23]

152. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the delivery of housing on public-owned sites in Dublin 9 and Dublin 11. — Paul McAuliffe. [49070/23]

153. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which extra methods and means can be employed to provide extra housing in sufficient volume to meet requirements to address homelessness, child homelessness and family homelessness; if he continues to identify extra measures likely to positively impact in this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [48150/23]

154. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will change the conditions of the vacant property refurbishment grant to extend the time a person has to complete the works once one's application has been approved from 13 months to 24 months and allow for

a drawdown of the grant in stages over the course of the build; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [49082/23]

155. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what funding is being provided for cost rental in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [48979/23]

156. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update on the latest information on the purchases of homes by first-time buyers and the supply of affordable homes for purchase by such buyers. — Richard Bruton. [48356/23]

157. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the development of the national river catchment model to assist with flood prediction alerts and the delivery of additional weather radars; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49038/23]

158. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on whether there is a need for an increase in the number of changing places and toilets for people with severe disabilities; if his Department has considered the establishment of a fund to enable these facilities to be installed in public and private buildings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [47471/23]

159. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total number of housing units, including affordable purchase, cost rental, social housing, and private homes, delivered by housing authorities, i.e. AHBs, local authorities or the LDA; if the housing delivery to date meets Housing for All targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [48649/23]

160. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta an gcuirfidh sé scéim tithíochta shainiúil don Ghaeltacht ar bun, anuas ar (nó lasmuigh de) Croí Cónaithe, scéim amhail is atá leagtha amach sa Phlean Fáis, 2024-2029, cáipéis a bhfuil tacaíocht tugtha ag 138 ngrúpa Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta di, lena n-áirítear Conradh na Gaeilge; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [48386/23]

161. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the secure tenancy affordable rental (STAR) investment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [48891/23]

162. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what consideration his Department has given to the role long-term leases, or ‘life-leases’, can play in the Irish rental market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49043/23]

163. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will ensure that the significant investment in the voids programme over recent years will be continued in 2024, in view of the importance of this programme in bringing back vacant housing stock to habitable use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49036/23]

164. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the proposals he plans to table for consideration by the citizens of Dublin of future governance for the city. — Richard Bruton. [48357/23]

165. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the provision of both social and affordable housing in Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [48957/23]

166. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will give consideration to expanding the current domestic wastewater treatment system grants outside of the current rated high-status areas in Cork county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [49049/23]

167. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he will include the redress focus groups on the implementation steering group to access the financial needs of defective block households in Donegal and around the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [45974/23]

168. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the delivery of affordable homes in Poolbeg West SDZ and St. Michael's Estate. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49052/23]

169. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what schemes are provided by his Department to help first-time buyers in acquiring their new home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [48128/23]

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

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

\*170. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a British RAF surveillance aircraft (details supplied) was authorised to fly along the west coasts of Donegal and Mayo within Irish territorial waters on 3 November; if so, when and why approval was given for this flight, given that it is likely that this aircraft was on an intelligence gathering mission, in contravention of Irish Government prohibition on such flights by foreign military aircraft; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [49127/23]

\*171. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of US government or US military aircraft that have passed through Shannon Airport, either on transit travelling with destination of Israel or travelling with flight originating in Israel, between the period 9 October 2023 – 6 November 2023; the dates these planes landed in Shannon Airport, in tabular form; and whether each specific plane was either a governmental figure transport aircraft (i.e. Boeing VC-25) or a military transport aircraft. — Chris Andrews. [49161/23]

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

\*172. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide an update on what measures are being taken to ensure An Post uses Eircodes effectively, considering recent incidents where letters are being misdelivered due to a failure to use the Eircode system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [49106/23]

\*173. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the new wind energy onshore projects to come on stream this year; the amount of energy they will generate; the number of wind energy projects in the pipeline for coming on stream in each year until 2030; the total wind energy projects that received full planning in each of the past five years and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49160/23]

\*174. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a breakdown of the community renewable projects that have received connection to the electricity network, and the year in which they received connection, in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49184/23]

\*175. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of RESS I and RESS II community renewable energy projects that were successful in the auctions and that have successfully connected to the grid, in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49185/23]

\*176. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the project stages at which community renewable energy projects become eligible for funding from the SEAI; the amount of funding that becomes available at each stage; and the number of projects that have reached each stage. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49186/23]

