



## DÁIL ÉIREANN

*Déardaoin, 1 Feabhra, 2024*  
*Thursday, 1st February, 2024*

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CEISTEANNA  
QUESTIONS



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**CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL**  
**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**

**CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH**  
**QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY**

**Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.**

1. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can outline what measures are being taken to improve road safety, including those related to road maintenance and upgrade works expected on road projects as part of the National Development Plan. — Martin Kenny. [4818/24]

2. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is satisfied with the method used to calculate passenger numbers at Dublin Airport and if he will take action to ensure that the airport remains within the passenger cap. — Paul Murphy. [4820/24]

3. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can provide an update on the current progress of the Bus Connects programme; the possibility of integrating timetables between other forms of public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [4819/24]

4. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has conducted any analysis of the impact of fare reductions on the number of people using public transport, in particular rail travel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [4301/24]

5. To ask the Minister for Transport what impact the new proposed speed limit reductions will have on the transport network system in Ireland. — Richard O'Donoghue. [4899/24]

**CEISTEANNA EILE**  
**OTHER QUESTIONS**

**Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.**

6. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has given any further consideration to the idea of a rail line from Navan to Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [4166/24]

7. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will make public transport free for under-18s and students; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4415/24]

8. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures being taken to address antisocial behaviour on or towards Dublin Bus and GoAhead Bus; what supports are available to their staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [4599/24]

9. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on progress to integrate of new DART carriages to the DART fleet; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [4004/24]

10. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has met recently with Bus Éireann in Cork city; and if he is aware of frequent delays and cancellations. — Thomas Gould. [4602/24]

11. To ask the Minister for Transport if the completion of the N86 Tralee to Dingle Road upgrade is a priority of his; the fatality figures on this road; the reason the progress made on the first phases has not been continued at the same pace; if he understands the challenges caused by peninsular peripherality in this location and the need for modern road infrastructure to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4553/24]

12. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department is advising further education campuses to engage with the TFI Smarter Travel Programme for Third Level Campuses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [1546/24]

13. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he continues to monitor transport costs and the contributory factors thereto with a view to ensuring that any negative impact on the economy might be alleviated insofar as is possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4545/24]

14. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has plans to extend the student Leap card entitlement to students in part-time third level education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [4451/24]

15. To ask the Minister for Transport what measures he is taking to prevent cancellations and no-shows of buses in Dublin, particularly on the new BusConnects routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4414/24]

16. To ask the Minister for Transport how many driving testers are currently employed by the Road Safety Authority; if he will provide a breakdown of the contract type (permanent or temporary); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [4574/24]

17. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has an update on the funding for Mallow relief road and the Cork city north distributor road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [4557/24]

18. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the progression of phase 1 of the Limerick northern distributor road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4244/24]

19. To ask the Minister for Transport to cost of roadside safety barrier installations along the N22 for 2022 and 2023; the rationale for selecting the locations for their installation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [4534/24]

20. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the proposed €96 monthly Leap card ticket and €960 annual ticket for Dublin public transport in light of the climate and cost of living crises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4417/24]

21. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the deteriorating public bus services in County Meath; the level of bus cancellations; how he plans to improve these services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [4448/24]

22. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update regarding the number of driving testers recruited in the past 12 months and for those testers on short-term contracts to be retained. — Brian Stanley. [3929/24]

23. To ask the Minister for Transport to advise if Local Link buses have permission to collect passengers along routes rather than passengers having to drive to stops; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4468/24]

24. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the N17 Collooney to Knock scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [4491/24]

25. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which passenger capacity is being or can be improved on the north Kildare commuter lines such as Naas-Sallins, Hazelhatch, Kilcock, Maynooth, Leixlip and Confey; if park and ride facilities are likely to be provided/extended on these very busy routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4544/24]

26. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure a substantial increase in funding the non-national road network for counties Cavan and Monaghan for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4616/24]

27. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on any discussion within his Department in respect of the ongoing and urgent need to remove the Hebble Dredge from the River Boyne in Drogheda following its original sinking in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [4441/24]

28. To ask the Minister for Transport if local and on-demand bus services will be introduced in areas losing local connections as a result of BusConnects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4416/24]

29. To ask the Minister for Transport his view on Shannon Airport becoming a permanent member of the Regional Airports Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [4613/24]

30. To ask the Minister for Transport when he intends to act on the motion passed by Dáil Éireann in October 2022 in favour of free public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4625/24]

31. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans for the future of rail transport in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [4612/24]

32. To ask the Minister for Transport if he and his Department can ensure that any and all resources are provided to ensure that an appropriate site is found to recommence driver testing in Drogheda, which is the largest town in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [4440/24]

33. To ask the Minister for Transport if data exists in relation to the experience of and effectiveness of raised pedestrian crossings or junctions in built up areas on busy regional and national secondary roads such as the N86 in Annascaul, County Kerry or the R577 at Kishkeam, County Cork; if a funding stream will be provided to replicate these measures in other locations such as the N70 in Castlemaine village or the R561 in Boolteens village; the average cost for such interventions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4554/24]

34. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of plans to increase toll charges again in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [4575/24]

35. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding provided in Budget 2024 to progress the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road project; the projected completion date of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [4532/24]

36. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to progress the Mallow relief road project; what level of funding will be allocated for 2024, given €100,000 was allocated in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4614/24]

37. To ask the Minister for Transport to report on the current situation with respect to proposals to develop transport projects in east Cork (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [4452/24]

38. To ask the Minister for Transport if the necessary electric locomotives will be provided when the Cork line is fully electrified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [4558/24]

39. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the enormous number of bus cancellations on the NX and 109 bus services through Navan, County Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [4167/24]

40. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the allocation of funding towards road projects (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [4566/24]

41. To ask the Minister for Transport to address the gaps in bus service emerging in the Chapelizod area of Dublin. — Patrick Costello. [4429/24]

42. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide match funding alongside the Department of Rural and Community Development for the local improvement scheme (LIS); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [4492/24]

43. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will make a statement regarding the National Fares Strategy. — Pauline Tully. [4540/24]

44. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding for the non-national road network will be increased for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4617/24]

45. To ask the Minister for Transport what progress has been made in the construction of the Coonagh-Knockalisheen road; when it will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [4383/24]

46. To ask the Minister for Transport if the maintenance of roads on housing estates that have been taken in charge by local authorities are the responsibility of the local authorities under the Local Improvement Scheme; his views on whether it is appropriate for local authorities to advise residents to apply for funding to repair those roads under the Community Involvement Scheme which involves contributions from the community; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [53750/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Transport how he intends to address regional imbalance in the quality of road infrastructure, particularly in the west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4582/24]

48. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will heed the call of local residents and act to restore a bus service between the Armagh Road, Cashel Road and Clonard Road areas and Crumlin Cross; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [4412/24]

49. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the proposed N24 upgrade does not include a dual carriageway for the entire route in the interests of safety and forward planning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [4490/24]

50. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding provided in Budget 2024 to progress the N2 Clontibret to the Border road project; the projected completion date of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [4531/24]

51. To ask the Minister for Transport the up-to-date position on the Connecting Ireland plan for Macroom to Bandon busses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [4535/24]

52. To ask the Minister for Transport if a review will be carried out of the BusConnects plans for the new No.19 route which will result in an hourly service for the Wadelai estate area of Dublin 11 rather than the current 20-minute frequency relied on by residents. — Paul McAuliffe. [4627/24]

53. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 6 of 30 November 2023, the status of the roll-out of park and ride in Galway City; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [4380/24]

54. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the rollout of the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan in County Carlow. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [4450/24]

55. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline Government policy on the Sligo Mayo Greenway; to give an update on progress of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [4533/24]

56. To ask the Minister for Transport the capital funding he intends to provide this year for the upgrade of the rail line from Athenry in County Galway to Collooney in County Sligo so that work can continue on the reopening of this vital rail link; the purposes for which the funding will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [4539/24]

57. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on the Climate Action Plan for 2023 in respect of the transport sector; what actions are still outstanding from 2023; the timeline for delivery of these delayed actions; how he thinks delayed actions will impact on rising emissions

in the sector; his plans to address rising emissions in the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [4449/24]

58. To ask the Minister for Transport if the OWDT has been issued with the Minimum Irish Port Capacity Report; if so, to outline the main findings of the report and actions arising as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [3350/24]

59. To ask the Minister for Transport when he intends to complete his Departmental review of the Regional Airports Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4245/24]

60. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the curtailment of the No. 13 bus service in the Bawnogue area in the evenings; what measures are in place for replacement services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [4600/24]

61. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question 41 of 30 November 2023, the status of the feasibility study for light rail in Galway, which is being undertaken as part of the development of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [4381/24]

62. To ask the Minister for Transport the total funding for local and regional roads in County Mayo; the breakdown of the details of the investment programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [4592/24]

63. To ask the Minister for Transport what steps are taken to ensure local intra-city bus services are reliable; the checks made to ensure they conform to timetable; what remedial actions are taken to ensure a punctual and reliable service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [4384/24]

64. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review the criteria for awarding taxi plates. — Robert Troy. [4597/24]

65. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline how he intends to address the impact of the shortage of drivers on the delivery of bus services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4626/24]

66. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the work plan for 2024 by his Department, in conjunction with other agencies to improve road safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [4580/24]

67. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is satisfied that his Department and the bodies under its aegis are aware and in compliance with article 4(3) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [4541/24]

68. To ask the Minister for Transport if he plans to follow up on work carried out by Iarnród Éireann on line clearance on sections of the rail line from Collooney to Athenry by providing funding in 2024 for the design work on the upgrade of the line from Athenry to Claremorris to a suitable standard to reopen it for freight and passenger travel; if he supports the statement by Iarnród Éireann (details supplied); the discussions he has in relation the TII reinstating the



railway bridge in Ballyglunin, County Galway as they have committed to doing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [4538/24]

69. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide further details on the increase in frequency and capacity for the red line Luas promised by the National Transport Authority, including when it will be implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4413/24]

70. To ask the Minister for Transport the plan to resolve issues with bus services in Cork city. — Thomas Gould. [4601/24]

71. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the mechanisms available to a resident in north Louth (details supplied) whose home has sustained over €50,000 worth of damage following three serious RTAs on the road in the past 12 months, including one fatal RTA, when Louth County Council is not minded to install a crash barrier or other traffic mitigation measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [4579/24]

72. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on his Department's efforts to facilitate the DART+ Coastal North; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [4003/24]

73. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the N17 road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [4593/24]

74. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the most recent progress on the implementation of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [4565/24]

75. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to progress the North Ring Road in Cork city; what level of funding will be allocated for 2024 in view of the large volume of traffic which is now forced to travel through Mayfield including traffic heading for the port facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4615/24]

76. To ask the Minister for Transport what actions are being taken to address the long waiting times in many driving test centres. — Brian Stanley. [3928/24]

77. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to develop Local Link services in counties Roscommon and Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4469/24]

78. To ask the Minister for Transport if ongoing capacity issues with the No. 424 bus following the implementation of the new timetable have been brought to his attention; and if his Department is working with the National Transport Authority to address these issues. — Mairéad Farrell. [4581/24]

## **CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY**

### **Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.**

79. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on his engagement with an organisation (details supplied) and his Department with respect to the defective concrete blocks redress scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4692/24]

80. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount of warehoused tax debt arising from the scheme introduced during the pandemic which has yet to be repaid to the Exchequer; if he is considering extending the repayment period again; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [4817/24]

81. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide details of the estimated deadweight costs associated with the rented residential relief introduced in the Finance Act 2023; his views of the costs, inequity and effectiveness of the measure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4693/24]

82. To ask the Minister for Finance if, in the interests of transparency, he will re-examine the Statutory Instrument which came into effect on 23 June 2023 relating to the Irish Register of Beneficial Ownership of Companies, which has effectively denied the public, including business journalists, access to public interest information; if he will consider amending this SI in line with provisions in other EU countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [4839/24]

### **CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS**

#### **Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.**

83. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider applying a 0% VAT rate to all gluten-free food products; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4248/24]

84. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount and nature of all tax paid by domestic property funds and all foreign-owned property funds in Ireland and Irish real estate funds, REITS, UCITS, and ETFs, over the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [4168/24]

85. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will ensure flexibility and support for business with regard to tax debt warehousing. — Robert Troy. [4605/24]

86. To ask the Minister for Finance the latest projections for corporate tax revenue, given the introduction of 15% effective corporate tax rate for 2024 and 2025; and if he is satisfied that 15% will in reality be an effective tax rate. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4572/24]

87. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the disabled drivers and disabled passengers scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [4611/24]

88. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of eligible claims currently being made for the rent tax credit in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [4251/24]

89. To ask the Minister for Finance the total amount currently invested by the Irish State in companies that derive profit from activities in illegal Israeli settlements as defined by the database maintained by the United Nations Human Rights Council pursuant to HRC Res 31/36; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [4529/24]

90. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is satisfied that Irish banking customers are getting a good deal from their banks in areas such as interest on deposits, transaction charges, loan rates

and other competitive metrics; what engagement he has had with the banks on these issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4552/24]

91. To ask the Minister for Finance how the income tax treatment of low paid workers in Ireland compares with other EU countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4264/24]

92. To ask the Minister for Finance the amount received in income tax receipts in 2023; the total number of people paying income tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4548/24]

93. To ask the Minister for Finance the total amount taken in by the Government on tax on electricity and tax on fuel, including petrol, diesel, home heating oil, and so on, in each of the past ten years. — Peadar Tóibín. [4169/24]

94. To ask the Minister for Finance the plans he has to review the VAT treatment of farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [4278/24]

95. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on his Department's efforts to support climate action projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [4005/24]

96. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he proposes to take to protect the role of cash in our society and economy in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4265/24]

97. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will comment on the decision to remove the 9% VAT rate for tourism and hospitality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [53599/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider introducing a digital tax on digital and social media companies, as an alternative method of funding public service broadband to replace the regressive and widely discredited TV license model; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4569/24]

99. To ask the Minister for Finance about the actions outlined in Ireland's Sustainable Finance Roadmap; the progress to date to implement same; what engagement has been carried out at EU and international levels by him and his Department as outlined in the 2023 climate action plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [4482/24]

100. To ask the Minister for Finance to outline the efforts being made by his Department to engage with insurance providers on the cost of motor insurance premiums; the insights provided by the National Claims Information Database Report on Private Motor Insurance published in December 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [4591/24]

101. To ask the Minister for Finance what engagement he has had with the Central Bank and key players in the cash system in order to establish what the appropriate levels of access to cash are to ensure that any further evolution of the cash infrastructure will be managed in a fair, orderly, transparent and equitable manner for all stakeholders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [4279/24]

102. To ask the Minister for Finance if it is proposed to amend the VAT refund regulations as applicable to farmers to ensure the continuation of the system that existed up to recently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4624/24]

103. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on his engagement with the Banking and Payments Federation and the Department of Finance with respect to the defective concrete blocks redress scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [4595/24]

104. To ask the Minister for Finance his response to the recent letter from the Chairperson of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council with respect to a proposal to reduce the rate of pay associated with the chairperson role; if he has concerns that such a proposal risks diminishing the role and capacity of the council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4622/24]

105. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will expand on his comments in Davos that the imposition of a 3% tax on incomes over €140,000 could jeopardise foreign direct investment, resulting in fewer jobs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [4266/24]

106. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider reducing the 13.5% VAT rate for restaurants and hospitality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [4493/24]

107. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he is taking to ensure that future banking changes are managed in a controlled, fair and transparent manner for consumers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [4252/24]

108. To ask the Minister for Finance if the proceeds of the vacant homes tax and residential zoned land tax will be returned to the relevant local authority where it was raised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [4590/24]

109. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of mortgage holders who have switched their mortgage from vulture funds to the mainstream mortgage market since 6 September 2023; and as a consequence, his assessment of the effectiveness of the switching eligibility criteria announced by the banking sector on that date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [4610/24]

110. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 82 of 23 November 2023, his plans for the phasing out of the help-to-buy scheme; his plans in the interim to increase the minimum mortgage LTV to 80%, as recommended in a report (details supplied), and the timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [4282/24]

111. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he proposes to take to ensure there is a safety net for consumers in the event of electronic banking or the payments infrastructure being impacted by outages or cyber-attacks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [4254/24]

112. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will review the powers of the Financial Services Ombudsman with regard to protecting customers against unfair practices by financial institutions. — Robert Troy. [4606/24]

113. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will review the tax incentives for the SME sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [4442/24]

114. To ask the Minister for Finance the ways that he is making processes easier for coeliacs to claim tax rebates, with particular consideration to the increasing cost of gluten free foods which is hitting those on marginal incomes hardest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [4445/24]

115. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will confirm that householders that install solar panels on their home will not be liable for any tax for the green electricity fed to the grid from the solar panels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [2961/24]

116. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the small benefit exemption; in particular the restriction by which only the first two benefits qualify for the exemption, regardless of their combined value falling beneath the threshold of €1,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [4608/24]

117. To ask the Minister for Finance the rationale in the delayed opening of application by the Revenue Commissioners taxpayers to avail of the mortgage interest relief; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [4536/24]

118. To ask the Minister for Finance how the income tax treatment of employees with salaries of €100,000 in Ireland compares with other EU countries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [4276/24]

119. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider introducing a specific tax on data centres given their high impact on our energy and resource infrastructure. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4571/24]

120. To ask the Minister for Finance if he and his Department are considering measures to tackle financial fraud and scams; to outline policy considerations in this area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4620/24]

121. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of eligible claims currently being made for the rent tax credit made in counties Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo and Galway, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [4280/24]

122. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will urgently consider making a revision to the flat rate of VAT, applicable to farmers, so that rebates can be provided on certain farm infrastructural investments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4246/24]

123. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will investigate the many shortfalls of the insurance sector which has left both homes and businesses in the east Cork area making up the costs of damage following storm Babet in October 2023; if he will consult the insurance sector on how to improve access for the public to get insurance quotes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [4567/24]

124. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on his engagements at the most recent ECOFIN meeting; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [4006/24]

125. To ask the Minister for Finance the penalties he is considering on film production companies found to be in breach of their requirement and obligation for receiving section 481 film tax credit funding, given the recent Workplace Relations Commission rulings against a company (details supplied) for its failure to uphold the employment rights and blacklisting of 38 film crew; if he intends to undertake an investigation into whether the practices at play in these cases are widespread in the film industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4573/24]

126. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on the small benefit exemption and, in particular the restriction by which only the first two benefits qualify for the exemption, regardless of their combined value falling beneath the threshold of €1,000; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4618/24]

127. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he is taking to ensure that there will be widespread nationwide availability of ATMs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [4250/24]

128. To ask the Minister for Finance if his Department is considering measures to support businesses with the increased cost of doing business through the taxation system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [4609/24]

129. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider increasing the rate and reducing the threshold at which the 10% stamp duty with respect to the purchase of certain residential property applies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4619/24]

130. To ask the Minister for Finance to outline his reasoning for substantially reducing the remuneration for the Chair of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [4594/24]

131. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which positive conclusions can be drawn from this country's economic performance when considered alongside other EU zone countries and all other European countries; if the methodology for the measurement of the economy here continues to be robust and accurate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4546/24]

132. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on the work of the Office for the Promotion of Competition in the Insurance Market, particularly in relation to reducing the cost of public liability insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [4576/24]

133. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of applicants for the help-to-buy scheme in County Mayo in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [4494/24]

134. To ask the Minister for Finance for an update on the National Payments Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [4277/24]

135. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will be extending the powers of the Central Bank in relation to the regulation of ATMs especially in relation to matters such as reporting, service standards, and denomination stocking; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [4267/24]



136. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of eligible claims currently being made for the rent tax credit made in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow, and Kildare, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [4249/24]

137. To ask the Minister for Finance for a review of tax treatment of increase for qualified adult, that the payment is treated as a separate source of income for the qualified adult in order they can avail of the PAYE employee tax credit and that the extended rate band can be made available to that dependant if jointly assessed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [4537/24]

138. To ask the Minister for Finance the work he and his Department are doing to support people in the continued usage of ATMs and cash; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4549/24]

139. To ask the Minister for Finance if a VAT refund on aids and appliances for persons with a disability can be considered for works (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [3002/24]

140. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will be introducing new measures for the warehousing of tax debt; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [4443/24]

141. To ask the Minister for Finance if he plans to address the difficulties that businesses are facing with regards to warehouse debt; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [4589/24]

142. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 91 of 23 November 2023, for an update on the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal; to clarify if appeal hearings have recommenced to-date, and if not, the timeline for same; the number of people currently on the appeal hearing list; the expected timeline for the clearing of the backlog of appeals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [4382/24]

143. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware of Revenue no longer accepting certain items of expenditure for the construction, extension, alteration or reconstruction of farm buildings or structures with respect to VAT refunds for unregistered farmers; if he has engaged with Revenue on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4621/24]

144. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor economic progress with a view to ensuring that inflation continues to be curbed and that the reduction in inflation is passed on to the consumer by way of lower prices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4547/24]

145. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider and introduction of a wealth tax, given recent reports by an organisation (details supplied) and the Central Bank on the wealth distribution showing ever growing concentration of wealth in the hands of the very wealthiest households. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4570/24]

146. To ask the Minister for Finance the progress to date to promote opportunities for the European Investment Bank to invest in relevant climate projects in Ireland; if a working group

has been established; how many times the working group has met; if will he report on these meetings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [4483/24]

147. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will ensure that the concerns of farmers in relation to changes to VAT refunds are given urgent and detailed consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4623/24]

148. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of earners in Cork who will benefit from the USC reductions announced in Budget 2024; the number of renters in Cork who benefitted from the rent tax scheme in 2023; how many are eligible to claim the same in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [4568/24]

149. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is considering any further easing of VAT rates for retrofitting/renewable energy works or products for domestic purposes, to assist homeowners in reducing reliance on energy providers in what is a crippling energy crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [4444/24]

150. To ask the Minister for Finance the regional criteria he intends to put in place for ATM provision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [4281/24]

151. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on the work being done to ensure that cash cannot be refused in retail and other premises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [4577/24]

