



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Dé Céadaoin, 14 Eanáir, 2026
Wednesday, 14th January, 2026

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREADRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoiseach: To the Taoiseach.

*1. To ask the Taoiseach the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied). — Louise O'Reilly. [2659/26]

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

*2. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade her views on Israel's ordered demolition of a football pitch at the Aida Refugee Camp; the engagement her Department has had with Israel in relation to this matter. — Tom Brabazon. [2612/26]

*3. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2651/26]

*4. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the response she and the EU proposes to take in the event of the US taking military action to exert control over Greenland. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [2767/26]

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

*5. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will extend the 15 January deadline for the public consultation on the regulation of costs payable in matters prescribed on foot of section 294 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (scale of fees) (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [2530/26]

*6. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will examine and review the criteria for solar farms to feed back to the grid (details supplied). — Robert Troy. [2566/26]

*7. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2645/26]

*8. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment for an update on the amount the Government paid out in the various SEAI grants in 2024 and 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [2714/26]

*9. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will consider supporting pilot projects that demonstrate more efficient use of the existing electricity grid by large energy users where such projects align with national decarbonisation objectives; if he will consider the development of a virtual ‘single site’ energy sharing model for multi-site industrial users in Ireland in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [2748/26]

*10. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he plans to modernise electricity charging structures for energy intensive industries (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [2749/26]

*11. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the way in which he will ensure that the proposed data centre (details supplied) will not negatively impact on domestic water and energy access and supply. — Aidan Farrelly. [2809/26]

Chun Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*12. To ask the Minister for Defence the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [2647/26]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*13. To ask the Minister for Transport in light of the upcoming industrial action by driving testers, the actions his Department will take to deal with growing driving test waiting times; the assistance that will be offered to those who are currently awaiting a test, or re-test, and cannot renew their learner permit in the interim; and if he can commit to renewing the learner permits in such cases. — Robert Troy. [2533/26]

*14. To ask the Minister for Transport the actions currently being taken to address the limited availability of late-night public and private transport services in rural areas; whether his Department regards this issue as a barrier to the sustainability of rural social and hospitality businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2536/26]

*15. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made in expanding the availability of taxi services in rural areas, particularly during late-night hours; whether any reforms to licensing requirements, financial incentives or pilot schemes are under active consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2537/26]

*16. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the opening of the Luas to Lucan route; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [2546/26]

*17. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider extending a recently announced 24-hour bus service (details supplied) to include Kildare town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [2547/26]

*18. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 280 of 8 September 2025, if there is a further update from the National Transport Authority with regard to the extension of the SPSV licencing period for standard taxi vehicles first registered in 2016 (details supplied). — Brian Stanley. [2550/26]

*19. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide passenger numbers as a total number, and occupancy rates as a percentage, for all TFI services in County Clare in 2024 and 2025, by route, in tabular form; the plans for expanding existing and new services in Clare during 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2574/26]

*20. To ask the Minister for Transport whether a review of the code of best practice for national and regional greenways has taken place; if so, the stakeholders that were involved; if not, when the review will take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [2614/26]

*21. To ask the Minister for Transport the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2660/26]

*22. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of the monies spent by the DAA on VIP travel and accommodation for the CEO of the DAA; the details of the oversight by his Department of the spending of the DAA; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2661/26]

*23. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason Sallins train station has not been included as part of the Big Lift Project; when lift access will be granted to Sallins train station; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [2694/26]

*24. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures currently in place to address the lack of late-night public and private transport options in rural areas; and whether his Department has identified this issue as a barrier to the sustainability of rural social and hospitality businesses. — Michael Cahill. [2696/26]

*25. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made to increase the availability of taxis in rural areas, particularly during late-night hours; and whether changes to licensing, incentives or pilot schemes are under consideration. — Michael Cahill. [2697/26]

*26. To ask the Minister for Transport the details of passenger demand after 6pm on Route H1 based on ticketing and Leap card data; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2704/26]

*27. To ask the Minister for Transport the current seating capacity on route 15 buses; the average passenger load during peak times; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2705/26]

*28. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will confirm his Department's current remote work policy for Departmental staff; if there are plans to modify the policy in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [2716/26]

*29. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of the issues surrounding parking limitations at Cork Kent Station (details supplied); the actions taken by his Department to address these issues; if alternative parking arrangements are being considered for the station; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [2722/26]

*30. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will investigate the introduction of free parking at Muine Bheag train station, Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter ‘Chap’ Cleere. [2745/26]

*31. To ask the Minister for Transport when the reduction in the default speed limit on national secondary roads from 100km/h to 80km/h will be implemented as recommended by his Department in the Speed Limit Review in 2023. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2760/26]

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

*32. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the amount of carbon tax collected for 2024 and 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Danny Healy-Rae. [2715/26]

*33. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether his Department has examined the potential introduction of an excise rebate scheme for licensed premises, modelled on excise relief schemes operating in other sectors; the status of any such examination; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2540/26]

*34. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether he recognises the concerns raised by licensed premises that did not serve food and therefore did not benefit from the reduced 9% VAT rate; whether an excise rebate scheme is being considered as a targeted response to this disparity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2541/26]

*35. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether any initial or indicative costing has been carried out by his Department in relation to a proposed excise rebate scheme for licensed premises; if he will indicate whether such a scheme could be delivered through existing excise administration mechanisms; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2542/26]

*36. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether he will set out any indicative timelines for decisions regarding an excise rebate scheme for licensed premises, including whether it is under consideration for inclusion in a future Budget or finance Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2543/26]

*37. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to provide details of the changes to the way in which income from carer’s allowance is assessed for tax in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [2621/26]

*38. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [2650/26]

*39. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he is aware that a person who is working short hours due to a disability (a person on dialysis) can find themselves without sufficient tax paid to benefit from the renters tax credit; if there is a mechanism for them to avail of the credit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [2663/26]

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

*40. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation when publication of the IPA' s annual directory and diary will resume, it being an important permanent source of public information; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [2610/26]

*41. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will consider a proposal (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Clendennen. [2624/26]

*42. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2656/26]

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

*43. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the policy initiatives taken on AI in 2025; the priorities for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [2638/26]

*44. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2649/26]

*45. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he is aware of concerns regarding restaurants charging corkage fees of between €35 and €40 on customer-provided non-alcoholic wine, in some cases at the same rate as corkage for high value alcoholic wine; if his Department has considered whether this practice raises consumer fairness or transparency issues, particularly for those who do not consume alcohol; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2701/26]

*46. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he is aware of concerns regarding the pricing of non-alcoholic wine in restaurants, where it is, in some cases, charged at a similar price to alcoholic wine, including prices of approximately €40 per bottle; if any guidance exists for the hospitality sector on the pricing of non-alcoholic products from a consumer protection perspective; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2702/26]

*47. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of WTE event manager staff, by gender, that are directly employed by Enterprise Ireland, by location, as of 5 January 2026, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2710/26]

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

*48. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if a more formalised structure required to help support children with epilepsy in classrooms will be introduced (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [2521/26]

*49. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the status of the emergency works application for a school (details supplied); when a decision will be made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [2529/26]

*50. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on a project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Clendennen. [2531/26]

*51. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on a project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Clendennen. [2532/26]

*52. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the measures she is taking to ensure that all teachers across the State are informed and provided with training for students with epilepsy; the supports that are provided to schools who have students with epilepsy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [2534/26]

*53. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will ensure that an organisation (details supplied) is supported in providing its training, and that it can reach all schools in the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [2535/26]

