



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 15 Samhain, 2023
Wednesday, 15th November, 2023

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

1. To ask the Taoiseach his engagement with European leaders in relation to the Israel-Gaza conflict. — Alan Farrell. [49603/23]
2. To ask the Taoiseach to report on any recent discussions he has had with other world leaders in connection with the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. — Bernard J. Durkan. [49983/23]
3. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent visit to South Korea. — Seán Haughey. [49618/23]
4. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Brexit and Northern Ireland will next meet. — Seán Haughey. [49620/23]
5. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Brexit and Northern Ireland will next meet. — Brendan Smith. [49621/23]
6. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Brexit and Northern Ireland will next meet. — Mary Lou McDonald. [49687/23]
7. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Environment and Climate Change will meet next. — Alan Dillon. [49640/23]
8. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the work of climate action unit of his Department. — Mary Lou McDonald. [49685/23]
9. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Environment and Climate Change will next meet. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [49831/23]
10. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Environment and Climate Change will next meet. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [49832/23]
11. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Government Co-ordination will next meet. — Mick Barry. [49678/23]
12. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the work of the social dialogue co-ordination unit of his Department. — Cian O’Callaghan. [49953/23]
13. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his plan for constitutional amendments. — Cian O’Callaghan. [49954/23]

14. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the wellbeing framework for Ireland, overseen by his Department. — Cian O’Callaghan. [49955/23]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*15. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to give a complete overview of the process that the US military must follow when moving personnel through Irish Airports on US Military aircraft transiting through Irish airports since January 2022. — Paul Murphy. [50105/23]

*16. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide a record of all US Military flights that have passed through Shannon Airport since the beginning of October 2023. — Paul Murphy. [50106/23]

*17. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if Irish Aid has provided any funding to human rights and or rule-of-law NGOs in Georgia in the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [50094/23]

*18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to give a detailed account of all oversight procedures implemented by his Department, other Government Departments and/or the Irish Aviation Authority on flights granted exemptions for the carriage of munitions of war, weapons and dangerous goods through Irish airports (inspections of aircraft, inspections of manifests, Garda deployment, etc.). — Paul Murphy. [50103/23]

*19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what engagement he has had at EU level with a view to securing a ceasefire in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50121/23]

*20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his engagements with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50147/23]

*21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has proposals to expand Ireland’s diplomatic presence in Central and South America; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50148/23]

*22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the engagements he has had with his European counterparts in relation to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50149/23]

*23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on his engagements with representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan and his European counterparts with regard to the humanitarian situation and the ongoing conflict in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50150/23]

*24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his response to reports that European Union officials have broached the ceding of Ukrainian territory to the Russian Federation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50151/23]

*25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide details of the meetings and events that he attended during his visit to China; and the outcome of each engagement. — Matt Carthy. [50155/23]

*26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a request by the Spanish government that Basque, Catalan and Galician be recognised as official languages of the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50183/23]

*27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on discussions related to the Colombian peace process during a bilateral meeting with the Colombian President at the United Nations General Assembly in October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50184/23]

*28. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what measures he is taking to prioritise the Emigrant Support Programme, ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our overseas communities are supported; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50215/23]

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

*29. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if an allocation of funding has been made to Waterford County Council for the clean-up of plastic on a property (details supplied); how much funding was allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [50108/23]

*30. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there will be an extension of the timeframe for the granting of controlled burning permits beyond the current date of 30 November 2023. — Robert Troy. [50123/23]

*31. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the need for the Government to carry out an assessment of the existing barriers and potential of development of renewable energy communities under Article 22(3) of the Renewable Energy Directive II. — Eoin Ó Broin. [50144/23]

*32. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to report on the three grid studies to support communities to identify sites in their locality that are most likely to have an economically viable grid connection; how his Department will implement their findings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [50146/23]

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

*33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence what plans for procurement of new equipment and capabilities are in place for 2024; and if he will outline the plan for the purchase of new ships between 2024 and 2028. — Catherine Murphy. [50087/23]

*34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 125 of 3 October 2023, for an update on Ireland's involvement in the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine; the number of Defence Forces personnel deployed to the mission to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50122/23]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*35. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a record of all exemptions provided to carry weapons and munitions of war through Irish ports and airports since January 2022. — Paul Murphy. [50104/23]

*36. To ask the Minister for Transport what measures are being taken to promote the old N22 Macroom-to-Ballyvourney road on advancing greenways and cycleways for the area now that the bypass is open fully; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50216/23]

