



# DÁIL ÉIREANN

*Déardaoin, 18 Aibreán, 2024*

*Thursday, 18th April, 2024*

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CEISTEANNA  
QUESTIONS



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

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

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

1. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media cén fáth nár foilsíodh an reachtaíocht ag tús na míosa seo maidir le toghcháin Údarás na Gaeltachta a réachtáil mar a gheall sí; agus an mbeidh na toghcháin ar siúl ar an lá céanna leis na toghcháin áitiúla agus Eorpacha. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17073/24]

2. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in light of the basic income for artists initial report, if she will commit now to including a full roll-out of this scheme for all artists in Budget 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [17256/24]

3. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department has studied the potential impact and benefits in terms of tourism and culture of developing a culture quarter in the Moore Street area as a living commemoration to the heroes of 1916. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17074/24]

4. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the scope for increasing the funding for recommendations made within the Report of the Future of Media Commission; and when funding from these proposals will be rolled out to media organisations nationwide, given that the local and European elections and the first directly elected mayor election in Limerick will take place at the start of June 2024. — Matt Shanahan. [17014/24]

5. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media about the progress of sports capital grant applications; the total value of the fund estimated for this year's round of applications; and when she intends on making an announcement for same. — Mattie McGrath. [17257/24]

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

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

6. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media her engagement with other Government departments and State agencies to support hotels in rural communities. — Matt Carthy. [10407/24]

7. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when an announcement in respect of financial assistance for sporting organisations is anticipated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16936/24]

8. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund will be launched; if she will outline the guidelines for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [16788/24]

9. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cathain a líonfaidh sí na folúntais ar Bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta, lena n-áirítear ról an Chathaoirligh; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17070/24]

10. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán i dtaca le Ceist Pharlaiminte Uimh. 7 den 15 Feabhra 2024, soiléiriú a thabhairt ar an bplean a d’eascair as an obair athbhreithnithe a rinne Údarás na Gaeltachta faoin bpunann iomlán maoinne atá aige agus faoi na féidearthachtaí forbartha atá ann; soiléiriú a thabhairt ar na hacmhainní airgeadais a bheidh ag teastáil chun an plan a chur i gcrích; an dtabharfaidh sí an t-eolas is déanaí ar aon teagmháil idir a Roinn agus Údarás na Gaeltachta maidir le tithíocht a chur ar fáil ar thalamh agus réadmhaoin atá faoi úinéireacht an Údaráis; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [16854/24]

11. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the steps being taken by her Department to increase the tourism potential of County Meath. — Peadar Tóibín. [16807/24]

12. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department has a strategy to ensure that tourism in Ireland is more regionally balanced in terms of the entry and exit points of passengers arriving into Ireland (i.e. airports and ferry ports). — Cathal Crowe. [16690/24]

13. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the progress to date in rolling out the most recently announced Sports Capital Programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16979/24]

14. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the additional measures she has put in place to support downstream businesses whose revenue has dropped mainly due to the fact that local tourism accommodation is being used to accommodate Ukrainians, refugees and international protection applicants; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [17060/24]

15. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the details of the mitigation measures that are being considered to cover losses in ancillary tourist services, due to tourist accommodation being utilised for other uses; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [16833/24]

16. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cén caiteachas atá déanta ar scoil áirithe (sonraí tugtha) i gContae Chorcaí le cúig bliana anuas; cad iad foinsí an mhaoinithe sin; cad iad na chéad chéimeanna eile chun an togra a chur i gcrích; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aindrias Moynihan. [17029/24]

17. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will expedite a review and provide supports to address the lack of hotel beds for the tourism sector in Drogheda, the largest town in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [16857/24]

18. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media cé na pleananna nua atá aici agus na beartais nua atá i gceist aici a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta don tréimhse atá fágtha i dtéarma an Rialtais seo; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [16942/24]

19. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if any further measures are anticipated to assist the tourism sector in advance of the summer season; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16935/24]

20. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the new round of the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund will open; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Steven Matthews. [17040/24]

21. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán soiléiriú a thabhairt ar aon teagmháil idir a Roinn, an Roinn Tithíochta agus brúghrúpa (sonraí tugtha) maidir leis na ceithre bhunéileamh atá acu faoin easpa tithíochta sa Ghaeltacht; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [16855/24]

22. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the steps her Department is taking to encourage the participation of females in sport; if she can provide an update on the Programme for Government Commitment to increase the level of media coverage, nationally and locally of women's sport; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [16789/24]

23. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an aontaíonn sí leis an rún glactha ag Ard Fheis Conradh na Gaeilge maidir leis an ggreatlach maoinithe ag Foras na Gaeilge a bheith lochtach, agus an bhfuil sé i gceist aici athbhreithniú a phlé lena comhghleacaí san Fheidhmeannas ó thuaidh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17072/24]

24. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide an update on this year's sports capital grants and a timeline on when decisions will be made; if she will outline future funding plans for large scale sports infrastructure funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [16984/24]

25. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to detail what core funding has been allocated to support sporting organisations, national governing bodies of sport and local sports partnerships through Sport Ireland for 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [16937/24]

26. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when the Sports Capital Grants for 2024 will be announced for clubs in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [16701/24]

27. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán an bhfuil sé fós mar sprioc aici Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge a thabhairt ar ais, mar a gheall an iar-Aire Stáit Patrick O'Donovan, agus má tá, cathain. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17071/24]

28. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to report on the progress to date in the development of the national counter disinformation strategy; when she expects this strategy will be published; to report on the meetings of the national counter disinformation strategy working group; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16999/24]

29. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the up-to-date position in relation to the provision of funding to safeguard the future of RTÉ; if the issue of bogus self-employment and the potential cost to the organisation of this debacle is being considered; the steps she will take in respect of other public service news and broadcasting services; her views on whether these could be dealt with separately and sooner while the RTÉ issue continues to be examined; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17006/24]

30. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the plans for the universal basic income pilot scheme for artists after it is due to end in 2025. — Gary Gannon. [17059/24]

31. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if her Department plans to provide tourist amenities in Cúil Na Móna Plant at Togher, Portlaoise, along with the three bogs in Laois Cúil na Móna, Coolnacartan and Cashel; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [16832/24]

32. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide a list of the funding available to swimming pools needing capital investment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [16700/24]

33. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she has received reports on governance and culture and contractor fees and HR in RTÉ that were due in March 2024; when she will publish these reports; and whether she has made a decision on the future of media funding. — Thomas Gould. [16992/24]

34. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the position regarding the publication of the two Government commissioned reports pertaining to RTÉ; if she has seen either report; if so, when she received the report(s); when each will be published; if Dáil Éireann will have an opportunity to debate the reports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17005/24]

35. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media further to Parliamentary Question No. 9 of 15 February 2024, the status of the drawdown of the €1 million in Galway 2020 legacy funding; the amount drawn down to-date; the breakdown of where any funds drawn down to-date have been allocated; the amount that has been allocated to-date via open calls for funding applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16852/24]

36. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cathain atá sé i gceist aici an bille leasaithe ar Údarás na Gaeltachta a fhoilsiú; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [16941/24]

37. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way her Department is supporting Irish theatre; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [17002/24]

38. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media further to Parliamentary Question No. 24 of 15 February 2024, the status of the Údarás na Gaeltachta housing initiative approved in December 2023 to develop a model of affordable housing for Irish speakers on Údarás lands in three Gaeltacht areas; the details of her Department's role in this housing initiative; the expected timeline for the delivery of the affordable housing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16853/24]

39. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media when she expects the Sports Capital Grants to be announced. — Cathal Crowe. [16691/24]

40. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán the steps being taken by her Department to ensure the viability of the Irish self-catering sector is protected; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [17049/24]

41. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide an update on the work of the stakeholders' forum, one of the recommendations of the recent report on section 481 produced by the Oireachtas Budget Scrutiny Committee; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [16983/24]

42. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the way her Department is supporting the Irish film industry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [16997/24]

43. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for an update on the latest round of the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [16693/24]

44. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for an update on the Sports Capital Programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [16364/24]

45. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she is aware of the campaign by an organisation (details supplied) and its push for sporting facilities for the young people of the south inner city on the site on Marrowbone Lane. — Gary Gannon. [17058/24]

46. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if there are plans to upgrade public sports pitches with suitable disability infrastructure to accommodate people of all abilities, allowing community sports clubs to achieve the status of fully inclusive organisations. — Gary Gannon. [17057/24]

47. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the measures that will be implemented to assist the tourism sector meet additional business costs through initiatives of her own Department or through the agencies under the remit of her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16978/24]

48. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media what supports have been made available in relation to Irish participation in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [16692/24]

49. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to report on progress on action number JM/24/1 in the 2024 climate action plan annex of actions; to provide a breakdown of supports provided to enterprises in the regenerative tourism sector to expand their services and develop their capabilities; to provide a summary of outputs achieved so far in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16998/24]

50. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media whether she had any discussions with the military authorities in relation to the possibility of retaining the LÉ Eithne as an item of historic importance and its future use in a maritime or navy museum on Haulbowline, Cork, to add to the tourism attractions of Cork city and its environs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17076/24]

51. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán maidir le Ceist Pharlaiminte Uimh. 62 den 15 Feabhra 2024, maidir leis an obair athbhreithnithe atá déanta ag Údarás na Gaeltachta i ndáil leis na córais agus leis an gcur chuige atá i ngníomh ag an Údarás chun tacú le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge sna client-chuideachtaí agus i ndáil leis na bealaí ina ndéantar an t-ábhar a bhaineann leo a riaradh; soiléiriú a thabhairt ar stádas na scéime piolótaí; cé mhéad client-chuideachta atá ag glacadh páirt sa scéim; soiléiriú a thabhairt ar na téarmaí tagartha don scéim; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Catherine Connolly. [16856/24]

52. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to outline the recommendations of the recently published review of the Large-Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund; the reason the new similar access requirement policy in respect of men and women having access to publicly funded sporting facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patrick Costello. [16938/24]

53. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the actions she is taking to overhaul Foras na Gaeilge as a funding mechanism for the Irish language sector, funding for which over the last number of years has stalled in comparison to funding in other areas in her portfolio, such as arts and heritage; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [17021/24]

54. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide an update on the role of the night-time economy manager in Drogheda, since the Government policy decision closed the last remaining hotel beds of scale in the town, thus majorly impacting the tourism sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [16858/24]

55. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for an update on her Department's engagement with Gaeltaca and on the funding of the Irish language, particularly language assistants in schools in Cork; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [16991/24]

56. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the NDP has sufficiently taken into account and is adequately resourced to meet the growing demand for



sports facilities, particularly with the very considerable and welcome growth of women's sports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [16222/24]

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

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

57. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of times the Labour Employer Economic Forum subgroup on collective bargaining has met in 2024; and if he can provisionally indicate when the action plan on collective bargaining coverage to be presented to the European Commission as part of its transposition of the EU directive on adequate minimum wages will be published. — Louise O'Reilly. [16747/24]

58. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he remains committed to the agreed pathway for the implementation of a living wage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [17196/24]

59. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will engage with stakeholders regarding the Employment (Restriction of Certain Mandatory Retirement Ages) Bill 2024. — Louise O'Reilly. [16748/24]

60. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 37 of 8 February 2024, for an update on his Department's engagement with the Department of Foreign Affairs with a view to developing a new business and human rights action plan and implementation body; the number of meetings held to-date by the stakeholder forum; the dates of same; the terms of reference of the stakeholder forum; the expected timeline for the new national plan on business and human rights; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16851/24]

### **CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

61. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is planning to pause the planned increase in statutory sick pay days; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [17044/24]

62. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will provide an update on his Department's efforts, in conjunction with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland, to attract new commerce and industry to County Clare. — Cathal Crowe. [16695/24]

63. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how he plans to support and compensate business owners in towns such as Killarney, County Kerry, where the displacement of tourism accommodation for use as emergency accommodation has resulted in significant reductions in footfall and consumer spending; the supports he is planning for the broader SME sector and businesses exposed to vastly increased overheads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17023/24]

64. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will outline the work that is being carried out by his Department to provide supports for micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses, particularly in the hospitality sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [16985/24]

65. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on his plans to transpose the EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [17054/24]

66. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will outline the process his Department uses to assess the granting of export licences for ‘dual use goods’ to Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [16986/24]

67. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what action is being taken to strengthen the resilience, productivity and innovation of SMEs to ensure that they remain key drivers of employment nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [17027/24]

68. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he plans to support those SMEs that are currently struggling; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [16996/24]

69. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 30 of 8 February 2024, the status of the implementation of the West regional enterprise plan (REP) to 2024; the date of all meetings to-date of the steering group; for an update on the most recent meeting of the steering group; if the West REP progress report, which was expected in Q1 2024, has been published to-date; how many of the nine REP progress reports expected in Q1 2024 have been published to-date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16850/24]

70. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the date of the last four meetings of the Labour Employer Economic Forum subgroup on collective bargaining; the methods he is using to ensure worker’s right to organise is developed in this State; and whether he intends to wait until the deadline of Article 4 of the EU Directive before taking any action. — Thomas Gould. [16994/24]

71. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is planning any changes to the current statutory sick pay scheme; if paid sick leave days and the maximum sick leave pay will be affected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [17045/24]

72. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of businesses in counties Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois, respectively that have registered for the Increased Cost of Business Grant to date; when payments under the grant will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [16881/24]

73. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the supports available to businesses with the rising cost of energy in running a business, particularly those in the hospitality sector, which has seen a number of closures recently. — Niamh Smyth. [16698/24]

74. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans for a range of measures to reduce red tape and the administrative burden on business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [16940/24]

75. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what communication took place with the food processing sector around the introduction of the changes to the work permit legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O’Sullivan. [17069/24]

76. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 27 of 8 February 2024, the number of dual-use export licence applications in respect of end-users in Israel approved by his Department since 7 October 2023; the value of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16847/24]

77. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the increase in the number statutory sick days will increase as per the timeline of seven days from January 2025 and ten days from January 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [16987/24]

78. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the paper from a report by an organisation (details supplied) ‘Challenging Myths and Improving Working Conditions in a Strong Economy’. — Louise O’Reilly. [16750/24]

79. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his response to the Central Bank report which shows large decrease in cost of settling insurance claims through the Injuries Resolution Board; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [16910/24]

80. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of businesses in counties Cork and Kerry, respectively that have to date registered for the Increased Cost of Business Grant; when payments under the grant will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [16931/24]

81. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment further to Parliamentary Question No. 341 of 20 March 2024, for an update on plans to remove dental nurses from the ineligible occupation list; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16846/24]

82. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the possibility of the State providing supports for businesses in meeting their obligations as regards a living wage where the business in question has taken a case to the Labour Court under section 41 of the National Minimum Wage Act 2000. — Louise O’Reilly. [16751/24]

83. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his response to the recent approval of AI legislation by the European Parliament; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [16888/24]

84. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if business in Cork have received payment under the Increased Cost Of Business scheme. — Thomas Gould. [16993/24]

85. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the additional business supports, apart from the increased cost of business scheme, he is considering putting in place, particularly for SMEs to meet the increased cost of doing business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marian Harkin. [17051/24]

86. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his response to the recent Supreme Court ruling in relation to the personal injuries guidelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [16889/24]

87. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he is aware of a campaign (details supplied) being run by organisations; if he will meet with the four unions in relation to the campaign; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [17019/24]

88. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the Assessment of the Cumulative Impact of Proposed Measures to Improve Working Condition in Ireland; his plans for implementing the recommendations of this assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [17028/24]

89. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of businesses in counties Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford have to date registered for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant; when payments under the grant will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [16879/24]

90. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will report on the implementation of the South East Regional Enterprise Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [16880/24]

91. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for a report on the implementation of the South West Regional Enterprise Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [16932/24]

92. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will meet with the local business community and stakeholders in Drogheda to discuss their significant concerns on employment and trade within the town of Drogheda, the largest town in the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [16860/24]

93. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment how he is ensuring that workers in the technology sector facing redundancies are protected; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [17048/24]

94. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the supports that will be made available for small businesses struggling with the increased cost of operating a business. — Holly Cairns. [17042/24]

95. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on the scale of in-work-poverty, where, according to CSO data, the rate stands at 5.9%; and the role that a living wage plays in combatting this. — Brian Stanley. [16835/24]

96. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on the farm safety partnership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [8377/24]

97. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the progress to date in implementing the measures to assist businesses meet additional costs as announced in Budget 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16981/24]

98. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor the causes of inflation, both internal and external, and their effects on business, trade and enterprise; the efforts to date in identifying the causes of possible remedies with particular reference to remedial action; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16934/24]

99. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when the first payments under the increased cost of business grant will issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [16939/24]

100. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the total value of Ireland’s imports from Israel since 7 October 2023; the total value of Ireland’s exports to Israel since 7 October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16848/24]

101. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he continues to remain satisfied that any threats to enterprise, trade and employment continue to be adequately monitored in order to ensure provision is made insofar as is possible for both foreseen and unforeseen eventualities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [16933/24]

102. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps being taken by his Department to assist businesses in Ireland to decarbonise, particularly in light of the findings of a report (details supplied) which found that 86% of businesses reported that they had no set commitments or targets in relation to carbon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [16849/24]

103. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the measures that will be implemented to assist businesses, particularly in the hospitality and retail sectors, and also small scale manufacturing to meet additional costs and protect employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [16980/24]

104. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of businesses in counties Kildare, Wicklow, Meath and Louth, respectively that have registered for the Increased Cost of Business Grant to date; when payments under the grant will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [16883/24]

105. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he intends to bring forward new legislation to transpose the EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages; and if he will meet with four unions (details supplied) in relation to a campaign and the transposition of this directive. — Louise O’Reilly. [16845/24]

106. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his views on whether employee-owned businesses/workers cooperatives offer a solution to succession crises, where

they arise, amongst family-owned businesses; and if he will expediate the delivery of the Cooperative Societies Bill 2022, inclusive of the recommendations of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Enterprise, Trade, and Employment. — Louise O'Reilly. [16753/24]

107. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment what supports are in place for financial assistance by way of grants for the self-employed; what agencies offer these supports in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [16699/24]

108. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will organise urgent meetings with officials within his Department to formulate a dedicated plan to provide employment in Drogheda, with consideration of the very significant number of workers commuting from the town daily; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [16859/24]

109. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of businesses in counties Tipperary, Limerick and Clare, respectively that have registered for the Increased Cost of Business Grant to date; when payments under the grant will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [16884/24]

110. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the implementation of the Action Plan for Insurance Reform measures that fall under the remit of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [16885/24]

111. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to provide the most up-to-date information regarding the increased cost of business scheme; if the scheme is open for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [16768/24]

112. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the status of the progress being made to acquire an IDA Ireland purpose-built facility in Longford town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Flaherty. [16882/24]

113. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if new mediation measures are providing a significant step change for resolving insurance claims nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16887/24]

114. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will consider supports for businesses facing increased labour costs through the PRSI system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [17062/24]

115. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his plans to improve job quality and pay in the childcare sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [17046/24]

116. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his Department's plans to implement the statutory sick pay scheme. — Holly Cairns. [17043/24]

117. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will give positive consideration to introducing supports to struggling small and medium sized businesses to meet the increased costs they are facing. — Cathal Crowe. [16694/24]

118. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to outline the current situation with respect to the proposed referendum on the Unified Patent Court; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [17004/24]

119. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment his position on the planned referendum on the United Patent Court referendum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [17053/24]

120. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to report on progress on industrial heat decarbonisation; the supports available for industry to decarbonise; his plans to increase these supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [16988/24]

121. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of times the Labour Employer Economic Forum subgroup on collective bargaining has met in 2024; and if he can provisionally indicate when the action plan on collective bargaining coverage to be presented to the European Commission as part of its transposition of the EU directive on adequate minimum wages will be published. — Brian Stanley. [16834/24]

122. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he will ensure that the Industrial Relations (Provisions in Respect of Pension Entitlements of Retired Workers) Bill 2021 will progress through Committee Stage; if not, how he will ensure that the rights of retired workers are protected when their pensions are being altered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bríd Smith. [17047/24]

123. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of businesses in each of the four Dublin local authority areas that have registered for the Increased Cost of Trade Business Grant to date; when payments under the grant will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [16886/24]

124. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to outline the current process with respect to applications to the Increased Cost of Business Grant; the number of applications received to date by each respective local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Stanton. [17003/24]

125. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for a update on the construction of an advanced manufacturing facility at Marlinstown, Mullingar; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [17001/24]

126. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the steps he will take to address the cost of doing business in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [16193/24]

127. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if the IDA still plans to proceed with providing a new advance technology facility at Kerry Technology Park in Tralee, County Kerry; the reason for the apparent lack of progress on the plan over the past four years;

the current position; if the target in respect of this facility as set out in the IDA's own plans will be met; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17022/24]

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

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

\*128. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor difficulties experienced by Irish exporters arising from Brexit; the measures in place or proposed in respect of these issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17287/24]

\*129. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will provide the number of times the Irish Ambassador to Israel has appeared on Israeli state TV, radio or written opinion pieces in Haretz in the past 12 months, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [17093/24]

\*130. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if he will report on his recent engagement with the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in the West Bank and Gaza. — Ivana Bacik. []

\*131. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs following the International Court of Justice setting 28 October 2024 as the deadline by which South Africa must submit its memorial in the case of South Africa v Israel taken under the Genocide Convention, if it is still the intention of the Government to refrain from submitting a declaration of intervention until after that point; if so, the timeframe thereafter in which he intends to submit such a declaration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [17155/24]

\*132. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the cost to date of establishing the Embassy of Ireland in Islamabad; if these costs involved purchasing or leasing a new or existing building to accommodate the Embassy; if the opening is still expected to take place in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17167/24]

\*133. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the reasons the Government is willing to recognise the independence of Palestine but not the independence of Taiwan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul Phelan. [17199/24]

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

\*134. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if Ireland accepts the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the Swiss climate case; if so, whether any policy changes will arise from that determination; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17137/24]

\*135. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to outline the rationale for Ireland intervening in the recently decided European Court of Human Rights Swiss



climate case; the size of the legal team that was involved; the associated costs of that case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17138/24]

\*136. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to Parliamentary Question No. 110 of 9 April 2024, to report on Ireland's engagement rate with the deposit return scheme, compared to other similar schemes abroad at the stage of introduction; to provide a breakdown, in tabular form, of Ireland's engagement in comparison to the other countries cited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [17129/24]

\*137. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications what interaction he had with the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs in relation to Ireland's intervention in the European Court of Human Rights Swiss climate case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17139/24]

\*138. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications if his Department will review the Climate Action Plan to take into account the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights Swiss climate case; his views on whether any policy changes will arise from that determination; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17140/24]

\*139. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications further to the commitment given by his officials to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection when the final report of the independent analysis of the warmth and wellbeing scheme carried out by the London School of Tropical Medicine will be published; the reason for missing the latest publication deadline; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [17200/24]

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

\*140. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the transfer of Dúnguair Castle to Galway County Council; when the process is expected to be complete; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [17077/24]

\*141. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 25 of 28 February 2024, why GDPR was not given as a reason for data withholding, if it was known at the time of answer that GDPR was an issue; if so, from what date; and the reason it was not referenced. — Sean Sherlock. [17078/24]

\*142. To ask the Minister for Transport if a bus timetable could be adjusted (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17097/24]

\*143. To ask the Minister for Transport to detail which Intercity rail services will be allocated the new railcar carriages; when they will be deployed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17141/24]

\*144. To ask the Minister for Transport when the first 95 electric and battery-electric carriages will be deployed; what services they will be deployed to; how decisions on deployment will be made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17142/24]

\*145. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the electric dart for Wicklow town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17143/24]

\*146. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of deaths on Irish roads in each year from 2006 to date; the breakdown for each year, by age group and gender; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17233/24]

\*147. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of schools in County Kerry that applied for the safe routes to school scheme; the status of each application, in tabular form, outlining the schools whose programmes have been fully implemented, the planned completion dates, approved but no works commenced, and awaiting inclusion in the scheme; the number of schools completed to date that are classed as rural schools or are outside urban areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17238/24]

\*148. To ask the Minister for Transport if a bus service from Leixlip to Blanchardstown Hospital can be facilitated or incorporated into current routes to facilitate elderly people from this area getting to and from medical appointments, who cannot always drive and may experience mobility issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17271/24]

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

\*149. To ask the Minister for Finance if stamp duty is paid on any Part V, Affordable Housing Fund turnkey purchase or CREL funded turnkey purchase homes. — Eoin Ó Broin. [17190/24]

\*150. To ask the Minister for Finance to provide an update on the consideration of the VAT proposal submitted by an organisation (details supplied) in March 2024, which calls for the extension of VAT exemption to counsellors and psychotherapists in Ireland; what steps are being taken to address the issues raised by the IACP, including the low VAT turnover threshold, high compliance costs, and the burden of VAT on clients seeking mental health support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [17144/24]

\*151. To ask the Minister for Finance to explain and provide clarity on the current discrepancies in VAT treatment between different professions in the mental health sector; what measures are being considered to ensure fair treatment and regulatory coherence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [17145/24]

\*152. To ask the Minister for Finance to clarify the Government's stance on an organisation's (details supplied) call for a pre-registration VAT exempt status for its qualified and accredited members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [17146/24]

\*153. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of x-ray scanners used to detect illicit trade and smuggling at ports and airports; the number of dates on which these were deployed and used at individual named ports and airports in the State in 2023 and to date in 2024; and if it is planned to increase the number of x-ray scanners in use at ports and airports. — John Paul Phelan. [17172/24]

\*154. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of sniffers dogs being used to detect illicit trade and smuggling at ports and airports; the number of dates on which these were deployed and used at individual named ports and airports in the State in 2023 and to date in 2024; and if it is planned to increase the number of sniffers dogs in use at ports and airports. — John Paul Phelan. [17173/24]

\*155. To ask the Minister for Finance the number of staff and other resources being deployed and used at ports and airports to detect non-compliance by individuals with duty-free travel

allowances; the number of inspections carried out at individual named ports and airports in the State in 2023 and to date in 2024; and if it is planned to increase the resources in use at ports and airports for this purpose. — John Paul Phelan. [17174/24]

\*156. To ask the Minister for Finance the reason a spouse can only access €27,000 of a deceased spouse's credit union savings and any remainder must go to probate; his views on whether this rule is fair when the spouse is clearly the next-of-kin and automatic beneficiary; and if he plans to review such rules in the short term. — Robert Troy. [17177/24]

\*157. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has been approached by the Department of Transport to consider expanding the bike-to-school provision; if so, if an anticipated cost figure has been established; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17194/24]

\*158. To ask the Minister for Finance if he has considered a proposal by an organisation (details supplied) for a pre-registration VAT-exemption status for qualified and accredited members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17227/24]

*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.*

\*159. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform the additional current costs she anticipates will be involved in revising the Garda retirement age upward from 60 to 62 years. — Pa Daly. [17243/24]

