



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 25 Eanáir, 2024
Thursday, 25th January, 2024

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has made any effort to secure the suspension of the EU-Israel Association agreement considering the clear breach by Israel of the human rights clause within that agreement. — Matt Carthy. [3227/24]

2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will comment on Israel's killing of Palestinian civilians in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [3296/24]

3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has had any interactions with the South African government in respect of the case against Israel under the Genocide Convention to the International Court of Justice and the circumstances in which he will propose that Ireland join that case. — Matt Carthy. [3228/24]

4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a risk assessment has been carried out on the impact to Irish troops and diplomats in the Middle East should Ireland formally support South Africa's Gaza case before the International Court of Justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [3483/24]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

5. 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]

6. 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]

7. 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]

8. 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]

9. 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]

10. 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]

11. 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]

12. 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]

13. 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]

14. 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]

15. 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]

16. 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]

17. 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]

18. 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]

19. 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]

20. 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]

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

22. 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]

23. 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]

24. 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]

25. 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]

26. 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]

27. 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]

28. 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]

29. 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]

30. 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]

31. 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]

32. 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]

33. 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]

34. 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]

35. 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]

36. 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]

37. 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]

38. 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]

39. 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]

40. 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]

41. 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]

42. 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]

43. 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]

44. 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]

45. 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]

46. 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]

47. 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]

48. 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]

49. 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]

50. 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]

51. 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]

52. 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]

53. 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]

54. 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]

55. 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]

56. 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]

57. 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]

58. 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]

59. 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]

60. 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]

61. 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]

62. 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]

63. 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]

64. 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]

65. 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]

66. 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]

67. 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]

68. 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]

69. 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]

70. 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]

71. 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]

72. 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]

73. 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]

74. 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]

75. 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]

76. 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]

77. 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]

78. 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]

79. 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]

80. 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]

81. 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]

82. 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]

83. 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]

84. 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]

85. 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]

86. 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]

87. 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]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

88. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications about the ongoing high cost of energy in Ireland, his plans to identify underlying factors for this; his further plans to address them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3487/24]

89. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he is satisfied with the systems for monitoring air pollution from aviation in the vicinity of Dublin Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [3569/24]

90. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications about heat pumps, what solutions there are available for those whose homes are not suitable or who cannot afford heat pump installation; if biofuel boilers in the residential sector is being considered as part of the solution; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3488/24]

91. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for an update on the low interest loans for retrofitting; when an interest rate will be determined; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [3656/24]

92. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what plans his Department has to support ComReg as their responsibilities in the communications sector grows. — Martin Kenny. [3556/24]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

93. 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]

94. 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]

95. 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]

96. 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]

97. 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]

98. 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]

99. 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]

100. 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]

101. 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]

102. 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]

103. 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]

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

105. 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]

106. 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]

107. 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]

108. 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]

109. 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]

110. 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]

111. 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]

112. 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]

113. 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]

114. 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]

115. 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]

116. 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]

117. 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]

118. 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]

119. 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]

120. 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]

121. 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]

122. 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]

123. 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]

124. 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]

125. 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]

126. 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]

127. 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]

128. 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]

129. 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]

130. 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]

131. 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]

132. 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]

133. 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]

134. 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]

135. 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]

136. 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]

137. 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]

138. 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]

139. 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]

140. 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]

141. 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]

142. 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]

143. 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]

144. 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]

145. 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]

146. 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]

147. 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]

148. 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]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*149. 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. — Marian Harkin. [2578/24]

*150. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a passport application for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [3544/24]

*151. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a passport application for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 9; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [3545/24]

*152. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent visit to Germany; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [3572/24]

*153. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs why there is a difference in duration in the validity of a card passport and a book passport, why both cannot run for a full ten years, which would reduce the necessity of renewal applications and the workload of the Passport Office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3593/24]

*154. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs whether serious efforts can be made to ensure that those encouraging the use of human rights abuses against vulnerable men, women and children can be challenged in the international courts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3688/24]

*155. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the activities of Boko Haram are being or can be curtailed or restricted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3689/24]

*156. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the activities of Al Shabaab are being restricted, curtailed or challenged with particular reference to the need to protect their victims; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3690/24]

*157. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the degree to which at EU and UN level, he continues to focus on the vulnerability of women and children who continue to fall victims to physical and mental abuse; if he will indicate the steps being taken to address these issues and incarcerate the perpetrators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3692/24]

*158. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which Irish aid continues to target the appropriate locations globally, with particular reference to ensuring that both multilateral and bilateral aid reaches those for whom it was intended; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3693/24]

*159. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he continues to raise at EU Security Council level the ongoing worldwide abuses of women and children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3694/24]