\*177. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of staff in his Department dedicated to supporting the generation of community renewable energy. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49187/23]

\*178. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of staff in the SEAI dedicated to supporting the generation of community renewable energy. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49188/23]

\*179. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of community renewable energy projects with which he has entered into an implementation agreement for each of the RESS 1 and RESS 2 auctions, in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49189/23]

\*180. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of community renewable energy projects at each milestone of the Implementation Agreement in each of the RESS 1 and RESS 2 auctions, in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49190/23]

\*181. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of renewable energy communities that received connection to the grid in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49198/23]

\*182. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications a breakdown of the cost to connect to the grid, per renewable energy community, in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49199/23]

\*183. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the duration between application and connection to the grid, per renewable energy community, in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49200/23]

\*184. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a breakdown of renewable energy community projects that were successful in the RESS 1 but that did not secure a grid connection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49201/23]

\*185. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a breakdown of renewable energy community projects that were successful in the RESS 1 and secured a grid connection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49202/23]

\*186. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a breakdown of renewable energy community projects that were successful in the RESS 2; how many of those have connected to the grid; how many of those are still waiting on a connection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49203/23]

\*187. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications about funding accessibility for renewable energy projects; when a renewable energy project is eligible for funding from the SEAI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49204/23]

\*188. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the support and resourcing for renewable energy communities for energy generation; to provide a breakdown of staffing to support these projects at all relevant departments in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49205/23]

\*189. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the support and resourcing for retrofitting; to provide a breakdown of staffing to support these projects at all relevant departments in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49206/23]

\*190. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the support and resourcing for renewable energy communities; to provide a breakdown of staffing to support these projects at the SEAI in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49207/23]

\*191. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the support and resourcing for retrofitting; to provide a breakdown of staffing to support these projects at the SEAI in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49208/23]

\*192. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications about support and resourcing for renewable energy communities for energy generation; to provide a breakdown of staffing to support these projects at the SEAI in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49209/23]

\*193. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a breakdown of costs incurred by his Department for consulting services for renewable energy communities in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [49210/23]

\*194. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to indicate, in the case of a person (details supplied) if any grant exists for this purpose or a means can be found to carry out the works without such high costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49215/23]

\*195. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department has conducted any research, internally or through a consultancy firm on the dangers posed by offshore wind turbines to marine wildlife and blue carbon ecosystems; if so, the cost of such consultancy reports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49263/23]

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

\*196. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if a person (details supplied) is entitled to a 2016 service medal (commemorating the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [49147/23]

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

\*197. To ask the Minister for Transport on the recent notification issued by a taxi service platform to its drivers (details supplied) which appears to push drivers into accepting more jobs under the threat of exclusion from the platform; if such a practice is being investigated for potential anti-competitive behaviour that could unfairly disadvantage taxi drivers and undermine market competition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [49121/23]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will liaise with the NTA to see if a review is complete with respect to a service (details supplied) in County Cork which they state they would undertake following correspondence received in September 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [49122/23]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will examine removing the two-year validity of the EU parking permit for disabled drivers to avoid people with disabilities having to re-apply every two years; if he will outline, given that a disability is permanent, what the rationale is for only providing the card for two years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49171/23]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to ensure the roll-out of wheelchair accessible public transport on buses and rail to ensure equality of access for all persons and to make it easier for wheelchair users to get on and off public transport. — Claire Kerrane. [49172/23]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has engaged with Irish Rail on an issue (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49173/23]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to invest and further roll-out local link services in counties Galway and Roscommon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49174/23]



\*203. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans he has to increase capacity on Irish Rail train services (specifically additional carriages) for train passengers in counties Galway and Roscommon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49175/23]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure a substantial financial allocation under the road works programme to Cavan County Council in 2024 for the further planning and design of a route (details supplied) in view of its strategic importance for the Border region and the need to upgrade this road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49191/23]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which it might be possible to ensure that the private bus service operating from Naas to Blanchardstown might include Blanchardstown Hospital for the convenience of patients who attend on a regular basis and have difficulty finding car parking; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49214/23]

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

\*206. To ask the Minister for Finance if there has been analysis conducted into the impact to Irish and EU headquarter firms, compared to companies in other jurisdictions, due to the varied timelines of implementing undertaxed payment rules, agreed by the OECD in July 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [49088/23]

