



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 29 Samhain, 2023
Wednesday, 29th November, 2023

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREADRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

*1. To ask the Taoiseach the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52655/23]

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

*2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will expedite passport applications (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [52585/23]

*3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will expedite a passport application for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [52617/23]

*4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52647/23]

*5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52707/23]

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

*6. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [52600/23]

*7. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the data relating to the funded NDRC Accelerator and (unfunded) Pre-Accelerators between 2017 and 2023; the breakdown of number of company applicants for each programme to the funded NDRC Accelerator and (unfunded) Pre-Accelerators from women only founder companies, men

only founder companies and mixed founders men and women companies. — Louise O'Reilly. [52797/23]

*8. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the breakdown of founder participants applicants for each programme to the funded NDRC Accelerator and (unfunded) Pre-Accelerators from women only founder companies, men only founder companies and mixed founders men and women companies. — Louise O'Reilly. [52798/23]

*9. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the breakdown of number of successful companies to the funded NDRC Accelerator and (unfunded Pre-Accelerators) from women only founder companies, men only founder companies and mixed founders men and women. — Louise O'Reilly. [52799/23]

*10. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the total monetary value awarded to companies on the funded NDRC Accelerator programme based on the gender make up of founders. — Louise O'Reilly. [52800/23]

*11. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on Ireland's climate finance to developing countries; how much was provided in 2020, 2021, 2022 and in 2023, in tabular form; how much is planned to be spent in 2024 and in 2025, in tabular form; if there is an overall target to 2030; if this climate finance will be separate to loss and damage fund to be discussed at COP 2028; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [52605/23]

*12. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there are any continuous supports for elderly people who are dependent on electric-powered medical devices with regard to constant increased and unaffordable energy bills (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [52625/23]

*13. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the doubling of the cost recently of alternative heating materials, for example, wood pellet stoves (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [52626/23]

*14. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52645/23]

*15. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide the latest financial modelling of the total cost of implementing all actions set out in the 2021 Climate Action Plan to achieve net-zero targets by 2030, and also targets between 2030 and 2050, including a detailed breakdown of the costings, along with details of how these broad ranges of measures will be funded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52672/23]

*16. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide details of all cost-benefit analysis studies that have been carried out on the total cost of implementing all actions set out in the 2021 Climate Action Plan to achieve net-zero targets by 2030, and also targets between 2030 and 2050, incorporating the impact on living standards and

on inflation, and to provide a detailed breakdown; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52674/23]

*17. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the ground transport, heat and electrical sector generation, transmission, and distribution have been fully factored into both the 2030 and 2050 climate action targets; if so, to provide detailed financial assumptions for each, including how they will be funded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52676/23]

*18. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline in detail the projected size requirement of the Irish electricity grid to power all the heating required for buildings, both domestic and commercial, as set out in the Climate Action Plan using Joule heat (heat pumps), in comparison to today's grid size; the financial costs of doing so; how this investment will be funded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52679/23]

*19. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the expected number of homes in Ireland that will have to be rewired (details supplied) including with a bigger mains fuse, other necessary rewiring, etc., to meet the needs of the new electrical distribution system (as set out in the Climate Action Plan) being proposed to power EVs, heat pumps, and other energy efficiency measures; the average costs for each home; the existing proposals from the government to fund such investment for both domestic and commercial buildings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52680/23]

*20. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the analysis that has been carried out by his Department to determine if the Irish vehicle fleet were go electric tomorrow, how many tonnes of cobalt, lithium carbonate and copper would be required; whether he agrees that this increase in metal mining via open-cast mining is unsustainable from an ecological perspective, and also from a human rights perspective due to the exploitation of workers, including child labour; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52682/23]

*21. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he agrees with detailed scientific analysis on metal mining requirements for EVs carried out by scientists at the UK National History Museum (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [52683/23]

*22. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52705/23]

*23. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if schemes are available for persons living beside wind farms (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52723/23]

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

*24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the engagements he or his Department have had with representative governments or civil society organisations from the global South, particularly those heavily impacted by war and conflict, in consideration or development of

proposals regarding the triple lock; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [52586/23]

*25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if there is a height restriction on entry into the Irish Defence Forces; if so, if there are plans to adjust or remove such a restriction, given the problems with recruitment and retention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [52635/23]

*26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52642/23]

*27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52702/23]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*28. To ask the Minister for Transport the number and location of EV charge points in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52587/23]

*29. To ask the Minister for Transport the up-to-date position of a project (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52616/23]

*30. To ask the Minister for Transport the parameters for the use of tractors and agricultural vehicles on motorways; which vehicles are permitted to use motorways; the speed limits, if any that apply to same; and if any specific prohibitions apply to their use of motorways. — Patricia Ryan. [52630/23]

*31. To ask the Minister for Transport with regard to the increasing and concerning number of road traffic accidents and fatalities on Irish roads, his views on the percentage of those accidents which involved left-hand drive vehicles; if left hand-drive vehicles and drivers more accustomed to driving on the right side of the road is, or could be a factor in such accidents; if he will consider improved/increased road signage to increase awareness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [52631/23]

*32. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52657/23]

*33. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52717/23]

*34. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the powers available to gardaí to seize vehicles which produce excessive noise due to a modified exhaust silencers, under S.I. No. 190/1963 - Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment and Use of Vehicles) Regulations, 1963; if he will confirm that gardaí currently have sufficient powers, means and resources to conduct a roadside inspection of vehicles producing excessive noise and to test or read a suspect device or modified exhaust silencer before possible seizure of the vehicle where appropriate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [52753/23]

*35. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can provide an update on the implementation of the 425 Galway to Mountbellew service; when in Q4 is it expected to be up and running; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [52761/23]

*36. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can provide an update on the implementation of the Tuam to Athenry TFI local link; when in Q4 is it expected to be up and running; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [52762/23]

*37. To ask the Minister for Transport when he anticipates that the inner orbital BusConnects routes will be rolled out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52843/23]

*38. To ask the Minister for Transport when he anticipates that A spine and F Spine of BusConnects will be rolled out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52844/23]

*39. To ask the Minister for Transport the total bill of damages to public transport infrastructure with respect to rioting in Dublin City centre on the evening of 23 November 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52889/23]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*40. To ask the Minister for Finance to clarify the current Revenue Commissioners guidelines for the VAT 58 rebate for farmers on certain farm equipment such as feed bins, milk bulk tanks, automatic calf feeders, milking parlour equipment, automatic scrapers, etc., where farmers are being refused a rebate on such items; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe McHugh. [52591/23]

*41. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of taxpayers in County Kildare who stand to benefit from the USC reduction as provided for in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [52632/23]

*42. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52646/23]

*43. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason are farmers debarred from benefitting from reliefs if they have solar panels on their farms (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [52699/23]

*44. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52706/23]

*45. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of cars exported from Ireland under the VRT refund scheme in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [52746/23]

*46. To ask the Minister for Finance the role the National Development Finance Agency has in protecting public procurement in large capital projects from bid-rigging and any ongoing review of large capital projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [52366/23]

*47. To ask the Minister for Finance the data relating to the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund between 2017 and 2023; the breakdown of number of company applicants for each programme to the ISIF from women only founder companies, men only founder companies and mixed founders men and women companies. — Louise O'Reilly. [52801/23]

*48. To ask the Minister for Finance the breakdown of founder participants applicants for each programme to the ISIF from women only founder companies, men only founder companies and mixed founders men and women companies. . — Louise O'Reilly. [52802/23]

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.