*54. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider revising the requirement for substitute SNAs to have individual Garda vetting undertaken for each school they work in, and move to a single vetting process, similar to that for teachers through the Teaching Council; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2575/26]

*55. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the progress made on the delivery of a new school building for a school (details supplied); when a Stage 2a presentation will be made to her Department; if she is aware of any capital budget constraints that is slowing down the delivery of this project; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2576/26]

*56. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to provide children with epilepsy with sufficient supports; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2578/26]

*57. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to consider providing fully funded epilepsy training sessions for education staff in primary school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2579/26]

*58. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when a school build plan will move from Stage 2a to Stage 2b (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [2580/26]

*59. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide an update on an additional accommodation scheme application made by a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [2616/26]

*60. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she has engaged with an organisation (details supplied) regarding pension parity for caretakers and secretaries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [2622/26]

*61. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when the list of schools sanctioned for special classes for 2026-2027 will be published; and the interim or alternative processes put in place for parents, given that applications have not been possible since 1 October 2025. — Tom Brabazon. [2623/26]

*62. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her position on proposals put forward by an organisation (details supplied) for ‘Seizure Safe Schools’; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O’Donoghue. [2625/26]

*63. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when an urgently needed additional ASD class will be sanctioned for 2026-2027 in a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [2635/26]

*64. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O’Reilly. [2648/26]

*65. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of personnel employed across all State agencies that support special education in post primary schools (details supplied); the total annual expenditure associated with these roles, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2711/26]

*66. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when teachers and SNAs will be adequately trained on epilepsy awareness; if her Department will consider implementing the ‘Seizure Safe’ training by an organisation (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [2720/26]

*67. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the new school building project (details supplied); and if a tender has been received. — Tom Brabazon. [2815/26]

*68. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the number of reading classes in County Kerry that will be increased (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2816/26]

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

*69. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport how the night-time economy strategy is being implemented in a rural context; the specific measures planned to support rural venues where transport constraints limit participation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2538/26]

*70. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether a coordinated approach is being taken with the Department of Transport to address late-night transport challenges in rural areas as part of the night-time economy agenda; the forthcoming initiatives or associated timelines; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [2539/26]

*71. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport his plans to protect young people active on social media; if he plans to introduce a social media ban similar to that introduced in Australia; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoghan Kenny. [2551/26]

*72. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the number of publicly funded athletics tracks and all-weather running facilities currently available, by county; and the level of capital investment provided for their maintenance and development in each of the past five years. — Sorca Clarke. [2627/26]

*73. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when An Post pensioners, who were awarded a pension increase in September 2025, will receive this long-overdue payment; the reasons for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2640/26]

*74. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2646/26]

*75. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport how the night-time economy strategy is being applied in a rural context; and the specific actions that are planned to support rural venues where transport availability is a limiting factor. — Michael Cahill. [2698/26]

*76. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether a cross-departmental approach is being taken with the Department of Transport to address rural late-night transport as part of the night-time economy; and if he will outline any forthcoming initiatives or timelines. — Michael Cahill. [2699/26]

*77. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport his position on the absence of mandatory adult safeguarding policies within sports and running clubs (details supplied); if he will confirm if all clubs should be required to have such policies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2817/26]

*78. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the plans to assist Irish journalism by providing a ring fenced funding stream for public-interest journalism. — Willie O'Dea. [3330/26]

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

*79. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he will introduce legislation to extend the powers of local authorities to permit the change of use or demolition of derelict and long-term vacant buildings within designated town centres, in order to address rising vacancy and dereliction and facilitate the return of these buildings to productive use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2552/26]

*80. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the additional funding streams, financial supports, or incentives he will provide to assist local authorities in the acquisition, refurbishment, and regeneration of derelict properties in town centres, in accordance

with Town Centre First principles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2553/26]

*81. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he will introduce strengthened compulsory acquisition powers to enable local authorities to prioritise residential, mixed-use, and community development within town centres, rather than peripheral greenfield development, and to support the regeneration of derelict properties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2554/26]

*82. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he will support legislation to ensure that vacant or derelict properties in town centres are brought back into active use within defined and enforceable timeframes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2555/26]

*83. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the tendering and procurement process currently in place for the appointment of building professionals to carry out building condition assessments under the enhanced defective concrete blocks grant scheme; the way in which tenders are invited, evaluated and awarded; the criteria used in assessing submissions; to provide a list of the successful tenderers appointed to carry out such assessments in County Donegal; the number of assessments allocated to each appointed tenderer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Charles Ward. [2557/26]

*84. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether the two-year tenancy requirement in the tenant-in-situ acquisition scheme is currently under review; if he will commit to amending or removing this requirement to improve access to the scheme for households at risk of homelessness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2558/26]

*85. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will commit to a public information campaign to inform tenants of their existing rights and protections under residential tenancies legislation, in light of reports that tenants are being warned by landlords of potential exits from the rental market ahead of new tenancy rules coming into effect in March 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2559/26]

*86. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he expects the Apartment and Duplex Defects Remediation Bill 2024 to be passed and open for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2571/26]

*87. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of appeals made to date under the remediation of dwellings damaged by the use of defective concrete blocks scheme; the number of appeals that have been heard by county, by year, in tabular form; and the current timeline for a determination of appeals lodged; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2572/26]

*88. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the costs incurred, by each local authority as a result of storm Éowyn; and the amount each local authority has been reimbursed, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2573/26]

*89. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the position regarding the tenant-in-situ scheme; if he proposes to increase the level of funding allocated to Dún

Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to support this scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [2617/26]

*90. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the level of funding that will be allocated to the tenant-in-situ scheme at a national level for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [2618/26]

*91. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the level of funding that will be allocated to the tenant-in-situ scheme for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [2619/26]

*92. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the work being carried out by his Department into the population growth of seagulls in a location (details supplied), their migration patterns and status as a protected species; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [2639/26]

*93. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2654/26]

*94. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if there are plans to review or increase the income eligibility thresholds for social housing support administered by Dublin City Council; and the housing options available for households, particularly working couples, whose incomes are marginally above the social housing threshold but who cannot afford private rental accommodation and may be at risk of homelessness (details supplied). — Máire Devine. [2689/26]

*95. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of apartments (details supplied); the status of the scheme; the funding granted to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [2691/26]

*96. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if, where a house commences a lease before 1 March 2026 for a period of 12 months, with the possibility of extending the lease after the 12 months, the lease will fall under the new legislation after the 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [2700/26]

*97. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the plans his Department has to reverse the declining water quality in the Barrow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [2723/26]

*98. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the plans his Department has to reverse the declining water quality in the Nore; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [2724/26]

*99. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the new rules, from March 2026, for landlords, which allow them, their executors or families to terminate leases and sell properties when necessary to repay nursing home loans or distribute estates; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [2761/26]

*100. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to report on the derelict sites levies levied, collected, owed and cumulatively owed; the number of sites CPOed in the previous 12 months; the number of sites for which a levy was applied; the total value of sites on the register; and the number of sites on their register on 31 December 2024 and to date in 2025, by local authority, in tabular form. — Thomas Gould. [2829/26]

*101. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has received a business case and or released funding for the development of a local authority site (details supplied). — Aidan Farrelly. [2834/26]

*102. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has received an updated and or amended proposal from bodies in respect of a site for public housing (details supplied). — Aidan Farrelly. [2845/26]

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

*103. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current status of the Government's commitment to introduce a cost of disability payment; the proposed timeline for its introduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [2523/26]

