



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 24 Eanáir, 2024
Wednesday, 24th January, 2024

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

1. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Economy and Investment will next meet. — Alan Dillon. [55138/23]
2. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Economy and Investment will next meet. — Mary Lou McDonald. [56545/23]
3. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Economy and Investment will next meet. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [1841/24]
4. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his attendance at the EU-Western Balkans Summit and at the European Council in Brussels on 13, 14 and 15 December 2023. — Seán Haughey. [57117/23]
5. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the December European Union Council meeting. — Brid Smith. [2802/24]
6. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the December European Union Council meeting. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2805/24]
7. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the December European Union Council meeting. — Paul Murphy. [2808/24]
8. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his attendance at the December European Union council meeting. — Mick Barry. [2897/24]
9. To ask the Taoiseach his views on the outcomes of his recent meeting with the Shared Island Youth Forum. — Alan Farrell. [1438/24]
10. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report his attendance at the recent Shared Island Youth Forum. — Brendan Smith. [57118/23]
11. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the work of his Departments Shared Island Unit. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2745/24]
12. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Health will next meet. — Mattie McGrath. [1151/24]
13. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Health will meet next. — Bernard J. Durkan. [1813/24]

14. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Health will next meet. — Gino Kenny. [2801/24]

15. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Housing will next meet. — Cian O’Callaghan. [1397/24]

16. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Housing will meet next. — Bernard J. Durkan. [1811/24]

17. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Housing will meet next. — Alan Dillon. [2747/24]

18. To ask the Taoiseach to provide an update on Housing for All. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2795/24]

19. To ask the Taoiseach to provide an update on Housing for All. — Paul Murphy. [2798/24]

20. To ask the Taoiseach to provide an update on Housing for All. — Bríd Smith. [2803/24]

21. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide a list of the Cabinet Committees on which he sits. — Cian O’Callaghan. [1398/24]

22. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the child poverty and well-being unit. — Cian O’Callaghan. [1399/24]

23. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the Citizens Assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2746/24]

24. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Alan Dillon. [2748/24]

25. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will next meet. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2807/24]

26. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will next meet. — Paul Murphy. [2810/24]

27. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent visit to World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. — Bernard J. Durkan. [2758/24]

28. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his engagements at the World Economic Forum. — Alan Farrell. [2788/24]

29. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2797/24]

30. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Paul Murphy. [2800/24]

31. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Bríd Smith. [2804/24]

32. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Mick Barry. [2898/24]

33. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update on the investigation into a matter (details supplied). — Peadar Tóibín. [2774/24]

34. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent engagement with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Alan Farrell. [2789/24]

35. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his meeting with the President of China. — Paul Murphy. [2809/24]

36. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his visit to the Western Balkans. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2796/24]

37. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his visit to the Western Balkans. — Paul Murphy. [2799/24]

38. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [3055/24]

39. To ask the Taoiseach if he will develop a national security strategy and functioning security agency to deal with future security event. — Alan Dillon. [2791/24]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.

*40. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on the number of briefings he received from the Climate Change Advisory Council in 2023. — Ivana Bacik. [3187/24]

*41. To ask the Taoiseach to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; and if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023. — Ged Nash. [3246/24]

*42. To ask the Taoiseach to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; and if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023. — Ged Nash. [3264/24]

*43. To ask the Taoiseach the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3372/24]

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

*44. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of adult and child passports issued in 2023, in tabular form. — Ivana Bacik. [3190/24]

*45. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on work being done to prepare for Ireland's presidency of the EU in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [3206/24]

*46. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ireland's allocation for the International Criminal Court in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [3207/24]

*47. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide an update on an application for a foreign birth registration (details supplied); if there is a reason for the delay with it; when the decision is expected to issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [3208/24]

*48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3238/24]

*49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3256/24]

*50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his engagements with the Minister for Finance in relation to Irish State investment in companies which derive income from activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [3271/24]

*51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the undertakings secured from Israel during a meeting in October 2022 regarding the renewal of the EU-Israel Association agreement in relation to human rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [3272/24]

*52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on the aid provided by Ireland to Ukraine in 2023 and that allocated under Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [3273/24]

*53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on the efforts of the Irish Government and his engagements with his European counterparts regarding alleviating civil strife and humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [3274/24]

*54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his engagement with the Colombian Minister for Defence regarding Ireland's support for the Colombian peace process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [3275/24]

*55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when a decision will be made on an application for foreign birth registration (details supplied); the reason for the delay in processing the application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [3282/24]

*56. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he can provide support to a person (details supplied) who cannot get an ESTA due to having previously visited Cuba. — Thomas Gould. [3294/24]

*57. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when the new passport design will be in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [3317/24]

*58. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3364/24]

*59. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans to advocate at EU level for the suspension of trade with Israel, in light of its ongoing actions in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3403/24]

*60. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on his engagement at EU level with a view to securing a ceasefire in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3404/24]

*61. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 244 of 30 November 2023, the details of Ireland's financial and in-kind assistance to Ukraine since February 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3405/24]

*62. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 131 of 7 November 2023, the steps he has taken to ensure the safe passage of Irish citizens from the occupied Palestinian territories, including those family members and dependents who do not hold Irish passports; the steps he has taken to ensure safe passage for family members and dependents of Irish citizens from the occupied Palestinian territories, in cases where the Irish citizen is not physically with them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3406/24]

*63. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the details of Ireland's financial and in-kind assistance to Palestine since October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3407/24]

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

*64. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what actions he has taken to work with like-minded European States to promote and support changes to European energy laws, in particular the revision of the European Union's Gas Directive and Gas Regulation in order to allow the importation of fracked gas to be restricted since the publication of the Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas. — Eoin Ó Broin. [3115/24]

*65. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed. — Paul McAuliffe. [3155/24]

*66. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will clarify the legal obligation on post and parcel delivery services to certify parcel delivery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [3174/24]