*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.*

\*207. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he is aware that recent changes to the e-tendering system are having a hugely negative impact on businesses using the platform and if he can ensure that changes are made to the system to ensure it is more user friendly as a matter of urgency. — Robert Troy. [49141/23]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to provide an update in relation to a scheme (details supplied); to provide a proposed timeline for the progression of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [49129/23]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he will make available the full report of the Review of Public Service Allowances and Premium Payments (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49138/23]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he will indicate the number of requests from the trustees of pension funds of state bodies for increases to be made to pensioners which are now outstanding and awaiting ministerial approval; under what circumstances would such increases be rejected in the present inflationary environment; and if steps can be taken to speed up the processing of such applications. — Richard Bruton. [49140/23]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he will assign the Office of Public Works, vis-à-vis a Service Level Agreement with Clare County Council, to clean the watercourse of the Inagh River, County Clare, given that Clare

County Council do not have the specialist machinery or budget required to undertake remedial works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [49146/23]

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

\*212. To ask the Minister for Education the reason there are ongoing delays to a school build project that is urgently needed (details supplied); if her Department will engage with the school management to ensure these works are completed as a matter of priority; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [49117/23]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the new build for a school (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [49119/23]

\*214. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 19 October 2023, if she will provide a status update on the contract for a special education bus; and if she will provide a timeline as to when she expects it to be operational. — Peadar Tóibín. [49124/23]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Education when teachers and tutors can expect to be paid for their work under the summer programme 2023, considering that it is unacceptable that work carried out in July has still not been paid for by her Department in November; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [49132/23]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Education if there are plans to grant certain cohorts of students (details supplied) additional time for Leaving Certificate examinations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [49137/23]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Education if the school transport scheme provides funding to schools to transport students to and from school sanctioned activities, including academic trips and if she can provide details on this scheme; how many schools avail of this; the budget allocated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49142/23]

\*218. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais an mbeidh aon deontais nua bhreise ar fáil do bhunscoileanna le cúnamh a thabhairt dóibh deireadh a bheith acu leis an geaclam nua mata a mhúineadh; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49149/23]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider reducing the pupil teacher ratio further for three-teacher schools, with all schools with more than 40 pupils having three mainstream classroom teachers, in view of the difficulty in a two-teacher school with more than 40 pupils of teaching four classes simultaneously; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49150/23]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Education the number of small rural schools that have closed or amalgamated with a larger school each year in the past ten years, by county, in tabular form; the reason for these closures; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49151/23]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Education if she is willing to make special arrangements for the 12 schools on offshore islands in relation to special education teachers as it is not possible for island schools to share hours with a mainland school and the difficulty in attracting teachers to



work in such posts on a part-time basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49152/23]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Education what arrangements are being made to ensure that there are sufficient places in all secondary schools in a city (details supplied) for children that require an ASD class as parents have already been made aware of a shortage of such places for the school year 2024/2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49153/23]

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

\*223. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an bhfuil sé i gceist ardú deontais a thabhairt do na teaghlaigh a choinníonn scoláirí faoi Scéim na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge le haghaidh na bliana 2024 á chur san áireamh an t-ardú mór ar an gcostas maireachtála; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49157/23]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will prioritise and approve an application for funding for an organisation (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [49182/23]

\*225. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cé mhéad teaghlach a chothaigh scoláirí an samhradh seo faoi Scéim na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge agus atá fós ag fanacht ar íocaíochtaí faoin scéim; cén céatadán de na teaghlaigh a chothaigh scoláirí faoin scéim an samhradh seo agus atá fós ag fanacht ar íocaíochtaí faoin scéim; cén uair a gheobhaidh siad íocaíocht; soiléiriú a thabhairt ar aon athbhreithniú atá ar siúl ag a Roinn maidir leis an scéim; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [49254/23]

