



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 19 Feabhra, 2026
Thursday, 19th February, 2026

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

1. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the way in which he will address the disparity in income levels across the State; the way in which he will ensure high paid jobs are not only centralised in major urban areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [13851/26]

2. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether he will increase the minimum wage for apprentices to address the construction sector skills gap. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13853/26]

3. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on the comprehensive review assessing the cost structures for SME and family-owned businesses, which can be found in the Programme for Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [13850/26]

4. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his concerns regarding the high levels of youth unemployment; the initiatives he has in place to tackle it; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [13849/26]

5. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the specific supports which are available to indigenous SMEs operating in rural towns to ensure their long-term sustainability; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [13848/26]

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

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

6. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps his Department is taking to support SMEs with rising delivery and postage costs, and the impact of those increased costs on their competitiveness and ability to do business; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sinéad Gibney. [13367/26]

7. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps he will take to tackle harmful AI tools (details supplied) and the online platforms that host them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joanna Byrne. [4109/26]

8. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the status of the review of the critical skills occupations list and ineligible occupations list; whether the review will take into consideration the availability of housing in addition to the needs of the labour market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [13201/26]

9. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps being taken to increase the very low participation rate for persons with disabilities in the labour market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [13377/26]

10. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will establish an AI observatory to complement the National AI Office, and track real-time issues and project future impacts on jobs and skills to provide independent forecasting and policy advice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Ardagh. [12952/26]

11. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his views on whether action is necessary to mitigate against an overreliance on the private sector with regard to AI; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [12956/26]

12. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the supports currently available to businesses that have been damaged following flooding or other storm related damage; the total amount under each support scheme that was allocated in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13205/26]

13. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his assessment of the impact of his Department's SME Test; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13383/26]

14. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline the key findings of the Annual Employment Survey 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [13360/26]

15. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps being taken to build national capacity within regulators and industry in advance of the full commencement of the EU AI Act; the way in which this will support Ireland's position as a competitive and innovation-focused location for AI development; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [13254/26]

16. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment in light of reports that generative artificial intelligence tools can produce highly realistic child sexual abuse imagery, the specific engagement his Department has had on the online safety and cultural implications of such technologies for children and young people; the concrete actions being taken to ensure child protection and online safety frameworks are adequate to address these risks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [4132/26]

17. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline any engagements he or his Department has had with any stakeholder or body under his Department's aegis on a matter (details supplied); if he will provide an update in respect of this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13323/26]

18. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he considers that the AI Advisory Council should have a dedicated role for or membership of civil society organisations,

such as disabled people's organisations, human rights advocates and people representing marginalised groups and communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shay Brennan. [12901/26]

19. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the plans that have been put in place to protect those who lose their job through the advancement of AI. — Paul Donnelly. [12297/26]

20. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the engagement he has had with retail representative bodies regarding the challenges facing the sector in 2026; the policy responses under consideration to sustain employment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [13250/26]

21. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the reinstatement of the IDA advance planning permit for the proposed advance building at the Creagh site in Ballinasloe, including when the planning application will be lodged with Galway County Council; the expected timeline for decision; and the actions being taken in the meantime to position Ballinasloe to secure employment-generating investment given its strategic location on the M6 corridor and the need for economic regeneration. — Martin Daly. [13008/26]

22. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on the work the Cost of Business Advisory Forum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [13080/26]

23. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he plans to put the AI Advisory Council, which currently operates on a voluntary basis, on a permanent footing, provided with State funding; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [12951/26]

24. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the employment rate in County Mayo; and if he will outline how this compares to other counties. — Paul Lawless. [12161/26]

25. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department will consider introducing protections for workers in the case of severe weather events in order that they are not placed in undue danger or financially penalised for being unable to attend their workplace during severe weather; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sinéad Gibney. [13368/26]

26. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the measures being put in place to grow tourism in Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [13257/26]

27. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the supports available to communities included in the Wild Atlantic Way initiative; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [11994/26]

28. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on the measures undertaken by his Department to reduce the backlog for employment permit renewal applications given that the current processing timeline is approximately four months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13143/26]

29. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of people who have applied for the emergency humanitarian flooding scheme in each of the past six weeks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [12167/26]

30. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if the national AI Office will have advisory panels in place for routinely collaborating with young people, older people and disabled people and including representation from those groups and also civil society groups who can provide routine expertise and insights into AI harms and benefits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [12900/26]

31. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his views on whether the EU should be treated as a minimum baseline for national AI regulation, and not a maximum standard; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Ardagh. [12953/26]

32. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on current processing times for all employment permit types; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [13390/26]

33. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he intends to progress with legislation to restrict short-term lets in towns with more than 10,000 people; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13126/26]

34. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the implementation of the new Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity. — Emer Currie. [13314/26]

35. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on the setting up of the proposed National AI Office; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sinéad Gibney. [13369/26]

36. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on a factory (details supplied); the progress on support for workers; the future plans for the site; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [13359/26]

37. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of the social enterprise model and encourage entrepreneurship that delivers both economic and social value; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [13249/26]

38. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the current status of the Short Term Letting and Tourism Bill 2025 in light of significant concerns that it may negatively impact Ireland's tourism industry; if his Department has had discussion with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage around the planning issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13219/26]

39. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the way in which the new tourism policy "A New Era for Irish Tourism" will support tourism development in Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Erin McGreehan. [13133/26]

40. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the creation of a national strategy to attract fully locationless remote jobs to Ireland. — Emer Currie. [13313/26]

41. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of jobs created in the past five years in County Kildare; the top three employers in the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [13385/26]

42. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if the proposed National AI Office will be up and running by August 2026; if it will provide the immediate, coordinated, all-of-Government approach to AI that is required; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Ó Fearghail. [12898/26]

43. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the measures taken thus far to secure a tenant or tenants for the fully completed, advanced technology building on the Dublin Road in Carlow town; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [13258/26]

44. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the maximum quota for general employment permits for workers in the tourism and transport sectors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O'Meara. [12955/26]

45. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he is planning to reform the national minimum wage legislation to ensure that apprentices and young workers are not paid below the national minimum wage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13127/26]

46. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he is considering introducing price caps to set maximum prices for basic foodstuffs and energy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13128/26]

47. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the initiatives he, his Department or associated State agencies have taken to encourage prospective new owners to establish a business at a former factory (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [13200/26]

48. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the Cork city tourism plan and its implementation. — Thomas Gould. [12462/26]

49. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the way in which his Department is assessing the provisions of the EU omnibus simplification package; concerns arising out of the assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [11692/26]

50. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of jobs supported by Enterprise Ireland in Kilkenny in 2025; the number supported in Carlow in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter 'Chap' Cleere. [12893/26]

51. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his Department's efforts to promote tourism in east County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [11993/26]

52. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures in place to ensure that materials from labour camps in Xinjiang in China are restricted for entry to Ireland and the European Union; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [8208/26]

53. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of permits for dairy farm assistants that have been processed in counties Cavan and Monaghan since the start of 2026; if the process can be expedited; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13175/26]

54. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he is planning to amend employment legislation to improve employment rights and job security of film workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13125/26]

55. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of jobs supported by Enterprise Ireland in Galway in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [12895/26]

56. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his plans to encourage much-needed private investment into the serviced tourism accommodation sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [12773/26]

57. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the way in which the funding for local enterprise and regional development in his Department's Sectoral Capital Plan 2026-2030 will support businesses in Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Erin McGreehan. [13132/26]

58. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if specific additional financial supports will be introduced in 2026 to assist in the development of enterprise centres in view of their importance in providing workspace for start-up businesses and SMEs, and the contribution from same to the overall economy particularly in rural areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13174/26]

59. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of people employed in State-supported companies (companies that are client firms of state agencies such as Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Údarás na Gaeltachta) at the beginning of 2026; whether this represents an increase since the beginning of 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13144/26]

60. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps his Department is taking to ensure that social media artificial intelligence trolls cannot be used by sexual predators to generate naked images of people including child abuse imagery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [3863/26]

61. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the maximum quota for general employment permits for workers in farming and the food industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ryan O'Meara. [12954/26]

62. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will be recommending that the State explore publicly owned AI resources and technologies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [12957/26]

63. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of jobs the IDA supported in Kerry last year; the plans for 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13374/26]

64. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment when a new South-East Regional Enterprise plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peter ‘Chap’ Cleere. [12894/26]

65. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the reasons the proposed Oifig Intleachta Shaorga na hÉireann, or the AI Office of Ireland, has been placed under the remit of his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13312/26]

66. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the progress of the emergency humanitarian flooding scheme for impacted businesses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [13361/26]

67. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the funding allocated in his Department’s NDP to support home-grown enterprises; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [13079/26]

68. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the legislative measures he is planning to implement to ensure that artificial intelligence adaptation does not lead to job losses; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [13129/26]

69. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his strategy to address the rising cost of doing business, in particular for the SME sector; his plans for 2026 that will aim at improving cost competitiveness in areas such as energy, insurance, labour and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O’Connor. [13247/26]

70. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on progress in the development of a New National Life Sciences Strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paula Butterly. [13198/26]

71. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will ensure that the National AI office will have a dedicated role for, or a board with members from Disabled People’s Organisations and disability organisations to ensure that the benefits and risks posed by AI on people with disabilities are at the forefront of any policy decisions, particularly the development of AI ethical regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Shay Brennan. [12902/26]

72. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on providing the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission with new powers as set out in the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Clendennen. [13288/26]

73. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if there are plans to update the list of critical skills work visas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13325/26]

74. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of bed nights available in each county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [12536/26]

75. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will ensure that the national AI Office will have the necessary levels of independence, technical experts and resourcing to ensure that there are no conflicts between the State's supports for industry to harness AI, the State's own deployment of AI, and the design, implementation and enforcement of regulations to govern AI, and to support other AI regulators and fundamental rights bodies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O'Dea. [12899/26]

76. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures his Department has put in place to assist SMEs with rising energy costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [13384/26]

77. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the impact of the proposed Short-Term Letting and Tourism Bill 2025 on rural Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [13376/26]

78. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the justification for the continued rollout of the Built to Innovate initiative, with €6.8 million in public grants approved to date, in the absence of an independent external evaluation and in circumstances where productivity impacts are currently measured only at firm level rather than across the residential construction sector as a whole during a National housing shortage. — Ken O'Flynn. [7828/26]

79. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether he plans to introduce any measures or supports to increase the viability of construction of hotels in rural Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [13327/26]

80. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures being put in place to help businesses, particularly SMEs, identify their supervisory authority under the distributed regulatory model in the general scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [13253/26]

81. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment , to provide a detailed update on his Department's strategy to reverse the identified €1 billion year-on-year decline in tourism revenue; the timeline for the implementation of the 'A New Era for Irish Tourism' policy, specifically detailing how the €200 million allocated for product development will be prioritised to support regional tourism businesses currently struggling with high energy costs and reduced visitor spend."; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [13287/26]

82. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his plans for short-term lets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13373/26]

83. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he would support the establishment of a Citizens' Assembly on artificial intelligence digitalisation and technology to facilitate inclusive public dialogue and democratic input on AI policy and ethics; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Ó Feargháil. [12897/26]

84. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on the work of his Department's small business unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13382/26]

85. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of SMEs which have closed in County Meath in each of the past ten years. — Peadar Tóibín. [12168/26]

86. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department's emphasis on promoting AI will influence how the proposed Oifig Intleachta Shaorga na hÉireann, or the AI Office of Ireland, approaches its coordinating role under the EU AI Act; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13311/26]

87. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will provide for the development of a national AI risk register within the national AI office to identify and monitor systemic risks across sectors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Sean Fleming. [12950/26]

88. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the immediate measures his Department is taking to mitigate the severe financial pressure on the small and medium enterprise sector following the cumulative impact of the national minimum wage increase to €14.15 and the commencement of the pension auto-enrolment scheme on 1 January 2026; if he will specifically address concerns from representative bodies that the Budget 2026 measures have failed to provide a sufficient 'cost of business' offset for labour-intensive sectors like retail and hospitality; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [13286/26]

89. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment when a new West Regional Enterprise plan will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [12896/26]

90. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps his Department is taking to increase the tourism potential of County Mayo; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [12162/26]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

91. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she is concerned at reports of early years services and childminders receiving bills for commercial rates; if she will act to ensure rates are not applied; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13520/26]

92. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the amount of funding provided to each provider of special emergency arrangements in 2025; the amount of funding provided to each provider of mainstream residential care in 2025; the total amount of funding in State-owned provision of mainstream residential care in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [13264/26]

93. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the reason she will determine legal representation for Guardians ad Litem in childcare court proceedings; the rationale for this

change under the new service; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13521/26]

94. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide an update on her engagements with Tusla regarding well-being checks of closed cases; if she has received a progress report or interim report from the agency and or the independent steering group; if she has requested a broadening of the scope of these checks; and the workforce planning conducted in respect of ensuring the checks can be conducted as Tusla implements its Integrated Reform Programme. — Aidan Farrelly. [12617/26]

95. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she is aware of the critical staffing collapse within the Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT) in Clonmel; if she accepts that this severe staffing shortage constitutes an emergency situation for the hundreds of children with complex needs who rely on this service, including the 114 children awaiting assessment 59 of whom are already beyond the statutory 12-month limit and the 475 children on the active caseload experiencing severe delays in essential therapies; the immediate emergency measures she will implement to fill these vacancies, stabilise the service, and ensure that children in south Tipperary and other affected areas are not left without legally mandated supports; and if she will acknowledge that this represents a national failure in recruitment and retention within CDNTs; and the Government's plan to address this crisis on the Clonmel team as a matter of urgency. — Mattie McGrath. [13852/26]

96. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to consider whether Laois will be given one of the first directly State-led, publicly owned childcare facilities she announced on 21 Jan 2026 as Laois is one of the fastest growing counties in terms of population; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [13846/26]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

97. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps being taken to ensure that disability supports adequately meet the needs of people with disabilities, including access to services and timely assessments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Heneghan. [3476/26]

98. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she plans to phase out her Department's current and increasing reliance on private for profit companies for the provision of disability services; if she will commit to multi-annual funding of State, not-for-profit providers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Liam Quaide. [12931/26]

99. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she has engaged with the Minister for Social Protection on providing a State pension for foster carers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13216/26]

100. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on staffing levels and vacancy rates across the children's disability network teams; how these are affecting service access for children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Clendennen. [13292/26]

101. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures being taken to address issues with employer costs of auto-enrolment for section 56 organisation employees; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [13075/26]

102. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children on the waiting list for an assessment of need in counties Cavan and Monaghan, by county; and the number waiting more than 3, 6 and 12 months. — Matt Carthy. [13202/26]

103. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the proposals her Department has to deal with the fact that Tusla has advised that 300 social workers, 100 social care workers and 500 foster carers are needed now to cope with demand; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13212/26]

104. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of special care beds that are open currently; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13218/26]

105. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if equine therapy facilities will be developed at the HSE's Toghermore campus in Tuam, County Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [3670/26]

106. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she plans to increase supports available to assist with aging parents of adult children with intellectual disabilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [13272/26]

107. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality how the new €135 million programme of State-led early learning and childcare services will support increased capacity and improved access for families in Kildare north, particularly in areas experiencing sustained demand; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [13255/26]

108. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her Department's efforts to improve accessibility in rural towns and villages for people with disabilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O'Hara. [12186/26]

109. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the timeline and process for her Department's commitment to ratifying the second optional protocol of the UNCRC; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [13302/26]

110. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the efforts her Department is making to address the shortage of childcare places in Cork east. — James O'Connor. [13389/26]

111. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will consider establishing a cross-Border assessment-of-needs scheme, similar to the existing cross-Border dental and surgical treatment schemes, to allow patients particularly children to access timely assessments outside the State; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paula Butterly. [3419/26]

112. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the formal policy or operational frameworks which currently exist, or are planned, to align the needs-based assessment model used by children's disability network teams with the diagnosis-based access criteria used by the education system; whether her Department has assessed, or plans to assess,

the impact of this misalignment on access to educational supports for children with identified needs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Roche. [13283/26]

113. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of respite hours provided to families in Mayo in the past year; the measures her Department is taking to provide additional capacity, in view of the increasing waiting lists for these services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [13284/26]

114. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will prioritise Irish medium services in the development of State-led early years facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [12771/26]

115. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on CDNT waiting lists for assessments and therapies in County Meath; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [11689/26]

116. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if a provider withdraws from Core Funding, if they can remain in other schemes, such as the national childcare scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [13074/26]

117. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on her efforts to extend the NCS for childminding in the childminders home and childminding in the family home.; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13315/26]

118. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide an update on the Programme for Government commitment to extend the national childcare scheme to childminders in the family home; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13322/26]

119. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the current number of adults with an intellectual disability awaiting residential placement, per health region, and for a categorisation of wait-times in years and months. — Liam Quaide. [12930/26]

120. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the engagement her Department has had with the Office of the Attorney General regarding the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol of the UNCRC; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [13303/26]

121. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the progress to date in identifying the locations of the eight pilot public childcare facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [13270/26]

122. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to review the childcare funding models for setting of fee rates in Core Funding and the ECCE programme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [13371/26]

123. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps being taken to improve access to children disability network team; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Clendennen. [13293/26]

124. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she has met with the Special Advocate following her report into the mother and baby institutions payment scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13214/26]

125. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will consider purchasing a building (details supplied) for the purposes of establishing a community childcare facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13329/26]

126. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to report on the progress being made to establish community neurological rehabilitation multi-disciplinary teams for children who have acquired brain injuries and other neurological conditions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13213/26]

127. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of persons who have ceased fostering in each of the past ten years; the number of persons who have begun fostering in each of those years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [12166/26]

128. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the Programme for Government on the measures that are in place to recruit and retain staff in the disability sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Stanley. [13096/26]

129. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the efforts being made to increase the provision of childcare services in Cork east; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Noel McCarthy. [13378/26]

130. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide an interim report on her Department's research on a National Childcare Agency. — Mark Wall. [13269/26]

131. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality when she expects premises and projects for investment to be identified as part of the move to State acquisition of buildings to provide childcare services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shane Moynihan. [12390/26]

132. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures being taken to reduce the backlog for assessments of need; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [13364/26]

133. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide an update on the provision of affordable childcare across Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13317/26]

134. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the total amount of money spent to date by her Department on researching and developing a National Childcare Agency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [13268/26]

135. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children on waiting lists for assessment of needs in Dublin Mid-West; the steps being taken to reduce waiting times; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [13366/26]

136. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will outline the funding allocated for childminding development grants; the number of applicants who will be supported; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [13363/26]

137. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality when details of the next building blocks scheme will be published; the likely timescale for the opening of applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13006/26]

138. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if a schedule has been set to reach the planned €200 per month maximum childcare cost as set out in the Programme for Government; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Edward Timmins. [13372/26]

139. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide an update on the number of childminders, registered under the relevant childminding regulations, providing services from the childminders' home; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13321/26]

140. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the measures her Department is taking to reduce therapy waiting lists for disabled persons. — Tom Brabazon. [12949/26]

141. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will address the growing crisis of 'childcare deserts', and the 40,000-long waiting list for children under three; if she will commit to a definitive date for introducing pay parity between early years graduates and primary school teachers to stem the exodus of qualified staff, which is currently preventing the opening of 17,000 unused childcare places; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [13309/26]

142. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to outline her plans to increase respite services for children in County Meath; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [11690/26]

143. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number, and age, of ECCE scheme applicants in the towns of Leixlip, Maynooth, Celbridge and Naas in the past five years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [13386/26]

144. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality when the regulations for childminders will be reviewed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13217/26]

145. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the work of her Department in encouraging childcare providers to engage in core funding. — Maeve O'Connell. [12770/26]

146. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her plans to consult with representative organisations in relation to the Disability (Amendment) Bill 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13291/26]

147. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether a formal coordination or mediation framework exists between her Department, the Department of Health and the Department of Education and Youth to support joint assessment, information-sharing and

integrated planning for children with disabilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Roche. [13282/26]

148. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps that are being taken to increase the early provision of SLT facilities to children in the Down syndrome community in Carlow and Kilkenny; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [13259/26]

149. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the specific steps she is taking to deliver additional not for profit childcare places in the Balbriggan, Skerries, Rush and Lusk area; the capital and current funding streams available for this purpose in 2026; the projects currently approved or under assessment in these areas; the expected timelines for delivery; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [12385/26]

150. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the likely timeline for when State-led learning centres could be seen in our communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [13387/26]

151. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of foster parents or foster placements in County Mayo. — Paul Lawless. [12185/26]

152. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her plans to reduce the cost of childcare to €200 per month per child through the national childcare scheme; if she will consider options to cap costs for larger families, as per the Programme for Government; the timeline for this reduction; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [12905/26]

153. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the supports that will be made available to foster families in the south-east to replace the services from an organisation (details supplied), which have recently been withdrawn; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [13260/26]

154. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of child care providers which have closed in County Mayo in each of the past ten years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [12184/26]

155. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will engage with parents who are unhappy with the proposed changes to the assessment of need process under the general scheme for the Disability (Amendment) Bill 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13290/26]

156. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the average wait time in 2025 for a child to be seen for a first appointment by a CDNT. — Thomas Gould. [12459/26]

157. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will examine the feasibility of establishing a cross-border pathway for timely assessments for children with disabilities, in light of ongoing delays in the assessment-of-needs process; if her Department would engage with the Department of Health and the HSE on this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paula Butterly. [12386/26]

158. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if there are additional supports available to assist with aging parents of adult children with intellectual disabilities, as represented

by the Before We Die campaign; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul McAuliffe. [13271/26]

159. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide a timeline for the implementation of European disability cards in Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [12904/26]

160. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais an bhfuil sí ar an eolas faoi na deacrachtaí a bhaineann le hearcú foirne do chúram leanaí agus naíonraí sa Ghaeltacht; cad iad na hiarrachtaí atá ar siúl chun a chinntiú go bhfuil daoine ar fáil. — Seán Ó Fearghail. [13020/26]

161. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality how Ireland's first National Equality Data Strategy will enhance the delivery of public services, particularly in identifying and addressing barriers faced by different groups; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Cearúil. [13256/26]

162. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the delivery of the public model of childcare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [13305/26]

163. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her views on the difficulty posed by auto enrolment for TUSLA funded projects (details supplied). — Paul Donnelly. [12268/26]

164. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the efforts her Department is making to address the shortage of respite places for children with disabilities in Kerry. — Michael Cahill. [13301/26]

165. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide an update on the provision of childcare services across Connemara; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13318/26]

166. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the efforts her Department is making to address the shortage of respite places for children with disabilities in Cork. — James O'Connor. [13388/26]

167. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will consider purchasing a building (details supplied) for the purposes of establishing a community childcare facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13328/26]

168. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais an bhfuil sí ar an eolas faoi na deacrachtaí a bhaineann le hearcú foirne do chúram leanaí agus naíonraí sa Ghaeltacht; cad iad na hiarrachtaí atá ar siúl chun a chinntiú go bhfuil daoine ar fáil; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Willie O'Dea. [13010/26]

169. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of community services that were awarded the building blocks grants in 2025; the number of these services that have subsequently decided not to proceed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Roderic O'Gorman. [13304/26]

170. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will consider extending the duration of paternity leave in cases of multiple births for example, twins or triplets, in recognition of the additional care and support needs that arise for parents of multiples; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Murphy. [1438/26]

171. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has assessed the significant level of demand for childcare services in north Dublin in its plans for State-led facilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [13362/26]

172. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the current status of Ireland's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the specific measures that have been implemented to date; the measures that remain outstanding; the timelines for their delivery; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [12384/26]

173. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the actions she has taken to improve CDNT access in Cork. — Thomas Gould. [12460/26]

174. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether she has plans to introduce new rules to regulate non-refundable childcare deposits, given that they can be substantial, particularly for families who join multiple waiting lists in order to secure a childcare place; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shane Moynihan. [12391/26]

175. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will outline her Department's plans to invest in more Tusla mainstream residential cares centres for children and young people; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [13267/26]

176. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures being taken to improve provision in the early years sector for children with disabilities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [12772/26]

177. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will outline the scheme, or schemes, of grant aid that will be available this year for the upgrading or provision of new childcare accommodation, both for community providers and private providers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13005/26]

178. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if any of the State's acquisition of buildings intended for the purpose of developing early child care facilities will be located in Kerry. — Pa Daly. [13365/26]

179. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais an bhfuil sí ar an eolas faoi na deacrachtaí a bhaineann le hearcú foirne do chúram leanaí agus nionraí sa Ghaeltacht, cad iad na hiarrachtaí atá ar siúl chun a chinntiú go bhfuil daoine ar fáil; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aindrias Moynihan. [13381/26]

180. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children currently in State care; the number who are in foster placements; and the number who are in other placements. — Peadar Tóibín. [12165/26]

181. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has carried out any research on a social media ban for children, either in Ireland or internationally; and if she will share such findings. — Mark Wall. [13266/26]

182. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to outline any measures to support early years service providers to meet the increased costs of operating; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [13375/26]

183. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on how deposits for childcare services will be managed under Core Funding 2026-2027. — Emer Currie. [13316/26]

184. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality provide an update on progress of new childminding regulations in light of concerns raised by the sector; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [13370/26]

185. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she is aware of the lack of respite available to children with disabilities across County Donegal; and to outline her plans to address this serious shortfall. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [3633/26]

186. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her proposals to provide additional respite capacity for adults and children with disabilities in County Monaghan. — Matt Carthy. [13203/26]

187. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the criteria being used to select family resource centres for funding via the National Forum; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13215/26]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

*188. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if she will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if she will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13506/26]

*189. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade whether her Department has granted any form of recognition, accreditation, endorsement, or official status to the organisation (details supplied); whether any individual associated with that organisation has been authorised, formally or informally, to act in any diplomatic, consular, trade, representative, advisory, or quasi-diplomatic capacity on behalf of the State; whether her Department has at any time since 2015 provided funding, grants, sponsorship, financial assistance, logistical support, venue access, official branding approval, or any other material support to this organisation or to any entity associated with it; the total amount of public monies, if any, paid by her Department to this organisation or related entities in each year since 2015; whether this organisation has engaged

in meetings, correspondence, or structured engagement with her Department or its officials; if so, the dates and nature of such engagement; and whether her Department has undertaken any assessment of the potential for public or international misunderstanding arising from the use by private organisations of diplomatic titles or terminology which may imply official State authority. — Ken O’Flynn. [13761/26]

*190. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the aggregate proportion of Ireland’s Official Development Assistance in each of the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 that was retained by implementing partner organisations for programme support costs, overhead, administration, consultancy or management charges; and the blended effective overhead rate across total ODA expenditure for each of those years. — Ken O’Flynn. [13886/26]

*191. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the total amount of funding provided in each of the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 through core contributions to multilateral organisations; the programme support cost percentage applied by each such organisation to Ireland’s contribution; and the resulting estimated monetary value of programme support costs deducted from those contributions in each year. — Ken O’Flynn. [13887/26]

*192. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade whether her Department applies any benchmark, ceiling, or reference range in respect of acceptable administrative or overhead cost ratios when approving grants under Ireland’s Official Development Assistance programme; if not, the rationale for the absence of such benchmarks; and whether any funded programme in the years 2022, 2023 or 2024 exceeded internally assessed acceptable thresholds for overhead or programme support costs. — Ken O’Flynn. [13888/26]

*193. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of instances in the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 in which funding provided under Ireland’s Official Development Assistance programme was subject to financial correction, recovery, suspension, or clawback following audit or evaluation findings; and the total monetary value involved in each year. — Ken O’Flynn. [13889/26]

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

*194. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment for an update on the Marine Protected Areas Bill; when the Bill will be published; whether Clew Bay, or areas within or adjacent to it, are being considered for designation as a marine protected area (MPA); to provide an update on any scientific assessments, surveys, or consultations that have been carried out to inform this designation; to outline the expected timeline for any proposed MPA designation and the process for public consultation; to clarify how local communities, including fishers and aquaculture operators, are being engaged in the process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13728/26]

*195. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment for an update on the appointment of a new CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland; when they are expected to take post; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [13429/26]

*196. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment for an update on the external review into Inland Fisheries Ireland; when it is expected to be concluded and published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [13430/26]

*197. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13500/26]

*198. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the position regarding the publication of the Climate Action Plan 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13516/26]

*199. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the position regarding the way in which the Climate Action Plan 2026 was completed; if stakeholders were engaged with; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13517/26]

*200. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if his attention has been drawn to correspondence (details supplied) in relation to the Climate Action Plan 2026; if he will engage with this group in relation to their concerns; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13518/26]

*201. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the way in which Ireland's circular economy policy and legislation apply to the harvesting of seaweed as a finite biological resource, rather than a manufactured input; whether the circular economy framework recognises the importance of natural regeneration capacity, harvesting cycles, and ecological carrying capacity for seaweed species commonly harvested in Ireland; whether any national guidance, limits, or sustainability thresholds exist in respect of regeneration rates, harvesting intensity, or recovery periods for seaweed beds; and if not, whether he considers such limits necessary to distinguish genuinely circular use from extractive activity; whether circular economy policy requires that proposals for large-scale seaweed harvesting take account of regeneration cycles traditionally measured over multiple years, cumulative impacts, and the long-term ability of the resource to replenish itself; the way in which these principles are being applied, in practice, to the assessment of large-volume harvesting proposals, including foreshore licence application FS006108, which proposes harvesting at a scale of up to 40,000 tonnes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13721/26]