*37. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can provide details of the legislative basis on which authority for the Irish Aviation Authority's staff superannuation scheme 1996 has been passed from the IAA to AirNav Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [50029/23]

*38. To ask the Minister for Transport if the failure to allocate funds in Budget 2024 for the next phase of the N24 means the route selection will not now proceed as planned this year, as the next phase is not funded; if an interview given by him on 22 October 2023 where he prioritised town by-passes over new roads means the project is now scrapped; the implications of this "by-passes policy" for Clonmel and route selection there; if, given the N24 Preferred Transport Solution was scheduled to be put on public display in Q4 of 2023, that is now deferred; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [50041/23]

*39. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount that Transport Infrastructure Ireland spent on security personnel on the Luas in the years of 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and the amount that will be spent on security personnel in 2024. — Catherine Murphy. [50070/23]

*40. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a breakdown of the number of driver and mechanic staff within Dublin Bus per year between 2018 to 2023, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50071/23]

*41. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a report on the NTA's demand-need assessment along the H1 bus route. — Catherine Murphy. [50072/23]

*42. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of permits that DAA issued for taxi-picks up at Dublin Airport to date in 2023; and the average processing time for the issuing of a permit for taxi drivers for the airport. — Catherine Murphy. [50073/23]

*43. To ask the Minister for Transport the proposals, if any, his Department is considering for funding of the TII for improvements on the N22 between Macroom and Ballincollig; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [50091/23]

*44. To ask the Minister for Transport to give a complete overview of the process that the US military must follow when moving personnel through Irish Airports on US Military chartered

flights and to provide any/all records of US personnel transiting through Irish airports since January 2022. — Paul Murphy. [50105/23]

*45. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a record of all US Military contracted flights that have passed through Shannon Airport since the beginning of October 2023. — Paul Murphy. [50106/23]

*46. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50109/23]

*47. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50110/23]

*48. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason there is not a commuter train service from Kilkenny to Waterford to get people to Waterford city for 9am; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [50194/23]

*49. To ask the Minister for Transport what the holdup is on issuing a certificate (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50227/23]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*50. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of vacant WTE staff, by job title, in the Office of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman as of 8 November 2023; the estimated full-year cost of filling these vacancies; and when these vacancies will be filled, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50069/23]

*51. To ask the Minister for Finance to explain the reasons for delays in transposing EU Directive 2167 of 2021 into Irish law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50174/23]

*52. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will accept that each day he delays signing the EU Directive 2167 of 2021 into Irish law, it results in family homes and farms which could otherwise remain with borrowers under forbearance arrangements being lost to banks and vulture funds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50175/23]

*53. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide a specific date by which he expects to have EU Directive 2167 of 2021 transposed into Irish law; whether this will be done by ministerial order or primary legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50176/23]

*54. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will investigate or instruct the Central Bank to investigate the interest rate gouging undertaken by vulture funds, which contradicts the objectives of EU Directive 2167 of 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50177/23]

*55. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will publish the submission made by the Central Bank for the public consultation on the Credit Servicers Directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50179/23]

*56. To ask the Minister for Finance the number and specific details (including the name of the institution, date, and topics discussed) of any meeting or discussion he has had with a bank, credit service firm, vulture fund or their representatives in 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50180/23]

*57. To ask the Minister for Finance if anything will be done to control interest rates charged by financial institutions (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [50193/23]

*58. To ask the Minister for Finance to review concerns raised by a person in respect of the situation of single applicants (details supplied) and their struggles accessing the help to buy scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [50217/23]

*59. To ask the Minister for Finance to resolve a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50220/23]

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.

*60. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he is aware of the issue of Government employment contracts for Garda, fire services, and prison officers, that mandate retirement at 60 years, with no supplementary pension, despite these professions previously receiving a supplementary old age pension until reaching the State pension age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [50218/23]

*61. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform her views on matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50044/23]

*62. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the OPW heritage sites that currently have a restaurant/cafe service onsite; the number of these restaurants/café that are staffed by OPW; and the number of these restaurants/café that are staffed, by external agency, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50078/23]

*63. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the status of the planned flood gate in Portumna; the timeline for its installation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Anne Rabbitte. [50126/23]

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

*64. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the plans, if any, his Department has to implement the recommendations from the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report pertaining to his Department's policy responsibilities; if similar recommendations are being considered for Cork and Bantry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50223/23]