*160. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what efforts are being made at international level to challenge the activities of international abuses of human rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3695/24]

*161. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he, through the UN and the EU, can continue to highlight abuses of human rights at various locations throughout the globe, some in warzones and some not, where vulnerable people continue to be abused, trafficked and murdered; if any efforts have been made to bring the perpetrators to justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3696/24]

*162. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he can put in place an effective turn around for applications for passport renewals or new passport applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3697/24]

*163. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which candidate countries for EU membership continue to receive support for their cause; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3698/24]

*164. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which the international community is aware of large-scale human rights abuses across the globe; if steps are being taken or proposes for the UN to get involved in such situations at an early date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3699/24]

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

*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when his Department and the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform will reach the necessary consent to pay the agreed pension increases to ESB beneficiaries, such consent notified to them as being required for payment, and long-awaited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [3430/24]

*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline plans to make available much needed low interest loans for households who wish to migrate to solar panel installations but who cannot afford to do so at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3449/24]

*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has received contact from ESB pensions in relation to seeking consent for payment of a pension increase; when there will be a decision on this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3514/24]

*168. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications about the microgeneration scheme, and if he is aware of concerns of some customers that they will have to wait until at least 2025 to participate despite already having the investment. — Darren O'Rourke. [3515/24]

*169. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications about the microgeneration scheme and the following case (details supplied); if he plans any measures to speed up this process; if delays will be compensated or any additional supports provided; if there are any alternatives for this business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3516/24]

*170. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications why the machines for the new deposit return scheme are twice the price in Ireland that they are in other European countries; if he sees this as an issue; if he envisages this will hinder uptake by retailers in installing these machines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [3541/24]

*171. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he will consider making the cost of the machines for the new deposit return scheme refundable over a five year period considering the current rebate is only over a three year period and only comes to a maximum of €6,000 whereas the cost of the machines can be closer to €14,000, considering the machines are not profit making for the businesses installing them and therefore the businesses should receive a full rebate for their installation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [3542/24]

*172. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the budget allocation for anti-litter and anti-graffiti awareness grant scheme in 2022, 2023 and 2024, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3585/24]

*173. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the position regarding the environmental legal costs financial assistance mechanism proposed in the Planning and Development Bill 2023; if the legal costs scheme is consistent with Ireland's obligations under the Aarhus Convention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [3596/24]

*174. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which his Department continues to meet climate change targets in conjunction with the protection of the agri-food business; the main issues of conflict, if any; his proposals for a resolution; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3676/24]

*175. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to indicate the success to date in meeting carbon reduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3677/24]

*176. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to indicate the main areas of environmental protection requirements deemed at present to be urgent; the action to date or proposed to deal with any such issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3678/24]

*177. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which he and his Department have in hand further enhanced measures to ensure the protection of

all Government Departments and bodies under their aegis from any cyber-attacks in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3679/24]

*178. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent of the shift away from fossil fuels for the generation of electricity; if this is in line with targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3680/24]

*179. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which the national grid currently relies and draws on renewable energy as a percentage of total requirement; if he has in mind any specific new proposals in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3681/24]

*180. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which the national waste management plan continues to address the relevant issues, with particular reference to reduction, reuse and recycle; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3682/24]

*181. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which the provision of broadband is progressing in such a way as to enhance the competitiveness of the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3683/24]

*182. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the progress to date in reducing our collective dependency on plastic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3684/24]

*183. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which the broadband roll-out throughout the country has been expedited with a view to ensuring the availability of sufficient connectivity to enable the maximum number of citizens to work from home or from hubs where available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3685/24]

*184. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of new broadband connection points installed in County Kildare in the past twelve months; the number of points expected to be installed over the next twelve months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3686/24]

*185. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the extent to which steps can be taken to rapidly improve the roll-out of broadband in towns, villages and rural areas throughout County Kildare, given the increased demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3687/24]

*186. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the supports provided, both advisory and financial, to communities to participate in the Community Electricity Generation projects; the progress to date of those projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [3707/24]

*187. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what communication he has had with the Minister for Finance in relation to the development of the Climate and Nature Fund; whether he is concerned regarding the ability of this fund to finance overseas fossil fuel projects under the current heads of bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [3708/24]

*188. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has communicated formally with the ESB with regard to the barrier to the migration of eels and salmons through ESB infrastructure; if he will provide an update on those discussions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [3709/24]

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

*189. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will confirm what specific training the IDF members received during their time in the Irish Military College (details supplied); if there are IDF military personnel currently attending the Irish Military College; if he will continue to allow IDF members to train in Ireland, given that Israel is currently before the International Court of Justice following a case brought by South Africa accusing the country of committing genocide in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3458/24]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*190. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason farmers (details supplied) are receiving less remuneration under an agreement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [3557/24]