152. To ask the Minister for Finance to outline the situation with respect to community groups and festival committees acquiring insurance for the staging of local community events; if he is satisfied with the work of the Office to Promote Competition in the Insurance Market to make insurance available for such events; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [4598/24]

153. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of homes for which the increased stamp duty for bulk buys has been paid in Cork. — Thomas Gould. [4604/24]

154. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider a finance bill to re-introduce the 9% VAT rate for catering and tourist accommodation, as was done seamlessly in May 2011; if he appreciates the crisis in hospitality at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4551/24]

155. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of eligible claims currently being made for the rent tax credit made in counties Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork and Kerry, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [4253/24]

156. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on the meetings officials in his Department were involved in on the Senior Officials Group in July, November and December 2023 with regard to considerations for replacing the disabled driver and passenger scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [4542/24]

157. To ask the Minister for Finance the action he proposes to take to ensure that consumers retain access to cash; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [4256/24]



158. To ask the Minister for Finance to detail the number of persons who are currently on the waiting list for the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [4543/24]

159. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of eligible claims currently being made for the rent tax credit made in counties Offaly, Laois, Westmeath, Longford, Meath and Louth and Kildare, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [4255/24]

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**CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA**  
**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

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

\*160. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs . — Mairéad Farrell. [4768/24]

\*161. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of recent reporting that the EU has developed a confidential plan to cut-off all EU funding to Hungary in the event that Hungary exercises a veto with respect to EU funding for Ukraine (details supplied); if Ireland is a party to this plan; if Ireland has been involved in drawing up or signing off on this plan. — Carol Nolan. [4808/24]

\*162. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs what steps can be taken in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4854/24]

\*163. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if there are plans to open an embassy in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [4906/24]

\*164. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will urgently conduct a detailed assessment of whether there is a risk that genocide is being committed in the context of the war in Gaza as a first step towards fulfilling Ireland's duty to prevent genocide under the Genocide Convention of 1948. — Paul Donnelly. [4907/24]

\*165. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will join the case as an intervener in support of South Africa's case in the International Court of Justice as soon as possible. — Paul Donnelly. [4908/24]

\*166. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will continue to do everything in his power to ensure a permanent ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian assistance is provided for the people of Gaza. — Paul Donnelly. [4909/24]

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

\*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the number of fines issued for dog-fouling in each local authority area in the past ten years, and to date in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [4686/24]

\*168. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to tackle the scourge of dog fouling across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [4689/24]

\*169. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he received a request from a company (details supplied) to sanction an increase for members of its pension scheme; if he is conscious that these pensioners are facing income pressures as a consequence of the lack of an increase; if he will give urgent attention to the request; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [4758/24]

\*170. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reason it is necessary for a company (details supplied) to seek Ministerial permission for a pension increase; what investments have been made by the State in the fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [4759/24]

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

\*171. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of enlisted personnel and cadets targeted for recruitment in 2023; the number of each recruited; the increased recruitment target of each for 2024; the additional resources to be provided to facilitate this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [4767/24]

*Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.*

\*172. To ask the Minister for Transport when the legislation will be enacted to regulate the use of electric scooters; and to outline what is causing the delay. — Brian Stanley. [2900/24]

\*173. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can outline what measures he has put in place for local authorities to support road gritting plans in rural Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [54235/23]

\*174. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will address a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4685/24]

\*175. To ask the Minister for Transport when the application process will open for the Safe Routes to Schools Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [4698/24]

\*176. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of issues of unanswered complaints from the DAA (details supplied); the body that can investigate the DAA; if he agrees that a new external body needs to be created to handle this process for the DAA; and what actions will he take in relation to this. — Paul Murphy. [4735/24]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Transport how many Dart carriages have been ordered over the past three years; how many have been ordered to date for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4738/24]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Transport how many train carriages have been ordered over the past three years; how many have been ordered to date for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4739/24]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Transport what the previously announced €300 million earmarked for the Luas in September 2023 will be used for; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4740/24]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has concluded his consideration of Derry City Airport's economic assessment and supporting materials for a Dublin/Derry air route submitted to his Department in December 2022; and the progress he has made in delivering on the air connectivity review commitment under the New Decade, New Approach agreement since taking up office in 2020. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [4744/24]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Transport if he could advise on a driving licence (details supplied). — Peter Burke. [4745/24]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Transport for a record of all applications from Kerry County Council to his Department for any works in respect of a bridge in Kerry (details supplied) since 2009; if a record of all funding granted in that period in respect of the bridge will be provided; if a record of all funding drawn down in respect of the bridge will be provided; if the most recent correspondence between his Department and the Council will be provided; if an explanation will be provided as to the precise stage the project is at; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4775/24]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on a submission (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [4779/24]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Transport to itemise the estimated cost of a six-month trial for a free bus service in Cork city and county on Fridays and Saturdays, by all cost factors. — Sean Sherlock. [4782/24]

\*185. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the regulations under the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023, which governs the use of e-scooters, have not come into effect; when they will come into effect; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4800/24]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Transport to prioritise the delivery of the Bus Connects local routes services in Portrane/Donabate given the census figures from 2022 on bus travel are concerning (details supplied) in regard to our climate targets of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 by improving public transport travel and reducing car journeys; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4849/24]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he remains satisfied regarding the adequacy of capital investment in the transport sector for the foreseeable future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4878/24]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he expects commuter rail passenger numbers to increase when the lines are upgraded; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4879/24]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to increase the number of carriages serving the north Kildare rail commuter routes, or alternatively increasing the frequency of trains, thereby improving the service for commuters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4880/24]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress to date in the electrification of the Maynooth rail line, with particular reference to the need to ensure that car parking facilities are supplied to the west of Kilcock thereby facilitating Enfield, Kilcock, and the wider hinterland. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4881/24]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he is satisfied regarding the adequacy of health and safety adherence for the north Kildare commuter rail passengers given the necessity to remain standing for some journeys; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4882/24]

\*192. To ask the Minister for Transport the actions being taken to address the long waiting lists for driving tests; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4884/24]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to encourage increased use of the commuter rail services in County Kildare with a view to alleviating road traffic congestion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4885/24]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Transport the total number of vehicles currently using the M4 for commuting purposes on a daily basis; the future plans in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4886/24]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the progress to date in the enhancement and upgrading of commuter rail facilities from Sallins to Dublin, with particular reference to the need at peak times; the extent to which planning has advanced in this regard by way of increased frequency and capacity of commuter trains serving Newbridge, Sallins and Hazelhatch; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4887/24]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Transport if any research has been done into the possibility of extending rail services throughout the commuter belt of north Kildare to towns currently not having access to services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4888/24]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered requests from the Minister for Rural and Community Development and others for funding to be allocated from his budget towards the local improvement scheme programme; if he will state how much capital funding was carried over from his Department at the end of 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4889/24]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Transport if safer protections will be put in place at a bridge in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4890/24]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Transport the anticipated timeline in relation to proposed speed limit reviews; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4891/24]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of new passenger ferry routes in and out of Ireland since 2022; if he will identify these routes and the seasons they serve; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4892/24]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of vintage cars registered for use on Irish roads each year since 2017, in tabular form; a breakdown per county of these; if the types and

years of vehicles will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4893/24]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is any option to extend the Dublin outer commuter zone to include Gorey, County Wexford, which is the station from which the commuter train originates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [4910/24]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Transport if it is intended to proceed with a Luas extension to Lucan; and if that will run through Bluebell. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4932/24]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Transport what the national strategy is to roll out more high-speed charging points at service stations or laybys along the State's motorways and national road network to facilitate electric car users and to encourage others to switch to EVs. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4933/24]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Transport when measures will be taken to increase the visibility of users of electric scooters and powered bicycles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4934/24]

