



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 21 Márta, 2024

Thursday, 21st March, 2024

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

1. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence his position on the adoption of qualitative majority voting, rather than the current requirement of unanimity on matters relating to Defence at the European Council. — Matt Carthy. [13142/24]

2. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the specific projects that are being undertaken by Ireland under the EUs Common Security and Defence Policy, including Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO); his plans for future projects under this programme and the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP) through NATO's Partnership for Peace; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [12256/24]

3. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will ensure that proposed amendments to the defence Acts provide for a role for representative associations on the External Oversight Body, do not infringe on the rights of any Defence Forces personnel to be a member of a representative association and do not excessively prohibit the freedom of expression of members of the Defence Forces. — Matt Carthy. [13143/24]

4. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if the training of at least four members of the Israeli Defence Forces by the Irish Military College since 2017 has, in his opinion, compromised Irish neutrality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [13291/24]

5. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the reasons his Department facilitated a meeting between an organisation (details supplied) and the EDA's CEO in September 2023; if he will publish the names of the persons that participated in the meeting between those two organisations; the topics that were discussed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [13292/24]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

6. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 78 of 23 January 2024, the status of the tribunal of inquiry to examine the effectiveness of the complaints process in the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12835/24]

7. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to list the military equipment, munitions and hardware purchased from Israeli-based or Israeli-owned defence companies in each of the past ten years; the current contracts that are awaiting delivery over the next five years; and the value of each. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13274/24]

8. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the annual cost of providing army security at Portlaoise prison; the number of prisoners in the prison that this security relates to; whether the need for an army presence there is under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13033/24]

9. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the engagements between his Department and/or the Defence Forces with the Israeli Defence Forces or other Israeli bodies since January 2023; and if proposals for further engagements are currently under consideration or review. — Matt Carthy. [13158/24]

10. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence how many legal cases have been taken against the Defence Forces since the beginning of 2024; and if that figure is higher or lower than the same period in 2023. — Gary Gannon. [13287/24]

11. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence for an overview on the implementation of the Defence White Paper; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [13023/24]

12. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will report on the proposed procurement of a multi-role vessel for the Naval Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [13281/24]

13. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of sailings the Naval Service cancelled in the past 12 months due to staffing shortages. — Thomas Gould. [13241/24]

14. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence whether he has engaged on the reported €10 million payouts on Defence Forces claims in the past three years. — Thomas Gould. [13242/24]

15. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the combined budget for the Defence Group vote each year from 2020 to 2024; the percentage uplift each year from the previous year, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [13282/24]

16. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence when all the recommendations contained in the report on the Defence Forces are likely to be implemented including the issues around gender-based violence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13228/24]

17. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the reasons for increasing the mandatory retirement age for Permanent Defence Force personnel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [13029/24]

18. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence what progress has been made to date in respect of current accommodation projects being carried out by his Department to accommodate members of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13076/24]

19. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 59 of 23 January 2024, the total military aid given by the EU to Ukraine since February 2022; the details of the contribution given by Ireland to-date; the details of the contribution given by Ireland towards common costs of the EU military assistance mission in support of Ukraine; the details of any contributions or donations made by the Defence Forces to Ukraine to-date since February 2022, and any contributions or donations planned; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12834/24]

20. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the actions he is taking to optimise retention amongst Defence Forces members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [13265/24]

21. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the purpose of nominating the head of the Irish Defence Forces for election to the position of Chair of the European Union Military Committee; and how much their nomination and subsequent campaign will cost the State. — Gary Gannon. [13289/24]

22. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he has undertaken an assessment of Ireland's defence vulnerabilities in light of the deteriorating defence situation in Europe. — Richard Bruton. [13260/24]

23. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to provide an update on the progress made to date to increase the Defence Forces to 11,500 members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13077/24]

24. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence when the decommissioning of the LÉ Eithne is scheduled to proceed. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13273/24]

25. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the amount allocated under Budget 2024 in relation to the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles; the amount expended in 2023, by quarter; and the purpose of such expenditure. — Matt Carthy. [13157/24]

26. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will review the pandemic recognition payment for Defence Forces personnel who worked in test centres to make sure all deserving individuals received the payment, give some did not. — Brendan Griffin. [13277/24]

27. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he has given further consideration to the use of aptitude tests as part of the recruitment process for the Defence Forces; the number who applied to enlist in the Defence Forces in 2022 and 2023, respectively and to date in 2024; the number of applicants who failed the application process in the same period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13044/24]

28. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence for a report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [13025/24]

29. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence his views on the optimum number and type of naval vessels for the Naval Service; when he expects the Naval Service to acquire a multi-role vessel to replace the L.E. Eithne; the progress made in ensuring that double crews are available for all vessels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [9156/24]

30. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence his plans to protect the use of the term “Óglaigh na hÉireann”; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13027/24]

31. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if, in view of the lack of an Army barracks in the central Border area, if further consideration will be given to the re-opening of Dún Uí Néill, Cavan, as an Army barracks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13121/24]

32. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the extent to which the European Union might see fit to contribute towards this country's defence and security with particular reference to coastal air and sea surveillance, given the significant shoreline and the multiplicity of undersea cables in the seas around our coast and the contribution this could make to European security; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13229/24]

33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 29 of 23 March 2023, to outline if discussions have concluded in order to privilege paramedics and advanced paramedics to practice in the Civil Defence; if his Department has been able to assist in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13045/24]

34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the reasons for increasing the maximum recruitment age for Permanent Defence Force personnel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [13030/24]

35. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he plans any initiatives to boost participation in the Defence Reserve; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [13022/24]

36. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if a restriction or embargo will be introduced on Israel and Israeli companies on any future acquisition of defence equipment for the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13250/24]

37. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will report on the proposed procurement of a primary radar system for Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [13280/24]

38. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence his views on the optimum number and type of aircraft for the Air Corps; his plans to acquire new aircraft; the timelines for their delivery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [9411/24]

39. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the progress being made in 2024 towards realising the Level of Ambition 2 ambition for the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13028/24]

40. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the personnel strength of the permanent Defence Force as of 1 March 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [13026/24]

41. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will provide an update on the legislative programme. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [3506/24]

42. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the measures he is taking to increase retention levels in the Permanent Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [13021/24]

43. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will report on the capacity of the Air Corps to contribute to efforts providing humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. — Matt Carthy. [13154/24]

44. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the measures he has introduced to boost recruitment and retention in the Naval Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13043/24]

45. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will instruct the Defence Forces to award the veterans of the Siege of Jadotville with medals to recognise their bravery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [13290/24]

46. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the progress made to date on the acquisition of a primary radar system for Ireland; when he expects such a system to be in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [9155/24]

47. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will provide an update on the progress being made to raise the mandatory retirement age in the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13226/24]

48. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will report on the implementation of the Working Time Directive in the Defence Forces; and the timeframe in which he intends it be operationalised within the Defence Forces. — Matt Carthy. [13156/24]

49. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the operational status of the Naval Service fleet, that is, its deployment readiness, staffing levels, the fitting out of recently acquired vessels from New Zealand; the details of the process for acquiring a multi-role vessel; the status of current recruitment plans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [13060/24]

50. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if further consideration will be given to the re-opening of Dún Uí Néill Barracks, Cavan, as a forward operating base as that region has a long land border with a neighbouring jurisdiction, and taking into account that in the past the presence locally of Army personnel played a very important role in the security of this State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13122/24]

51. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the timeframe in which he intends to bring forward proposals to remove the triple-lock neutrality protection; and if he will put these proposals before the people a referendum. — Matt Carthy. [13155/24]

52. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence when the next recruitment drive will be run for Defence Forces under the increased age criteria; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13249/24]

53. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if Ireland plans to recommit personnel to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) mission. — Patrick Costello. [13141/24]

54. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence to provide an outline of Ireland's defence strategy concerning the protection of its undersea cables, airspace, and territorial waters and is it considered acceptable for these areas to remain undefended or be monitored by external entities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [13019/24]

55. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence whether there have been any discussions at an EU level in relation to introducing extra obligations on member states in relation to defence; whether Ireland has been a part of these discussions; and the stance Ireland has taken in the discussions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13034/24]

56. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence when a decision will be taken on the location of the new Army HQ; if Athlone will be considered given its central location; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [13266/24]

57. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if all test centre personnel should have received the pandemic recognition payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [13278/24]

58. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the approximate expected delivery date of the new Airbus C295 military transport aircraft; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Berry. [13279/24]

59. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will provide an update on the current situation in South Lebanon; the current activities of the Defence Forces on the UNIFIL mission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13227/24]

60. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence for a report on the defence infrastructure improvements that have taken place in Kildare since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [13024/24]

61. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the future plans for Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell; if the aerodrome has the capacity to maintain the two Airbus C295W's, located at the site, and the C295 military transport aircraft in production; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12765/24]

62. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the progress made on the recommendation of the Commission on the Defence Forces to significantly strengthen the military intelligence and cyber defence capabilities of the Defence Forces and the creation of a joint cyber defence command; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [9157/24]

63. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will report on the defence infrastructure improvements that have taken place in Haulbowline since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13042/24]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

64. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on his Department's work in relation to road safety and to tackle the continuing rise in road fatalities. — Martin Kenny. [13496/24]

65. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on the current waiting times for driving tests in all County Tipperary test centres; the number waiting in each test centre; the reason for the extended delays in each test centre; the steps he is taking to address these driving test delays; these matters require immediate attention and swift action to alleviate the distress and inconvenience caused to persons in County Tipperary who are waiting for a profound period of time to have their driving test completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [13476/24]

66. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can provide an update on the National Aviation strategy and its impact on Dublin Airport and regional airports. — Martin Kenny. [13497/24]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

67. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the cancellation of a service (details supplied) Galway to Dublin Airport; if he is considering steps to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13234/24]

68. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that will be made on the Mallow Relief Road in the coming months given recent allocations from his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [11867/24]

69. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans and timelines to upgrade bus services across mid-Cork, including Macroom to Cork, Macroom to Bandon and other local services based around Macroom; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13251/24]

70. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he is aware of an uneven allocation in funding for Active Travel 2024 in Cork city. — Thomas Gould. [13240/24]

71. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount of extra funding support his Department has provided to Cork County Council for the repair of roads damaged by flooding in the wake of storm Babet; his plans to provide further allocations in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13047/24]

72. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can provide an update on the proposed changes to the category W licences; if he has engaged with the RSA to discuss the changes prior to the announcement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [13232/24]

73. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to address anti-social behaviour and abuse directed at workers on the public transport network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [13225/24]

74. To ask the Minister for Transport given the recent serious incidents, including a fatal collision, if there is a safety programme for the N80; if the removal of bends in the Leagh area is being considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [13094/24]

75. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that additional funding will be provided to Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council for much-needed

improvement works to the non-national road network in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13262/24]

76. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are plans to increase the capacity of public buses along C spine route from Lucan; what measures are being taken to address overcrowded buses at peak times along this route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [12767/24]

77. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 61 of 1 February 2024, the status of the feasibility study for light rail in Galway, which is being undertaken as part of the development of the Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; the details of the strategic roads feasibility study referenced in the NTA's reply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12836/24]

78. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has concerns regarding the safety issues faced by disabled people in navigating floating bus islands; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [13256/24]

79. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to improve the bus service in Cork city in view of recurring issues with reliability of bus services including cancelled and late buses, and the frequency of these issues occurring; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13075/24]

80. To ask the Minister for Transport when it is intended to agree and implement the All Island Strategic Rail Review; the reason for the delay in doing so; whether in the meantime it is intended to do preliminary work on those elements of the strategy totally within the remit of the Irish State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13032/24]

81. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on current disability services, specifically in relation to access to wheelchair accessible taxis in County Louth and east Meath; if this service is likely to deteriorate due to a shortfall in funding from the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [9821/24]

82. To ask the Minister for Transport when he will fund and encourage the Road Safety Authority roll-out a campaign on social media in particular aimed at tackling the dangers of users of escooters, motorised bicycles and bicycles (details supplied). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13272/24]

83. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the extension of the daily evening train service from Dublin which terminates at Carlow in order that it can service both Kilkenny and Waterford, enabling better regional connectivity particularly for those studying and working along the route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [12845/24]

84. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the NTA in order that bus services on the main radial routes into and from Galway, including the services from Casla (route 424), Clifden, Headford and Kilcolgan can meet current demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13031/24]

85. To ask the Minister for Transport the level of engagement that the Department have had with local authorities regarding new rules which provide for zebra crossings without Belisha beacons; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [13171/24]

86. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 23 of 15 October 2023, given that Louth County Council has indicated that if work was to be funded by his Department at this location (details supplied), it would have to be done under the locations of interest (LOIs) scheme, the locations for which are decided by his Department, if he will consider this or other solutions to the serious issue of crashes happening at this location, including incidents where the family home at this location has been hit by cars; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13270/24]

87. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the delivery of additional carriages for Dublin Sligo rail line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [13267/24]

88. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to ensure revised fare structures are considered on Expressway services operating in the Cork region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13252/24]

89. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on optimal alignment of the proposed Waterford to Tramore greenway with a view to maximising its potential for the purposes of utility, local amenity and tourism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [12846/24]

90. To ask the Minister for Transport views on the commitment in the Programme for Government to maintain the existing road network to a high standard and fund safety improvements; if he will ensure that additional funding will be provided to local authorities for the non-national road network in 2024, taking in to account the urgent requirement for additional investment due to the very substantial increase in costs that have arisen over recent years in road maintenance products and construction work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13261/24]

91. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to improve the reliability of Dublin Bus services in general and routes operated by a company (details supplied) in particular; the extent to which he believes the reliability issues are connected to the difficulties in recruiting drivers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13254/24]

92. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the frequent issue of ghost buses and no shows across the fleets; the steps that have been taken to date to counteract this; and to give an update on any measures already implemented. — Paul Donnelly. [13048/24]

93. To ask the Minister for Transport if transport policy is based on the principles of universal design; if he is considering legislation that mandates national mandatory minimum accessibility standards for public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [13255/24]

94. To ask the Minister for Transport what plans there are to support port improvement works to facilitate offshore renewables, nationally and in particular in Shannon Foynes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [13224/24]

95. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider providing further support to the proposed upgrade of the N25 national road between Carrigtwohill and Middleton, County Cork, given urgent safety concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13046/24]

96. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on progress on the implementation of red light cameras across the road traffic network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [13007/24]

97. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on whether it is appropriate that the new taxi regulator recently appointed has come directly from employment in a senior position with a taxi app company that has a commercial interest in the taxi industry; his further views on whether this represents a potential conflict of interest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13253/24]

98. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the CMATS projects; the timeline for the delivery of the opening of the stations within this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13283/24]

99. To ask the Minister for Transport given record passenger numbers on public transport, the progress that is being made on improving public transport uptake and reliability, nationally and particularly in Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [13223/24]

100. To ask the Minister for Transport the up-to-date position regarding progression of the N86 road improvement project in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [13275/24]

101. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of issues with the bus service in Cork city; and whether he has engaged with the NTA or Bus Éireann in resolving these. — Thomas Gould. [13239/24]

102. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the N22 Farranfore to Killarney road improvement project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [13276/24]

103. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will roll out a direct non-stop bus route between Ennis train and Bus station and Shannon Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [13285/24]

104. To ask the Minister for Transport the way he is prioritising road projects in north Mayo, particularly the new N58 and N26 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [13135/24]

105. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Dart South West scheme can be expanded to include Sallins station, particularly given that very significant numbers of passengers, as evidenced in recent surveys, is at that station; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [8010/24]

106. To ask the Minister for Transport is he aware of problems associated with the roll-out of the BusConnects programme which has resulted in a disconnect between the service now offered and that which bus passengers used in the past in the Crumlin area of Dublin; and if he is further aware of the need for a quicker engagement with communities affected to make logical adjustments to routes to cater for those affected. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13271/24]

107. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will be focusing his Department's attention on the infrastructural deficit with the maintenance of roads in Connemara; if he will allocate resources to address the persistent flooding at Cuan na Loinge; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13235/24]

108. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the delivery of the transport study for east Westmeath and its inclusion of the reopening of the Killucan railway station; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [13268/24]

109. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure in the course of the provision of the extension of the Luas to Confey, Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock that the disruption to local populations in each of the towns and surrounding areas is minimised both in the course of construction and thereafter arising from its design and operation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13231/24]

110. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the provision of mobility hubs nationally under the new Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2025, in particular details of the launch of pilot hubs in two cities and a major town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [10955/24]

111. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update from his Department on the roll-out of electric car chargers nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [10961/24]

112. To ask the Minister for Transport if a review of the Carlow town bus was undertaken; and, if so, when the review will be published. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [13095/24]

113. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will carry out works to improve the junction of the N72 at Brack Hill, County Kerry. — Pa Daly. [7162/24]

114. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the acquisition of battery and battery electric trains for Irish Rail; the likely delivery date for the first tranche of this order; the number within this tranche; the phases of delivery for later tranches and their operational date range; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [13061/24]

115. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of his plans to tackle the practice of learner drivers continuing to drive on learner licences for a number of years by repeatedly renewing their learners licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [13233/24]

116. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the latest update on the Government's response to the business plan received from Waterford Airport for the development and re-establishment of commercial passenger flight business into Waterford and the south east; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [13120/24]

117. To ask the Minister for Transport why there was a decreased allocation for the maintenance of roads across the country in the Budget. — Richard O'Donoghue. [11431/24]

118. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on a project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13284/24]

119. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide funding to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for a by-pass for Killorglin, which has been part of the County Development plan since 2015. — Pa Daly. [7161/24]

120. To ask the Minister for Transport given the regional importance of the new N58 road, which is expected to connect Ballina to Castlebar and provide onward connectivity to Galway, the status of the progress to improve this section of road considering that approximately 60% of traffic from Ballina goes to Castlebar; the way he plans to address this demand and ensure efficient traffic flow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [13134/24]

121. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the implementation of the BusConnects project. — Patrick Costello. [13140/24]

122. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Dart West scheme can be expanded to include Kilcock station, particularly given that the depot for storing vehicles will be just on the edge of Kilcock town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [8009/24]

123. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 61 of 1 February 2024, the terms of reference of the strategic roads feasibility study; who is carrying out the study; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [12837/24]

124. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will bring forward a rescue package for road network in County Clare that have fallen into significant disrepair following a harsh winter and an extended period of poor investment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [13286/24]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*125. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs his plans to conduct a detailed assessment of whether genocide is being committed in the context of the war in Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [13357/24]

*126. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when a decision will be made in relation to a passport application lodged by a person in County Galway (details supplied); the reason for the delay in issuing said passport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13383/24]

*127. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the reason the State has never officially recognised the slaughter of Armenians in 1915 as a genocide; and whether he would officially recognise and remember that genocide this year on an appropriate date, such as remembrance day on 24 April. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13430/24]

*128. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he has raised with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland the interim report of Operation Kenova with particular reference to the actions of the British agent in the IRA which caused so many tragedies and loss of life; if he

has expressed concern about the failure to pursue prosecutions for deplorable actions detailed in this report; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13540/24]

*129. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the measures that will be implemented to grow even further and strengthen the all-Ireland economy following the very welcome growth in cross-Border trade since 1998; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13541/24]

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

*130. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications when he last met the CEO of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. — Alan Kelly. [13335/24]

*131. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 3372 of 7 February 2024, when a response will issue; the number of times he embarked on visits to foreign countries on behalf of the State since the formation of the Government; the geographical location of each visit; the number of days he spent abroad on such trips; the dates upon which each trip took place; and the associated travel and accommodation costs which were incurred by his Department in relation to each trip, in tabular form. — Peadar Tóibín. [13389/24]

*132. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if, in relation to the proposed Electricity Storage Framework Policy for Ireland, he will ensure that a proper regulatory structure with particular emphasis on safety standards is put in place; and if he will instruct his Department to seek expert advice and that international guidelines on safety are followed, based on the internationally recognised NFPA 855 (2023), verifying all battery cells conform with UL9540a specifications and testing (including second life batteries) is up to date in regard to NFPA, EPRI and independent experts in the field. — Paul Murphy. [13395/24]

*133. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if, in relation to the proposed Electricity Storage Framework Policy for Ireland, he will ensure there are proper facilities for collection of toxic water run-off in place to protect the environment (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [13396/24]

*134. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on the practice of automatic price increases from service providers for TV, broadband and phone services; his further views on a case (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [13401/24]

*135. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications his views on a fisheries matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13482/24]

*136. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the projects which have been funded to date from the Just Transition Fund in County Offaly; their scope and planned impact; the number of applications from the county; and their current status. — Richard Bruton. [13544/24]

*137. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if he has reviewed the operation of the Just Transition Fund to date; the lessons which have been learnt;

when it is intended to establish a Statutory Commission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13545/24]

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

*138. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of personnel, by rank, currently in the Defence Forces Medical Corps; and if he will provide the corresponding figures as of 1 April 2021, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13341/24]

*139. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the extent to which the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps continues to receive specialist training to deal with emergencies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13440/24]

*140. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the current strength of the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps reserves; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13441/24]

*141. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence his recruitment plans for 2024; the extent to which he plans to increase the strength of the Defence Forces in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13442/24]