*191. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Irish Aviation Authority and Airnav Ireland have any concerns in relation to large scale wind turbines, such as the potential they have to affect flight paths and the safety of aircraft in relation to terrain clearance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [3489/24]

*192. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on attempts by US business lobbyists to secure a quota for private jet flights at Dublin Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3394/24]

*193. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will set out the number and location of fast electric vehicle chargers currently available in the country; the number expected to be in place in each of the next three years; if it is his intention to have a common pricing system for chargers across the country in order to encourage greater E.V usage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [3523/24]

*194. To ask the Minister for Transport if, as previously indicated, Ireland remains on course in 2024 to ratify ILO C188 Work in Fishing Convention 2007, and what if any part of relevant EU Directives that arose from this convention remains to be transposed into Irish law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [3536/24]

*195. To ask the Minister for Transport what progress is being made to build a by-pass of Claregalway village, County Galway to ease traffic congestion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [3568/24]

*196. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is a ringfenced multi-annual budget within Transport Infrastructure Ireland for the development of greenways; and if so, the amount contained in this budget. — Pauline Tully. [3573/24]

*197. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to visit the US in the first half of 2024. — Pauline Tully. [3574/24]

*198. To ask the Minister for Transport to address issues over taxi vehicle cars (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3586/24]

*199. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will instruct the NTA to support active travel projects in rural towns and villages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [3587/24]

*200. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will liaise with the TFI and Dublin Bus to ensure that all literature, both hard copy and electronic, classifies child leap cards as covering the age range of 5-18, in line with the UN Convention on the rights of the child which define a child as being aged 18 and below (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3607/24]

*201. To ask the Minister for Transport for a breakdown of speed zones where fatal accidents have occurred in each of the past five years. — Brendan Griffin. [3614/24]

*202. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which the bus service from Leixlip to Blanchardstown can be augmented in such a way to facilitate patients attending James Connolly Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3662/24]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*203. To ask the Minister for Finance if special needs assistants are entitled to claim flat rate expenses as other employees can do; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [3425/24]

*204. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to alleviate the situation for active farmers whose land is being subjected to residential zoned land tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick O'Donovan. [3446/24]

*205. To ask the Minister for Finance whether any update is anticipated to the 2015 report entitled 'Spillover Analysis Possible Effects of the Irish Tax System on Developing Economies'; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3530/24]

*206. To ask the Minister for Finance if he met with a person (details supplied) during his recent visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Pauline Tully. [3575/24]

*207. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 266 of 20 June 2023, if he will agree that Regulation 10(5) is no longer legal and needs amendment; if he will agree that this amendment should extend to non-blood related carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3636/24]

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.

*208. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform when his Department and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications will reach the necessary consent to pay the agreed pension increases to ESB beneficiaries, such

consent notified to them as being required for payment and long awaited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [3431/24]

*209. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he has received contact from ESB pensions in relation to seeking consent for payment of a pension increase; when there will be a decision on this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3485/24]

*210. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 192 of 23 November 2023, if the new Civil Service Arbitration Board has started issuing hearing dates; if not, when it plans to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [3519/24]

*211. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the status of repair works at a site (details supplied); and when it will reopen to the public. — Sean Sherlock. [3552/24]

*212. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the timeframe his Department is expecting for the construction of the new Garda station in Bailieboro, Cavan to be completed; and the estimated cost for these works. — Pauline Tully. [3571/24]

*213. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the progress made to date on renovating Jigginstown Castle into a safe and accessible ruin that can be open to the public; if surrounding fencing will be improved; the date on which OPW last inspected the castle; if the site in general can be improved to facilitate biodiversity areas; and the amount expended on restoration of the castle in the past 25 years to date. — Catherine Murphy. [3601/24]

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

*214. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on his Department's dealings with the European Commission in relation to its finding in May 2022 that Irish legislation was not in compliance with an EU directive; to give an update on the Government's response to the infringement notice served by the Commission on the noncompliance of Irish legislation; if it is the policy of the Irish Government to insist that Irish legislation is in compliance with the EU directive; if his Department has conveyed a position to the European Commission on the infringement notice; if so, if the Commission has responded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3441/24]

*215. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on his Department's engagement with the Department of Foreign Affairs with a view to developing a new business and human rights action plan and implementation body; the status of the business and human rights stakeholder forum, and if it has been re-convened to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3527/24]

*216. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the plans of the Government to legislate to transpose the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3528/24]

*217. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the timeline for when he expects the Co-operative Societies Bill 2022 to be drafted; when he expects the Bill to be passed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [3529/24]

*218. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if and when a work permit will be renewed in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3675/24]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*219. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 667 of 17 January 2024, if she will provide a map in pdf form of the school planning areas that make up the constituency of Dublin bay north; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [3438/24]