\*206. To ask the Minister for Transport if a system of compulsory or voluntary insurance for users of electric scooters and powered bicycles is being considered to help address costs associated with injuries in the case of accidents to the users themselves or others or damage to the vehicles or other vehicles or property; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4935/24]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has considered introducing technology to allow drivers use an app or digital wallet to store their driving licence so they do not have to carry it and a valid copy can be shown off their phone; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [4938/24]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Transport the expected number of air routes directly between Ireland and North America for 2024; if he will identify these routes and the airlines operating each; if they are seasonal or year-round; which routes are new for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4942/24]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on connecting Shannon Airport to the national rail network as a priority project under the National Development Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [4947/24]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the pathfinder projects for Limerick city; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [4948/24]

*Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.*

\*211. To ask the Minister for Finance the full gamut of grants, discounts, waivers or any other supports that exist for an amputee, above the knee, who hopes to return to driving for personal needs; if he or his office can provide any other useful advice for this intending disabled driver; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [4749/24]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Finance the expected date for the publication of the Central Bank NCID (National Claims Information Database) Employers' Liability, Public Liability and

Commercial Property Insurance Report 2022 in view of the delay in publication; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [4772/24]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [3495/24]

\*214. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will explain the reason hairdressers fall under the VAT rate for the hospitality sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [53600/23]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Finance if he can outline in detail the external review process of Insurance Ireland's Code of Practice due to take place in January 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [4723/24]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide a breakdown of the dwellings purchased where the 10% stamp duty was paid, broken down into housing schemes, apartments and individual homes, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [4756/24]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Finance if it is possible to publish a full calculation and breakdown of the proposed revenue generated from increasing hospitality VAT from 9% to 13.5%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [4757/24]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated cost of reducing the rate of VAT applying to the hospitality and tourism sectors from 13.5 to 9% to end-2024 and in full-year terms, respectively. — Pearse Doherty. [4835/24]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated cost of reducing the rate of VAT applying to the hospitality and tourism sectors from 13.5% to 9% excluding hotel and other accommodation, to end-2024 and in full-year terms, respectively. — Pearse Doherty. [4837/24]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Finance his views on a report (details supplied) into global wealth inequality, which included findings on Ireland; if he will consider a third rate of income tax, given the scale of wealth inequality in Ireland; the steps he is taking to address the unequal distribution of wealth in this country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [4838/24]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Finance the tax treatment of rental income from local authority and approved housing body social tenancies and rental income from local authority, approved housing body and Land Development Agency rental tenancies. — Eoin Ó Broin. [4840/24]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated cost of reducing the rate of VAT from 13.5% to 9% with respect to services (details supplied) of the kind normally supplied in fairgrounds or amusement parks and hairdressing services, to end-2024 and in full-year terms, respectively, disaggregated by service type listed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [4842/24]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans in respect of the State's remaining 40.8% stake in a bank (details supplied); if he intends to recover the State's full €20.8 billion investment in the bank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [4845/24]



\*224. To ask the Minister for Finance how many homebuyers in each county have availed of the help-to-buy scheme since July 2020, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4850/24]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Finance how many taxpayers are currently claiming the rent tax credit, by county, in tabular form. — Cathal Crowe. [4851/24]

\*226. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will provide an update on the work underway to implement the recommendation of the Report of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare that the remittance basis of taxation should be subject to a lifetime limit of three years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [4852/24]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which the insurance industry here remains competitive when compared with insurance costs throughout the European Union notwithstanding any national difference that may apply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4866/24]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which credit remains available to small and medium sized enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4867/24]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which measures introduced in this jurisdiction to combat such issues as inflation, here and/or throughout the Eurozone are being successful; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4868/24]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which house price inflation here is likely to affect economic performance in the future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4869/24]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Finance the ongoing effect of Brexit on the economic performance in this jurisdiction as well as other EU Member States; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4870/24]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which he and his Department continue to monitor the activities of investment funds here with particular reference to the need to ensure that their activities are strictly in accordance with their operational licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4871/24]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he continues to observe inflationary tendencies in this economy with particular reference to the need to identify their origin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4872/24]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Finance how he sees this country's economy progressing and comparable to other EU economies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4873/24]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Finance whether he remains satisfied that the taxation system in this country is sufficiently broadly based to avoid dependency on any one sector to such an extent that it might become a threat to the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4874/24]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which he and his Department can influence and coordinate fiscal matters in such a way as to support and encourage growth and development throughout the island of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4875/24]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Finance the extent to which he continues to maintain contact with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland with a view to achieving maximum cooperation and benefit throughout the island of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4876/24]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Finance the degree to which he remains satisfied that Ireland, along with its European colleagues, continues on a positive trajectory in terms of fiscal policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4877/24]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will consider increasing the tax exemption limits for people aged 65 years and over; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [4946/24]

*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.*

\*240. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to outline the proposed pension increases for former employees of semi-State companies that are currently awaiting Government approval; if he will provide further details in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [4695/24]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the level of oversight by the Office of Government Procurement regarding contracts awarded; the oversight of a particular contract in the Dublin area (details supplied); the level of complaints received with regard to service delivery under this contract; if this contractor has other contracts; if details of same can be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [4763/24]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform when he expects to make a final decision on the ESB pensions increase request received in January; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [4831/24]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform further to Parliamentary Question No. 395 of 13 June 2023, with reference to Circular 09/2009: Civil Servants and Political Activity, if he will detail the maximum remuneration for the grade of clerical officer in the civil service. — Pauline Tully. [4939/24]

*Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.*

\*244. To ask the Minister for Education if she will review the matter of school placements for children with disabilities in County Tipperary (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [4694/24]



\*245. To ask the Minister for Education the number of autism and special education class spaces currently in Tipperary; the number of spaces expected to be in place in Tipperary in August 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4663/24]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Education what works are currently underway to increase the number of autism and special education class spaces in Tipperary; the number of new spaces that will be available come August 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4664/24]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Education what additional efforts are in place to assist families this year throughout the strenuous process of finding a suitable autism/special education class placement for their children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4665/24]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Education when an extension for a school (details supplied) will be progressed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [4669/24]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Education if any further consideration has been given to the proposal to sanction a new primary school for Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim; if the Board of Management has identified a potential site for a new school; and whether communication has been received by her Department seeking approval to negotiate with any potential site owner. — Frankie Feighan. [4691/24]

