



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 18 Eanáir, 2024
Thursday, 18th January, 2024

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

1. To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute inpatient beds in the hospital system; the number of beds he will add this year; and if he has secured funding for the needed and promised 1500 beds. — David Cullinane. [2054/24]

2. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the impact on a number of cancer care programmes arising from the decision to not award any new development funding to the National Cancer Strategy in Budget 2024, specifically the planned centralisation of surgical cancer services, the new model of patient follow-up/survivorship and plans for acute oncology nursing services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [2015/24]

3. To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital-initiated elective cancellations across 2023; and the number of elective procedures outsourced to private medicine in public hospitals or to private hospitals in the same period. — David Cullinane. [2055/24]

4. To ask the Minister for Health to respond to the recent ERSI report on the changes and challenges facing the Irish long-term residential care sector since Covid-19; his views on the consolidation of nursing home ownership, with 14 operators controlling 40 percent of all beds, and the increasing monetisation of elder care; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [2279/24]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

5. To ask the Minister for Health if he will commit to meeting transgender advocacy groups to discuss the provision of transgender healthcare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [1975/24]

6. To ask the Minister for Health the level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Cavan General Hospital for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [2071/24]

7. To ask the Minister for Health in what areas in acute hospital settings AI technology is being considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2032/24]

8. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance drivers recruited to the National Ambulance Service and the number of ambulance drivers who have left the National Ambulance Service in each of the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [1894/24]

9. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ban tanning sunbeds outright, given the serious and increased risk of incidences of skin cancer, which is supported by scientific evidence linking skin cancer and tanning sunbed usage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [1874/24]

10. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which new modern, effective and safe drugs can become available here once approved by the EU authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [1817/24]

11. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the availability of homebirth services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [1839/24]

12. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the membership of the Commission on Ageing; and how the public will be able to engage with it. — Richard Bruton. [2082/24]

13. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who died while waiting to be seen in emergency departments in the State in each of the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [1893/24]

14. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on efforts his Department and the Health Service Executive are undertaking to improve University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [1990/24]

15. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the Hospital Winter Plan to cope with the seasonal pressure. — Richard Bruton. [2081/24]

16. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on transformation plans at Our Lady's Hospital Navan; if he will reverse the stated policy that commits to closing the accident and emergency department at Navan Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [2086/24]

17. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) has stated that 122,879 patients, including 3,494 children, were admitted to hospital without a bed in 2023, that hospitals are in a near constant state of overcrowding coupled with short staffing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [1648/24]

18. To ask the Minister for Health the current deficit in addiction rehabilitation, detox and step-down beds. — Thomas Gould. [2024/24]

19. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of progress toward a new elective hospital for Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [1927/24]

20. To ask the Minister for Health the number of posts available to the health service in 2024; the number of posts required for full implementation of the safe staffing framework; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [2058/24]

21. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to respond to ESRI reports which have identified significant deficits and imbalances in critical healthcare infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [2059/24]

22. To ask the Minister for Health for a timeline for the delivery of primary care centres in Blarney, Mayfield and Glanmire. — Thomas Gould. [2025/24]

23. To ask the Minister for Health when construction will recommence on Ballyhaunis Primary Care Centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2013/24]

24. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider expanding the Medicinal Cannabis Access Programme to include other conditions outside of the current terms of reference of the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [1651/24]

25. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that in December 2023 an organisation (details supplied) stated that the latest National Treatment Purchase Fund figures confirm that the three main health care waiting lists are at a virtual standstill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [1647/24]

26. To ask the Minister for Health for a breakdown of the €20 million committed for new medicine funding in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [1974/24]

27. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update in relation to the HSE Capital Plan to provide a primary care centre in a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [2072/24]

28. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on progress on the new 42-bed medical block at Sligo University Hospital, which was due to start construction before the end of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [1599/24]

29. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the positive figures that showed a 20% drop in trolley numbers in the last six months of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [1441/24]

30. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the progress being made on the new protocols for hospital discharges to stepdown facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2017/24]

31. To ask the Minister for Health if he will comment on recent reports that suggest almost 107,000 adverse incidents reported within the health service and the significant rise in such incidents over the past five years; the steps or measures he has taken in view of these incidents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [2057/24]

32. To ask the Minister for Health what actions he is taking to reverse the current trend in long-term residential care (LTRC) where there has been a consolidation of LTRC homes under larger operator groups in Dublin and the commuter belt at the expense of smaller independently owned and operated LTRC homes which are not part of operator groups in rural areas such as in Cavan (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [2070/24]

33. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the significant levels of overcrowding at University Hospital Limerick; what surge capacity measures have been taken in the past 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [1838/24]

34. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 10 of 9 November 2023, the exact level of additional core expenditure for new developments, excluding funding for carryover and otherwise maintaining existing levels of service, which has been allocated to Monaghan Hospital for 2024. — Matt Carthy. [1957/24]

35. To ask the Minister for Health the progress made to date with the provision of improved facilities at Galway University Hospital with particular reference to the emergency department/ mothers and children unit, the elective surgery block, the new laboratories, the new cancer care unit and the provision of extra beds at the hospital; if any of these projects are awaiting approval by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [1268/24]

36. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that an organisation (details supplied) has stated that hospitals are in a near constant state of overcrowding coupled with short staffing; if he will lift the health service recruitment freeze; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [1649/24]

37. To ask the Minister for Health the timeframe for the completion of the independent review relating to the spina bifida programme at Temple St Hospital; if the review will include an analysis of the particular surgeon's practice at National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh as well as complex paediatric orthopaedic surgeries and the performance of relevant specialists across Children's Health Ireland sites to provide comparable data; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [2056/24]

38. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that day services at IWA, formerly An Castan, Commons Road, Navan, County Meath have been cut from five days to three days; if he will outline his plans to urgently reverse this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [2087/24]

39. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans for the chicken pox vaccine to be included in the national immunisation programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [1976/24]

40. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the provision of a primary care centre for Swords; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [1973/24]

41. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which his Department and the HSE have engaged with the various hospitals throughout the country with a view to improving the throughput at accident and emergency services in order to ensure early diagnosis/full triage in the shortest possible time and conscious of the need to treat emergencies as such from the outside; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [1816/24]

42. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1288 of 7 November 2023, for an update on the development of the new elective hospital in Merlin Park; the status of the development of the pre-tender business case; the expected timeline for the project to proceed through Stage 2 of the Public Spending Code; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [1956/24]

43. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a timeframe for the construction of the new renal dialysis unit in Sligo University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [1600/24]

44. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the cardiac services review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [2060/24]

45. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in all of County Leitrim who are available to treat patients under the dental treatment services scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [1700/24]

46. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the delivery of the expansion of free contraception for women aged 17 to 31 years. — Paul McAuliffe. [2092/24]

47. To ask the Minister for Health what engagement he or his Department have had with University Hospital Galway in relation to the deficits identified, including relating to bed capacity and staffing in senior positions, in the HIQA inspection report dated 16 February 2023 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [1955/24]

48. To ask the Minister for Health the measures that will be implemented to reduce the unacceptable divergence in the rates of subvention made to private nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2051/24]

49. To ask the Minister for Health if his Department is engaging with the Department of Transport on funding provision to assist with sustainable transport options for hospital staff and patients in those hospitals signed up to the TFI Smarter Travel Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [1548/24]

50. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update in relation to the reduction in waiting lists for elective medical procedures in relation to cataract procedures and orthopaedic procedures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [2073/24]

51. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on National Clinical Programme funding for eating disorders for 2024; the level of new funding for eating disorders; when the National Clinical Programme will be operating at full capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [1334/24]

52. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the establishment of his Department's 'savings and productivity taskforce'; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2016/24]

53. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 508 of 5 December 2023, which centre the two CT scanners and one MRI scanner are based in within the Cavan and Monaghan Hospital group; if a request has been made for additional MRI or CT scanners to be located at Monaghan Hospital; and the status of any such request. — Matt Carthy. [1958/24]

54. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the investment and enhancement in services at a hospital (details supplied) since becoming Minister; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [1937/24]

55. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the use of home STI testing kits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [1442/24]

56. To ask the Minister for Health the up-to-date position regarding the opening of additional beds at West Kerry Community Hospital, Dingle, County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2063/24]

57. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that the NCHDs in an organisation (details supplied) have said that they expect to call a ballot for industrial action in response to the recruitment freeze announced recently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [1650/24]

58. To ask the Minister for Health when grant aid will be approved for smaller scale nursing homes to carry out upgrading work following the recommendations of HIQA; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2050/24]

59. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the delivery of publicly funded IVF treatment. — Paul McAuliffe. [2093/24]

60. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the Strategic Review of General Practice; if he will outline the key stakeholders; when he expects the review to conclude considering the many issues facing GP practice and GP capacity at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [1979/24]

61. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the poor performance by the Government on the delivery of commitments and progress for family carers as outlined in the family carer scorecard 2023 published by an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [1701/24]

62. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the National Clinical Programme funding for self-harm and suicide related Ideation; the level of new funding for self-harm and suicide related ideation; and when the National Clinical Programme will be operating at full capacity. — Mark Ward. [1335/24]

63. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on plans to provide additional bed capacity at Mayo University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2012/24]

64. To ask the Minister for Health in response to the recent ESRI report on the provision of long-term residential care, what plans are being put in place to secure sufficient long-term care capacity in the north west region, in particular, and in other more rural counties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [2085/24]

65. To ask the Minister for Health what measures are being taken to ensure adequate GP services available in County Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2031/24]

66. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of beds open at West Kerry Community Hospital, Dingle, County Kerry; what the full staffing complement is in each category of employee; how this compares with January 2023 and 2022; what efforts are being

made to recruit more staff; what success these efforts have reaped in 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2064/24]

67. To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the current position in respect of the transfer of ophthalmology services from Cork University Hospital to South Infirmar-y-Victoria University Hospital, in view of the fact that a new outpatient's unit and two new theatres have been built; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [1928/24]

68. To ask the Minister for Health the number of qualified and accredited psychotherapists and psychiatrists working within, or attached to, the prison system, currently, and in each of the past five years, in tabular form; the number of prisoners attending same over the same period; and the number of prisoners deemed to have a mental and or psychological illness currently and in the same retrospective period. — Réada Cronin. [54636/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Health his plans to provide funding to the HSE to develop a facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [1745/24]

70. To ask the Minister for Health the anticipated timeline for the provision of a seven-day-a-week, 8am to 8pm, cath lab service at University Hospital Waterford; the recruitment plan for the additional staff required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [1792/24]

71. To ask the Minister for Health with reference to the current HSE recruitment pause, if permanent members of staff returning from career breaks will be facilitated to return to their previously held roles in the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [1744/24]

72. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on his plans to end hospital overcrowding in Cork hospitals, considering 2023 was the worst year on record; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [1978/24]

73. To ask the Minister for Health if sepsis protocols in public hospitals will be updated in order that every patient, at the time of triaging or admission, is asked if they have ever had sepsis before; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [1989/24]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

74. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the delivery of student housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [2286/24]

75. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will expand on what funding students from the Republic of Ireland can apply for in relation to medicine places in universities in Belfast and Derry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [1717/24]

76. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the work he is doing to ensure that current students and apprentices are retained within Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [2287/24]

77. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of the proposed site that the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board has identified for a training centre in Roscommon town; if a decision has been made by his Department to fund this site; and if not, when a decision will be made on this. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [1993/24]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

78. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide an update on the long-outstanding issue of regularising the terms and conditions of adult education tutors employed by education and training boards; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [2048/24]

79. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which he and his Department continue to make extra third level places available by whatever means to ensure that this country's competence in the technical areas remains at the highest possible level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [1821/24]

80. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline his priorities for 2024, in particular if he will consider how SUSI can help more students and their families; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2062/24]

81. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for an update on proposals to develop MSLETB as a College of the Future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2010/24]

82. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what progress has been made in reducing the time period for electrical/ instrument and mechanical apprentices to attend college placement at a facility (details supplied) from the date an apprenticeship commences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2099/24]

83. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will report on the development of Cavan Institute as a hub for further education and training. — Niamh Smyth. [1935/24]

84. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to improve pay and conditions for personal assistants working in further education settings; and to provide an update on the development of the FE disability framework; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2026/24]

85. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there are plans for the further expansion of apprenticeship courses in Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2027/24]

86. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what measures are being taken to resolve current delays in apprenticeship in-class learning modules; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2030/24]

87. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the timeframe for the development of Cavan Institute as a hub for further education and training. — Niamh Smyth. [1936/24]

88. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the development of new campus facilities for the Technological University of the Shannon at Coonagh, Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [1992/24]

89. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will report on the apprenticeship programmes operating in Meath; the number of those on waiting lists in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023; the number that have experienced delays in arranging training in education centres; to provide an update on those apprenticeships associated with the green transition; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [2019/24]

90. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the proposals if any there are to increase capacity and availability of courses in digital forensics, in view of the threats to society posed by the proliferation of misinformation through social media platforms and the need to tackle such abuses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2089/24]

91. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if 2024 will see increased funding for community training centres in Dublin's north inner city, Dublin 1 and Dublin 3. — Gary Gannon. [1920/24]

92. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science whether consideration has been given to a purpose built apprenticeship centre on the northside of Cork city. — Thomas Gould. [2023/24]

93. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline his Department's planned allocations to capital developments at South East Technological University over the next 12 months and beyond (details supplied). — Matt Shanahan. [46934/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is satisfied that the increase in medical places in Irish HEIs will address the shortfall of general practitioners in rural Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2041/24]

95. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to outline his interactions with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2023 regarding the shortage of student accommodation. — Gary Gannon. [1919/24]

96. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he believes that the higher and further education sectors should develop a strategy outlining how they might contribute to the ambition to make Ireland the best country in which to grow old, by supporting better understanding, extending new opportunities, and harnessing the experience of those exiting their workplaces. — Richard Bruton. [2083/24]

97. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his views on the ongoing membership of Israel in Horizon Europe; and if he has sought suspension of Israel's membership or receipt of funds through Horizon arising from ongoing breaches of international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories including the targeting and destruction of institutes of higher education in Gaza. — Matt Carthy. [1939/24]

98. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the actions he has taken to develop more part-time curriculums across higher and further education; if he has increased funding for these courses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [2090/24]

99. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for his position on the joint European degree scheme proposed by the European Union. — Gary Gannon. [1916/24]

100. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for an update on plans to construct the Mayo College of Further Education at the Military Barracks in Castlebar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2011/24]

101. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he has undergone any research that explores the impact of accommodation (lack of) on student retention rate. — Sorca Clarke. [1923/24]

102. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how many new degree programmes will be available outside the Central Applications Office points system for the upcoming academic year; and how many places will be available in each. — Gary Gannon. [1917/24]

103. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 137 of 19 October 2023, the status the proposed new further education college in Galway city; if the preliminary business case has been completed and submitted to SOLAS to date; if the design team has been appointed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [1954/24]

104. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a programme similar to the hot meals programmes for primary schools could be rolled out or considered for Youthreach facilities nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2029/24]

105. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the extent to which his Department continues to assess the needs of the economy in terms of technical skills; the progress made in providing for such needs by way of apprenticeships or third level provisions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [1820/24]

106. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how long medical graduates will have to commit to working in the Republic of Ireland after studying in Northern Ireland under the proposal that the State will pay for doctors to train there if they take up work here after qualifying. — Gary Gannon. [1918/24]

107. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of apprenticeship programmes experiencing delays in arranging off-the-job training in education centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [2068/24]

108. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what work his Department is carrying out to address the skills deficit to meet 2030 targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [2018/24]

109. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 126 of 19 October 2023, for a breakdown of the number of new affordable student accommodation units to be built and the number of units to be leased, in partnership with the University of Galway under the short-term activation measure; if he will provide an update on the construction of affordable student accommodation in Galway; the funding allocated to the University of Galway for the construction of new units under the short-term activation measure; the funding allocated to the University of Galway for the leasing of units under the short-term activation measure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [1953/24]

110. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will comment on the measures he is taking to increase capacity and labour force within the construction sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2040/24]

111. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science whether he is aware that there are only 83 apprentices in final phase in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [2022/24]

112. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will report on collaboration between Irish institutes of higher education with counterparts in Israel. — Matt Carthy. [1938/24]

113. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of persons who have graduated as nurses in the State in each of the past ten years. — Peadar Tóibín. [1895/24]

114. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the status of efforts to progress the Research and Innovation Bill 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [1440/24]

115. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide an update on the progress being made with regard to the Swords College of the Future project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [1439/24]

116. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what steps his Department is taking to increase uptake of third level education among those who

previously attended a DEIS school, care leavers, those who have a disability, single parents and among members of the Travelling community; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [1896/24]

117. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his plans to address shortages in skills and labour force for the green economy through further education places, CPD places and apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [1547/24]

118. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide an update on the Programme for Government commitment to further promote a culture of lifelong learning within the workforce, focusing on increasing the lifelong learning rate from the current rate of 9% to 18% by 2025; what the current rate is in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [1965/24]

119. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current number of Youthreach centres; the number of students attending Youthreach centres, by county; if his Department has carried out any studies to ascertain areas in the country not served by Youthreach; if so, the details of same; his plans, if any, to open further Youthreach centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [2033/24]

120. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will indicate the participation levels in apprenticeships of the major Government employers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [2084/24]

121. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the actions he has taken to increase funding and resources for disability supports including mental health supports in third level institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [2091/24]

122. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what progress has been made in increase radiation therapy at third level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2100/24]

123. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the up-to-date position regarding the development of a training centre of excellence on a site (details supplied) in Killarney, County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2061/24]

124. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for a report on the number of apprenticeships that commenced in 2023 as compared to 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [2097/24]

125. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the way his Department is supporting those from disadvantaged backgrounds and marginalised groups to access further and higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [2047/24]

126. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on progress that is being made at Limerick's third level campuses to

provide additional student accommodation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [1991/24]

127. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide an update on the total allocation of capital grants, devolved capital grants and the further education capital grants to the Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [1964/24]

128. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the proposed building project for Cavan Institute will proceed to the next stage in 2024; the expected timescale for delivery of this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2088/24]

129. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for an update on apprenticeships; his plans to address the backlogs in the system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [2066/24]

130. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what the increase is in PLC places for 2024 across Longford-Westmeath ETB; and what new areas in PLCs will be available for 2024. — Sorca Clarke. [1921/24]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*131. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will make a statement in relation to the attacks by armed gangs in Nigeria (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [2149/24]

*132. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a passport application for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 11; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [2209/24]

*133. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, being international agreements involving a charge upon public funds, were approved by Dáil Éireann prior to the State agreeing to be bound by them, as required under Article 29.5.2 of the constitution; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2210/24]

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

*134. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to comment on safety and cyber concerns raised in an article (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [2101/24]

*135. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he agrees that all homes which have received a G BER rating should be entitled to improvements under the warmer homes scheme; if he will instruct his Department to update the terms of the scheme to

ensure this is the case given in the (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [2158/24]

*136. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to consider establishing an Ombudsman for An Post; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2185/24]

*137. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide details of the contracts that have been awarded by the SEAI to a company (details supplied) in each of the years 2018 to 2024, tabular form and for each contract to detail the service provided and the total value of the contract. — Eoin Ó Broin. [2226/24]

*138. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide, in tabular form, a breakdown of the number of 100% community-owned renewable energy projects and number of 51% community-owned renewable energy projects from RESS 1 that have received the enabling grant. — Eoin Ó Broin. [2252/24]

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

*139. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the process that would be involved should Ireland decide to re-establish a Defence Forces infantry group to the UNDOF UN Peace Keeping mission in the Golan Heights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2212/24]