*202. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment in view of the Climate Advisory Council's estimate that Ireland could face up to €26 billion in costs if 2030 climate targets are missed, whether his Department has carried out a cost-benefit analysis comparing the actual fines, penalties, and compliance costs the State has incurred to date under EU or international climate obligations; the projected fines, penalties, and compliance costs the State may face if targets are not met; the costs and benefits of using the same or equivalent funding for domestic climate mitigation and adaptation projects; to provide the findings of any such analysis; to provide a breakdown of annual actual and projected expenditure, including best-case and worst-case scenarios, for EU or international climate-related fines or penalties; carbon credit purchases or carbon market compliance costs; payments to international carbon offset schemes; any other payments directly tied to meeting Ireland's climate obligations; annual Exchequer allocations to domestic climate adaptation projects over the same period; an explanation for any gap between projected fines and domestic climate spending, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13724/26]

*203. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment which agency has statutory responsibility for the installation, operation and maintenance of continuous monitoring infrastructure on major rivers. — Ken O’Flynn. [13828/26]

*204. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether his Department has conducted an assessment of Ireland’s current capacity to detect acute pollution events in real time; whether any gaps were identified following the Blackwater incident; and what corrective measures are now being implemented at policy level. — Ken O’Flynn. [13829/26]

*205. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether he intends to establish a formal national “Major Fish Kill Emergency Protocol” setting out mandatory inter-agency leadership, immediate catchment-wide chemical sampling requirements, and defined response time targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13830/26]

*206. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether his Department has reviewed the adequacy of enforcement provisions under the Environmental Liability Directive and the Industrial Emissions Directive in light of the inability to identify the pollutant or source in the Blackwater case; and whether legislative or regulatory amendments are under consideration. — Ken O’Flynn. [13831/26]

*207. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether his Department has commissioned an economic valuation of the 2025 Blackwater fish kill, including ecological loss, recreational impact, and restoration costs; and whether such valuation will inform future deterrence and enforcement policy. — Ken O’Flynn. [13833/26]

*208. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether additional restoration funding will be allocated to the Munster Blackwater catchment in light of the 2025 fish kill; and whether revised environmental objectives or accelerated recovery measures are being considered under the Water Framework Directive. — Ken O’Flynn. [13834/26]

*209. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether he will publish a detailed implementation plan responding to the recommendations contained in the independent review of the 2025 Blackwater fish kill; and if he will provide a timeline for delivery of each recommendation. — Ken O’Flynn. [13835/26]

*210. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether his Department maintains data on the proportion of fish kill investigations since 2015 in which the pollutant or source remained undetermined; and whether policy reforms are being developed to reduce the incidence of undiagnosed cases. — Ken O’Flynn. [13836/26]

*211. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if consideration will be given to the funding by his Department of the EU LIFE Programme should funding be cut to projects in Ireland at an EU level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [13962/26]

Chun Aire Cosanta: To the Minister for Defence.

*212. To ask the Minister for Defence if she will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if she will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if she will outline all

sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13502/26]

*213. To ask the Minister for Defence her views on the recruitment of a person (details supplied) to the Defence Forces; the vetting procedures involved in light of their guilty plea and conviction for a violent assault; if the Defence Forces were aware of their guilty plea and conviction for violent assault prior to their recruitment to the Defence Forces; if not, then when they become aware; if the Defence Forces were aware of the guilty plea and conviction before they were promoted to the position of lieutenant; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [13585/26]

*214. To ask the Minister for Defence the reason a person who served in the Army from 1975 to 1997 as a soldier (details supplied) will not receive their 1916 Commemoration medal given that they served for 22 years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13623/26]

*215. To ask the Minister for Defence the estimated average cost to the Exchequer of recruiting, inducting and training a General Service Recruit in the Permanent Defence Forces, broken down by Army, Naval Service and Air Corps; the total estimated cost of recruits who did not complete training in each of the years 2020 to 2025; and the estimated cost of personnel who left the Permanent Defence Forces within 24 months of induction in each of those years. — Ken O'Flynn. [13749/26]

*216. To ask the Minister for Defence whether her Department has set formal annual retention targets for the Permanent Defence Forces; if so, the specific percentage attrition ceiling or numerical retention target set for each service; the key performance indicators used to measure retention; and the most recent performance against each of those indicators. — Ken O'Flynn. [13750/26]

*217. To ask the Minister for Defence whether service-specific retention targets have been set for the Naval Service and Air Corps in light of previous staffing pressures; the projected staffing levels required to meet full operational capacity in each service; and whether current recruitment and retention trends are sufficient to meet those projected requirements over the next three years. — Ken O'Flynn. [13751/26]

*218. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of recruits discharged by purchase in each of the years 2020 to 2025; the average length of service at exit for such personnel; and the estimated financial impact on the Defence Vote arising from voluntary early departures within two years of induction. — Ken O'Flynn. [13752/26]

*219. To ask the Minister for Defence her views on ensuring that defence investments in the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework fully respect national competences and Ireland's specific choices regarding neutrality; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13824/26]

*220. To ask the Minister for Defence the opportunities for Ireland to participate in dual-use technology developments, such as drones and AI, under the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13825/26]

*221. To ask the Minister for Defence whether changes to eligibility criteria for recruitment into the Permanent Defence Forces are under consideration; whether non-citizen eligibility expansion is being examined; and to outline the policy rationale for any such proposals. — Ken O’Flynn. [13867/26]

*222. To ask the Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 331 of 4 November 2025, the progress to date in developing a National Maritime Security Strategy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13942/26]

*223. To ask the Minister for Defence the present enlistment in the Permanent Defence Forces; the proposals there are to increase recruitment and improve retention levels in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13943/26]

*224. To ask the Minister for Defence given the importance of ensuring sovereignty of national defence capabilities, supply chain resilience, and knowledge transfer when it comes to Defence Procurement, when she plans to publish a local procurement framework, outlining the positive economic impact for Irish SME’s and how can they engage in the Governments defence procurement process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [13972/26]