\*250. To ask the Minister for Education what specific supports or allowances are in place for those with cancer related cognitive changes, also referred to as brain fog or chemo brain, while sitting State exams; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [4725/24]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Education if she will instruct the Teaching Council to work with a person (details supplied) to ensure that they can complete a part-time course for a full post-primary qualification, informing them whether a course is relevant prior to their enrolment and ensure that they can continue to teach. — Paul Murphy. [4728/24]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Education to provide special classes for children with additional needs in a school (details supplied) as these are urgently required to meet the local education requirements of pupils with autism, learning disabilities who currently have to travel to St. Margaret 's and beyond for their education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4742/24]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Education his Department's policy with regard to requests from parents who wish to have their single sex primary schools amalgamated into fully gender integrated schools; to outline the procedure for processing such a request; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4743/24]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Education what funding is available for a school facility (details supplied) that needs to be upgraded; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4764/24]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department has completed an assessment of the projected requirement of school places for September 2024 in the Greystones, Kilcoole area in County Wicklow; if those numbers are available; if a plan has been put in place to ensure that

every child had a local secondary school place for September; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [4776/24]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Education to advise of any possible funding to complete the set-up of a facility (details supplied) where it is intended to educate on animal care and welfare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4784/24]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Education when a review being undertaken by her Department in respect of a Stage 2B submission will be finalised and the school (details supplied) contacted about the outcome of this review as it has been confirmed that it has been near completion for some time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4790/24]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Education the number of two teacher schools that have a special autism class attached to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4791/24]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a proposed new post primary school (details supplied); the status of an extension to another school in Clane; the stage they are at in terms of design and or build; and if both projects have been devolved to the KWETB for delivery. — Catherine Murphy. [4816/24]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No.246 of 25 January 2024, if her Department will engage with Dublin Bus in talks to pursue a similar scheme to Bus Éireann to provide free travel for children, given the costs incurred by parents living in the city and the increased benefits in terms of school attendance and reducing private transport use in the city. — Patrick Costello. [4848/24]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Education to what extent issues impeding the progress in the provision of the three school project at Celbridge, County Kildare have been resolved to date; whether any particular issue such as agreement with the local authority regarding the road network or other issues remain outstanding, given the particular urgency of the replacement of a school (details supplied) which was deemed an urgent matter ten years ago, when she expects progress on site; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4865/24]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for the delay in submitting a planning application for the permanent school buildings for the Drogheda Educate Together second level school, Mill Road, Mornington, Drogheda, Co. Louth; when the planning application will be submitted; the timeline for the completion of the new permanent building; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [4894/24]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide a schedule of second level school place deficits in Naas, Prosperous, Clane, Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock; if she will clarify if second round offers have been made in these districts; and detail the number of pupils that have not received school places for the 24/25 academic year in these districts. — Catherine Murphy. [4898/24]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Education the supports available to a person (details supplied); what role the education welfare officer can play in finding a resolution for the educational deficit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [4945/24]

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

\*265. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she has requested a version of the Grant Thornton Toy Show The Musical report documenting names, where the published report only contains numbers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4653/24]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to undertake an economic viability study for tourism dependent hospitality businesses in light of the proposed extra costs announced in Budget 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [4761/24]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to advise of any possible funding to complete the set-up of a facility (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4786/24]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if an application by a club (details supplied) will be examined; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4798/24]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide additional funding to independent broadcasters as a matter of urgency to support their existing news and current affairs coverage in the context of the proliferation of misinformation in public discourse; if she recognises the urgency of this extra funding, particularly in a year of numerous national elections and referenda; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4830/24]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the level of Údarás na Gaeltachta supported jobs, by county at the end of 2019 and at the end of 2023, respectively, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4836/24]

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

\*271. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the dates he attended the public sector pay talks and the issues he raised at these attendances. — Thomas Gould. [4657/24]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 131 of 9 February 2023, if he will provide an update on preparations for the referendum on public ownership of Uisce Éireann; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4660/24]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what plans his Department has to deal with serial planning objections (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4666/24]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage following the recent and welcome advancements towards the implementation of a deer management programme,

to further consider the implementation of a similar programme for mink management and to introduce a mink cull, given their invasive nature and the threat they pose to our native species and ecosystems; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4670/24]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 the 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 he 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. [4699/24]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the mortgage to rent scheme; and if any private operators are currently operating in the scheme. — Thomas Gould. [4603/24]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will include the lands at Castletown House in the biodiversity plan. — Catherine Murphy. [4730/24]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he agrees that the level of successful prosecutions of wildlife crime is too low; that expectations of at least 200 prosecutions per year have not been reached, despite substantially more legislation and increased monitoring being in place; if the reason for the lack of prosecutions (details supplied), especially with regard to Ireland's commitments under the new UN '30 x 30' Biodiversity Goals and new National Biodiversity Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [4752/24]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update on the drafting of an updated housing circular 46/2014, as committed to in the Youth Homelessness Strategy; if his Department will consult with the youth services sector on its provisions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [4755/24]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the revenue raised by each local authority from local property tax, commercial rates and service charges, and the funding each received from the Exchequer by way of the Local Government Fund in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4769/24]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of derelict sites and their total market value, by each local authority in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4770/24]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total number of craft apprentices currently working in each local authority, disaggregated by apprenticeship typology in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4771/24]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the results of the focused review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines relating to minimum setback distance for wind turbines from homes and residential areas will be released; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4792/24]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has engaged with ESB Networks in relation to seeking a more affordable cost of reconnecting a derelict or vacant home in the context of efforts being made to bring such properties back into use through initiatives such as *croí cónaithe*; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4797/24]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total amount of funding provided to each local authority for capital investment in water services infrastructure in each of the years 2020 to 2023; the allocation for 2024 for each local authority, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4843/24]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage with reference to the compulsory purchase order activation programme which his Department launched in April 2023, the targets that have been set for each local authority for the number of identified vacant and derelict properties to enter the programme; the number of such properties in each local authority that have been brought back to use under the programme; the number of properties in each local authority where the owners could not be identified or where they were unwilling to engage and where the available legislative powers have been used or are in the process of being used to compulsory purchase such properties, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [4844/24]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which LIHAF road and bridge proposals for Maynooth, County Kildare have been held up for almost ten years with resulting constant frustration of traffic movements in and around Maynooth (details supplied); if urgent action will be taken to bring these delaying factors to a conclusion and set in place the necessary arrangements to carry out the extensive works given that the funding required was allocated ten years ago but has yet to be spent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4863/24]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will amend the criteria pertaining to the assessment of means for eligibility for social housing and exclude payments under the working family payment which is available for some low paid workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4895/24]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the funding available for the Voids Programme for 2024 and when allocations will be made to local authorities for this year's programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4896/24]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide a breakdown of the number of prosecutions for wildlife crimes by county for each of the years 2019 to 2023. — Eoin Ó Broin. [4900/24]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the function of the Wildlife Crime Committee within the National Parks and Wildlife Service; to provide an update on what progress it has made, and measures taken to address noticeable discrepancy between regions in the number of prosecutions taken. — Eoin Ó Broin. [4901/24]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what qualifications are required on recruitment and what further in-house training is given to the administration and field staff of NPWS to effectively carry out this function of implementation and enforcement of the various wildlife related legislation including the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2018, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, the European Communities

(Wildlife Act 1976)(Amendment) Regulations 1986 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Restrictions on the use of Poison Bait) Regulations 2010. — Eoin Ó Broin. [4902/24]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 400 of 30 November 2023, if a water/wastewater caretaker employed by Uisce Éireann is entitled to become a member of a local authority. — Pauline Tully. [4911/24]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if Circular LG(P) 06/09 “Local Government Act 2001 (Section 161) Order 2004”, S.I. No. 216 of 2004 or Circular 09/2009 “Civil Servants and Political Activity” applies to a water/wastewater caretaker employed by Uisce Éireann. — Pauline Tully. [4912/24]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if a water/wastewater caretaker employed by Uisce Éireann is considered a civil servant in the craft or State industrial and manual grade employee; and if so, which grades in Uisce Éireann are considered below that of a civil service clerical officer. — Pauline Tully. [4913/24]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the up-to-date position regarding the joint application by Ireland and Canada for UNESCO world heritage site status for the Trans-Atlantic Cable project between Valentia Island, County Kerry, and Heart’s Content, Newfoundland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4943/24]