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

\*226. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what consideration his Department is giving to further marine protected areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [33502/23]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how his Department co-ordinates with rural emergency services to effectively respond to natural disasters and emergencies in rural regions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [42611/23]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide clarity as to what housing estates in Ardnacrusha, County Clare, will benefit from the €5,466,825 funding allocated by his Department in June 2023 under the Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme; what remedial works the funding will cover; when remedial works are expected to begin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [45526/23]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will report on the Housing for All progress report published in July 2023. — Paul McAuliffe. [36288/23]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he would consider the removal of exemptions of planning for small telecommunication masts so they would be required to undergo the planning process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [41886/23]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how Budget 2024 will provide for significant improvements in public water and wastewater services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [49076/23]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has examined the tourism potential of Dowth Hall, Slane, County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [44819/23]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 394 of 20 June 2023, when he expects that affected apartment blocks will be able to apply for funding for remediation works for water ingress on defective builds in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [49108/23]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if funding can be provided to the owners of premises (details supplied) for the installation of flood barriers at the entrances to premises considering that flooding is a regular occurrence on this street due to the inadequate storm water systems in place in Thurles; considering that Uisce Éireann has no immediate plans to resolve the mixed sewer system in the town, considering that these premises will continue to flood until Uisce Éireann carries out the required works and that they are responsible to carry out these works, considering that the State has a responsibility to protect these properties from further flooding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [49112/23]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of funding he secured under Budget 2024 for the culling of mink through the NPWS; when he intends to commence this cull; what bounty he intends to set for mink tails; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [49113/23]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide the final Revised Estimates Volume for Vote 34, Housing, Local Government and Heritage, from Budget 2023, as finalised in December 2022, with a breakdown for each programme subhead and individual spending programme, both capital and current; and to provide a note detailing any subsequent change to this estimate made during the course of 2023. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49126/23]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of an application from Galway County Council for a wastewater treatment plant for Castleblakeney village; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [49128/23]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of the concerns of homeowners in Ireland who have been advised to demolish and rebuild their homes due to pyrite-related defects, and who are now facing the prospect of being required to rent out

their rebuilt homes for 20 years as a condition of receiving redress and financial assistance from the Government; if so, the steps he intends to take to address these concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49130/23]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide in tabular form the number of application received by county for the croí cónaithe vacant house grant; the number of approvals of a grant and the number of grants paid out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49155/23]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the changes proposed to be made to the wastewater systems grant for private properties (septic tanks grant); when these changes will become operable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49156/23]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage which companies must secure Agrément certification; must subcontractors secure this certification to supply to other companies; the process involved in securing certification; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [49213/23]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to indicate, particularly for those who have been on waiting lists for many years, but whose income in the interim has increased albeit insufficiently to purchase at today's prices but pushing them over the income limits to qualify for local authority house now, if consideration can be given to the particular plight including a long-time paying rent, waiving deposit or other means to address their particular concerns given that they are likely to remain in this no man's land for the foreseeable future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49229/23]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if sufficient staff are available to the various local authorities to process and advise applicants in early date so as to avoid repeat applications or lengthy application processes so an applicant can find out in early date whether they qualify for any/all of the available schemes rather than making repeated lengthy attempts to find out this information; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49230/23]

\*245. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the further steps that can be taken to dramatically increase the housing output to meet the requirements of both the public and private housing programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49231/23]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will indicate, given the increasing demand and pressure for housing, the extent, if any, to which he might look at the housing requirements on a county-by-county basis, with a view to appointing professional builders on contract to the respective local authorities to provide and accelerate a housing programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49232/23]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which the provision of utilities such as electricity and water to new houses is currently limiting progress in the construction sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49233/23]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of planning permissions applied for and refused by county in each of the past four years to date; the way such figures will inform housing policy going forward, with particular reference to giving the local population a chance to live in their local area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49234/23]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he can identify a suite of emergency measures such as the provision of modular houses, log-cabins or other alternatives including the liberalisation of planning applications in rural areas, in order to alleviate the housing crisis for locals as well as refugees in order to urgently address the situation of people sleeping rough, living in unsafe conditions and other issues associated with homelessness of potential homelessness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49235/23]

