



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 4 Nollaig, 2025
Thursday, 4th December, 2025

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 Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta: To the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

1. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cén stádas atá ag na pleananna teanga i ngach Limistéar Pleanála Gaeltachta agus Baile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta; agus cén obair atá ar siúl chun an chéad ghlúin eile pleananna a fhorbairt; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68522/25]

2. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if Budget 2026 allocated any additional funding to the senior alerts scheme; if so, if this includes an expanded list of equipment such as assistive technology; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [68382/25]

3. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an bhfuil sé i gceist aige aon deontais a chur ar fáil arís de réir Acht na dTithe (Gaeltacht) (Leasú), 2001 chun dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim tithíochta; agus an bhfuil sé tar éis an chumhacht seo a phlé leis an Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [68523/25]

4. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will consider granting funding to homecoming festivals in various locations in the country in the interest of promoting tourism and increasing investment in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [67914/25]

5. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht in light of storm Éowyn, when the number of generators will be finalised for community centres and hubs; the breakdown, by county, of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68989/25]

6. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta, cé go bhfuil sé le moladh as an ardú suntasach a baineadh amach i mBuiséad 2026 don Ghaeilge agus don Ghaeltacht, an bhfuil socrú déanta i dtaobh an €2 mhilliúin a gealladh a thabhairt d'Fhoras na Gaeilge ón 1 Eanáir 2026; agus mura bhfuil, i bhfianaise na bhfadhbanna struchtúrtha a bhaineann le maoiniú an Fhorais, an bhfuil réiteach eile socraithe aige maidir leis an airgead sin a dháileadh ar ghrúpaí pobail ón 1 Eanáir 2026; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Barry Heneghan. [68856/25]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

7. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will report on his engagements regarding the LEADER programme under the next EU budgetary cycle. — Cathy Bennett. [68487/25]

8. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the grants and schemes available from his Department to support community centres. — James O'Connor. [68332/25]

9. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the programmes, funding and supports for the most disadvantaged areas of Dublin north-west, given the RAPID Programme has been closed for some time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [68434/25]

10. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he plans to increase the funding allocation for the local improvement scheme for County Cork in 2026 given the large number of unfunded applications, particularly in rural parts of Cork north-west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [67265/25]

11. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the steps his Department is taking to support the development of community and civic spaces in suburbs of Dublin city, such as Dundrum, to support local communities and ensure access to services and cohesion in communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sinéad Gibney. [68504/25]

12. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the indicators his Department will use to measure progress on the Clondalkin Irish Language Network and the Gaeilge 365 initiative from 2025 to 2028; the specific annual targets for the number of innovative projects to be developed each year; the number to be mainstreamed; the number to be scaled within the four Dublin local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68507/25]

13. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will outline the projects developed by Gaois in DCU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68148/25]

14. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when the facilitator's work plan with Women's Sheds representatives will be completed; the way in which his Department will support its implementation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [68388/25]

15. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to give a detailed report in regard to the CLÁR funding approval process (details supplied); if further funding will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68477/25]

16. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the current and planned supports for Mayo's offshore islands, including Inishturk, Clare Island, and Achill Island; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [68006/25]

17. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cé na féidearthachtaí atá ann d'Údarás na Gaeltachta obair le hUisce Éireann agus le húdaráis áitiúla chun tacú le tógáil tithíochta do phobail Ghaeilge mar atá curtha san áireamh sa phlean Tithe a Sheachadadh, Pobail a Thógáil 2025-2030; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — John Connolly. [68405/25]

18. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the projects underway in counties Sligo and Leitrim that are receiving funding under different schemes with financial support from his Department; the other projects that his Department has committed funding to; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [68271/25]

19. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he believes the current powers of the Charities Regulator are sufficient to address issues of accountability and public trust in the sector; if there are plans to expand these powers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [68348/25]

20. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the plans which are in place for expanding the walking and trails schemes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [68489/25]

21. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when the next funding round of the Local Enhancement Programme will be open for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [68387/25]

22. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on the next iteration of Our Rural Future Development Policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68342/25]

23. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department provides support to community centres to improve the wheelchair accessibility of their premises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [68331/25]

24. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to report on progress as part of the Town Centre First policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [67798/25]

25. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding allocated to date under the Town Centre First initiative for towns in Galway east such as Athenry, Gort and Loughrea; the status of pending applications; his plans to support further regeneration in small towns throughout east Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [68442/25]

26. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the progress his Department has made towards the development of a scheme to tackle urban disadvantage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [68404/25]

27. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the way in which his Department monitors the impact of the more than €6 million annual investment in Scéim na bhFoghlaimoírí Gaeilge; the indicators used to assess learner participation economic benefit in Gaeltacht areas and the effectiveness of scholarships and start up grants for accommodation providers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68508/25]

28. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to report on the meetings he had regarding the LEADER programme in Strasbourg in November 2025. — Sean Fleming. [68344/25]

29. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when funding will be announced for the local improvement scheme; if additional funding will be provided to improve non-public rural roads and laneways in rural communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [66415/25]

30. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on the town and village renewal scheme in Carlow and Kilkenny. — Peter ‘Chap’ Cleere. [68327/25]

31. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the position regarding supports provided at a local level in community centres targeted at addressing social exclusion; if he will consider increasing funding in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [66817/25]

32. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his plans to increase capital investment under the Community Centres Investment Fund for community halls and voluntary groups in rural County Cork, particularly in areas experiencing population growth but limited facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O’Shea. [67264/25]

33. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an míneoidh sé cén uair a bheidh na toghcháin do bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta ann; agus an bhfuil sé i gceist na toghcháin a reáchtáil in 2026. — Mairéad Farrell. [68517/25]

34. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will consider expanding the CLÁR scheme to more areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter ‘Chap’ Cleere. [68328/25]

35. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the number of new community centres opened in 2025 that were built alongside new residential developments and included in the original plans. — Thomas Gould. [67572/25]

36. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht in line with the objectives of “Our Rural Future”, the specific, measurable interventions his Department will implement in County Mayo over the next 12-months to support the retention of young families and combat depopulation, specifically in the areas of facilitating the development of affordable community-owned housing. — Paul Lawless. [68159/25]

37. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will consider applications from rural communities who wish to convert their derelict buildings,

schools or other old buildings into rural community libraries and study places; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [68384/25]

38. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the measures he is taking to support youth work in Gaeltachta areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [68490/25]

39. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the average annual allocation to LEADER scheme, by programme; since 2007. — Cathy Bennett. [68486/25]

40. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the support his Department is providing to the public library network. — Willie O’Dea. [68345/25]

41. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the number of community hubs supported by the Government over the past three years where members of the community can work from their local community hub rather than travelling on overcrowded roads to their workplace; the number of such remote working hubs applying for support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [68385/25]

42. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will work with on a cross-departmental basis to ensure that there is an adequate supply of early years workers proficient in Irish in Gaeltacht areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [68491/25]

43. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when the next round of the Community Centre Investment Fund will open for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O’Meara. [68306/25]

44. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the role his Department can play in ensuring vital infrastructure is provided to the island communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [65800/25]

45. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the position regarding the work he is undertaking to support the creation of a national body of women’s sheds, similar to what is in place for men’s sheds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [66816/25]

46. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will report on their implementation of a rural proofing model. — Matt Carthy. [68521/25]

47. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an bhfuil sé i gceist aige daoine a fhostú i nGaeltacht Chonamara faoin gClár um Chumhachtú Pobal; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Mairéad Farrell. [68518/25]

48. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason Kildare, which is the fifth most populated county in Ireland, did not receive an adequate amount of funding from his Department in each of the tranches which have been announced in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [68427/25]

49. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the number of submissions Kildare County Council have submitted to his Department in 2025; the number of these submissions that have resulted in funding under the different schemes his Department distributes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [68426/25]

50. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding available for community groups that are looking to construct capital facilities, particularly community centres; if consideration will be given to providing additional funding for community and voluntary organisations to assist with running costs as currently the grant schemes that exist are for capital works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [66414/25]

51. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cén cineál rannpháirtíochta atá aige leis na húdaráis áitiúla, leis an Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta, agus leis an nGníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil (GBRÁ) maidir le stádas Oifigigh Gaeilge na n-údarás áitiúil. — Louise O’Reilly. [68471/25]

52. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht regarding the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, the amount which has been allocated to and been spent to date on the scheme since its inception; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [68488/25]

53. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to report on the progress of negotiations regarding the next round of LEADER funding in the context of the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68341/25]

54. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the efforts his Department are making to encourage the public to utilise the asset of the public library network. — Willie O’Dea. [68346/25]

55. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if, as a result of the introduction of auto-enrolment and the increase in the minimum wage that come into effect from January 2026, additional consideration and funding has been provided to all Departments responsible for community groups and/or organisations that rely on State funding, in response to these increases. — Paula Butterly. [62157/25]

56. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason for the cut in LEADER funding for 2026; and the breakdown of the reductions. — Louise O’Reilly. [68472/25]

57. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to provide an update on the progress of the national plan for the Irish language in the public service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [67895/25]

58. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when he intends to review the National map of CLÁR funding areas that designates who can apply for funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O’Meara. [68307/25]

59. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his plans to address funding issues in the community sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [67641/25]

60. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an bhfuil sé i gceist aige go mbeidh Bille Údarás na Gaeltachta (Leasú) 2024 achtaithe in am ionas go mbeidh na toghcháin eagraithe ar an dáta céanna leis an bhfo-thoghchán atá beartaithe do Gaillimh Thiar; agus an bhfuil sé i gceist aige cúramaí maidir le cúrsaí tithíochta a chur isteach sa Bhille ag Céim na Tuarascála. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [68526/25]

61. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will outline the achievements of the Community Services Programme last year; the outlook for next year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68147/25]

62. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the planned 2025 funding allocation for the local improvement scheme (LIS); and if he will provide additional supports to local authorities with significant LIS backlogs. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68474/25]

63. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the provisions that have been made by Pobal and similar organisations under the remit of his Department, to ensure that organisations funded by them are sufficiently resourced to comply with the pension auto enrolment commitments for qualifying staff; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [67894/25]

64. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on the refurbishment of Mayfield Library and St. Joseph's community centre. — Thomas Gould. [67571/25]

65. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he is considering a reintroduction of the RAPID programme in the coming year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [68433/25]

66. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the number of applications received per year 2023-2024 and per county for funding under the Community Recognition Fund; the number that were successful and unsuccessful, respectively, in each county; the allocation that will be provided to each county in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68520/25]

67. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the measures being taken to ensure the long-term sustainability of organisations supported under the Community Services Programme, in light of increased funding allocations in Budget 2025 and Budget 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [68389/25]

68. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he is satisfied that the €2 million increase for Foras na Gaeilge in Budget 2026 is sufficient to resolve the persistent North/South funding crisis which restricts the organisation's operations; and the urgent steps that will be taken to ensure language organisations are not forced to impose further staff or service cuts due to funding instability. — Paul Lawless. [64502/25]

69. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for a progress update on the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [59494/25]

70. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he has considered reviewing the remit of the Charities Regulator to ensure it reflects the evolving needs of the charity sector, particularly in areas such as governance, transparency and compliance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [68347/25]

71. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the initiatives his Department is implementing to combat rural isolation in Offaly, particularly for older people and those without access to transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [68167/25]

72. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the way in which his Department is co-ordinating with other Departments and local authorities to ensure adequate access to services, such as childcare, GPs and dental services, in rural parts of Ireland, in particular County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [68005/25]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce: To the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

73. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the progress that has been made to secure a bilateral agreement with Britain to ensure that those international protection applicants who should be processed in Britain can be returned there in a timely manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68314/25]

74. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the full details of the remuneration packages and any other financial costs to the state related to the appointments and terms served of the current Garda Commissioner and the previous Garda Commissioner. — Alan Kelly. [68764/25]

75. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on pathways to resettlement for Palestinians in Gaza who wish to come to Ireland. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [68957/25]

76. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide an update on the urgent discussions referenced in his written reply of 22 October 2025 regarding the planned discontinuation of coronial post-mortems at University Hospital Waterford from 1 January 2026; the interim arrangements that have now been agreed for counties Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Carlow; and the way in which his Department intends to ensure that bereaved families in the south-east are not subjected to further delays or distress as a result of these changes. — Michael Murphy. [68836/25]

77. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he has initiated an immediate review of the Legal Aid Board's capacity to administer the current civil legal aid scheme, as recommended by the Review of Civil Legal Aid; when he expects this review to be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68322/25]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

Chun an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce: To the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

78. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration for an update on the implementation of the National Cyber Security Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Roche. [60387/25]

79. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he is concerned that his proposals on immigration will make it harder for refugees and other immigrants to integrate; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [68245/25]

80. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Garda recruits that have entered Templemore in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [68340/25]

81. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he can provide an update on changes in respect of bail recommended by a person (details supplied) in the report commissioned by the Minister; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [68448/25]

82. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of naturalisation applications received, rejected, and approved from 2021 to 2024 inclusive, and to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [68265/25]

83. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the total number of individuals detained in the State pending deportation to date in 2025; the breakdown of the prisons in which they were held, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [66424/25]

84. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the up-to-date position on delivering a more stable and sustainable IPAS accommodation system; the up-to-date position on refocusing IPAS accommodations to a state owned and service model; his plans on reducing and ceasing the use of commercial contracts for IPAS accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [68402/25]

85. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the up-to-date position on implementation of a single permit system for visas and work permits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [68401/25]

86. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the actions he is taking in response to increased incidents and thefts in the north-west; the way in which his Department is supporting An Garda Síochána, who do excellent work locally, in providing increased visibility and resources to respond to these incidents; his views on whether the Sligo-Leitrim division is not receiving enough Gardaí, given no new Gardaí have been allocated to the division from the latest round of training in Templemore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [68267/25]

87. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if there is a strategy to spread the location IPAS accommodation and avoid having large clusters in one area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [66709/25]

88. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his attention has been drawn to the concerns of community organisations seeking to support vulnerable people under the community sponsorship framework of the Humanitarian Admissions Programme; his views on whether the level of communication with these groups is sufficient; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [66815/25]

89. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the measures in place to ensure timely Garda statements and preservation of evidence where a victim is incapacitated; the measures in place in Garda stations to ensure suspected spiking incidents are treated as crimes, investigated promptly, and supported by appropriate policing protocols; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68475/25]

90. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will seek greater supports for counties where there are difficulties in acquiring domestic violence refuges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [67257/25]

91. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration when he will introduce changes to the accommodation recognition scheme in the light of its impact on the private rental market and the fact that landlords are using this scheme to avoid tenancy obligations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68324/25]

92. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to outline his plans to increase the Garda training allowance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68326/25]

93. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of incidents reported in International Protection Accommodation Service centres for each of the past five years; and if he will provide a breakdown of these incidents by the nature of the incident and the centre in which they occurred, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [68149/25]

94. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his views on the concerns of rural communities regarding policing and community safety. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68409/25]

95. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will consider establishing an additional layer to the Criminal Assets Bureau in order that it will have the capacity to investigate lifestyles funded by criminal activity, including gangland and drug dealing activities, at a more micro/local community level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [68255/25]

96. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the supports available to communities in Cork that are accommodating newly arrived international protection applicants; the number of centres in place in 2025 compared to 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [67261/25]

97. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his Department's plans for the building currently occupied by a community centre (details supplied) in Tuam, County Galway; if his Department plans to retain, refurbish, or dispose of the property; the engagement which has taken place with TCTC regarding the future use of the building; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [67870/25]

98. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if consideration will be given to opening a new domestic violence refuge space in Kildare north in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [68390/25]

99. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide updated figures on Garda deployment levels in County Offaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [68161/25]

100. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the position regarding the Humanitarian Admissions Programme; if he will commit to accepting future applicants in the coming years under this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [66814/25]

101. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the implications the change of rules by the British Government on immigration may have on the Irish State; the additional measures that will have to be put in place as a consequence of the changes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [66650/25]

102. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will detail the communications there has been between his Department, other Government Departments and relevant agencies on the issue of responding to drugs crime and the societal impact of drugs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [67896/25]

103. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the actions he is taking to support Gardaí in tackling persistent antisocial behaviour in town centres in Offaly, including Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [68162/25]

104. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of convictions for coercive control to date in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [68335/25]

105. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department has undertaken a review of IPAS accommodation in east Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [68334/25]

106. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will establish a historical investigations unit to allow for independent police investigation into unresolved deaths and incidents of torture or ill treatment as proposed by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and the Committee on the Administration of Justice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68323/25]

107. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the timeframe in which he intends to establish a register of domestic abusers. — Cathy Bennett. [68506/25]

108. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if there will be a Garda recruitment campaign in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68432/25]

109. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the status of the rollout of the Garda health diversion scheme for people found in possession of drugs for personal use; when this diversion model will formally commence; and the monitoring and oversight mechanisms that will be in place to ensure it is applied consistently and fairly across all Garda divisions. — Gary Gannon. [68439/25]

110. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he has considered the rights of the child in devising barriers to family reunification; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [68246/25]

111. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if members of An Garda Síochána receive training in relation to the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 (Coco's Law); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [68339/25]

112. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will revise the general scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025 to strengthen the independent human rights monitoring mechanism; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [68503/25]

113. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration for an update on Garda numbers in Carlow and Kilkenny. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [68329/25]

114. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the way in which processing times for visa applications, citizenship applications and stamp applications at his Department are being improved; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [67897/25]

115. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the way in which he plans to address the issue of age verification for unaccompanied minors who arrive in Ireland and seek international protection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [68447/25]

116. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his Department's plans for the designation of further countries as safe countries of origin, for the purposes of international protection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [68266/25]

117. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on a domestic violence refuge in County Roscommon; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [67256/25]

118. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will consider reviewing the Garda vetting process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [68330/25]

119. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of recruits he expects to graduate at the next passing out ceremony in the Garda College in Templemore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O'Meara. [68305/25]

120. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration for an update on his work to tackle anti-social behaviour in communities. — James O'Connor. [68333/25]

121. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps his Department is taking to ensure the legal aid system provides equitable access for low-income individuals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [68171/25]

122. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the details of his new immigration plans which he brought before Cabinet recently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [68424/25]

123. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the way in which his Department's Statement of Strategy 2025–2028 will deliver on community safety, particularly in relation to Garda recruitment, retention, and visibility in both urban and rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [68391/25]

124. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the progress his Department is making in establishing a domestic violence register, under 'Jennie's Law'; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68146/25]

125. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide an update on plans to open a dedicated refuge centre for women and children who are victims of domestic violence in north County Dublin, given the current lack of such facilities in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [68349/25]

126. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the strategies in place, and planned, to deal with cyber-crime; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [66708/25]

127. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the specific timelines, actions and responsibilities in place across his Department, the Department of Health and the HSE to secure ongoing coronial post-mortem capacity in University Hospital Waterford (details supplied); if he will ensure that the existing modern mortuary facilities at UHW continue to be used; the status of the collaborative process initiated with the Minister for Health to resolve this matter before 1 January 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [65228/25]

128. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration when legislation to place the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal on a statutory footing will be introduced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68325/25]

129. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Gardaí who have retired or left the force in Cork to date in 2025, and the number of new Gardaí assigned. — Thomas Gould. [67569/25]

130. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department will consider introducing legislation which requires all owners of IPAS centres to be legally required to declare and confirm their beneficial ownership as part of any IPAS application to provide accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [68425/25]

131. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the likely timeline for the introduction of legislation following the publication of the legacy framework; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [66604/25]

132. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he has considered whether raising the income limits for family reunification will worsen labour shortages in critical areas like healthcare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [68249/25]

133. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration when the next passing out ceremony will take place in the Garda College in Templemore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O'Meara. [68304/25]

134. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide an update on the urgent discussions referenced in his written reply of 22 October 2025 regarding the planned discontinuation of coronial post-mortems at University Hospital Waterford from 1 January 2026; the interim arrangements which have been agreed for counties Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Carlow; and the way in which his Department plans to ensure that bereaved families in the south-east are not subjected to further delays or distress as a result of these changes. — Michael Murphy. [65227/25]

135. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the action he will take to stop forcing homeless asylum seekers to sleep rough over the winter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [68247/25]

136. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the timeframe in which a domestic violence refuge centre will be opened in Cavan and Monaghan. — Cathy Bennett. [68505/25]

137. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the current staffing levels at Athenry Garda station. — Albert Dolan. [67869/25]

138. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he has concerns for the safety of homeless asylum seekers in light of racist attacks; the action he will take to protect them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [68248/25]

139. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps his Department is taking to protect minority communities from discrimination; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [68172/25]

140. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if multi-annual funding commitments will be provided to ensure the sustainability of new refuges, including staffing and wraparound supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [68350/25]

141. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will outline his Department's progress in introducing specialised judges to handle domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68145/25]

142. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of convictions under the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 to date in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [68336/25]

143. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide an update on the youth diversion programmes in place in Cork north central; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [66425/25]

144. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will revise the general scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025 to ensure that there is no possibility of detention of vulnerable people; if he will set out explicitly in the Bill alternatives to detention to ensure that detention indeed represents a last resort, as required by the EU pact; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [68502/25]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála: To the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

*145. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade her plans to pass the Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Prohibition of Importation of Goods) Bill 2025, in full, in 2025; and if not, the way in which she will justify the continued trade of goods and services with illegally occupied lands, that are being ethnically cleansed by an apartheid state. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68535/25]

*146. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will consider providing diplomatic assistance or engagement to assist in securing the safe return of children and staff abducted from St. Mary’s Catholic primary and secondary schools in Papiri, Niger State, Nigeria (details supplied); if she could outline any assistance provided to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [68599/25]

*147. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will consider to a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68608/25]

*148. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to respond to matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); the diplomatic action that her Department have taken in response of this situation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68661/25]

*149. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her attention has been brought to the case of a person facing charges for organising a Pride march in Hungary (details supplied); the steps she is taking at European Union level to prevent this direct attack on fundamental freedoms; if she will call for infringement procedures and interim measures to be taken to ensure that this case does not go ahead; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68668/25]

*150. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department has completed any internal legal analysis on how voluntary cooperation under the European Democracy Shield could create de-facto obligations for Ireland in the areas of monitoring, reporting or data-sharing; and to provide the conclusions of that analysis. — Ken O’Flynn. [68726/25]

*151. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department will publish Ireland’s negotiating position, briefing papers or submissions provided to the European Commission during the development of the European Democracy Shield, specifically regarding

the protection of national competence in electoral regulation and political debate. — Ken O’Flynn. [68727/25]

*152. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the details of any risk register entries maintained by her Department since 1 September 2025 relating to the European Democracy Shield, including political, legal, operational or data governance risks. — Ken O’Flynn. [68728/25]

*153. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the criteria her Department will apply when deciding whether to participate in any voluntary monitoring or information-sharing mechanisms proposed under the European Democracy Shield. — Ken O’Flynn. [68729/25]

*154. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department has sought written, formal confirmation from the European Commission that Ireland will not be required to participate in any EU-level system for reviewing or classifying domestic political content; and if she will provide copies of any such correspondence. — Ken O’Flynn. [68730/25]

*155. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department has conducted any sector-by-sector analysis of exposure for exporters in the Cork Port region arising from possible UK regulatory divergence under the Windsor Framework; and to provide the findings of that analysis. — Ken O’Flynn. [68731/25]

*156. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of Cork-based exporters or logistics operators who have contacted her Department since 1 September 2025 regarding concerns about UK divergence; and to summarise the issues raised. — Ken O’Flynn. [68732/25]

*157. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide a summary of Ireland’s interventions at each meeting of the Specialised Committee on the Implementation of the Windsor Framework since 1 September 2025, including concerns raised, requests made and any written submissions tabled. — Ken O’Flynn. [68733/25]

*158. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department has prepared contingency measures for exporters in the Cork Port region in the event of unilateral UK changes affecting regulatory alignment or market access; and to outline those measures in detail. — Ken O’Flynn. [68734/25]

*159. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department has conducted any assessment of the impact of dual regulatory regimes on SME exporters using the Port of Cork, including effects on haulage costs, customs clearance times and supply chain reliability; and to provide the results of that assessment. — Ken O’Flynn. [68735/25]

*160. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the engagement her Department has had with the Polisario Front regarding the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on the amendment of Protocols 1 and 4 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68876/25]

*161. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade whether her Department has raised concerns regarding the European Commission’s negotiation of a trade agreement with the United Arab Emirates, given the well-documented role of that country in supplying weapons to the

Rapid Support Forces in Sudan; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68878/25]

*162. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the cost of preparations for the expected visit of President Zelenskyy; and the date and time on which her Department was given notice as to whether the visit would go ahead or not. — Holly Cairns. [68879/25]

*163. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to expedite a passport application for a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68886/25]

*164. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade her plans in respect of the Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (Prohibition of Importation of Goods) Bill 2025 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68893/25]

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

*165. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment further to Parliamentary Question No. 210 of 8 July 2025, when he will bring a memorandum to Government to formally withdraw Ireland from the Energy Charter Treaty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68877/25]

*166. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if planning guidelines have been finalised in respect of the assessment of planning applications for the development of anaerobic digestors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68983/25]

*167. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will outline the planning guidelines in place regarding the assessment of planning applications for the development of anaerobic digestors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68991/25]

*168. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment in advance of a decision to approve an organisation (details supplied) as the operator of the extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme for farm plastics; the provisions he has made for recovery operators that collect, process and recycle farm plastics distinct to the organisation, and in compliance with all relevant legislation, have equal access to the levies gathered under this EPR scheme. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68536/25]

