



## DÁIL ÉIREANN

*Dé Máirt, 13 Feabhra, 2024*  
*Tuesday, 13th February, 2024*

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CEISTEANNA  
QUESTIONS



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

**Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.**

1. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the child poverty and well-being unit. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4031/24]
2. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the child poverty and well-being unit. — Paul Murphy. [4034/24]
3. To ask the Taoiseach to report on the work of the child poverty and well-being programme in his Department. — Peadar Tóibín. [3976/24]
4. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the child poverty and well-being unit. — Mick Barry. [4125/24]
5. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the work of the child poverty and well-being unit of his Department. — Paul McAuliffe. [5223/24]
6. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the child poverty and well-being unit. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [5274/24]
7. To ask the Taoiseach for an update on the child poverty and well-being unit. — Cian O'Callaghan. [5295/24]
8. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2746/24]
9. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Bríd Smith. [4036/24]
10. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [4019/24]
11. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Paul Murphy. [4022/24]
12. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Mick Barry. [5334/24]
13. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Paul McAuliffe. [5224/24]

14. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [5225/24]

15. To ask the Taoiseach the expected timeline for the citizens assemblies committed to in the Programme for Government. — Cian O’Callaghan. [5296/24]

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

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

18. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [3805/24]

19. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Michael Moynihan. [3808/24]

20. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will next meet. — Peadar Tóibín. [3973/24]

21. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Alan Dillon. [4026/24]

22. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Mick Barry. [4126/24]

23. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Jennifer Murnane O’Connor. [5275/24]

24. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will meet next. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [6307/24]

25. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on Children and Education will next meet. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6644/24]

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

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

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

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

30. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Seán Haughey. [3809/24]

31. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Mary Lou McDonald. [5100/24]

32. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos. — Mick Barry. [5335/24]

33. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his engagements at the World Economic Forum. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6210/24]

34. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his meeting with the Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Paul Murphy. [2809/24]

35. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent engagement with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Seán Haughey. [3810/24]

36. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent engagement with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [3957/24]

37. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his meeting with the Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Peadar Tóibín. [3972/24]

38. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent engagement with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Mick Barry. [4127/24]

39. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent engagement with Chinese Premier Li Qiang. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6211/24]

40. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his meeting with the President of China. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [6660/24]

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

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

43. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his visit to the western Balkans. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [3958/24]

44. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his visit to the western Balkans. — Seán Haughey. [4171/24]

45. To ask the Taoiseach if he will report on his visit to the western Balkans. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6212/24]

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

47. To ask the Taoiseach if he will develop a national security strategy and functioning security agency to deal with future security events. — Peadar Tóibín. [5111/24]

48. To ask the Taoiseach if he will develop a national security strategy and functioning security agency to deal with future security events. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6207/24]

49. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Alan Farrell. [4000/24]

50. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Mick Barry. [5336/24]

51. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Peadar Tóibín. [5112/24]

52. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [5276/24]

53. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6208/24]

54. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [6661/24]

55. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee on EU and International Affairs will next meet. — Paul Murphy. [6663/24]

56. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his recent discussion with Prime Minister Sunak. — Brendan Smith. [5226/24]

57. To ask the Taoiseach the extent of any discussions he has any with the British Prime Minister following their recent meeting. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6348/24]

58. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his meeting with UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. — Alan Farrell. [6370/24]

59. To ask the Taoiseach the extent to which he expects to develop the Shared Island Initiative in the context of the resumption of the Assembly. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6347/24]

60. To ask the Taoiseach to report on his engagements at the special meeting of the European Council on Ukraine and the EU budget; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [6369/24]

61. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Peadar Tóibín. [5113/24]

62. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Cian O’Callaghan. [5297/24]

63. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [6306/24]

64. To ask the Taoiseach if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6209/24]

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

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

65. To ask the Minister for Education if she will carry out a full and comprehensive review of the pay and working conditions of school bus escorts. — Sorca Clarke. [6201/24]

66. To ask the Minister for Education if she will increase funding and resources to ensure that no child is left without an appropriate school place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6684/24]

67. To ask the Minister for Education what engagements she has had with the State Examinations Commission with regard to the oral examinations due to take place over the Easter break. — Sorca Clarke. [6202/24]

### **CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

68. To ask the Minister for Education how the contents of her Department's circular 0002/2024 provides for additional therapeutic, behavioural and psychological supports for schools, given the current lack thereof, which remains a major barrier to fully inclusive education; and to provide an explanation for the reduction of allocated SET hours for schools around the country. — Gary Gannon. [6343/24]

69. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will conduct an investigation into the steep rise in exemptions from the study of Irish at primary and post primary level to assess the learning necessity for those exemptions and to develop strategies to minimise the number and necessity for exemptions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [6266/24]

70. To ask the Minister for Education what measures are being taken to support positive mental health in schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [6401/24]

71. To ask the Minister for Education if she will increase funding and resources for secondary schools to ensure that no child is left without a secondary school place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6382/24]

72. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the repair of the roof and rain shelters at a school (details supplied), which was most recently at pre-tender report stage. — Paul McAuliffe. [6304/24]

73. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the provision of school transport to a school (details supplied) and students in Glenville attending schools in Fermoy. — Thomas Gould. [6392/24]

74. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the potential inclusion of golf within the physical education curriculum specification, striking/fielding games category; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [6405/24]

75. To ask the Minister for Education to report on progress towards divestment of catholic schools and establishment of non-denominational and multi-denominational schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6383/24]

76. To ask the Minister for Education what measures she is taking to ensure that on-line safety is taught in primary schools to support anti-bullying programmes/plans already in place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [6400/24]

77. To ask the Minister for Education the supports provided for students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties in the classroom in primary and secondary level schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6386/24]

78. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding the planning permission applications for two schools (details supplied); if they are being prioritised by her Department to reflect the shortage of secondary school places in the wider area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [6257/24]

79. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the school transport review. — Sorca Clarke. [6205/24]

80. To ask the Minister for Education what action her Department is taking to deal with recruitment challenges of bus drivers under the school transport scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6378/24]

81. To ask the Minister for Education if she will report on the recent circular on domestic violence leave for teachers and special needs assistants; how this leave will operate in reality in school communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6404/24]

82. To ask the Minister for Education if she has considered designating any further universities, including technological universities, as centres of excellence for the purposes of teacher training education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6340/24]

83. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider the addition of young carers as a target group for educational supports, such as Tusla's school completion programme, given the ESRI's findings that young people who care for a relative are less likely to move on to higher education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [6342/24]

84. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding the contract tendering for a new school building in Greystones (details supplied); if this is being prioritised by her Department to reflect the shortage of secondary school places in the wider area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [6256/24]

85. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [3493/24]



86. To ask the Minister for Education if she will comment on the provision of ASD units in primary and post-primary schools in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [6361/24]

87. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 75 of 25 November 2023, the timeline for the publication of the final report of the review of the school transport scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [6394/24]

88. To ask the Minister for Education the minimum requirement of class periods that should be made available for the teaching of senior cycle physical education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [6169/24]

89. To ask the Minister for Education the number of requests to the financial support services unit by primary schools in 2023 for additional funding; and the value of the funding provided. — Sorca Clarke. [6206/24]

90. To ask the Minister for Education to report on her Department's efforts to address the demand for secondary school places in north County Dublin; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [6371/24]

91. To ask the Minister for Education on the provision of a new school building for a school in County Leitrim (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [2699/24]

92. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which she remains confident that she and her Department will be in a position to meet the full requirement of school places at primary and second level throughout Kildare and the rest of the country on time for September 2024 enrolment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6349/24]

93. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the application by a school (details supplied) to provide additional special classrooms; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [6167/24]

94. To ask the Minister for Education the funding that is in place to assist schools, particularly in rural areas where they are trying to improve traffic safety on school grounds; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6402/24]

95. To ask the Minister for Education to outline the work conducted by the National Education Psychological Service (NEPS) in schools in Dublin 1 since November 2023; the number of therapy sessions provided by NEPS by each school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [6345/24]

96. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the delay in the construction of the new school building at a school (details supplied); if any plans are in place to address this delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [6399/24]

97. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the urgency in finding a resolution to the issue of children and parents crossing the road to attend a school (details supplied) in Donegal, given that another near fatal incident occurred recently; if she plans to deal with the situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6039/24]

98. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department has carried out an assessment of the potential of remote delivery in education; and if new initiatives are planned in this arena. — Richard Bruton. [50444/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the establishment of a special school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [6380/24]

100. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the recruitment of teachers and SNAs, as outlined in Budget 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [6372/24]

101. To ask the Minister for Education the number of students that sat the Leaving Certificate physical education exam in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [6168/24]

102. To ask the Minister for Education is she and her Department will commit to an enhanced safety audit of schools in vulnerable and high traffic areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [6346/24]

103. To ask the Minister for Education if she will ensure that leaving certificate results will be available in time to allow first year third level students start college at the same time as others and if she can provide a date now. — Aodhán Ó Riordáin. [6263/24]

104. To ask the Minister for Education the availability, location and number of places in ASD units in secondary schools in County Louth for the 2024-2025 academic year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [6339/24]

105. To ask the Minister for Education the process used for advertising for the STEM grant in December 2023; and the process for the selection of schools for the STEM grant. — Joan Collins. [5868/24]

106. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the review of the school transport scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [6164/24]

107. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on plans to introduce a payroll system in her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [6396/24]

108. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on plans to increase the allocation of SNAs in primary education; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [6395/24]

109. To ask the Minister for Education if she will increase funding to schools in order that no additional income from parents in the form of voluntary contributions is required; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6384/24]

110. To ask the Minister for Education for a review of the decision not to provide funding for play equipment and a canopy which had previously been approved at a school (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [6305/24]

111. To ask the Minister for Education the reason Departmental information is regularly communicated to school staff after 5pm, given their right to disconnect; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [6344/24]

112. To ask the Minister for Education if she will pilot a school transport for all policy for 12 months in the south east ward of Cork city that would provide pupils with access to a bus service or bicycles in an effort to encourage the over 5,900 children currently travelling by car to change mode of transport and if she will report on the success of the pilot. — Aodhán Ó Riordáin. [6264/24]

113. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the progression of an application by a school (details supplied) for additional accommodation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [6165/24]

114. To ask the Minister for Education the number of students who completed the Junior and Leaving Certificates, respectively in each of the past ten years, in tabular form. — Peadar Tóibín. [6408/24]

115. To ask the Minister for Education the steps that her Department is taking to ensure that all children starting secondary school in Galway city and county will have a school place in their local area for the academic year 2024-2025; the details of any engagement she has had with parent representative groups in this regard in the current academic year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [6393/24]

116. To ask the Minister for Education if all DEIS schools that applied for the recent STEM grant received the grant; the number of DEIS schools that applied for the STEM grant; and the number that were successful. — Joan Collins. [5887/24]

117. To ask the Minister for Education if she has considered the reintroduction of the qualifications allowance for teachers at primary level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6341/24]

118. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the number of available ASD places in Cork schools in September 2024. — Thomas Gould. [6391/24]

119. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the development project for a school (details supplied); the expected date for the completion of this project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [6166/24]

120. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which she and her Department expect to be in a position to improve school transport serving primary and second level schools throughout north Kildare and countrywide in line with the enrolment requirements and admissions for September 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6351/24]

121. To ask the Minister for Education if DEIS schools were weighted in comparison to non-DEIS school funding/finances in the application process for the recent STEM grant funds. — Joan Collins. [5877/24]

122. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 591 of 17 January 2024, when her Department expects to publish the latest enrolment projection report

for primary and post-primary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [6379/24]

123. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she will take to ensure that enough places in special reading schools for children with severe dyslexia are available for all children who need it, and not only those in the first percentile for reading as is currently the case; when adequate places will be provided (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6381/24]

124. To ask the Minister for Education the number of gaelscoileanna in the State. — Peadar Tóibín. [6407/24]

125. To ask the Minister for Education when the review into school transport will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6403/24]

126. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for the delay with the promised SEN provision for a school in Donegal (details supplied), which includes an extension to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6390/24]

127. To ask the Minister for Education the number of children in the greater Dublin area are currently without a second level place or are on long lists for admission to a second level schools place; what measures are being taken to address the issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [6262/24]

128. To ask the Minister for Education if schools planning to open a special class in September 2024 can be provided access to training for staff before the classes open in September, in order to prevent classes having to lose teachers on those training days; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [6265/24]

129. To ask the Minister for Education the availability, location and number of places in ASD units in primary schools in County Louth for the 2024-2025 academic year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [6338/24]

130. To ask the Minister for Education the progress that has been made to date by her Department with regard to the establishment of a transfer/relocation scheme for post primary school teachers to stem the teacher retention crisis; to outline in detail her Department plans going forward in addressing this issue; if engagement is taking place with stakeholders (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6377/24]

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

*Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.*

\*131. To ask the Taoiseach the data held by the CSO on the average weekly spending on out-of-pocket medical expenses per week, and as a percentage of total weekly spending. — Richard Bruton. [5784/24]

\*132. To ask the Taoiseach the data held by the CSO on the number of persons aged 70 or over who are a head of a household. — Richard Bruton. [5785/24]

\*133. To ask the Taoiseach for details on the setting up of the Future of Media Commission, including a breakdown of the costs and the total cost of the commission from start to finish. — Imelda Munster. [5804/24]

\*134. To ask the Taoiseach to provide details on the investigation into the leak of the report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes, including the time period in which it was conducted, the amount and grade of staff members assigned to the investigation and the budget allocated for the investigation. — Holly Cairns. [6573/24]

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

\*135. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he is aware of reports a Palestinian-Canadian journalist (details supplied) has been abducted by Israeli authorities in Gaza; if he is aware of reports that journalists are being targeted by Israeli authorities in Gaza; if he has raised the issue with the Government of Israel; if he has raised the issue with the Government of Canada; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [6071/24]

\*136. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason a US Navy Hercules KC130T aircraft was allowed to land and refuel at Shannon Airport on two occasions recently (details supplied); the reason this aircraft was allowed to land and refuel at Shannon Airport in breach of international laws on neutrality; and if steps were taken to ensure that this aircraft was not transporting military materials to Israel in breach of the Government's duties under the Genocide Convention. — Mairéad Farrell. [6105/24]

\*137. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if there are plans to open a new Consulate General Office in Cape Town, South Africa. — Darren O'Rourke. [6156/24]

\*138. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the dates in 2023 and to-date in 2024 on which he or his officials spoke with the Irish Consul General in Sydney, in tabular form. — Darren O'Rourke. [6157/24]

\*139. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the up-to-date position with regard to Turkiye, Serbia and Moldova's application to join the EU. — Sorca Clarke. [6224/24]

\*140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he plans to invite his Swedish counterpart to Dublin in 2024. — Sorca Clarke. [6225/24]

\*141. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a foreign birth registration application (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [6317/24]

\*142. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a person (details supplied) can be facilitated in being evacuated from Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [6326/24]

\*143. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of the case of a person (details supplied) who is in possession of an Irish residence permit and is trapped in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [6409/24]

\*144. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to review a passport application (detail supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6421/24]

\*145. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs to review passport applications (details supplied), taking note of travel time; and provide an update on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6424/24]

\*146. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will expedite the issuing of a passport (details supplied). — Thomas Gould. [6441/24]

\*147. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a passport application (details supplied) can be escalated as the applicant's travel date is imminent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [6514/24]

\*148. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if a passport application (details supplied) can be escalated as the applicant's travel date is imminent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [6515/24]

\*149. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs further to Parliamentary Question No. 150 of 30 November 2023, if he has made contact with the Northern Ireland Executive to utilise the resources of the Shared Island Initiative to alleviate this situation. — Sean Sherlock. [6517/24]

\*150. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if his Department can access a previously provided original document in respect of another application within his Department for a person (details supplied) in County Mayo, given the same document is required for their passport application and they cannot obtain another original copy of this document; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [6547/24]

\*151. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a passport application for a person (details supplied) in Dublin 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6570/24]

\*152. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he spoke with the US House of Representative Minority Leader during his recent visit to Washington DC. — Alan Kelly. [6602/24]

\*153. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the number of WTE staff by grade working in the Passport Office as of 7 February 2024, in tabular form; and if this number will be further increased during 2024. — Alan Kelly. [6603/24]

\*154. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if the Government accepts that Israeli settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territories is a breach of peremptory norms of international law, including in particular international humanitarian law; if the Government recognises the obligation of the State not to recognise the illegal situation created by this breach, and not to aid or assist in maintaining this illegal situation; his views on whether this includes a legal obligation to abstain from entering into economic or other forms of relationship or dealings with Israel or Israeli entities that purport to acknowledge Israeli authority over Palestinian territory or which would give legal effect to settlement activities or would otherwise entrench the illegal situation; his views on whether the State has a duty to dissuade Irish business from contributing to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including by



developing economic relations with settlement enterprises; whether the Implementation Group of the National Plan on Business and Human Rights has considered the issue; if so, to outline its view; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [6653/24]

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

\*155. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if in a scenario where broadband is running at less than the legal requirement, the steps NBI can take in order to rectify the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [6047/24]

\*156. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how the Government plans to support the raising of funds for construction of community electricity generation projects; if the Government plans to create green financing packages that will allow such projects to access funds to ensure they are financially viable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6125/24]

\*157. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the specific Government targets and timelines for community electricity generation projects; the amount of energy that community electricity generation projects currently generate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6126/24]

\*158. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications whether he is aware that the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland free energy upgrade scheme currently has a waiting time between application and completion of works in the region of 24 months; the steps he is taking to address this unacceptably long waiting time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6127/24]

\*159. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he intends to report annually on Ireland's overall progress towards the sustainable development goals to both Houses of the Oireachtas; how this report will inform progress to 2030 deadline; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mary Lou McDonald. [6145/24]

\*160. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his plans to provide recycling facilities for duvets and pillows, as opposed to current situation of placing them in the general waste bin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6146/24]

\*161. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the reason a town (details supplied) is not included in the RESS 2; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [6150/24]

\*162. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there are plans to close the post office in Phibsborough, Dublin 7. — Jim O'Callaghan. [6177/24]

\*163. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has had discussions with An Post regarding the closure of the post office in Phibsborough, Dublin 7. — Jim O'Callaghan. [6178/24]

\*164. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department will consider plans to allow microgeneration on commercial buildings and farms,

given that wind power accounted for 35% of the electricity used in Ireland in 2023, and that most of this wind power was privately produced. — Michael Moynihan. [6185/24]

\*165. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what barriers in the State prevent the further expansion of the microgeneration scheme to encompass more businesses and larger farms. — Michael Moynihan. [6186/24]

\*166. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what changes have been made to the eligibility criteria for the SEAI warmer homes scheme on foot of the issuance of the energy efficiency guidance to support upgrading of older traditional buildings; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [6203/24]

\*167. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications is he aware of the case of a person (details supplied) who is experiencing a delay with their better energy warmer homes energy assessment with the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6247/24]

\*168. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if a matter in relation to persons retiring from Eir (details supplied) will be addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [6274/24]

\*169. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications for a breakdown of the number of smart metres installed in each county, in tabular form; the number of these that are active; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [6296/24]

\*170. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if there are any plans to add an invalidity pension as a qualifying payment for SEAI grants for fully-funded energy upgrades; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [6436/24]

\*171. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when the broadband connection point at Mountbellow mart will be operational; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [6475/24]

\*172. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what procedures are in place to ensure that those who have recently occupied a previous unoccupied house can avail of the electricity account credit payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [6511/24]

\*173. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he plans to engage with local authorities to explore the possibility of local councils providing more public waste collection services, particularly in the context of private companies raising the price of bin collections for many households; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6532/24]

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

\*174. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the rationale and basis upon which he intends to place restrictions on Defence Forces representative associations through the Defence Forces Amendment Bill 2023; his views on the prohibition of representative associations from making public statements or commenting concerning political matters; his intended definition of



‘political matter’ within the Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6032/24]

\*175. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will outline the findings of the Permanent Defence Force adjudication finding of 24 May 2023: RACO and Department of Defence: conditions of service of the Director of Military Prosecutions; and if subsection 2(2A) as outlined within the Defence Forces Amendment Bill 2023 is consistent with the finding of the adjudication finding. — Matt Carthy. [6033/24]

\*176. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the establishment figure of the Defence Forces; its strength as of December 2023; the number in full-time induction training, that is, recruits, two-star training, cadet training or apprenticeship, by Army, Naval Service and Air Corps, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6034/24]

\*177. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 139 of 18 January 2024, if he considers the UNDOF peacekeeping mission an appropriate response to the situation in the Golan Heights; if the mission is in line with Irish foreign policy; his views on the level of risk involved; the latest analysis of his Department as to the level of risk involved; the extent to which the required skills or characteristics relate to Irish capabilities; if he believe the objectives and mandate of the mission is realistic, clear and has the potential to contribute to a political solution; if the operation is adequately resourced; and the number of Defence Forces personnel deployed on United Nations endorsed peacekeeping missions in the years 2019 to date, by year, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6035/24]

\*178. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 142 and 143 of 18 January 2024, the number of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates in the First Line Reserve; the number of applications to join the First Line Reserve received; the number within that have been enlisted in the years 2013 to 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6036/24]

\*179. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 49 of 23 January 2024, if he intends to conduct a public consultation regarding his proposal to remove the triple lock neutrality protection; if he intends to allow the Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence to conduct pre-legislative scrutiny; if he will give an undertaking not to guillotine the legislation in either Houses of the Oireachtas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6052/24]

\*180. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 88 of 23 January 2024, if he has considered adopting a statutory ban on the training of military personnel in Ireland from states involved in illegal occupations, apartheid or genocide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6053/24]

\*181. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will report on his engagements regarding a European Union mission to the Red Sea; the position of Ireland in relation to such a mission; if Ireland will be contributing in any way towards the mission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6054/24]

\*182. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of qualified avionics technicians and cadet pilots in training currently within the Air Corps. — Sorca Clarke. [6213/24]

\*183. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of women in the Defence Forces; the recruitment target; the number who have left, by branch and by year, for the years 2020 to 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6462/24]

\*184. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of women in the Reserve Defence Forces; the recruitment target; the number who have left, by branch and by year, for the years 2020 to 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6463/24]

\*185. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 134 of 28 November 2023, if the medical records of a member of the Defence Forces were found to be incorrect and inaccurate, the procedure that is in place to put this miscarriage of justice right; the person or body to contact with new evidence and supporting documents (details supplied) to rectify this important issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pat Buckley. [6620/24]