*49. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52652/23]

*50. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the reason and how the State acted with such alacrity on the purchase of a property at Dowth, while still delaying on the purchase of lands at Castletown to the degree the current owner has withdrawn their proposal to sell, due to lack of appropriate engagement; and if he will publish the timeline of the transaction regarding Dowth in order that Dáil Éireann and the public might examine, compare and contrast the State approach to the two acquisitions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [52688/23]

*51. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the status of the State acquisition of the lands at Castletown; the timeline of each and all engagements by the OPW with the current owner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [52689/23]

*52. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52712/23]

*53. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadta ar an bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, agus Athchóirithe Chun a fhiafraí den Aire an bhfuil sé sásta bualadh le toscaireacht ón earnáil Gaeilge agus Gaeltachta maidir leis an bPlean Fáis, plean infheistíochta atá seolta ag Conradh na Gaeilge agus a bhfuil tacaíocht aige ó bhreis is 130 grúpa fud fad na tíre, chun caiteachas don earnáil a phlé i gcomhthéacs chaiteachas iomlán an Stáit, ní hamháin buiséad Roinn na Gaeltachta; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [52778/23]

*54. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he will review the impact of coastal protection works at Rossbeigh, County Kerry; if he will consider a view sent in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52892/23]

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

*55. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52644/23]

*56. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 44 of 23 November 2023, if there is no formal mechanism for a member state to call for the European Commission to review or trigger human rights clauses in trade agreements with third countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [52664/23]

*57. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52704/23]

*58. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has had an opportunity to read the Plean Fáis: an Investment Plan for Irish and the Gaeltacht, launched by Conradh na Gaeilge and which has the support of 138 language and Gaeltacht groups, since it was brought to his attention in Dáil Éireann on 20 September; if he will meet a delegation from these groups regarding the plan to discuss it in the context of enterprise and employment as it relates to his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [52766/23]

*59. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the total value of Government funding allocated to the NDRC accelerator and NDRC pre-accelerator and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund between 2017 and 2023. — Louise O'Reilly. [52796/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*60. To ask the Minister for Education the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to her Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52643/23]

*61. To ask the Minister for Education when the ASD special class will open in a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [52671/23]

*62. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the provision of a new school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [52686/23]

*63. To ask the Minister for Education when schools in County Cork will be eligible to apply for the solar for schools' programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [52691/23]

*64. To ask the Minister for Education to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within her Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52703/23]

*65. To ask the Minister for Education to review a case for school transport (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52736/23]

*66. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the school transport for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52737/23]

*67. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding an application for additional subject hours lodged with her Department by special school earlier this year (details supplied); the status of a response to issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [52754/23]

*68. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on her recent meeting with the British Secretary Of State For Education Gillian Keegan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [52763/23]

*69. To ask the Minister for Education the number of students in Connaught and Ulster that will benefit from the free schoolbooks scheme in both primary and secondary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [52764/23]

*70. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the capital build project for a school (details supplied). — Cathal Crowe. [52784/23]

*71. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the case of a school (details supplied); if she will review the attached correspondence from the school and indicate when the appropriate resources will be allocated to this school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [52794/23]

*72. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the supports given by the provision of homework clubs for Traveller children; the homework clubs, if any, that her Department funds either partially or fully; the number of children benefitting from such support; her future plans in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [52825/23]

*73. To ask the Minister for Education if she will act to ensure that oral exams are moved back before the Easter break, as requested by a union (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52847/23]

*74. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been brought to the shortage of bus contractors and drivers available to provide the school transport service in parts of Galway, and in particular on bus route 5060, which has left up to 50 families without school transport since September 2023; the engagement she or her Department have had with Bus Éireann with a view to resolving this situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52865/23]

*75. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 41 of 17 October 2023; the timeline for the publication of the final report of the review of the school transport scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52866/23]

*76. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 713 of 18 January 2023; the status of plans to establish a new system of redeployment for post-primary teachers, whereby teachers wishing to relocate could retain their permanent and CID status; the details of any engagement her Department has had in this regard in 2023 with teacher representative groups; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52867/23]

*77. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais maidir le Ceist Pharlaiminte Uimh. 150 an 29 Iúil 2023 an dtabharfaidh sí soiléiriú ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis an bplean chun beartas cuimsitheach don Ghaeilge sa chóras oideachais, idir leibhéal an oideachais réamhscoile agus leibhéal an oideachais do mhúinteoirí, a fhorbairt agus a fhoilsiú; cathain a fhoilseofar an beartas nua; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [52868/23]

*78. To ask the Minister for Education what analysis her Department has carried out into the different approaches to funding, and any disparities that may arise as a result, between ETB Irish-medium secondary schools and voluntary sector schools; what engagement she has had with the ETB sector in 2023 in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52869/23]

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

*79. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to her Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52656/23]

*80. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within her Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52716/23]

*81. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the swimming pool grant will be available to groups in the coming months; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52720/23]

*82. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if he can provide an update on a project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52721/23]

*83. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for an update on a project which has applied under the LSSIF (details supplied); if he can provide an update on this case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52738/23]

*84. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if additional funding will be provided to pay sports capital grant claims from sports clubs in County Kerry which have been informed that payments have ceased because the budget has been drawn down for 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52855/23]

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

*85. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether appointment-only private falconry exhibitions operating with an appropriate falconry licence which operate on an appointment-only basis and that are not open to the public generally are considered to fall within the definition of zoo in the Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, and subsequently S.I. No. 440 of 2003 European Communities (Licensing and Inspection of Zoos) Regulations 2003; if not, if such private appointment-only venues fall outside of these regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [52636/23]

*86. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52650/23]

*87. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 146 of 4 October 2023 and his assertion of an understanding that “once a home has been certified as being remediated under the scheme that it will be viewed by banks in the same way as other properties and therefore homes will not be required to be remediated to current building regulations”, if he has officially established from an organisation (details supplied) and other representative bodies for the banks and financial institutions in Ireland that homes remediated or rebuilt under the enhanced defective concrete block grant scheme will be mortgageable or re-mortgageable. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [52666/23]