*169. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the respective number of approvals and drawdowns for the home energy upgrade scheme loan, by county, to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68553/25]

*170. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the number of home energy upgrades carried out under the better energy homes scheme to date in 2025, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68555/25]

*171. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the number of home energy upgrades carried out under the national home energy upgrade scheme to date in 2025, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68556/25]

*172. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the respective number of approvals and drawdowns for the solar electricity grant, by county, to date in 2025, in tabular form; the average award under the grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68557/25]

*173. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if it will be possible to provide grant aid to local community volunteer organisations to install solar power to provide energy to light public buildings of interest, with electricity presently being funded from fundraising by them (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68896/25]

*174. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the latest switching rates for domestic electricity and gas customers; the actions his Department is taking to increase switching among households on high tariffs; and the steps being taken to improve transparency in billing and tariff information. — Ken O'Flynn. [68933/25]

*175. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if his Department will produce a targeted arrears reduction plan for households facing long-term energy debt, including supports for at-risk customers, actions to prevent the escalation of arrears, and the timeline for transitioning from universal energy credits to targeted supports. — Ken O'Flynn. [68934/25]

*176. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the total level of electricity and gas arrears, by quarter from 2020 to 2025, broken down by income group and welfare status; and if he will detail the actions his Department is taking to monitor arrears among households at highest risk of disconnection or long-term debt. — Ken O'Flynn. [68945/25]

*177. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the options for assistance with meeting high energy and heating bills for individuals and families; if it is intended to provide supports given the difficulty for households in meeting these costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68959/25]

*178. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the reason no appropriate assessment screening and/or Natura impact statement was published for the current public consultation on the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2025 and Conservation Measures for the 2026 season, considering that this documentation is vital for inspection by affected stakeholders prior to making submissions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68971/25]

*179. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the reason Lough Corrib SAC is moving from having a harvestable quota of wild salmon in 2025 to full 'catch and release' angling for the 2026 season, considering his comments on 9 October 2025 stating that the Corrib catchment has a sizeable stock of wild salmon to meet its natural reproductive capacity and does not require supplementation with Cong hatchery stock; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68972/25]

*180. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether Lough Corrib anglers can be prosecuted for removing invasive pink salmon (*oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) without gill tagging from the lake in 2026, considering that no blue gill tags will be distributed with the 2026 Galway district salmon licence under current draft proposals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68973/25]

*181. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the reason Lough Corrib and its tributaries will be exempt from the 'salmon angling bye-law' for the forthcoming season, as referenced in an information note published alongside the draft 2026 wild salmon and sea trout tagging scheme regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68974/25]

*182. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if the use of minnow (*phoxinus phoxinus*) is deemed to be a permissible dead bait under the Waterford Fisheries District (River Barrow) Angling Limitations during Salmon Spawning Run Bye-law (No. 1011) 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68977/25]

*183. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment further to Parliamentary Question No. 201 of 25 February 2025, the progress to date in developing planning guidelines to assist local authorities in the assessment of anaerobic digestion planning applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68982/25]

Chun Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*184. To ask the Minister for Defence to address matters raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68688/25]

*185. To ask the Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 235 of 18 November 2025, the engagement her Department has had at EU Council level regarding the derogations from the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive within the European Defence Industry Programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68875/25]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*186. To ask the Minister for Transport the current measures available to local authorities to address unlawful parking in disabled parking spots; if he will consider further measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68955/25]

*187. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason funding has not been provided under the National Development Plan for DART+ Southwest; the new timeline for the project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68528/25]

*188. To ask the Minister for Transport the actions which will be taken to increase capacity on train services for commuters in Dublin mid-west given DART+ Southwest will be further delayed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68529/25]

*189. To ask the Minister for Transport whether the National Transport Authority was aware of the Local Area Plan non-compliance in a local authority (details supplied) before releasing Active Travel funding; the checks the authority carried out once this information was provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68546/25]

*190. To ask the Minister for Transport to clarify the governance arrangements that apply when the National Transport Authority funds senior staff in a local authority; how the authority ensures that decisions to apply for or authorise public expenditure are supported by valid

delegated authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68547/25]

*191. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review concerns raised by a transport and logistics business (details supplied); if he will address the issues highlighted in the correspondence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [68560/25]

*192. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review concerns raised by a transport and logistics business (details supplied); if he will address the issues highlighted in the correspondence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [68561/25]

*193. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans to increase frequency or capacity on rail services serving Kill, County Kildare given the 126 bus is the sole direct public transport route to the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [68565/25]

*194. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the Shared Island sports club EV charging scheme; when clubs can expect selections to be finalised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [68568/25]

*195. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the 5% increase in pensions for retired CIÉ workers; to provide an update on the Statutory Instrument required to give effect to the increase; when he expects the Statutory Instrument to be finalised; when he expects the increase to be applied; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68576/25]

*196. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to correspondence sent to his office on 13 November 2025; if he will engage with an organisation (details supplied) in relation to the substantive issues that they raised; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68587/25]

*197. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding any engagement he has had since taking up his current role with an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68588/25]

*198. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding any review being carried out by his Department into the requests by an organisation (details supplied); if there is any report commissioned in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68589/25]

*199. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to a protest carried out by an organisation (details supplied) in Limerick on 17 November 2025 in relation to pension entitlements; the actions he will take to address these concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68590/25]

*200. To ask the Minister for Transport the passenger-protection mechanisms which currently exist under the NTA for non-fault incidents; if the NTA provides any guidance to operators; and if his Department will consider examining a limited safety-net mechanism as part of the ongoing review linked to the MIBI. — Tom Brabazon. [68597/25]

*201. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will commit to engaging with the car rental sector in relation to forthcoming EU legislative proposals due to be published on 10 December 2025 in

relation to the mandated quota of electric cars for corporate fleets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68601/25]

*202. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to concerns related to the lack of capacity in the electricity grid at Dublin Airport to allow for a significant expansion of electric cars to be leased by car rental companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68602/25]

*203. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to concerns related to the lack of capacity in the electricity grid at Shannon Airport to allow for a significant expansion of electric cars to be leased by car rental companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68603/25]

*204. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to the forthcoming publication of an EU legislative proposal on a battery EV (BEV) purchase mandate for corporate fleets on 10 December 2025; if he is concerned about the knock on impact on our domestic car rental companies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68604/25]

*205. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is conscious of the unique challenges faced by the car rental industry in rolling out zero emission cars, specifically in relation to charging infrastructure and the lack of capacity in the grid system; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68605/25]

*206. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [68611/25]

*207. To ask the Minister for Transport if the NTA has considered piloting audio technology in taxis to assist the visually impaired; the steps being taken to improve accessibility in taxis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68612/25]

*208. To ask the Minister for Transport his view on supporting the use of private residential on-street EV charging in Dublin; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68649/25]

*209. To ask the Minister for Transport his view on fixed-rate fare taxi charges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68650/25]

*210. To ask the Minister for Transport his view on whether Bus Connects will be complete by 2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68651/25]

*211. To ask the Minister for Transport his view on bringing the vacant property at Ranelagh Luas station back into use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68653/25]

*212. To ask the Minister for Transport when the new DART carriages will be rolled out; the expected additional capacity they will provide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68671/25]

*213. To ask the Minister for Transport if the NTA have examined the reliability and punctuality of the 15 Dublin Bus route; the process in place for when a bus is cancelled; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [68672/25]

*214. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that Aer Lingus provides a high standard of customer service; and if he will address concerns that the airline is reluctant to compensate passengers for damaged luggage (details supplied). — Shane Moynihan. [68678/25]

*215. To ask the Minister for Transport the staffing levels assigned to the processing of foreign driving licence exchange applications in each of the past three years, broken down by grade; whether any additional staffing or resources have been approved in 2024 or 2025 to address current backlogs; the ICT or administrative changes planned for the National Driver Licence Service in 2026 to improve the processing of foreign driving licence exchanges; the expected impact of these changes on processing times; and the timeline for implementation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [68722/25]

*216. To ask the Minister for Transport the current performance targets for the processing of foreign driving licence exchange applications; the percentage of applications that met these targets in each quarter of the past two years; the number of complaints received in the past twelve months in relation to delays or lack of communication regarding foreign driving licence exchanges; the main issues raised in these complaints; and the remedial actions underway to improve performance and communication with applicants, in particular where delay affects a person's ability to take up or continue in employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [68723/25]

*217. To ask the Minister for Transport in light of his Department's statutory oversight of the Road Safety Authority under the Road Safety Authority Act 2006, the regular reports his Department receives on National Driver Licence Service performance in relation to foreign driving licence exchange applications; the key risks, backlogs or performance deficits identified in 2024 and 2025; any directions, instructions or performance improvement measures his Department has issued to the Road Safety Authority regarding these backlogs and delays in communication with applicants; and the timelines and monitoring arrangements in place to ensure that service levels improve; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [68724/25]

*218. To ask the Minister for Transport the procedures his Department has in place to ensure that urgent foreign driving licence exchange applications are prioritised where delay prevents a person from taking up or continuing in employment; the criteria used to classify an application as urgent; the number of urgent cases identified in 2024 and 2025; the average processing time for such cases; the oversight exercised by his Department to ensure the Road Safety Authority meets these requirements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [68725/25]

*219. To ask the Minister for Transport the average incident-clearance times recorded on the N40 South Ring Road in the past twelve months; the protocols in place for rapid clearance of minor collisions or obstructions; and whether his Department has evaluated the operational requirement for a dedicated peak-hour traffic-management presence to minimise network-wide delays. — Ken O'Flynn. [68759/25]

*220. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the average time required to complete environmental assessment processes, including Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, for major transport infrastructure projects commenced in each of the past five years; and to detail any reforms underway to reduce delays in these assessment stages. — Ken O'Flynn. [68802/25]

*221. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the average duration of Environmental Impact Assessment processes for all Transport Infrastructure Ireland projects with an expected

total cost above 200 million euro commenced since 2020; and the measures taken by his Department to address delays at this stage of project development. — Ken O’Flynn. [68803/25]

*222. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the average duration of Appropriate Assessment processes for all National Transport Authority projects with an expected total cost above 200 million euro commenced since 2020, and to outline any steps taken by his Department to improve the efficiency of these assessments. — Ken O’Flynn. [68804/25]

*223. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Ring of Kerry road between Sneem and Castlecove can be upgraded before a serious accident takes place there; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68861/25]

*224. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason crucial Luas Finglas and DART South-West projects have been delayed in favour of funding roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [68883/25]

*225. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [68884/25]

*226. To ask the Minister for Transport for a progress report on matters pertaining to the pension entitlements and arrangements for retired CIÉ workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [68885/25]

*227. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason his Department does not require the National Transport Authority to collect and report local breakdowns, repeat incidents, and repair costs relating to vandalism of public bus shelters; the reason this information is not monitored at Department level despite annual public funding; and the steps he will now take to ensure full transparency and proper oversight of this infrastructure. — Ken O’Flynn. [68996/25]

*228. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he will introduce to address the rising levels of vandalism of public bus shelters nationwide; the actions he will take in response to the five-year national figures provided to his Department; and the directions he will now give to the National Transport Authority to protect public infrastructure used by commuters, including schoolchildren, older people, and workers. — Ken O’Flynn. [68997/25]

*229. To ask the Minister for Transport the controls his Department has in place to ensure transparency and accountability in how vandalism repair and maintenance costs for public bus shelters are managed; the reason his Department does not track the financial impact of vandalism under current contractual arrangements; and the steps he will now take to require clear reporting and performance obligations in future contracts. — Ken O’Flynn. [68998/25]

*230. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason he has permitted a national public transport infrastructure programme to operate without basic monitoring of vandalism trends, without cost reporting, without local data, and without any security plan for thousands of bus shelters; and the actions he will take to bring this system in line with normal governance standards expected of publicly funded infrastructure. — Ken O’Flynn. [68999/25]

*231. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the Department’s estimate of the current national shortfall in buses required to meet contractual and public-service obligations, including Local Link expansion and rural-service demand. — Ken O’Flynn. [69687/25]

Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Airgeadais: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance.