*104. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the research, analysis, and impact assessments undertaken by his Department in developing proposals for a cost of disability payment; the estimated additional cost of living with a disability these considerations are based on; and if he will publish this information. — Liam Quaide. [2524/26]

*105. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether any proposed cost of disability payment will be universal or means-tested; how eligibility will be determined; and how the payment will interact with existing disability-related supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [2525/26]

*106. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the engagement his Department has had with disability organisations and representative groups in relation to the introduction of a cost of disability payment; how the views of disabled people are being reflected in policy development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [2526/26]

*107. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he intends to review the classification of long-Covid for social protection purposes, including its recognition as an occupational injury for healthcare workers; the timeframe for any such review; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [2528/26]

*108. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a breakdown can be provided for all payments of arrears; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [2588/26]

*109. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person who was wrongly advised to claim disability allowance and who has now applied for invalidity pension and has been refused due to insufficient PRSI contributions but would have had sufficient contributions at the time of application can have their claim assessed on the basis of the original application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2641/26]

*110. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the entitlements to benefits without means testing survivors of the Hepatitis C scandal have; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2642/26]

*111. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2658/26]

*112. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he plans to enhance the farm assist and fish assist scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [2841/26]

*113. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will include seaweed harvesting for a bespoke social protection scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [2842/26]

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

*114. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 571 of 18 December 2025, if the information requested regarding the number of crimes recorded where the suspected offenders were on bail, by county and category of offence, in 2025, in tabular form is now available; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2548/26]

*115. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 114 of 24 September 2025, if we will provide an update on the case; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [2549/26]

*116. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his views on his Department's Bill to enable the taking of oral testimony for the purposes of the Omagh Bombing Inquiry; the rationale for only applying the Bill to retired officials with their advance written consent; the provision for access to records, in addition to the oral questions provided for, subject to vetting; and when he envisages such a Bill becoming law. — Ivana Bacik. [2577/26]

*117. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will legislate to allow for assisted dying given the vote in favour by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Assisted Dying in its report, which recommended to legalise for assisted dying in specific circumstances; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2602/26]

*118. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2655/26]

*119. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will consider removing the €80 application fee for a civil protection order given that no such fee exists in respect of domestic violence orders (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [2810/26]

*120. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether any categories of visa or immigration applications made by Syrian nationals were paused, frozen, or otherwise not

progressed by his Department; if so, which types of visas or applications were affected; the period of time during which any such pause or freeze applied; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [2811/26]

*121. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he is aware of the following situation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Gary Gannon. [2812/26]

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

*122. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of recorded breaches of dog and horse regulations occurred in each of the years 2020 to 2025 respectively, at Mornington, Laytown and Bettystown Beaches. — Darren O'Rourke. [2634/26]

*123. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of the 9,175 non-coursing greyhounds registered at whelping stage with the Irish Coursing Club whose year of birth was 2024 have subsequently been entered on the Rásaíocht Con Éireann traceability system; the current status of this cohort of dogs giving a detailed breakdown into active, inactive and exported, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2606/26]

*124. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of part-time and full-time employees per greyhound stadium either owned or licenced by Greyhound Racing Ireland in each of the years 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2607/26]

*125. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of race entries not accepted at Rásaíocht Con Éireann-licensed stadia; the number of instances of prizemoney not being paid out due to owners/trainers not having updated outstanding records on the Rásaíocht Con Éireann traceability system relating to non-coursing greyhounds/pups in their care for each of the years 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2608/26]

*126. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2643/26]

*127. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to address concerns and login issues reported by farmers following changes made to the agriculture food portal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O'Meara. [2695/26]

*128. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when 2024 and 2025 ACRES payments will issue to a farm partnership in County Kerry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [2762/26]

*129. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if an ACRES non-productive investment application will be accepted from farmers in County Kerry (details supplied) who are unable to apply online due to the delay in transferring their ACRES contracts to a partnership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [2763/26]

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

*130. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of people on a waiting list for disability home support hours at the end of 2024 and at the end of 2025; the number on a waiting list for personal assistance hours at the end of 2024 and at the end of 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [2522/26]

*131. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she or her Department will advise on an ECCE placement being withdrawn (details supplied). — Mark Wall. [2613/26]

*132. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2644/26]

*133. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether plans are in place to increase the number of after-school care places in north Kildare by September 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [2693/26]

*134. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will clarify the policy rationale for the proposed provision in the Equality and Family Leaves (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025 that would transfer discrimination cases relating to licensed premises from the District Court to the Workplace Relations Commission; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [2738/26]

*135. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the consultation that has taken place with representative bodies for licensed premises regarding the proposed transfer of jurisdiction for discrimination cases to the WRC; and if she will provide details of such engagement. — Emer Currie. [2739/26]

*136. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether an impact assessment has been conducted on the potential legal, financial and operational implications for licensed premises arising from the proposed change in forum for discrimination cases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [2740/26]

*137. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether she will consider introducing safeguards, exemptions or a review mechanism within the Equality and Family Leaves (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025 to address concerns raised by licensed premises regarding the proposed jurisdictional change. — Emer Currie. [2741/26]

*138. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children under 12 years in care in each social work area, broken down by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O'Gorman. [2756/26]

*139. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care aged out in the last three years in each social work area, broken down by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O'Gorman. [2757/26]

*140. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of young people receiving an aftercare allowance in each social work area, broken down by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2758/26]

*141. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care in each social work area on their third or more placement, broken down by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2759/26]

*142. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of special emergency arrangement placements in use, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2769/26]

*143. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the inspection regime for special emergency arrangement placements; the regulations that apply to special emergency arrangement and the number of inspections carried out by TUSLA of special emergency arrangement placements, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2770/26]

*144. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care, placed in special emergency arrangements, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2771/26]

*145. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care nationally placed in special emergency arrangements, by age of the child, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2772/26]

*146. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality number of under 18’s in each social work area, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2773/26]

*147. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care in each social work area, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2774/26]

*148. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care in each social work area with an allocated social worker, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2775/26]

*149. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in care in each social work area awaiting an allocated social worker, by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2776/26]

*150. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality number of children in care under 12 years of-age in residential care by local area office, in tabular form. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2777/26]

*151. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she has examined allowing parental leave entitlements to be transferred between parents who are employed by different employers; the considerations involved in such a policy change; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shay Brennan. [2830/26]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*152. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has assessed the loss of income faced by healthcare workers with long-Covid following the cessation of special Covid leave with pay on 31 December 2025; what this is estimated to be on average over the next year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [2527/26]

*153. To ask the Minister for Health if the necessary finance will be provided to Cork Dental Hospital to enable it to open a community-based outreach dental centre in Cork city in accordance with the proposals already submitted to the Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2561/26]

*154. To ask the Minister for Health if the case of a person (details supplied) who urgently requires a referral to an adolescent unit will be examined; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [2629/26]

*155. To ask the Minister for Health the availability of emergency and out of hours public dental services by RHA; the number of patients that presented to EDs with dental pain or infection in the past five years; and the cost to the health system of treating preventable dental conditions in hospitals. — Pa Daly. [2808/26]

*156. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on CAMHS waiting lists, per region at the end of year 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marie Sherlock. [2560/26]

*157. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has entered into discussions with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science with a view to opening a new community based outpatient dental centre in Cork city, and that the necessary finance will be provided to establish such a facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2565/26]

*158. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE dentists and dental nurse posts filled at each health centre in County Clare for 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [2567/26]

*159. To ask the Minister for Health the number of MRI scans that took place in UHL, by day of the week, for each month between January 2024 and September 2024 inclusive; and the number of MRI scans that took place in UHL, by day of the week, for December 2025, in tabular form. — Joe Cooney. [2568/26]