\*250. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if an audit of vacant publicly owned buildings has been carried out or can be carried out, with a view to providing emergency housing for local people and immigrants who may have a need for the urgent availability for housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49236/23]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which his Department has identified issues deemed to impede the provision of much-needed affordable housing on State lands throughout the country; if he expects to be in a position to address the issue in due course; if the issues that currently impede a speedy and efficient public authority response to the affordable housing crisis will be resolved at an early date in order to ensure delivery of the Housing for All Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49237/23]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider the introduction of emergency measures to enable local authorities to purchase houses where the number of people on housing lists is increasing by virtue of housing reposessions which will result in people becoming homeless at short notice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49238/23]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider the introduction of emergency measures to enable Kildare County Council to purchase houses where the number of people on housing lists is increasing by virtue of housing reposessions which will result in people becoming homeless at short notice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49239/23]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he might initiate emergency measures to facilitate the increasing number of families previously renting who are about to become homeless arising from various reasons return of properties to landlords; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49240/23]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he might initiate emergency measures for Kildare County Council to facilitate the increasing number of families previously renting who are about to become homeless arising from various reasons return of properties to landlords; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49241/23]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the tenant-in-situ scheme for renters on social housing waiting lists who have been issued an NTQ; if he is satisfied with the implementation of the scheme up until this point; if he plans to offer any additional support to local authorities to prevent renters from entering homelessness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [49258/23]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the retrofit programme for local authority housing; if any delays in the programme have been brought to his attention; if his Department has issued advice to local authorities on how to handle relevant maintenance issues in homes that have not been retrofitted yet; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [49259/23]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has considered the transferring of staff from the Planning Regulators Office to the office of An Bord Pleanála in order to address the current backlog of An Bord Pleanála appeals in order to meet the statutory 18-week decision period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [49260/23]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what oversight his Department will have of the trust (details supplied) where taxpayers money would be used to fund the trust in its current financial difficulties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [49261/23]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what consultations his Department has had with Wexford County Council housing department in regards the tenant-in-situ scheme particular to property sale prices in the rent pressure zone of Gorey; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [49262/23]

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

\*261. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current status of a carers allowance review for a person (details supplied); when a decision will be made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [49090/23]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to arrange for jobseeker's allowance to be restored to a person (details supplied) who is currently unemployed, has applied for carer's allowance and as a result the jobseeker's allowance was immediately removed, even though 4.5 months later no decision has been made on their carer's allowance application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49133/23]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when an appeal for carer's allowance will be processed and a decision made on it; and if she will make a statement on the matter (details supplied). — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49134/23]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (detailed supplied) will receive a decision on a carers support grant application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [49177/23]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (detailed supplied) will receive a decision on an application for disability allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [49178/23]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether a person (details supplied) receives an adult dependent allowance in respect of his wife as part of his State pension (contributory) payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49216/23]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate, notwithstanding Parliamentary Question No. 238 of 19 October 2023, if it can be arranged to transfer the payment of a person's pension to the Post Office, Main Street, Celbridge, County Kildare (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49217/23]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current and/or expected position in respect of carer's allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49222/23]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if and when jobseeker's allowance will be restored in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49224/23]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a review/appeal can be entertained in the case of the refusal of application for carer's allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49225/23]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if all payments due, including arrears, have been paid and are up to date in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49226/23]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent, if any, to which a person (details supplied) can continue to obtain partial social welfare payment while their husband/partner gets an increase in employment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49227/23]

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

\*273. To ask the Minister for Justice the position in relation to an application submitted to her Department in August 2023 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [49089/23]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to establish a Statutory Inquiry, compliant with international human rights standards, into the arrest, detention, interrogation, prosecution and conviction of persons (details supplied) following the Sallins train robbery in 1976, and encompassing their treatment by the Irish State since, as called for by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL). — Pauline Tully. [49109/23]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of prosecutions that have been brought under Coco's Law since it was enacted in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [49114/23]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Justice when the Criminal Justice (Mutual Recognition of Custodial Sentences) Act 2023 will be fully implemented so that transfers of prisoners can take place from other EU states, from Britain and from Northern Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49154/23]



\*277. To ask the Minister for Justice if and when visitor visas might be approved in the case of persons (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49218/23]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Justice the current and expected position in relation to his application for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49228/23]

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

\*279. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if any assistance can be given to help a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [49163/23]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a person's entry into a scheme will be affected (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [49181/23]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to outline the supports that are available from his Department to public bodies to plant trees on publicly owned lands; if such supports are available to community and voluntary organisations to carry out similar work on grounds to where they have access to; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49196/23]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 449 of 26 September 2023, if it is his intention to appoint members of the Social Economic Environmental Association (SEEFA) to the Forestry Programme Consultative Committee, since SEEFA is the largest private sector representative association; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [49197/23]