*232. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department plans to phase out vehicle registration tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [68679/25]

*233. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the financial benefits the vehicle registration tax gives to the economy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [68680/25]

*234. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance his views on whether ensuring competition in the Irish financial services market should form part of the remit of the Central Bank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68586/25]

*235. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the reason that since August 2025, a person on a defined benefit pension can no longer exercise a buy-out bond option if they are above the normal retirement age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Séamus McGrath. [68687/25]

*236. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of claims made in each of the past five years for preferential tariff treatment under the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) for buses imported from Great Britain; the number of claims approved; the number refused; and the main reasons for refusals, as recorded by Revenue. — Ken O’Flynn. [68765/25]

*237. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of applications for Returned Goods Relief for buses re-imported into the State from the United Kingdom in each of the past five years; the number approved; the number refused; and the main reasons recorded for refusals. — Ken O’Flynn. [68766/25]

*238. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has assessed whether the administrative requirements of the TCA preferential-origin rules or the Returned Goods Relief documentation may be limiting access for smaller bus operators; and if he will outline any guidance, outreach or simplification measures under consideration by Revenue. — Ken O’Flynn. [68767/25]

*239. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he has examined the feasibility of developing a non-VAT capital support mechanism, such as an accelerated capital allowance or targeted grant, to support licensed bus operators in purchasing new low-emission vehicles, given the VAT constraints described in his reply to Parliamentary Question Nos. 143 and 144 of 26 November 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [68768/25]

*240. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has carried out any analysis of the economic impact on school-transport and mixed-service bus operators arising from their exclusion from the VAT refund scheme for touring coaches; and if he will outline the findings of any such internal assessments. — Ken O’Flynn. [68769/25]

*241. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the extent to which Revenue’s VAT and customs treatment of buses has been considered. — Ken O’Flynn. [68770/25]

*242. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if Revenue has undertaken any review of the administrative burden placed on small and medium-sized licensed bus operators when

importing buses from Great Britain, including documentary requirements for origin, VAT self-accounting, and customs declarations; and if he will outline the findings of any such review. — Ken O’Flynn. [68771/25]

*243. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the total customs duty and import VAT collected on buses imported into the State from Great Britain and other non-EU countries in each of the past five years; and if he will provide a breakdown by year and engine type where available. — Ken O’Flynn. [68772/25]

*244. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has engaged with the Department of Transport regarding the tax implications identified by operators participating in Local Link and school transport tenders, particularly the inability to reclaim VAT on new buses; and if he will outline the nature and outcome of any such interdepartmental discussions. — Ken O’Flynn. [68773/25]

*245. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Department has modelled the fiscal impact of allowing licensed bus operators to benefit from an accelerated capital allowance for the purchase of new low-emission buses; and if he will provide the estimated costings under scenarios of 20 percent, 30 percent and 40 percent accelerated allowance rates. — Ken O’Flynn. [68774/25]

*246. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if any assessment has been carried out of the interaction between the VAT exemption for passenger transport and Ireland’s transport-sector decarbonisation targets; and if he will provide the conclusions of any such analysis. — Ken O’Flynn. [68775/25]

*247. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of licensed bus operators that have accessed the VAT 71 touring-coach refund scheme in each of the past five years; the total value refunded; and whether the Department has analysed the differential impact of this scheme on touring operators compared with school-transport and mixed-service operators. — Ken O’Flynn. [68776/25]

*248. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if Revenue has issued guidance to licensed bus operators on the verification of UK origin under the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement for the importation of buses; and if he will provide copies of any such guidance issued since 2021. — Ken O’Flynn. [68777/25]

*249. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners will provide a breakdown of all vehicle-registration enforcement actions in each of the past five years by vehicle category, including Irish-registered, EU-registered, non-EU-registered, and Ukrainian-registered vehicles, in order to establish the scale of compliance activity by exemption type. — Ken O’Flynn. [68946/25]

Chun an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí, Bonneagair, Athchóiriúcháin Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúcháin: To the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure; Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

*250. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number of conflict-of-interest statements received by the Standards in Public Office Commission since January 2020 relating to Ministers, Ministers of State, special advisers or senior civil servants whose family members hold financial interests in companies involved

in the manufacture or supply of pharmaceuticals or medical devices; and the number of such statements that related specifically to decisions on paediatric or adolescent healthcare policy. — Ken O’Flynn. [68782/25]

*251. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will outline any plans to establish a central reporting mechanism for recusals or conflict-of-interest statements made under the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and Standards in Public Office Act 2001, in order to ensure consistent oversight in areas of emerging medical policy, including paediatric gender-related services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [68783/25]

*252. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if any review has been undertaken by his Department since January 2020 on whether current ethics legislation is sufficient to address conflicts of interest arising from new or emerging medical technologies, including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, surgical pathways for minors and related digital health systems; and if he will list any recommendations identified. — Ken O’Flynn. [68784/25]

*253. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number of Departments that have notified his Department since 2020 of internal policies or protocols for managing conflicts of interest in healthcare-related policy development; and if he will provide a list of those Departments. — Ken O’Flynn. [68785/25]

*254. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if his Department has carried out any assessment of the adequacy of existing guidance on conflicts of interest within the civil service where officials have personal, family or financial links to organisations involved in gender-related clinical services, research, training or advocacy; and if he will provide details of any findings. — Ken O’Flynn. [68787/25]

*255. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if his Department maintains any record of instances since January 2020 in which senior civil servants sought approval to proceed with official functions notwithstanding a declared conflict of interest under the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995; and if he will provide the number of such requests recorded by his Department. — Ken O’Flynn. [68788/25]

*256. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number of engagements, consultations or meetings his Department has held since January 2020 with the Standards in Public Office Commission to review or update guidance on conflicts of interest, and if any of these engagements addressed medical or technological policy areas involving minors. — Ken O’Flynn. [68789/25]

*257. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if his Department has identified any gaps or deficiencies in the current conflict-of-interest framework as applied to emerging medical or technological policy areas, and if he will outline any proposals under consideration to address those gaps. — Ken O’Flynn. [68791/25]

*258. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the reason there was an underspend of €7.8 million in flood defences in 2024 (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68860/25]

*259. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation further to Parliamentary Question No. 828 of 25 February 2025, if the exclusion of retired medical scientists from the Labour Court recommended pay adjustments is consistent with past practice on pension parity for retired public servants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68867/25]

*260. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the reason he is the sole decision maker in pension appeals in circular 16/2020; the reason his Department does not engage directly with claimants during the appeals process; the reason published processing timelines differ from actual timelines; if he will ensure that where delays arise, including where expert input is required, his Department provides claimants with updates and revised timelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [68980/25]

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

*261. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department has examined the introduction of statutory pregnancy-loss leave for losses before 23 weeks; and the assessments carried out on cost, eligibility, expected uptake, and international best practice. — Ken O'Flynn. [68756/25]

*262. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the work being carried out to promote market leading top of the line semiconductor manufacturing companies to begin manufacturing operations in Ireland; and the way in which the funding Ireland has or will receive under the EU Chips Act will be used to attract investment from these companies. — Paula Butterly. [68532/25]

*263. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department will prioritise work permit applications for the diary sector given the time sensitive nature of the sector's labour needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — William Aird. [68562/25]

*264. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps being taken to ensure clear and accurate consumer information on meat products supplied to food service businesses and retail outlets; the oversight mechanisms for verifying origin, labelling and traceability; and the measures in place to prevent consumers being misled about the nature or source of meat products. — Ken O'Flynn. [68742/25]

*265. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the specific productivity indicators his Department uses to evaluate the impact of State-funded innovation schemes in the residential construction sector, including Built to Innovate and Construct Innovate, and to confirm whether metrics such as output per labour hour, output per euro of State support, and time-to-completion benchmarks are currently in use; and if not, when such indicators will be established. — Ken O'Flynn. [68900/25]

*266. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the methodology used by his Department to assess value-for-money in the allocation of more than €6.5 million under the Built to Innovate programme for residential construction productivity, including the performance criteria applied to participating firms and the evidence of productivity gains recorded to date. — Ken O'Flynn. [68901/25]

*267. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the findings of the recent mid-cycle international evaluation of Construct Innovate carried out in November 2025, including the assessment of its productivity-related KPIs, its impact on residential construction delivery, and any recommendations for corrective actions. — Ken O’Flynn. [68902/25]

*268. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the work undertaken with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Central Statistics Office since 2022 to develop residential-specific productivity data, including the collection of GVA, hours worked, and modern methods of construction output data separately from commercial construction, and the timeline for first publication of such statistics. — Ken O’Flynn. [68904/25]

*269. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of companies who have participated in the digital for business consultancy scheme in each year since it was established to date in 2025; the cost of the scheme in each year; the number of companies targeted to participate in the scheme in 2026; and his plans to expand the focus or scope of the scheme. — Emer Currie. [68949/25]

Chun an Aire Oideachais agus Óige: To the Minister for Education and Youth.

*270. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to urgently consider expanding the criteria for DEIS, in view of the unprecedented situation some schools (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68534/25]

*271. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the way in which schools will be selected for DEIS band 1 under the new DEIS Strategy; the data which will be used to inform this decision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O’Meara. [68563/25]

*272. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding funding available to support the creation of an interschool soccer competition for a group of DEIS primary schools in Shankill, County Dublin; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68591/25]

*273. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her views on the merits of creating a dedicated fund to support the creation of localised interschool sports competitions with a view to improving participation in sports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68593/25]

*274. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider creating a pilot programme in Shankill, County Dublin to create a localised interschool soccer competition for a group of DEIS primary schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68595/25]

*275. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to a case (details supplied) and if she will ensure that the child in question is able to attend a school in their local area. — Paul Murphy. [68623/25]

*276. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the reason a school (details supplied) is not being included in the DEIS scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [68634/25]

*277. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the steps her Department is taking to ensure there is adequate school provision in Dublin Rathdown, particularly in areas where the population has grown significantly in recent years, and local school places have not kept pace with population growth; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sinéad Gibney. [68637/25]

*278. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department is aware of significant numbers of children being left without an offer of a primary school place in Kiltarnan school planning area; the steps her Department has taken to address the shortfall of school places; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sinéad Gibney. [68638/25]

*279. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of new school places her Department plans to create in Kiltarnan school planning area annually for the next five years, by year; and if they represent a new school or an expansion of existing schools, in tabular form. — Sinéad Gibney. [68639/25]

*280. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of new school places her Department plans to create in Ballinteer Stepside school planning area annually for the next five years, by year; and if they represent a new school or an expansion of existing schools, in tabular form. — Sinéad Gibney. [68640/25]

*281. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when her Department will undertake an inspection of a school in Ringsend (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68647/25]

*282. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will secure a place for a child in a main stream post-primary class in County Offaly (details supplied); if she is aware that there are over 100 children awaiting such placement offers in the county; the steps she is taking to address these concerns; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [68657/25]

*283. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when funding will be available to physically amalgamate two schools (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aisling Dempsey. [68664/25]

*284. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when school projects (details supplied) will progress. — Aisling Dempsey. [68665/25]

*285. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the amount of funding her Department has allocated to drug addiction prevention initiatives in 2024, and to date in 2025. — Aisling Dempsey. [68682/25]

*286. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the status of an application (details supplied) to be included in the DEIS Plus scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [68691/25]

*287. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 350 of 25 November 2025, the timeframe in which the application for additional accommodation by a school (details supplied) will be decided; if she will expedite this process considering the severe pressure on the school at present; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68696/25]

*288. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she has obtained legal advice on the compatibility of Bí Cineálta and related SPHE requirements with Articles 41 and 42 of the Constitution and section 9 of the Education Act, if so, to outline the key considerations that informed her Department's position, and the statutory basis relied upon to require whole-school implementation where parents do not consent to defined elements of the programme. — Ken O'Flynn. [68833/25]

*289. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the safeguarding assessment undertaken by her Department before finalising Bí Cineálta, including the methodology used, the evidence sources reviewed, and whether recent reports such as the Cass Review and the HSS evidence review were examined, and if she will publish the assessment or its summary findings. — Ken O'Flynn. [68834/25]

*290. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to set out the procedures that schools are required to follow when a parent withholds consent from specific elements of Bí Cineálta or SPHE content, including the recording of non-consent, the supervision or alternative learning arrangements to be provided, and the instructions issued to schools to ensure that such pupils are not identified or stigmatised. — Ken O'Flynn. [68835/25]

*291. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the amount spent in the years 2020 to 2025 on prefabricated classrooms, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [68863/25]

*292. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of schools where asbestos was found to be present, and the amount spent on the management and removal of asbestos in schools, between 2020 and 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [68864/25]

*293. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if urgent assistance will be provided to a school in County Kerry (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68887/25]

*294. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the interest her Department has in the building that formerly housed a school (details supplied). — Malcolm Byrne. [68952/25]

*295. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department requires a minimal life expectancy for any modular building provided for schools; the nature of that requirement; and the average life expectancy of school modular buildings. — Malcolm Byrne. [68953/25]

*296. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the measures in place to reduce the administrative burden on school principals and deputy principals to allow them to focus more on the educational needs of their school community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68954/25]

*297. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to resolve outstanding issues in respect of pension parity for school caretakers and secretaries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [68988/25]

*298. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to confirm that a permanent school project (details supplied) will proceed to tendering as planned in the last quarter of 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68992/25]

*299. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the timeline for the completion of a permanent school project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68993/25]

*300. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding the permanent school project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68994/25]

*301. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the actions she will take to address an anomaly related to Circular 54/2019; if a teacher has moved schools in the past 12-months, regardless of previous employment status or length of tenure, they cannot qualify for carer's leave; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68995/25]

*302. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide the Department's estimate of the current national shortfall in buses required to meet contractual and public-service obligations for school transport. — Ken O'Flynn. [69688/25]

Chun an Aire Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt: To the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport.