*65. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he would consider additional mitigation measures to ensure that small and medium sized business are able to absorb

some of the additional costs that they have recently faced, e.g. increased wage bills, overheads and so on. — Cathal Crowe. [50062/23]

*66. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of vacant full-time staff, by grade, currently in the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour Court; the estimated full-year cost of filling each of these vacancies; and when each of these vacancies will be filled, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50077/23]

*67. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what plans or strategies he has to support the SMEs of Ireland to prevent hours from being cut, job layoffs, or businesses shutting down as a result of the rising costs of doing business, including as a result of extra costs from measures introduced by the Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [50228/23]

*68. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to provide an update on the masterplan for the IDA land bank in Killally, Dundalk; when he expects to see progress on this project and the long-term objectives of the site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [50264/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*69. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) submitted an application for change of status to coeducation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [50019/23]

*70. To ask the Minister for Education when the decision was made to refuse an application (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [50020/23]

*71. To ask the Minister for Education to review correspondence (details supplied); if she can provide an update on the issues raised and the report mentioned in the email and provide an update on this scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50023/23]

*72. To ask the Minister for Education if other schools who applied for a change of status to coeducation after a specific application (details supplied) were approved; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [50026/23]

*73. To ask the Minister for Education if consideration was given to information in respect of an application for a change of status to coeducation (details supplied) which has been refused; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [50028/23]

*74. To ask the Minister for Education to indicate the current status of an application for an extension to a school (details supplied) which was originally sanctioned for an extension in 2018, and given that 70% of the fees for the abortive scheme have been paid; if clarification can be given regarding issues outstanding, given their eagerness to move the project forward without delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50038/23]

*75. To ask the Minister for Education to outline, in tabular form, the NEPS areas across the country, and the number of psychologists appointed to each. — Paul Murphy. [50043/23]

*76. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for the delay in providing transport to a pupil attending an ASD unit (details supplied); if she will expedite this transport provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [50045/23]

*77. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department has received an application for additional accommodation at a school (details supplied); when a decision can be expected on this application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [50046/23]

*78. To ask the Minister for Education when a review being undertaken by her Department in respect of a Stage 2B submission will be finalised and the school (details supplied) contacted about the outcome of this review; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [50051/23]

*79. To ask the Minister for Education if she has any plans to introduce a transfer/relocation scheme for post primary teachers, bearing in mind the need to make teaching an attractive career option; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Cannon. [50054/23]

*80. To ask the Minister for Education the progress to date in establishing a transfer/relocation scheme for teachers, as requested in a proposal to her Department by teacher unions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50065/23]

*81. To ask the Minister for Education the average number of buses in the Bus Éireann school transport fleet for Kildare specifically for 2022 and 2023, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50086/23]

*82. To ask the Minister for Education if she will advise on the refusal of school transport for a child with special educational needs (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [50095/23]

*83. To ask the Minister for Education to examine an application for special education transport (details supplied). — Peadar Tóibín. [50096/23]

*84. To ask the Minister for Education to confirm the status of the ancillary grant for a school (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [50125/23]

*85. To ask the Minister for Education to review the application for DEIS status for a school (details supplied) that was unsuccessful in 2022, if the reasons for the refusal could be outlined in detail regarding the data sets used; what information may be required to satisfy a future application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50141/23]

*86. To ask the Minister for Education when the next review or opportunity for schools will be to apply for DEIS status given that the data used in the 2022 review was based on the 2016 Census and that new data is now available to use from the 2022 Census; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50142/23]

*87. To ask the Minister for Education if it is accurate to rely on PPOD data relating to Traveller or Roma ethnic background indicators as outlined in circular 0019/2022 when adjudicating DEIS status applications, as schools are unable to ask students about their ethnic status or background when enrolling, and therefore this may not be a true reflection of the diverse ethnic backgrounds of students in a school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50143/23]

*88. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on a school building project in County Cork (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [50145/23]

*89. To ask the Minister for Education to confirm if there are any proposals currently to provide a bilingual French/English primary school in North Dublin; if there would be any funding available to support such an initiative; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [50287/23]

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

*90. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to summarise his Department’s actions on exploring difficulties Travellers might have in opening and retaining social housing applications; if he acknowledges that his Department has given a commitment on this matter as part of the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy/NTRIS (Action 130); the steps his Department has undertaken on this matter since 2017; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [50052/23]