*220. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of an ongoing campaign by an organisation (details supplied) to review the teaching through Irish-medium allowance; if she will engage with the organisation on this issue with the view to introducing a fairer and more equal system for Irish-medium teachers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [3439/24]

*221. To ask the Minister for Education if it is normal practice in a secondary school to teach subjects to both 5th and 6th year students at the one time; if this is allowed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3440/24]

*222. To ask the Minister for Education when she will publish the review of the school transport service; the recommendations contained in the report that will be operational for the start of the 2024/2025 school year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [3450/24]

*223. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for the delay with her Department in the progression of a new secondary school (details supplied) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [3456/24]

*224. To ask the Minister for Education how she plans to respond to a judgement (details supplied); what guidance she received in preparing this planned response; what guidance has been provided to schools on the back of this ruling; if she has engaged with the NSCE on the back of this ruling; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [3459/24]

*225. To ask the Minister for Education about the assessment of children with special needs; if she is aware of concerns around the devolution of the legislative responsibility to schools; what stakeholders she engaged with; if she will report on these interactions; what factors led to the decision to do this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [3460/24]

*226. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unfilled permanent teaching positions in primary schools for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school years, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [3461/24]

*227. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unfilled permanent teaching positions in post-primary schools for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school years, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3462/24]

*228. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unfilled fixed term teaching positions in post-primary schools for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school years, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3463/24]

*229. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unfilled fixed term teaching positions in primary schools for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school years, broken down by county in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3464/24]

*230. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unfilled maternity cover teaching positions in primary schools for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school years, broken down, by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3465/24]

*231. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unfilled maternity cover teaching positions in post-primary schools for 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 the school years, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3466/24]

*232. To ask the Minister for Education to report on unclaimed EAL and part-time SET teaching hours for the school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-23; the number of unclaimed EAL, part-time SET teaching hours, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3467/24]

*233. To ask the Minister for Education about unclaimed hours EAL and part time SET teaching hours; the reasons these cannot be banked in the midst of an on-going teaching shortage; are there plans to change this; if there are plans to allow schools to bank these hours in order to meet the needs of vulnerable children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3468/24]

*234. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unqualified teachers in fixed term positions for the school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, broken down by country, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3469/24]

*235. To ask the Minister for Education the number of unqualified teachers in maternity positions for the school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-23, 2023-2024, broken down by country, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3470/24]

*236. To ask the Minister for Education the revenue saved due to unclaimed EAL and part time set teaching hours for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 school years, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3471/24]

*237. To ask the Minister for Education the revenue saved due to the number of unfilled permanent teaching positions for 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 the school years, broken down by country, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3472/24]

*238. To ask the Minister for Education the revenue saved due to the number of unfilled fixed term teaching positions for the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 school years, broken down by country, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3473/24]

*239. To ask the Minister for Education the revenue saved due to the number of unfilled maternity cover teaching positions for the school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, broken down by country, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3474/24]

*240. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider reintroducing the allowance for teachers in Irish-medium and Gaeltacht schools, particularly in light of the significant difficulties faced in filling vacant positions in recent years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [3484/24]

*241. To ask the Minister for Education to comment on the CSO dataset 'Educational Attendance and Attainment of Children in Care, 2018 - 2023' published recently; to outline how her Department is responding to the gaps identified for children in care in education; if her Department intends to further research this area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3511/24]

*242. To ask the Minister for Education if there are plans to extend teacher training in the Technological University of the Shannon, Athlone. — Sorca Clarke. [3553/24]

*243. To ask the Minister for Education the timeframe for the next round of applications for funding under the summer works scheme to be accepted by her Department. — Pauline Tully. [3570/24]

*244. To ask the Minister for Education if she will advise parents in an area who are outside the school planning area for both of their closest schools (details supplied) and are left with no alternative; if these schools have discretion to allow students in this situation to apply, despite falling outside the catchment, where no equivalent school is available; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [3595/24]

*245. To ask the Minister for Education when a building project will proceed to the next stage as this additional accommodation is needed for next September (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3600/24]

*246. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will liaise with the relevant authorities to introduce a school pupils free travel scheme bus pass, similar to the free travel scheme for adults, recognising that children in rural areas can avail of free travel, but not those in urban areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3609/24]

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

*247. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the status of an application by a club (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3428/24]

*248. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the current status of a project (details supplied); when this project will proceed to the next stage; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3444/24]

*249. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she can provide a confirmed evasion rate figure for the licence fee for 2023, and if not, if she can give an estimated date for the availability of same. — Imelda Munster. [3526/24]

*250. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the budget allocation for Screen Ireland in 2022, 2023 and 2024, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3584/24]