*142. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the extent to which retirements and resignations in the Defence Forces have been replaced with a view to ensuring an adequate management structure throughout; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13443/24]

*143. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the extent to which participation by the Defence Forces in international missions is envisaged in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13444/24]

*144. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of current vacant promotional positions waiting to be filled throughout the Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13445/24]

*145. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the extent to which the Defence Forces are adequately trained and available to deal with emergency situations that may arise either by way of natural disaster or terrorist threat; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13446/24]

*146. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of women applying for and enlisting in the Defence Forces, with equal respect to the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13447/24]

*147. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the number of military personnel serving at various locations overseas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13448/24]

*148. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the extent to which the budget available to his Department remains sufficient to meet requirements in the course of 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13449/24]

*149. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the numbers enlisted in the Permanent Defence Forces at present; the proposals, if any, to have substantial recruitment and the timescale for increasing personnel in the Army; Air Corps and Naval Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13501/24]

*150. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the progress to date in implementing the Report of the Commission on Defence Forces; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13502/24]

*151. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the programme of improvement works that will be undertaken this year at Army barracks throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13503/24]

*152. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the status of the Government's plan to bring forward legislation to remove the Triple Lock; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gino Kenny. [13559/24]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*153. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a progress update on the execution of the DART + Programme and in particular the Dart West and Dart South West programmes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [8008/24]

*154. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the northern ring road for Cork as mentioned in the National Development Plan. — Thomas Gould. [5671/24]

*155. To ask the Minister for Transport what engagement he or his Department have had with a company (details supplied) the cessation from 8 April 2024 of route 706/706x which serves Galway, Athlone, Maynooth and Dublin Airport and if he will make a statement on the impact this closure will have on commuters and students attending Maynooth University.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [13332/24]

*156. To ask the Minister for Transport the total value of funding that has been allocated to Laois for 2024 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII); and what percentage is that of TII's total budget for 2024. — Brian Stanley. [13333/24]

*157. To ask the Minister for Transport the total value of funding that has been allocated to Offaly for 2024 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII); and what percentage of that is TII's total budget for 2024. — Brian Stanley. [13334/24]

*158. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the investment in greenways in Tipperary under the NDP. — Alan Kelly. [13347/24]

*159. To ask the Minister for Transport the capital budget allocation for his Department for rail transport in the years of 2023, 2024 and 2025, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13348/24]

*160. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the action he is taking to support the roll-out of the EV charging network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [11123/24]

*161. To ask the Minister for Transport how Transport Infrastructure Ireland's current practice of negotiating with groups and organisations outside of An Bord Pleanála oral hearings, not disclosing any details of subsequent agreements to An Bord Pleanála, and citing non-disclosure agreements as the reason (NDAs), is appropriate in the planning of publicly-funded projects such as MetroLink. — Gary Gannon. [13359/24]

*162. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on a second operator (details supplied) pulling out of the Galway to Dublin route from April; if he is concerned at bus routes being pulled at a time when people are being encouraged to use public transport; his plans to ensure greater public transport options for rural communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13361/24]

*163. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount collected in fee in respect of overflight permits in the years 2019 to date in 2024, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [13369/24]

*164. To ask the Minister for Transport when funding will be allocated to a project (details supplied); the timeframe for the delivery of this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Burke. [13392/24]

*165. To ask the Minister for Transport if he funds the National Transport Authority's installations of school zones as part of the Safer Routes to School Programme; the process and the funding stream; the progress to date; what schools have engaged in the programme; the schools that have had school zones installed; when the next round of funding/applications will be announced in order that other schools can benefit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13429/24]

*166. To ask the Minister for Transport the degree to which he remains satisfied that the main transport routes to mainland Europe are adequately provided for in order to ensure ready, unimpeded access to and from to continue to facilitate imports and exports to and from this country post-Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13452/24]

*167. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which outstanding traffic bottlenecks will continue to receive remedial attention on local or regional routes in order to ensure the minimisation of traffic delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13453/24]

*168. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which it is anticipated upgrades to rail services serving the commuter towns of north County Kildare will be carried out, if by provision of increased frequency of services the provision of extra carriages or alternatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13454/24]

*169. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which rural transport continues to be improved nationwide with particular reference to the provision of new routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13455/24]

*170. To ask the Minister for Transport the degree to which he expects to achieve sufficient improvement in the national arterial road network with particular reference to ensuring adequate distribution routes to meet the demand arising from increased job creation through the regions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13456/24]

*171. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to combat the daily traffic congestion on the M50; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13457/24]

*172. To ask the Minister for Transport his future plans to combat the daily traffic congestion on the M4; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13458/24]

*173. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he has studied the weakest links in the transport system nationally; his plans to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13459/24]

*174. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which his Department continues to evaluate the transport system, road and rail, public and private to ensure the development of efficient and effective transport in all areas throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13460/24]

*175. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent to which he continues to have discussions with his EU colleagues with a view to ensuring that transport costs here are competitive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13461/24]

*176. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will urgently intervene to ensure the reintroduction of the 20/X20 route by Bus Éireann in view of the recent withdrawal of the services of a company (details supplied) on the Galway – Dublin route. — Robert Troy. [13493/24]

*177. To ask the Minister for Transport the number, location and capacity of local link transport services; and his plans to grow this service. — Richard Bruton. [13533/24]

*178. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered the possibility of creating a digital platform for people living in isolated areas where public service transport is not feasible to access rides either by volunteers or on a cost covering basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13534/24]

*179. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has reviewed the adequacy of the funding for regional and local roads in 2024; how it compares with last year; how need is measured; what measure he uses to establish relative need in different counties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13546/24]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*180. To ask the Minister for Finance if actively farmed farmland will be exempted from the residential zoned land tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [13509/24]

*181. To ask the Minister for Finance his plans to ensure the Irish Strategic Investment Fund divests itself of holdings in companies currently listed on the UN database of businesses operating within the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Neasa Hourigan. [13358/24]

*182. To ask the Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question No. 105 of 7 February 2024, when a response will issue; the number of times he embarked on visits to foreign countries on behalf of the State since the formation of the Government; the geographical location of each

visit; the number of days he spent abroad on such trips; the dates upon which each trip took place; and the associated travel and accommodation costs which were incurred by his Department in relation to each trip, in tabular form. — Peadar Tóibín. [13390/24]

*183. To ask the Minister for Finance the measures in place to protect customers from the actions of vulture funds, particularly homeowners whose mortgages are with such entities; his views on the need to ensure adequate access for such mortgage holders to greater protections through statutory agencies; if he proposes to implement additional measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13542/24]

*184. To ask the Minister for Finance if he proposes to introduce additional measures to assist mortgage holders who are under financial pressures due to increased interest rates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13543/24]

*185. To ask the Minister for Finance if he is aware that “community gain” allocations under the process for developing renewal energy projects, is subject to income tax; and if he would consider altering its tax status or allowing a tax free amount, in order that it could become of greater value to the communities affected by these essential infrastructures for a net-zero world. — Richard Bruton. [13548/24]

*186. To ask the Minister for Finance the estimated cost to the Exchequer in 2024 of not proceeding with scheduled increases in excise duty on petrol and diesel on 1 April 2024, 1 August 2024 and 9 October 2024. — Pearse Doherty. [13556/24]

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.