\*160. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform to consider and support the recommencement of children's swimming lessons in Templemore Garda college's swimming pool on Friday evenings, organised and managed by the community for the community, on a not-for-profit basis, following results of a survey conducted locally of parents in Templemore (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [17102/24]

\*161. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if funding will be allocated in 2024 to address the ongoing serious coast erosion in Rosslare County Wexford and other coastal areas of the county; his plans to protect the coastline in these areas and the total funding allocated to this task; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [17154/24]

\*162. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if he will provide an update on a river flooding risk (details supplied); what solutions the local authority has proposed; if his Department will provide funding for the solutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17235/24]

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

\*163. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for an update on reported recent talks between the EU and the Mercosur group on a trade deal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [8380/24]

\*164. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment when two work permits will be granted (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17091/24]

\*165. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he is aware of difficulties experienced by various sectors in the economy to obtain the necessary levels of staff; whether he has in mind specific action to address this issue sector by sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17283/24]

\*166. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the degree to which he has received communications from employers throughout the country who are experiencing difficulty in recruiting staff; if he is aware of the need for the expeditious process of work permit applications or the use of other methods in order to address the situation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17284/24]

\*167. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he expects to meet any staff shortages in the construction sector, with particular reference to the need to meet such deficiencies in full in early date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17285/24]

\*168. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the number of work permit-related visa applications currently awaiting process, with particular reference to various aspects of the economy particularly affected by staff shortages; the means by which he expects to address this issue in the short to medium term; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17286/24]

\*169. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which he and his Department continue to monitor each trade and industry, with a view to addressing any issues arising; whether he remains satisfied that adequate steps can be taken to address such issues in the short and medium term in a meaningful way; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17288/24]

\*170. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which investment in employment-creating sectors continues; if he is satisfied that industry can look to the future with optimism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17289/24]

\*171. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the degree to which Irish people overseas can be encouraged to return in order to meet staff vacancies throughout industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17290/24]

\*172. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which particular efforts are being made to assist employers particularly hit by staff shortages; whether specific measures are being taken to address this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17291/24]

\*173. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the extent to which employment has fluctuated in this jurisdiction over the past two years to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17292/24]

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

\*174. To ask the Minister for Education To ask the minister for Education the measures, if any, in place to deal with the fact that a school (details supplied) is already at maximum pupil capacity now, and cannot accept any pupil from even its main feeder primary school, with even considering the other two schools in the area. — Patricia Ryan. [17084/24]

\*175. To ask the Minister for Education if she will clarify, with regard to the new school premises built in Kildare town to house a school (details supplied) whose building is being reclaimed for army use, whether the school will be accepting pupils from the Kildare town area at its new location, and not just pupils from the Suncroft and Curragh areas. — Patricia Ryan. [17085/24]

\*176. To ask the Minister for Education if she will clarify, with regard to claims being made that a new building for a school (details supplied) in Kildare is a new school for Kildare town, whether it is a new school or just the old school being accommodated in new premises. — Patricia Ryan. [17086/24]

\*177. To ask the Minister for Education to outline any measures she or her Department are considering to offer incentives to teachers to fill the many vacant teaching posts in County Kildare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [17087/24]

\*178. To ask the Minister for Education further to Parliamentary Question No.119 of 11 April 2024, if she will arrange for a further response to issue to follow up queries (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [17090/24]

\*179. To ask the Minister for Education if she will reconsider the implementation of Circular 0002/2024, given the serious concerns around the reduction in SET hours for students, and the removal of children with complex needs as a criterion; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [17096/24]

\*180. To ask the Minister for Education to provide an update on the new ASD classes for a school (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [17100/24]

\*181. To ask the Minister for Education the reasons the application of a school (details supplied) in County Wexford for an increase in special education teaching hours has been denied; if the needs of pupils in this school contained in a 34-page document submitted to the National Council for Special Education was fully considered; the reasons the case made failed to meet the criteria for additional SET hours; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [17104/24]

\*182. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on an application for additional accommodation for an ASD class (details supplied) in south Tipperary; the reason for the delays in progressing this project, which has been ongoing since 2017; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17114/24]

\*183. To ask the Minister for Education if she will outline the present status of the project to redevelop a school (details supplied), where many strains are being experienced in the existing facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [17115/24]

\*184. To ask the Minister for Education her consideration and response to an individual (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [17120/24]

\*185. To ask the Minister for Education if she will approve the construction of two classrooms for a school (details supplied), as they are urgently required and given that the tender provided to her Department, which is less than what was predicted, expires on 3 June 2024; if she will expedite the matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [17127/24]

\*186. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will review the tendering arrangements for secondary school books; and if consideration can be given to tendering in smaller lots, such as by school year or subject, to allow local bookshops to be able to tender; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [17135/24]

\*187. To ask the Minister for Education if a school (details supplied) is included in the funding of €800 million for 90 school building projects announced by her Department recently; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [17166/24]

\*188. To ask the Minister for Education the reason an application for ASD classes in a school (details supplied) was refused; and if she will reconsider this. — Thomas Gould. [17182/24]

\*189. To ask the Minister for Education whether the NCSE refused an application by a school (details supplied) for ASD classes or if this decision was made by her Department. — Thomas Gould. [17183/24]

\*190. To ask the Minister for Education the estimated first and full-year cost of increasing capitation rates for primary and post-primary school pupils, respectively by an additional €10 per pupil in the 2024/2025 academic year compared to the baseline capitation rates allocated in the academic year 2023/2024 academic year, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [17187/24]

\*191. To ask the Minister for Education the estimated first and full-year cost of increasing capitation rates for primary and post-primary school pupils, respectively by 10% in the 2024/2025 academic year compared to the baseline capitation rates allocated in the 2023/2024 academic year, in tabular form. — Sorca Clarke. [17188/24]

\*192. To ask the Minister for Education if a school (details supplied) is included in the funding of €800 million for 90 school building projects announced by her Department recently; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [17191/24]

\*193. To ask the Minister for Education for an update on a school building application (details supplied); when the school might expect to be given permission to move to the next stage of the process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [17254/24]

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

\*194. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the funding her Department is making available in Waterford and the southeast in terms of festival supports in 2024. — Matt Shanahan. [17015/24]

\*195. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media an bhfuil aon anailís déanta aici ar an tionchar atá ann ar cheantair Gaeltachta agus colaistí samhraidh Gaeltachta toisc tithíocht agus lóistín a bheith dírithe ar thurasóireacht, go háirithe mar lóistín de chuid cuideachta áirithe (sonraí tugtha). — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [17258/24]

\*196. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if there is any grant-aid available for a club (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17080/24]

\*197. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will consider approving and supporting the proposal for funding for hosting a tournament (details supplied) over a three-year period; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Johnny Mythen. [17105/24]

\*198. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide an update on a sports capital application (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [17176/24]

\*199. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which the tourism industry is likely to grow over the next twelve months; whether she proposes to take any further initiatives to stimulate the industry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17273/24]