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

\*283. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which he and his Department continue to accelerate the programme of assessment in the case of children with or without special needs who may be in need of counselling, psychiatric or medical attention; if he will ensure a rapid processing of such cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49247/23]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth which Childrens Disability Network Teams do not have staff co-located in one setting. — Pauline Tully. [49092/23]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the timeframe for the delivery of the Disability Regional Enhanced Supports and Services (DRESS). — Pauline Tully. [49093/23]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will share with this Deputy the revised guidance for Individual Family Support Plans and Guidance for CDNTs. — Pauline Tully. [49094/23]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a confined senior grade competition has been finalised within Childrens Disability Network Teams; the number of senior grade posts that have been filled to date from this competition; and the overall number of senior grade posts it is intended to fill from this competition. — Pauline Tully. [49095/23]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of new clinical psychology trainee placement posts that have been established in Childrens Disability Network Teams in 2023. — Pauline Tully. [49096/23]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of student placements in each Childrens Disability Network Team in 2022 and 2023; and the estimated number of student placements in each Childrens Disability Network Team for 2024, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [49097/23]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a Therapy Assistant Programme has been established within Childrens Disability Network Teams. — Pauline Tully. [49098/23]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of administrative staff working in each Childrens Disability Network Team in 2022 and 2023, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [49099/23]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if each CHO has included a bespoke Staff Retention Plan within their Service Improvement Plan; and if he will provide a link to each of these plans. — Pauline Tully. [49100/23]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a webinar has been delivered to each Childrens Disability Network Manager on establishing a Family Representative Group; and if not, which CDNM's have not yet had this delivered. — Pauline Tully. [49102/23]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for an update on the launch of a scheme of restitution and enhanced medical card benefits for the mistreated mothers and babies in the residential institutions as was promised two years ago; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [49116/23]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will amend the regulations in relation to the signing and witnessing of enduring powers of attorney; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [49123/23]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware of the concerns of Core funding partner services regarding the comprehensive and validated financial reporting requirements that they are now subject to; if so, what steps he intends to take to address these concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49135/23]



\*297. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware of the cost implications for Core funding partner services of complying with the new financial reporting requirements; if so, what steps he intends to take to support partner services in meeting these costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [49136/23]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will urgently reconsider an application for essential funding on behalf of a group (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [49179/23]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 486 of 24 October 2023 with regard to the consultations being planned, if it is intended that families involved with an organisation (details supplied) will be invited to participate. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49180/23]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to release the full record of communication between his Department and the owner of an accommodation provider (details supplied); to outline who made the initial contract; the value of the 12-month contract for this property; to release all communication between his Department and Tipperary County Council, particularly in terms of the current use of the building as an emergency accommodation facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [49183/23]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the level of capital funding available to his Department this year for the upgrading of existing childcare facilities and the provision of new childcare accommodation; the funding that will be available in 2024 for such developments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49256/23]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if it is proposed to introduce a grant scheme to assist in the provision of large-scale pre-school accommodation and the upgrading of existing accommodation, as existing grant levels will not be sufficient to ensure adequate childcare accommodation in the coming years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [49257/23]

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

\*303. To ask the Minister for Health the steps that are being taken to augment child and adult mental health services in CHO7; if the precise measures deemed to be necessary are being taken forthwith; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49253/23]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to developing home support services for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [48900/23]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans by CORU to recognise athletic rehabilitation therapists in its regulation process; if not, the reason they will not be included; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [49103/23]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with an address in County Kerry that are waiting for an outpatient appointment for cataracts; the number waiting for cataracts

removal; the number that have availed of the cross-border scheme for cataract removal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [49107/23]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the Rotunda Hospital for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [49110/23]

\*308. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to the national maternity strategy for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [49111/23]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 294 of 15 June 2023, if the shortage of the pain medication (details supplied) has been resolved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [49115/23]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a list of current vacancies in community health posts serving the Balbriggan area, including occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [49118/23]

\*311. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dialysis patients from Meath travelling to hospitals located outside the county, by hospital, for each of the past five years, in tabular form; the number of those who were transported to each hospital arranged through the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [49131/23]

\*312. To ask the Minister for Health if there are new protocols or arrangements under discussion at the WHO in relation to dealing with future pandemics; when it is proposed that the final documents in relation to this will be agreed; whether in the event of Ireland signing this protocol or arrangement this country will then be legally obliged to follow instructions from the WHO as to how future pandemics would be handled here; whether it is Ireland's intention at present to sign up to such a protocol; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49148/23]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Health whether it is intended to appoint the President of the University of Galway or their nominee ex-officio to the Board of the new Health Region (HSE West and North West) Board in view of the close co-operation between the university and the health services particularly in research and education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49158/23]