*140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 207 of 11 September 2023, the status of the review of the conciliation and arbitration scheme for the PDF; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2213/24]

*141. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the status of the Commission on the Future of the Defence Forces to establish an office of veteran's affairs; the funding that has been budgeted for this purpose for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2214/24]

*142. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the current number of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates in the First Line Reserve; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2215/24]

*143. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of applications to join the First Line Reserve received in 2023; the numbers within that have been enlisted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2216/24]

*144. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the current timeframe for the implementation of the Working Time Directive within the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2217/24]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*145. To ask the Minister for Transport if student paramedics on a national HSE panel will be added to the list of workers prioritised for emergency driving test appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2102/24]

*146. To ask the Minister for Transport if, after a car has failed its inspection and a fee of €55.00 has been paid, a return fee of €28.00 to the NCT test centre can be reconsidered for smaller repairs such as a bulb replacement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [2103/24]

*147. To ask the Minister for Transport given the level of fatalities on the public road network, with an especially high number in January 2024 already, if road safety enforcement is the responsibility of An Garda Síochána, the motor insurance industry or the Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [2113/24]

*148. To ask the Minister for Transport the current average waiting time for driving tests across all test centres nationally, in tabular form; what progress has been made to date in reducing the five/six month waiting time for driving tests experienced by applicants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2114/24]

*149. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to address the increase in road deaths over the past five years, with the exception of 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2151/24]

*150. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to address road safety challenges nationally and to reduce death and injuries of road users, pedestrians and cyclists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2152/24]

*151. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to address road safety challenges in Cork, in view that Cork in most instances is in the top two counties for most road traffic fatalities in recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2153/24]

*152. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to prioritise the safety of road users and if consideration would be given to increased road policing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2154/24]

*153. To ask the Minister for Transport if LocalLink buses have permission to pick up passengers along bus routes to ensure that people do not have to drive to towns in order to access the bus; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [2208/24]

*154. To ask the Minister for Transport the publication schedule for the 2024 Walking and Cycling Index reports for Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [2239/24]

*155. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of any analysis carried out or commissioned by his Department, or bodies under the aegis of his Department, into the adequacy of rail services on the Athenry to Galway route; his plans to provide more frequent rail services on this route; his plans to put in place additional carriages on trains on this route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [2268/24]

*156. To ask the Minister for Transport the 350 and 333 both run through Ennistymon, however the 350 goes over the bridge at Blake’s corner which is a very tight gap and results in traffic bottlenecking there. If both routes could follow the 350 course through the village it would solve this issue. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2277/24]

*157. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will amend the course of a PSO route (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2278/24]

*158. To ask the Minister for Transport the total funding provided in 2023 for the non-national road network; the specific allocations made to Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council; if he will ensure that increased funding will be provided for this road network in 2024 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2285/24]

*159. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding will be allocated in 2024 for the progression of a bridge replacement project in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2293/24]

*160. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding will be allocated in 2024 for the progression of the N86 road improvement project in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2294/24]

*161. To ask the Minister for Transport if the feasibility of extending the platform at Killarney Railway Station will be examined with a view to eliminating the reversal requirement and reducing stoppage times at that station; how much time such a change would reduce a commuter service between Killarney and Tralee by; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2295/24]

*162. To ask the Minister for Transport if Irish Rail has minimum standards in relation to the exterior cleanliness of rolling stock; if he believes passengers should be able to look out the windows with a reasonable level of visibility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2296/24]

*163. To ask the Minister for Transport the date in Q1 2024 when on-board catering will resume on rail services out of and into County Kerry; if this will include trolley service, dining car or both; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2297/24]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*164. To ask the Minister for Finance if overseas pension investors are entitled to avail of lower stamp duty charges if they purchase houses in bulk and make them available for social housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2123/24]

*165. To ask the Minister for Finance the total number of licenced premises in the State in each year from 2010 to date; to give a breakdown of the number of pubs, off-licences and licensed restaurants in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2247/24]

*166. To ask the Minister for Finance if overseas pension investors are subject to higher stamp duty if they purchase houses in bulk; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2116/24]

*167. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason Ireland intends to borrow between €6 billion and €10 billion on the international markets in early 2024, given the current large budget surpluses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2248/24]

*168. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware of the widespread concern of farmers to recent changes in VAT refunds on dairy equipment and mobile farm equipment which will prevent in many instances necessary investment in farm facilities and cause additional costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2290/24]

*169. To ask the Minister for Finance to indicate if and when consideration might be given to eligibility for carer's tax credit in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2313/24]

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.

*170. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the cost to the Exchequer of a flat €750, €1,000 and €1,500 increase in full time annual pay for all public sector workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [2220/24]

*171. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the progress made with the design of urgent measures to reduce the impact of further flooding in a village (details supplied), with particular reference to measures that would not require detailed environmental studies in view of the damage done by flooding in 2023; the discussions in this regard between the OPW and the local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [2224/24]

*172. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to indicate the progress, if any, on the issue of Castletown House and lands in state ownership, access to which is being impeded, and given the fact that alternative access referred to by the OPW and the local authority is not suitable for traffic for either Leixlip or Celbridge and given that there appears to be no willingness to accept the de facto position. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2320/24]

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

*173. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the amount of expenditure expended through the Red Cross to assist businesses affected by flooding in 2023 to date; if he intends amending the scheme to cover businesses with partial flood insurance cover who were severely impacted by flooding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [2223/24]

*174. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the current supports for small business available from his Department or from agencies under the aegis of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [2132/24]

*175. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the way the increased cost of business grant will be implemented; when he expects first payments to be made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [2142/24]

*176. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to reconsider the refusal of a critical skills employment permit for a person (details supplied) in light of the applicant's legal residency in the country as an international protection applicant, and in light of the applicant's Irish Dental Council registration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2181/24]

*177. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what protections are in place for consumers against dynamic pricing from large ticketers (details supplied); if consumers are entitled to transparency around dynamic pricing, specifically in relation to VIP packages, and increased ticket prices at peak times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [2266/24]

*178. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will give detailed consideration to the issues outlined in correspondence (details supplied) concerning increased costs for small businesses; the measures that will be implemented to ease such pressures on small and medium enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2300/24]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*179. To ask the Minister for Education if she could advise on an application for an extension for a school (details supplied); what progress has been made to date on this application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2148/24]

*180. To ask the Minister for Education when the summer works grant will open for 2024. — Thomas Gould. [2176/24]

*181. To ask the Minister for Education under what scheme a school can apply for replacement flooring. — Thomas Gould. [2177/24]

*182. To ask the Minister for Education if she will arrange a site visit with officials in her Department to Kerry Pike National School to undertake a survey of works to be completed. — Thomas Gould. [2178/24]