*187. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the number of people who now have a public service or State body pension; and his projection for this number for 2030 and for 2040. — Richard Bruton. [13521/24]

*188. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the estimated proportion of income which would be necessary to set aside during each working year of a typical public servant in order to create an adequate actuarial fund to pay the prospective public service pension. — Richard Bruton. [13522/24]

*189. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the size of the fund that would be needed at retirement age to pay a prospective public service pension of €20,000 per year. — Richard Bruton. [13523/24]

*190. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the number of OPW WTE staff, by job title, which are based in the Rock of Cashel; and if this number will be further increased during the peak tourism season. — Alan Kelly. [13346/24]

*191. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 182 to 184 of 17 October 2023, to provide further details on the non-core capital expenditure above the additional capital from windfall receipts outlined in the summer economic statement; if is all Exchequer expenditure; the Department

allocated the funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [13426/24]

*192. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the non-Exchequer State expenditure on capital since 2021; projections into the future, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [13427/24]

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

*193. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what supports are in place for employees who are owed wages and holiday pay from an employer who has closed down its business and is no longer contactable; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [13466/24]

*194. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the proposals, if any, there are to improve the visa criteria for the farming and agri-food sector, in view of the shortage of workers in some areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13489/24]

*195. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when additional financial provision will be introduced to assist local authorities, particularly those councils with a small rates base, to develop enterprise centres, as such workspaces are of extreme importance in enabling the establishment and growth of small businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13490/24]

*196. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 33 of 8 September 2022, the progress that has been made on the review of the eligibility for the insolvency payment scheme to date; the anticipated timeframe in finding a solution to this long-running saga (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [13498/24]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*197. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on incorporating electric vehicles and other low-emission vehicles into the school transport fleet in accordance with the Phase 2, p11, Climate Action Plan 2021 of the review of the school transport scheme; to provide projected timelines and targets for the expansion of low-emission vehicles within the fleet, in tabular form; the total cost of the incorporating EVs and low-emissions vehicles; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [13294/24]

*198. To ask the Minister for Education to provide a breakdown of the total current cost to meet Climate Action Plan 2021 and National Mobility Policy, as outlined in Phase 2 of the school transport scheme, in each of the school years 2024/2025 to 2029/2030, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [13295/24]

*199. To ask the Minister for Education to provide a summary of projects or initiatives planned collaborations between the school transport scheme and the Connecting Ireland bus programme; to provide a summary of projects or initiatives planned with timelines and expected outcomes; to provide a breakdown of these collaborations in each of the school years 2024/2205

to 2029/2030, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [13296/24]

*200. To ask the Minister for Education further to Topical Issue debate on 20 February 2024, when construction will commence on a new school building at a school in County Meath (details supplied); when the school will be notified with an update; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [13350/24]

*201. To ask the Minister for Education given the shortage of school places for first years in Athenry, County Galway, what are her Departments plans to provide for additional places for first years in Athenry so that no incoming first year is without a school place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [13367/24]

*202. To ask the Minister for Education if she will provide the capacity for intake of first year students at second level schools in Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip, Clane, Naas and Prosperous for the year 2023/2024, in tabular form; and the number on each respective waiting list of same, in tabular form. — Catherine Murphy. [13368/24]

*203. To ask the Minister for Education if land reportedly donated by an organisation (details supplied) to a school has been formally transferred to the school; if planning permission has been sought for a playground for the school on that land; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [13377/24]

*204. To ask the Minister for Education the efforts being made by her Department to ensure a place in a reading school is available to a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13381/24]

*205. To ask the Minister for Education the extent to which it is possible for a child (details supplied) to obtain a school place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13421/24]

*206. To ask the Minister for Education when measures will be put in place to bring about the early completion of the new replacement school (details supplied); if steps will be taken in this regard as a matter of urgency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [13423/24]

*207. To ask the Minister for Education the date on which a letter of intent to start work at a school will issue; and the reason for the delay in issuing same. — Catherine Murphy. [13431/24]

*208. To ask the Minister for Education what progress has been made in the review of the tender report for additional accommodation at a school (details supplied); when will the review be finalised; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [13463/24]

*209. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No. 148 of 22 February 2024, if she will provide the information requested for 2005 to 2015 of net surplus cash derived from the School Transport by Bus Eireann as categorised in the accounts for each of these years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [13464/24]

*210. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding an expression of interest to her Department by a school (details supplied) in establishing an ASD unit; if she will address the

matters raised in correspondence supplied by the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13473/24]

*211. To ask the Minister for Education when she expects the letter of intent to be signed for the last phase of a school (details supplied); when the contractor will be on site; when the school will be available for use; if there are any impediments to signing the letter of intent; if so, if she will outline these; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Murphy. [13475/24]

*212. To ask the Minister for Education if she will examine a case (details supplied); when her Department will issue a decision to the school in question; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [13513/24]

*213. To ask the Minister for Education the position regarding an additional accommodation scheme application lodged by a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13515/24]

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

*214. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for further clarification on the governance issues that were not resolved previously referenced in her Parliamentary Question response No. 352 of 5 March 2024, and whether she is aware that the organisation have not been provided with these details. — Thomas Gould. [13366/24]

*215. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will withdraw from attending a festival (details supplied) and make a statement which represents and supports the views of Irish artists; if she will ensure that Culture Ireland honours the payments of travel and accommodation costs to the artists who have boycotted the event; and if she will instruct her Department to urgently seek a statement from Culture Ireland, and/or her Department on this. — Paul Murphy. [13412/24]

*216. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the progress to date in introducing measures to counteract misinformation, disinformation and abuse on social media platforms; if additional measures are proposed, when same will be introduced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13491/24]

*217. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the number in receipt of the artists' basic income scheme; if the workings of this scheme have been reviewed; the proposals, if any, there are to extend this scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13492/24]

*218. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way her Department or any agency under the aegis of her Department supports local authorities to develop overnight pull-in parking facilities for motor homes and campervans; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13499/24]

*219. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she is aware of the damage suffered to a swimming pool (details supplied); if he is considering setting aside a special fund to support swimming pools in forthcoming capital allocations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13547/24]

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

*220. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the final outturn of expenditure for Vote 34 for 2023, with a breakdown by each sub heading and individual spending programme within each sub head, in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13298/24]

*221. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will report on the deliberations to date of the oversight group established by his Department in association with the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive to advise on recent developments in a homeless charity (details supplied); if the review undertaken by a company of this organisation has concluded; if he is aware that several contractors employed by this organisation which are owed a substantial amount of money have not been paid to date; if he will endeavour to assist these contractors; if the organisation has complied with the conditions specified for receipt of emergency Government funding; if further emergency funding will be provided to this organisation; how much money has been given to this organisation by his Department in total since its foundation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [13299/24]

*222. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to publish the letter it issued to Dublin City Council on 12 February 2024 in respect of Martin Savage Park, Dublin 7; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [13351/24]

*223. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the process in which a local authority proposal with a part 8 grant of planning permission is referred to his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [13352/24]

*224. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the process in which his Department issues recommendations to a local authority in respect of a planning proposal that has already received part 8 grant of planning permission; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [13353/24]