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

\*186. To ask the Minister for Transport what funding supports could be provided to a group (details supplied) for the purchase a vital piece of equipment. — Jackie Cahill. [6074/24]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Transport to respond to concerns raised by a local organisation and service users (details supplied) in respect of the difficulty in securing disability-adapted taxis in County Louth; what measures are being, or could be, considered to increase the number of disability-friendly taxi units in County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [6435/24]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied) from Monaghan County Council; if he will address the issues outlined in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6042/24]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied) from Monaghan County Council; if he will address the issues outlined in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6044/24]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Transport to review correspondence (detail supplied) from Monaghan County Council; if he will address the issues outlined in same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6045/24]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding that has been provided to Monaghan County Council for the maintenance and upkeep of local and regional roads in each of the years 2016-2023 inclusive and allocated in 2024, by year, by grant, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6055/24]

\*192. To ask the Minister for Transport the length of local public roads eligible for maintenance funding within each local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6056/24]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Transport when the EV SPSV scheme for 2024 will open for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6064/24]

\*194. To ask the Minister for Transport if it is intended to provide funding through his Department to ensure that the CIE 1951 Pension Scheme has sufficient funds to pay pension increases to CIE pensioners, taking into account that these public servants have not received a pension increase for 15 years; or alternatively whether this pension scheme will be incorporated into the general public service scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6099/24]

\*195. To ask the Minister for Transport when he expects the final draft of the All-Island Strategic Rail Review to be prepared for approval by the Ministers north and south following the recent public consultation; the process that will be followed to get final sign off on the strategy in this jurisdiction so that the elements pertaining to this jurisdiction can be actioned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6113/24]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Transport the current security arrangements surrounding Weston Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [6117/24]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of issues regarding the hiring of former employees of CIE companies into new roles following the receipt of redundancy payments (detailed supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6119/24]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline his Department's policy on motor tax rates for pre-2008 vehicles; his views on allowing motorists to avail of rates based on an alternative basis to engine size, considering the embedded carbon preserved by pre-2008 vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6136/24]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Transport the direct and indirect subsidies for international passenger air travel; the direct and indirect subsidies for international passenger ferry travel; the climate costs and benefits of each, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6139/24]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on an Irish citizen with an expired Australian driving licence for trucks seeking assistance to change the licence back to an Irish driving licence; if the driver can renew the licence in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [6151/24]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of applicants on a waiting list for a driving test by test centre, in tabular form. — Seán Crowe. [6189/24]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Transport if a response will issue to queries raised in correspondence (details supplied) in respect of InterCity rail price increases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [6233/24]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to arrange to remove the graffiti on an underpass (details supplied) and to improve the public lighting along the pedestrian side; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6254/24]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Transport if the active travel scheme is still funding the upgrade and installation of footpaths; if not, when and the reason this policy was changed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [6288/24]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of learner permit holders disqualified in 2023 and to date in 2024, by county; the number that surrendered their learner permit to the Road Safety Authority, by county in 2023 and to date in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6308/24]

\*206. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide details of the increase in passenger numbers using Iarnród Éireann services in 2023 compared to 2022, broken down by route and between inner commuter, outer commuter and intercity rail; the further investment steps he intends taking to ensure even further growth in rail usage in the coming five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6316/24]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Transport if grant funding is available to support an organisation (details supplied) in Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [6335/24]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Transport in relation to fines levied on students who fail to present their student travel card on bus and rail services, if the National Transport Authority provides an appeal mechanism where this can be waived if they can later show that had simply forgotten the card; and if he would support such an initiative if one does not already exist. — Mairéad Farrell. [6350/24]

\*209. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will comment on the ongoing use by his Department of ‘accident black spots’, and their proven effectiveness as speed reduction measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [6358/24]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of trees felled, and the reasons for felling, as part of the M28 works from Cork to Ringaskiddy. — Sean Sherlock. [6416/24]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Transport the cost spend to date on the M28 works from Cork to Ringaskiddy. — Sean Sherlock. [6417/24]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Transport the height of the walls being constructed as sound barriers as part of the M28 works from Cork to Ringaskiddy. — Sean Sherlock. [6418/24]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of bus drivers that have left the service, including retirees, in each county since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [6489/24]

\*214. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of taxi drivers who have left the service, by month, since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [6490/24]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of train drivers who have left the service since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [6491/24]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has given further consideration to funding the next phase of the Mallow relief road to enable the project to be brought to planning stage. — Sean Sherlock. [6556/24]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 121 of 17 October 2023, if Transport Infrastructure Ireland has responded to the initial information request; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [6579/24]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 68 and 69 of 7 February 2024, in what quarter of 2024 there will be an agreement on the sharing of collision data; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [6584/24]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Transport for a detailed update in relation to the implementation of the actions across the seven safe system priority intervention areas outlined in Phase 1 Action Plan: 2021-2024 of the Road Safety Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [6585/24]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of new full-time bus mechanics recruited by Bus Éireann in 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6597/24]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the Road Traffic Measures Bill 2023; and when this Bill will progress to the next stage. — Alan Kelly. [6598/24]

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

\*222. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will push for an extension of the flexible EU fiscal rules introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic to allow for greater investment in the construction of new social and affordable housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [6110/24]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of firms that will receive a refund of interest paid on warehoused tax debt, based on economic sector, by county; the total amount of money to be refunded to businesses that have made repayments arising from the announcement recently of the changes to the operation of the tax debt warehousing scheme that will take effect shortly, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [6102/24]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Finance if he plans to review the help-to-buy scheme from a socioeconomic impact perspective; and his plans to review the scheme in the context of economic impact. — Catherine Murphy. [6128/24]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Finance the total expenditure on a review of the help-to-buy scheme that was delivered in 2022; if he will provide a schedule of actions and progress of same in relation to the conclusions that were drawn from the review; and if he accepts them in part, in full or if he rejects them. — Catherine Murphy. [6129/24]

\*226. 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 by month of payment since the increased stamp duty was introduced, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [6134/24]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will report on the plans for the end of the motor fuel subsidy on 31 March 2024 (details supplied); if he plans to review or reverse this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6143/24]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to reassess the VAT rate for new electric vehicles, including new electric vehicles imported from the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6187/24]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason karate, judo and other martial arts are vatable at 23% whilst fitness classes have a reduced rate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [6197/24]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures he and his Department are taking to ensure that no products from illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine are imported into Ireland; if he and his Department are taking measures to prevent Irish goods being exported to Israeli companies which are complicit in the illegal settlement of Palestinian land; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [6204/24]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Finance if State aid approval has been given for the Budget 2024 announcement of an increase to the cap on section 481 film tax credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6253/24]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is familiar with the practice of fraudulently registering vehicles within the state in order to reclaim monies under the VRT repayment scheme (details supplied); the number of vehicles fraudulently registered within the State in this way; what advances have been made in detecting these fraudulent registrations; how many prosecutions have taken place in this time period per year since 1997, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [6259/24]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures and supports that are being considered to help alleviate the devastating pressure being exerted on homeowners who have been moved or are tied to vulture fund lenders, where in some cases they are paying over 10% interest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [6282/24]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has given consideration to redefining ‘normal place of work’ in relation to business mileage for employees such as sales representatives who travel from their homes to business appointments, but their head office is based in another part of the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [6287/24]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Finance the annual turnover of companies availing of the tax debt warehousing scheme in each year the scheme has operated; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6291/24]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Finance if the annual pension double payment is subject to tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [6422/24]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Finance if there are any proposals to treat the annual pension double payment as a non-taxable payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [6423/24]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Finance if NAMA keeps a record of all properties and sites that it has disposed of, and if this information is publicly available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [6516/24]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Finance in relation to the VAT rate increase from 9% to 13.5% for food-led hospitality businesses, if he will reconsider and reinstate the VAT rate to 9%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [6569/24]



\*240. To ask the Minister for Finance if Ireland holds any investments in US Treasury bonds that finance the provision of bombs and weapons to Israel; if he has any plans to divest from them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6577/24]

\*241. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason HVO is unable to be competitive against kerosene in terms of fuel substitution; the reason HVO is not classified as a biofuel in the Finance Act; the reason it cannot trade BOC certs as it can do with the transport fuels obligation scheme; the reason it is not supported in any subsidy as in, for example, being funded by carbon tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [6580/24]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will address matters in relation to the increase in VAT on food from 9% to 13% and other costs and the way this will impact on the restaurant industry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [6622/24]

*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.*

\*243. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform for an update on the temporary use of a centre (details supplied). — Mary Lou McDonald. [6077/24]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if consideration has been given to the M4 access to Castletown House under the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 which provides for access to ensure the integrity of a heritage site; if so, the reason it has not been pursued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6091/24]

\*245. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if the OPW has made efforts to secure the right to use the M4 entrance to access Castletown House in the context of utilising the provisions of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023; and if not, the reason. — Catherine Murphy. [6116/24]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if the OPW has examined and costed the repair of the drainage system at Railway Road, Raphoe, County Donegal, which was damaged and left in a dangerous situation in July 2023; when it will be repaired; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6176/24]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the total amount of funding that remains unspent by his Department from allocations under the Brexit adjustment reserve, disaggregated by scheme title of eligible measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6430/24]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the visitor numbers for each visitor attractions operated by the OPW for each month of 2023, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6593/24]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the number of vacant WTE posts, by job title currently in the Office of Government Procurement; the estimated full year cost of filling each of those vacancies; and when each of those vacancies will be filled, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6594/24]

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

\*250. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment with reference to the Report Stage debate of 31 January 2024 on the Employment Permits Bill 2022, the progress, if any, that his Department has made in facilitating spouses or partners of those working in Ireland under intra-company transfer employment permits to gain access to the labour market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [6133/24]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the actions he has taken to reduce job losses at a company (details supplied) in Cork and ensure staff are reemployed quickly. — Thomas Gould. [6141/24]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of cost-of-doing-business grants processed by his Department by 6 February 2024, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6245/24]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to detail the pro-enterprise measures taken by the Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6246/24]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if Ireland will make a contribution to the International Court of Justice proceedings, convened at the request of the ILO, to urgently render an advisory opinion on whether the right to strike of workers and their organisations is protected under ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association, to which the International Court of Justice has invited state parties to the Convention, such as Ireland, to submit written contributions on the question; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [6280/24]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of local enterprise applications received by county in tabular form; and the number that were successful and the number are refused in 2022 and 2023. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [6299/24]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he plans to engage with companies providing residential waste collection services in respect of them raising the price of bin collections for households, in some instances several times in a year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6531/24]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 146 of 7 February 2024, how many applications for a general employment permit for a mechanic role have been submitted in 2023 and 2024; how many have been awarded in 2023 and 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [6583/24]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if Enterprise Ireland intends to open an office in Mexico City. — Alan Kelly. [6595/24]



\*259. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the amount of capital funding allocated to IDA Ireland for its Regional Property Programme in 2023 and 2024, in tabular form.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [6596/24]

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

\*260. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais an bhfuil cinneadh déanta maidir le líon na sraithphictiúir atá le déanamh ag daltaí atá ag ullmhú don Ardteist; an bhfuair a Roinn aon chomhfhreagras ó dhaltai ag léiriú míshástacht faoin mbrú a chuireann an 20 sraithphictiúir reatha orthu; agus cé na hiarrachtaí atá ar bun aici chun an brú i measc an chúigiú agus an séú bliain a laghdú. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [6037/24]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Education if a special needs place at a particular school can be allocated to students (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [6041/24]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Education when a NEPS assessment will be made available to a person (details supplied). — Eoin Ó Broin. [6050/24]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Education to detail all payments made to a club (details supplied) in relation to the construction of a school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [6066/24]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Education the status of a building development project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [6067/24]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Education the reason a school (details supplied) has been refused approval under the Emergency Works Programme for an urgent project which impacts children’s safety in this school; what programmes are available to schools to apply for works urgently due to the health and safety nature of the works, that the school can receive urgent funding for the project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6073/24]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Education if an issue in relation to SNAs (details supplied) will be examined; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [6086/24]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 246 of 21 November 2023, if she will provide an update and a timeframe for an extension to a school (details supplied) consisting of an additional modular classroom, which was approved in March 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6087/24]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Education to consider a redeployment scheme for SNAs who lose positions in a school and are seeking to be deployed to another school. — Pa Daly. [6092/24]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the review she ordered on the guidance document that relates to how to facilitate the use of the spaces and facilities for the wider community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe O’Brien. [6095/24]