*67. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on the work of the Just Transition Commission; and the number meetings of the Commission in 2023. — Ivana Bacik. [3191/24]

*68. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if an Eircode will be assigned to a house in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3201/24]

*69. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3236/24]

*70. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3254/24]

*71. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what engagement he has had with electric energy providers for domestic users in ensuring further domestic electric cost reductions, given the recent figures on energy provided by wind; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moyinhan. [3318/24]

*72. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 83 of 28 September 2023, for an update on the work of the Just Transition Taskforce; if he has received any interim reports from the taskforce to-date; if he has received the final report of the taskforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3319/24]

*73. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 84 of 28 September 2023, the status of the development of the updated long-term strategy on greenhouse gas emissions reductions; the timeline for the publication of the updated strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3320/24]

*74. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what options are available to home bound individuals, who get their food shopping delivered to their home, to return their recyclable items under the deposit return scheme. — Chris Andrews. [3342/24]

*75. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3362/24]

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

*76. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3233/24]

*77. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3251/24]

*78. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3359/24]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*79. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 277 of 17 January 2024, the reason drivers with medical issues on a three year licence must pay double the

amount of a driver without medical issues to renew their licences over a ten year period; and if a reduction in the fee for a three year licence will be considered. — Eoin Ó Broin. [3113/24]

*80. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered plans to incentivise uptake of electric vehicles in rural areas. — Eoin Ó Broin. [3114/24]

*81. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason for the delays in providing contact digital payments for Dublin Bus, the Luas, the Dart and Irish Rail services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [3149/24]

*82. To ask the Minister for Transport the cost of a new contactless payment system for public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [3147/24]

*83. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason for the delays in rolling out a contactless payment system for public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [3148/24]

*84. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to encourage safer cycling at night-time in both rural communities and in cities. — Ivana Bacik. [3188/24]

*85. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide assurances that the BusConnects project will not result in the removal of the 33 bus route, which serves as a direct bus from Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush and Lusk to the city centre, in favour of a bus that will go from Balbriggan/Skerries to the Airport where a connection will be available from the airport into the city centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [3202/24]

*86. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3248/24]

*87. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3266/24]

*88. To ask the Minister for Transport the exact reason that a bus (details supplied) was delayed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3356/24]

*89. To ask the Minister for Transport the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3374/24]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*90. To ask the Minister for Finance the position regarding the section 481 tax credit for film and television production in Ireland; if a similar initiative is under consideration for the non-scripted sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [3135/24]

*91. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3237/24]

*92. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3255/24]

*93. To ask the Minister for Finance how many farmers were granted VAT exemptions for purchase of fixed equipment between 1 November and 31 December 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [3293/24]

*94. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is considering increasing the 10% rate of stamp duty with respect to the bulk purchase of certain residential property; his views and the views of his Department on the effectiveness of the current rate, given the increased number of properties purchased which were subject to the 10% rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [3328/24]

*95. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of residential units where a filing has been made but not yet executed with respect to the 10% rate of stamp duty applying to the acquisition of certain residential property where a person acquires at least ten such units during any 12-month period, in 2023, disaggregated by county if possible. — Pearse Doherty. [3347/24]

*96. To ask the Minister for Finance the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3363/24]

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.

*97. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the reason why Kilmainham Gaol has moved from a seven to five day a week opening hours; when this last took place (excluding closures for national holidays and pandemic related reasons); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3157/24]

*98. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the number of tour guides who formerly worked in Kilmainham Gaol, on both seasonal and permanent contracts, who are now working in other OPW heritage sites. — Patrick Costello. [3158/24]

*99. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform given the recruitment issues for guiding staff in heritage sites, as evidenced by multiple seasonal calls in 2023, if his Department will move to a model which ensures that the majority of guiding staff, that is those below head guide/supervisor levels are employed on a full time basis in sites which are open year round such as Kilmainham Gaol. — Patrick Costello. [3159/24]

*100. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the estimated cost to the Exchequer of an increase of 1.5% or €750, whichever is greater, for all public sector workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [3230/24]

*101. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3243/24]

*102. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3261/24]

*103. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3369/24]

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

*104. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3235/24]

*105. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3253/24]

*106. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his assessment of the likely impact of new United Kingdom import controls; the action taken by his Department in relation to this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [3353/24]

*107. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3361/24]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*108. To ask the Minister for Education the number of secondary school spaces that are allocated for students from Newcastle, Dublin 22 primary schools in local secondary schools or nearby secondary schools in other villages (details supplied). — Gary Gannon. [3108/24]

*109. To ask the Minister for Education if there are plans to develop a secondary school for Newcastle in Dublin 22; and if so, the status of such a plan (details supplied). — Gary Gannon. [3109/24]

*110. To ask the Minister for Education to review correspondence (details supplied); if she will address the issues outlined and provide an update as to when this school will receive the ICT grant; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [3118/24]

*111. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the process for allocating school buses to schools or to areas within the greater Dublin area. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [3120/24]

*112. To ask the Minister for Education if she will fund the establishment of a special class building for a school (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [3138/24]

*113. To ask the Minister for Education the expected timeline for a decision on an application for capital funding, under the additional school accommodation scheme, from a school (details supplied) for special class accommodation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [3153/24]

*114. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 680 of 17 January 2024, when the next round of applications will open; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3166/24]

*115. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 680 of 17 January 2024, the reason all applicants were given equal weighting in the lottery, regardless of DEIS status or not. — Patrick Costello. [3167/24]

*116. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) will receive approval for their building programme to move to the next phase; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [3168/24]

*117. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider the reintroduction of the allowance for teachers in Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools (details supplied). — Joe Flaherty. [3171/24]

*118. To ask the Minister for Education if she will outline the existing capacity of second level schools in the Newcastle-Rathcoole school planning area to meet the demand for actual number of additional first year places required for 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029 school years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [3179/24]