*225. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the process in which his Department can issue recommendations to a local authority in respect of wildlife protection in advance of a nature impact assessment been undertaken in respect of a proposal that has yet to developed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [13354/24]

*226. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what role it has in relation to biodiversity protection and part 8 local authority planning applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aodhán Ó Ríordáin. [13355/24]

*227. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if any development charges, Uisce Éireann or ESB connection charges can be waived for an individual who commenced a self-build in March 2022 and who will soon have their build completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [13439/24]

*228. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to state whether the statutory functions of the Electoral Commission include the power to review the contents of pole posters or statements made by elected representatives and to communicate with the public in relation to their conclusions of any such review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [13467/24]

*229. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will amend a scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [13472/24]

*230. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current position regarding possible extension of the temporary waiver in respect of development contributions; if he will address the matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13474/24]

*231. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way his Department or any agency under the aegis of his Department supports local authorities to develop overnight pull-in parking facilities for motor homes and campervans; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13504/24]

*232. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the progress being made in each respective local authority with regard to the development of cost rental schemes; the number of units delivered under such schemes; the further number planned to be delivered by the end of 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13505/24]

*233. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if, with reference to the temporary time limited waiver in respect of development contributions, he has considered asking the Government to extend the scheme beyond the final commencement date of 24 April 2024 as outlined in Circular Letter PL/042023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13506/24]

*234. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if, with reference to the temporary time limited waiver announced by Government on 25 April 2023, he will list in tabular form, the amount each local authority has invoiced his Department as outlined in Circular Letter PL 04/2023 in arrears each month to date; the total amount each local authority has invoiced to date; the total number of housing units per each respective local authority impacted by the scheme to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13507/24]

*235. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which the actions in Housing Options for Our Ageing Population have been achieved; the areas in which achievements have fallen short of expectation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13535/24]

*236. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if, based on the policy Housing Options for Our Ageing Population, data has been collected on the level and the growth of accommodation in the core categories required by an ageing population namely adapted family homes, dedicated homes for older people with varying degree of attendant services below the levels of more acute support requiring institutional care; and if he will indicate the baseline in 2018, and the additional provision since. — Richard Bruton. [13536/24]

*237. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the size of the stock of housing held by local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies dedicated to the accommodation of older people; how this has grown since 2010; and the size of the national waiting list for older persons accommodation. — Richard Bruton. [13537/24]

*238. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the proportion of the stock of housing held by local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies dedicated to the accommodation of older people, which has ancillary support services, and the numbers of homes with the various range of such supports. — Richard Bruton. [13538/24]

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

*239. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will advise on the last review carried out by her Department with regard to lone parent allowance recipients; and if she will provide figures from review decisions, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13342/24]

*240. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason the recently announced extension of child benefit to 18-year-olds in full-time education or with a disability does not include a retrospective element; if this will be reconsidered given the impact on families who have been out of payment in the interim; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13384/24]

*241. To ask the Minister for Social Protection regarding the recent decision to change the children's allowance payment policy that parents will not get child benefit for the months between their 18th birthday and 1 May 2024, if he will reconsider this policy change and implement a fair and equitable system that provides financial support to all students over 18 years who are still in school and will she ensure that payments are retrospective to the date when a student turned 18-years-of-age. — Paul Murphy. [13400/24]

*242. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to examine a recent rejection of a social welfare claim which the office of appeal has awarded (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [13424/24]

*243. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 331 of 21 November 2023, if she will now expedite payment of DA and arrears which was approved months ago under appeal (details supplied). — John McGuinness. [13425/24]

*244. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the target of income adequacy in old age; the contribution which she hopes that auto-enrolment will make to achieving that; and by what date she expects people retiring to have reached that target. — Richard Bruton. [13551/24]

*245. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the role, if any, which MABS plays in advising on pension and financial planning for old age; and if she has considered developing a programme in mid-career by MABS which would equip people to plan better for their retirement. — Richard Bruton. [13552/24]

*246. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department has systems for identifying and supporting more vulnerable carers, such as older parents caring for ageing children with disabilities, in order that extra supports could be developed in partnership with other Government agencies. — Richard Bruton. [13553/24]

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

*247. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 359 of 27 February 2024, if she has received the necessary information from the Garda authorities to have this PQ answered. — Alan Kelly. [13337/24]

*248. To ask the Minister for Justice the amount of revenue generated through the issuing of Irish residence permits in the years of 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13338/24]

*249. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 91 of 28 February 2024, if she has received the necessary information from the Garda authorities to have this PQ answered. — Alan Kelly. [13339/24]

*250. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí, by rank, attached to the Garda band as of 14 March 2024. — Alan Kelly. [13340/24]

*251. To ask the Minister for Justice how many appeal applications to the regularisation scheme for undocumented people have been refused; and how many have not been processed at all, to date. — Paul Murphy. [13363/24]

*252. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí, by rank attached to each community policing unit in each Garda district within DMR as of 14 March 2024, in tabular form. — Paul Donnelly. [13374/24]

*253. To ask the Minister for Justice when an application (details supplied) will be completed, given it is over six months since the application was submitted; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13471/24]

*254. To ask the Minister for Justice if it is proposed to introduce a standalone offence in relation to the spiking of drinks, in view of the serious repercussions of such deplorable behaviour and the effects on victims; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13478/24]

*255. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of Garda stations operational in Cavan/Monaghan at present; when Bawnboy Garda station will be reopened as announced by Government previously; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13479/24]

*256. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in an investigation (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13494/24]

*257. To ask the Minister for Justice if she is aware of the concerns of sporting clubs and other community groups which run small-scale lotteries and is generally their main fundraiser in relation to the effects of the new legislation concerning betting regulations and gambling laws; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13495/24]

*258. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide details of the recently announced Ballymun Implementation Board; which departments and agencies will have representatives on the board; if the representatives of various Government departments and agencies on the board will be senior officials; the annual budget for this body; how the new body will align with the local drugs and

alcohol task force and the joint policing committee; if the Brighter Ballymun Report will set the agenda for this group; if local members of the Houses of the Oireachtas will have a role in this body; and the inaugural meeting will take place. — Róisín Shortall. [13558/24]

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

*259. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether a complaint (details supplied) was logged; and what action was taken. — Paul Murphy. [13385/24]

*260. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if cattle are still being exported to Israel from Ireland; if so, how this is appropriate, given that the people of Gaza are being starved and face famine; if the Government has any intention of halting the export of cattle and other foodstuffs to Israel in the face of impending famine in Gaza; if he accepts that this is seen by many as putting money before the lives of Gazans who are being slaughtered daily; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [13488/24]

*261. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the case of a person (details supplied) will be examined; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [13539/24]

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

*262. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 441 of 7 February 2024, when a reply will issue to this Deputy; the number of times he embarked on visits to foreign countries on behalf of the State since the formation of the Government; the geographical location of each visit; the number of days he spent abroad on such trips; the dates upon which each trip took place; and the associated travel and accommodation costs which were incurred by his Department in relation to each trip, in tabular form. — Peadar Tóibín. [13391/24]

*263. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to the Parliamentary Question No. 125 of 22 February 2024, to address the issue outlined (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [13393/24]