*303. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport given 2026 marks the 70th anniversary of Ronnie Delany winning gold in the 1500 metres at the Melbourne Summer Olympics, the facilities which are available for athletics in Arklow, County Wicklow, his home town; the support he will provide to develop such facilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68583/25]

*304. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the current status of the An Post pension increase request, submitted in October 2025, within his Department; the timeframe in which he and his Department anticipate the pension approval process to conclude; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O'Meara. [68655/25]

*305. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when a new National Archives Advisory Council (NAAC) will be in-situ, given that the last NAAC expired in July 2022; and the plans to consult professional archive bodies (details supplied) in advance of the establishment of the new NAAC. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [68881/25]

*306. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to provide an update on the decommissioning of the legacy copper telephone and broadband networks; whether a timeline is in place; his Department's plans to ensure the general public are informed and prepared for the change; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [68965/25]

*307. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the progress made to date by his Department in relation to the decommissioning of the copper broadband network, taking into account that the European Commission has set 2030 as the preferred deadline date for the complete switch-off of copper networks across Europe; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [68966/25]

*308. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the action his Department is taking to ensure that certain households are not left behind in the roll out of the National Broadband Plan, (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [68967/25]

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

*309. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider a waiver on commercial rates, or a portion of commercial rates or taxes, for the owners of commercial properties with defective concrete blocks who have no government scheme available to them to remediate their properties and have to constantly spend money on necessary maintenance. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [68537/25]

*310. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department is aware of correspondence received by the National Parks and Wildlife Service from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council dated 1 July 2025 in relation to the spreading of agricultural litter and manure on designated sites in the Republic of Ireland; and if the National Parks and Wildlife Service has responded to the correspondence. — Martin Kenny. [68538/25]

*311. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether transport projects can lawfully proceed in an area where the planning authority has been found by the High Court to be in non-compliance with its mandatory duty to prepare a Local Area Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68544/25]

*312. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether the Office of the Planning Regulator received formal notifications about Local Area Plan non-compliance in a local authority (details supplied); the actions that followed from those notifications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68545/25]

*313. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the commitments given to water services workers in June 2023, allowing them to remain in direct local authority employment until at least the end of 2026, preclude any requirement for those staff to undertake Uisce Éireann-led training or to engage with Uisce Éireann operational systems. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68571/25]

*314. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the fact that some local authorities have directed non-transferred water services staff to attend Uisce Éireann safety management system training; if he considers this compatible with Government commitments to those workers; and if he will intervene to ensure that any such directives are paused pending appropriate engagement. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68572/25]

*315. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the safeguards in place to ensure that local authority water workers who chose not to transfer to Uisce Éireann cannot be subject to indirect or functional transfer through training requirements, system dependencies or other measures introduced without agreement. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68573/25]

*316. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to publish a comparative league table of local authorities' performance with regard to housing delivery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68584/25]

*317. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of planners currently employed by each local authority; the number of posts that are currently vacant; the measures which are in place to attract more planners to local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68585/25]

*318. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the discretion local authorities will have to develop policies under the Short Term Letting and Tourism Bill 2025; when local authorities will be expected to publish these policies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muiri. [68613/25]

*319. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if an application has been received for a homeless day centre in Cork city. — Thomas Gould. [68625/25]

*320. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will review the eligibility criteria under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024–2026 to allow communities with fewer than 25 houses, such as Glensaul, Tourmakeady, County Mayo, to access funding for community water connections; and if he will consider the urgent health and safety concerns for residents who currently rely on makeshift river connections for water supply despite being located less than 0.5 miles from the Lough Mask Uisce Éireann network. — Paul Lawless. [68626/25]

*321. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the full eligibility criteria for each measure under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024–2026, with particular reference to the minimum number of houses required for new community water connections; and whether any exceptions apply in cases of public health risk. — Paul Lawless. [68627/25]

*322. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the current stage of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2024–2026; the number of projects approved; the total funding allocated to date; and the measures still under consideration. — Paul Lawless. [68628/25]

*323. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if new applications for funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme are currently being accepted; if not, when the next application window will open; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [68629/25]

*324. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the framework for the next Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme beyond 2026 will be published; and if he will ensure that the new programme addresses the needs of smaller rural communities that do not meet the current eligibility threshold. — Paul Lawless. [68630/25]

*325. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will introduce an exceptional case mechanism within the MARWP to allow funding for communities with fewer than 25 houses where there is a significant health and safety risk and proximity to an existing Uisce Éireann network. — Paul Lawless. [68631/25]

*326. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to publish a breakdown of funding allocations under the MARWP 2024–2026, by county and measure; and to confirm whether any unallocated funds remain available for urgent cases. — Paul Lawless. [68632/25]

*327. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the alternative supports or emergency measures that are available for rural households that cannot access MARWP funding due to the 25-house minimum requirement. — Paul Lawless. [68633/25]

*328. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to give serious consideration to acquiring the Balcarrick Martello Tower, Donabate which is a recorded National Monument and heritage site in private ownership that has recently been put up for sale on the open market which is of huge importance to the Donabate and wider Fingal area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [68641/25]

*329. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the details of the recently extended pyrite remediation scheme will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [68642/25]

*330. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the updated changes to the defective building block remediation scheme will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [68643/25]

*331. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the details of the grades of oifigigh forbartha Gaeilge in each of the local authorities, in tabular form; if he will consider raising the grades of all oifigigh forbartha Gaeilge to Grade 7, a management level which would enable oifigigh to do their work in an effective manner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68681/25]

*332. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of major infrastructure projects that experienced delays arising from Environmental Impact Assessment or Appropriate Assessment processes in each of the past five years; the average length of delay recorded at screening and full assessment stages; and his Department's systems used to track these delays. — Ken O'Flynn. [68743/25]

*333. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has prepared a full delivery schedule to meet the stated target of 12,000 new social homes per year; and if he will provide the year-by-year and quarter-by-quarter milestones for 2026, 2027 and 2028. — Ken O'Flynn. [68744/25]

*334. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has completed any assessment of the staffing, technical and financial resources required by local authorities to achieve the 12,000-unit annual target; and if he will provide his Department's internal modelling for required engineering, planning, procurement and project-management capacity. — Ken O'Flynn. [68745/25]

*335. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the actions taken to ensure alignment of zoning, serviced land, water capacity and planning permissions with the 12,000-unit annual social housing target; and if he will provide any internal reports or delivery forecasts assessing this alignment. — Ken O'Flynn. [68746/25]

*336. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current national level of local authority housing units classified as non-lettable for more than 12 months; and the proportion of these units requiring structural versus minor refurbishment works. — Ken O'Flynn. [68749/25]

*337. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of technical, engineering, and planning posts sanctioned for each local authority in 2023, 2024, and 2025; the number recruited; and the number still unfilled as of the most recent reporting date. — Ken O'Flynn. [68750/25]

*338. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department maintains real-time tracking of housing delivery bottlenecks across local authorities; and if he will publish the three most common causes of delay identified in 2023, 2024, and 2025. — Ken O’Flynn. [68751/25]

*339. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the expected date for the publication of the first productivity indicators for residential construction, including those relating to Modern Methods of Construction; and the timeline for updating these indicators annually. — Ken O’Flynn. [68820/25]

*340. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the annual average and median decision timelines for SHD and LRD applications in each of the past five years, by local authority; and the average and median timelines for planning appeal and judicial reviews. — Ken O’Flynn. [68821/25]

*341. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the planning timeline assumptions used to underpin the delivery pathway for the target of 300,000 homes under Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025 to 2030, including assumed statutory and non-statutory timeframes for applications, appeals, and judicial reviews. — Ken O’Flynn. [68822/25]

*342. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of infrastructure barriers identified by the Housing Activation Office in each local authority to date; the category of barrier identified in each case; and the corrective actions recommended. — Ken O’Flynn. [68823/25]

*343. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of social housing projects approved above basic unit cost levels in 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025; the reasons for the variance in each case; and the way his Department intends to begin systematically recording and publishing this information. — Ken O’Flynn. [68824/25]

*344. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of local authority homes in Cork city and Cork county that have been upgraded to BER C in 2025. — Ken O’Flynn. [68826/25]

*345. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the actions being taken to close any gaps from delays in the current retrofit delivery rate in achieving the Government’s target to retrofit 36,500 local authority homes to BER B2 by 2030. — Ken O’Flynn. [68829/25]

*346. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps his Department has taken since 2022 to secure more granular productivity data to support national housing targets. — Ken O’Flynn. [68830/25]

*347. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has assessed the budgetary and value-for-money implications of the absence of residential specific productivity data within the national construction sector, and if he will outline any measures taken to ensure capital allocations for housing delivery are supported by reliable productivity metrics. — Ken O’Flynn. [68831/25]

*348. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department will support the development of new data collection methods within the CSO to measure labour

and capital productivity in residential construction separately from other construction activity, and if he will outline what steps, consultations or technical workstreams have been undertaken since 2022 to improve productivity measurement in the construction sector. — Ken O’Flynn. [68832/25]

*349. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to urgently commence work on the proposed sewerage scheme for Beaufort Village, County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68894/25]

*350. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to detail the primary operational, staffing, procurement, and supply-chain constraints reported by local authorities in returning void social housing units to use; and the measures, financial, regulatory, or administrative, his Department is considering to reduce turnaround times and increase throughput. — Albert Dolan. [68963/25]

*351. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when Lough Corrib became a candidate special area of conservation, considering that there are conflicting dates on the public record, both domestic and European; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68968/25]

*352. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to detail the relevant agencies and local angling stakeholders the National Parks and Wildlife Service engaged with to prevent the introduction of the invasive demon shrimp (*dikerogammarus haemobaphes*) into Lough Corrib SAC, considering that the species has now been found in Portumna, County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68969/25]

*353. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department and the National Parks and Wildlife Service still follow the flawed policy of accepting a 15% permissible disturbance threshold for protected habitats in special areas of conservation and special protection areas, as referenced in multiple historical appropriate assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68970/25]

*354. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the criteria considered when the threshold for entry to the Croí Cónaithe scheme was set at 20-units; if a viability study was carried out to ensure that schemes below 20 units are more viable, than those above 20-units; if there is scope for this to be reconsidered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [68979/25]

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

*355. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will instruct officials in his Department to use more personal and dignified language in correspondences with pensioners in receipt of the increase for ‘qualified adult’ as some recipients spouses may find being referred to as a “dependent” undignified and demeaning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68539/25]

*356. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in receipt of maternity benefit each year since 2020. — Eoin Hayes. [68645/25]

*357. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of companies and employees, by band of number of employees and subsidy level, availing of the wage subsidy scheme; the highest

number of employees for which a single employer is receiving wage subsidy payments; the mean and median number of employees per employer in receipt of wage subsidy payments, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68693/25]

*358. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide by sector and location (to local authority level), the highest, lowest, and mean total subsidy receipts; and the total number of employees for which subsidy payments are made, for employers in receipt of the wage subsidy scheme, in tabular form. — Eoin Hayes. [68694/25]

*359. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the name of the 20 employers who employ the highest number of employees, for which they are in receipt of wage subsidy payments, in tabular form. — Eoin Hayes. [68695/25]

*360. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to address concerns that the auto-enrolment process will undermine private company pensions by forcing private pension employees to pay 2% and the employer 1.5% which is more than the State auto enrolment contribution; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [68950/25]

*361. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 415 of 27 November 2025, if he will clarify a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoghan Kenny. [68958/25]

*362. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on an exceptional needs payment (details supplied). — Paul McAuliffe. [68962/25]

Chun an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce: To the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

*363. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the specific timelines, actions and responsibilities now in place across his Department, the Department of Health and the HSE to secure ongoing coronial post-mortem capacity in the region (details supplied); if he will ensure that the existing modern mortuary facilities at UHW continue to be used; and his views on the status of the collaborative process he has initiated with the Minister for Health to resolve this matter before 1 January 2026. — Michael Murphy. [68837/25]

*364. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the details of the recent updates to citizenship qualification criteria; and when the changes will come into effect. — Tom Brabazon. [68533/25]

*365. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether it is intended to continue the practice of licensing public roads, footpaths and public spaces for use by outdoor commercial premises, particularly in circumstances where the licensed areas are remote or freestanding and are separated from the licensed premises by a public footpath or other public space; the legal basis in such cases for granting such licences; the policy intention regarding their long-term or permanent use; the arrangements proposed to address responsibility, liability and insurance for these non-contiguous areas that remain in public ownership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68548/25]