*119. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the campaign by parents in Newcastle, County Dublin for the establishment of a school in their village; when the New Schools Establishment Group will next revisit the provision of an additional secondary school in the Newcastle-Rathcoole school planning area, specifically in Newcastle village; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [3180/24]

*120. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to reintroduce the allowance for teaching through Irish which was ended in 2011; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3186/24]

*121. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department possesses data on the number of reported incidents of LGBTQ+ bullying in 2023. — Ivana Bacik. [3189/24]

*122. To ask the Minister for Education for a thorough update on the issue with school-places in north Kildare, in particular in bottleneck areas previously notified to her, and in which TDs and families are still awaiting a requested meeting with her; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [3229/24]

*123. To ask the Minister for Education to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in her Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in her Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3234/24]

*124. To ask the Minister for Education to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under her aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if she will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3252/24]

*125. To ask the Minister for Education where primary schools can get support if carbon dioxide monitors are showing high levels of carbon dioxide in the school building; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [3281/24]

*126. To ask the Minister for Education the average, median, maximum and minimum primary school class sizes for the Cork city and Cork County Council area from 2019 to date in 2024, in tabular form. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [3312/24]

*127. To ask the Minister for Education the percentage of social media videos posted on her Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3360/24]

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

*128. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her attention has been brought to the fact that the local improvement scheme offered by Galway County Council will not be taking applications for a third year in 2024 leaving the condition of roads not taken in charge by the County Council to further deteriorate, which is a particular problem in Gaeltacht areas of the county; if she is looking at other avenues to improve infrastructure such as roads in the Gaeltacht; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [3134/24]

*129. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in her Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in her Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3247/24]

*130. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under her aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if she will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3265/24]

*131. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the percentage of social media videos posted on her Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3373/24]

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

*132. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 811 of 17 January 2024, if he will publish the report compiled on the viability and potential of the site. — Sean Sherlock. [3276/24]

*133. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage given the recent announcement that exhumations are to take place in Mountjoy Prison to recover the remains of executed prisoners buried on site, if his Department will commence, as per its powers under the National Monuments Acts, a similar scheme of exhumations to take place at Kilmainham Gaol. — Patrick Costello. [3104/24]

*134. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if a specific scheme is in place to assist older people obtaining a mortgage; and if so, the details of this scheme. — Chris Andrews. [3107/24]

*135. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will lift the mandatory 90-day period for being declared homeless for HAP tenants if the tenant finds a property before the 90 days; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [3173/24]

*136. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of air to water heating systems installed by Kildare County Council, in council owned properties in for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, in tabular form. — Patricia Ryan. [3184/24]

*137. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3241/24]

*138. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3259/24]

*139. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of new social housing dwelling completions in each of the periods May 2021 to end 2021, 2022 and 2023, including Part V, disaggregated by county. — Pearse Doherty. [3326/24]

*140. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the cohort of middle-income earners who earn just above the threshold to qualify for social housing but earn too little to qualify for cost-rental homes due to the criteria that tenants cannot spend more than 35% of their disposable income on rent to qualify; his plans to reassess the criteria for cost-rental homes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3351/24]

*141. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3367/24]

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

*142. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for details of the average social welfare appeals processing times in weeks for summary decisions and oral hearings, by scheme. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [3101/24]

*143. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the school meals programme will be extended to a school (details supplied) as a matter of urgency. — Brendan Griffin. [3105/24]

*144. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the arrears of the living alone allowance will be paid to a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [3150/24]

*145. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a disability allowance payment will issue to a person in County Kerry (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3151/24]

*146. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason the threshold for fuel allowance for a single person is the same for a couple; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [3169/24]

*147. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which any outstanding payments/balances are due in respect of carer's benefit/allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); if their case can be reviewed as soon as possible; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3185/24]

*148. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in her Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in her Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3245/24]

*149. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under her aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if she will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3263/24]

*150. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the proposed auto enrolment scheme. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [3306/24]

*151. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the actual number and the percentage of working family payment claimants, respectively who are also claiming the one parent family payment. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [3307/24]

*152. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the percentage of claimants over each of the past five years of claimants who lose the working family payment due to the claimant moving

from the one parent family payment to the jobseeker's transitional payment when their youngest child reaches seven years of age. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [3308/24]

*153. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for a breakdown of the average wait time for a decision on an appeal, for each social welfare payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [3309/24]

*154. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to review the qualified adult case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [3321/24]

*155. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the percentage of social media videos posted on her Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3371/24]

*156. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Review of the Reasonable Accommodation Fund and the Disability Awareness Support Scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3376/24]

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

*157. To ask the Minister for Justice why the historical disregard legislation is absent from the spring legislative programme; and the timeline for the introduction of legislation for this Programme for Government legislation. — Patrick Costello. [3099/24]

*158. To ask the Minister for Justice if applications to become a justice of the peace can be accepted by email or if there is an online mechanism for application; and if her Department will consider one if not already in place. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [3103/24]

*159. To ask the Minister for Justice what measures have been taken to reduce the number of people serving a custodial sentence of 12 months or less in line with the priority commitment since the publication of the Review of Policy Options for Prison and Penal Reform in August 2022; and if any measures were taken, if these measures have resulted in any reduction. — Patrick Costello. [3116/24]

*160. To ask the Minister for Justice how many files were prepared for the DPP in respect of suspected offences contrary to section 11 of the Immigration Act 2004 in 2023. — Michael McNamara. [3209/24]

*161. To ask the Minister for Justice how many prosecutions in respect of alleged offences contrary to section 11 of the Immigration Act 2004 in 2023. — Michael McNamara. [3210/24]

*162. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in her Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in her Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3242/24]

*163. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under her aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if she will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3260/24]

*164. To ask the Minister for Justice how many persons fingerprints were checked against the Schengen Information System in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [3267/24]