*251. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the latest up to date figures regarding TV licence renewal and purchase of TV licences for 2024 versus 2023; the end of year figures for same for 2023 as a whole versus 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3602/24]

*252. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for a county-by-county breakdown of the latest up-to-date figures regarding TV licence renewal and purchase of TV licences for 2024 versus 2023; the end-of-year figures for same for 2023 as a whole versus; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3603/24]

*253. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what supports will be available from her Department to community groups hoping to develop a community swimming pool; if a ringfenced funding stream will be included under the large-scale sporting infrastructure scheme; when she expects the next round of the LSSIF to open for new applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3605/24]

*254. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she is satisfied that reform of the FAI since 2020 has satisfied the terms of the Government MOU of that year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3606/24]

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

*255. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the recipients of a grant will be published (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3427/24]

*256. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department is in contact with a homeless charity (details supplied) regarding its finances with a view to it continuing to provide services to the homeless; if financial assistance will be made available to it to ensure that all bills from creditors will be settled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [3454/24]

*257. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has ever made an exception to increase the funding available through the housing adaptation grant in exceptional circumstances particularly where there are multiple children with special needs living in the one house; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3477/24]

*258. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he supports holding a referendum on the rights of nature in the lifetime of this Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3393/24]

*259. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline the current status of the mortgage to rent scheme and explain the delays that individuals are experiencing as they try to resolve their mortgage issues; if the scheme has been suspended and if so, why; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [3522/24]

*260. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the nuisance of shadow flicker from wind turbines which it stated in 2019 would be eliminated, and that the new guidelines will be robust enough to ensure this is the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [3537/24]

*261. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if national authorities such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the HSE, public health and environmental health services are involved with the review of the WEDGs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [3538/24]

*262. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the next review of income eligibility limits for social housing will be carried out; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3559/24]

*263. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of WTE qualified chartered surveyors employed by his Department as of 22 January 2024; and if he will provide the same figure as of 31 March 2022, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3583/24]

*264. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of residential units purchased by non-household entities, excluding public bodies and local authorities, in 2022, disaggregated by house and apartment. — Pearse Doherty. [3610/24]

*265. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will comment on the status of a proposal (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3625/24]

*266. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 841 of 17 January 2024 if he is satisfied with the target of ten units in Shannon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3626/24]

*267. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will comment on a recent report (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3627/24]

*268. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason for delay with granting the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant to homeowners in Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3628/24]

*269. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the additional resources he has provided to the National Building and Market Surveillance Control Office, if any, to assist Clare homeowners affected by Pyrite; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3629/24]

*270. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the full complement of staff and percentage of staff vacancies at the National Building and Market Surveillance Control Office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3630/24]

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

*271. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there is any social protection support that provides for a door-to-door taxi service in respect of hospital appointments for persons that cannot use other forms of public transport due to ill health (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [3426/24]

*272. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if any consideration has been given to increasing the income threshold for means testing qualified adult payment applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [3429/24]

*273. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an appeal by a person (details supplied); when a decision is likely to be received, as this has been pending for some time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3436/24]

*274. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an appeal by a person (details supplied); when a decision is likely to be received, as this has been pending for some time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3437/24]

*275. To ask the Minister for Social Protection what social protection entitlement a person (details supplied) is entitled to while an appeal of their disability allowance is ongoing. — Paul McAuliffe. [3445/24]

*276. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of individuals and couples in Westmeath and Longford who are in State-supported homeless accommodation via their local authority but also on reduced rate of jobseeker's. — Sorca Clarke. [3457/24]

*277. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm if a person (details supplied) has enough paid contributions to make an application for a contributory pension from before she left Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [3513/24]

*278. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total number of adults in receipt of disability payments from her Department as of 31 December 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [3540/24]

*279. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether people who were employed for many years and were farming in a very small way at the same time and then went on illness benefit for a year and a half, are entitled to job seeker's benefit on recovery from the illness affecting them, subject to the normal conditions; and if not the reason they are not entitled to it; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [3546/24]

*280. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an application for a disability allowance now under review and appeal will be expedited and approved in the name of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [3547/24]

*281. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the credit scheme for electricity users will also cover consumers who have a credit built up on their account; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [3563/24]

*282. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department will liaise with the relevant authorities to introduce a school pupils free travel scheme bus pass, similar to the free travel scheme for adults, recognising that children in rural areas can avail of free travel, but not those in urban areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3608/24]

*283. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will comment on a case (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3624/24]

*284. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if and when a one parent family allowance and any other outstanding payments will be made available to a person; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3657/24]

*285. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a disability allowance might be approved and paid in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3658/24]

*286. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) qualifies for fuel allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3665/24]