*225. To ask the Minister for Defence considering that Ireland is a net contributor to the EU budget and as an increasing proportion of the next Multiannual Financial Framework is allocated to defence and security-related programmes, the strategy that is in place to position Irish SMEs and indigenous firms to participate in and repatriate EU defence funding through the development of Irish defence and security supply chains; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Brennan. [13973/26]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*226. To ask the Minister for Transport to clarify if Shannon Airport is being used as a stopover point for flights chartered by the US’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency; if the Minister can provide the number of such flights that have used Shannon Airport in the last twelve months and the dates for same; if the Minister can clarify whether these flights were inspected or if there are any plans to carry out routine inspections of such flights, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [13539/26]

*227. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures his Department is implementing and considering to support small transport companies who employ and train young people, given that many small operators are currently paying the full cost of training themselves while lengthy licensing processes significantly delay new drivers entering the workforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [11905/26]

*228. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to address harness racing on our roads; to provide an update on the Horse-Drawn Carriages Bill; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [13467/26]

*229. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 277 of 12 February 2026, to clarify the definition applied by his Department to the terms “unidentified aerial phenomena (UAPs)” and “unidentified flying objects (UFOs)” as referenced in his reply; the way such observations are classified within Ireland’s occurrence reporting framework under

Regulation (EU) 376/2014 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1018; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [13478/26]

*230. To ask the Minister for Transport the strategies in place to address the limited bus priority and high volume of private cars using main bus corridors in Dublin during peak hours, in light of the average network speed across Dublin Bus services falling 5% year-on-year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13495/26]

*231. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13514/26]

*232. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of the 19% unmatched penalty points on the NVDF that were to drivers that should have been disqualified (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13522/26]

*233. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is engaging with the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and the Courts Service regarding to the circumstances in which the 18% of disqualified drivers not matched on the national vehicle and driver file who were on the road who did not hold a valid drivers licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13523/26]

*234. To ask the Minister for Transport the cost to date of the installation of cycle lanes and active transport throughout the State in the past ten years. — Pat Buckley. [13528/26]

*235. To ask the Minister for Transport when Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council will receive their allocation of funding for road maintenance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Natasha Newsome Drennan. [13540/26]

*236. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the old Airport Hopper route in Dublin; if the NTA has considered providing a public replacement service; the public transport options available to the people of Dublin mid-west to get to Dublin Airport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [13569/26]

*237. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that the Kerry Pike pedestrian improvement scheme has passed planning but only received €140,000 in funding from the NTA this year. — Thomas Gould. [13589/26]

*238. To ask the Minister for Transport whether planning for a road safety improvement project that requires acquisition of private land can be passed prior to any agreement for acquisition. — Thomas Gould. [13591/26]

*239. To ask the Minister for Transport where the funding announced in July 2025 for the National Development Programme currently is; if this funding can be released; if so, when; if specific funding from this allocation can be made available for works on the N25; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13664/26]

*240. To ask the Minister for Transport to confirm whether all first, second and third-time learner permit holders have been written to by the Road Safety Authority following his signing of S.I. No. 527/2025, the Road Traffic (Licensing of Drivers) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13665/26]

*241. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the number of learner drivers on the waiting list to sit their test, broken down per driving test centre, from July 2025 to date in 2026; and the average waiting time for each centre, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13667/26]

*242. To ask the Minister for Transport to make emergency funding available to Kerry County Council to address a wall and public road that has been undermined by the Behy River at Curra, Glenbeigh (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13806/26]

*243. To ask the Minister for Transport to make emergency funding available to Kerry County Council to address bridges that have been undermined/damaged, which have been reported several times during the past number of years, that require emergency works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13807/26]

*244. To ask the Minister for Transport to make emergency funding available to Kerry County Council to address a bridge (details supplied) that requires emergency works; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13808/26]

*245. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on proposals to reform the rail industry (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13838/26]

*246. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the rolling out of the bus stop installations programme the responsibility of the National Transport Authority across County Kerry is experiencing such huge delays; when towns and villages in Kerry will see these bus stops in place; if he will provide a specific timeframe for each town, village and location; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13839/26]

*247. To ask the Minister for Transport In light of the decision to abolish the passenger cap at Dublin Airport; if a company (details supplied) has formally advised his Department that current air traffic control staffing levels are sufficient to safely accommodate increased passenger and flight volumes without reliance on discretionary overtime. — Alan Kelly. [13900/26]

*248. To ask the Minister for Transport to confirm whether any regulatory or safety oversight body has raised red flags with his Department about controller fatigue levels, insufficient staffing buffers, or concerns about system resilience given the planned traffic increases; and the action he has taken to try and resolve this issue considering the media is reporting that it has been ongoing for several years. — Alan Kelly. [13901/26]

*249. To ask the Minister for Transport given capacity problems are already evident in January 2026, the specific assurances he can provide that Ireland's air traffic control system will not be overwhelmed when summer traffic arrives, particularly given the removal of passenger limits. — Alan Kelly. [13902/26]

*250. To ask the Minister for Transport the cost of equalising rates for three and six month motor tax payments with the rate of the 12-month payment. — Pa Daly. [13947/26]

*251. To ask the Minister for Transport how the current level of staffing within AirNav compares to the level required to provide the service under expected traffic levels; the amount of overtime that was required in 2025 to keep the ATC open; if he recognises that we are now in a situation where normal ATC operations require controllers to regularly work unscheduled overtime (details supplied); his views on whether this is an acceptable way to run critical infrastructure; and if he has received any communication from the Irish Aviation Authority or other regulators expressing concern about whether the current staffing situation creates risks around controller fatigue or operational safety. — Michael Lowry. [13948/26]

*252. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to resolve the staff shortages in air traffic controllers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [13952/26]

*253. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to address the ongoing staffing issues with air traffic controllers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [13953/26]

*254. To ask the Minister for Transport to address flight restrictions due to ongoing staffing issues with air traffic controllers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [13954/26]

*255. To ask the Minister for Transport when the contract agreed between the State and direct route, in relation to the operation and maintenance of the Fermoy/Rathcormac bypass in County Cork and the associated Toll plazas at Condonstown, Watergrasshill and Ballyoran Fermoy is due to expire; if there is a buyout/ release clause for the State in that contract before the contract is due to expire; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [13986/26]

*256. To ask the Minister for Transport further to previous requests, to ask a company (details supplied) to update data in regard to directing unsuitable traffic onto minor roads hence, causing major disruption, danger, panic and delays; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13987/26]