*165. To ask the Minister for Justice how many “take back” requests pursuant to the Dublin III Regulation were made within time in 2023 to which no reply was received, to which member states the said requests were made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [3269/24]

*166. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 1103 of 17 January 2024, the number of SIS II information (termed ‘Alerts’) Ireland has sent and received on persons and objects, for example persons wanted by Member States for criminal purposes, missing persons and objects which have been stolen or are wanted as evidence for a judicial purpose during the period from 2018 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [3270/24]

*167. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of individuals who have arrived in Ireland at any port of entry, including Dublin Airport, without valid travel documents, despite presenting them at their point of departure, for each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and to date in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [3283/24]

*168. To ask the Minister for Justice when decisions will be made in respect of visa applications for nurses who have already obtained work permits to work in the State and are urgently required to fill nursing positions in a nursing home (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc MacSharry. [3287/24]

*169. To ask the Minister for Justice the percentage of social media videos posted on her Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3368/24]

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

*170. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on whether electronic training collars should be banned for dogs, as is being discussed by the Advisory Council for Companion Animal Welfare; whether they can be used as part of the management of dogs to protect against attacks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [3106/24]

*171. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to review correspondence (details supplied) and offer advice in this case. — Niamh Smyth. [3170/24]

*172. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3231/24]

*173. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3249/24]

*174. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his assessment of the likely impact of new United Kingdom import controls; the action by his Department in relation to this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [3352/24]

*175. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3357/24]

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

*176. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what mechanisms are in place for families to access funds needs for the care of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3156/24]

*177. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number on waiting lists (details supplied), in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [3195/24]

*178. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when a decision will be made on the ongoing funding to support a major provider of community services to people with disabilities and their families (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3268/24]

*179. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware of the funding crisis within St. John of God Community Services; if he will instruct the HSE to deliver unequivocal confirmation of the funding required to both address the deficit and maintain the financial and operational sustainability of services prior to the scheduled 25 January meeting (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3375/24]

*180. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when he will bring forward the regulation to extend the duration of parental leave as was announced

as part of Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [3100/24]

*181. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for an update on the plans for the development of the Sean McDermott Street Magdalene Laundry; the timelines for the project; the timing of the availability of the detailed design of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [3136/24]

*182. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3232/24]

*183. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3250/24]

*184. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth has entered into any contracts with an accommodation provider (details supplied) to provide accommodation for refugees or Ukrainian citizens; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3301/24]

*185. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3358/24]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*186. To ask the Minister for Health how many times he has referred Parliamentary Questions to the HSE for response to Deputies directly in each of the past twelve months; how many times the HSE has issued responses to the Deputies who submitted the questions; if a specific breakdown can be provided in the case of this Deputy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [3102/24]

*187. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the case of a person (details supplied); and when they can expect an appointment with a surgeon in Tallaght University Hospital. — Barry Cowen. [3110/24]

*188. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the allocation of funding for 2024 to each meals on wheels service in receipt of HSE funding, by name of service and by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [3112/24]

*189. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) has not got the scans needed for their upcoming appointment in Beaumont Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3117/24]

*190. To ask the Minister for Health to review the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will expedite a treatment for them. — Niamh Smyth. [3119/24]

*191. To ask the Minister for Health to review the case of a person (details supplied); if he can provide an update on this case; and if a place will be expedited for them in a rehabilitation centre. — Niamh Smyth. [3121/24]

*192. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) can expect to receive an appointment with a consultant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [3132/24]

*193. To ask the Minister for Health if, in light of the worsening humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza, the alarming rate of conflict-related injury and illness affecting children there, the rate at which children are made orphans there, the destruction of Gazan hospitals, and the severe pressures on hospitals in the wider region, he is aware of calls to host Palestinian orphans in severe need of medical care in Ireland; if he is aware of pledges by the United Arab Emirates to evacuate up to 1,000 injured children from Gaza for treatment in hospitals in the UAE; if he is aware of the evacuation of dozens of displaced patients from Gaza to Turkey for treatment; if he is aware of any other medical evacuations of displaced Palestinians to other states; to look into undertaking a similar effort in Ireland; to outline what avenues humanitarians in the region could pursue to see sick and injured orphans from Gaza treated in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [3152/24]

*194. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on plans to accelerate implementation of the HSE's integrated financial management system; the timeline he is working towards for full roll-out of the new system; the role of the newly established productivity and savings taskforce in respect of this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [3172/24]

*195. To ask the Minister for Health if he will now introduce a nurse led minor injuries clinic in the Community Hospital, Donegal town (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [3175/24]

*196. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the development of a recovery hub for individuals with substance misuse issues; when this is expected to be rolled out; the estimated cost of this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3176/24]

*197. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the implementation of the dual diagnosis pilot sites and cross-national training for mental health practitioners as mentioned in the model of care; for an update on recruitment for these services; when they will be rolled out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3177/24]

*198. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on €800,000 announced for dedicated recovery initiatives in Budget 2024 for the National Drugs Strategy; when the funding application will open; how the funding will be allocated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3178/24]

*199. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public defibrillators in each county. — Ivana Bacik. [3192/24]

*200. To ask the Minister for Health if he has undertaken an assessment of the cost of providing the flu vaccine free of charge to all people over 18 years of age. — Ivana Bacik. [3193/24]

*201. To ask the Minister for Health to detail the planned upgrades to Naas General Hospital, to include costings, timeframes for commencement of works and completion dates for works, working currently underway and timeframes for completion; the overall budget allocated for the planned works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [3194/24]

*202. To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies and the level of developmental assessment needs within services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [3196/24]

*203. To ask the Minister for Health the average weekly appointments seen for services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [3197/24]

*204. To ask the Minister for Health the number of rapid reviews and health technology applications received in 2023; the number completed in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [3198/24]