*160. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for home help services within CHO3 on November 30th 2024; and the total number of hours allocated, and provided, for the month of November 2024, in tabular form. — Joe Cooney. [2569/26]

*161. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who have been waiting to see an otolaryngologist at University Hospital Limerick for longer than 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months for 2024 and 2025, in tabular form. — Joe Cooney. [2570/26]

*162. To ask the Minister for Health her views on a fundraiser relevant to her Department where concerns have been realised (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [2601/26]

*163. To ask the Minister for Health the national number of dentists registered under the dental scheme for medical card holders; the number of dentists actually drawing down funds on it, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donna McGettigan. [2603/26]

*164. To ask the Minister for Health her position on an initiative (details supplied); if she considers it feasible to implement a similar initiative in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [2611/26]

*165. To ask the Minister for Health to urgently assist in the case of a person (details supplied) and allow for an urgent transfer to a nursing home closer to their family; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [2620/26]

*166. To ask the Minister for Health if she intends taking measures to encourage more dental practices to join the dental treatment services scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [2630/26]

*167. To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to simplify the medical card application process for people with cancer; the measures taken by her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [2636/26]

*168. To ask the Minister for Health the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in her Department (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2653/26]

*169. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will consider an extension to the special leave with pay scheme for healthcare workers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [2692/26]

*170. To ask the Minister for Health the maternity care changes planned for implementation in January 2026; the objectives of these changes; the assessment undertaken of their impact on choice, continuity of care and perinatal mental health supports; the consultation carried out with service users and staff; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2703/26]

*171. To ask the Minister for Health the locations within CHO9 where community intervention teams are located; and the areas that each CIT covers, in tabular form. — Barry Heneghan. [2706/26]

*172. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant urologist and transplant surgeons based at Beaumont Hospital in 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2707/26]

*173. To ask the Minister for Health the hours and days of the week where CT scans, MRI scans and so on, are carried out at Beaumont Hospital; the average wait time for consultants to get results back from each type of scan carried out at this hospital, especially after hours or at the weekends; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2708/26]

*174. To ask the Minister for Health the current WTE staffing complement at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the National Health Protection Office with responsibility for surveillance, risk assessment and screening protocol development, by grade and speciality, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2709/26]

*175. To ask the Minister for Health the number of premises inspected pursuant to the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2002, as amended, and under S.I. No. 271/2016, in each year since commencement, by type of premises inspected, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [2717/26]

*176. To ask the Minister for Health the number of inspections of vape shops and other retail outlets which sell vaping products in each year 2021 to 2025, by type of premises inspected, in tabular form. — David Cullinane. [2718/26]

*177. To ask the Minister for Health the status of her plan to standardise the opening hours of all injury units to provide a seven-day service from 8am to 8pm, including bank holidays; the injury units which are still not operating these standardised hours; the current opening hours of each site; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [2721/26]

*178. To ask the Minister for Health the number of maternity units that currently meet the WHO/UNICEF baby friendly hospital initiative standards; the number of lactation consultants WTE employed in each maternity unit in the past five years; and if she will publish a timeline to ensure all maternity units meet best international practice in breastfeeding support. — Sorca Clarke. [2727/26]

*179. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the latest national data on breastfeeding initiation and continuation at three and six months compares with targets set out in the National Breastfeeding Action Plan. — Sorca Clarke. [2728/26]

*180. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1080 of 18 November 2025, the status of the HSE's engagements with Cork City Council with respect to the road access issue identified at the St. Stephen's Hospital site; the proposed location for the elective hospital in Cork (details supplied); if a solution has been found; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [2729/26]

*181. To ask the Minister for Health if a medical card application will be approved (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [2730/26]

*182. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for publication and introduction of the public health (tobacco products and nicotine-inhaling products) (amendment) Bill; to outline the scope of measures on newer products such as nicotine pouches which the Government agreed in November 2025 to add to the Bill; the way in which the proposed measures will align with review of the EU Tobacco Products Directive and the development of a harmonised EU-wide framework for regulating novel nicotine products which Government stated would be more effective than individual Member State action. — Emer Currie. [2742/26]

*183. To ask the Minister for Health if practical guidance on the operation of the retail licensing system for the sale of tobacco and vaping products will issue to retailers ahead of the February 2026 introduction date. — Emer Currie. [2743/26]

*184. To ask the Minister for Health the action being taken by her Department and the HSE to deal with the backlog in marriage notification appointments and interviews of convenience in Cork civil registration offices in view of the 18 month waiting list; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2799/26]

*185. To ask the Minister for Health the action being taken by her Department and the HSE to deal with the backlog in marriage notification appointments and interviews of convenience in

civil registration offices across the country, in view of the current waitlists and backlogs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2800/26]

*186. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of vacancies in each HSE civil registration office, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2801/26]

*187. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration would be given to the provision of a cancellation list mechanism for marriage notification appointments and interviews of convenience in view of ongoing waitlists and backlogs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2802/26]

*188. To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children currently on waiting lists for public dental services, including orthodontics, by RHA; the average and longest waiting times for treatment; and the measures being taken to reduce these waiting lists in 2026. — Sorca Clarke. [2803/26]

*189. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE dentists, dental nurses and hygienists employed in the public dental service in each of the past five years; the number of sanctioned but unfilled posts; and the steps being taken to address recruitment and retention issues. — Sorca Clarke. [2804/26]

*190. To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of children receiving school based dental screening at ages 6,12 and 15 in each RHA in the past five years; the number of schools not reached. — Sorca Clarke. [2805/26]

*191. To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card holders refused dental treatment in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [2806/26]

*192. To ask the Minister for Health the availability of emergency and out of hours public dental services by RHA; the number of patients that presented to EDs with dental pain or infection in the past five years; and the cost to the health system of treating preventable dental conditions in hospitals. — Sorca Clarke. [2807/26]

*193. To ask the Minister for Health the number of days in 2025, that the full capacity protocol has been utilised at University Hospital Limerick; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [2813/26]

*194. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 240 of 26 March 2025, to identify the recommendations which still need to be fully implemented in the National Maternity Strategy 2016-2026; the actions required to fully implement each of the outstanding recommendations, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [2814/26]

*195. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on GP waiting lists; the breakdown of GP waiting lists in each county in each of the years 2020 to date, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [2828/26]

*196. To ask the Minister for Health number of patients on primary care and community services waiting lists, by service, age, and length of wait from December 2022-2025 or latest other comparable date, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [2832/26]

*197. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on CAMHS and Jigsaw waiting lists, by CHO and length of wait, quarterly from 2012–2025, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [2833/26]

*198. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in County Kerry waiting for Jigsaw, broken down by length of wait, on a quarterly basis for 2022 to 2025, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [2843/26]

*199. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in County Kerry waiting for diagnostic tests, including MRI, CT, ultrasound and endoscopy, at the latest available data point, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [2844/26]

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

*200. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department will engage with Cork Dental Hospital with a view to increasing the number of training places for dental hygienists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2562/26]

*201. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department will engage with Cork Dental Hospital to increase the number of training places for dental nurses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2563/26]

*202. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department will provide additional finance to University College Cork and Cork Dental Hospital to increase the number of trainee places for dental students in view of the fact that the number of places currently available is the same number as 20 years ago; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2564/26]

*203. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2652/26]

*204. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the number of apprentice registrations across all construction trades from 2020 to 2025, in tabular form. — John Paul O'Shea. [2764/26]