*183. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware that Kerry Pike National School made two applications under the emergency works grant for a replacement floor and that both of these applications were refused despite the flooring proving a potentially hazardous trip risk; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [2179/24]

*184. To ask the Minister for Education when her Department's professional and technical team will complete the review of a report (details supplied); when a decision is likely to be communicated to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [2184/24]

*185. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) will be moved into its permanent accommodation. — Ivana Bacik. [2240/24]

*186. To ask the Minister for Education her plans for the former Rathmines College premises. — Ivana Bacik. [2241/24]

*187. To ask the Minister for Education if she will ensure that the six payslips requested from her Department to facilitate a mortgage application (details supplied) will be issued; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [2259/24]

*188. To ask the Minister for Education if all refugee children have the same access to additional services in the education system as Irish citizens, that is, NEPS, and so on; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [2281/24]

*189. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider reinstating the adjustments given to students completing the Leaving Certificate politics and society examination until 2022 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brid Smith. [2282/24]

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

*190. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media whether her Department or the relevant statutory agencies have any oversight or regulatory role in relation to advertising on British TV channels which are available in Ireland through the major TV subscription services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2250/24]

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

*191. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to indicate if known, the extent to which new housing developments have been completed at various sites throughout the country, private or affordable, which have not been occupied as of yet despite the fact that many houses from such sites will become available to the local authorities via Part 5 and 8; whether any particular reason has been cited as being responsible for the continued lack of availability in respect of such houses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2106/24]

*192. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which housing developments at various locations throughout the country remain unoccupied given the urgent necessity to make such accommodation available for occupancy at the earliest possible date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2107/24]

*193. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which completed housing estates remain unoccupied throughout the country for whatever reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2108/24]

*194. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he can confirm that a large percentage of houses in the Belcamp housing development were purchased by an overseas investor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2115/24]

*195. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of vacant property refurbishment grant applications that were made nationwide in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2117/24]

*196. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of vacant property refurbishment grant applications that were made to Fingal County Council in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2118/24]

*197. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of vacant property refurbishment grant applications that were successful nationwide in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2119/24]

*198. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of vacant property refurbishment grant applications made to Fingal County Council that were successful in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2120/24]

*199. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of commencement notices that have been accepted by Fingal County Council in Q4 of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2121/24]

*200. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applicants in Fingal County Council social housing list that were housed in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2122/24]

*201. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of the outcome of discussions between Meath Fire Service and Dublin Fire Brigade to address how fire cover and the provision of emergency services can be improved for boarder communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2124/24]

*202. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the actions he will take in relation to the Mulcahy report, its publication and its recommendations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [2128/24]

*203. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider ensuring a simpler approach to first home provisional approval, in order that developers would know that there is a strong pipeline of eligible affordable purchasers for such properties (details supplied). — Richard Bruton. [2143/24]

*204. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of homes which have received planning permission, to which the new requirement of 10% affordable applies; the number of homes in developments where the council has exercised its right to specify a minimum proportion of homes for owner occupancy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [2144/24]

*205. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide details on the application received from Mayo County Council (details supplied); the date the application was received; the number of housing and what they comprised of; the cost associated with the application; the timeline attached; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2162/24]

*206. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a detailed rationale for approval of Mayo County Council's affordable housing scheme application and the assessment conducted to demonstrate substantial housing need with affordability constraints; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2163/24]

*207. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the National Parks and Wildlife Service has undertaken any studies on the grouse habitat at Gortacullin Bog in County Clare (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [2165/24]

*208. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if applicants to the defective concrete block grant scheme with profound health issues can be assisted to cover remedial costs while awaiting the scheme funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [2187/24]

*209. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how the defective concrete block grant scheme payments will be managed and issued, that is, if they will be staged payments. — Cathal Crowe. [2188/24]

*210. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he intends to further review the social housing income thresholds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2218/24]

*211. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when a decision will be made on a submission by a voluntary housing body (details supplied) for funding to employ two people over a two year period; and if he will make a decision on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [2221/24]

*212. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of vacant and derelict home refurbishment grants drawn in 2023 and the average value of the grants drawn down. — Eoin Ó Broin. [2227/24]

*213. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of local authority mortgages that were drawn down in 2023 and the average value of the mortgages drawn down. — Eoin Ó Broin. [2228/24]

*214. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total number of first home scheme shared equity loans drawn down in 2023 and the average amount of the draw down. — Eoin Ó Broin. [2229/24]

*215. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total expenditure in 2023 on social and affordable housing funded through SHIP, CALF, CAS, AHF, CREL, AHB borrowing and LDA expenditure. — Eoin Ó Broin. [2230/24]

*216. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the report from the AHB Unencumbered Units Working Group will be published. — Ivana Bacik. [2238/24]

*217. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update, including approximate timelines for the progression of legislative phases in both the Dáil and Seanad, on the Marine Protected Areas Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [2243/24]

*218. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has any plans to acquire a property in County Clare (details supplied). — Cathal Crowe. [2260/24]

*219. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will ensure that the Housing Agency is adequately resourced to service the enhanced defective concrete blocks grant scheme and to ensure that the backlog of applications is worked through as swiftly as possible. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [2263/24]

*220. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he will formally communicate with a local authority on the terms of a scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2275/24]

*221. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the guidelines set out in section 4.2.4 of the national guidelines for the assessment and allocation process for social housing provision for people with a disability, in relation to the time scale of processing applications, have a statutory footing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2289/24]

*222. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline the schemes under the remit of his Department to assist in restoring vacant and derelict buildings to habitable use for housing purposes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2301/24]

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

*223. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will be made in relation to an application for a disability allowance by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [2147/24]

*224. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of women who have been affected by the change from the old 'W' PPS to a new PPS format; and the steps her Department has taken to ensure these women, particularly older adults, are notified and assisted during this transition; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [2156/24]

*225. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will be made in relation to an invalidity pension application by a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [2170/24]

*226. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on an appeal for carers allowance (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2175/24]

*227. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate the correct level of payment payable to persons (details supplied) in their particular circumstances.; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2180/24]

*228. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total amount of financial aid paid out by the Department to date under the scheme to assist those affected by flooding in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [2222/24]

*229. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will allow an appeal for domiciliary care allowance (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [2256/24]

*230. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on an application for an exceptional needs payment to assist with hospital treatment travelling costs by a person in County Kerry (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2284/24]

*231. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate the extent to which an appropriate payment is in place and arrears paid up to date in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2303/24]

*232. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate the current position in regard to the appropriate pension entitlements in respect of persons (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2304/24]

*233. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate if she might review the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2310/24]

*234. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate if domiciliary care allowance may be deemed appropriate in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2314/24]