*205. To ask the Minister for Health the number of meetings of the HSE drugs group that took place in 2023; the number of medicines considered for recommendation at each meeting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [3199/24]

*206. To ask the Minister for Health to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3240/24]

*207. To ask the Minister for Health to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3258/24]

*208. To ask the Minister for Health if he can outline the funding that is available for non-acute patient supports for heart and stroke patients, by CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [3277/24]

*209. To ask the Minister for Health what practical, social and emotional supports services are available for heart and stroke patients currently; if he can provide this information on an acute and community basis and by CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [3278/24]

*210. To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided to an organisation (details supplied) to date and annually; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [3279/24]

*211. To ask the Minister for Health what practical, social and emotional supports services are available for patients currently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [3280/24]

*212. To ask the Minister for Health if a hospital appointment will be expedited for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3285/24]

*213. To ask the Minister for Health his views on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3286/24]

*214. To ask the Minister for Health if treatment will be expedited for a person (details supplied) in the Bons Secours Hospital in Kerry or in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3288/24]

*215. To ask the Minister for Health for an update regarding the appointment of an independent chairperson to the sodium valproate inquiry; when he expects the chairperson to be appointed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3302/24]

*216. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the inquiry into the historical licencing and prescribing of sodium valproate; the timeline for the inquiry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3303/24]

*217. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that urgent consideration is given to a request of a healthcare facility and ensure that this ongoing issue is resolved satisfactorily without delay, which will be beneficial to patients in that catchment area (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3304/24]

*218. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 729 of 20 June 2023, the position regarding a review of the community ophthalmic services medical treatment scheme as referenced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [3322/24]

*219. To ask the Minister for Health if he will secure investment for prostate cancer treatment available in Ireland through the HSE; if he will ensure that high-intensity focused ultrasound treatment is urgently made available through the HSE; if a person can avail of this treatment should it not be made available through the HSE using the treatment abroad scheme; and the HSE's plans for improving prostate cancer treatment. — Paul Murphy. [3325/24]

*220. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the closure of the endoscopy unit in Connolly Hospital and the postponement of the BowelScreen Programme; if his Department plans to mitigate the growing waiting lists as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Higgins. [3327/24]

*221. To ask the Minister for Health his spending plans for an additional €10 million investment to support the development of mental health services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3354/24]

*222. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the review into maternity services with specific reference to homebirth being unavailable to those who live more than 30 minutes away from their nearest maternity hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3355/24]

*223. To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3366/24]

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

*224. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his attention has been drawn to third level students who are unable to draw down the €1,000 one off support towards third level fees (details supplied); if this is under review within his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [3137/24]

*225. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in his Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in his Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3239/24]

*226. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under his aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if he will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3257/24]

*227. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the percentage of social media videos posted on his Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under his remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3365/24]

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

*228. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of animals held in pounds at year end for each of the past seven years and per local authority area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [3181/24]

*229. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of animals euthanised by pounds in each of the past seven years and per local authority area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [3182/24]

*230. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her attention has been brought to the fact that the local improvement scheme offered by Galway County Council will not be taking applications for a third year in 2024, leaving the condition of roads not taken in charge by the County Council to further deteriorate; if she intends to make additional funding available to address this problem; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [3133/24]

*231. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in her Department who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in her Department work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if they will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3244/24]

*232. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to provide figures for the number of staff directly employed in agencies and bodies directly under her aegis who work from home/remotely as part of their working week; the percentage of staff on an overall basis who work from home at least one day a week; the number of working hours on average per week that staff in relevant agencies and bodies work from home; the gender breakdown of those who avail of the opportunity to work from home/remotely; if she will provide the figures for 2022 and 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3262/24]

*233. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the percentage of social media videos posted on her Departmental social media accounts or the social media accounts of public bodies and agencies that operate under her remit, that included closed captioning/subtitling and Irish sign language translations between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, inclusive. — Neasa Hourigan. [3370/24]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 25 Eanáir, 2024
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY, 2024**

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

1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what engagement he has had with Iraqi authorities on the Irish resident (details supplied) imprisoned in Iraq. — Claire Kerrane. [53469/23]

2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he expects an agreement to be reached at the EU Council on the Special Fund for Ukraine; the discussions he has had with other EU Foreign Ministers on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3131/24]

3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on discussions to extend membership of the European Union and the changes in institutional arrangements that might follow. — Richard Bruton. [2982/24]

4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an overview of the consular assistance provided by his Department in 2023; how many people from Carlow availed of such assistance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [3146/24]

5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to Ireland; and if human rights concerns were raised with the Premier during his visit. — Peadar Tóibín. [2941/24]

6. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on his most recent discussion with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in respect of the restoration of the Executive and Assembly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2634/24]

7. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will make a public statement supporting the South African case against Israel for Genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and will he advocate for Ireland to formally intervene in the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [3348/24]

8. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what engagements he has had with the Israeli ambassador since 7 October 2023; the outcome of these engagements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3379/24]

9. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on how extraordinary revenues held by private entities stemming directly from Russia's immobilised assets could be directed to support Ukraine and its recovery and reconstruction, consistent with applicable contractual obligations, and in accordance with EU and international law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [3421/24]

10. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline his position in relation to the abolition of the veto in almost all areas of EU decision-making – including on military and security matters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [2790/24]

11. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what measures the Irish State is taking to bring about a ceasefire in Gaza; the Government's position on the conditions of a ceasefire; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3389/24]

12. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide an update on his Department's engagement with Ukrainian counterparts in the context of the ongoing war with Russia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [3164/24]

13. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on the latest developments in the case of (details supplied) and other political prisoners in Russia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [3420/24]

14. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if Peace Commissioners can sign all passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [3391/24]

15. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs about the situation in Palestine; what legal advice he sought before deciding not to join South Africa's case at the ICJ, about progress on the occupied territories Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3344/24]

16. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on his visit to Berlin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [3215/24]

17. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his proposed timeframe to officially recognise the state of Palestine. — Matt Carthy. [3221/24]

18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on the current situation in Sudan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [3377/24]

19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is concerned about a potential Chinese offensive action against Taiwan; if the Government intends to intervene on this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [3300/24]

20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what efforts he is making to assist Irish citizens or families with connections to this country who are seeking to escape Gaza and particularly those who have contacted him seeking assistance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [3349/24]

21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline how his Department is supporting returning Irish immigrants who wish to return to Ireland but face barriers in terms of housing, driving licences, opening bank accounts, educational and work opportunities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [3205/24]

22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on his engagement with the German Federal Foreign Minister; if the humanitarian situation in Gaza was discussed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [3139/24]

23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide a breakdown of the cost of facilitating Chinese Premier Li Qiang's visit to Ireland earlier this month. — Gary Gannon. [3067/24]

24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the instances since 2020 whereby the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment have sought his Department's input in respect of the granting of export licences for dual-use products to Israel; if he raised human rights concerns in relation to such; and if he advised against the granting of such export licences in any case. — Matt Carthy. [3219/24]

25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will comment on the Government's engagement with the Chinese Deputy Leader, specifically in the context of human rights abuses in China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [3297/24]

26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans to formally recognise the state of Palestine, as per the commitment in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3332/24]

27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs given the latest repeated rejection by the Israeli government of Palestinian statehood and the statement by Prime Minister Netanyahu that all territory west of the Jordan River would be under Israeli control, and if the minister will recognise now that state of Palestine. — Patrick Costello. [3226/24]

28. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the face of continued Russian attacks against Ukraine's civil and critical infrastructure, if Ireland is working with other EU states to intensify the provision of further humanitarian and civil protection assistance to Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [3126/24]

29. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on passport applications and processing times presently; how many applications were processed to date in 2024; how many are outstanding and currently waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3052/24]

30. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what continued efforts he is making in regard to restoring the Northern Ireland Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [3316/24]

31. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his response to Russia's intensification of its war against Ukraine over the new year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [3006/24]

32. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans for Ireland to support South Africa's case against Israel under the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3331/24]

33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline his Department's and the Government's recent international interactions and planned future engagements on the issue of Gaza and the wider Middle East; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [3289/24]

34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the position of Ireland in relation to attacks by Yemeni-based Houthis in the Red Sea; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [2557/24]

35. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in respect of the war in Ukraine and the EU's support for Ukraine, how he envisages the EU can mitigate against uncertainty in the context of the US Presidential election to assist Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3378/24]

36. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on his discussions with the German Foreign Minister in relation to Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [3216/24]

37. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he continues, unilaterally or through the aegis of the EU/UN, to influence the situation in the Middle East

with particular reference to the setting up of a permanent peace process to which Israeli and Palestinians can refer their grievances on a regular basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3224/24]

38. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on his recent meeting with the British Foreign Secretary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2633/24]

39. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will open a new consulate in Australia, in recognition of the growing Irish population in that country and the strengthening relationship between Ireland and Australia. — Matt Carthy. [3218/24]

40. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what progress has been made to scale up climate financing through existing channels; what new funding initiatives are planned and/ or underway; what plans there are to enhance reporting on the gender responsiveness of Ireland's climate financing; if official 2023 figures have been submitted to the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3343/24]

41. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs why the Irish Government is not supporting the South African genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice for genocide; what crimes against humanity would need to be committed for the Irish Government to call this genocide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3388/24]

42. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on his attendance at the EU Foreign Affairs Council on 22 January 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [3004/24]

43. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures to ensure that all passports applications are processed as speedily as possible in the coming months. — Matt Carthy. [3217/24]

44. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to report on the current situation in Myanmar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [3390/24]

45. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs how Ireland is working to support the Republic of Moldova and Georgia in addressing the challenges they face as a consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [3213/24]

46. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to set out the issues he raised with the Mexican Foreign Minister on his recent visit to Mexico; if he will provide details of the meetings he had there; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3128/24]

47. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide an update on discussions held with UK counterparts regarding recent reported safety issues at the Sellafield nuclear facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3142/24]

48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views on using seized Russian assets to support Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [3212/24]

49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has discussed with the political parties in Stormont the potential of the Shared Island initiative to fund cross border projects to benefit communities North and South; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3329/24]

50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which this country continues to respond to the needs of poorer communities, often beset by war, famine and national disasters; the extent to which our membership of the UN Security Council is being used as a means of accelerating help that is needed in such challenging situations; the extent to which Ireland continues to promote assistance through the bilateral aid or multilateral aid programmes; the extent to which such activity has increased in recent times given worldwide atrocities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3225/24]

51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline recent efforts by him and his Department to assist in re-establishing the Northern Ireland Executive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3141/24]

52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the range of projects that can be funded under his Department's Reconciliation Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3330/24]

53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline the recent work done by him and his Department on the re-establishment of the Executive in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [3290/24]

54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he intends to attend the St Patrick's Day engagements in the United States; if he intends to boycott engagement with officials of the US administration for its role in arming Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [3298/24]

55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the steps his Department is taking to ensure the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina is unequivocally supported, that the accession process to the EU progresses unimpeded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3385/24]

56. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what measures have been taken to improve on current processing times on first-time passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [3315/24]

57. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has spoken with his EU counterparts in relation to the urgent need for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [3140/24]

58. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he agrees that the security of the entire European continent depends on Russia not winning its war on Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [3123/24]

59. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his reason why, as a state party to the Genocide Convention with a responsibility to act to protect humanity, Ireland has not joined South Africa's genocide case against Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [3333/24]

60. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will outline the work of his Department in the resumption of beef exports to China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [3299/24]

61. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an overview of the passport service for Cork applicants in 2023; how many passports issued to applicants from Cork and how this compared to 2022; the number of outstanding applications for passports currently awaiting processing for Cork applicants at the end of 2023 and how this compared to the end of 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [3392/24]

62. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if Ireland will remain one of the strongest advocates of Ukraine's European path and if we will continue to support them along their journey; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [3214/24]

63. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an overview of the passport service in 2023; how many passports issued to applicants from Carlow and how this compared to 2022; the number of outstanding applications for passports currently awaiting processing for Carlow applicants at the end of 2023 and how this compared to the end of 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [3145/24]

64. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for an update on the progress of getting family members of Irish citizens out of Gaza. — Marian Harkin. [1667/24]

65. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had any discussion with his South African counterpart on that country's ongoing close relationship with the Russian Federation that has continued despite Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [3003/24]

66. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if Ireland will amend its policy to include first degree relatives on the list of evacuees that is being used to ensure their safe passage out of Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [2577/24]

67. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his views that support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity is unanimous across the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [3125/24]

68. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his engagements with the Minister for Finance in relation to Illegal Israeli Settlements Divestment Bill. — Matt Carthy. [3220/24]

69. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs whether he will reconsider his position on the ICJ case on Palestine and join with South Africa. — Thomas Gould. [3380/24]

70. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs for a report on the discussion of the opening of EU accession talks at the EU Foreign Affairs Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [3005/24]

71. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had any contact with the government of South Africa to discuss that country's legal case against Israel in the International Court of Justice, concerning the carnage being inflicted on the people of Gaza; if he sees a role

for Ireland in assisting or supporting this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3127/24]

72. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs at what stage and in which conditions he would deem it appropriate to define Israel's killing of Palestinians as genocide. — Gary Gannon. [3068/24]

73. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide an update on the impact of the Global Ireland 2018 – 2025 strategy to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [3165/24]

74. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his Department can provide an update on a case (details supplied); his plans to assist the family in this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3051/24]

75. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to outline explicitly his reasons for not being in favour of backing South Africa's case accusing Israel of the genocide of Palestinians in the International Court of Justice. — Gary Gannon. [3069/24]

76. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide an update on the work at EU and UN level which Ireland is undertaking in pursuit of peace and of a two-state solution in the Israel Palestine conflict. — Richard Bruton. [2981/24]

77. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he or his Department is taking part in any form of diplomacy in relation to the conflict in the Red Sea. — Gary Gannon. [3070/24]

78. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will list the occasions upon which he has met with the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland. — Peadar Tóibín. [2940/24]

79. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if discussions have taken place between the Shared Island Unit and SEUPB with regard to exploring if organisations applying to either the Shared Island Fund or the PeacePlus fund can utilise one as match-funding for the other; if approval will be given to enable this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [3334/24]

80. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he agrees with the recent warning by the leaders of five political groupings in the European Parliament against 'Ukraine fatigue'; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [3124/24]

81. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the position of Ireland in relation to the genocide case taken against Israel by South Africa in the International Court of Justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [2556/24]

82. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide details of the contact he has had with the Northern Ireland Secretary of State since the beginning of the year; the efforts made by him to encourage a restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3130/24]

83. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to set out the issues he raised with Columbian officials on his recent visit to Columbia; the role Ireland will play as guarantor of the

ongoing peace dialogue there; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3129/24]

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

84. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is aware of Eirgrid's recent warning that capacity deficits have been identified in the ten years to 2032; what steps he is taking to address the structural features of the electricity market which contributed to the electricity market crisis as noted in the recently published McCarthy report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3414/24]

85. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he believes the resources allocated for retrofitting are sufficient given the lengthy waiting lists for the warmer homes scheme, the need to make rapid emissions reductions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3397/24]

86. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to amend the electricity cost emergency benefit scheme III for houses that were vacant or had low usage from the period June 2022 to July 2023 and subsequently do not qualify for the energy credits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [3122/24]

87. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he supports Ireland becoming a lead state in promoting a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3395/24]

88. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will advocate against the proposal for a floating LNG in the Energy Security Review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3396/24]

89. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide an update on his Department's plans to build on strong wind energy generation in Ireland in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [3162/24]

90. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications with regard to the warmer homes scheme; whether the eligibility criteria is sufficient to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to the scheme; how are the poorest, coldest homes identified and targeted; if there are plans to expand the eligibility criteria of the scheme to include those on invalidity pensions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3416/24]

91. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications why works under the free energy home grants under the SEAI are still showing at least 48 months from application to completion; what measures are being taken to reduce this wait time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [3313/24]

92. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when the relevant section of the Circular Economy Bill will be enacted to allow local authorities to use CCTV camera to stop illegal dumping of waste. — Brian Stanley. [2899/24]

93. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan in Cork. — James O'Connor. [3383/24]

94. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has engaged with smaller independent retailers regarding their concerns about the deposit return scheme and how it will operate (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [3418/24]

95. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the role his Department takes in monitoring air quality. — Thomas Gould. [3382/24]

96. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question 10 of 16 November 2023, the details of any engagement his Department, or bodies under the aegis of his Department, has had with Galway City and County Councils to date in 2024 with regard to the development of their local authority climate action plans, and in particular the preparation of their decarbonising zones; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3399/24]

97. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he intends to ban the use of sulphur hexafluoride in wind turbines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [2964/24]

98. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the current estimated timeframe for completion of the North-South Interconnector; how long that timeframe will be expanded if landowners affected refuse to provide consent for EirGrid or associated bodies to enter their lands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2727/24]

99. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will meet with representatives of landowners and communities affected by the proposed North-South Interconnector. — Matt Carthy. [2728/24]

100. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a full update on his previous commitment in providing a mechanism for full time residents in mobile homes to access the much needed electricity credits, which to date has not been facilitated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [3144/24]

101. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department has plans to assist EirGrid and the ESB in developing a stronger electricity grid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O’Connor. [3161/24]

102. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to consider a distribution box at T23EK68 to extend broadband to the home. — Thomas Gould. [3381/24]

103. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications with regard to the deposit return scheme; what measures he has taken to ensure that the retail sector is sufficiently prepared; what measures he is taking to ensure that the scheme is accessible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [3417/24]

104. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which provision of broadband continues to meet targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3223/24]

105. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the National Broadband Plan in Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [3203/24]

106. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what channel is available for medically vulnerable applicants under the free energy home grants under the SEAI to be prioritised for commencement of works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [3314/24]

107. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to state how many homes in Carlow have benefitted from the warmer homes scheme, the better energy homes scheme and the national home energy upgrade scheme since the schemes were launched; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [3160/24]

108. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will amend the energy credit scheme to address the gap where those who are not on social welfare and who have moved into a previously vacant house have not been able to get the energy credit due to the property being designated low usage. — Patrick Costello. [3345/24]

109. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what progress has been made to date in respect of the key actions aimed at tackling rising waste generation and to improve the management of waste being generated in Ireland, as set out in the EPA 2021 National Waste Statistics Report in view that Ireland is on course to miss EU waste recycling targets in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2631/24]

110. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to develop Designated Maritime Area Plan for offshore renewable energy projects off the West coast of Ireland; the timeline for such plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3335/24]

111. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the membership of the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT); the number and dates of meetings held by the taskforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [3350/24]

112. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what action his Department is taking to reduce Ireland's reliance on exporting our waste for final treatment overseas, that consideration would be given to the development of national capacity to treat residual non-hazardous and hazardous wastes to reduce our dependence on treatment facilities in Europe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2632/24]

113. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the date on which the export tariff phase of the small-scale renewable energy support scheme will be launched; to outline the supports that will be available to community projects under the SRESS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3398/24]

114. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans for the Government to endorse the call for a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3401/24]

115. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his Department's plans in addressing the challenges of fish spawning and migration on rivers with ESB run hydroelectric stations and dams; the Department's position on the new ESB Rivers Policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3386/24]

116. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will direct the Commission for Communications Regulation to review the use of inflation-linked mid-contract price rises by phone and broadband companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [2412/24]

117. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is aware of growing concerns of industry that Ireland's renewable energy targets are unlikely to be achieved; what measures he is taking to address the identified key barriers to progress; if he is aware of the recent report from the European Commission that Ireland's share of energy consumption from renewables is the lowest level in the EU 27; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3415/24]

118. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the amount of funding allocated to local authorities to mitigate climactic weather events and future funds to support local authority adaptation projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [3204/24]

119. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will consider putting a stay on on-shore windfarms in line with the UK decision as they are causing much concern for communities in which they are being planned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [3056/24]

120. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of people who received the electricity cost emergency benefit scheme in Winter 2022/2023; and the number of people who availed of the first credit for this winter period 2023/2024. — Paul McAuliffe. [3339/24]

121. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he can provide an update with regards to developing a policy on private wires; if he can provide an update on the public consultation which took place last year; if he can provide a timeline on when the policy will be finalised; if the policy is on target to be published in 2024 as previously stated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [3419/24]

122. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is satisfied that an adequate programme of upgrading and enabling smaller telephone exchanges which are particularly important to rural communities is being undertaken in view of the importance of this infrastructure in enhancing broadband coverage; if he has had communication with the relevant provider(s) concerning this important issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3338/24]

123. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will outline the next steps following the publication of the SEAI study into Carlinn Hall in Dundalk; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [3291/24]

124. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will provide more resources to ensure that the warmer homes scheme is delivered in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [2962/24]

125. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to detail his Department's plans to provide brown bins to every home in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [3163/24]

126. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there are any plans to encourage more retailers to sign up to the deposit return scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [3292/24]

127. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications whether he will direct the Commission for Communications Regulation to review the use of inflation-linked mid-contract price rises by phone and broadband companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [2767/24]

128. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the timeline he has set for legislation and regulations to be enacted to allow off-shore wind energy projects to be installed off the coast of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [2963/24]

129. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will outline the progress in developing a new circular economy strategy with sectoral targets, and an EPA programme of actions, which implement the provisions of the Circular Economy Act. — Richard Bruton. [2979/24]

130. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will ensure that an adequate broadband service is provided to an area (details supplied) as households and businesses in that community are concerned about the lack of such coverage at present and the difficulties in conducting day to day business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3337/24]

131. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the roll-out of smart metres in Ireland; if it is a requirement now to have one in order to install solar panels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3053/24]

132. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will report on community-led energy generation; and the measures the Government has in place to support energy communities. — Mary Lou McDonald. [52582/23]

133. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to provide a full update on discussions that have taken place with UK counterparts on the recent leaks at the magnox swarf storage silo in Sellafield; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3143/24]

134. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the methods that are being used to determine the Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) boundaries; the companies that have been awarded contracts to carry out surveys and any other associated functions required to create the DMAPS; the method used to award each contract; the

value and duration of each contract; to outline a timeline by which the work will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [3336/24]

135. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will comment on reports that there will be a tight supply situation for electricity for many years to come, and the initiatives which could be considered to ease this risk. — Richard Bruton. [2980/24]

136. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the development of the roadmap by the Regional Assemblies to assist with developing a Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy for each region; the timeline for the publication of the roadmap; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3402/24]

137. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the status of the review by the CRU of gas and electricity connection policies for new large energy users; for details of any engagement he or his Department has had with the CRU in the carrying out of the review; the timeline for the completion of the review and publication of the new decisions on the rules for future gas connections of large energy users; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3400/24]

138. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to report on the progress of the small-scale renewable support scheme; what additional supports are available to renewable energy communities; what measures his Department is taking to address the difficulties that renewable energy communities are facing including connecting to the grid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3413/24]

139. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline any engagement he has had with ComReg about improving the 4G signal in Mayo; and the progress to date. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [3387/24]