*205. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if plans are in place to address the disparity between the number of registrations by electrical apprentices and the number of registrations by apprentice block layers and plasterers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [2765/26]

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

*206. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the application process for higher scales for administrative grades below the grade of assistant principal operated in his Department (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2657/26]

**CEISTEANNA, SEACHAS CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH, I
gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL DÉARDAOIN, 15 Eanáir, 2026
QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY, FOR ORAL
ANSWER ON THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY, 2026**

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

1. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to explore the possibility of reducing the minimum hours of the wage subsidy scheme from 15 hours to 10 hours (details supplied). — Michael Murphy. [1439/26]

2. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps being taken to ensure that parents who are aged 66 years and above and caring for children with lifelong disabilities retain the rate at which they are paid their carer's allowance and concurrently receive the State pension; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [2827/26]

3. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has given consideration to additional cost of living measures given the increased rates of poverty after housing costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2838/26]

4. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of employees in County Cork registered with My Future Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [2683/26]

5. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the details of the maximum rent supplement payment; and whether he will review these maximum limits. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2903/26]

6. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when he will introduce a permanent cost of disability payment as promised in the Programme for Government. — Paul Murphy. [2794/26]

7. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures being taken in his Department in 2026 to support people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Erin McGreehan. [2886/26]

8. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will introduce an emergency winter payment for disabled people to compensate them for the cuts imposed on them in the Budget; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [2795/26]

9. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review and change the current penal and outdated means test calculation on land or savings on, for example, the old age pension (non-contributory); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [2894/26]

10. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures he is taking to address the growing gap between social welfare payment rates and the actual cost-of-living, particularly in relation to food, energy, housing, childcare and transport; if he accepts that once-off lump sum payments have failed to provide ongoing protection for low-income households; the plans to introduce permanent increases linked to real cost-of-living data rather than annual budget cycles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [2341/26]

11. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will examine the current situation where self-employed workers have no access to sick pay, illness benefit, leaving them in a vulnerable position despite paying PRSI; if he will extend this support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [2688/26]

12. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an overview of measures being taken in his Department in 2026 to support people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aisling Dempsey. [2685/26]

13. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will amend the current weekly means limit for the increase for qualified adult allowance for recipients of the State pension and to increase the current means limit of €100 which has been in place since 2007; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [1244/26]

14. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the actions being taken to increase the low labour participation rate of 32% for persons with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [2895/26]

15. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of new applicants aged 66 years and over who have been approved for the fuel allowance under the revised means thresholds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [2789/26]

16. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has given consideration to a cost of disability payment given the increasing vulnerability of households with one or more disabled members to poverty; his plans to ameliorate this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2837/26]

17. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for the data his Department holds relating to any youth unemployment increases in certain sectors due to the rollout of AI; the sectors that have been identified as high risk; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2889/26]

18. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding the percentage of primary schools in the Dún Laoghaire constituency that are currently participating in the hot school meals programme or have started the process of providing this service in the school; the actions being taken to further expand this to all remaining primary schools in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [1403/26]

19. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the rules and regulations governing the approval of rent supplement payments; and his plans to increase the payment. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2902/26]

20. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of individuals in Cork per Intreo area currently in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and jobseeker's benefit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [1241/26]

21. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the plans in place in his Department to change the public services card provision, given data protection concerns of various stakeholders. — Eoin Hayes. [2753/26]

22. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of carers he expects to benefit from the means test changes announced in Budget 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [2589/26]

23. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to introduce a cost of disability payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [2520/26]

24. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the progress being made in reviewing means testing across the social welfare system as outlined in the Programme for Government. — Tom Brabazon. [2882/26]

25. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the future plans he has for the rural social scheme and the Tús programme; and whether he will ensure these schemes remain adequately funded and accessible in County Offaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [2860/26]

26. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to introduce a permanent annual cost of disability support payment; the potential cost to the Exchequer of such a payment; if there is a timeline for the introduction of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [69982/25]

27. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the timeframe for abolishing the means test for carer's allowance applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [2519/26]

28. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the proposed annual cost of disability support payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [2597/26]

29. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide any analysis on the inflation of costs associated with energy, housing, and groceries for people dependent on social protection supports for the majority of their income; and the way in which that compares with increases in social protection payments over the past five years. — Eoin Hayes. [2755/26]

30. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm the social protection payment increases that came into effect from 1 January 2026; the level of increased spending overall; the amount of people to benefit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2712/26]

31. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps his Department is taking to design and deliver a targeted social welfare payment for families experiencing consistent poverty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [1858/26]

32. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide analysis carried out by his Department on the net financial effect on individuals and families when a disabled person turns 16 years of age, given that disabilities payments commence but the domiciliary care allowance ends. — Eoin Hayes. [2754/26]

33. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for the fuel allowance, per month, for the past three years, specifying which of these applicants are also in receipt of the working family payment or another automatically qualifying social welfare payment, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2836/26]

34. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps being taken to address delays and barriers experienced by applicants for social protection and disability-related payments in Dublin Bay North, including waiting times for decisions and appeals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2678/26]

35. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding safeguards that have been put in place to protect employees from unsavoury practices that would require them to join less favourable pension schemes in place of being registered under the My Future Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [1404/26]

36. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people that received the newborn baby grant in County Cork in 2025, and so far in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [2684/26]

37. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current average processing times for disability related payments for applicants in Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [1242/26]

38. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of newborn baby grants made to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Ó Feargháil. [2592/26]

39. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the changes he plans to make to the means assessment carried out by his Department in order to remove anomalies in relation to the disability allowance identified in the Programme for Government; if he will provide details of the anomalies currently being observed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [2744/26]

40. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the future plans he and his Department have for persons living with a disability following the outcome of Budget 2026, where there is now evidence that persons with a disability are facing a cost of living crisis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [2595/26]

41. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has plans or intends to establish a social welfare office in Athenry, County Galway, in light of the town's rapidly growing population and projected future development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [1784/26]

42. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in County Carlow and in County Kilkenny that received the newborn baby grant in 2025, and so far in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [2682/26]

43. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware that customers on pre-pay energy arrangements are finding their energy cut-off abruptly for days at a time while applying to the community welfare officer for emergency supplementary payments; if he is aware of the material deprivation these customers are being subjected to; if he has any plans to implement a system that will provide more timely help; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2839/26]

44. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people his Department predicts will be signed onto the auto-enrolment pension scheme by the end of 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [2881/26]

45. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of workers estimated to be due refunds as a result of the late introduction of regulations associated with auto-enrolment introduced in late December 2025 and which changed how employers calculated reductions in take-home pay. — Eoin Hayes. [2751/26]

46. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the projected Exchequer cost of State contribution matching under auto-enrolment for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [2790/26]

47. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for the supplementary welfare allowance per month, for the past three years, specifying the original qualifying welfare payment and the reasons for each application by percentage, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [2840/26]

48. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his targets regarding the eradication of child poverty; his efforts to do so; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [2893/26]

49. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the key measures to be taken to tackle poverty in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2888/26]

50. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the way in which eligibility for occupational injuries recognition and related supports for healthcare workers with long Covid differs from eligibility for healthcare workers who have sustained other occupational injuries; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [2582/26]

51. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his efforts to include all employers in the auto-enrolment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [1779/26]

52. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current average processing times for disability allowance and invalidity pension applications and appeals; the number of applicants currently waiting longer than six months for an initial decision; whether he accepts that prolonged delays are pushing people with disabilities into poverty and dependency on family members; if he will review the existing means testing rules, including the treatment of a spouse or partner's income; and the steps which are being taken to ensure timely access to income supports for people with disabilities. — Paul Lawless. [2342/26]

53. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there is a stipulation within the hot school meals programme requiring that only Irish-produced meat, poultry and dairy products be used in the provision of hot meals in Irish schools; if not, whether he will consider introducing

such a requirement in order to support Irish farmers, ensure high food standards and promote sustainability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [2674/26]

54. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of employees in Cavan and Monaghan which have been auto enrolled for My Future Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2824/26]

55. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps being taken to ensure that disability supports and payments adequately meet the needs of people with disabilities, income adequacy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2677/26]

56. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress being made in reaching our 2030 goals in tackling child poverty. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [2628/26]

57. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has any plans to review the one-payment per household rule for fuel allowance, whereby children on low incomes are forced to live at home due to the housing crisis and are refused support based on parental incomes, despite qualifying for the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2680/26]

58. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the possible payment schemes available to older children or young adults that will enable them to stay in full time secondary education, who were never in care, but due to deaths or other circumstances do not have the financial support of parents, wider family or others; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2858/26]

59. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the expanded services that will be provided by the An Post Network on behalf of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [2791/26]

60. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of newborn baby grants which have been paid in Cavan and Monaghan in the first year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2825/26]

61. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reasons for not introducing an emergency winter payment for disabled people of €400, as sought by the Disability Federation of Ireland, the Irish Wheelchair Association and Access for All. — Liam Quaide. [2581/26]

62. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to increase disability supports (details supplied). — Conor D. McGuinness. [2884/26]

63. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to remove the means test for carer's allowance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [1778/26]

64. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the means test for the carer's allowance will be abolished; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [2322/26]

65. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people that were signed onto the auto-enrolment pension scheme as of 5 January 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [2880/26]

66. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the plans to increase the qualifying income limits and funding amounts for the humanitarian assistance scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [2826/26]

67. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the review of means testing for qualifying allowances in the social protection system will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [1243/26]

68. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average time for a section 318 review to be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Natasha Newsome Drennan. [1781/26]

69. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in Mayo currently engaged with Intreo employment services; the steps his Department is taking to introduce new initiatives to support jobseekers in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [2675/26]

70. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware that the funding allocation to family carers and young carers has not increased in the 2026 Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan compared to the previous year; if he will provide additional funding to return the family carer measure to €2.5 million as in the 2024 Action Plan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [68383/25]

71. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will report on the rollout of auto-enrolment pension scheme. — Cathy Bennett. [2892/26]

72. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has concerns about the quality of meals being provided under the hot school meals scheme; if he has concerns about the amount of food provided under the scheme being binned; if he has engaged with meal providers regarding this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [2323/26]

73. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to increase the living alone allowance. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2901/26]

74. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the auto-enrolment pension scheme and the issues that have arisen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2859/26]

75. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider expanding the domiciliary care allowance criteria to better support families caring for children with complex needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [2676/26]

76. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his main priorities for his Department for the remainder of the year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [2861/26]

77. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to increase supports for fishermen and women and the fishing industry after the disastrous quota negotiations recently (details supplied). — Conor D. McGuinness. [2885/26]

78. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures he is taking to address energy poverty; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2679/26]

79. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm whether he engages with the Minister for Health when increases to social protection payments are occurring, particularly with regard to medical card thresholds and payments to older people in order that welcome increases in social protection payments would not have the unintended consequence of disqualifying a person for a medical card as a result of increased means; whether he has done so in light of recent increases; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2713/26]

80. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will re-examine the report by the Child Maintenance Review Group, and the failure to find consensus on the establishment of a statutory child maintenance service; if he will examine this matter more broadly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [2687/26]

81. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the last date he met the ESRI and the agenda of the meeting. — Thomas Gould. [2793/26]

82. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress being made on introducing a new working age payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [2593/26]

83. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the timeline for the introduction of the permanent annual cost of disability support payment, as committed to in the programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [2831/26]

84. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps his Department is taking to ensure that recipients of disability allowance who take up part-time employment within the permitted income and hours thresholds are supported rather than penalised during the transition to work; if he is aware of cases where disability allowance has been disallowed despite timely and complete disclosure of earnings, resulting in prolonged loss of income and hardship; the safeguards which exist to prevent such delays, particularly where claimants have ongoing medical and travel costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Roche. [2737/26]

85. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will streamline approval of exceptional needs payments for core household goods, such as flooring and basic furniture, in order to ensure that tenants are not paying two rents simultaneously while awaiting floors or other basic furniture in a new tenancy. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2891/26]

86. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people that are in receipt of the kinship caring payment across the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Erin McGreehan. [2887/26]

87. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the timeline for the abolition of the means test for carers. — Thomas Gould. [2792/26]

88. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of employees in County Carlow and in County Kilkenny that have been registered under My Future Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter ‘Chap’ Cleere. [2681/26]

89. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will streamline approval of exceptional needs payments for core household goods, such as flooring and basic furniture, in order to ensure that social housing allocations are not delayed by lack of floors or other basic furniture in the allocated unit. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2890/26]

90. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding allocated for local road restoration to Cavan and Monaghan County Councils in 2025; and the funding allocation to both councils in 2026. — Matt Carthy. [1246/26]

91. To ask the Minister for Transport the new bus routes that will be provided under his Department's 2026 current expenditure allocation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [2584/26]

92. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will consider introducing additional Local Link routes and frequencies to better connect rural communities in Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [2666/26]

93. To ask the Minister for Transport if plans are in place to progress the double tracking of the rail line between Athenry and Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [1763/26]

94. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will resolve the issues concerning bus drivers aged over seventy year-of-age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [2626/26]

95. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Corrective Action Modelling Project that his Department is developing to correct the trajectory of carbon emissions from the transport sector out to 2030; when this will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [2585/26]

96. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding allocation in 2026 for the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney Road and Clontibret to the Border road schemes; the estimated date for completion of each scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [1245/26]

97. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the need for toll charges on the M3 to be reduced (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [2846/26]

98. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will travel to Donegal and meet with locally elected councillors to learn at firsthand about the serious traffic management crisis in Letterkenny impacting the people of and visitors to Donegal and the proposed local roads infrastructure projects that can address this crisis. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [1398/26]

99. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of concerns regarding the increasing unreliability of the TFI Live RealTime app; if he has engaged with TFI on this issue; the nature of those engagements; if he will ensure that TFI rectifies the current reliability issues with the app; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [2897/26]

100. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the engagement his Department has had with the National Transport Authority and public transport providers in relation to the reliability and frequency of public transport. — Tom Brabazon. [2865/26]

101. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the future of the 425A bus service following the recent National Transport Authority public consultation; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Albert Dolan. [1764/26]

102. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the expansion of the extraordinarily skeleton train service and limited carriage numbers on the Rosslare to Dublin service which covers Wicklow town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [2797/26]

103. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of community involvement scheme applications on hand per local authority; the amount of time the applications are on hand; if he intends to increase funding for the scheme given the volume of applications in the pipeline; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [1248/26]

104. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding that has been allocated for national and regional roads in Cork for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [1247/26]

105. To ask the Minister for Transport the rationale for the current pricing structure for public electric vehicle (EV) charging, including the reason ESB public chargers are charging approximately €0.66 per kWh, which is almost double the cost of peak-rate home electricity and more than triple the off-peak rate available to smart-metre customer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [72812/25]

106. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding for Local Link will be increased in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [2673/26]

107. To ask the Minister for Transport when the 2026 grant allocations to local authorities for roads will be announced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [2670/26]