*91. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to his Department’s circular (Housing 09/2023 - PL 01/2023) to all local authorities regarding his mandatory moratorium on Part 8 planning approvals, if he will clarify what monitoring procedures his Department has put in place to ensure that this moratorium and its circular will be treated as mandatory by local authorities; how many Traveller-specific developments are being pursued under the terms of the circular; if he will provide a breakdown, per local authority, on the Traveller developments pursued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [50053/23]

*92. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when a person (details supplied) will receive a substantive reply to correspondence with his office of 11 September 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [50057/23]

*93. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 602 of 7 November 2023, to detail the 68 cases that have been referred to the Housing Agency by 21 local authorities; to identify what local authorities, in tabular form; the municipal district in each local authority concerned, in tabular form; the number of cost rental tenant-in-situ homes completed to date for each local authority; and the number in progress, in tabular form. — Sean Sherlock. [50063/23]

*94. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount paid by his Department to date in 2023 on outside or third party reports of a technical nature or qualitative nature, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50085/23]

*95. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the budget allocation for refurbishing social housing voids for each year since 2020, broken down by local authority, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [50088/23]

*96. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if, with regard to the water main in Allen, County Kildare, which is continually bursting, he can enquire what can be done to prevent these re-occurring bursts, and to ensure that any repair done is completed with a

view to being of a permanent nature, or if a complete replacement is required. — Patricia Ryan. [50092/23]

*97. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there are any current plans to expand the enhanced defective concrete blocks grant scheme to include County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [50111/23]

*98. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address concerns raised in correspondence (details supplied); if he can provide advice on the best way forward; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [50132/23]

*99. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline his Department's actions in exploring difficulties Travellers might have in opening and retaining social housing applications since 2017, as per the Department's commitment in action 130 of the National Traveller & Roma Inclusion Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [50136/23]

*100. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding his Department's circular (Housing 09/2023 - PL 01/2023) to all local authorities regarding the moratorium on Part 8 planning approvals, to outline the monitoring procedures he has put in place to ensure that this moratorium and its circular will be implemented by local authorities; to report on the number of Traveller-specific developments that are being pursued under the terms of the circular; to provide a breakdown per local authority on the Traveller developments pursued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [50137/23]

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

*101. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated full-year cost to increase carer's allowance by €6.50 per week. — Catherine Murphy. [50083/23]

*102. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for domiciliary care allowance that were refused by her Department in the first ten months of 2023. — Catherine Murphy. [50084/23]

*103. To ask the Minister for Social Protection how exemptions, granted under regulations made under Section 37(1) of the Pensions Act 1990, from the pension preservation requirements of Part III of the Act, are monitored for ongoing compliance with the conditions which permitted their exemption when applied for; if she considers that the legislation is in full accord with the EU Directive and is adequate for such monitoring of continuous compliance with the conditions of an exemption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [50090/23]

*104. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of a domiciliary care allowance appeal for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50124/23]

*105. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider allowing people on partial pensions the benefit of a full budget increase, as opposed to a pro-rata increase in pension income, as many people dependant on a partial contributory pension are failing to take advantage of the full benefit of budget increases, despite having to meet the full cost of rising cost of living prices; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [50152/23]

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

*106. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of intoxilyzer machines allocated to each Garda division, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50081/23]

*107. To ask the Minister for Justice the additional accommodation capacity currently undergoing construction in each of the prisons in Ireland; when each of these construction projects will be completed; and the additional accommodation capacity that will be provided upon completion. — Catherine Murphy. [50082/23]

*108. To ask the Minister for Justice if she is aware of any plans for the appointment of a county registrar to Sligo (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [50099/23]

*109. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 599 of 1 March 2022, if her Department can provide the figures for 2023. — Patrick Costello. [50101/23]

*110. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in the determination of the appeals for visas in the case of the family of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50112/23]

*111. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of minors who have been made wards of court in 2022 and 2023 to date following application by the Family Support Agency; the number of adult wards of court who have applied for discharge and how many similar requests have been accepted or rejected in the same period; if the number of wards under the general solicitor have been discharged from wardship; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50131/23]

*112. To ask the Minister for Justice if her attention has been drawn to concerns of members of An Garda Síochána regarding the inability to enforce noise pollution laws; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [50135/23]

*113. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will outline her plans for the reform of the family courts to improve access and streamline the processes for balancing rights in handling cases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [50285/23]