*264. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide the full total spend by his Department to accommodate International Protection Applicants for 2023 alone (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [13394/24]

*265. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the steps his Department is taking to address the worsening situation at the international protection office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Chris Andrews. [13411/24]

*266. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth how many children are currently in special emergency arrangement accommodation; if a breakdown can be provided on how many are children in the care of the State; how many are children in Ireland seeking international protection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [13413/24]

*267. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of those children currently in special emergency arrangement accommodation, sourced by Tusla, the cost from January 2023 to date, split between children in the care of the State and children in Ireland seeking international protection. — Peadar Tóibín. [13414/24]

*268. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth which suppliers of emergency accommodation for young people in State care he has met with since September 2023; and the dates on which those meetings took place. — Peadar Tóibín. [13415/24]

*269. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth which suppliers of regulated residential services for children/young people in State care/aftercare he has met since September 2023; and the dates on which those meetings took place. — Peadar Tóibín. [13416/24]

*270. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide a copy of the Tusla report which found that a company providing special emergency accommodation to children in State care had fabricated pre-employment checks and Garda vetting of staff, which has been heavily referenced in the media in recent times. — Peadar Tóibín. [13417/24]

*271. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the amount of core funding provided in Budget 2022 which was used to uplift wages in the early years and school age childcare sector; the amount which has remained unspent; and if the balance is publicly available on an ongoing basis. — Ivana Bacik. [13419/24]

*272. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the progress to date in improving services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13510/24]

*273. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the progress to date in improving services (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13511/24]

*274. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 276 of 29 February 2024, the reason there have been such lengthy delays in issuing guidance to pre-schools and in opening the ICT portal for the upload of core funding applications; if he is aware that these delays may cause closures among pre-schools; if he is further aware that many accountants will not supply a quote until they know what is involved with the ICT portal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [13514/24]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*275. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the proposed role of local authorities in inspections by vets of small abattoirs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [13432/24]

*276. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that there are currently very long delays in obtaining an appointment for a blood test at the Mater Hospital, with reports of nine weeks to be seen by a phlebotomist; his plans to address these delays, given the importance of blood tests in

early health interventions; the reason for the delays; the timeframe for their significant reduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [13297/24]

*277. To ask the Minister for Health to respond to direct concerns and questions raised in correspondence (details supplied) in respect of Cherry Orchard Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [13330/24]

*278. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE registrars in emergency medicine at Tipperary University Hospital in 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form; and if this number will be further increased this year. — Alan Kelly. [13343/24]

*279. To ask the Minister for Health the number of theatres in use at University Hospital Limerick to date in 2024; and the hours that each theatre is available for procedures, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13344/24]

*280. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant paediatric ENT surgeons at Cork University Hospital in 2023 and to date in 2024, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13345/24]

*281. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the lack of developmental screening for children in the Dublin 8, 10, 12 and 20 areas, and that parents are being sent questionnaires in place of screenings; if he will acknowledge that this is not an appropriate replacement for face-to-face developmental screenings with trained professionals and that parents often feel unequipped to be able to administer and/or interpret these questionnaires; if he will further accept that early identification and intervention is crucial for addressing developmental issues and that the current situation may have serious implications for children who do not receive these important developmental checks; the issues in terms of recruitment of public health nurses; the steps being taken to address this; when parents in these areas will have these necessary developmental screenings by PHNs resumed for their children; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [13349/24]

*282. To ask the Minister for Health why the children's disability network team have re-categorised a complex need in children and children with autism are no longer categorised as having a complex need; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [13356/24]

*283. To ask the Minister for Health if he could advise as to avenues of funding available to a community group (details supplied) to replace and refurbish defibrillators in their area. — Claire Kerrane. [13360/24]

*284. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to 30 children awaiting interventions through the disability teams (details supplied); if his Department can provide funding to provide parent training programmes for the families impacted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [13362/24]

*285. To ask the Minister for Health if an immediate date will be confirmed for scoliosis surgery for a person (details supplied); the number of people on the waiting list for this type of surgery and the timeframe involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [13365/24]

*286. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that funding is provided to allow for the employment of the required neurologist for the Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise; if he will confirm that they have received correspondence from the Neurological Alliance of Ireland who is campaigning to have a neurologist situated in the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [13370/24]

*287. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE chiropodists employed by the HSE working in CHO9 by location in 2023 and to-date in 2024, in tabular form. — Paul Donnelly. [13373/24]

*288. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of a primary care centre (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [13375/24]

*289. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Questions No. 1043 of 2 November 2021 and 1672 of 26 July 2022, when the HSE plans to develop a primary care centre at the site referred to in Ratoath, County Meath; if the plans are included in the HSE's current capital program; the overall cost and timeline for completion of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [13376/24]

*290. To ask the Minister for Health the steps his Department is taking to increase the number of GPs in County Kildare (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [13378/24]

*291. To ask the Minister for Health if a review has been carried out into the impact of the cessation of child developmental checks under the national healthy childhood programme for children in areas of Dublin mid-west (details supplied) due to staff shortages in the public health nurse service; if so, if the report will be made available; and if not, if a review will be considered at the earliest opportunity in order to assess the real consequences of the lack of service provision in the area. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13379/24]

*292. To ask the Minister for Health if there is a process through which parents who have been unable to access developmental checks for their children due to staff shortages in their area, can access an appointment in an alternative location; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13380/24]

*293. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will provide its conclusions and its determination of a complaint (details supplied); if he will outline all of the actions taken at the facility since the complaint was made to address the shortfalls and risks detailed in the complaint; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [13397/24]

*294. To ask the Minister for Health to list the number of public health nurses covering the Dublin 8, 10 and 12 areas; the catchment population they cover; the length of time there has been a vacancy or absence of cover due to staff holidays, unfilled posts or illnesses in the past two years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13398/24]

*295. To ask the Minister for Health what measures are taken in the case of a vacancy in a local public health nurse's position to address a backlog which has built up when the new person is put in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [13399/24]

*296. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for elderly home support services in counties Louth and Meath, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [13402/24]

*297. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of children on a waiting list for their first appointment to CAMHS in CHO8, by county; the breakdown under the various lengths of time that they have been on the waiting list, in tabular form. — Imelda Munster. [13403/24]

*298. To ask the Minister for Health the average length of treatment an individual receives in the CAMHS system in each of the CHOs. — Imelda Munster. [13405/24]

*299. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people that were on the waiting list for homecare packages in counties Louth and Meath, at the end of each year from 2018 to 2023, in tabular form. — Imelda Munster. [13406/24]

*300. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on negotiations in relation to the dental treatment service scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [13407/24]

*301. To ask the Minister for Health the number of GPs currently practicing in the counties Louth and Meath, respectively; the number of new GPs who have taken up work in each of those counties in each of the years 2021, 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [13408/24]