\*270. To ask the Minister for Education the breakdown of the language of instruction in each primary school, the full complement of teachers each school should have; the number of current

vacancies in teaching posts at the school; and the number of unqualified teachers employed to fill teaching posts at the school, in columns, in tabular form. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [6098/24]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Education if she will reassess the proposal to split a school up across a town (details supplied); and to outline the cost of the measures involved in all options. — Sean Sherlock. [6107/24]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Education if she will address concerns raised by a teacher (details supplied) who qualifies for an allowance for the professional Master's in Education is not being paid this allowance; the reason for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [6109/24]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide a detailed update in respect of school places in Prosperous and Clane in County Kildare (details supplied). — Catherine Murphy. [6111/24]

\*274. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for the delay with the promised SEN provision for a school (details supplied), which includes an extension to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6140/24]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Education the reason a student requiring hearing aids would have to wait three months for software to be purchased for use with a system (details supplied); his views on whether a process taking three months in an academic year presents an unacceptable barrier to education for students with hearing difficulties; the changes she plans to make to streamline this process and bring the delay to an absolute minimum; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Crowe. [6188/24]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Education when additional rooms will be provided for a school (details supplied) in County Laois; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [6190/24]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Education when additional rooms will be provided for a school (details supplied) in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [6191/24]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Education if she will resolve the issues relative to a construction project at a school (details supplied) as a matter of urgency to allow the project to proceed. — John McGuinness. [6198/24]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Education the number of autism and special education class spaces currently in Kilkenny; and the number of spaces expected to be in place in Kilkenny in August 2024. — Sorca Clarke. [6216/24]

\*280. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the school building programme in County Roscommon. — Sorca Clarke. [6217/24]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Education the number of special educational needs organisers currently in place in Kerry. — Sorca Clarke. [6218/24]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Education when refurbishment works at a school (details supplied) will move to construction commencing on site. — Sorca Clarke. [6219/24]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Education the number of WTE educational psychologists attached to north-west/north midlands region in 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [6220/24]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Education when refurbishment works at a school (details supplied) will move to construction commencing on site. — Sorca Clarke. [6221/24]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Education when refurbishment works at a school (details supplied) will move to tender stage of works. — Sorca Clarke. [6222/24]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Education if the school transport scheme can be amended to allow qualified school bus drivers over the age of 70 drive school buses for Bus Éireann; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [6236/24]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Education if a sanction will be granted for a reading school to be opened in an area (details supplied) to cater for the high number of dyslexic children in the locality; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [6237/24]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the review for school transport; and if she will publish the review in full. — Sean Sherlock. [6242/24]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Education the number of appeals on file for school transport by county, in tabular form. — Sean Sherlock. [6243/24]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on the funding supports available for educational psychologists, in particular matching HSE funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6248/24]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Education if she is considering giving incremental credit to teachers who have worked abroad for a number of years and have now returned to work in Ireland (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [6258/24]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the proposed new secondary school to be built for Harold's Cross Educate Together; if a commitment could be given that the original deadlines established for the project will be met; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [6281/24]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Education when school transport will be provided to a pupil with additional needs (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [6290/24]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Education how the number of SNAs is allocated for an area; how is it decided how many autism units will be utilized/included/added in each area; and how the Department determines how many complex needs schools/disabled needs schools will be built for the people in the area. — Paul Murphy. [6300/24]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Education in relation to how many autism units will be utilized/included/added in each area, how that the Department reaches a decision about what is need compared to what is already available; if it the same process for primary schools and secondary

schools; and if this information for each area is available for the public to review online or elsewhere. — Paul Murphy. [6301/24]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 267 of 30 January 2024, the process through which parents can apply for an exemption for their child to remain in an early intervention class for a further year, due to being unable to secure a special school place, as this was not answered in the previous reply; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [6322/24]

\*297. To ask the Minister for Education if she can make an exception for the teacher registration deadline (details supplied), considering there is such a need for teachers in the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [6353/24]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on the proposed extension to a school (details supplied); when a decision will be made; and the timeline for delivery of the building. — Thomas Gould. [6388/24]

\*299. To ask the Minister for Education about the recently published guide for parents on keeping childhood smartphone free; what funding is being provided by the Department to support this initiative in schools; what plans her Department has to tackle the use of smartphones in schools across the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6420/24]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Education if she will assist a family in securing a school place for a child (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [6426/24]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware of the delay in the construction of a new school building (details supplied); if any plans are in place to address this delay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [6428/24]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Education what measures are being taken by her Department to ensure that all eligible students who apply for school transport under the primary school transport scheme in an area (details supplied) for the 2024-2025 academic year will be facilitated, given there is a high probability that the service will be oversubscribed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6442/24]

\*303. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide a list of the new and revised subjects with regard to the senior cycle redevelopment (details supplied) that are intended to be rolled out in 2025. — Sorca Clarke. [6444/24]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Education if she will explain in detail how the introduction and revision of nine subjects is intended to alleviate pressure for students sitting the Leaving Certificate. — Sorca Clarke. [6445/24]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Education to explain in detail what the externally assessed components that are not a traditional written examination to be incorporated in the senior cycle will look like in practice; and when they are planned to take place, if not in June. — Sorca Clarke. [6446/24]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Education when in 2026 the second tranche of revised subjects will be introduced, and what these subjects are expected to be. — Sorca Clarke. [6447/24]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Education if she can provide an update on the research that is being conducted by the SEC on the potential role and impact of generative artificial intelligence in teacher-based assessment; when she expects this research to be completed and published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [6448/24]

\*308. To ask the Minister for Education if she can present a schedule of the phases or tranches over which all senior cycle subjects will be revised. — Sorca Clarke. [6449/24]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking in 2024 to ensure adequate provision of second level school places in Bray and Greystones, County Wicklow for 2027 and beyond; and if she reviews residential development and population increases in her planning. — Catherine Murphy. [6457/24]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking in 2024 to ensure adequate provision of second-level school places in Enfield, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Navan and Trim, County Meath for 2027 and beyond; and if she reviews residential development and population increases in her planning. — Catherine Murphy. [6458/24]

\*311. To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking in 2024 to ensure adequate provision of second level school places in Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Prosperous, Clane, Sallins and Naas, County Kildare for 2027 and beyond; and if she reviews residential development and population increases in her planning. — Catherine Murphy. [6459/24]

\*312. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais maidir le Ceist Pharlaiminte No. 77 of 29 Samhain 2023, an dtabharfaidh sí soiléiriú ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta maidir leis an bplean chun beartas cuimsitheach don Ghaeilge sa chóras oideachais, idir leibhéal an oideachais réamhscoile agus leibhéal an oideachais do mhúinteoirí, a fhorbairt agus a fhoilsiú; cathain a fhoilseofar an beartas nua; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [6460/24]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to develop school catchment areas that would be applicable nationwide; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [6461/24]

\*314. To ask the Minister for Education how many children in north Kildare are currently left without a school-place in secondary school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6476/24]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Education how long each child now relying on home tuition due to a lack of a school-places is availing of the service; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6477/24]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Education if, as per an RTÉ interview, she is now guaranteeing a first-year school place for each child who requires one in north Kildare in the school year 2024; if she can further guarantee a school place in second year for the children currently without a school place in first year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6478/24]

\*317. To ask the Minister for Education if, as per RTÉ interview, she is now guaranteeing a first year school place for each child who requires one in north Kildare in the school year 2024;

if she can further guarantee a school-place in second year for the children currently without a school-place in first year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6479/24]

\*318. To ask the Minister for Education how many times her Department has forced a school to take a child who was not awarded a school place in each of the last three years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6480/24]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Education if she will, as a matter of urgency, be ‘requiring’ schools in north Kildare to accept a child who has not been successful in being awarded a school-place in first year and other years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6481/24]

\*320. To ask the Minister for Education to outline any plans her Department has to make online home schooling available to children for whom in-class education is problematic for a variety of reasons, and who thrived in the online learning situation during the lockdown phases of the ongoing Covid pandemic; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6482/24]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Education the plans her Department has to recruit teachers who would teach on an online only basis, such an option proving attractive to many; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6483/24]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Education her plans to provide clean air in school given public health announcements regarding measles, which, like Covid-19, is a highly contagious, airborne infection, easily transmitted and contracted in enclosed spaces; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6484/24]

\*323. To ask the Minister for Education if she can seek assurance from the Teaching Council of Ireland that it will ensure that persons completing their masters in physical education in the UK can be facilitated in Ireland in 2024 to complete their two-year induction as there is a lack of physical education teachers within education settings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [6495/24]

\*324. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on her Department’s proposed accommodation plans for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [6496/24]

\*325. To ask the Minister for Education to review correspondence regarding SET allocation to a school (details supplied); the reason these cuts have taken place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6499/24]

\*326. To ask the Minister for Education when a school (details supplied) will have an update on approval of its stage 3 report for a planned extension to the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [6510/24]

\*327. To ask the Minister for Education what facilities are available for a national school child in Terenure who suffers from severe dyslexia and who has been refused a place in schools (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [6557/24]



\*328. To ask the Minister for Education what provisions are being taken by her Department to ensure that all eligible students who apply for school transport under the post-primary school transport scheme in an area (details supplied) for the 2024-2025 academic year will be facilitated, given the high probability that the service will be oversubscribed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6565/24]

\*329. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 542 of 17 January 2024, when her Department will issue a detailed and explanatory response to serious matters raised in correspondence from the management and principal of a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6567/24]

\*330. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 542 of 17 January 2024, how the lottery system used during the STEM grant application process was highlighted in the briefing document to schools before they applied; her views on whether a lottery system was fair, considering the short timeframe offered to schools to complete the application, and the considerable effort schools put into submitting these applications and for them to fail without having the opportunity to be fully assessed on their individual merits; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6568/24]

\*331. To ask the Minister for Education to outline any plans being considered for a new second level school in the Blackrock/Haggardstown area of County Louth; if her Department's population projections show the need for a new school in the area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [6572/24]

\*332. To ask the Minister for Education if she is aware that planning permission for an extension and refurbishment of a school (details supplied) was granted in 2021; if she will provide an update on when work will start on the school redevelopment project; the timeline for completion of the project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [6575/24]

\*333. To ask the Minister for Education to provide information on the full and total cost of the provision of modular facilities at the site of a school (details supplied) since the school has occupied the current site to the end of 2023; if she will provide a costing for the additional modular units required for the site for the 2024-2025 school year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [6576/24]

\*334. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide an update on an application submitted by a school for assisted technology for a pupil (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [6589/24]

\*335. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which she continues to liaise with the parents and management of various schools throughout north Kildare, with a view to ensuring the availability of school transport in the widest form possible, whether on a concessionary or regular basis with particular reference to children attending schools in Maynooth from Straffan, Clane, Prosperous and Rathcoffey, given the present circumstances; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6623/24]