*235. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate the status of an application for disability allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2315/24]

*236. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate in the case of persons (details supplied) the current position in respect of the family's most recent application for state pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2317/24]

*237. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate in the case of a person (details supplied), the reason for the refusal of the application for continuation of disability allowance; if the case can be urgently reviewed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2318/24]

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

*238. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will consider issuing a temporary travel document to Sudanese citizens here on a work permit who are currently unable to renew their passports due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan. — Pauline Tully. [2104/24]

*239. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide a further timeframe regarding the processing of a naturalisation application for a person (details supplied). — Eoin Ó Broin. [2111/24]

*240. To ask the Minister for Justice the status of her Department's review of enactments providing for the imposition of minimum mandatory sentences, in accordance with section 29 of the Judicial Council Act 2019; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [2125/24]

*241. To ask the Minister for Justice the fine that is imposed on an airline that carries a passenger whose travel documentation is not in order when they arrive in Ireland. — Jim O'Callaghan. [2133/24]

*242. To ask the Minister for Justice to list the airlines that have had carrier liability fines imposed on them in 2023; and the amount of those fines. — Jim O’Callaghan. [2134/24]

*243. To ask the Minister for Justice whether airlines can be required to provide to the Garda national immigration bureau evidence of the travel documentation relied on by passengers when embarking an airline bound for Ireland. — Jim O’Callaghan. [2135/24]

*244. To ask the Minister for Justice how many vehicles, trucks and containers have been searched for each of the past five years at each port for potential smuggled migrants. — Peadar Tóibín. [2137/24]

*245. To ask the Minister for Justice how many asylum applicants have gone missing from State services in each of the past ten years; the number that have been pursued by State authorities; and how many will have been recovered by State authorities in each of the past five years. — Peadar Tóibín. [2138/24]

*246. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason the decision was taken not to pursue the eight migrants who entered the country in a container at Rosslare and fled. — Peadar Tóibín. [2139/24]

*247. To ask the Minister for Justice if she is aware of backlogs in the Probate Office and the effect that this has on business; the action being taken to address this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2186/24]

*248. To ask the Minister for Justice her plans to ensure that increases in Garda recruitment are commensurate with population increases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [2202/24]

*249. To ask the Minister for Justice the status of the citizenship application of a person (details supplied); when the person will be invited to attend a citizenship ceremony; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2211/24]

*250. To ask the Minister for Justice how many of the 3,285 persons who arrived to Dublin Airport without a valid identity document in 2023 were under the age of 16; coming from or embarking for a place in the State, Great Britain or Northern Ireland; a citizen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or a person who has established a right in the State pursuant to EU law. — Michael McNamara. [2232/24]

*251. To ask the Minister for Justice how many of the 3,285 persons who arrived to Dublin Airport without a valid identity document In 2023 did not seek international protection. — Michael McNamara. [2233/24]

*252. To ask the Minister for Justice how many of the 3,285 persons who arrived to Dublin Airport without a valid identity document were refused leave to enter the State. — Michael McNamara. [2234/24]

*253. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of deaths in custody in 2023. — Ivana Bacik. [2242/24]

*254. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of unsolved homicides in Ireland from 1995 to date; to give a breakdown, by gender, of the victims for each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2245/24]

*255. To ask the Minister for Justice the total number of bail applications which have been made before the courts in each year from 2010 to date; how many applications were granted or rejected; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2246/24]

*256. To ask the Minister for Justice if Colombian citizens can visit Ireland without a visa; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [2255/24]

*257. To ask the Minister for Justice the up-to-date position regarding the possible posthumous pardoning in the historic cases of Poff and Barrett in County Kerry; if the process has stalled at the current stage; if so, if there is a reason for the delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2265/24]

*258. To ask the Minister for Justice the final numbers for recruitment, resignations and retirements in An Garda Síochána for 2023. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [2283/24]

*259. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 194 of 16 November 2023, for an update on the application for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2305/24]

*260. To ask the Minister for Justice to indicate if she will review the refusal to allow further consideration of the admission under the regularisation of long term undocumented migrant scheme for a person (details supplied); if the case can be considered under a different heading given the satisfactory work record; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2306/24]

*261. To ask the Minister for Justice to indicate if she will review the refusal to allow further consideration of the admission under the regularisation of long term undocumented migrant scheme for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2307/24]

*262. To ask the Minister for Justice to indicate if and when consideration of an application for citizenship might be expedited for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2308/24]

*263. To ask the Minister for Justice to indicate the current stage of an application for citizenship for a person (details supplied); if further information is required in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2309/24]

*264. To ask the Minister for Justice to indicate, further to Parliamentary Question No. 275 of 20 December 2023 in the case of a person (details supplied), wherein it was indicated that a reply was not warranted in her case in order to maintain confidentiality, if the question can be answered on the basis that there is no potential breach of confidentiality given the use of appropriate reference numbers and the danger of creating a secrecy around her application, the inevitability of no traceability and no information is given to a Dáil Deputy that her case may be dealt with in a fashion not in accordance with appropriate oversight; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2311/24]

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

*265. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the new IT system for which tenders have been sought by a club (details supplied) will be funded, in total or in-part, from the Exchequer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [2112/24]

*266. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason a person (details supplied) is still waiting on their ACRES payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [2140/24]

*267. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many finfish aquaculture licences which were up for renewal have been passed through the statutory process and have been renewed by him in the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [2157/24]

*268. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a tree growing on private land falls onto the public road and a car collides with an already fallen tree, is the landowner or the County Council liable particularly in the case of Ash trees impacted by Ash dieback; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [2159/24]

*269. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is aware that dealing with a fallen tree following a storm can often be the most dangerous tree related operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [2160/24]

*270. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason the weekly number of forestry licences issuing remain so low; if there is an indication that 2024 will mirror the patterns observed in 2023; the reasons behind the continuing slow pace in licencing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [2167/24]

*271. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in view of the commitment to keep all Coillte lands in public ownership in the Programme for Government and the claim on Coillte's website that land is available for sale; the steps the Government has taken to ensure that Coillte land is not sold or privatised during the life of this Government. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2182/24]

*272. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is aware of Coillte's advertised policy on the sale and leasing of public land; how much land has been sold or leased since he became Minister; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2183/24]

*273. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will increase the level of grants for cattle underpasses under the TAMS 3 scheme as in the case of a person. — Brendan Griffin. [2191/24]

*274. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of non-coursing greyhounds entered on Rásaíocht Con Éireann's race management system to date whose year of birth was 2021 and 2022, respectively with a breakdown in that number between those registered to owners normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and those registered to owners normally resident in Northern Ireland, in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [2193/24]