*287. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if entitlement to ENP might be examined and approved in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3670/24]

*288. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) qualifies for the household benefits package; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3672/24]

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

*289. To ask the Minister for Justice the extent to which the international community remains alert to the activities of terrorist gangs throughout Europe and further afield and currently involved in the trafficking of women and children; the number of prosecutions taken or pending to address these issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3691/24]

*290. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of people in prison who were on waiting lists to access to psychology services as of early 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3411/24]

*291. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of people in prison who were on waiting lists to access addiction services as of early 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3412/24]

*292. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of remand prisoners sharing cells with sentenced prisoners, by prison; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [3478/24]

*293. To ask the Minister for Justice the steps taken by her Department and the Irish Prison Service to fully screen toilets in multi-occupancy prison cells; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [3479/24]

*294. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of prison cells that do not have fully screened toilets in single and multi-occupancy prison cells; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [3480/24]

*295. To ask the Minister for Justice to review a case (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3525/24]

*296. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 538 of 23 May 2023, the timeline for the full commencement of the Mediation Act 2017; the timeline for the establishment of the mediation council; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3564/24]

*297. To ask the Minister for Justice the current waiting times for mediation in the law centres run by the Legal Aid Board; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3565/24]

*298. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí within the Cavan and Monaghan division who have successfully completed the protestor removal course in 2022 and 2023, in tabular form; and the duration of this course. — Pauline Tully. [3582/24]

*299. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide, in tabular form, the number and the stated or declared nationalities of those persons who arrived at Dublin Airport and who subsequently claimed international protection without being in possession of correct identifying documentation or no identifying documentation for the years 2016 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [3590/24]

*300. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide, in tabular form, the number and the stated or declared nationalities of those persons who arrived at an International Protection Office and who subsequently claimed international protection without being in possession of correct identifying documentation or no identifying documentation for the years 2016 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [3591/24]

*301. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 15 of 11 October 2023, the number of safe homes delivered of the 50 that were committed to; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3637/24]

*302. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 15 of 11 October 2023, what refuge centres are expected to do in cases where service users cannot access the rental market after six weeks; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3638/24]

*303. To ask the Minister for Justice if leave to remain/temporary residency can be approved in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3659/24]

*304. To ask the Minister for Justice if and when the conditions of habitual residency can be met in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3660/24]

*305. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in respect of an application for citizenship in the case of the spouse of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3667/24]

*306. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in the application for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3668/24]

*307. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in the application for naturalisation in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3669/24]

*308. To ask the Minister for Justice if and when arrangements can be made for the renewal of Stamp 4 in the case of persons (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3673/24]

*309. To ask the Minister for Justice the procedure to be followed for renewal of Stamp 1 in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3674/24]

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

*310. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the systems in place within Greyhound Racing Ireland to ensure any individual with a court ordered ban from owning, keeping or breeding dogs for a specified period of time will be disqualified from owning and racing greyhounds at Irish race meets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3451/24]

*311. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether Greyhound Racing Ireland will consider imposing a lifetime ban on any member found guilty in the courts of cruelty to an animal, as an organisation (details supplied) does; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3452/24]

*312. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 116 of 20 April 2023, if he will outline the progress to facilitate farmers trading carbon credits; if he intends to establish a verifiable framework to record and manage net carbon sequestration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [3524/24]

*313. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what action his Department is taking to address the issue with the AgFood Portal during December 2023 wherein key features in BISS were not accessible including the correspondence, in view that applicants who may have received correspondence from the Department in respect of BISS, CRISS and CISYF

applications during this time did not receive a text alert or have access to their correspondence in BISS on their account on the AgFood Portal and were therefore unaware of the correspondence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3533/24]

*314. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what assistance if any his Department is providing to those effected by the technical issue with the AgFood Portal which occurred during December 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3534/24]

*315. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what action his Department is taking to ensure that applicants who use the AgFood Portal are aware that there was a technical issue with the portal during December 2023, in view that time sensitive correspondence may have issued during this timeframe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3535/24]

*316. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the Rasaíocht Con Éireann laboratory has the capacity to test blood and hair follicle samples; and if so, the number of such tests carried out in 2023, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3576/24]

*317. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the budget allocation for Sea Fisheries Protection Authority in 2022, 2023 and 2024, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3577/24]

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

*318. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide an update on the drafting of amendments to the Health Act 2007 that will transfer the registration and inspection functions for non-statutory children's residential centres from Tusla to HIQA; if the necessary amendments will be included in the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2024 or the Health (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2024 as a miscellaneous provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3510/24]

*319. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason home support services were refused in the case of a person (details supplied); if the package of care provided through the disability services will be reviewed immediately; and if a positive response will be expedited. — John McGuinness. [3549/24]