\*200. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department have examined the most important features of the tourism industry to which she can offer assistance or encouragement over the next twelve months; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17274/24]

\*201. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department propose to take specific initiatives to assist with the further expansion of the tourism industry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17275/24]

\*202. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if and/or when sport capital sports grants are likely to be awarded/granted in the current year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17276/24]

\*203. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which her Department proposes to put special emphasis on local sporting and community organisations when considering the allocation of grants in the current year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17277/24]

\*204. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which her Department has directly supported the arts in the current year; her proposals for the future in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17278/24]

\*205. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media whether she and her Department have identified any particular areas where she and her Department could offer further assistance to the arts in the current year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17279/24]

\*206. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department are engaged in the promotion of Irish culture at home and abroad, perhaps targeting the tourism and education sectors in particular, thereby creating a new awareness at home and abroad; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17280/24]

\*207. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department continue to promote and develop the use of the Irish language in all Gaeltacht areas throughout the country; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17281/24]

\*208. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the extent to which she and her Department continue to monitor the use of the Irish language throughout the country, its potential in non-Gaeltacht areas and the encouragement of its use; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17282/24]

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

\*209. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures, if any, in place to address the fact that there is no available emergency accommodation in the whole of County Kildare, while families are being forced to present at local Garda stations and sleep on the floor; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Patricia Ryan. [17088/24]

\*210. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider a pause on windfarm developments until the new guidelines are put in place to replace the current 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines which remain in force; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [17092/24]

\*211. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will look into practical issues applicants are experiencing with the vacant property refurbishment grant (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [17094/24]

\*212. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of funding sought from his Department; the number of properties purchased by Tipperary County Council for Traveller-specific accommodation in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [17116/24]

\*213. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the allocated funding provided to Tipperary County Council for Traveller-specific accommodation maintenance, repairs, and upgrades in Traveller-specific accommodation in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [17117/24]

\*214. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of funding his Department refused to provide to Tipperary County Council for Traveller-specific accommodation purchases and Traveller-specific accommodation maintenance, repairs, and upgrades in 2023, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [17118/24]

\*215. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there are plans to increase the retirement age for retained firefighters; if so, when this will be in place; what will



happen to those firefighters who reach the earlier retirement age in the meantime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17136/24]

\*216. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount sought by each local authority from his Department for each of the past two years for housing adaptation grants; the amount granted by his Department; if further allocations were sought by any local authority; if so, the amount granted for each of the past two years; if any funds were returned by any local authority; the waiting list for each such local authority and the amount returned, in tabular; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [17149/24]

\*217. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the criteria for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund for towns; the number of towns that qualify for such funding; if the list has changed since the last census; the towns that have qualified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Sherlock. [17159/24]

\*218. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether requirements for social housing assessment have changed from two months' to 12 months' payslips; if so, when this change was made; and if his Department has provided additional resourcing to local authorities to address this additional burden. — Thomas Gould. [17184/24]

\*219. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the average time to assess a social housing application, by local authority, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [17185/24]

\*220. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications and the number of approvals for the first home scheme in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [17189/24]

\*221. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the position of the publication date for a best-practice guide for the provision of allotments and community gardens by local authorities, as agreed in a meeting with an organisation (details supplied) in June 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [17197/24]

\*222. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what progress has been made in respect of the two affordable housing scheme applications from Clare County Council for Ennis; if approval has been granted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17219/24]

\*223. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update following the recent housing development rejection by his Department in north Clare due to a lack of water infrastructure after approval being received from his Department for the development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17220/24]

\*224. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures a tenant can take in the cases where they do not receive an official notice to quit and therefore local authorities do not accept them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17224/24]

\*225. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications to date in Kerry for the vacant property refurbishment grant, in tabular form; the number of approved applications; the number of pending applications; the number of drawdowns

commenced and completed; the number of refusal; to provide a breakdown of applications for properties intended for rental or for owner occupation; to provide a breakdown of the lower or higher maximum grant 50/70; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17293/24]

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

\*226. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the up to date position regarding the rolling out of further hot school meals in schools in County Kerry; the number of new schools that are included in the most recent addition of schools; if she will provide a list of all schools in County Kerry now benefitting from the scheme including the date on which the schools were approved for the programme; the number of schools in County Kerry that remain outside the programme; the number of these that expressed an interest in the programme in the most recent call; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17236/24]

\*227. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when an application for supplementary welfare will be processed in respect of a person (details supplied) in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17082/24]

\*228. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will reconsider classifying Covid-19 as an occupational illness, as has been recommended in many EU Member States; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [17095/24]

\*229. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the oral appeal for a person (details supplied) will be heard; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [17103/24]

\*230. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 781 of 9 April 2024, the number of payments stopped where her Department was made aware of an international protection applicant travelling out of the State for the period 2010 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17119/24]

\*231. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the practice of the Social Protection Appeals Office accepting appeals in the context of scoping decisions without grounds for those appeals being set out and/or examined will be discontinued; how frequently this practice occurred in each of the past five years; the amount of time, on average, between an appeal being lodged and a case being further decided upon; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17125/24]

\*232. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm the status of a person’s (details supplied) appeal and when a decision is likely to be received, as this has been pending for some time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [17131/24]

\*233. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if carer’s allowance will be approved for a person (details supplied); if the letter of refusal issued by her Department will be reviewed as it refers to the person receiving the care as another person; and if the matter will be expedited. — John McGuinness. [17134/24]

\*234. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider extending the living alone increase to elderly people who have their disabled child living with them but the children

attend disability day services and cannot work due to their severe needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [17150/24]

\*235. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of an appeal by a person (details supplied); when a decision is likely to be received as this has been pending for some time; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [17192/24]

\*236. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if and when a PPS number might issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17261/24]

\*237. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason adequate consideration was not given to the application for disability allowance in the case of a person (details supplied) given the history of continuous domestic abuse resulting in homelessness and the need to allow a period of rehabilitation in order to restore their health; if disability allowance or a similar payment might be awarded given that they cannot return to work due to their child's special needs and the aforementioned issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17263/24]

\*238. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an exceptional needs payment might be considered in the case of a person (details supplied) who has numerous health issues and who recently moved in new accommodation but needs some assistance towards fitting out the property; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17264/24]

\*239. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if disability allowance might be restored in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17265/24]

\*240. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current position in relation to an application for carer's allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17267/24]

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

\*241. To ask the Minister for Justice if she is aware of developments in Scotland since the recent commencement of new hate crime and hate speech legislation there; how recent experience there will inform her Department's progression of its hate crime and hate speech Bill; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17232/24]

\*242. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 503 of 5 March 2024, why GDPR was not given as a reason for data withholding, if it was known at the time of answer that GDPR was an issue; if so, from what date; and the reason it was not referenced. — Sean Sherlock. [17079/24]

\*243. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 926 of 20 March 2024, the reason the person's solicitor has not been contacted to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [17121/24]