*88. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the resources made available to, and drawn down by, Cork County Council in respect of the appointment of full-time vacant homes officers; the number of such full-time officers currently employed and supported by his Department in Cork County Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [52696/23]

*89. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52710/23]

*90. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide, in tabular form, the number of Section 179A social housing planning exemptions that have secured Stage 1 approval from his Department, broken down by local authority, and including location and number of units in each scheme; and further, to indicate how many of these schemes have commenced construction. — Eoin Ó Broin. [52731/23]

*91. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [52765/23]

*92. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will comment on a pilot wastewater scheme for unsewered villages and when he expects to announce the awardees of the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52890/23]

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

*93. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications received under the Humanitarian Assistance Fund from Cork city and county, respectively for flooding caused by Storm Babet; the number of claims processed and approved; and the amount of funding drawn down, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [52598/23]

*94. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to her Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52654/23]

*95. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will issue a decision on an application for a disability allowance by a person (details supplied). — Michael Creed. [52670/23]

*96. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the case of a person (details supplied) will be examined, who recently received a redundancy payment classified as stamp 'S', despite never having been self-employed, and believes they should be on class A stamps; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [52684/23]

*97. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within her Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52714/23]

*98. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on a proposal put to her Department (details supplied); if she will advise on engagement with organisations as part of discussions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [52743/23]

*99. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on a case (details supplied); if she will advise on engagement with relevant organisations as part of discussions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [52744/23]

*100. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on a carers allowance appeal by a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52809/23]

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

*101. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason for the recent postings on the irishimmigration.ie website (details supplied); if this will increase waiting times for applicants; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [52590/23]

*102. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí currently stationed in Monasterevin Garda Station, Monasterevin, County Kildare; and the opening hours of the station. — Patricia Ryan. [52629/23]

*103. To ask the Minister for Justice the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to her Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52651/23]

*104. To ask the Minister for Justice to review extenuating circumstances being cited in a visa renewal (details supplied); and if she will provide an update on this matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52690/23]

*105. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within her Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52711/23]

*106. To ask the Minister for Justice if additional legislative measures are needed to deal effectively with violence, criminality and thuggery as experienced in Dublin city centre on 23 November 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [52783/23]

*107. To ask the Minister for Justice for an update on the family reunification application of a person (details supplied). — Denise Mitchell. [52819/23]

*108. To ask the Minister for Justice the total number of arrests and measures that will be taken following rioting in Dublin City centre on the evening of 23 November 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52887/23]

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

*109. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many staff are employed at Irish ports to examine imported timber for bark beetles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [52593/23]

*110. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what percentage of timber being imported into Ireland is being examined for bark beetles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [52594/23]

*111. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the tonnage of timber imported into Ireland to date in 2023, by month, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [52595/23]

*112. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if timber being imported into Northern Ireland is being checked for bark beetle; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [52596/23]

*113. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a BISS payment will issue to a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52597/23]

*114. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52640/23]

*115. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if slurry bags are eligible for TAMS grants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [52687/23]

*116. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the eligibility criteria of the Brexit fish processor transition scheme can be reviewed in view of the fact that the majority of fish processors, who the scheme is designed to help, are not eligible for the scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [52698/23]

*117. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52700/23]

*118. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to clarify the confusion which exists in a scheme (details supplied) in relation to whether or not it is calendar year sales or accounting year sales that are required for an application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [52730/23]

*119. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will advise on forestry premiums for the previous Forestry Programme; if he will advise on the difference in premiums under the new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 given it appears that existing premiums are not indexed and farmers and forestry owners are receiving a lower premium where they have planted under the previous programme considering planted were previously aligned in the 1990s; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [52756/23]

*120. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if with regard to maps provided by his Department demonstrating the different 'layers' of consideration for afforestation under criteria for the Forestry Programme 2023-2027, if he will provide those maps as one combined map with all relevant layers to show a holistic overview of area available for afforestation under the new programme; if he will advise of the area covered as represented in those layered maps as a total in comparison with the land area in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [52757/23]

*121. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to specify the policy document and the specific sections that detail his Department's position that agroforestry is not an acceptable forest type option for forest owners who have clear felled conifer plantations and wish to replant with agroforestry; to clarify why his Department do not accept agroforestry in such

circumstances; to further specify when the policy was enacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [52767/23]

*122. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine why agroforestry is an acceptable forest type option for replanting ash dieback infected sites but is not an acceptable forest type option for forest owners with conifer plantations who wish to replant with agroforestry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [52768/23]

*123. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 407 of 21 November 2023, the specific section of the policy or scheme document that details his Department's position; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [52769/23]

*124. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if grant-aid approved to a small fisherman (details supplied) in County Kerry under the Brexit Inshore Business Model Adjustment Scheme 2023 can be transferred to reduce outstanding harbour fees on his account; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52792/23]

*125. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will extend a 2023 Brexit inshore fisheries business model adjustment scheme grant approval for a fisherman (details supplied) in County Kerry to allow further engagement regarding a repayment plan for outstanding harbour fees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52795/23]

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

*126. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 978 of 7 November 2023, what services the assessment of need administrative hub in CHO7 will carry out; if there is a difference in the level of services that exist in the assessment hubs established in CHO3, 6 and 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [52602/23]

*127. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of assessment of needs carried out by the private sector following a referral from the HSE; the number per month in each of the past six months; the CHO location of each of these private referrals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [52603/23]

*128. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [52607/23]

*129. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52641/23]

*130. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware that childcare providers are being asked to produce separate sets of accounts to meet the

requirements of Tusla and Pobal as set out in legislation; and if he plans to simplify the process for providers. — Martin Browne. [52667/23]

*131. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52701/23]

*132. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of Covid 19 vaccines that were purchased by the HSE between 2020 and 2022; and the total cost of these vaccines. — Róisín Shortall. [52849/23]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*133. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the in-patient peri-natal mental health unit in St. Vincent's Hospital; when this will be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [52592/23]

*134. To ask the Minister for Health if there has been any engagement with the HSE with regard to funding Daisy Hill Hospital or access of southern patients to the hospital; if so, if he will detail how much investment the Government will provide; how many patients and what type of southern patients will have access to Daisy Hill Hospital; and if the Government has decided to provide funding, if there is any particular blockage to the delivery of funding. — Peadar Tóibín. [52599/23]

*135. To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be allocated to a community group (details supplied) in County Kildare; if so, the amount of funding; the date such funding will be allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [52601/23]

*136. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults waiting for eating disorder treatment services; and the amount of time they have been waiting, by CHO, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52610/23]

*137. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for eating disorder treatment services; and the amount of time they have been waiting, by CHO, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52611/23]

*138. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the 16 eating disorder treatment hubs that were promised under the 2018 Model of Care; where these hubs will be located; the qualifications of the healthcare team that will be placed within them; and the services that will be provided. — Holly Cairns. [52612/23]