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

\*297. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps a school should take in circumstances (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4795/24]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Social Protection why a person’s (details supplied) jobseeker’s payment was stopped recently. — Robert Troy. [4661/24]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Social Protection in light of the recent Supreme Court ruling (detailed supplied), whether there are plans in place to legislate for where an unmarried partner is entitled to a partner’s pension in the event of their death; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [4667/24]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons who have received a deportation order from the Department of Justice and continue to be in receipt of a social welfare payment or payments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick O’Donovan. [4675/24]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason the carer’s allowance was payable to a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [4682/24]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason for the delay in processing a pension application for a person (details supplied) which was originally lodged in July 2023; if the application will be expedited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [4729/24]



\*303. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision will be made on an appeal in respect of a carers allowance (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4741/24]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are any arrangements in place to provide income support for a person (details supplied) given they are a taxpayer in this country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4751/24]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the outcome of a review of a disability allowance payment (details supplied). — Michael Creed. [4773/24]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a carers allowance will be approved for a person (details supplied). — John McGuinness. [4774/24]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the sections of the acts that provide that a person is not regarded as unemployed for job seekers benefit purposes, for any day that they are actively engaged in farming; whether it is intended to change this provision on the basis that many people engaged in farming in a small way also engage in full-time employment at the same time (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [4777/24]

\*308. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person on farm assist can make paid contributions towards their pension before the age of 66 years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4789/24]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of claims lodged with her Department from County Cork households under the humanitarian assistance scheme following the damage caused to households by storm Babet in October 2023; the number of claims that have been processed to date; the number of these claims allowed; the total amount paid out to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [4846/24]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) can expect a resolution to their application for jobseekers allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4856/24]

\*311. 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. [4860/24]

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

\*312. To ask the Minister for Justice if a matter in relation to a visa application (details supplied) will be expedited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [4780/24]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Justice if a matter in relation to a visa application (details supplied) will be expedited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [4781/24]

\*314. To ask the Minister for Justice how many inspections of the Dóchas Centre have been carried out since 2019 by the Office of Inspector of Prisons; how many reports have been

published; how many have not; the nature of any reports not published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [4654/24]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Justice when an applicant for citizenship naturalisation (details supplied) can expect progress on their application. — Michael Creed. [4656/24]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Justice how many gardaí in County Longford have successfully completed the CBD2 competency-based driving training 2; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [4681/24]

\*317. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason for the delay with an application by a person (details supplied) for a change of name licence through the domestic residence and permissions unit; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4750/24]

\*318. To ask the Minister for Justice if primetime radio hours will be defined differently to primetime television hours for the purposes of advertising, in the context of the Gambling Regulation Bill 2022, as was established as a precedent in the Sale of Alcohol Bill 2022; if he is conscious of possible unintended consequences of the Gambling Regulation Bill 2022 in relation to charity radio bingos; if he will address this issue in tandem with the overall objectives of the Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4799/24]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Justice if a person (details supplied) can obtain a visa to stay with their son; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4855/24]

\*320. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in relation to an application for citizenship in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4861/24]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Justice the current position in relation to an application for citizenship in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4862/24]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Justice the breakdown of the Garda fleet in each Garda station (details supplied) in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4905/24]

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

\*323. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what his Departments current position is with regard to plans to take over the running of local authority veterinary services; what stage those negotiations are at; when he can see them reaching conclusion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [4659/24]

\*324. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there are any circumstances in which compensation can be paid to a farmer (details supplied) for the losses incurred; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [4697/24]

\*325. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what body/bodies are carrying out the investigation into the fact that an individual (details supplied) was allowed to continue to own and race greyhounds at tracks around this country for up to ten months after they had



been banned from owning, keeping or breeding a dog following a conviction for cruelty under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4721/24]

\*326. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total number of women farmer capital investment scheme applications received by his Department; the total number of applications that have been approved to date; the total number of applications that have been rejected; the total number that have been withdrawn, in tabular; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4724/24]

\*327. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the promised changes to the income supplement scheme under the Bovine TB Programme will come into effect, whereby the date of eligibility for income supplement would be the date of restriction, and these changes will be backdated to 1 February 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4731/24]

\*328. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there are any representative from the fishing sector on the board of the Marine Institute Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [4753/24]

\*329. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there are any vacancies on the board of the Marine Institute Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [4754/24]

\*330. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a payment due to a person (details supplied) under ACRES will be issued without delay as it is long overdue. — John McGuinness. [4766/24]

\*331. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to advise of any possible funding to complete the set-up of a facility (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4785/24]

\*332. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when farmers will receive payments for ACRES; the number of farmers waiting for confirmation of a payment date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [4794/24]

\*333. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 1159 of 17 January 2024, with regard to the number of applications submitted to the women farmer capital investment scheme under TAMS III, the reason no applications have been approved yet of the 259 submitted; how many applications of those submitted are expected to be accepted to the scheme; when this will be announced, given other schemes under TAMS the number of accepted applications have been confirmed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4815/24]

\*334. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total number of farmers paid under the targeted agricultural modernisation scheme per county; the total amount of payments in Euro paid out under the targeted agricultural modernisation scheme since the formation of this Government, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4825/24]

\*335. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total number of farmers paid to date under the agri-climate rural environment scheme per county; the total amount of payments in Euro paid out under the agri-climate rural environment scheme in each county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4826/24]

\*336. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funding allocated under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Programme, by county, in tabular form since the formation of the current Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4827/24]

\*337. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will list each fishery harbour centre that was allocated capital funding since the formation of the current Government, by county, in tabular form; the total amount allocated to each fishery harbour centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4828/24]

\*338. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funds allocated to each local authority under the local authority marine infrastructure scheme 2022-2023, since the formation of this Government, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [4829/24]

\*339. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what precautions are being taken following an outbreak of blue tongue in the UK; if any routine testing has been carried out here; if any animals have ever tested positive in Ireland for blue tongue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [4841/24]

\*340. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if all eligible applicants under tranche 2 of ACRES will be accepted on to the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [4903/24]

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

\*341. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when a person (details supplied) in County Clare will receive the allocated home help hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [4793/24]

\*342. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth . — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4662/24]

\*343. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for clarification on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4676/24]

\*344. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the childcare fees being paid by parents at present, by county; and the childcare fees being paid by parents from September 2024, by county, in tabular form. — Kathleen Funchion. [4680/24]

\*345. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 676 and 677 of 12 December 2023, if he intends to begin deactivating existing contracts for unsuitable accommodation and or with unsuitable providers; if he will provide an update in respect of his current contract in respect of a house (details

supplied); the length of time that remains on the contract for use of the house; his plans to deactivate the contract on expiry of current term.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [4722/24]

\*346. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 336 of 25 January 2024, if he will elaborate upon the improvements to his Department's processes. — Michael McNamara. [4736/24]

\*347. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 336 of 25 January 2024, when the improvements to his Department's processes occurred. — Michael McNamara. [4737/24]

\*348. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide a list of private residential service providers used by Tusla in 2023. — Patrick Costello. [4746/24]

\*349. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in light of the financial pressure on the childcare sector, if consideration is being given to increasing the core funding provided to pre-school childcare facilities to cover the increased costs of operating in the sector, including the costs associated with the additional financial governance and accountability obligations on partner services under the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Creed. [4762/24]

\*350. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his views on a reported refusal by the Church of Ireland to pay into a restitution fund for mother and baby institution survivors, on the basis that it "neither owned nor operated" mother and baby institutions as reported in the media (details supplied); and the action he will take on the foot of same. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4811/24]