*275. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of non-coursing greyhounds that completed one or more races whose year of birth was 2021 as recorded on RCETS and 2022, respectively with a breakdown in that number between those registered to owners normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and those registered to owners normally resident in Northern Ireland in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [2194/24]

*276. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of non-coursing greyhounds exported before completing at least one official trial whose year of birth was 2021 and 2022, respectively as recorded on RCETS with a breakdown in that number between those registered to owners normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and those registered to owners normally resident in Northern Ireland in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [2195/24]

*277. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of non-coursing greyhounds exported after completing at least one official trial whose year of birth was 2021 as recorded on RCETS, and 2022, respectively as recorded on RCETS, with a breakdown in that number between those registered to owners normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and those registered to owners normally resident in Northern Ireland in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [2196/24]

*278. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of non-coursing greyhounds rehomed before completing at least one official trial whose year of birth was 2021 as recorded on RCETS and 2022, respectively as recorded on RCETS with a breakdown in that number between those registered to owners normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and those registered to owners normally resident in Northern Ireland in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [2197/24]

*279. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of non-coursing greyhounds rehomed after completing at least one official trial whose year of birth was 2021 as recorded on RCETS and 2022, respectively as recorded on RCETS with a breakdown in that number between those registered to owners normally resident in the Republic of Ireland and those registered to owners normally resident in Northern Ireland in tabular form. — Patrick Costello. [2198/24]

*280. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he has received a request from the Port of Cork seeking approval for a full border control post designation for Ringaskiddy container and ferry terminals; if he will be in a position to support such a proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [2205/24]

*281. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the transfer of a foreshore lease to a new assignee will be approved (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [2219/24]

*282. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the status of a 2023 organic farming scheme payment to an organic farmer (details supplied); when it is expected to be paid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2235/24]

*283. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason the number of afforestation licences issued each week continue to remain so low; if he intends to continue this practice into 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2274/24]

*284. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to detail in tabular form the number of applications and hectares of FT12 submitted to his Department; the number of applications and hectares of FT12 applications approved by his Department; the number of applications and area of FT12 applications still on hand in his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [2302/24]

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

*285. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will outline the current delivery of CDNT wrap around school services for a person (details supplied); if additional support will be provided for speech and language; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2141/24]

*286. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth why a person (details supplied) is waiting on an appointment with Enable Ireland for his son; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [2150/24]

*287. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on a placement appeal for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [2262/24]

*288. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for a breakdown of the staff numbers and grade in each of the CDNTs in County Meath in 2021, 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [2105/24]

*289. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the current estimated parental spend on childcare fees from the 2021/2022 or 2022/2023 Pobal Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report, in tabular form; when he expects the annual report to be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [2136/24]

*290. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to detail the payments being paid to operators of accommodation for international protection applicants; if he will also provide details of the nightly rate per person for a private hotel that is offering both accommodation and meals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [2206/24]

*291. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of individuals or organisations which his Department is aware of having offered or carried out so-called "gay conversion therapy" in Ireland from 2010 to date; the number of individuals who have received such treatments or been subjected to these practices; how his Department gathered this information; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2244/24]

*292. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if she will seek a full update from the HSE on much-needed plans to establish a community neuro-rehabilitation team in CHO8 area; if he will provide a timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [2253/24]

*293. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason a person (details supplied) was accommodated at a facility in County Kerry as an IPAS applicant

whilst awaiting court proceedings in a different part of the country; what will be done to address this; if such cases will be prioritised for processing and decision making; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2258/24]

*294. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if his Department has any plans to acquire a property in County Clare (details supplied) for use as accommodation for international protection applicants. — Cathal Crowe. [2261/24]

*295. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if all refugee children have the same access to State services as children who are Irish citizens, that is NEPS, CAMHS, dental services, and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [2292/24]

*296. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on wording of proposed referenda in to take place in 2024. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [1837/24]

*297. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of persons in direct provision centres in County Laois as of 1 January 2024; the number of such centres; the location of such centres within the county; and the number of persons in each centre. — Charles Flanagan. [2413/24]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*298. To ask the Minister for Health for a breakdown of the number of life-threatening calls that ambulance services attended within 19 minutes, and the time it took to attend all other life-threatening calls in County Leitrim during 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [2164/24]

*299. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on plans to introduce a statutory right to home care, as committed to in the Programme for Government; the timeline he is working towards in publishing the necessary legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [2280/24]

*300. To ask the Minister for Health the number of paediatric dermatologists in CHO2; the efforts being made to recruit maternity covers in the paediatric dermatology department as well as replacements for retirees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [2110/24]

*301. To ask the Minister for Health to report on progress of the HSE's climate action strategy; how much has been drawn down to date; when updated cost estimates will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [2020/24]

*302. To ask the Minister for Health what measures his Department is taking to address the impact of solid fuel burning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [2021/24]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health when a child (details supplied) will receive an appointment to have his grommets dealt with; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [2127/24]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health when an appointment with the ENT clinic will be provided to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [2129/24]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health the plans, if any, to develop a facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [2130/24]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) who is a quadriplegic living at home and needs to attend hospital regularly via ambulance, cannot source an ambulance, and as a result they have already missed crucial medical appointments because they cannot get the necessary ambulance transfer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [2146/24]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health if he will request that the HSE provide additional ambulances and paramedic crews for County Leitrim; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [2161/24]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health for a breakdown of the number of critical calls that ambulance services attended within 19 minutes and the time it took to attend all critical calls in County Leitrim during 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [2166/24]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on plans to address and cease unfair additional charges being applied to medical card holders in nursing homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [2174/24]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health when a child (details supplied) will receive an appointment for a procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [2189/24]

*311. To ask the Minister for Health when a child (details supplied) will receive an appointment for a procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [2190/24]

*312. To ask the Minister for Health if he will take action to assist in an urgent case of a person requiring access to the National Treatment Purchase Fund (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2236/24]

*313. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of minors who have come to the attention of his Department or the HSE as having questioned their gender or expressed a desire to change their gender in each year from 2010 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2249/24]

*314. To ask the Minister for Health the actions that are being taken to ensure public awareness and accessibility of vitamin D supplements in accordance with new recommendations issued by the Department of Health, regarding the extended use of vitamin D supplements by children and adults throughout the winter season up to St. Patrick's Day; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [2264/24]

*315. To ask the Minister for Health if a consultant radiologist suspended from UHK before Christmas has been reinstated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2269/24]

*316. To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the current levels of GP cover on the Iveragh Peninsula; if he will formulate a plan to address the shortage of GPs in the area; if he will provide incentives for GPs to locate to the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2270/24]