*320. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the total number of recipients of the €800-per-month pledged accommodation for Ukrainian refugees payment; how many housing units in total have been allocated under the scheme; if he is aware how many people have been accommodated through this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3613/24]

*321. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to comment on a recent report of the Health Information and Quality Authority (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3634/24]

*322. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the extent to which steps can be taken to alleviate the burden on the family of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3671/24]

*323. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if the conditions of St. John of God Community Services' service agreement since 2021 have been met; if they continue to be met; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3422/24]

*324. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the funding for St. John of God Community Services in each year since 2019; the breakdown of funding per service provided by the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3423/24]

*325. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the total number of children availing of his Department's funding programmes (details supplied) in 2022, 2023, in tabular form. — Kathleen Funchion. [3432/24]

*326. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the estimated number of childcare services that have signed core funding contracts; the total number who signed up for core funding and subsequently withdrew; the years they withdrew; and the estimated number of children that are not covered by NCS, in tabular form. — Kathleen Funchion. [3433/24]

*327. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of children by county/ nationally that are not covered by his Department's NCS subsidy excluding ECCE services. — Kathleen Funchion. [3434/24]

*328. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the lowest, highest and average, geographically of fees actually currently being paid by parents in 2023/2024. — Kathleen Funchion. [3435/24]

*329. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on the 12 month review of the ECCE programme that was due to be finalised in Q4 2023; whether, under this review, consideration was given to allowing multiple entry points to the ECCE scheme as was previously the case, as opposed to the current system of a single entry point; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [3447/24]

*330. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth about the devolution of legislative responsibility for the assessment of children with addition needs to schools; to what extent his Department was involved in this policy measure; what work his Department did to ensure that the rights of the child are upheld; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3475/24]

*331. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware of a ruling (details supplied); what work his Government is doing to respond to this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [3476/24]

*332. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if his Department is planning to develop an overarching national strategy on alternative care which would include workforce and placement planning and interagency needs to meet the current and future needs of the care system in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3507/24]

*333. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he plans to establish a National Child Care Act Advisory Committee prior to the passing of the Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2024; what preparatory work is ongoing in terms of scoping the issues for the Committee's workplan before it is established; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3508/24]

*334. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he intends to update provisions of the Child Care Act 1991 to include clear arrangements for a model of care for separated children seeking international protection; if he believes the overuse of sections 4 and 5 in these cases is sufficient given these children often do not meet the criteria for either on entering care; if he plans to further review the 1991 Act in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [3509/24]

*335. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware that the US embassy has confirmed that it plans to demolish the old Jury's Hotel in Ballsbridge and construct a new embassy on site; if he agrees that, given the current accommodation crisis, the site should be used to house homeless people and asylum seekers at this time; what actions the Minister will take to ensure that the building is not demolished, in addition to securing this space for much needed accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3518/24]

*336. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what system is in place to verify that occupancy registers provided by providers of accommodation pursuant to the European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018 and centres accommodating beneficiaries of temporary protection, are accurate. — Michael McNamara. [3548/24]

*337. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what occupancy shortfall between actual occupancy and contracted capacity was reported in every month of 2023 in the registers provided by providers of accommodation pursuant to the European Communities (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2018, and centres accommodating beneficiaries of temporary protection. — Michael McNamara. [3554/24]

*338. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth how many adults between the ages of 15 to 66 years inclusive who declared on the Central Statistics Office Census 2022 they had a disability and/or chronic illness who also stated they were unemployed looking for their first job, short-term (less than 12 months), long-term unemployed (12 months and more) and unable to work due to permanent disability and/or sickness, in tabular form. — Richard O'Donoghue. [3561/24]

*339. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 1352 of 17 February 2024, the steps to be taken by a person to have their application to the mother and baby institutions payment scheme given priority by reason of their age or their health; if a procedure is in place to facilitate such requests in advance of the opening of the scheme given the passage of time since its announcement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [3562/24]

*340. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide a schedule of all purchase orders of €20,000 and above in his Department in quarters three and four of 2023 and to date in 2024. — Catherine Murphy. [3567/24]

*341. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the proposals, if any, there are to accommodate more international protection applicants or others seeking refuge at a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3594/24]

*342. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to clarify the current position in respect of asylum seekers that can be accommodated in centres (details supplied) in view of the fact that Cork City Council approved each of the centres with a higher number than his Department is prepared to allow; the total numbers of places therefore available between each centre is 40 greater than what his Department has now allowed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [3599/24]

*343. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the total waiting list for assessments of need, by length of time waiting, for children in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3635/24]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*344. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people in prison currently awaiting transfer to the Central Mental Hospital from each prison; the average time that prisoners awaited transfer to the CMH in 2023, including maximum and minimum lengths of time, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3409/24]