\*336. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Maynooth, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools, including gaelcholáiste; if

satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year next year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can proceed without interruption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6624/24]

\*337. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Kilcock, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools; if satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can proceed without interruption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6625/24]

\*338. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Clane, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools; if satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can proceed without interruption with particular to the children whose parents previously attend the local schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6626/24]

\*339. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Naas, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools; if satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can proceed without interruption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6627/24]

\*340. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Prosperous, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools; if satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can proceed without interruption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6628/24]

\*341. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Prosperous, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools; if satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can



proceed without interruption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6629/24]

\*342. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which ongoing dialogue continues between her Department, the KWETB and the relevant school authorities in Leixlip, County Kildare at pre-primary, primary- and post-primary levels with a view to ensuring that sufficient places are being made available to meet the demand of the current and subsequent years without interruption either in respect of continued building where required, the planning of any new schools, or the acceleration of ongoing work in all schools; if satisfactory results can be achieved before the new school year; if she is satisfied that work in progress or steps yet to be taken can proceed without interruption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6630/24]

\*343. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which emergency measures are being taken to ensure the availability of an adequate number of school places at primary and second level in September 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6631/24]

\*344. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which special needs teachers and SNAs continue to be available to the extent required in County Kildare, and all areas throughout the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6632/24]

\*345. To ask the Minister for Education the extent of progress in ensuring the provision of a new primary school in Newtown, Enfield, County Kildare; the degree to which such provision is capable of meeting the demand in the current and subsequent years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6633/24]

\*346. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which she expects to be in a position to address issues of teacher shortages at all primary and or second-levels schools throughout the country, with particular reference to the need for locums; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6634/24]

\*347. To ask the Minister for Education the progress to date in the provision of new school building for a school (details supplied) given the current premises was only intended to be temporary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6635/24]

\*348. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which special needs provision in terms of school places continues in line with requirements and discussions with the various school authorities with the need to ensure the elimination of waiting lists; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6636/24]

\*349. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which she expects to be in a position to meet the special needs education requirements throughout north Kildare with particular reference to the growing population, the extra needs arising therefrom in terms of accommodation and special classes or special schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6637/24]

\*350. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which primary school places at Johnstownbridge, County Kildare continue to be assessed with a view to ensuring that accommodation is sufficient to meet population increases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6638/24]

\*351. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the progress in the provision of extra school facilities at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6639/24]

\*352. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which primary school places at Broadford, County Kildare continue to be assessed with a view to ensuring that accommodation is sufficient to meet population increases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6640/24]

\*353. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which adequate school places remain available to parents and school children at Moyvalley, County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6641/24]

\*354. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which progress has been made in respect of the provision of new school building for a school (details school); the recent progress in this case, if any; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6642/24]

\*355. To ask the Minister for Education the reason for reducing the criteria for the allocation of SET hours to schools from five to three for the coming year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [6654/24]

\*356. To ask the Minister for Education to explain in detail the decision to remove gender and complex needs as a category when calculating the allocation for each school; what benefits she expects to see from this change; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [6655/24]

\*357. To ask the Minister for Education if she can outline any problems that may arise as a result of not taking the complex needs of students into account; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [6656/24]

\*358. To ask the Minister for Education if the additional supports that may be required by children experiencing homelessness, children living in areas with high levels of crime, children in care or residential settings, new entrant pupils and other pupils who do not speak English as a first language were taken into consideration when revising this model. — Sorca Clarke. [6657/24]

\*359. To ask the Minister for Education the basis for the removal of the CDNTS's recommendations. — Sorca Clarke. [6658/24]

\*360. To ask the Minister for Education the criteria for prioritising literacy and numeracy profiles of schools estimated from the results of standardised testing. — Sorca Clarke. [6659/24]

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

\*361. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cén ról atá ag an Roinn maidir le tacú le Gaeltacht Thuaisceart an Oileáin Úir i gCeanada, cén maoiniú atá tugtha ag an Rialtas don togra gach bliain ó bunaíodh é in 2007, agus an ndéanfaidh sí cur síos ar na torthaí atá bainte amach aige.; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [6058/24]

\*362. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media how the Exchequer funding model for public sector broadcasting could operate in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [6068/24]

\*363. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the chairperson position in the Arts Council will be filled; and the length of time this position has been vacant for. — Darren O'Rourke. [6160/24]

\*364. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will attend the next EU tourism ministers meeting. — Darren O'Rourke. [6161/24]

\*365. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media how much State funding has been pledged to a person (details supplied) to host the 2027 Ryder Cup golf tournament; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6195/24]

\*366. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if an assurance will be provided that, should the Government introduce a tax for funding RTÉ, those who currently have a free TV licence will not be expected to pay this tax; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6199/24]

\*367. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when she last met the CEO of the National Concert Hall; and when she is next scheduled to meet the CEO. — Sorca Clarke. [6227/24]

\*368. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the additional Exchequer funding in 2024 that would be required to implement recommendation no. 5.1 of the Future of Media Commission report that is, that the source of public funding for PSM change from the current system of TV licence fee combined with general Exchequer funds to a system based entirely on general Exchequer funds, if it were assumed that the TV license was abolished in full on 1 February 2024.; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [6268/24]

\*369. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the monies allocated to the broadcasting and media funds each year since 2020 and estimated for 2024 identifying the amount of the Exchequer contributions to same, in tabular form. — Imelda Munster. [6269/24]

\*370. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what supports are in place for former Bord Na Móna employees in setting up glamping and other tourism related business through the Just Transition funding; the number that are set to receive this funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [6331/24]

\*371. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if grant funding is available to support an organisation (details supplied) in Tipperary; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [6337/24]

\*372. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what supports she has provided for SMEs, particularly in the small accommodation sector, including self-catering, caravan, camping and B&B; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [6414/24]

\*373. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the next policy document for tourism will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [6427/24]

\*374. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the up-to-date position in respect of an application by a club (details supplied) for the sports capital and equipment programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6464/24]

\*375. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the status of her Department's survey in respect of playing pitches and sports facilities. — Catherine Murphy. [6474/24]

\*376. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number of WTE staff, by job title working in the marketing department of Fáilte Ireland as of 7 February 2024; the number of vacant WTE staff, by job title within the marketing department; and when each of these vacancies will be filled, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6592/24]

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

\*377. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 101 of 6 July 2023, if any part of County Cavan is being considered to be designated as a rent pressure zone. — Pauline Tully. [6090/24]

\*378. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he intends to introduce legislation to allow Irish people living abroad the right to vote in elections and referenda in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [6101/24]

\*379. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the date that the eligibility for an exemption from planning development charges will come to an end; whether it is intended to extend this date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6103/24]

\*380. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to review the issue of the recent councillor gratuity payment announced to be based on years of service, rather than a maximum limit of 20 years. — James Lawless. [6115/24]

\*381. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the marine protected areas Bill 2023 will be published, given this legislation was initially promised for July 2023; the reason for the repeated delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6120/24]

\*382. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what measures, or necessary resources, have been put in place in order to begin implementation of the marine protected areas Bill 2023 as soon as it has been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6121/24]

\*383. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many of Ireland's special protection areas with a marine element have site specific conservation objectives in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6122/24]

\*384. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many of Ireland's special protection areas with a marine element have conservation measures in place in addition to activities requiring consent management; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6123/24]

\*385. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of additional special protection areas and special areas of conservation with a marine element that are currently ready, being prepared or are being planned for designation up until 2030. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6124/24]

\*386. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the progress made to date in implementing the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025, broken down by the six stated objectives and 18 stated actions, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [6130/24]

\*387. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to on-going problems of discoloured water in Cork; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that no "do not drink" notice has been issued in relation to the problem, despite Irish Water acknowledging to Cork City Council on 16 January 2024 that the discoloured water is unsafe to drink at the tap; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6137/24]

\*388. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will meet with residents of Oliver Bond House and the Robert Emmet Community Development Project in relation to the recent report on respiratory conditions for residents in the complex; and the proposed redevelopment and timeline for the same. — Patrick Costello. [6142/24]

\*389. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of the criticisms and opposition to Waterways Ireland's proposed bye law changes; how these criticisms will be considered to update this proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6183/24]

\*390. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of social homes in each county as of the beginning of 2024 including those provided by AHB'S; the breakdown of BER ratings on these homes, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [6192/24]

\*391. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total amount of funding provided by his Department to each local authority to upgrade and insulate their social housing stock over the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [6193/24]

\*392. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the average turnaround times by each local authority in bringing a vacant local authority home back into housing use; the reasons some local authorities are taking over a year to turn around these houses, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [6194/24]

\*393. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of WTE conservation rangers attached to the National Parks and Wildlife Service as of 6 February 2024; and if he will provide the same figures as of 1 February 2021, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [6226/24]

\*394. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if concerns raised by a person (details supplied) will be addressed; the status of the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [6229/24]

\*395. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of the qualifying criteria for acceptance onto a cost rental scheme for two non-cohabiting adults with one child; if he can provide information on what can be used to verify that the couple are non-cohabiting adults, that is, an affidavit or similar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [6244/24]

\*396. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of Housing First National Implementation Plan; the number of current Housing First tenancies in the State, broken down by county; the target number of Housing First tenancies, broken down by county; his plans to increase the Housing First targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [6270/24]

\*397. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if multi annual funding is in place or planned to be in place for the built heritage investment scheme and/or the historic structures fund through local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6286/24]

\*398. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures his Department are implementing to address the population decline of hen harriers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6292/24]

\*399. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide details of the grounds on which septic tank grants will not be provided to those outside a designated area of greatest environmental priority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [6295/24]

\*400. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide details of the way that local authorities allocate the number of social housings to be built for disability accessible housing; where the figures come from to support the number of houses to be built or renovated to meet the need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6298/24]

\*401. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of new local authority planners sanctioned by his Department since 2020, broken down by year and local authority, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [6328/24]

\*402. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of new planners sanctioned by his Department for An Bord Pleanála since 2020, broken down by year and local authority, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [6329/24]

\*403. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the proposed referendum on the right to housing; if the referendum will take place in the lifetime of this Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [6330/24]



\*404. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if grant funding is available to support an organisation (details supplied) in Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [6336/24]

\*405. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will comment on the success or otherwise of the cost-rental tenant-in-situ scheme in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [6360/24]

\*406. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what plans the Housing Agency has under its property sourcing and acquisitions programme for County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6465/24]

\*407. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of projects the Housing Agency is assisting the local authority and/or approved housing bodies in County Donegal with project feasibility and development of housing under headings (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6466/24]

\*408. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current housing projects his Department is funding in County Donegal, disaggregated by location, number of units, estimated completion date and lead partner that is, LA or AHB; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6467/24]

\*409. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of persons on housing waiting lists, by local authority, as of month end January 2024. — Catherine Murphy. [6492/24]

\*410. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of persons in receipt of housing assistance payment, by local authority, as of month end January 2024. — Catherine Murphy. [6493/24]

\*411. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what plans he has to sign the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (CETS No 207) and the Additional Protocol to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (ETS No 159); the reason the protocol has not been signed to date; what timeframe for signing the protocol is envisaged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6501/24]

\*412. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide the current staffing level of local authorities and the grades they are employed at, in tabular form, by local authority; if additional staffing has been provided beyond those included in workforce plans in 2023 and 2024; if so, if he will outline the number and purpose; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6502/24]

\*413. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current balances for development contributions, by local authority, in tabular form; what restrictions apply to their use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6503/24]

\*414. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide the names and organisation for those who participated in the review of local property tax baselines;

who nominated them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6504/24]