*139. To ask the Minister for Health to detail how patients can access treatment in eating disorder treatment hubs; the average waiting time to receive treatment in each hub; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [52613/23]

*140. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the provision of adult inpatient beds for eating disorder treatment; where each bed will be located; and the timeline for provision. — Holly Cairns. [52614/23]

*141. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children admitted to in-patient services for the treatment of eating disorders from 2022 to date. — Holly Cairns. [52615/23]

*142. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adult mental health beds in CHO7; the location of each; and the number that are currently available for patients. — Patricia Ryan. [52624/23]

*143. To ask the Minister for Health the number of job offers removed/frozen from Naas General Hospital, Naas County Kildare as a result of the recent HSEs CEO memorandum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [52627/23]

*144. To ask the Minister for Health the number of job offers removed/frozen from St, Vincent's Hospital, Athy, County Kildare, as a result of the recent HSE's CEO memorandum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [52628/23]

*145. To ask the Minister for Health if the hospital bill that was issued in respect of a medical card patient (details supplied) for a stay in a hospital will be cancelled in view of the fact the bill should have been covered by their medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [52633/23]

*146. To ask the Minister for Health the location of all primary care centres built between 2016 and to date; the location of all primary care centres currently in development; and the location of all primary care centres that are currently at contract stage or in planning. — Alan Kelly. [52639/23]

*147. To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52649/23]

*148. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the policy with regard to the shingles vaccination; if he is aware of the significant cost involved for patients; the proposals if any he has to make this cost more affordable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [52669/23]

*149. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) can expect to receive their Covid-19 pandemic unemployment payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [52685/23]

*150. To ask the Minister for Health if he will reinstate free PCR testing centres for Covid-19 for at least the duration of the winter period, given the likely increase Covid-19 cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52697/23]

*151. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52709/23]

*152. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a list of all vacancies for intellectual disability nursing positions in CHO4; the locations of the vacancies; and the impact of the HSE recruitment freeze on the filling of these positions. — Holly Cairns. [52718/23]

*153. To ask the Minister for Health whether his attention has been drawn to instances where parents who contact out-of-hours GP helplines have been advised to directly visit accident and emergency and, consequently, must pay a fee due to a lack of GP referral; whether he will make steps to ensure parents seeking emergency medical care for their children will not be charged an accident and emergency fee; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [52719/23]

*154. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [52722/23]

*155. To ask the Minister for Health if he will act to ensure that a dedicated neurology nurse phone line is reopened in Crumlin Hospital (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52729/23]

*156. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the HSE grading system genetic counsellors fall under; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [52758/23]

*157. To ask the Minister for Health if historical data on the number of children and teenagers treated for anorexia as in-patients in paediatric hospital is retained; if so, the data for the years 2017 to present, by year, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [52793/23]

*158. To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid 19 vaccines that were purchased by the HSE between 2020 and 2022; and the total cost of these vaccines. — Róisín Shortall. [52848/23]

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

*159. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if consideration has given to establishing a post-graduate university course for genetic counselling in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [52759/23]

*160. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [52637/23]

*161. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to his Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52648/23]

*162. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within his Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52708/23]

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

*163. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amount paid in late payment interest payments for goods and services provided to her Department in each of the years from 2016 to date in 2023; and separately, the top five highest late interest payments made in each of those years, and the service and goods supplier that received the payments, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [52653/23]

*164. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to provide a list of all EU Directives which have not yet been ratified within her Department; the estimated date of ratification of each Directive; and the deadline set by the EU for ratifying each Directive, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [52713/23]

*165. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the strategic objectives underpinning the provision of subsidies for the transportation of freight to the offshore islands. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [52724/23]

*166. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to explain the metric on which the maximum pricing for the transportation of freight to the offshore island set by her Department is based; if the maximum pricing applies to all islands equally regardless of distance from the mainland; and if so, the reason for this. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [52725/23]

*167. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the ongoing monitoring mechanisms that are in place to oversee that the service provided by subsidised offshore island freight operators is working in the best interests of island residents. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [52726/23]

*168. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if there are minimum equipment requirements specified for subsidised freight operators on the various routes and for the island piers; and to outline how this is monitored. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [52727/23]

*169. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if there is any PSO element in the freight contracts between her Department and the various operators; and if not, the reason for same. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [52728/23]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 30 SAMHAIN, 2023
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 2023**

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

1. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will seek to have the N22 Macroom to Ballincollig project added to the National Development Plan, and if he will seek to have the project progressed at the earliest possible date; if he recognises the need for this project to enhance the southwest economic corridor from Tralee to Cork; if he is aware of the loss of life and serious injury on this section of road in recent years; if he will provide an update on these statistics; if he will update on the projected loss of life and serious injury in the event of this

project not going ahead (as communicated to the Minister previously by TII); if he believes this is an acceptable level of injury and loss of life; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52859/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 35 of 5 October 2023, the status of the roll out of park-and-ride in Galway city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52832/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will commit to progressing the N22 Farranfore to Lissivigeen (Killarney Bypass) project at the earliest possible date; if he recognises the need for this project to enhance the southwest economic corridor from Tralee to Cork; if he is aware of the loss of life and serious injury on this section of road in recent years; if he will provide an update on these statistics; if he will update on the projected loss of life and serious injury in the event of this project not going ahead (as communicated to the Minister previously by TII); if he believes this is an acceptable level of injury and loss of life; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52858/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has considered instructing driving tests to be completed on weekends as well as weekdays to reduce significant waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [52814/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Western Rail Corridor; the consideration he has given to carrying out a detailed engineering and track survey of the rail line from Claremorris to Collooney; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [52785/23]

6. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he will take to ensure the security of transport workers following the attacks on public transport in Dublin city centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52851/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the difficulties with the access and the underground car park at Clongriffin, which is a vital hub in the new public transport strategy for Dublin, and if he would convene the key stakeholders to seek to broker a solution. — Richard Bruton. [52816/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is satisfied with the roll-out of phase 5b of BusConnects; what improvements can be made to the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52850/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which it might be possible to ensure the availability of extra carriages to meet commuter demands affecting the towns of Kilcock, Maynooth, Leixlip, Confey and Celbridge, Hazelhatch, Sallins and Newbridge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [52780/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will carry out a review into the operation of rented taxi plates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [52841/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is confident that his Department will use all of the allocated funding for capital projects this year; if he is concerned over the underspend of €200m in the first half of this year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [52773/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has been contacted regarding the provision of funding for the east west link road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52023/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on either extending the existing rail service to Youghal, County Cork or putting in place a bus rapid transit service alongside the Midleton to Youghal Greenway route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [52692/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Transport the actions he has taken to speed up driver testing in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [52805/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on BusConnects Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [52125/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Transport the up-to-date position on the roll out of the new national fare structure for County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [52770/23]

17. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress made in relation to the All-Ireland Strategic Rail Review; when it is intended to publish the final report; if, in light of the absence of an executive in Northern Ireland, he intends implementing immediately the proposals that are totally within this jurisdiction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [52622/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is in receipt of a funding application from Cork County Council to repair local bridges damaged by recent flooding as a result of Storm Babet; when he expects to be in a position to make a decision on the application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [51886/23]

19. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the southern relief road in Carlow. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [52621/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on progress towards meeting the transport emissions reduction targets under the Climate Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52853/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on a review into the regional airports programme with respect to Shannon Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52882/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to upgrade bus services across mid-Cork including Macroom to Cork, Macroom to Bandon and other local services based around Macroom; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [52771/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the concern in relation to the deteriorating public bus services in County Meath; his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [52788/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Transport when he expects to conclude a review of the regional airports programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [52618/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Transport to ensure that when a coroner makes a recommendation to Transport Infrastructure Ireland and a local authority to conduct a safety review following fatalities, that such a review takes place and safety measures are implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [52786/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Transport if timetable estimates have been carried out by Irish Rail or the National Transport Authority in relation to the possible impact on enterprise train services between Belfast and Dublin of the DART + Coastal North plans; if not, to outline the reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [52751/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on progress with regard to electrification of the rail network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [52876/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is considering making further funding available in 2024 to progress the N2 Ardee to Carrickmacross route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [52752/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Transport what guidance was given to him from either the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth or the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability regarding the implementation of the UNCRPD and consultation with DPRO's; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [52806/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress to date to expand public transport provision in County Meath, in particular the Navan rail line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [52787/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the progress of the northern distributor road; the amount of funding that will be allocated in 2024 to progress the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [52473/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is concerned at the impact that lifting the passenger cap at Dublin Airport would have on local residents, including noise pollution; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52854/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to deal with recruitment and retention challenges of bus drivers in the bus service, given the ongoing capacity issues across services nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [52789/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on reports that Dublin Bus live timetables are often inaccurate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [52815/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the specific measures he is taking to comply with the EU and UN target is to halve the number of road deaths by 2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [51464/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the realignment works proposed for the New Mills section of the N71 near Owenahinch Cross; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [52608/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 69 of 5 October 2023, the status of the feasibility study on light rail in Galway, which is being undertaken as part of the development of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; the details of the engagement between the National Transport Authority and local groups in the development of the draft strategy, and in particular the feasibility study on light rail; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52833/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department intends to implement the recommendations of the All-Ireland Strategic Rail Review Report published this summer; the next steps following the publication of the report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [52081/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide funding to address motorway exit lanes and joining lanes which are excessively short in nature or constructed at severe angles which compromise driver safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [52619/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the concerns of commuters about delays occurring at peak times in accessing buses, if additional capacity will be provided on a route where a public service contract is operated under the National Transport Authority (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [52772/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Transport for a progress update on the proposed extension of the southern relief road in Bandon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [52609/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Transport the engagement he has had with his EU counterparts on restricting the sale of vehicles in the EU with advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) technologies that assist drivers in driving and parking functions, which can dramatically reduce road traffic accidents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [51460/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on a road project (details supplied); when it will move to the next gate of the public spending code; if he will fast track the project following on from the Cabinet approval of the fast-tracking of the Adare bypass; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [52880/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an overview of the timelines for the implementation of the pathfinder sustainable transport and mobility projects; if an interim evaluation of project timeline progress is complete; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [52498/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Transport his views with respect to the decision of the National Transport Authority to upgrade the Ennis town bus service timeline to red; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52883/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on engagements with DAA with regard to noise abatement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [52877/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the All-Ireland Strategic Rail Review and the impact of the Western Rail Corridor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [52774/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Transport the specific actions that are being undertaken to achieve the Climate Action Plan target of reducing vehicle kilometres on Irish roads by 20% by 2030; to outline the key milestones in achieving this target; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [52861/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Transport the engagement he has had with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and local authorities with regard to the provision of road markings on non-national roads to ensure that they can meet the requirements of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) technologies which are being rolled out by vehicle manufacturers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [51462/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Transport the total funding provided in 2023 for the non-national road network; if he will ensure that increased funding will be provided for this road network in 2024 due to the need for an increased investment in these roads in areas such as counties Cavan and Monaghan, and also taking into account the substantial increase in costs of road maintenance and road construction over recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [52777/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the funding for the re-development of rail lines, particularly the Navan line in conjunction with Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. — Niamh Smyth. [52022/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on lifting the cap on passenger numbers at Dublin Airport, given commitments made under the Climate Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52852/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on public transport projects in Cork (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [52881/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the progression of the Dublin MetroLink; the costs incurred on the project to date; and the planned completion date. — Peadar Tóibín. [52080/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Transport if he had any discussions with the National Transport Authority to increase the number of agents selling the student Leap card, to ensure every county has at least one provider; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [51990/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Transport his engagement with the Road Safety Authority on the introduction of legislation and or regulations to reduce road traffic accidents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [51461/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Transport if he intends sanctioning money immediately, as happened with the Limerick to Foynes line, to reopen the rail line from Athenry to Claremorris; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [52623/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan in County Carlow; and the date on which all bus routes under the plan will be up and running in the county. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [52620/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Transport when the regulations for e-bikes and scooters will be completed; how it is intended to monitor the 25 kmph speed limit, which is to be the threshold for tax and insurance, where the capacity of many of the items in use seem to be able to exceed such thresholds. — Richard Bruton. [52811/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Mallow relief road; the level of funding that will be allocated in 2024 considering only €100,000 was allocated in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [52474/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the projected increase or reduction in the number of private vehicles on Irish roads between 2024 and 2030; the policies to support the growth or reduction in the number of private vehicles and kilometres driven; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [52860/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

62. To ask the Minister for Education the steps being taken by the staff in her Department to have the new building for a school (details supplied) advanced. — Brian Stanley. [52314/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the recent circular on domestic violence leave for teachers and special needs assistants; how this leave will operate in reality in school communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52662/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Education when a school application will be approved (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [52741/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Education when her Department expects to complete the assessment of the additional accommodation scheme application from a school (details supplied); what steps she can take to ensure the additional accommodation is promptly delivered; and what steps she can take to ensure the return to use of the hall as a community space. — Patrick Costello. [52938/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Education when she expects works on a new building for a school (details supplied) will commence; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [52579/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she will take to address the high level of vacant teaching posts at primary and secondary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52820/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Education if plans are in place to provide an ASD room to a school (details supplied) that requires such an addition; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [52750/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Education the measures her Department has in place to end the practice of non-fee-paying schools linking the payment of a fee with the acceptance of an enrolment place. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [52250/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to ensure that the development of new schools supports the national planning framework objectives of compact growth and reducing urban sprawl; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [52871/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Education the steps that are being taken to address teacher recruitment issues in primary and post-primary schools; what actions are being taken to recognise foreign-based qualifications of teachers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [52733/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Education when she met with teacher unions to discuss the report proposing the introduction of a teacher relocation scheme from a working group established by one of the teacher unions. — Robert Troy. [50140/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the additional allocation for curricular reforms, including funding for the accelerated roll out of the senior cycle redevelopment programme and the delivery of additional physical activity initiatives in schools that she announced as part of Budget 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [52747/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide a map of the catchment area for a school (details supplied), given that a number of local residents have been unable to get places in the school despite living in close proximity to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52862/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on delays in capital building projects within her Department impacting County Mayo; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [52776/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the shortage of second-level school places in Wicklow for the 2024-2025 academic year; the steps being taken to resolve these issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [52479/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the national recruitment campaign for special education needs organisers as part of the ongoing expansion of the National Council for Special Education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [52734/23]