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

*114. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is aware of proposals by the Italian Agriculture Minister to ban synthetic food including the production, import and marketing of food produced in laboratories; if he will outline his Department's position with respect to synthetic foods; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [50128/23]

*115. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if, in relation to the publication on e-tenders of a call from Horse Sport Ireland for the provision, implementation and support of an equine e-passport application and related services, any other agencies or bodies oversee this tendering. — Joe Flaherty. [50186/23]

*116. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to a call from Horse Sport Ireland for the provision, implementation and support of an equine e-passport application and related service, his views on whether it is realistic to deliver a €3.5 million project by the end of May 2024 (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [50187/23]

*117. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to the call from Horse Sport Ireland for the provision, implementation and support of an equine e-passport application and related services, if there is any provision allowed in the proposed work programme for fact checking and rectifying errors in the existing studbook and epassport system (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [50188/23]

*118. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason why a funding mechanism (details supplied) was chosen. — Joe Flaherty. [50189/23]

*119. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a project (details supplied) will meet the stringent requirements of the Brexit adjustment reserve regulations. — Joe Flaherty. [50190/23]

*120. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what other projects or proposed services will be funded through the Brexit adjustment reserve fund (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [50191/23]

*121. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what his Department can do to remedy the situation for our young farmers who will be locked out of the acres scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50195/23]

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

*122. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there is a commitment that the Second Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child will be ratified following the enactment of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking Bill) 2023. — Eoin Ó Broin. [50032/23]

*123. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when appropriate supports will be provided to the son of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50061/23]

*124. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the estimated full-year cost to increase the number of State residential care units for children in care by 33%. — Catherine Murphy. [50079/23]

*125. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of respite beds available for people with a disability in CHO7 in 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [50080/23]

*126. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there are any plans to allow small early years services to furnish the Department with financial records

from the previous year as a means to ease financial strain related to soliciting accountant services. — Robert Troy. [50089/23]

*127. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what measures he can take to prevent the closure and loss of an important resource (details supplied), or what alternative funding, if any, is available. — Patricia Ryan. [50093/23]

*128. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to confirm if officials from his Department or from the international protection service have engaged with Wicklow County Council or Arklow Municipal District Council regarding the potential use of a location for IP applicants or beneficiaries of temporary protection (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [50098/23]

*129. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the status of an appointment for a child (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50107/23]

*130. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what organisations submitted applications for community services funding, including both strand A and strand B, for the past three rounds of funding. — Sorca Clarke. [50119/23]

*131. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 128 of 28 June 2023; to provide an update on the work engaged in by his Department with the Department of Justice to review the findings and recommendations of the scoping report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [50120/23]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*132. To ask the Minister for Health the reason monthly prescriptions are not given out to patients based on the number of days in each month, rather than the notional month of 28 days, of which there is only one, namely February (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50030/23]

*133. To ask the Minister for Health given the protective notice that the staff at a Clondalkin-based support centre for drugs and alcohol intervention programme have been issued (details supplied), when funding will be made available to the project next year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [50031/23]

*134. To ask the Minister for Health the progress to date in making a permanent appointment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50033/23]

*135. To ask the Minister for Health if support will be provided to an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [50037/23]

*136. To ask the Minister for Health when a child (details supplied) will receive a date for surgery; the reason for the delay in adding her to the waiting list; the reason for the delay in receiving a date for surgery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [50039/23]

*137. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) will be considered for an earlier appointment or be added to a cancellation list for an outpatient appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50040/23]

*138. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the waiting times for DEXA bone scans in Tipperary University Hospital and across all hospitals in the country; the numbers waiting for such scans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [50050/23]

*139. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on primary healthcare nurse staffing levels in Rathcoole, County Dublin; how parents can access their child's three-month primary healthcare nurse check-up in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [50058/23]

*140. To ask the Minister for Health what advice is being provided to a person (details supplied) whose family do not possess a medical card but have approached eight different GPs in their local area, only to be informed by all these GP practices they are not accepting new patients due to their GMS books being closed; what alternatives are available to individuals in such circumstances who do not hold a medical card and cannot obtain a GP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [50068/23]

*141. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting to see each of the consultant paediatric neurologists at CHI, Temple Street. — Catherine Murphy. [50074/23]

*142. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE HSE staff, by grade, working in the HSE national medical card unit. — Catherine Murphy. [50075/23]