\*244. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 171 of 11 April 2024, the number of times Ireland has participated in training and joint operations co-ordinated

by Frontex on behalf of EU Member States; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17122/24]

\*245. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question No. 171 of 11 April 2024, the number of times Ireland has sent trained personnel from the Garda National Immigration Bureau to deliver training to other EU Member States; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17123/24]

\*246. To ask the Minister for Justice if she has reviewed the requirements for family reunification and the granting of Stamp 1G visas for spouses and/or dependents of eligible permit holders employed as healthcare assistants in the health service; if she is aware that the refusal of permission to have close family members join such workers in Ireland is having an impact on the recruitment and retention of health care assistants; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Howlin. [17126/24]

\*247. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of asylum seekers that have registered for asylum in Ireland for each of the past ten years including each month of 2024. — Peadar Tóibín. [17161/24]

\*248. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of deportation orders that have been issued in the past five years and for each month this year; the number that have been actioned directly by the State in these years and these months; and the location of those immigrants who have received a deportation order that have not been actioned to date. — Peadar Tóibín. [17162/24]

\*249. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of asylum seekers that have entered the country for the past five years and each month this year without a passport or travel documents; and the number of these that have been charged for breaking the law. — Peadar Tóibín. [17163/24]

\*250. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of person's that are registering at the IPO Office in Dublin for each of the past five years and for each month this year; if she will provide a breakdown of the routes that immigrants are taking into the country; and the proportion of person's who came through these routes in the past five years. — Peadar Tóibín. [17164/24]

\*251. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of asylum seekers that have come from Britain through the north of Ireland to the south of Ireland in the past five years and for each month this year. — Peadar Tóibín. [17165/24]

\*252. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason the Firearms Consultative Panel, which had been established by her predecessor in 2015, has been discontinued; and if she will re-establish the panel to provide a much-needed, inclusive forum for consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. — John Paul Phelan. [17171/24]

\*253. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of criminals that have changed their name by deed poll over the past ten years; her plans to stop sex offenders and violent criminals changing their names by deed poll; and the number of non-Irish citizens that have changed their name by deed poll over each of the past ten years. — Peadar Tóibín. [17186/24]

\*254. To ask the Minister for Justice if she has the power and discretion under statute to grant citizenship to a person in circumstances (details supplied); and the extent of her discretionary powers in this and other cases to grant citizenship. — Frankie Feighan. [17201/24]

\*255. To ask the Minister for Justice the first- and full-year cost of paying Garda trainees a training allowance at the lowest point on the Garda pay scale for the duration of their training. — Pa Daly. [17241/24]

\*256. To ask the Minister for Justice to provide a breakdown of the current policy or legislative reviews taking place within her Department; and the actual and projected costs associated with each, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [17242/24]

\*257. To ask the Minister for Justice the costs that have been associated with the establishment of the community safety innovation fund; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [17245/24]

\*258. To ask the Minister for Justice the cost of creating one IRP card in 2023. — Pa Daly. [17246/24]

\*259. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of familicides or domestic homicides that have taken place in the past five years; and the estimated cost to her Department or any other organisation of reviewing the causes behind each incident of same. — Pa Daly. [17247/24]

\*260. To ask the Minister for Justice the current budget for the Family Law Legal Aid Panel. — Pa Daly. [17248/24]

\*261. To ask the Minister for Justice the projected cost for a doubling of Garda diversion schemes. — Pa Daly. [17249/24]

\*262. To ask the Minister for Justice the cost of a 10% increase in funding to legal aid. — Pa Daly. [17251/24]

\*263. To ask the Minister for Justice the cost of a 10% increase in prison services funding. — Pa Daly. [17252/24]

\*264. To ask the Minister for Justice the cost to double investment in restorative justice programmes. — Pa Daly. [17253/24]

\*265. To ask the Minister for Justice the current residency status/entitlement to an Irish passport in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17259/24]

\*266. To ask the Minister for Justice the current and expected residency status in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17260/24]

\*267. To ask the Minister for Justice the current and expected residency position in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17262/24]

\*268. To ask the Minister for Justice the progress to date in processing an application for family reunification in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17266/24]

\*269. To ask the Minister for Justice how best a person (details supplied) should proceed to obtain Stamp 4 from her current Stamp 1 status; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17270/24]

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

\*270. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide an update on the application for PGI status for boxty. — Marian Harkin. [17128/24]

\*271. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if, with regard to the TAMS scheme, he will consider allowing farmhouse and farm bills to be linked in one bill, allow unused electricity sold to the grid to be offset at full price to electricity purchased from the grid or any other measure which would make the scheme more viable for farmers of all types regardless of the amount of electricity they use as part of their farming activity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [17157/24]

\*272. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of recorded/confirmed dates of fireblight erwinia amylovora infections detections by his Department to date in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [17170/24]

\*273. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when payment under the low-emissions slurry spreading scheme will issue to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [17240/24]

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

\*274. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the amount that been spent on IPAS accommodation for each of the past ten years; the amount that has been spent on the provision of direct provision for each of the past ten years; the amount that has been spent on the provision of accommodation for Ukrainian citizens for each of the past three years; and the average cost of accommodation per night per person for each of these three accommodation sections. — Peadar Tóibín. [17160/24]

\*275. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the reason a person (details supplied) has not receive respite care in over nine years; the reason the HSE cannot give and confirmation of future care for them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [17230/24]

\*276. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the total number of properties and corresponding beds offered to his Department that met the requirements under both the IPAS and BOTP schemes, by county, since 1 January 2023 to date, in tabular form; the total number of contracts entered into by his Department; the opposing number of contracts that were not progressed, by county, in tabular form for the corresponding period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [17083/24]

\*277. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to state clearly if it his intention to use any other single residential properties, similar to the premises at a location (details supplied), to house people seeking temporary international protection; and if so,

where are the locations; and the number of people to be placed in each location. — Patricia Ryan. [17089/24]

\*278. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the system Tusla has in place for children in State care to make a complaint; the number of complaints Tusla has received from children themselves in State care from 2015-2024; the number of those complaints that are about their foster placement; the number of complaints that are about their residential placement; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [17113/24]

\*279. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he is aware that Clare Early Intervention Services often deems children with additional needs as not meeting the criteria threshold, a decision often arrived at without any meeting; if he is concerned that children with additional needs are not meeting criteria in respect of disability in CAMHS and CEIS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17217/24]

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

\*280. To ask the Minister for Health when the parent a child (details supplied) will receive a callback; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17218/24]

\*281. To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider increases funding given to an organisation (details supplied); if he accepts that the current 9% it receives is not enough; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17222/24]

\*282. To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made in respect of regulating psychologists, counsellors and psychotherapists in light of the number of issues in the media with the lack of regulation of such professionals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17229/24]

\*283. To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the current lack of a mammogram service in West Cork; to provide a reasoning for the suspension of the availability of the mobile BreastCheck mammogram service in Bantry; and whether he would ensure the provision of a mammogram service in West Cork to ensure access to care for those unable to drive long distances. — Holly Cairns. [17106/24]