78. To ask the Minister for Education the degree to which she and her Department continues to upgrade, replace and improve schools in the primary and second level in Kildare, an area of rapid population growth and throughout the country; the extent to which the current building programme is succeeding in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [52782/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the number of special education needs organiser posts not being filled across the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [52659/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Education if she has plans for the establishment of a special national school for pupils aged four to eighteen years in County Monaghan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [52846/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department is currently reviewing the content, cost and duration of the Professional Master of Education. — Sorca Clarke. [52535/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 143 of 16 November 2023, to outline her Department's current specific projections of annual demand for second level school places in the Midleton and Carrigtwohill school planning area for each respective year from 2024 to 2028 inclusive; the specific projected demand for non-denominational second level school places during the same period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [52810/23]

83. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the targets for reducing scope 3 emissions in Irish schools; the actions required to achieve these targets; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [52870/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Education to report on her Department's initiatives to support Traveller children to remain in school and in education; the current situation with respect to so called "reduced timetables" for Traveller children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [52839/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the training teachers who work in special educational needs classes receive. — Gary Gannon. [52826/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the delays in the construction plans for a new building in a school (details supplied); the knock-on implications on the shortfall in secondary school places in the wider Greystones area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [51704/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Education what action her Department is taking to deal with recruitment challenges of bus drivers under the school transport scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [52791/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Education when the secretaries grant will be received by schools. — Gary Gannon. [52827/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Education when a three-classroom extension project at a special school (details supplied) in County Cork will progress; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [52739/23]

90. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the pathway to intervention services for 'at-risk' pupils attending DEIS schools in Mayo who require access to the School Completion Programme, a central element of the DEIS plan, but who are unable to access the local interventions provided by the SCP due to issues around staffing levels and governance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [52842/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the lack of post-primary school places for feeder schools in Dublin mid-west; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [52807/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Education the level of digital support is offered to special education classes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [52775/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Education if she will outline the new approach to the promotion of the transfer of patronage of schools which her Department has adopted; and if she will outline the key milestones that it is intended to reach in the next three years. — Richard Bruton. [52817/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Education if she has liaised with the Department on Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the accommodation crisis for teachers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52823/23]

95. To ask the Minister for Education what actions her Department is taking to tackle teacher shortages at primary and secondary level. — Gary Gannon. [52830/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Education the number of concessionary students, by county, who are still without transport this year, who would have previously availed of it in past years, in tabular form. — Peadar Tóibín. [52065/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the solar for schools' scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [52874/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Education if she will sanction an additional autism class at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [52578/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the provision of ASD classes in County Carlow; specifically, the provision of an ASD class in a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [52732/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Education to report on the review of the school transport scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [52845/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Education if she supports significantly increasing teachers' pay to address teacher shortages; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52824/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Education her Department's correspondence with Bus Éireann in relation to the decision to not allow bus drivers over the age of 70 to drive school routes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [52808/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which she is working to ensure that every child has a school place at primary and second level in Kildare north, an area of rapid population growth and throughout the country at large, including children with special needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [52781/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Education the progress that has been made on preparation for a Citizen's Assembly on Education, as provided for in the Programme for Government. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [52249/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the recognition of foreign-based qualifications of teachers applying for teaching posts in Ireland; if the temporary application process for these teachers to apply to complete induction (Droichead) will be extended by the Teaching Council beyond 1 February 2024 to deal with the challenges in recruiting staff; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [52735/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Education the number of ICT grants awarded to secondary schools in County Donegal; the amount awarded; if any awards have been refunded; if so, what reasons have been given, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [52749/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the pilot counselling services for specific schools; the increased provision of funding to continue these services for another year recently announced as part of Budget 2024; if this additional funding will provide for the continuation of services in the existing schools or if new schools will be included in the pilot; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [52872/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the recently published guide for parents on Keeping Childhood Smartphone Free; the funding being provided by her Department to support this initiative in schools; her plans to tackle the use of smartphones in schools across the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [52663/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the counselling in primary schools pilot (CPS-P) 2023-2025 programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52885/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Education how she plans to measure the effectiveness of drug and alcohol awareness programmes in schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52813/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking to increase the availability of substitute teachers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52822/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the proposed new buildings for a school (details supplied). — Sorca Clarke. [52536/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the application to provide an ASD suite in a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [49931/23]

114. To ask the Minister for Education what engagement she or her Department has had with post-primary schools in Galway with a view to implementing a common application system along the lines of the Limerick Area Post-Primary Schools Common Application System; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52863/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the additional allocation for social inclusion measures, including enhancing the capacity of the Tusla education support services and additional educational welfare officer posts that she announced as part of Budget 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [52748/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Education if her attention has been drawn to the delays in the construction plans for the extension to a school (details supplied); the knock-on implications on the shortfall in secondary school places in the wider Greystones area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [51705/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on progress for the construction of a new building for a school (details supplied); and for this project to be accelerated due to the shortage of school places in the area. — Brian Stanley. [52313/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the challenges currently facing the Irish education system; if she will directly address concerns on the recruiting and retaining of qualified teachers, particularly in subjects such as mathematics, science, and languages; if she will address concerns regarding the current educational inequalities in Ireland, particularly focusing on access to resources and opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special educational needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [52693/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Education when DEIS schools will receive the ICT grant. — Gary Gannon. [52829/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the need for education to take account of the curtailed nature of the existing site for a school (details supplied); the approved appropriate funding for the additional space that is required; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [52661/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking to address the impact of teacher shortages on special education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [52821/23]