108. To ask the Minister for Transport if clarification been provided as to the amount of public charging capacity on the public charging network for the number of EVs currently registered in Ireland (as referred to on page 11 of the NDP Sectoral Investment Plan for Transport); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [2586/26]

109. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will list the top ten highest penalties ever levelled against a commuter for failure to pay a motorway toll charge in this State over the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [1416/26]

110. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an updated timeline of construction for the Luas Finglas extension project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [2876/26]

111. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to reduce road deaths in Cork; the measures he is taking to reduce the number of road deaths nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [2159/26]

112. To ask the Minister for Transport the scope that is available to expand rural bus services across Carlow, in particular to service Tullow, Ardattin and Clonegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [2665/26]

113. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline for completion of the new train stations at Blackpool/Kilbarry and Tivoli; if the NTA has given approval for these new stations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [2605/26]

114. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he will take to address the problems with bus services in Dublin south-west; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [2783/26]

115. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the drafting of the National Vehicle Driver File Bill 2025; to provide a timeline for when local authorities will have access to relevant data on road traffic collisions to inform road improvements and to expand real time data access for An Garda Síochána to driver and vehicle information; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2786/26]

116. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on meetings he has held with Bus Éireann and the NTA on the ongoing bus crisis in Cork. ; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [2787/26]

117. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has plans for an additional train station in County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Erin McGreehan. [2873/26]

118. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has had any direct contact with the NTA or Iarnród Éireann following reports of overcrowding on the Gorey-Dublin commuter train; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [1762/26]

119. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the ring road in Kilkenny. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [2671/26]

120. To ask the Minister for Transport the additional measures he is considering to further reduce driving test waiting times towards the ten week target, including any operational or administrative changes within the Road Safety Authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2668/26]

121. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on efforts to secure increased mutual recognition of driving licences. — Cathy Bennett. [2875/26]

122. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made in developing Foynes Port as a centre for the delivery of offshore wind energy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Maurice Quinlivan. [73135/25]

123. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the remaining sections of the Athenry relief road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [2320/26]

124. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will approve an urgent increase in funding for the community involvement scheme for Leitrim County Council; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eamon Scanlon. [1457/26]

125. To ask the Minister for Transport the solution in place to combat the amount of cancellations of public buses in Dublin mid-west, including the reported 1,200 cancellations of the number 13 bus in just two months, causing significant disruption for residents who rely on the service for work, school, and college. — Mark Ward. [2368/26]

126. To ask the Minister for Transport the total amount taken in toll charges by the Government on the M50 since the date the Government purchased the toll bridges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [1415/26]

127. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will allocate additional capital and supplementary current funding for investment in public transport infrastructure and for new services this year in view of worsening traffic congestion and delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [2784/26]

128. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he will review bus routes in Dún Laoghaire in view of delays, ghost buses, diversions, and buses that must skip parts of their route to remain on-schedule (details supplied). — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2870/26]

129. To ask the Minister for Transport if any upgrade of the Lakeview Roundabout, Midleton, is included in the proposed N25 Midleton to Youghal (Castlemartyr and Killeagh Bypasses) project outlined in the recent National Development Plan Review 2025 Sectoral Investment Plan for Transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [2798/26]

130. To ask the Minister for Transport the anticipated impact on aviation-related carbon emissions of his decision to remove the passenger cap at Dublin Airport; whether his Department carried out an environmental impact assessment in advance of this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [2900/26]

131. To ask the Minister for Transport the way in which he plans to lower the backlog of diving test waiting times in Waterford given the fact that Waterford has one of the highest, if not the highest backlog for those waiting for tests per-capita in the country. — Conor D. McGuinness. [2867/26]

132. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans in place to alleviate gridlock in rural towns, such as Arklow and Gorey, taking into account both local and national road networks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [2850/26]

133. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to alleviate traffic congestion across Dublin city and county; if he agrees that investment in public transport must take precedence over investment in new road infrastructure as a solution to increased traffic; if he will bring forward the construction commencement date of vital public transport projects which have received planning permission, such as DART+ South-West, the Finglas LUAS extension and the MetroLink; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [2896/26]

134. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding can be provided to bring the N86 Tralee-Camp-Dingle road up to a safe and acceptable standard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [2854/26]

135. To ask the Minister for Transport the status and projected timelines for national and regional road projects in County Mayo that have experienced delays; whether he accepts that continued delays are adversely affecting road safety and economic development in the county; the reasons for these delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [2353/26]

136. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made to date to secure a new premises for Courtown Coastguard, since the announcement of a preferred site being identified

made in April 2025; if funding has been secured for this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [68398/25]

137. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the Programme for Government commitment to establish a transport security force to address antisocial behaviour on public transport; the actions taken to date to progress this commitment; the timeline for its establishment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [2009/26]

138. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to review the regulations for e-scooter use in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2734/26]

139. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps his Department is taking to ensure that the funding given to public transport is used to deliver on-time, reliable services for its customers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [2863/26]

140. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding any review being carried out into the merits of increasing the grant payment available to support the purchase of battery-powered electric vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [1402/26]

141. To ask the Minister for Transport the direct oversight and cost-control measures his Department is exercising over the MetroLink project during the pre-procurement phase (details supplied); the way in which he will ensure that projected costs remain proportionate and justifiable where no final capital envelope has yet been published; the specific cost-efficiency disciplines are being imposed on Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport Authority ahead of Approval Gate 2; if the Government will be asked to approve a maximum cost ceiling before tenders are received; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [1452/26]

142. To ask the Minister for Transport the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic rail review, specifically the reinstatement of the Western Rail Corridor, if there are plans to introduce another freight hub in Castlebar, County Mayo such as the one in Ballina, County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [2667/26]

143. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to reduce costs for motorists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2732/26]

144. To ask the Minister for Transport the works that are being undertaken to facilitate the reopening of the full length of the platform at Kilkenny's MacDonagh Station, in order to increase the number of seats available on the Waterford-Dublin line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [2664/26]

145. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that it has been reported that Galway is among the most congested cities globally and in Europe, with road users losing an average of approximately 67 hours annually due to traffic delays; the assessment his Department has made of the impact of this level of congestion on commuters travelling from Galway east into the city for work, education, and healthcare; the specific measures which are planned to address congestion in Galway, including improvements to public transport capacity, park-and-ride facilities, and east-west connectivity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Roche. [2746/26]

146. To ask the Minister for Transport the rationale of his Department and the National Transport Authority (NTA) to not progress the introduction of a dedicated east–west bus service in County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paula Butterly. [1758/26]

147. To ask the Minister for Transport further to publication of the report ‘Recording of Penalty Points and Disqualifications on Driver Records’ the way in which his Department concluded 19% of court imposed penalty points have been fully recorded; the way in which disqualified drivers were deemed as not having a valid licence; his plans to address these issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [2852/26]

148. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the opening of a new driving test centre in Drogheda. — Paula Butterly. [2235/26]

149. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding that has been provided for new public transport services in County Meath for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [1405/26]

150. To ask the Minister for Transport whether there are plans in place to introduce registration, insurance and other regulatory requirements for the use of e-scooters; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shane Moynihan. [2725/26]

151. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will examine options, including the potential expansion of Local Link and/or Dublin Bus services, to improve connectivity between Kilcock and the wider Kildare commuter network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [2779/26]

152. To ask the Minister for Transport whether the delivery date for Dart+ SouthWest can be brought forward, given its role as crucial infrastructure to unlock housing supply; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shane Moynihan. [2726/26]