*317. To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the current practice at UHK where patients in the ED are moved on trolleys to wards when the trolley count reaches 20; if he can outline who sanctioned this practice; when it began; what the rationale is for this practice; what impact this is having on patient outcome; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2271/24]

*318. To ask the Minister for Health what progress he has made on ensuring that small private independent nursing homes can remain viable into the future; if he will address the lack of parity in the system in respect of subsidies provided to private and public establishments; if he acknowledges that there is unfairness built into the current system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2272/24]

*319. To ask the Minister for Health the current position regarding the future use of the Saint Finan's Hospital site and buildings in Killarney; what recent approaches have been made to the HSE regarding the property; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [2273/24]

*320. To ask the Minister for Health the total complement of off-shift staff accommodation at a University of Limerick hospital group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [2276/24]

*321. To ask the Minister for Health if all refugee children have the same access to health services as children who are Irish citizens, that is CAMHS, dental services and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [2291/24]

*322. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate if and when cataracts treatment might be made available to a person (details supplied); if the details of the national treatment purchase scheme can be invoked as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2312/24]

*323. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the current position in regard to provision of medical cards for persons (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2316/24]

*324. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which women's health specifically remains central to the provision and delivery of a reliable level and quality of health services in all areas throughout Ireland without exception; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2321/24]

*325. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate if all resources possible can be made available to ensure all hours allocated under home care packages are being used and fulfilled with

particular reference to County Kildare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2322/24]

*326. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the degree to which provision is being made for patients in need of scoliosis treatment as soon as possible in the current year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2323/24]

*327. To ask the Minister for Health when the promised phase of the Naas hospital development plan will be activated in accordance with the original projections; when the facility will be completed and opened; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2324/24]

*328. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the proposals to reduce waiting lists for patients expecting scoliosis treatment in the shorter term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2325/24]

*329. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate what steps have been taken to ensure that patients seeking treatment for cataracts can expect to have their needs met in the shortest possible timeframe, whether the national treatment purchase scheme is being used to assist the most urgent cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2326/24]

*330. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the degree to which he and his Department continue to evaluate the needs of patients seeking various treatments such as cardiology, oncology, endoscopy, urology and neurology treatments; the efforts being made to ensure urgent patients are being treated as quick as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2327/24]

*331. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the immediate efforts that continue to be made to review the most acute hospital waiting lists throughout the country on a regular basis in order to target those areas particularly affected by long waiting lists and delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2328/24]

*332. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the action being taken to ensure there will be an adequate number of GPs in all areas throughout the country to ensure universal access to healthcare when needed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2329/24]

*333. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the extent to which adequate mental health provision is being provided to ensure the availability of an adequate number of residential places to meet the current and ongoing requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2330/24]

*334. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the action being taken to ensure the retention of junior medical doctors and nurses once qualified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2331/24]

*335. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the progress to date in filling all positions available including maternity leave cover in the CH07 area; the number of position likely to be filled in the near future to ensure continuity of care for the local community ; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2332/24]

*336. To ask the Minister for Health the proposed best protection for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, within the public health sphere to ensure their protection to the best possible standard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2333/24]

*337. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which efforts are being made to replace GPs where the incumbents have retired leaving vacancies throughout the country; the number of such vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2334/24]

*338. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which dental patients can have their requirements met and progressed as quickly as possible with particular reference to medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2335/24]

*339. To ask the Minister for Health to indicate the extent to which eligibility for medical cards for those diagnosed with serious or life threatening illness can be upgraded to take account of the individual circumstances of their case not based on financial eligibility but hardship grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2336/24]

*340. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which the various changes and requirements needed to fully introduce Sláintecare are being pursued at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2337/24]

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

*341. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what supports are available for part-time students; if he will expand on the eligibility criteria for the scheduled SUSI grant scheme due to be implemented in September 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [1718/24]

*342. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide details of the work his Department does with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, to ensure that students and apprentices transition into suitable employment opportunities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [2288/24]

*343. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what role his Department can play in easing the labour shortage in the construction sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [49042/23]

*344. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress in relation to the implementation of the Adult literacy for Life strategy through library activities, as actioned in the National Public Library Strategy 2023-2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49681/23]

*345. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department has carried out an assessment of the potential of remote delivery in further education and if new initiatives are planned in this arena. — Richard Bruton. [50444/23]

*346. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the plans he has in place to ensure that one-third of higher education teaching staff do not leave Ireland (details supplied). — Sorca Clarke. [1922/24]

*347. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the annual budget for Solas. — Cathal Crowe. [2237/24]

*348. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate if this jurisdiction is likely to experience any shortages of graduates in the future within a particular area to meet the demand of the corresponding workforce, his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2338/24]

*349. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate the total number of apprentices currently available; the extent to which this is sufficient to meet requirements; the progress in introducing new apprenticeship programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2339/24]

*350. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate to what extent he continues to liaise with the technical sector with a view to ensuring adequate provision in respect of graduates in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2340/24]

*351. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate to what extent he continues to liaise with the academic sector with a view to ensuring adequate provision in respect of graduates in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2341/24]

*352. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate the extent to which he continues to research future requirements in the education sector with a view to ensuring an adequate supply of graduates throughout in a variety of fields; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2342/24]

*353. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate arising from his discussions with the academic and technical sectors, the extent to which he is satisfied that adequate provision continues to be made in both areas with a view to meeting demand and job specifications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2343/24]

*354. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate the extent to which his Department is focused on the health sector in terms of ensuring a steady supply of graduates with a view to ensuring the filling of the maximum number of posts in the health services here as possible in the coming years, if he could outline progress made in this area in recent years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2344/24]

*355. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate to which his Department continues to monitor incidents of professional bullying throughout the higher education system; the extent to which bullying is evident in colleges throughout the country; the action taken or being taken to counter this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2345/24]

*356. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate his plans to ensure continued access to third-level education for all students seeking to avail of education at this level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2346/24]

*357. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to indicate if he and his Department have identified any specific obstacles which may impede improvement and achievement in the further and higher educational sectors and impact our ability to continue to establish Ireland's reputation as equal to the best globally in higher education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2347/24]

*358. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there are plans to extend teacher training in the Technological University of the Shannon, Athlone. — Sorca Clarke. [2685/24]

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

*359. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the RRDF project associated with (see details supplied) its current status, the next project steps and estimated project completion timeline; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2168/24]

*360. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on the RRDF project associated with (details supplied) its current status, the next project steps and estimated project completion timeline; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2169/24]

*361. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she is aware of recent media reports that an organisation (details supplied) which receives significant funding from her Department through Pobal, has been linked through its affiliate in Belgium to the extremist Islamic organisation known as the "Muslim Brotherhood"; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2251/24]