122. To ask the Minister for Education what progress has been made in considering a report proposing the introduction of a teacher relocation scheme, submitted to her Department by a teacher representative group (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [50873/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Education the reason some DEIS schools have not received a library and librarian under the scheme, while some other DEIS schools have. — Gary Gannon. [52828/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Education the actions her Department will take to address teacher supply issues through an incentive scheme to partially refund future professional masters in education fees and additional upskilling teacher programmes for in demand subjects, announced as part of Budget 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [52873/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the review into the schoolbook grant scheme for primary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [52740/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Education what progress has been made to date by her Department in relation to the establishment of a transfer/relocation scheme for post-primary school teachers to stem the teacher retention crisis; to outline in detail her Department's plans

going forward to address this issue; if engagement is taking place with stakeholders (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [52790/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Education if measures to incentivise and assist workers to re-skill and upskill as teachers are being considered, if financial and logistical barriers have been considered, what proposals she has in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [52812/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Education her views on the DEIS status of a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [52884/23]

129. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on engagements with schools and parents groups on banning smart phones in schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [52875/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the school building programme in County Cork; if she is satisfied with its progress to-date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [52658/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Education the steps her Department has taken to increase the number of Gaelscoileanna in the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [52064/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Education the steps her Department is taking in relation to the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly on Education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [52496/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Education if the forward planning section has assessed the need for additional school places in east Waterford; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [52495/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Education if she plans to take new initiatives to promote the understanding of biodiversity in education programmes, both within and outside the curriculum. — Richard Bruton. [52818/23]

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

135. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline in detail what steps the Government is taking to strengthen trade and diplomatic ties with European Union member states in light of recent global political developments. — Colm Burke. [49713/23]

136. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the situation in Lough Neagh; and if consideration could be given to utilising the resources of the Shared Island Initiative to alleviate this situation. — Sean Sherlock. [41665/23]

137. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what measures are being taken to ensure exit from Gaza for Irish citizens; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50213/23]

138. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what efforts his Department is making to ensure the safe passage of Irish citizens from Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [49932/23]

139. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update regarding his engagements with EU Foreign Affairs Ministers in relation to the urgent need for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50163/23]

140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on his attendance at the EU Foreign Affairs Council in Kyiv; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [50241/23]

141. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of the memorandum of understanding between the European Commission and Egypt at the Mediterranean Gas Forum; if he is further aware that this does not include a clause to exclude occupied Palestinian land which contravenes Irish and EU policy that all agreements with Israel should be explicitly inapplicable to territories occupied by Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [52803/23]

142. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the effort he is making to secure a ceasefire in Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [50156/23]

143. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the recent engagements he has had with US government representatives regarding the Israeli bombardment of Gaza; to what extent these discussions were about a roadmap to ceasefire in which US support would be crucial; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [49936/23]

144. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how many Irish citizens remain in Gaza, and to comment on the delay in evacuating Irish citizens across the Rafah border; what action is being taken to secure their safe passage; what actions are being taken to ensure humanitarian aid is reaching those effected in the region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Francis Noel Duffy. [50161/23]

145. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how Ireland is working with Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia and to support their reform efforts on their paths to membership of the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [50238/23]

146. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what efforts he is making to help optimise the EU's support for Ukraine against the invasion of that country by Russia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50271/23]

147. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is confident that the European Union's support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity will be maintained; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [49943/23]

148. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how he is working to ensure that Ukraine has the multi-faceted support required to ensure that Russia does not succeed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [50239/23]

149. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on this engagement with his counterparts in the Israeli government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [50199/23]

150. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline the countries for which his Department currently has a “Do not travel” security status in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50204/23]

151. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline the process for ensuring that all US military aircraft which pass through Shannon Airport are not carrying weapons or munitions of war. — Gary Gannon. [50253/23]

152. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No.10 of 15 June 2023 where you stated that “the Government will “[h]onour our commitment to recognise the State of Palestine...[to] protect the integrity of Palestinian territory”, if the Government will now honour its commitment considering that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has stated that Israel’s plan to double the settler population in the occupied Syrian Golan by 2027 was unprecedented, and that 700,000 Israeli settlers are living illegally in the occupied West Bank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [50276/23]

153. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action is being taken to ensure that Russia and its leadership will be held fully accountable for waging a war of aggression against Ukraine and for other serious crimes under international law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [50066/23]

154. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will expel the Israeli Ambassador in light of the war crimes being committed by the Israeli government in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [50265/23]

155. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline the relevant timelines regarding the initiation of a case to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of the so-called Legacy Bill adopted by the British parliament; if he has engaged with those individuals who have taken cases; and if Government intends to take an inter-state case on this issue. — Matt Carthy. [52835/23]

156. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if, in light of yet more new evidence emerging regarding the 1973 killing of a person (details supplied), he will make the family’s desire for a public inquiry clear to the British government; the steps the Irish government is taking to aid the family in their quest for justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [49807/23]

157. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on any recent discussions he has had in relation to the restoration of the executive in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50269/23]

158. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what international compacts are in development to regulate the impact of Artificial Intelligence on economic, social and political life within and beyond the EU; and how Ireland intends to participate in emerging new arrangements. — Richard Bruton. [50243/23]

159. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of the Irish passport redesign; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [50202/23]

160. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action Ireland is taking with European partners in relation to the full and effective implementation of sanctions on Russia and the prevention of their circumvention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [50056/23]

161. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline Ireland's humanitarian response to the situation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [50198/23]

162. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of exemptions permitting the carriage of munitions of war on civil aircraft in Irish sovereign territory that have been granted to US military aircraft from 2022 to date; and the destination of each aircraft which has been provided an exemption. — Gary Gannon. [50255/23]

163. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action Ireland is taking with European partners to counter false Russian narratives and disinformation about the war on Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [50055/23]

164. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how Ireland can help achieve an end to the current wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [50272/23]

165. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what sanctions he is willing to impose on Israel in order to increase international political pressure on Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [49935/23]

166. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action Ireland is taking with European partners in relation to further strengthening sanctions on Russia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [50240/23]

167. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had any engagement with Iran in relation to its continued military support for Russia's war on Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [50162/23]

168. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide a report on his recent discussions with the Chinese Foreign Minister in relation to Russia's war on Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [49944/23]

169. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what discussions he has had with EU partners in relation to the establishment of a tribunal for the prosecution of the crime of aggression against Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [50067/23]

170. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures he and his Department are taking to bring about a call for a ceasefire in Palestine from other European States; the interactions he and the Department have had with their EU and Israeli counterparts to achieve this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [50207/23]

171. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent visit to China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [50047/23]

172. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide a list of the ambassadors to Ireland that he has met with since he took office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [52083/23]

173. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide details of Ireland's climate financing; if this will be distinguished from the loss and damage fund to be discussed at COP28; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [52804/23]

174. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent engagements with the government of South Africa; and if he has sought to join their referral of the situation in Palestine to the International Criminal Court. — Matt Carthy. [52836/23]

175. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his response to the recent meeting of the Hungarian Prime Minister with the Russian President; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [49940/23]

176. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what actions his Department and the Government will take to bring about an end of the bombardment of Gaza by Israel; if sanctions are being considered; if the Occupied Territories Bill will be implemented; if the Government will recognise the state of Palestine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [50208/23]

177. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the attention of his Department has been drawn to a case (details supplied); the steps that the Department has taken to assist the family in this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50002/23]

178. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he used his visit to China to request that the Chinese government use its influence with Russia to deliver an immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [49941/23]

179. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on his support for the work of the International Criminal Court and his response to Russian attempts to undermine its international mandate and functioning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [49693/23]

180. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action Ireland is taking with European partners in relation to Russia continuing to weaponise food and undermine global food security; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [50059/23]

181. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his Department's efforts to ensure that Irish citizens in Gaza can leave the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49604/23]

182. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action Ireland is taking with European partners to support the Republic of Moldova in addressing the challenges it faces as a

consequence of the Russian aggression against Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [50060/23]

183. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline Ireland's position on the recent crisis involving Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh, and what steps he has taken in international fora, such as the EC and the UN, to seek to reverse the exodus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [50231/23]

184. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the direction his Department is giving to the Irish Embassy at the UN in relation to drafting of the pact for the future document for the UN summit of the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [52864/23]

185. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on passport provision to applicants from County Carlow to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50035/23]

186. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs whether prospective new member states of the EU have made significant progress to date in reaching the milestones for membership; what changes in the operation of the EU are under consideration to accommodate wider membership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [50242/23]

187. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the level of humanitarian aid his Department is providing to citizens of Gaza; how much of that aid is getting through; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49605/23]

188. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the attention of his Department has been drawn to a case (details supplied); the steps that the Department has taken to assist the family in this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [50003/23]

189. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of US military aircraft that have refuelled in Shannon Airport to date in 2023; and the following destination for each aircraft. — Gary Gannon. [50254/23]

190. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he believes the actions of the Israeli government with regard to the onslaught in Gaza should be referred to the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [50268/23]

191. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he supports the State referring Israel to the International Criminal Court, as was previously done by Ireland in relation to Russia's invasion of Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [50266/23]

192. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he believes that the change of government in Slovakia could undermine European Union cohesion in relation to the war on Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [50117/23]

193. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on his Department's Shared Island Civic Society Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [50270/23]

194. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he proposes to open a new consulate in Australia. — Matt Carthy. [52838/23]

195. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his response to the outcome of the International Donors' Conference on humanitarian demining in Ukraine held in Zagreb on 11 and 12 October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [49692/23]

196. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his engagement to date with his Westminster counterparts to finding a solution to the collapse of Stormont and the power sharing Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [50214/23]

197. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his Department's current preparatory plan for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024 in anticipation of the outcome document Pact for the Future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49759/23]

198. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his most recent visit to Israel/Palestine; if he made a request to visit Gaza; if any such request was granted or refused; the reasons given for any refusal; the reason he did not visit Gaza on this trip; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [52856/23]

199. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if Ireland condemns the Israeli response in the Gaza Strip to 7 October 2023 attacks by Hamas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [50232/23]

200. 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 Sudan. — Matt Carthy. [52834/23]

201. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he could provide an update on the current situation in Gaza; and the actions the Irish Government is taking at both EU and UN levels to contribute to a resolution of the ongoing issues in the region. — Alan Dillon. [50222/23]

202. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what efforts he has made with the Israeli government to end the onslaught in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [50267/23]

203. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what measures are being taken to support Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction, in coordination with international partners, and specifically in relation to the demining process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [49938/23]

204. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the action he is taking in relation to diplomatic outreach efforts and cooperation with Ukraine and other countries to ensure the widest possible international support for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace on the basis of the key principles and objectives of Ukraine's Peace Formula; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [49937/23]

205. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans to call for a comprehensive international arms embargo to be placed on Israel; the details of any engagement

he has had at EU and UN level in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [50113/23]

206. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on future plans for Global Ireland, Ireland's Strategy for the US and Canada 2019 – 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [50197/23]

207. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which, unilaterally or through the aegis of the EU/UN, he continues to influence the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the setting up of a permanent peace process to which Israeli and Palestinians can refer their grievances on a regular basis in order to prevent the recurrences of events such as 7 October 2023 and subsequent retaliation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [50219/23]

208. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if, after receiving legal advice from the Attorney General, the Government will initiate an interstate case at the European Court of Human Rights to test the compatibility of the British Legacy Act with the European Convention on Human Rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [52124/23]

209. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the position of Ireland in relation to a long-term solution to ongoing conflict between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [50048/23]

210. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the proposed timeline to honour the Government commitment to recognise the state of Palestine. — Matt Carthy. [52837/23]

211. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on the ongoing efforts to support Irish citizens who are currently undocumented in the United States; if discussions have been held with the Biden administration regarding measures to address this situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [50221/23]

212. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had any discussions with EU partners on how any extraordinary revenues held by private entities stemming directly from Russia's immobilised assets could be directed to support Ukraine and its recovery and reconstruction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [49963/23]

213. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in light of the recent EU Council, his Department's work on ensuring that water, food, fuel and medical supplies are being provided to the people in Gaza as part of a unified international humanitarian response; that any fuel assistance provided not be abused by Hamas, and that Irish citizens in Gaza are brought home safely; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49760/23]

214. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what action Ireland is taking in relation to Russia's unlawful deportation and transfer to Russia of Ukrainian children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [50036/23]

215. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Pakistan as a result of the decision of the Government of Pakistan to deport 1.7 million Afghan refugees, many of whom face persecution in Afghanistan; the action he has taken to date to highlight this issue; if he has made contact with the Pakistan authorities to set out

his concerns on this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [48922/23]

216. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 58 of 16 November 23, and in relation to the record number of 182 exemptions which were provided in October, how many of these did he liaise with the Department of Transport on; what countries were granted these exemptions; if his Department keeps records on the destination of these aircraft (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [51991/23]

217. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the action he is taking at EU and other international levels with regard to the provision of humanitarian and civil protection assistance to Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [49962/23]

218. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline his diplomatic engagements to free hostages from Gaza. — Gary Gannon. [52831/23]

219. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the Government will advocate for the suspension of trade with Israel at EU level, which is governed by the EU Israel Association Agreement, due to its abhorrent violations of international law. — Gary Gannon. [50256/23]

220. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of times he has visited the North of Ireland since he assumed office. — Peadar Tóibín. [49270/23]

221. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has consulted his EU counterparts on illegal settler violence in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [50200/23]

222. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the Afghan ‘Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan’ and Ireland’s response to the plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [50201/23]

223. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he remains satisfied that the Irish and British Governments’ roles as guarantors of the peace process continue to be fulfilled in a meaningful way, to the greatest extent possible to ensure the continuity of the peace process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [52896/23]

224. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the effort he is making to secure the safe passage of Irish citizens out of the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [50169/23]