\*351. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware of the letter published in a newspaper (details supplied) that the Church of Ireland did in fact play a significant role in the operation of mother and baby homes; and whether he intends to take action on foot of same. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4812/24]

\*352. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth when mother and baby institution survivors may apply for restitution payments as promised by him three years ago (details supplied). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4813/24]

\*353. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his views on whether it is shameful that a person (details supplied) has been denied restitution, as a result of delays in implementing the restitution scheme; his plans to recognise the role played by them and other survivors who passed on while waiting for the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4814/24]

\*354. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth whether Tusla, arising from their investigations/supports are obliged to furnish copies of their reports to both parties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [4857/24]

*Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.*

\*355. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/127 on infant formula and follow-on formula is policed and enforced in the State;

whether offences are committed in the event of its breach or other sanctions apply; his views on whether retailers breach the regulation by including formula among items covered by a loyalty or voucher or discount scheme that applies to most other goods sold in a store; if so, the basis of that understanding; to outline any correspondence with the EU Commission on the interpretation of Article 10 (2) of the regulation as it applies to general supermarket discount or voucher schemes that are not aimed at promoting the sale of formula in particular; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [4748/24]

\*356. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4684/24]

\*357. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure the HSE issue funding of €110,000 to a facility (details supplied) without further delay.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [4690/24]

\*358. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the plan to continue with the Laura Brennan HPV catch-up vaccination programme beyond December 2023; the next steps for the programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [4700/24]

\*359. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, if he is aware of a statement by an organisation (details supplied) on the appointment of a Clinical Lead for Transgender Services; and if he will agree to meet with transgender community groups to discuss the lack of engagement with them to date. — Paul Murphy. [4703/24]

\*360. To ask the Minister for Health the reason in his comments on the appointment of a Clinical Lead for Transgender Services (details supplied) he portrayed the disagreement on trans youth healthcare as one between two clinical teams without any reference to the trans community themselves; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [4705/24]

\*361. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the National Gender Service's complaint to HIQA made late in 2023; and the resolution they are hoping for. — Paul Murphy. [4706/24]

\*362. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 189 of 6 December 2023, to confirm that for transgender adults that treatment decisions are clinical matters between the patient and their choice of clinician. — Paul Murphy. [4707/24]

\*363. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, what evidence base backs the necessity of a comprehensive holistic multidisciplinary assessment prior to hormone therapy. — Paul Murphy. [4708/24]

\*364. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, whether the National Gender Service believes that providing transgender care virtually is unsafe; and if so, on what basis. — Paul Murphy. [4709/24]

\*365. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, if he is aware as outlined in a recent article (details supplied) that EU telehealth services are not in contravention of medical council guidelines; and what steps will be taken to ensure that GPs that the National Gender Service have previously contacted will have the correct information. — Paul Murphy. [4710/24]

\*366. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, if hormone concentrations are unrelated to risk the reason the National Gender Service's recommendations for endocrine care consider higher than recommended testosterone concentrations an elevated risk for thromboembolic and liver disease. — Paul Murphy. [4711/24]

\*367. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, what are the benefits of monitoring hormone concentrations. — Paul Murphy. [4712/24]

\*368. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, if the National Gender Service only provides solicited advice in relation to the provision of transgender healthcare by other services. — Paul Murphy. [4713/24]

\*369. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 190 of 6 December 2023, what evidence base supports the claim that the most common complications of medical transition are decline in social and/or occupational function, and deterioration of mental health. — Paul Murphy. [4714/24]

\*370. To ask the Minister for Health what services the National Gender Service provides to patients during the assessment process. — Paul Murphy. [4715/24]

\*371. To ask the Minister for Health how many people have died by suicide while on the waiting list for an initial assessment by the National Gender Service. — Paul Murphy. [4716/24]

\*372. To ask the Minister for Health under what circumstances the National Gender Service considers it appropriate to stop providing hormones to a transgender person without their consent. — Paul Murphy. [4717/24]

\*373. To ask the Minister for Health if the National Gender Service turns away patients for being unemployed. — Paul Murphy. [4718/24]

\*374. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to recruitment difficulties in Kilcock primary care centre, County Kildare; if he will verify the number and title of positions currently unfilled in the centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [4726/24]

\*375. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the current rationale for amalgamating the Maynooth and Leixlip primary care centres plans; if consideration has been given to developing centres in both locations; and if not, if he will outline the rationale for same. — Catherine Murphy. [4727/24]

\*376. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4796/24]

\*377. To ask the Minister for Health for an indicative timeline for the new public health (tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products) Bill as proposed in the Government's Legislative Programme for 2024, published on 10 January 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4801/24]

\*378. To ask the Minister for Health in light of the fact that the issues involved in the proposed new legislation have already been examined and discussed at length during the various enactment stages of the recent Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023

which was enacted in December 2023, if he plans to proceed to the pre-legislative phase of the new Bill; if not, if he plans to move directly to the parliamentary stage without pre-legislative scrutiny; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4802/24]

\*379. To ask the Minister for Health if he will be engaging with the EU Commission on the proposed new public health (tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products) Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4803/24]

\*380. To ask the Minister for Health how many submissions were received during the public consultation process for the public health (tobacco products and nicotine inhaling products) Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [4804/24]

\*381. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4809/24]

\*382. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4810/24]

\*383. To ask the Minister for Health to outline a person's options (details supplied) in order that they can access more immediate treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [4832/24]

\*384. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter in relation to an offer of employment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [4897/24]

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

\*385. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to his appearance before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 24 January 2024, if he will clarify whether a proposal (details supplied) was made via an organisation or whether by the individual universities; and if in the case of the latter, which universities made this request; the number of vacant/derelect buildings they have; the number of student beds which each university building could house; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4677/24]

\*386. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to his appearance before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 24 January 2024, he stated that a union (details supplied) had endorsed his new Student Housing Policy, can he identify where such an endorsement can be found; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4678/24]

\*387. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science whether spending from the National Training Fund affects expenditure (details supplied); if an explanation can be provided for each, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4679/24]

\*388. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science what supports are currently available for part-time post graduate services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [4683/24]



\*389. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 224 of 24 January 2023, if those students who did not receive the one off third level support (details supplied) can be considered for a separate cost-of-living grant in recognition of their higher fees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [4720/24]

\*390. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the latest breakdown, by county of apprenticeship registration levels and total apprenticeship population levels by trade, sector for each of the years from 2020 to 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form. — Cathal Crowe. [4847/24]

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

\*391. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total State funding allocated to the new Bettystown library development in County Meath to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [4904/24]

\*392. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of full-time and part-time dog wardens in each local authority area in the past ten years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [4688/24]

\*393. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when Clár funding will be available in 2024. — Claire Kerrane. [4732/24]

\*394. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to provide a list of funding available to women's sheds. — Claire Kerrane. [4733/24]

\*395. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if a women's shed (details supplied) set up in May 2023, that received its PPN number in November 2023, can avail of funding via the local authority. — Claire Kerrane. [4734/24]

\*396. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to advise of any possible funding to complete the set-up of a facility (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [4783/24]

\*397. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total number of hubs onboarded in each county since the National Hub Network (connectedhubs.ie) was launched; and the total amount of funding in each county towards this, in tabular form. — Cathal Crowe. [4833/24]

\*398. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total number of broadband connection points installed in each county; and the total number have been installed in schools by NBI in each county, in tabular form. — Cathal Crowe. [4834/24]

\*399. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if town and village renewal funding will be provided to a project in County Kerry (details supplied); the anticipated timeline for allocations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [4944/24]