\*415. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the narrow water bridge project, including projected timelines and funding amounts for the long-awaited project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [6509/24]

\*416. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 477 of 13 July 2023, if he will provide an update on the issue raised in the question. — Thomas Gould. [6545/24]

\*417. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on whether successful prosecution of wildlife crimes should be a priority under Ireland's Biodiversity Action Plan and our obligations under the '30 x 30' UN Biodiversity Goals; when data previously requested on wildlife crimes which were registered, prosecuted and convicted in Ireland, by county, since 2014, will be available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [6546/24]

\*418. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider establishing a grant scheme in order that Transport Infrastructure Ireland or local authorities can erect noise mitigation measures where roads have been constructed in populated areas. — Robert Troy. [6566/24]

\*419. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of the fire services Bill; and this Bill will progress to the next stage. — Alan Kelly. [6591/24]

\*420. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the next steps for pilot sewerage schemes announced for County Clare villages (details supplied). — Cathal Crowe. [6618/24]

\*421. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the LDA will reconvene the consultative forum for the future development of Columb Barracks, Mullingar; and if the transfer has concluded. — Robert Troy. [6619/24]

\*422. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of housing commencements by each local authority in the years 2018-2023; and the number of completions by each local authority in the same period. — Ivana Bacik. [6665/24]

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

\*423. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the financial supports that are in place for those who suffer from long-Covid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6551/24]

\*424. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review correspondence (details supplied) and have the case reviewed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6038/24]

\*425. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a decision will be made on an appeal for a disability allowance in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [6080/24]



\*426. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a decision has been made on a carer's allowance appeal on behalf of a person in County Kerry (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [6081/24]

\*427. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an appeal by a person (details supplied); when a decision is likely to be received, as this has been pending for some time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6085/24]

\*428. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 889 of 17 January 2024, if her Department has taken steps to engage with all stakeholders including the Citizens Information Board (CIS), the employer and staff CIS representatives and the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan and Reform in relation to the WRC pay claim recommendation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6097/24]

\*429. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of social welfare recipients that received the January 2024 bonus double payment, by county, in tabular form. — Jim O'Callaghan. [6135/24]

\*430. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether the new model of local area employment service has been effective (details supplied); whether the method of referral from the Department, meaning the service cannot work with walk-in clients, has been effective; the duration of employment for the service to obtain funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [6149/24]

\*431. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of WTE accountants working in her Department in 2021, 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form. — Darren O'Rourke. [6154/24]

\*432. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of appeals received by the social welfare appeals office, per month in 2023, in tabular form. — Darren O'Rourke. [6155/24]

\*433. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current number of schools and students enrolled in the free hot school lunches primary schools programme, broken down by county; anticipated additional schools and students to be added with the expansion of the scheme in April 2024, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6172/24]

\*434. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether there is an evaluation of the packaging and food waste impacts of the free hot school lunches programme; the percentage of packaging that can be and is recycled; the percentage of full lunches left over each day; if there is a Departmental plan to reduce the amount of waste generated as the scheme expands to provide packaged meals for more students; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6173/24]

\*435. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether delivery miles and transport emissions involved in distribution of the free hot school lunches programme is being assessed and evaluated; if there is a Departmental plan to address this for the long-term implementation of the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6174/24]

\*436. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if drawdowns from approved retirement funds can be excluded as means when determining eligibility for the fuel allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [6182/24]

\*437. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated cost if the fuel allowance was increased by a further two weeks. — Sorca Clarke. [6214/24]

\*438. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated cost of increasing the maximum rate of disability allowance and State pension contribution by €14 per week from 1 September 2024. — Sorca Clarke. [6215/24]

\*439. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if it is possible for an Irish citizen and resident, who previously lived in Australia and obtained Australian citizenship, to receive an Australian state pension; whether the procedure for applying to receive this must also involve her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [6241/24]

\*440. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the means review process; the number of people selected, by gender and county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6249/24]

\*441. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she is aware of an issue in relation to a payment to a person (details supplied); if she will ask her officials to review the situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6252/24]

\*442. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a school (details supplied) will be assessed for a late application and included in the hot school meals programme in April which would rectify an administrative error due to extenuating circumstances. — Aodhán Ó Riordáin. [6267/24]

\*443. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review a case (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [6289/24]

\*444. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason persons that are in receipt of a reduced rate of disability allowance as a result of a legacy pension following the death of a parent, and the disability allowance is reduced on a euro for euro amount, did not qualify for any bonus or cost of living payment, given that they are still only in receipt of an income up to the maximum rate of disability allowance payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Noel Grealish. [6334/24]

\*445. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate the progress to date in determining an application for carers allowance (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [6485/24]

\*446. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will rectify the issue where teachers on indefinite duration contracts, given they have to sign on for midterm and summer holidays, cannot work up the minimum 26 weeks continuous work to qualify for maternity benefit. — Robert Troy. [6486/24]

\*447. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on an appeal of a decision on an invalidity pension (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [6519/24]

\*448. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will address a query in respect of a State pension benefit (details supplied). — John McGuinness. [6520/24]

\*449. To ask the Minister for Social Protection what supports are available for low-income households who are facing multiple price hikes by private waste collection companies; if her Department will consider additional supports for older people who may be facing these same price hikes while not being able to bring their waste to public waste collection centres; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6533/24]

\*450. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an application for fuel allowance in the name of a person (details supplied) will be re-examined. — John McGuinness. [6540/24]

\*451. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a late illness benefit application will be accepted from a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [6541/24]

\*452. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the payment of carers allowance and arrears due will be made immediately in the case of a person (details supplied). — John McGuinness. [6548/24]

\*453. To ask the Minister for Social Protection with regard to child benefit for children over 16 years who are in full-time education, if she is aware of child benefit payment being suspended whilst a child is not in school and resuming in September at the start of the school year; if consideration has been given to addressing this anomaly to ensure consistency for families throughout the year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6549/24]

\*454. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on commitments made to introduce a mortgage interest supplement for those with insufficient income tax liability to avail of the mortgage interest tax credit introduced in the Finance Act 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6554/24]

\*455. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the options available to small rural primary schools that do not have the equipment or staff to heat, maintain and serve hot school meals through the hot meals programme; if her Department will provide such schools with additional funding to obtain heating equipment and the finances to compensate an existing member of staff, such as the school secretary, for the additional work and time needed to prepare, heat, and serve these meals to students five days per week; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6564/24]

\*456. To ask the Minister for Social Protection what supports are in place for persons with dietary requirements, specifically coeliacs for assisting with the cost of foods available for those with special dietary requirements. — Paul Donnelly. [6613/24]

\*457. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person applying for disability allowance on the basis of a recently diagnosed medical condition would have to quit their current employment in order to be eligible before seeking reemployment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [6648/24]

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

\*458. To ask the Minister for Justice if matters raised in correspondence (details supplied) will be addressed and response issued; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6147/24]

\*459. To ask the Minister for Justice how often the citizenship division communicates with applicants; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [6084/24]

\*460. To ask the Minister for Justice her views in relation to the nuisance mechanical noise being emitted from Mountjoy Prison this is having a severe impact on the residents in the surrounding areas, who have brought it to the attention of officials in the prison but have not received a satisfactory response; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [6118/24]

\*461. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of WTE staff, by grade, working in the citizenship division of her Department as of 6 February 2024; the number of vacancies within this division, by grade; and when these vacancies will be filled, in tabular form. . — Darren O'Rourke. [6152/24]

\*462. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí, by rank attached to the Garda water unit as of 2 February 2024; and if she will provide same figures as of 1 March 2021, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [6223/24]

\*463. To ask the Minister for Justice the status of legislation to reform licensing on late night pub and club openings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [6261/24]

\*464. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of fines that have been imposed or prosecutions commenced in respect of careless and/or dangerous driving that is a threat to cyclists; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [6283/24]

\*465. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of applications that were made for clerical civilian jobs in An Garda Síochána following the recruitment drive that closed on 20 September 2023; how many of the 400 clerical positions that were available have been now filled by civilians; the number of gardaí that have been freed-up from these clerical roles to be available for other frontline work in the force, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6309/24]

\*466. To ask the Minister for Justice when it is intended to make regulations under the Parole Act 2019 in relation to eligibility for parole of persons who are serving a determinate sentence of eight years or greater; the reason for the delay with this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6319/24]

\*467. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of prisoners with determinate sentences of eight years or more who sentences are being managed on an administrative basis by the Irish Prison Service; the number of these that have applied for temporary release or parole in each year since 1 January 2021; the number given parole or temporary release in each year; if such parole or temporary release has to be approved by the Minister; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6320/24]

\*468. To ask the Minister for Justice the steps she intends taking in the very short term to deal with overcrowding in our prison system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6321/24]

\*469. To ask the Minister for Justice what criteria were used in establishing Algeria as a safe country, including what sources were consulted, and if any external legal advice was utilised. — Pa Daly. [6500/24]

\*470. To ask the Minister for Justice the process by which a person who is not currently in Ireland and is in need of international protection would apply for asylum in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [6521/24]

\*471. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will provide a breakdown of the number of gardaí allocated to Carlow and Kilkenny in each of the past five years; how they have been deployed in each county; and her views on the overall level of crime in each county and in particular drug-related crime. — John McGuinness. [6525/24]

\*472. To ask the Minister for Justice if she will reaffirm the official opening hours of Maynooth Garda station; and if there are plans to expand on same. — Catherine Murphy. [6526/24]

\*473. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí, by rank in the Kildare division, by station. — Catherine Murphy. [6527/24]

\*474. To ask the Minister for Justice her views in relation to the denial of Garda pensions to former members of Garda rank who left the force for any reason before 1 October 1976, having had the required five years' service. — Pa Daly. [6539/24]

\*475. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide details on each EU immigration-related policy that Ireland has opted into, including the dates when the Government decided to opt in or out and when the measure was passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas. — Pa Daly. [6553/24]

\*476. To ask the Minister for Justice the date or respective dates by which the approval of both Houses of the Oireachtas would need to be secured for any decision Government might make to opt Ireland into each of the five legal measures that form the EU Migration Pact, agreed in December 2023 under the terms of Article 3.1 of Protocol 21 annexed to the Treaty of Lisbon's three months opt-in provision. — Pa Daly. [6590/24]

\*477. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 454 of 23 January 2024, if she has received the necessary information from the Garda authorities to have this PQ answered. — Alan Kelly. [6599/24]

\*478. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of suspect identification suites in each Garda division, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6601/24]

\*479. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide an update on the renewed Garda Reserve regulations; and when she anticipates their publication and enactment. — Pa Daly. [6621/24]

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

\*480. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the role of a local authority in the granting of export health licences; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [6061/24]

\*481. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine is obliged to inspect and approve of abattoirs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [6062/24]

\*482. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the processes by which an abattoir may obtain an export health licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [6063/24]

\*483. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the implications of the EU Nature Restoration Law that proposes to categorise all drained agricultural peat soils as degraded systems in terms of access for products grown on such land to the EU market and eligibility in the long-term for EU Common Agricultural Payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6104/24]

\*484. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 472 of 23 January 2024, if the total sitka area planted for the period 2010-2023 of 39,791.78 hectares includes open space or bio area which would reduce the actual planted sitka area by a further 15%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [6108/24]

\*485. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide details of the specific measures that his Department has requested to be in place as part of and detailed in the services requested from a body (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6181/24]

\*486. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will now review the native tree area scheme conditions, given the low uptake of scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6230/24]