153. To ask the Minister for Transport the new public transport services which were provided for as part of Budget 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2733/26]

154. To ask the Minister for Transport if he can urgently commit funding for improvement and safety works to be carried out on the N22, east of Macroom to Ballincollig given the high number of road incidents on this stretch of road to be considered in advancing urgent improvement and safety works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2869/26]

155. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans for increasing capacity on the Midleton-Cork rail line; for an update on the transfer of carriages from Dublin to Cork to facilitate the same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [2604/26]

156. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the inclusion within the NTA Capital Plan of the Galway Bus Connects project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [2878/26]

157. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount raised via road tolls in the years 2015 to date; where such income was allocated to, and for what purpose, by year and by road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [2874/26]

158. To ask the Minister for Transport the anticipated cost to TII of purchasing ten homes in a location (details supplied) in order to enable the construction of the Metrolink to proceed without objection; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [2899/26]

159. To ask the Minister for Transport the work which is being done to improve the reliability of DART services for commuters; the targets currently set; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [2782/26]

160. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will increase funding to Local Link to allow existing routes to be expanded and additional services added in County Roscommon and County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [2672/26]

161. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an updated timeline of construction for the MetroLink project following the judicial review and subsequent mediation between parties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [2877/26]

162. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department provides support for the private coach sector to make their fleet more accessible for passengers with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Erin McGreehan. [2872/26]

163. To ask the Minister for Transport the new measures he intends to implement to prevent road deaths, given the number of fatalities on Irish roads in 2025 was the highest since 2014, and follows a trend of year-on-year increases since 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [2898/26]

164. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to address the persistent lack of reliable public transport services in County Mayo; whether he accepts that existing Local Link and regional bus services do not meet the needs of workers, students, older persons and people with disabilities; the funding allocated specifically to public transport services in County Mayo in 2024 and 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [2354/26]

165. To ask the Minister for Transport when the increase in the 132 Bus Éireann Regional/Commuter Service, which was scheduled for April 2025 will happen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [2796/26]

166. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of increasing instances of SPSV drivers refusing to take customers on short journeys; the way in which his Department in line with the NTA can curb this trend; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [2227/26]

167. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to bring forward legislative changes to the remit of the Road Safety Authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2587/26]

168. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps that will be taken to improve the passenger rail service in the south-east following the publication of the rail project prioritisation strategy which outlines no significant improvements to the Rosslare to Dublin rail line and excludes the Wexford to Waterford Rail project; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [2778/26]

169. To ask the Minister for Transport the action his Department will take to progress the Mallow Relief Road, the status of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [2158/26]

170. To ask the Minister for Transport his Department’s efforts to ensure regional balance in capital expenditure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O’Hara. [2321/26]

171. To ask the Minister for Transport whether consideration is being given to a dedicated or additional funding stream to address the unique challenges associated with peat-based roads in counties such as Offaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [2848/26]

172. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress made to date on each section of the West Clare Railway Greenway; the next steps to be taken for sections one and two; the plans for investment in sections three and four in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [1450/26]

173. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the reinstatement of the Derry to Dublin airlink with clear timeframes. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [1397/26]

174. To ask the Minister for Transport when the overdue funding will be released to bring the main N70 in Cahersiveen town, and the footpaths, up to a safe and acceptable standard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [2853/26]

175. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on whether the toll on the M50 is fit for purpose; if he has considered reversing the recent toll hike; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2735/26]

176. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures in place to ensure clear and timely communication to passengers across all public transport providers during service disruptions and severe weather events given recent reports by commuters of communication issues (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [2010/26]

177. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on his request to the NTA to examine the fixed pricing model of a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [2228/26]

178. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the rationale for increasing the tolls for cars on the M3 motorway on 1 January 2026 when tolls on other toll roads were not increased for cars; his views on whether this is unfair on M3 road users; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [1406/26]

179. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the N53 project in County Louth and the possible interim plans to address safety at the Crossmaglen turnoff on the road; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2855/26]

180. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps being taken to improve capacity, frequency and reliability on the Dublin–Galway rail line serving the three stations in County Offaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [2849/26]

181. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will extend the fare reduction scheme for children under nine years-of-age to include commercial bus operators, given that the scheme currently applies only to public service operators; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [1759/26]

182. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide details of the electrified buses in operation by Dublin Bus; if he is satisfied that these are being used efficiently; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [2731/26]

183. To ask the Minister for Transport when funding will be announced for the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 improvement scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [68400/25]

184. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will ensure that the Dart + South West project, which was recently pushed back until 2030, will be reinstated with its original starting timeline as it is a desperately needed piece of infrastructure for Kildare north; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [2862/26]

185. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to ensure sufficient funding will be made available in 2026 for the provision of new bus services, to address performance and capacity issues on existing services, and to support the enhancement of existing bus services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [2851/26]

186. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update in relation to the Programme for Government commitment to reducing road deaths and creating safer roads for everyone, in view of the fact that in 2025 there was an 8% increase in road deaths on 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [2785/26]

187. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the rail prioritisation strategy; the impact of not proceeding with the proposed new line between Clongriffin and Drogheda, which would have facilitated express services to Drogheda, Dundalk Newry and Belfast; the plans to deal with the lack of car parking at rail stations on these routes, particularly with the loss of parking spaces at Clarke Station in Dundalk; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [2856/26]

188. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on implementation of enhanced bus services for routes (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [2868/26]

189. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the implementation of the new Galway Bus Network; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [2879/26]

190. To ask the Minister for Transport when work will commence on a successor to the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan; and when the new plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O’Gorman. [2583/26]

191. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the proposed extension of the DART to Lucan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [2367/26]

192. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of carriages allocated to the Gorey-Dublin commuter train, on a service-by-service basis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Whitmore. [1761/26]

193. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding any actions he is taking to further expand the availability of EV charging points; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [1401/26]

194. To ask the Minister for Transport whether Irish Rail will introduce additional peak-time services for Kildare commuters, given that timetable changes in 2024 and 2025 did not result in any new services; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [2780/26]

195. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures being taken to ensure that public transport services and infrastructure are fully accessible for people with disabilities, including the availability of assistance, step-free access and accessible vehicles; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [2669/26]

196. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that the cost of the Tivoli depot in Cork has now doubled due to delays. — Thomas Gould. [2788/26]

197. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the purchase of new DART carriages; the benefits they will provide passengers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [2781/26]

198. To ask the Minister for Transport given the increase in road deaths in Ireland in 2025, which included a 40% increase of road deaths in Waterford in comparison to 2024, what he attributes this rise to; and his plans to reverse this worrying trend. — Conor D. McGuinness. [2866/26]

199. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the planned Coastguard station for Courtown Harbour. — Malcolm Byrne. [70590/25]

200. To ask the Minister for Transport if a comparative cost analysis with major European metro systems, including projects such as Madrid Metro expansions, has been completed by or on behalf of National Transport Authority in relation to the MetroLink project; when this benchmarking will be published and made available to the Houses of the Oireachtas (details supplied); the way in which value for money is being assessed at this stage of the project, prior to Approval Gate 2; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [1451/26]

201. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to improve the reliability of bus routes in Dún Laoghaire in order to ensure that residents without car transport can attend work or other engagements consistently and on time (details supplied). — Richard Boyd Barrett. [2871/26]

202. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the progress of the Great Island connectivity scheme R624 Cobh Road in east Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [2847/26]

203. To ask the Minister for Transport to intervene and engage with the RSA and HSE to resolve the outstanding issues that are delaying the opening of Drogheda driving test centre; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joanna Byrne. [1250/26]