*302. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in the counties Louth and Meath, respectively who are without a GP and are currently on a waiting list for one; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [13409/24]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health the impact on current drug reimbursement waiting times that he expects to see as a result of the recruitment of 36 new staff within the decision-making reimbursement process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [13410/24]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the independent review of the radiation therapist profession, which was agreed between the HSE, his Department and an organisation (details supplied) under the auspices of the Workplace Relations Committee, which has been underway since December 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [13433/24]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who have participated in the Laura Brennan HPV vaccination catch-up programme to date; the targets set for the programme; if he will report on the programme extension review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [13434/24]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health the amount of funding to date which has been allocated to the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023 - 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [13435/24]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of abolishing prescription charges for all medical card holders. — Ivana Bacik. [13436/24]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of reducing the drugs payment scheme to a €60 threshold per month; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [13437/24]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health the amount of annual funding budgeted for the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026 to conduct its annual activities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ivana Bacik. [13438/24]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health the minimum value for the supply of goods or services to the HSE that requires the HSE to seek tenders via a public procurement process; if he is satisfied that the HSE is compliant with all Government regulations and policy relative to procurement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [13450/24]

*311. To ask the Minister for Health the amounts paid to each of the private diagnostics providers under the GP access to the community diagnostics scheme in each of the years since its launch in 2021 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [13465/24]

*312. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to significant waiting lists for orthodontic treatment in the national maxillofacial unit in St. James's Hospital; if staffing levels are at the required level in all positions in this unit; what processes are in place to attempt to reduce wait times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [13477/24]

*313. To ask the Minister for Health if he will ensure that a dedicated outpatient neurology service is provided by a consultant neurologist at Letterkenny University Hospital to avoid the need for neurology patients in Donegal to have to travel long distances for care. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [13481/24]

*314. To ask the Minister for Health the status of a hospital appointment for a child (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [13508/24]

*315. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a progress update on the HSE recruitment freeze; when this recruitment freeze is likely to be lifted; if he will provide data, in tabular form, on waiting lists across adult mental health services compared to before the freeze was implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [13512/24]

*316. To ask the Minister for Health the number of man hours allocated to provide home help and homecare services; and the number of persons receiving those services in 2000, 2010, 2020 and allocated for 2024. — Richard Bruton. [13524/24]

*317. To ask the Minister for Health the steps necessary to be taken to put in place a national statutory homecare scheme; and the date on which he hopes to reach each milestone. — Richard Bruton. [13525/24]

*318. To ask the Minister for Health if he has carried out an audit of the assistive technology that is now available to support care in the home; if he has assessed the feasibility in each case of supporting their use to better manage care in the home; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13526/24]

*319. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated proportion of consultations with GPs, with medical consultants, with nurse practitioners and with therapists which were conducted at their peak during Covid; the extent to which this has been sustained as practices have returned to normal; if he has undertaken a review to see whether such approaches should take a more prominent position in future care; and the barriers which may need to be overcome to achieve that. — Richard Bruton. [13527/24]

*320. To ask the Minister for Health if he has conducted any census of carers to identify the circumstances of their care, their access to information and support, their age profile, and their capacity to continue; if he will indicate where the findings may be obtained; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13528/24]

*321. To ask the Minister for Health the performance reports which he receives on the HSE's enhanced community care initiatives and its component elements to illustrate its reach, its intensity and its impact; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13529/24]

*322. To ask the Minister for Health whether he has received reports on the evolution of the indicators in the Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework instituted in 2018 to date; and whether the impact of Covid and the return to more normal conditions illustrates challenges for public policy in this area. — Richard Bruton. [13530/24]

*323. To ask the Minister for Health the scale of the social prescribing initiative undertaken by the HSE in terms of resources deployed, people reached and impact of the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13531/24]

*324. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which the actions outlined in the Positive Ageing Strategy of 2013 were achieved; the areas where achievement fell short of expectations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13532/24]

*325. To ask the Minister for Health if he has undertaken a manpower review of current and upcoming needs for care assistants who could support nursing home care or home care; the predicted needs over the next ten years; the capacity to meet those needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13554/24]

*326. To ask the Minister for Health if he has considered amending health insurance legislation to encourage more insurers into the support of preventative health measures and improved management of continuing health vulnerabilities among their members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13555/24]

*327. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 304 of 29 February 2024, in relation to the vaccine damage scheme, if he will give an assurance that the two-year statute of limitations rule will not adversely impact those who will likely have a claim under this scheme, due to delays in the introduction of this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [13557/24]

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

*328. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide an update on the work of his Department on the provisions of the National Minimum

Wage (Inclusion of Apprentices) Bill 2023 and based on the Government's decision on a timed amendment to second stage of the Bill in the debate on the Bill in Seanad Éireann on 3 May 2023; if he will set out the next stage in the process of the Government's consideration of the measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [13420/24]

*329. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if option 1 (details supplied) was used for calculating the amount due for those in receipt of the award of no maintenance 50% SUSI contribution; if so, the reason option 2 was not considered which would have had a greater reduction in the net amount due; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13462/24]

*330. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is aware of the restriction for international students becoming a sabbatical officer in a Union or as a society's auditor students due to Stamp 2 visas' terms of employment and engagement in business or trade, and if he has any plans to change this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13371/24]

*331. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science can he provide in tabular form the full list of ETBs broken down by county, and an email address for each; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13372/24]

*332. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the proposals, if any, there are to increase capacity and availability of courses in digital forensics, in view of the threats to society posed by the proliferation of misinformation through social media platforms and the need to tackle such abuses; if his Department is funding research into such issues; if so, the type of research; if it is in collaboration with other agencies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13483/24]

*333. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the current position regarding a proposed building project (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13484/24]

*334. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the progress to date in intensifying co-operation on a cross-Border and all-Ireland basis in further education; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13485/24]

*335. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the additional places proposed to be in place for the next academic year in medicine, nursing and other healthcare professions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13486/24]

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

*336. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will introduce an annual men's shed sustainability grant system to help with their running costs, for items such as electricity and insurance bills, similar to the one issued in 2023; if she will consider providing funding for small capital works projects; if she will make such grants available directly to individual men's sheds instead of allocation through third party representative bodies; to provide an update on such funding measures that her Department will make available to men's sheds in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [13300/24]

*337. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the capital projects that have been undertaken by her Department in Tipperary since January 2022; and the funding allocated each year, in tabular form. — Alan Kelly. [13336/24]

*338. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if she will provide an update on an application for funding (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [13387/24]

*339. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the reason for the delay with the commencement of the Leader Programme in County Galway; the number of companies that will deliver the Leader Programme there; the areas they will cover; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13470/24]

*340. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the arrangements that have been made to deliver SICAP on the offshore Islands off the coast of Galway; when delivery of the Programme will commence; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [13469/24]

*341. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the money will be granted for phase 2 of the project to complete the works at the Pier at Ailt á Chorráin, County Donegal; the amount that will be granted for the works; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Pringle. [13480/24]

*342. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the way her Department or any agency under the aegis of her Department supports local authorities to develop overnight pull-in parking facilities for motor homes and campervans; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [13500/24]

*343. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the number of connected hubs in each county which are now established; if she would consider giving these hubs an explicit mandate to promote positive ageing, particularly as a location to access information, to develop digital skills, to access trusted advisers and services, and to promote community networks supportive of positive ageing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [13549/24]

*344. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the role that her Department plays in promoting social innovation in communities to respond to environmental and demographic pressures, particularly in counties with higher old age profiles. — Richard Bruton. [13550/24]