\*487. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the average processing times for the native tree area scheme; if he will provide an update on the delays for processing applications to the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6231/24]

\*488. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to the response issued to a previous Parliamentary Question regarding the existing farm partnership arrangements with Coillte, if he will now address issues (details supplied) raised by individual land owners which are of huge concern to them and which continue to be ignored or misrepresented by Coillte. — John McGuinness. [6255/24]

\*489. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the ACRES payment will issue to a farmer (details supplied) in Cork. — Michael Creed. [6271/24]



\*490. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will intervene in the case of regarding issues concerning a 2023 BISS application by farmers (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6310/24]

\*491. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he can assist a project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [6314/24]

\*492. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if force majeure will be accepted in the case of a late fodder support scheme application by a farmer in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [6325/24]

\*493. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine where a member of the public can view licence decisions and the documentation in a timely manner to make an appeal without having to sign a disclaimer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [6333/24]

\*494. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if farmers in the Co-Operation Programme areas of ACRES who applied for non-profit investments before Christmas 2023, with the approximate approval date in April 2024, can expend money in completing works such as fencing, gates, drinking troughs, bird boxes and so on; if they will be reimbursed by the said particular timeframe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [6387/24]

\*495. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the amount expended on the smooth point pier extension project in Killybegs Fisheries Harbour Centre for each year from 2015 to date, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6411/24]

\*496. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the timeline for completion of phase 2 of the smooth point pier extension project in Killybegs Fisheries Harbour Centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6412/24]

\*497. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if additional funding is required for the completion of phase 2 of the smooth point pier extension project in Killybegs Fisheries Harbour Centre; and if so, the amount; if the funding has been committed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6413/24]

\*498. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an update on the status of outstanding ACRES payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [6415/24]

\*499. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funding his Department has received under the Brexit adjustment reserve, disaggregated by year funding was expended and scheme title of eligible measures, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6429/24]

\*500. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funding granted to Donegal businesses from the Brexit adjustment reserve, disaggregated by year funding was expended and scheme title of eligible measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6431/24]



\*501. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funding expended by his Department under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for the years 2021 to 2023, disaggregated by year funding was expended and scheme title of eligible measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6432/24]

\*502. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funding expended in County Donegal by his Department under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund for the years 2021 to 2023, disaggregated by year funding was expended and scheme title of eligible measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6433/24]

\*503. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine what proposals and actions he intends to pursue to ensure that the Irish pelagic quota under the CFP TACs return to pre-Brexit levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6434/24]

\*504. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many farmers in County Donegal applied for the organic farming scheme under the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6451/24]

\*505. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many applications from farmers in County Donegal have been successfully accepted on to the organic farming scheme under the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6452/24]

\*506. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many farmers in County Donegal applied for the agri-environment scheme, ACRES, under the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6453/24]

\*507. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many applications from farmers in County Donegal have been successfully accepted on to the agri-environment scheme, ACRES, under the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6454/24]

\*508. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will address and clarify the concerns raised in correspondence (details supplied). — James O'Connor. [6456/24]

\*509. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how much the aggregate total of payments to County Donegal farmers will change for each year of the current CAP due to convergence under the transition from the basic payments scheme to the basic income support for sustainability and the complementary redistributive income support for sustainability schemes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6469/24]

\*510. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers in County Donegal that have applied for the areas of natural constraints scheme, under the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6470/24]

\*511. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of farmers in County Donegal that have been accepted on to the areas of natural constraints scheme, under the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6471/24]

\*512. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how much the aggregate total of payments to County Donegal farmers will be under the areas of natural constraint scheme, for each year of the current CAP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6472/24]

\*513. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a person (details supplied) in County Clare will receive their ACRES payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael McNamara. [6538/24]

\*514. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if consideration has been given to providing financial compensation to farmers for sheep culled as a result of maedi visna; what measures are in place to limit the disease and support flock owners; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6542/24]

\*515. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will extend a 2023 Brexit inshore fisheries business model adjustment scheme grant approval for a fisherman (details supplied) in County Kerry to allow them to submit the requested information to draw down the grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [6571/24]

\*516. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will address a query in respect of farm payments (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [6582/24]

\*517. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the successful applicants for work under the 2024 Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme will be published. — Alan Kelly. [6605/24]

\*518. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when he intends to launch the native woodland conservation scheme as part of the new forestry programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6645/24]

\*519. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the date he intends to launch the revised ash dieback scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6646/24]

\*520. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the area of clearfell and thinning licenced per county for 2024, 2025, 2026; the details that are available to him on the felling licence application provided by the applicants, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6647/24]

\*521. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when the awaited ash dieback strategy will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [6652/24]

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

\*522. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to funding for services (details supplied) if he will ensure that a tangible and fully sanctioned budget proposal to address the accumulated deficit and financial sustainability requirements is presented by the HSE no later than 8 February 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6303/24]

\*523. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if the final report is available on independent review of the ECCE programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [6040/24]

\*524. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth how a person (details supplied) with a medical condition can receive personal assistance support to attend swimming lessons which greatly benefit their wellbeing as the organisation they were attending will no longer be providing this service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [6072/24]

\*525. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the total estimated cost to increase the national childcare scheme universal rate from €1.40 to €2.14 for 2023 and projected cost for 2024; the total cost to increase the national childcare scheme by a further 25%, after the September 2024 increase comes into effect; the monetary value of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6076/24]

\*526. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if all allegations of potential child safe guarding matters are investigated by Tusla once brought to their attention; since the introduction of CASP, if there have been any changes to this procedure in any way; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6082/24]

\*527. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a place will be funded from disability services for a person (details supplied); if this can be considered as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [6089/24]

\*528. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of persons with disabilities in 2023 that were in receipt of home-support hours in each LHO area; and the total number of hours provided in 2023 in each LHO area, in tabular form. — Jim O’Callaghan. [6138/24]

\*529. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if a response will issue to queries raised in correspondence (details supplied) in respect of the upcoming referendum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O’Dowd. [6238/24]

\*530. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide an update on the escalating costs crisis facing crèches and childcare operators in the country; what measures will be taken to address this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [6250/24]

\*531. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason Baggot Street Hospital, which is owned by the State, has not been used to house either international protection applicants or Ukrainian refugees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [6272/24]

\*532. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of Ukrainian refugees housed and international protection applicants, respectively, housed in each local election area as of 6 February 2024. — Alan Kelly. [6273/24]

\*533. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to the plan for Dublin to become an “autism and neurodiverse friendly” city, if he is aware that

changes in relation to things like unpredictable public transport, where bus numbers change when shifting from public to private ownership, routes drop of the digital display unexpectedly, and timetables being unpredictable and beyond reasonable delays due to traffic and people entering and exiting the bus, can cause autistic (or neurodiverse) individuals to dysregulate and, in some situations, can cause extreme anxiety and distress; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [6302/24]

\*534. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will review the case of a person (details supplied); when a final decision will be issued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [6311/24]

\*535. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if his Department plans to house applicants for international protection at a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [6312/24]

\*536. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth his views on the need for a dedicated behaviour therapist for the CDNT in Longford (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [6313/24]

\*537. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if there are plans to use a facility in County Kerry (details supplied) for direct provision; if so, what are his Department's intentions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [6352/24]

\*538. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what progress has been made by his Department regarding the purchase of Grant's Hotel in Roscrea to become a community hotel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [6389/24]

\*539. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if his Department has acquired use of, or is considering, the former addiction recovery centre at Talbot Grove in Castleisland, County Kerry, as accommodation for refugees or asylum seekers; and if so, if he will provide details on the number of persons being placed in the facility, and if they are asylum seekers or refugees. — Peadar Tóibín. [6410/24]

\*540. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will consider deferring the forthcoming referenda on family and care to permit further and better debate and discussion on the subject matter in view of the very short timeframe allowed for debate. — Sorca Clarke. [6468/24]

\*541. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for further details on the rationale for the practice of the mother of a child entering foster care continuing to be paid child benefit for six months even though the child now resides with a foster family; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6513/24]

\*542. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide an update on what changes his Department has made to charter of accounts; if his Department is still requiring accounts to be signed off by a chartered accountant; if he is aware that a number of services are finding it impossible to engage chartered accountants to do this work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6522/24]

\*543. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the actions his Department is taking to secure properties either selected for asylum-seeker/immigrant accommodation or publicly deemed to be a prospect for same, given the spate of arson which degrades society and poses a threat to human life locally, and to that of firefighters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [6544/24]

\*544. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will review correspondence from a person (details supplied) regarding two issues with an organisation; if she can assist with this matter and provide an update on both issues. — Niamh Smyth. [6558/24]

\*545. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will review a proposal (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6559/24]

\*546. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide an update on the estimated date for the opening of applications for the redress scheme for survivors of mother and baby homes, and the amount and grade of staff allocated to administering the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [6574/24]

\*547. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in view of the withdrawal of a crèche (details supplied) in Ballycullen from the core funding scheme, and resultant significant increases in fees for parents, the action he intends to take to ensure that affordable childcare is available in the area. — Paul Murphy. [6578/24]

\*548. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth what form of redress is available to former residents of an institution (details supplied). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [6586/24]

\*549. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth whether the unfair exclusion of an institution (details supplied) in County Wicklow from the residential institutions redress scheme which the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Inquiry highlighted was due to the fact that the State acted in a sectarian manner (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [6587/24]

\*550. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he can address the issues raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [6588/24]

\*551. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of WTE social workers, by grade recruited by Tusla in 2023 and to-date in 2024; and the number of vacant WTE social workers posts currently in Tusla. — Alan Kelly. [6604/24]

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

\*552. To ask the Minister for Health if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed; the status of this case; and if a place will be expedited for them in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire. — Niamh Smyth. [6049/24]

\*553. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE medical professionals employed by the HSE; the number of same in receipt of pensions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [6051/24]

\*554. To ask the Minister for Health if he will intervene in the case of a person (details supplied) and ensure that their prescription only drug will be made available to them. — Chris Andrews. [6065/24]

\*555. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the funding crisis in an organisation (details supplied); the steps being taken by the HSE to address the funding requirements necessary to continue to provide services to persons within the care of the organisation in order to ensure the immediate and long-term survival of the organisation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [6069/24]

\*556. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that the necessary funding is provided by the HSE to an organisation (details supplied) for intellectual disability student nurses at DkIT to receive their pay rise in student subsistence payments, and for all other intellectual disability students nurses in the same position; if he will increase HSE funding to bring mileage allowances for intellectual disability student nurses in line with the rate of all other student nurse disciplines; the number of student nurses nationally awaiting the rise in subsistence payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [6070/24]

\*557. To ask the Minister for Health if the shingles vaccine is covered on the medical card scheme; if not, there are plans to include it under the medical card scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [6078/24]

\*558. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the new proposed HSE taskforce to target savings and productivity; who the members of the taskforce will be; if independent members will be included; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [6079/24]

\*559. To ask the Minister for Health how many pregnancy loss clinics are in operation in Ireland; if there is a staffing shortage at present in these clinics; how often do these clinics offer appointments (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6083/24]

\*560. To ask the Minister for Health the timeframe for the commencement of termination of pregnancy services at Cavan General Hospital. — Pauline Tully. [6093/24]

\*561. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review the draft design guide for long-term care, to ensure the facilities remain viable and that this is taken into account in determining the maximum size of such facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [6100/24]

\*562. To ask the Minister for Health his plans for the independent regulation of CAMHS under the Mental Health Act 2001, as recommended in a report (details supplied); the timeline for same; the reason for the delay in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [6106/24]