\*284. To ask the Minister for Health the number of candidates/patients with addresses in County Louth who are currently on the waiting list for their first formal and direct appointment at the fertility treatment facility for IVF at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin; the average waiting times for a first appointment at the facility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [17109/24]

\*285. To ask the Minister for Health if he and the HSE will consider establishing a fertility treatment facility to facilitate patients from the north east who are seeking to avail of publicly funded IVF treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [17110/24]

\*286. To ask the Minister for Health the number of candidates/patients who have applied for treatment to date under the new publicly funded fertility treatment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [17111/24]

\*287. To ask the Minister for Health the longest duration any patient has spent on a hospital trolley in each public hospital nationwide in each of the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [17130/24]

\*288. To ask the Minister for Health the status of medical cards for persons (details supplied); the reason the cards were reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Anne Rabbitte. [17132/24]

\*289. To ask the Minister for Health to respond to matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); if he plans to provide patients with financial support to cover the cost of the strips required to measure warfarin levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [17133/24]

\*290. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the report of the National Radiation Therapist Review Group; the timeline for publication; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [17147/24]

\*291. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) can expect to receive an urgent appointment for surgery in Cork University Hospital given two surgery appointments have been cancelled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [17148/24]

\*292. To ask the Minister for Health the number of days that triage or assessment rooms in CUH ED have been occupied by patients on trolleys or unusable for any other reason in the past 12 weeks, by reason, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [17152/24]

\*293. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that nurses are forced to triage patients in ED waiting rooms due to overcrowding in CUH; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [17153/24]

\*294. To ask the Minister for Health if a bed will be made available through the emergency community support for a person in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17156/24]

\*295. To ask the Minister for Health if he will intervene to secure treatment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17168/24]

\*296. To ask the Minister for Health if he will intervene to secure urgent scoliosis treatment for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17169/24]

\*297. To ask the Minister for Health the number of child psychologists working for County Wexford; if he is aware of a pending staff departure; and if there is a candidate lined up to replace the outgoing clinician. — David Cullinane. [17175/24]

\*298. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of a new theatre at Kilcreene Hospital, Kilkenny, which was included in the HSE capital programme announced in 2023 and was granted a capital allocation in the same year; if the project review number 5, which is approved to go to tender, has been considered by the national director for capital and estates; the indicative timeframe for completion of the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [17178/24]



\*299. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) will be admitted as a matter of urgency to Dún Laoghaire rehabilitation clinic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [17179/24]

\*300. To ask the Minister for Health if the urgent eye surgery required in the case of a person (details supplied) will be arranged immediately at WUH, as the surgery was to be carried out in January 2024. — John McGuinness. [17180/24]

\*301. To ask the Minister for Health if the urgent surgery required in the case of a child (details supplied) will be arranged immediately at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John McGuinness. [17181/24]

\*302. To ask the Minister for Health when the ban on recruitment to the HSE will be lifted; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [17195/24]

\*303. To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline what public hospitals in Ireland are considered to be teaching hospitals; and if he will outline figures as to the number of nurses that are placed in each hospital in an average year, in tabular form. — Cathal Crowe. [17214/24]

\*304. To ask the Minister for Health if siblings in sixth class in a primary school (details supplied) can be provided with dental treatment by the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [17216/24]

\*305. To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the funding difficulties that affect an organisation (details supplied) and its delivery of services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17221/24]

\*306. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the waiting lists for adult assessments, such as ASD and ADHD, in the public health system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17223/24]

\*307. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on a patient who needed the services of ShannonDoc in North Clare and was told they had to make their way to the service to get treatment and Shannondoc refused to do a call out to the house; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17225/24]

\*308. To ask the Minister for Health if ShannonDoc will arrange for a GP to call to a patient's home if they cannot find transport into the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17226/24]

\*309. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update regarding the delay in establishing a statutory register of counsellors and psychotherapists in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [17228/24]

\*310. To ask the Minister for Health if he has read the final report of the independent review of gender identity services for children and young people, known as the Cass review, published recently in relation to sex-change treatments being offered to children in the United Kingdom; what changes it will bring about to his Department's position on this issue and specifically the referral of Irish children to the UK to receive such treatments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [17231/24]

\*311. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the case of a person (details supplied); and when they can expect an appointment with a neurosurgeon at Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. — Barry Cowen. [17255/24]

\*312. To ask the Minister for Health the extent, if any, to which cosmetic surgery might be offered to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17268/24]

\*313. To ask the Minister for Health if and when a medical card will issue in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [17272/24]

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

\*314. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of staff who are employed in the delivery of English language classes to IPAS and BOTPs in Ireland, by area, and on a monthly basis, for the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [17107/24]

\*315. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of IPAS and BOTPs who are receiving English language classes on an area-by-area and monthly basis, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [17108/24]

\*316. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the process by which a person can have their professional qualification (details supplied) recognised by the NFQ in line with recognition of similar awards from 17 September 2007 to 6 November 2012 which are recognised by HETAC as equivalent to an award at Level 9 on the framework; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [17151/24]

\*317. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will consider changing the eligibility criteria for the student grant scheme to enable students whose family were granted legal residency in Ireland through the regularisation of long-term undocumented migrants scheme to apply using the total number of years they lived in Ireland, including when they were undocumented. — Pauline Tully. [17239/24]

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

\*318. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the status of an application for the town and village renewal scheme 2023 by an organisation (details supplied); when a decision is likely to be reached; when they might be awarded funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [17081/24]

\*319. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development how she is determining whether value for money is being achieved by local authorities through the spending of State funding and local contributions on the local improvement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. []

\*320. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development how many audits of local authorities have taken place in relation to the spending of State funding and local contributions on the local improvement scheme; the local authorities that were audited, the years audited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17203/24]

\*321. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has carried out price comparisons on the cost of roads being improved by different local authorities under the local improvement scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17204/24]

\*322. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has carried out price comparisons on the cost of roads being improved by local authorities under the local improvement scheme versus private contractor quotations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17205/24]

\*323. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has queried any returns from any local authorities in the past eight years under the local improvement scheme; if any further examination of drawdown and inspection has taken place; if so, the specific local authorities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17206/24]

\*324. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department has identified any circumstances in local authorities where funding was drawn down under the local improvement scheme in respect of roads that were not completed at the time of drawdown; if so, if she will identify the local authorities that were involved and list each such instance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17207/24]

\*325. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the total amount in local contributions from residents and landowners, per local authority, under the local improvement scheme since 2016, in tabular form; the number of roads improved in each of these local authority areas in the corresponding period; the total length/area of road completed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17208/24]

\*326. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the amounts sought by each local authority and subsequently granted to each local authority under the local improvement scheme for each year since 2016, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17209/24]

\*327. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development when the ORIS stream 3 funding allocations will be announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Griffin. [17237/24]