*366. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021 has been extended; if not, if he plans to extend the Act, to provide for the licensing of alcohol consumption in outdoor seating areas located on public

property that is abutting, adjoining, or remote and freestanding on public roads; if so, the specific legal provisions that now apply to such areas; in circumstances in which alcohol is conveyed from a licensed premises across an unlicensed public footpath or other public space to reach such an area; the legal basis that permits this movement; the way in which compliance with existing liquor legislation and the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 will be ensured, particularly where children may be present; the way in which these areas are mapped and recorded in the annual licensing court process; the way in which public participation will be facilitated on a yearly basis given that these authorisations are described as temporary; the way in which the granting of street furniture licences that allow private commercial use of public land is reconciled with existing licensing law; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68549/25]

*367. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide an update on the interdepartmental discussions and collaborative efforts underway between his Department, the Department of Health, the HSE, and University Hospital Waterford in relation to the continuation of coronial post-mortem services for the southeast region; if he will outline the progress made since his previous statement to the House in October towards securing the retention of a local and timely service beyond 1 January 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [60926/25]

*368. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his attention has been drawn to a case (details supplied); and if he will instruct his Department to evaluate the matter and provide guidance for people facing similar issues in terms of visa applications. — Paul Murphy. [68609/25]

*369. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department has made a decision on the recommendation issued by the Law Society in January 2023 to amend or remove the requirement for family home declarations and to replace them with a statement of truth; the status of this review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [68621/25]

*370. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on the number of instances from 2022 to date where a service provider or potential service provider for temporary accommodation to beneficiary of temporary protection payment was not the outright owner of the property and had not obtained permission from the owner before making an offer to his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [68644/25]

*371. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his view on predatory gambling advertising practises at betting shopfronts; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [68646/25]

*372. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he plans to provide for the disregard of certain historic criminal convictions arising from consensual sexual activity between men, following comments by the Tánaiste (details supplied); the timeline for same; if he will support a Private Members Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68673/25]

*373. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will increase minimum sentences for assaults against women to act as a greater deterrent and help safeguard women (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68698/25]

*374. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department has assessed the need for formal public guidance, accessible online and through Garda stations,

clarifying the responsibilities, limits, and legal risks associated with a citizen's arrest; and the timeline for developing such guidance. — Ken O'Flynn. [68753/25]

*375. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Garda Roads Policing Unit members assigned to Cork City and its metropolitan area. — Ken O'Flynn. [68758/25]

*376. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department has produced any formal impact assessment, internal risk analysis or scenario modelling on the likely displacement of asylum applicants from the United Kingdom to Ireland following the UK Government's recently announced asylum reforms, and to outline the date each assessment was commissioned and completed and the principal findings. — Ken O'Flynn. [68838/25]

*377. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the estimated change in arrivals through Northern Ireland that his Department anticipates over the next twelve months as a result of the UK Government's asylum reforms, including any modelling undertaken on movements across the Common Travel Area and the open land border, and to detail the data sources, assumptions and projected ranges applied in this modelling. — Ken O'Flynn. [68839/25]

*378. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department has completed any capacity modelling of the pressures on international protection accommodation services, supports, and associated State agencies arising from potential increased arrivals from the United Kingdom, and to provide the projected impact on available beds, contingency procurement, and budgetary allocations for 2025 and 2026. — Ken O'Flynn. [68840/25]

*379. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to detail the specific legislative or administrative changes under preparation to ensure that Ireland's asylum system does not act as a pull factor relative to the United Kingdom following its asylum reforms, including the timeline for these changes and whether they will be incorporated into the forthcoming International Protection Bill. — Ken O'Flynn. [68841/25]

*380. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if there is a rule whereby siblings under the age of 18 when accompanied by a parent are not allowed visit their sibling in Cork Prison; and if so, the reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68862/25]

*381. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the expected timeline for the introduction of the proposed late licence reforms for restaurants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68872/25]

*382. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the engagement his Department has had with the restaurant sector regarding the forthcoming late licence reforms, including any consultation carried out to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68873/25]

*383. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the numbers of both Ukrainian refugees and international protection applicants presently being accommodated by the State; if the trend is increasing or decreasing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68888/25]

*384. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the timeframe for the implementation of proposals contained in the report entitled an Assessment of the Efficacy of Bail Laws in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68951/25]

*385. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the measures in place to combat the rise of antisemitism in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68956/25]

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

*386. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if following a recent report of illegal and substandard antibiotics being used in Brazilian beef imports, he will request a re-examination of the terms and conditions of the Mercusor trade deal to create a level playing field for Irish and European farmers. — Paula Butterly. [68531/25]

*387. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will examine the TB compensation scheme payment for a person (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [68564/25]

*388. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the allocations in current and capital expenditure to Teagasc in each of the years 2019 to date, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [68692/25]

*389. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the actions taken by his Department following recent FSAI and DAFM inspection findings relating to non-compliance in certain meat processing facilities; the enforcement steps initiated; and the measures in place to ensure full traceability, food safety and animal welfare compliance across all such facilities. — Ken O'Flynn. [68739/25]

*390. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of investigations currently under way relating to unpaid debts owed by meat processors to primary producers; the scale of the debts identified; and the systems in place to protect farmers from late or non-payment by processors. — Ken O'Flynn. [68740/25]

*391. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to examine a matter (details supplied) in respect of the importation of non-native honeybees; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68855/25]

Chun an Aire Leanaí, Michumais agus Comhionannais: To the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality.

*392. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will review the case of a person (details supplied); if she will provide an update on their request for an increase in their personal assistant budget; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [68961/25]

*393. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the reason the child and family agency, Tusla, has decided to close the aftercare service based at Liberty Street House in Cork city; if Tusla has put in place an alternative service to meet the needs of the young people affected; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [68600/25]

*394. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department will ensure that a meeting with a social worker is provided to a person (details supplied) urgently. — Holly Cairns. [68622/25]

*395. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of child welfare and child protection cases closed by Tusla between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022, broken down by month and by Tusla administrative area. — Ken O'Flynn. [68792/25]

*396. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children whose cases, having been closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022 that have since been subject to Tusla's wellbeing check; and the number of wellbeing checks completed to date. — Ken O'Flynn. [68793/25]

*397. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of cases closed in the period 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2022 that have been reopened following a wellbeing check, broken down by reason for reopening. — Ken O'Flynn. [68794/25]

*398. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children whose wellbeing check could not be completed because the child or family could not be contacted; and the procedure followed in cases where contact is not possible. — Ken O'Flynn. [68795/25]

*399. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the methodology being used by Tusla to conduct wellbeing checks on children whose welfare or protection cases were closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022, including whether the check involves direct contact, school liaison, Garda information, or in-person assessment. — Ken O'Flynn. [68796/25]

*400. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the projected completion date for Tusla's wellbeing checks on all child welfare and protection cases closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022. — Ken O'Flynn. [68797/25]

*401. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children whose cases were closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022 who were categorised at the time as high-risk, medium-risk, or low-risk; and the number in each category who have now been subject to a wellbeing check. — Ken O'Flynn. [68798/25]

*402. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of staff assigned by Tusla to conduct wellbeing checks on cases closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022; the total cost of this work to date; and the expected total cost upon completion. — Ken O'Flynn. [68799/25]

*403. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of cases closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022 that resulted in new referrals to Tusla since the case was originally closed; and the reasons for those new referrals. — Ken O'Flynn. [68800/25]

*404. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has conducted any internal review, audit, or risk analysis on the implications of 42,552 child welfare and protection cases being closed between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2022, and if she will publish the findings. — Ken O'Flynn. [68801/25]

*405. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has received any internal warnings, correspondence or briefing notes in the past three years that raised

concerns about governance failures or safeguarding risks within subcontracted private care providers and to list the number of such items by year. — Ken O’Flynn. [68842/25]

*406. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of Alternative Care Inspection and Monitoring Service reports received by her Department in the past three years that were graded as significantly non-compliant; and the actions taken by her Department following receipt of each report. — Ken O’Flynn. [68843/25]

*407. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has conducted any analysis of the rapid expansion of Special Emergency Arrangements including the number of new SEA providers approved since 2022 the number rejected and the criteria used in assessing provider suitability. — Ken O’Flynn. [68844/25]

*408. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of cases in the past three years where her Department escalated concerns to Tusla regarding the operation of subcontracted private residential centres including the issues escalated and the timeframe in which responses were sought. — Ken O’Flynn. [68845/25]

*409. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has carried out any review of the governance and oversight of subcontracted private residential centres in advance of allocating additional funding to Tusla in Budget 2026 and to outline the conclusions of any such review. — Ken O’Flynn. [68846/25]

*410. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of governance or safeguarding concerns relating to subcontracted private care providers that were escalated to her Department in each of the past three years and the actions her Department took in response. — Ken O’Flynn. [68847/25]

*411. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of Alternative Care Inspection and Monitoring Service reports received by her Department in the past three years that identified significant non-compliance in private residential centres and the steps her Department required Tusla to take following those reports. — Ken O’Flynn. [68848/25]

*412. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of Special Emergency Arrangement providers that her Department has sought clarification or assurance on since 2022 including the reasons such clarifications were requested. — Ken O’Flynn. [68849/25]

*413. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has reviewed the governance structures used by Tusla in approving and monitoring subcontracted private residential centres and the findings of any such review. — Ken O’Flynn. [68850/25]

*414. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if any red flags or internal warnings have been issued to senior management within her Department regarding the oversight of subcontracted private residential care providers and the matters that prompted such warnings. — Ken O’Flynn. [68851/25]

*415. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she is aware of a case (details supplied); and if she will instruct her Department to investigate the matter and ensure the programme has sufficient resources to ensure children with additional needs are able to fully benefit from creche services. — Paul Murphy. [68858/25]

*416. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if there are plans to appoint a person with suitable archival qualifications to the National Centre for Research and Remembrance Steering Committee. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [68882/25]

*417. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the total number of inspection reports, compliance notifications, and regulatory breach findings relating to private subcontracted disability service providers that her Department has received from HIQA in each of the past five years; and the categories of breaches notified to the Department during that period. — Ken O’Flynn. [68897/25]

*418. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of cases in the past five years where her Department directed remedial actions, imposed additional conditions, or required enhanced governance measures in relation to private subcontracted disability service providers following HIQA inspections, and to specify the type of remedial actions directed. — Ken O’Flynn. [68898/25]

*419. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her Department’s internal process for reviewing HIQA inspection reports relating to private subcontracted disability service providers, including the tracking of compliance deadlines, escalation procedures for repeated breaches, and the number of cases escalated to senior management or to the Minister in each of the past five years. — Ken O’Flynn. [68899/25]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*420. To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists, both adult and paediatric, working in Ballyboden Primary Care Centre in each of the past three years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [68614/25]

*421. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 828 of 25 February 2025, when and by whom the decision was taken to exclude medical scientists who retired before 1 January 2024 from receiving the Labour Court recommended pay parity increases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68866/25]

*422. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 828 of 25 February 2025, if she will review the implementation of the Labour Court recommendation on pay parity for medical scientists to ensure that those who retired before 1 January 2024 including those who returned to support the health service during Covid-19 and the cyberattack are treated fairly; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68868/25]

*423. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people on ophthalmology waiting lists in all hospitals offering ophthalmology services by length of time on such wait lists, and the average wait time someone can be expected to be seen in each of those hospitals if a referral is put in now, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marie Sherlock. [68542/25]

*424. To ask the Minister for Health the length of time a child (details supplied) will be waiting for a psychologist assessment, to which they have been referred; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O’Meara. [68550/25]

*425. To ask the Minister for Health the campaigns her Department is running to encourage graduating medical professionals to stay and work in the Irish healthcare system; the campaigns which are being run to entice Irish medical professionals living abroad to return to work for the HSE; her plans to future proof supply of medical staff in the health system; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [68551/25]

*426. To ask the Minister for Health the number of paramedics and ENT's, including advanced paramedics in counties Monaghan and Cavan, respectively, in each of the years 2019 to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [68558/25]

*427. To ask the Minister for Health the average ambulance response time in County Monaghan in each of the years 2019 to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [68559/25]

*428. To ask the Minister for Health if she will reexamine the decision to cease the phased dispensing reimbursement service for certain medications in community pharmacies (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [68566/25]

*429. To ask the Minister for Health if she will reexamine the decision to cease the phased dispensing reimbursement service for certain medications in community pharmacies (details supplied) which cannot be prescribed on a phased basis. — Robert Troy. [68567/25]

*430. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to cover newer and more effective MS medications that are not yet included in the reimbursement lists to make it easier for patients with MS on lower incomes to access more effective treatments. — Jen Cummins. [68569/25]

*431. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to review the inclusion of all clinically proven MS medications under both the drug payment scheme and the medical card. — Jen Cummins. [68570/25]

*432. To ask the Minister for Health the current national and regional data on delayed recall appointments within the HSE including appointments issued to patients following hospital discharge for X-rays, ultrasounds, and consultant-requested follow-up assessments; the average waiting time for such recall appointments; and the steps the HSE is taking to reduce delays that can negatively impact patient outcomes, particularly for cardiology, prostate care, and ongoing medical needs of older persons. — Sorca Clarke. [68574/25]