\*314. To ask the Minister for Health if he has made any progress in ending the blood test charge for medical card holders by GPs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49164/23]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Health if he will reform the reimbursement process for medical card holders who are charged for blood tests, to make the process easier for our most vulnerable citizens; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49165/23]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Health if he will make medical card holders aware of the option to seek reimbursement of costs for blood tests via the medical card unit or via GP surgeries, in

order that medical card holders are aware of this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49166/23]

\*317. To ask the Minister for Health the reason specialised lens, which are expensive to those with eye sight issues, are not covered under the medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49167/23]

\*318. To ask the Minister for Health how many dentists have signed back up to provide dental care for medical card holders in County Roscommon, County Galway, and in total across the State. — Claire Kerrane. [49168/23]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists which left the dental treatment scheme, where they were providing dental care to medical card patients in counties Roscommon and Galway, in tabular form. — Claire Kerrane. [49169/23]

\*320. To ask the Minister for Health what plans he has to ensure that medical card holders can access dental care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [49170/23]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public health nurse positions in each CHO area, including the number of vacant PHN positions in each CHO area and the specific geographic areas within each CHO that currently have no PHN in place, in tabular form; and what interim measures are in place to ensure universal access to public health nurse services. — Eoin Ó Broin. [49211/23]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Health if the medical centre in a location (details supplied), which is under the control of the HSE, is going to close in January 2024, if so, if the registered patients of the practice will be accommodated by other existing practices in the town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Carey. [49212/23]

\*323. To ask the Minister for Health if a refusal for medical card can be reviewed and reversed in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49219/23]

\*324. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which it is expected to improve the mental health facilities available in CHO7 in respect of each category of patient; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49242/23]

\*325. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which persons in need of drug rehabilitation programmes have access to same, with a view to reducing their dependency on drugs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49243/23]

\*326. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which plans are in hand to ensure an adequate GP service throughout County Kildare, given the number of GPs retiring and the existing and future demands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49244/23]

\*327. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which it is intended to ensure the availability of full medical cards for those with life changing or terminal conditions, given the degree to which such families are under stress; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49245/23]

\*328. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which adequate staffing has or is being achieved at all levels throughout the health services, with a view to ensuring maximum operational levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49246/23]

\*329. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which the various changes and requirements needed to fully introduce Sláintecare are being pursued at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49248/23]

\*330. To ask the Minister for Health the degree to which access to various medicines remains equally available to those in this jurisdiction, as compared with the rest of the single market in Europe, and at a similar price; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49249/23]

\*331. To ask the Minister for Health the extent of the network of primary care centres throughout County Kildare in existence, proposed or at planning stage; the extent to which replacement of previous facilities is anticipated; if new centres will reflect the population increases in such a way as to ensure that a modern efficient network is available in County Kildare and throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49250/23]

\*332. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on any plans that may be under way to ensure adequate support is provided to home dialysis-patients in the context of the current energy and cost-of-living crisis to ensure that they continue to receive their lifesaving and sustaining treatment at home and can afford same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49251/23]

\*333. To ask the Minister for Health if adequate emergency beds can be provided wherever required but particularly in accident and emergency hospitals on call where ambulances are queuing up while awaiting the admission of a patient; if he will identify the precise steps required to address this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49252/23]

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

\*334. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of FETAC Therapy Assistant Grade Programmes that were offered in 2022 and 2023; the number of FETAC Therapy Assistant Grade Programme places that were filled by students in 2022 and 2023; and the number of FETAC Therapy Assistant Grade graduates in 2022 and 2023, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [49101/23]

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

\*335. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she has received any plans to establish a library in an area (details supplied); and if she will detail the costs of same that she has received. — Sean Sherlock. [49104/23]

\*336. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will clarify if the funding for local community staff that is part of the community services programme, managed by Pobal, will be increased for 2024 to match the increase in the minimum wage; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [49125/23]

\*337. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she is aware of the application made by a group (details supplied) under the Pobal community services programme; and if so, if she will provide an update on the status of this application. — Alan Dillon. [49139/23]