*143. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost in 2024 to provide an additional 20,000 intensive homecare packages. — Catherine Murphy. [50076/23]

*144. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on CAMHS services in the State; if he will outline his engagement with an organisation (details supplied) following its submission which includes case studies outlining issues around availability of services for children with intellectual disabilities, extensive waiting times, and lack of early supports for children with ADHD; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [50097/23]

*145. To ask the Minister for Health if an ICU bed could be ringfenced for a specific purpose (details supplied) in light of the number of children currently waiting for a procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [50127/23]

*146. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1229 of 7 November 2023, if there is an estimated timeframe for when pay parity will be delivered for medical scientists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [50129/23]

*147. To ask the Minister for Health if persons (details supplied) can be provided with an assessment for a primary medical certificate on a certain date; when the next round of assessments are taking place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [50133/23]

*148. To ask the Minister for Health for an update regarding the appointment of an independent chairperson to the sodium valproate inquiry; the reason why a chairperson has not been appointed to date; when he expects the chairperson to be in place and for the inquiry to begin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [50139/23]

*149. To ask the Minister for Health the reason why epilepsy is not listed under the HSE Chronic Disease Management Programme; the process required to have the condition recognised under the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50153/23]

*150. To ask the Minister for Health if the Health Service Executive pensions section in Manorhamilton is now fully staffed and in a position to process all pension matters for retired HSE workers in a swift and timely manner; if not, if he will outline the steps being taken to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [50154/23]

*151. To ask the Minister for Health if he will expedite an appointment for surgery for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [50196/23]

*152. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1328 of 7 November 2023, if treatment for retrograde cricopharyngeal dysfunction (R-CPD) will be made available on the medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [50226/23]

*153. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons availing of private health insurance, by age group (details supplied). — Jim O'Callaghan. [50229/23]

*154. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the long-term sustainability of GP services in County Clare in view of an ageing population; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [50283/23]

*155. To ask the Minister for Health what measures are being taken to actively recruit GPs to come and work in rural practices from outside of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [50284/23]

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

*156. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if, in relation to the Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2023, which is partly intended to replace the current accredited training model (details supplied), he can confirm that following the passing of this Bill, the QSCS and CSCS training accreditation will be de-certified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [50049/23]

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

*157. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development what appointment procedure she is using for the new stakeholder group on dog ownership in Ireland; and the

measures she is putting in place to ensure that members of the group will include expertise in canine behaviour. — Eoin Ó Broin. [50064/23]

*158. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide the terms of reference for the high-level stakeholder group for dog control; the membership of this group; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [50130/23]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 16 SAMHAIN, 2023
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 2023**

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

1. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the way the Government is preparing for COP28; the extent of the State’s commitment to loss and damage funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [50246/23]

2. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the Energy Security Review; how it will inform Government policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [50262/23]

3. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide an update on the roll-out of smart metres in Ireland; if it is a requirement now to have one in order to install solar panels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50004/23]

4. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline as part of proposals for a floating offshore wind and green H2 policy for Ireland; his Department’s plans, if any, to announce suitable Designated Maritime Area Plans for the South and West coasts to plan and attract necessary industry investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50230/23]

5. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 108 of 15 June 2023, the details of any engagement his Department, or bodies under the aegis of his Department, has had with Galway City and County Councils in 2023 with regard to the development of their Local Authority Climate Action Plans, and in particular the preparation of their decarbonising zones; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50116/23]

6. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what measures are being taken to reduce the current wait times (currently over 24 months) on works completing from applications made on Free Energy Upgrades under SEAI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50244/23]

7. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the measures being taken to combat illegal dumping; if extra resources are being given to counties Cavan and

Monaghan local authorities to cope with this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50027/23]

8. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications whether he supports taking waste collection back into public ownership to ensure better environmental management of waste; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [50236/23]

9. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if it is his intention to enter into negotiations with National Broadband Ireland to ensure that all offshore islands are provided with a fibre connection to the mainland as part of the roll-out of the national broadband programme, to ensure equality of service for islanders in this vital service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49996/23]

10. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is aware of concerns raised by the Climate Change Advisory Council on islanded data centre policy, specifically the connection of 11 new islanded data centres to the network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [50249/23]

11. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the delivery of renewable energy in Ireland; if he is aware of publicly expressed concerns about the renewable energy support scheme following the result of the latest auction; what efforts he is taking to address this; and if the Government has plans to update auction design in order to achieve 2030 targets and energy independence. — Mary Lou McDonald. [48407/23]

12. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is concerned about the high failure rate of retrofits following inspection; the steps he is taking to address this high rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [50261/23]

13. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the way he intends to address the increasing concerns that Ireland will not reach the 2030 target for renewables and the key barriers to delivery such as grid capacity and delays in planning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [50250/23]

14. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the up-to-date position regarding the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50281/23]

15. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide details of the development of one-stop-shops with regard to retrofitting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49606/23]

16. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the actions his Department are taking to protect fuel merchants from those who are trading in smoky fuel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [50275/23]

17. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on his recent attendance at pre-COP28; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49688/23]

18. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress of the local authorities' climate action plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [50251/23]

19. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has had discussions with an energy company (details supplied) and Carlow County Council in relation to the development of a solar farm near Friarstown; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50159/23]

20. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide details on the roll-out of the home energy upgrade loan scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49607/23]

21. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has engaged with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Taoiseach in relation to their promotion of beef exports to South Korea and to state whether he thinks prompting beef exports to South Korea is compatible with reducing emissions from agriculture under the Climate Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [50235/23]

22. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the current status of the North South Interconnector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [50170/23]

23. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline what grant schemes to support the replacement of the communal heating systems running on fossil fuels with the new systems which use renewable energy sources will be available to landlords, residents and stakeholders in order for the programme to be sustainable and cost effective; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [49961/23]

24. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how Carlow will benefit from the €3.09 million in funding announced recently for the Climate Action Regional Office in the Eastern and Midlands region. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50160/23]

25. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications whether consensus is emerging in the EU on future reforms in the electricity market; their likely impact on Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [50279/23]

26. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how he plans to increase uptake on SEAI residential schemes by 2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50225/23]

27. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reason he has not published the review of security of energy supply; how long since he received the first draft of the report; when he will publish the review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50280/23]

28. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the low interest loans for retrofitting; when an interest rate will be determined; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [50263/23]

29. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on one-stop-shops on Residential/Community retrofit programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50224/23]

30. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the estimated increase of on-shore wind generation for all years, including 2023 to 2030, in line with our climate action targets; the steps being taken to ensure these targets will be met; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [49995/23]

31. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department has undertaken any study to determine the merit of a refundable tax on plastic bottles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [49281/23]

32. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which Ireland continues to make progress towards meeting climate change issues with particular reference to flooding prevention land drainage/management and any other issues of potential positive impact in meeting the various climate challenges in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50210/23]

33. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the measures that are in place to support the reduction in residential emissions for households currently using kerosene but who cannot afford a heat pump or whose properties are not suitable for heat pump installation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [50247/23]

34. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications whether Ireland plans to enter new undertakings in the context of the upcoming COP 28; if he will outline his priorities for the event; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [50278/23]

35. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if consideration will be given to allowing instream works in the Glashaboy river to facilitate emergency flood works and flood relief; if he and his Department have been contacted by Cork City Council to seek consent regarding same; if he will consider granting an exemption if necessary to facilitate the works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [49757/23]

36. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide an update on the works undertaken within his Department to fulfil the obligation on member states to carry out an assessment of the existing barriers and potential of development of renewable energy communities in Ireland, as directed in the Renewable Energy Directive II, Article 22, paragraph 3; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [50252/23]

37. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when the green loan system will be available to homeowners to assist in energy upgrades to their homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50245/23]

38. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of applications for the SEAI warmer homes grant to date in 2023; the average length of time people are waiting for the works to commence; what measures he is taking to reduce waiting times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [49758/23]

39. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide an update regarding the Carlinn Hall Dundalk SEAI report that was set to be published in early October; when the recommendations outlined in the report will be enacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [49960/23]

40. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to report on his plans for the further development of postal policy in the state; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50212/23]

41. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress of the local authorities' climate action plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [50192/23]

42. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the meetings he has had and the briefings he has received in respect of the North South Interconnector; and whether he has had any meetings in this regard with local communities or landowners that are directly affected by this project. — Matt Carthy. [50171/23]

43. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress he and his Department continue to make towards the provision of high-speed, high-quality broadband throughout the country, with particular reference to ensuring an early link up between those areas currently having a reasonable service with the need to ensure maximum spread of service in the shortest possible term in order to facilitate the domestic and commercial markets, urban and rural; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50211/23]