*433. To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital and outpatient appointments that were missed, cancelled, or scheduled but not fulfilled in the past 12-months; the breakdown by specialty (including cardiology, urology, and geriatric medicine); the reasons recorded by the HSE for these missed or unfulfilled appointments; and the measures being introduced to improve communication with patients so that they do not miss appointments owing to delayed or unclear notifications. — Sorca Clarke. [68575/25]

*434. To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of dentists in the north Wexford area who accept medical cards; the average length of time waiting for treatment; the measures being put in place to address this challenge; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68577/25]

*435. To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of dentists in the Arklow and south Wicklow area who accept medical cards; the average length of time waiting for treatment; the measures being put in place to address this challenge; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68578/25]

*436. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the long awaited primary care centre planned for Gorey, County Wexford. — Malcolm Byrne. [68579/25]

*437. To ask the Minister for Health the incentives which are in place to encourage the establishment of new general practitioner practices. — Malcolm Byrne. [68580/25]

*438. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of health care assistants employed, by CHO area under the home support service for older people; the number of vacancies, by CHO area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [68581/25]

*439. To ask the Minister for Health the range of State supports available to persons with haemochromatosis; and if she will consider running a public information campaign on the condition. — Malcolm Byrne. [68582/25]

*440. To ask the Minister for Health if she plans to extend funding through the community primary care service to include battery packs for CPAP devices; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [68606/25]

*441. To ask the Minister for Health her views on a matter (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68610/25]

*442. To ask the Minister for Health the role and responsibility of the dental service at a location (details supplied); the services they offer and if they are taking children for all appointments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoghan Kenny. [68615/25]

*443. To ask the Minister for Health if she will explain the rationale for the planned increase to blister pack preparation charges under the new HSE–community pharmacy contract; if she will urgently review this policy in light of the disproportionate impact on older patients and those with chronic conditions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [68616/25]

*444. To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider introducing an exemption or subsidy for medical card holders and older patients who rely on blister packs, given the significant financial burden of the proposed price increase effective from 1 January 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [68617/25]

*445. To ask the Minister for Health if an application has been received for a homeless day centre in Cork city. — Thomas Gould. [68624/25]

*446. To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on taxis and minibuses by the HSE (details supplied) in 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form. — Pádraig Rice. [68659/25]

*447. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 339 of 26 November 2025, the date which she received a report (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68660/25]

*448. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1825 of 4 November 2025, the steps her Department expects pharmacies to charge for this service; the supports or alternatives available for low-income individuals who require blister packs for safe medication management but cannot afford the additional cost (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [68663/25]

*449. To ask the Minister for Health if regulations currently being drafted under section 13 of the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 in relation to ‘content of advertisements’ will apply to online, digital, and social media marketing; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68666/25]

*450. To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been brought to an increase in youth alcohol consumption rates in the past decade (details supplied); if her Department intends on conducting research into the role of digital and social media marketing of alcohol products in relation to this increase in youth drinking; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68667/25]

*451. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 817 of 14 October 2025, if radiation therapists are excluded from the recognition of agency work for incremental credit purposes (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68669/25]

*452. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the HSE app only being available to people with a verified MyGovID account; if she is aware that this is contrary to the Data Protection Commission’s determination in 2019 that such conditional access to services provided by public bodies is unlawful; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [68677/25]

*453. To ask the Minister for Health the amount of funding her Department has allocated to drug addiction prevention initiatives in 2024, and to date in 2025. — Aisling Dempsey. [68684/25]

*454. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 134 of 20 November 2025, and 943 of 25 November 2025, the current status of the review to assess the resources required to change the final check-in time at the minor injuries unit at Monaghan Hospital to 8pm; when this review will be completed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [68697/25]

*455. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department or the HSE have issued any internal guidance, instructions or circulars to deciding officers and medical officers on the treatment of older applicants whose modest pension increases place them marginally above the medical card income threshold, specifically in relation to high medical needs and essential living costs such as heating, utilities and housing; and to outline the date of issue, the content, and the operational purpose of any such guidance. — Ken O’Flynn. [68699/25]

*456. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent consultants delivering chronic pain services in each hospital group; the number of vacant posts in these services in Q4 2025; and the actions her Department is taking to expand consultant capacity in line with population need. — Ken O’Flynn. [68700/25]

*457. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for first-time chronic pain appointments in each hospital group; the number of people aged over 65 on each waiting list; and the measures being introduced to reduce these waiting times. — Ken O’Flynn. [68701/25]

*458. To ask the Minister for Health the funding allocated to chronic pain services in 2023, 2024 and 2025; the planned allocation for 2026; and whether additional funding will be ring-fenced to support older adults identified as having untreated chronic pain. — Ken O’Flynn. [68702/25]

*459. To ask the Minister for Health when her Department last assessed unmet need for chronic pain treatment in adults aged over 65, in light of TILDA Wave 6 findings that two-thirds of older adults with moderate to severe chronic pain receive no medication; and the actions taken following this assessment. — Ken O’Flynn. [68703/25]

*460. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department plans to introduce a dedicated older persons pain strategy aligned with Sláintecare’s integrated-care objectives; and if so, the planned scope, timelines and implementation milestones. — Ken O’Flynn. [68704/25]

*461. To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications from persons aged 70 years and over that were refused any form of card, including a GP visit card, in each of the years 2020 to 2025; and the recorded reasons for refusal. — Ken O’Flynn. [68706/25]

*462. To ask the Minister for Health the number of appeals lodged by persons aged 70 years and over following the refusal of a medical card or GP visit card in each of the years 2020 to 2025; and the number of appeals upheld. — Ken O’Flynn. [68707/25]

*463. To ask the Minister for Health the current income thresholds used for assessing medical card eligibility for persons aged 70 years and over; when they were last reviewed; and the evidence base used in that review. — Ken O’Flynn. [68708/25]

*464. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has conducted any assessment of whether the current income thresholds for over-70s are aligned with the cost of living for that age group; and if she will provide details of any such assessment. — Ken O’Flynn. [68709/25]

*465. To ask the Minister for Health the number of over-70s whose applications for a medical card were reclassified to GP visit card awards due to marginal threshold exceedance since 2020, broken down by year. — Ken O’Flynn. [68710/25]

*466. To ask the Minister for Health the number of over-70s whose medical card applications were discontinued due to incomplete documentation or verification requests in each of the years 2020 to 2025; and the number subsequently resubmitted. — Ken O’Flynn. [68711/25]

*467. To ask the Minister for Health the average processing time for medical card applications submitted by persons aged 70 years and over in each of the years 2020 to 2025, including the longest recorded waiting time. — Ken O’Flynn. [68712/25]

*468. To ask the Minister for Health the number of over-70s who reported financial hardship, delayed medical care, or difficulty accessing medication following the refusal of a medical or GP visit card since 2020; and if such data is recorded. — Ken O’Flynn. [68713/25]

*469. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has carried out any review of the decision-making accuracy in over-70s medical card assessments since 2020; and the findings of that review, including identified error rates. — Ken O’Flynn. [68714/25]

*470. To ask the Minister for Health the number of over-70s who had an existing medical card withdrawn following a means review in each year since 2020, broken down by year. — Ken O’Flynn. [68715/25]

*471. To ask the Minister for Health the income bands of applicants aged 70 or over whose medical card or GP visit card applications were refused in each of the past four years, in order to identify the financial proximity to the threshold. — Ken O’Flynn. [68716/25]

*472. To ask the Minister for Health the number of appeals lodged by persons aged 70 or over following a refusal of a medical card or GP visit card in each of the past four years, and the number of appeals subsequently upheld. — Ken O’Flynn. [68717/25]

*473. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide a table showing changes to income thresholds for over-70s medical cards and GP visit cards since 2019, alongside the Consumer Price Index over the same period. — Ken O’Flynn. [68718/25]

*474. To ask the Minister for Health the number of over-70s who were subject to a means review more than once within a 24-month period in each of the past four years. — Ken O’Flynn. [68719/25]

*475. To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card and GP visit card holders aged 70 or over who incurred out-of-pocket medical expenses exceeding one thousand euro in the past year following a refusal or withdrawal of their card. — Ken O’Flynn. [68720/25]

*476. To ask the Minister for Health the formal mechanisms her Department has in place to obtain assurance that the HSE is monitoring governance, audit, and compliance issues in voluntary hospitals; the process by which her Department is notified of any significant governance risks or failures identified by the HSE in those hospitals; and the actions her Department takes when such risks or failures are escalated. — Ken O’Flynn. [68737/25]

*477. To ask the Minister for Health the procedure within her Department for responding to serious governance concerns in voluntary hospitals when such issues are escalated by the HSE; and the criteria her Department uses to determine when further action or intervention is warranted. — Ken O’Flynn. [68738/25]

*478. To ask the Minister for Health the number of inspections, compliance notices, closure orders or enforcement actions issued by the FSAI and authorised officers in meat processing facilities over the past three years; the types of breaches detected; and the follow-up actions taken in each category. — Ken O’Flynn. [68741/25]

*479. To ask the Minister for Health the reason her Department holds no independent records on the adequacy of the HSE’s financial reporting, audit controls or compliance systems for voluntary hospitals, given that voluntary hospitals receive more than €7 billion annually in State funding; and if she will confirm whether any Department-led assurance, verification or risk assessment has taken place in the past three years, including a list of all such exercises, the year conducted, and the findings. — Ken O’Flynn. [68754/25]

*480. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will introduce a national data-collection framework to track short and long-term mental health outcomes for pregnancy loss, including access to counselling, waiting times, and follow-up; and the proposed timeline for that framework. — Ken O’Flynn. [68755/25]

*481. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has evaluated the clinical and economic impact of providing standardised post-loss mental health follow-up in primary care, including the cost of early intervention versus untreated trauma and long-term work absence. — Ken O’Flynn. [68757/25]

*482. To ask the Minister for Health the formal guidance issued by her Department to the HSE regarding paid or authorised leave for staff who experience pregnancy loss before the 24th week of pregnancy; the procedures in place to ensure consistent implementation of this guidance across all HSE hospitals and community services; the number of staff who have availed of such leave in each of the past three years; and the steps her Department is taking to address inconsistencies in how pregnancy loss leave is applied in the HSE workforce. — Ken O’Flynn. [68760/25]

*483. To ask the Minister for Health the internal HR circulars, memoranda, or instructions issued by the HSE to managers regarding leave arrangements for staff who experience early pregnancy loss; the date of issue of each document; and the process in place to monitor compliance with these instructions. — Ken O’Flynn. [68761/25]

*484. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has undertaken or commissioned any review of compassionate leave policies for pregnancy loss within the HSE; the scope of any such review; and the expected timeline for publication of findings. — Ken O’Flynn. [68762/25]

*485. To ask the Minister for Health the dates and findings of any facility, safety, hygiene or environmental inspections carried out by or reported to her Department in relation to the Orchid Centre at Cork University Hospital in the past eighteen months, including issues of overcrowding, ventilation, temperature control, accessibility and maintenance of basic patient supplies; the actions taken by her Department following these inspections; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [68778/25]

*486. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the current waiting list for chronic pain services in each hospital, the number of patients waiting more than 12 months and more than 18 months, the number of patients aged over 65 years within those lists, and the corresponding figures for Cork University Hospital and other hospitals serving the Cork region. — Ken O’Flynn. [68779/25]

*487. To ask the Minister for Health to list all hospitals that provide chronic pain services, to identify which of these have a dedicated multidisciplinary pain service including psychology, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, to confirm the number of whole-time equivalent pain consultants assigned to each service, and to outline which regions do not have a local chronic pain service. — Ken O’Flynn. [68780/25]

*488. To ask the Minister for Health to set out the current number of recognised training posts in pain medicine, the number of trainees in the current cycle, the expected number of new consultants qualifying in pain medicine over the next five years, the attrition rate from this specialty, and any planned expansion of training places for 2026. — Ken O’Flynn. [68781/25]

*489. To ask the Minister for Health the total value of funded HSE posts that remained unfilled in 2024, by month, in each hospital group and community health organisation. — Ken O’Flynn. [68805/25]

*490. To ask the Minister for Health the total monthly value of salary funding associated with unfilled HSE posts in 2024 in each hospital group and community health organisation. — Ken O’Flynn. [68806/25]

*491. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of funded WTE posts that remained unfilled for more than three consecutive months in 2024 in each hospital group and community health organisation. — Ken O’Flynn. [68807/25]

*492. To ask the Minister for Health if any portion of the salary allocations associated with unfilled HSE posts in 2024 was internally re-assigned to non-pay budgets within the HSE; and to provide a breakdown of any such reallocations by hospital group and community health organisation. — Ken O’Flynn. [68808/25]

*493. To ask the Minister for Health the total value of internal transfers made between pay and non-pay expenditure lines within the HSE in 2024; and the month in which each transfer occurred. — Ken O’Flynn. [68809/25]