\*563. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the review of CAMHS at a national level; if a county review of Wicklow is ongoing; if so, what findings can be reported at this stage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [6114/24]

\*564. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide information on a case (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [6131/24]

\*565. To ask the Minister for Health what supports are being put in place nationally, and particularly in counties Cavan and Monaghan, to help people with a condition (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6132/24]

\*566. To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the situation at a health centre (details supplied) whereby children’s developmental screenings cannot proceed in the community due to a lack of nurses at the centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [6148/24]

\*567. To ask the Minister for Health the number of electroencephalographic machines in use currently at the Mater Hospital. — Darren O’Rourke. [6158/24]

\*568. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE staff members required to sufficiently staff an ophthalmology department within model 4 Hospitals. — Darren O’Rourke. [6159/24]

\*569. To ask the Minister for Health the budget allocated to CAMHS as a percentage of the health budget for each of the years 2021 to 2024, in tabular form. — Darren O’Rourke. [6162/24]

\*570. To ask the Minister for Health the budget allocated to CAMHS as a percentage of the health budget for each of the years 2021 to 2024, in tabular form. — Darren O’Rourke. [6163/24]

\*571. To ask the Minister for Health when a chair will be appointed to the promised inquiry into sodium valporate in Ireland; his response to those impacted (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [6170/24]

\*572. To ask the Minister for Health if a gallium scanner will be installed in Cork University Hospital (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [6175/24]

\*573. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the regulation of CAMHS under the Mental Health Act 2001; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6184/24]

\*574. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider the introduction of a minor injuries clinic for Kerry. — Pa Daly. [6228/24]

\*575. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will have a surgical procedure rescheduled in Tallaght Hospital. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [6232/24]

\*576. To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists working for CAMHS in the Meath area; if there is a dedicated day that each centre has a psychologist in attendance at each centre; how many hours each centre is serviced by the psychologist each week/month; the average number of hours that service users attending each of these centres gets with a psychologists and other services supplied in each of the centres in Meath broken down into

weekly figures; and the number of children waiting in each centre for the service in the past five years. — Peadar Tóibín. [6234/24]

\*577. To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists working for CAMHS in the Meath area; if there is a dedicated day that each centre has a psychologist in attendance and is taking appointments; and the number of children waiting in each centre for service for the past five years. — Peadar Tóibín. [6235/24]

\*578. To ask the Minister for Health if the Food Safety Authority of Ireland is obliged to inspect and approve of abattoirs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [6239/24]

\*579. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person over 70 years whose income comes solely from social welfare or HSE payments is entitled to a medical card even though they are over the income threshold, but a person who is over the income threshold due to private income is not entitled to a medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [6260/24]

\*580. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address concerns relating to the delay in dental treatment of a child (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [6275/24]

\*581. To ask the Minister for Health when a person will receive an appointment date (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [6284/24]

\*582. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of GP doctors in County Meath; the current average number of people per GP; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Guirke. [6285/24]

\*583. To ask the Minister for Health if a bed can be provided for a person in St Joseph's Community Hospital, Stranorlar, County Donegal (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6294/24]

\*584. To ask the Minister for Health the way that a person (details supplied) can get reimbursement for medical expenses from Norway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [6297/24]

\*585. To ask the Minister for Health what services or financial supports are available from the State to patients in County Donegal who have to travel for hospital treatment outside of their county; and if he can clarify whether the transport for patients to Sligo Hospital Eye Clinic has now been curtailed or cancelled. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [6318/24]

\*586. To ask the Minister for Health if he will comment on the availability of private capacity to be used as a surge measure by a hospital group (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [6356/24]

\*587. To ask the Minister for Health for the corporate structure of the full complement of a senior management team at a hospital group (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [6357/24]

\*588. To ask the Minister for Health if he is satisfied that all systems of confidentiality are used when tendering for the National Children's Hospital; what controls his Department has over the process; if he is satisfied that no inappropriate influence is placed on the tender; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6443/24]

\*589. To ask the Minister for Health his views on the need to repurpose the nightingale beds at University Hospital Limerick to provide a more immediate increase in capacity at the hospital, rather than decommissioning them; to outline any engagements he has had on this matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Browne. [6455/24]

\*590. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on a medical card application (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [6487/24]

\*591. To ask the Minister for Health the future plans for the old HSE-owned site at St Peter's in Castlepollard, County Westmeath. — Robert Troy. [6488/24]

\*592. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the provision of a primary care centre in New Ross, County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Verona Murphy. [6505/24]

\*593. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a family has been refused payment for a long term illness card drug (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [6508/24]

\*594. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the amount paid to a number of nursing home groups (details supplied) last year under the nursing homes support scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [6512/24]

\*595. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on a case (details supplied) and when the person concerned can expect an appointment. — Barry Cowen. [6523/24]

\*596. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a nursing home (details supplied) following HIQA findings in relation to fire safety issues at the building; if alternative accommodation has been secured for the current residents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [6530/24]

\*597. To ask the Minister for Health the number of public hospitals that have Wi-Fi, by location, in tabular form. — Róisín Shortall. [6534/24]

\*598. To ask the Minister for Health if he will respond to a media report (details supplied) in relation to a HSE national women and infants health programme recommendation that white flour should be fortified with folic acid; if he is considering initiating this proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6535/24]

\*599. To ask the Minister for Health to provide further details in relation to the dedicated paediatric spinal surgery unit that he asked Children's Health Ireland to establish; the inductive timeline for operationalising this unit; his plans regarding orthopaedic waiting lists for children following his instruction to the HSE to appoint a full-time project lead to work on this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6536/24]

\*600. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for completion and publication of the independent review into spinal surgeries at Temple Street Children's Hospital, following the

identification of 17 additional cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6537/24]

\*601. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline he is working towards in drafting and publishing the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2023, listed for priority drafting in the Spring Government Legislative Programme; if it is his intention to begin second stage before the summer 2024 recess; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [6550/24]

\*602. To ask the Minister for Health if he will list all medications that are needed for long-Covid sufferers that are not available on the medical card; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Kathleen Funchion. [6552/24]

\*603. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a timeline for when the clinical review group will complete its work to determine if evidence exists to expand the scope of the Medical Cannabis Access Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6555/24]

\*604. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will address the concerns outlined and provide an update on this matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6562/24]

\*605. To ask the Minister for Health if he will review matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will address concerns outlined and provide an update on this matter. — Niamh Smyth. [6563/24]

\*606. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on implementation of recommendation number seven of the Report of the Strategic Workforce Advisory Group on Home-carers and Nursing Home Health Care Assistants; if he will consider establishing a Joint Labour Committee to cover the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [6581/24]

\*607. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE adult ADHD specialists working in CHOs 3 and 5 in 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [6606/24]

\*608. To ask the Minister for Health the number of heart transplant procedures that have been performed to date in 2024. — Alan Kelly. [6607/24]

\*609. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant gastroenterologist and gastroenterologist registrars attached to University Hospital Limerick in 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [6608/24]

\*610. To ask the Minister for Health if urgent action will be taken to prioritise the reform of the Child And Adolescent Mental Health Services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [6611/24]

\*611. To ask the Minister for Health if he will respond to concerns and details raised by a group (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [6614/24]

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

\*612. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 57 of 31 January 2024, the reason SUSI is refusing to accept child benefit as proof of residence for a home-schooled Irish born child of a resident Irish citizen, despite the fact that under statute such payments can only be made on Irish residency. — Richard Bruton. [6057/24]

\*613. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 57 of 31 January 2024, the reason SUSI is refusing to accept child benefit as proof of residence for a home-schooled Irish born child of a resident Irish citizen, despite the fact that under statute such payments can only be made on Irish residency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [6059/24]

\*614. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will address the scenario in which a college student changes course or repeats a year due to adverse personal circumstances and subsequently has to pay higher fees, and is doubly disadvantaged by not being able to avail of the €1,000 Government credit as announced by Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [6096/24]

\*615. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 1814 and 1813 of 17 January 2024, when full responses will issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [6327/24]

\*616. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps that have been taken to combat the practice of compulsory lease lengths imposed on students by private student accommodation providers in Dublin and Cork including a company (details supplied). — Mairéad Farrell. [6354/24]

\*617. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science how his Department will ensure the enforceability of the definition for student accommodation as provided for in the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, as amended by the Residential Tenancies Act 2019 (details supplied) for the purpose of ensuring that licence agreements and other measures designated for student specific accommodation is not used by providers that place their properties outside the scope of the said definition through imposing a lease length that is longer than the academic term. — Mairéad Farrell. [6355/24]

\*618. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the Government's position on approving the PPP engineering building at SETU campus Waterford and agreeing contracts to immediate construction understanding that this project was separated from a batch one proposal in 2020 which are now completed, understanding that this project was first planning approved in 2011 with present planning permission to expire in coming months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Shanahan. [5917/24]

\*619. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the work that has been undertaken to include payments incurred by families under the fair deal scheme for care in the consideration of eligibility for the SUSI grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [6450/24]

\*620. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will support calls for post-graduate medicine courses in Ireland to be upgraded from QQI level 8 to QQI level 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [6497/24]

\*621. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in view of the shortage of medical doctors and nurses in Ireland, if he will give consideration to introducing an additional qualification category for SUSI grants so that students who have already completed a QQI level 8 degree, and are undertaking an additional postgraduate course to train as a medical doctor or nurse (also QQI level 8) become, in principle, entitled to bursary support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [6498/24]

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

\*622. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development what funding supports could be provided to a group (details supplied) for the purchase a vital piece of equipment. — Jackie Cahill. [6075/24]

\*623. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has received an application from a group (details supplied) via the community centres investment fund; if she recognises the importance of the organisation to Ballina and the strength of their funding application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Dara Calleary. [6088/24]

\*624. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of applications for charitable status submitted to the Charities Regulator for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [6277/24]

\*625. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the average processing time for charitable status applications made to the Charities Regulator for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [6278/24]

\*626. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of staff assigned to charitable status applications within the Charities Regulator in the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [6279/24]

\*627. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she has received any plans to establish a library in an area (details supplied); and if she will detail the costs of same. — Sean Sherlock. [6419/24]

\*628. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to outline, in tabular form, the amount of funding granted under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to projects in County Donegal, disaggregated by year funding was granted, title of project, amount of funding currently drawn down and estimated completion date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6437/24]

\*629. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amount of funding granted to each county under the local improvement scheme for each year from 2017 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6438/24]



\*630. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she is aware of the severe backlog of applications on hand with Donegal County Council under the local improvement scheme as the annual funding provided to date has not been sufficient to clear it; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6439/24]

\*631. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will consider increasing the overall funding allocated by her Department under the local improvement scheme to assist in clearing the severe backlog of applications on hand with Donegal County Council under the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [6440/24]

\*632. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of WTE enforcement lawyers employed by the Charities Regulator in 2022, 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form; and if this number will be further increased during 2024. — Alan Kelly. [6609/24]

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**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH, I  
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉ CÉADAÓIN, 14 FEABHRA, 2024  
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL  
ANSWER ON WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY, 2024**

**Chun an Taoisigh: To the Taoiseach.**

1. To ask the Taoiseach further to Parliamentary Question No. 44 of 23 January 2024, the precise date when the investigation was concluded and reported to the then Taoiseach. — Peadar Tóibín. [6506/24]

2. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee that deals with transport will next meet. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [6662/24]

3. To ask the Taoiseach when the Cabinet Committee that deals with transport will next meet. — Paul Murphy. [6664/24]