*345. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people in prison who were on the caseload of the National Forensic Mental Health Service as of early 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [3410/24]

*346. To ask the Minister for Health for an update regarding the sodium valproate inquiry; the reason a chairperson has not been appointed to date; when he expects the chairperson to be in place and for the inquiry to begin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3424/24]

*347. To ask the Minister for Health to respond to proposals and concerns from a person (details attached) with respect to the severe difficulties in accessing diagnosis assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3448/24]

*348. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a comprehensive update from the HSE in relation to fertility support for same sex couples and single women; if his Department will be providing support with the huge financial cost; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [3453/24]

*349. To ask the Minister for Health when a five day per week health care service will be restored (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3455/24]

*350. To ask the Minister for Health when a person in County Donegal (details supplied) can expect a date for an operation in the Mater Hospital, Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [3481/24]

*351. To ask the Minister for Health if an appointment for a cataract operation will be arranged as a matter of urgency for a person (details supplied); and if he will expedite the matter. — John McGuinness. [3486/24]

*352. To ask the Minister for Health if he can provide an update on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3490/24]

*353. To ask the Minister for Health to review correspondence (details supplied); if he can provide an update on this appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [3491/24]

*354. To ask the Minister for Health when a Chair will be appointed to the promised inquiry into sodium valproate in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [3512/24]

*355. To ask the Minister for Health why the HSE ceased providing swimwear for breast cancer patients in Galway and Roscommon only; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [3517/24]

*356. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of children and their average waiting time, on speech and language therapy waiting lists across all CHOs, sub divided in tabular form, by county and by local HSE designated service area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3520/24]

*357. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of children and their average waiting time, on speech and language therapy waiting lists across all CHOs, sub divided in tabular form by county, and by local HSE designated service area, across the years 2016 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [3521/24]

*358. To ask the Minister for Health how many adults between the ages of 15 to 66 years inclusive who declared on the Central Statistics Office Census 2022 they had a disability and/or chronic illness who also stated they were unemployed looking for their first job, short-term (less than 12 months), long-term unemployed (12 months and more) and unable to work due to permanent disability and/or sickness, in tabular form. — Richard O'Donoghue. [3539/24]

*359. To ask the Minister for Health if the home support services provided in the case of a person (details supplied) will be increased as a matter of urgency. — John McGuinness. [3550/24]

*360. To ask the Minister for Health further to previous Parliamentary Questions on the same urgent matter if home support service hours being provided for a person (details supplied) will be increased immediately and be extended to cover weekends; and if a positive response will be expedited, given that the issue has been ongoing for some time. — John McGuinness. [3551/24]

*361. To ask the Minister for Health the proposals, if any, there are to provide an additional healthcare facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3558/24]

*362. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in counties Cavan and Monaghan awaiting a scoliosis operation by wait time, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3578/24]

*363. To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant vascular surgeons working in the Public Health Service; his plans to expand this number; and the international recommended best practice ratio for consultant vascular surgeons to population and current ratios. — Pauline Tully. [3579/24]

*364. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide a public PrEP clinic at Monaghan General Hospital. — Pauline Tully. [3580/24]

*365. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the case of a person (details supplied) who has been awaiting an endoscopy at Ennis Hospital and is yet to receive an appointment date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [3588/24]

*366. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of recorded deaths in the State in each of the years 2018 to 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3612/24]

*367. To ask the Minister for Health his confidence or otherwise in the CEO of the UL Hospitals Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3631/24]

*368. To ask the Minister for Health his confidence or otherwise in the senior/executive management team at the UL Hospitals Group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3632/24]

*369. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of Parliamentary Question replies embargoed as a result of industrial action by an organisation (details supplied) in the HSE, by member, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3633/24]

*370. To ask the Minister for Health if he will comment on the lack of step-down beds throughout the UL Hospitals Group; what measures he will implement to increase set-down capacity across the group; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [3639/24]

*371. To ask the Minister for Health if and when a medical card might be approved in the case of persons (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3664/24]

*372. To ask the Minister for Health when a medical card might issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [3666/24]

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

*373. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the total number of pipe fitting apprentices who registered their four-year apprenticeships in 2019; how many have completed same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3442/24]

*374. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason apprenticeship registrations are taking so long (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [3443/24]

*375. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for clarification on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [3531/24]

*376. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the average time it took from phase 1 to completion to complete each apprenticeship by trade in counties Cavan and Monaghan in 2023, in tabular form. — Pauline Tully. [3581/24]

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

*377. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the next call for projects under the Community Recognition Fund will be announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3597/24]

*378. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when details of a grant scheme for 2024 will be announced (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [3598/24]