*494. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the year-end reconciliation for the HSE 2024 pay allocation showing each hospital group and community health organisation’s pay budget allocation, pay expenditure, and any difference between the two. — Ken O’Flynn. [68810/25]

*495. To ask the Minister for Health whether any hospital group or community health organisation recorded vacancy-driven surpluses in their 2024 pay budget, and to provide the value of those surpluses in each case. — Ken O’Flynn. [68811/25]

*496. To ask the Minister for Health to detail any HSE internal finance guidance in place during 2024 governing the treatment of unspent pay allocation arising from unfilled posts; and to provide copies of such guidance. — Ken O’Flynn. [68812/25]

*497. To ask the Minister for Health the process by which the HSE monitors vacancy-related impacts on pay expenditure; and the reporting mechanisms used by hospital groups and community health organisations to notify the National Finance and Procurement Division. — Ken O’Flynn. [68813/25]

*498. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of funded posts that remained unfilled at year end 2024 in each hospital group and community health organisation; and the corresponding value of the associated salary allocation. — Ken O’Flynn. [68814/25]

*499. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of funded posts that remained unfilled in 2024 at Cork University Hospital, by month; and the total value of the associated salary allocation in each month. — Ken O’Flynn. [68815/25]

*500. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of funded posts that remained unfilled in 2024 at Mercy University Hospital, by month; and the total value of the associated salary allocation in each month. — Ken O’Flynn. [68816/25]

*501. To ask the Minister for Health the vacancy levels across the South South West Hospital Group, including the number of funded posts unfilled for more than three consecutive months, and the value of the corresponding pay allocation in 2024. — Ken O’Flynn. [68817/25]

*502. To ask the Minister for Health the total value of any internal reallocations by the HSE of salary funding arising from unfilled posts within Cork University Hospital or Mercy University Hospital in 2024; and the expenditure lines to which such funding was reassigned. — Ken O’Flynn. [68818/25]

*503. To ask the Minister for Health the total value of funded posts that remained unfilled in 2024 in CHO4, by month; and the value of any associated salary allocation that was not used for pay expenditure within CHO4. — Ken O’Flynn. [68819/25]

*504. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in County Donegal currently on audiology waiting lists broken down by adults and children, in tabular form; the length of time they have been waiting; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [68852/25]

*505. To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies that exist within audiology services in County Donegal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [68853/25]

*506. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the new primary care centre in Dungloe, County Donegal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [68854/25]

*507. To ask the Minister for Health if she will instruct her Department to provide more resources and staff to CDNT8 (details supplied). — Paul Murphy. [68859/25]

*508. To ask the Minister for Health if patients who are seated in chairs in emergency departments for extended periods such as for more than six-hours are included in the official trolley numbers published by the Health Service Executive; if not, if she will consider introducing a more comprehensive reporting system that records all patients awaiting an inpatient bed including those who are seated or accommodated in inappropriate spaces; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68869/25]

*509. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide updated information on the plans of the HSE for the new primary healthcare centre proposed for an area (details supplied), including the expected timeline for delivery, the services to be delivered there, and any capital or staffing allocations made to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [68870/25]

*510. To ask the Minister for Health if she will urgently address a matter (details supplied) and remove all charges for blister packs for the elderly; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68890/25]

*511. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to expedite the delivery and full opening of the Killarney Community Nursing Home of 130 beds; the penalties which are in place for late delivery; the legal obstacles which remain to be surmounted; the person or body responsible to ensure its delivery; the person or body accountable for the debacle of ‘have beds, can’t open, (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68892/25]

*512. To ask the Minister for Health to urgently publish the overdue north Kerry CAMHS lookback review (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68895/25]

*513. To ask the Minister for Health the approved whole-time equivalent staffing levels for Arbour House, St Finbarr's Hospital, for each year 2023, 2024 and 2025, broken down by role, and the number of posts that remain unfilled in each year. — Ken O'Flynn. [68907/25]

*514. To ask the Minister for Health the average number of service users assigned to each addiction counsellor in Arbour House in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. — Ken O'Flynn. [68908/25]

*515. To ask the Minister for Health the number of service users waiting for an initial assessment in Arbour House who have been waiting more than 12 weeks, more than 24 weeks and more than 36 weeks. — Ken O'Flynn. [68909/25]

*516. To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved 2024 HSE development posts that are currently filled by temporary staff and by agency staff, broken down by staff grade, and the reasons these figures were not included in the HSE's reply to Parliamentary Question 59635/25. — Ken O'Flynn. [68910/25]

*517. To ask the Minister for Health the average length of time taken for an applicant for a 2024 HSE development post to complete the clearance process before being placed on payroll, the number of applicants currently in clearance for more than 3 months, 6 months and 12 months, and the operational reasons for these delays. — Ken O'Flynn. [68911/25]

*518. To ask the Minister for Health the impact of the 2024–2025 HSE employment control measures on the staffing targets approved for 2024, the number of posts for which recruitment was paused or deferred as a result, and the expected timeline to lift remaining restrictions in order to fill all outstanding development posts. — Ken O'Flynn. [68912/25]

*519. To ask the Minister for Health the performance targets set by her Department for the HSE regarding recruitment timelines for both replacement vacancies and newly funded service development posts, the monthly metrics used to monitor progress toward these targets, the current national performance against each target, and the expected timeframe to eliminate the reported gap of 6,852 funded WTE posts as of September 2025. — Ken O'Flynn. [68913/25]

*520. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has conducted any central review of the number of non-medical circumcisions undertaken in public hospitals in each of the years 2020 to 2025, whether the HSE has provided annual activity reports on this category of elective procedures, and if so when these reports were received. — Ken O'Flynn. [68914/25]

*521. To ask the Minister for Health when her Department last received from the HSE a cost-impact analysis for elective procedures without medical indication, including non-medical circumcision, identifying total annual theatre time allocated to such procedures and the effect on paediatric surgery waiting lists. — Ken O'Flynn. [68915/25]

*522. To ask the Minister for Health whether a governance framework exists within her Department requiring clinical audit of elective procedures performed without medical indication; if so, what audit standards apply; and how compliance is monitored. — Ken O'Flynn. [68916/25]

*523. To ask the Minister for Health the statutory or policy basis on which elective procedures without medical indication are authorised within the public hospital system; and if any legal advice has been sought on the permissibility of allocating public resources for such procedures. — Ken O’Flynn. [68917/25]

*524. To ask the Minister for Health to publish the underlying actuarial modelling, market projections, and equality assessment used by the Health Insurance Authority in recommending the 2026 stamp-duty increases; and to detail the Department’s own evaluation of affordability risks for policyholders with low or modest incomes. — Ken O’Flynn. [68918/25]

*525. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has conducted an impact study on the effect of increased stamp duty on private health insurance on hospitals that rely on privately insured patients for elective activity, including expected reductions in private-patient throughput. — Ken O’Flynn. [68919/25]

*526. To ask the Minister for Health when the HSE will provide the full breakdown of approved whole-time equivalent posts and filled posts in Arbour House for 2023, 2024 and 2025; and to confirm whether staffing plans for 2024 and 2025 have been met or remain in deficit. — Ken O’Flynn. [68920/25]

*527. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting-list management protocol for service users awaiting initial assessment in Arbour House; and the date on which her Department last reviewed performance against national timelines for addiction services. — Ken O’Flynn. [68921/25]

*528. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has instructed the HSE to provide monthly reports on 2024 development posts filled by temporary or agency staff; and the date on which these data will be supplied to the Oireachtas as requested. — Ken O’Flynn. [68922/25]

*529. To ask the Minister for Health when she last met senior HSE officials regarding delays in pre-employment clearances for 2024 development posts, the specific actions now underway to shorten clearance timelines; and the monthly KPIs introduced to monitor improvements. — Ken O’Flynn. [68923/25]

*530. To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded 2024 posts that remained unfilled as a direct result of the employment control measures applied in 2024 and 2025, the projected timeframe to lift remaining restrictions; and the expected date for full staffing against approved WTE levels. — Ken O’Flynn. [68924/25]

*531. To ask the Minister for Health to publish the current national performance against all monthly recruitment KPIs for replacement vacancies and development posts, including the KPI governing the elimination of the 6,852 funded WTE staffing gap reported in September 2025; and to provide the Department’s expected timeline to close this gap. — Ken O’Flynn. [68925/25]

*532. To ask the Minister for Health the projected total revenue in 2026 from the stamp-duty increase on health-insurance policies, as approved under the Risk Equalisation Scheme; and to provide the Department’s modelling of the expected impact on the Risk Equalisation Fund balance. — Ken O’Flynn. [68927/25]

*533. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department prepared any distributional analysis of the levy increase on households earning between €30,000 and €70,000, including the estimated annual cost per policyholder for adults and children used in internal decision-making. — Ken O’Flynn. [68928/25]

*534. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Department conducted any assessment of the potential impact of higher levies on private hospital activity levels, including projected changes in insured patient volumes for 2026 and the expected financial effect on hospitals. — Ken O’Flynn. [68929/25]

*535. To ask the Minister for Health to publish the Health Insurance Authority’s underlying modelling for the 2026 levy recommendation, including the sensitivity tests relating to premium increases and policyholder retention. — Ken O’Flynn. [68930/25]

*536. To ask the Minister for Health whether any options were considered to mitigate the effect of the levy increase on policyholders, including phased introduction, reduced levies for child policies, or offsetting measures through tax relief adjustments. — Ken O’Flynn. [68931/25]

*537. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to increase staff for the public health nurse network in an area (details supplied) given the cessation of child development checks due to staff shortages; if her Department plans to ensure adequate and sustained funding and staffing at the location to ensure community health services are available; when full child health and developmental screening services will be reinstated at the centre; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [68948/25]

*538. To ask the Minister for Health the availability of ultrasound imaging services in publicly funded acute hospitals; the hospitals which do not provide ultrasound on either/both a seven-day and out-of-hours basis; and for how long each such hospital has been without weekend and/or out-of-hours ultrasound, in tabular form. — Conor D. McGuinness. [68960/25]

*539. To ask the Minister for Health if dupilumab will be made available through the HSE for the treatment of juvenile eosinophilic oesophagitis; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68978/25]

*540. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to allowing older persons to apply for a medical card through their local community welfare officer, in light of the significant difficulties many older persons experience in completing the required paperwork and navigating the current application process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [68981/25]

*541. To ask the Minister for Health to outline any engagement her Department has had with the Irish Pharmacy Union to encourage the use of European made pharmaceuticals wherever possible; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68984/25]

*542. To ask the Minister for Health her views on the merits of establishing a priority for the acquisition of EU made pharmaceuticals; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68985/25]

*543. To ask the Minister for Health to detail any research carried out by her Department into ending the acquisition of Israeli made pharmaceuticals; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [68986/25]

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

*544. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a performance and evaluation framework has been approved for the National Demonstration Park for Modern Methods of Construction at Mount Lucas, including baseline data, target indicators, and reporting mechanisms; and if not, to explain why construction has proceeded in the absence of defined metrics. — Ken O’Flynn. [68903/25]

*545. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if students attending private tutorial colleges (details supplied) are eligible to apply for SUSI grants; the criteria governing eligibility for students enrolled in such institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [68926/25]

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

*546. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht an bhfuil sé sásta an chumhacht reachtúil a thabhairt d’Údarás na Gaeltachta atá i mBille Údarás na Gaeltachta chun talamh agus réadmhaoin a cheannach ar mhaithe le tithíocht, seirbhísí, áiseanna sóisialta nó cultúrtha a chur ar fáil; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Barry Heneghan. [68857/25]

*547. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when he will announce the grants for community centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [68990/25]

*548. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the position regarding the delivery of the actions under Our Rural Future, relevant to rural towns and villages; and to outline which commitments remain outstanding and the way in which his Department plans to accelerate progress in areas facing depopulation, weak public transport links, and declining local services. — Pat Buckley. [68540/25]

*549. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the steps he is taking to strengthen the capacity of the Charities Regulator, in particular to support smaller volunteer-led charities and community groups who are struggling with governance and compliance obligations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pat Buckley. [68541/25]

*550. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht regarding the future of LEADER funding, if his Department has considered any alternative or complementary funding models to ensure the continued delivery of community-led local development initiatives beyond the current LEADER programme period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [62211/25]

*551. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the supports available for a community garden; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [68620/25]

*552. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason a group (details supplied) did not receive funding through the CLÁR Programme recently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O’Meara. [68654/25]

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*553. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the status of the development of Céibh an Chóra and an Caladh Mór on Inis Meáin; the timeline for the delivery of the projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [68658/25]

*554. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the amount of funding his Department has allocated to drug addiction prevention initiatives in 2024, and to date in 2025. — Aisling Dempsey. [68686/25]

*555. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason a Clár application by a club in County Kerry was unsuccessful (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [68889/25]