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

*257. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13505/26]

*258. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman (FSPO) can accept a case regarding a mortgage if only a holder of a joint account or policy signs the complaint form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [13626/26]

*259. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether he will consider increasing the DIRT exemption thresholds and raising the income limits for liability, including the current €36,000 threshold for a married couple or civil partners (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [13705/26]

*260. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether an individual's credit rating will be affected if they request a payment break on a car loan from a financial institution due to illness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [13712/26]

*261. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of multi-property owners that own more than 100 residential properties and 1,000 residential properties, excluding local authorities and approved housing bodies; how this has changed over the past ten years, using the information provided through local property tax; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [13837/26]

*262. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the measures being taken to address inheritance tax discrimination (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13843/26]

*263. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to reduce taxation on rental income as such a measure will encourage members of the public to invest in or construct rental properties; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13844/26]

*264. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the total revenue raised from the eight-year deemed disposal rule on investment funds and ETFs in each of the years 2020 to 2025 inclusive; the estimated number of individual investors affected in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13911/26]

*265. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether his Department has carried out any analysis of the extent to which the deemed disposal rule is distorting investment decisions away from funds and toward residential property; and if he will outline the findings of any such analysis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13912/26]

*266. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance his views on whether the eight-year deemed disposal rule is contributing to increased demand in the housing market and thereby exacerbating the housing crisis; and if he will consider its abolition in the interests of encouraging diversified long-term saving; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13913/26]

*267. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to address a concern that Ireland's taxation of unrealised gains in investment funds is placing Ireland at a competitive disadvantage in attracting and retaining domestic savers and investors; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13914/26]

*268. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if an initiative is feasible in Ireland (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13944/26]

*269. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the estimated cost of removing USC on the first €45,000 in income in 2026. — Pearse Doherty. [13949/26]

*270. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will consider addressing the deemed disposal issue relating to exchange-traded funds in Budget 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [13958/26]

*271. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the estimated cost of removing the USC on the first €40,000 in income in 2026 on a first and full year basis. — Pearse Doherty. [13965/26]

*272. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the estimated cost of providing a €100 increase employee tax credit in 2026 on a first and full year basis. — Pearse Doherty. [13966/26]

*273. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the estimated cost of providing a €100 increase earned income credit in 2026 on a first and full year basis. — Pearse Doherty. [13967/26]

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

*274. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the date each FOI request was received by the Department in 2025; the date each request was concluded; and the manner by which it was concluded (granted, part-granted, withdrawn, and resolved outside of FOI), in tabular form. — Cathy Bennett. [13486/26]

*275. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13511/26]

*276. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will provide an update on the Government data centre in Backweston; the timeline for when it will open; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Neville. [13526/26]

*277. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the flood relief measures his Department has put in place for a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [13583/26]

*278. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the list of all flood relief and flood risk management projects in County Mayo since 2020, by each project: the name and location of the project; the total approved budget and amount spent to date, including maintenance and ongoing operational costs; whether the project is in planning, under construction, or completed; the number of properties and key infrastructure protected or expected to be protected; whether any nature-based solutions have been included in the design, implementation, or evaluation including but not limited to natural water retention measures, wetland restoration, riparian planting, or sustainable urban drainage systems; the details of those measures the scale of investment in any nature-based solutions; how the effectiveness of any nature-based solutions in reducing flood risk is being evaluated, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13726/26]

*279. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to provide an update on Ireland’s national assessment of areas at risk from sea-level rise over the next 20–50 years, including coastal counties and vulnerable communities; to specify what coastal adaptation or resilience measures (hard engineering, nature-based solutions, or managed retreat strategies) are planned or underway in these areas; to outline how the timeline for implementing these measures is being determined and monitored; to indicate whether funding

for maintenance and monitoring of existing coastal defences has been allocated, and how these measures are being evaluated for effectiveness; to confirm how local authorities, communities, and stakeholders are being engaged in planning and implementing adaptation strategies; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13729/26]

*280. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to provide an exhaustive list of flood related compensation, paid from his Department's vote allocations over the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [13924/26]

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

*281. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the initiatives he or his Department or associated State agencies have taken to encourage prospective new owners to establish a business at the former factory (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [13432/26]

*282. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the status of the review of the critical skills occupations list and ineligible occupations list; whether the review will take into consideration the availability of housing in addition to the needs of the labour market; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathy Bennett. [13433/26]

*283. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13504/26]

*284. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has conducted, commissioned or received any regulatory impact assessment, economic modelling, or internal policy analysis since 1 January 2021 examining the cumulative administrative and compliance costs arising from customs declarations, tariff classification requirements, VAT registration obligations, or brokerage fees affecting Irish small and medium-sized enterprises exporting parcels to the United Kingdom and the United States; and if he will provide details of such analysis, including dates, authorship and whether it was published. — Ken O'Flynn. [13706/26]

*285. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has estimated the average per-parcel administrative cost incurred by Irish SMEs exporting low-value consignments to (a) the United Kingdom and (b) the United States, including customs declarations, intermediary brokerage fees, VAT compliance and associated documentation; and if no such estimate has been undertaken, whether he intends to commission one. — Ken O'Flynn. [13707/26]

*286. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has engaged with the Revenue Commissioners regarding simplified customs procedures or reduced administrative burdens for micro-exporting SMEs reliant on parcel trade; the dates and

nature of any such engagement; and whether specific policy proposals have been developed arising from those discussions. — Ken O’Flynn. [13708/26]

*287. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department holds data or has conducted analysis on the number or proportion of Irish SMEs for whom small-consignment parcel exports constitute their primary export channel; and if so, the findings of that analysis. — Ken O’Flynn. [13709/26]

*288. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether the Cost of Business Advisory Forum established in June 2025 has specifically examined customs compliance costs, parcel export brokerage fees, or international e-commerce administrative burdens as part of its remit; and if so, whether recommendations have been made or are under consideration by Government. — Ken O’Flynn. [13710/26]

*289. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether the forthcoming Enterprise 2035 strategy will contain specific measures aimed at reducing customs-related compliance costs for SMEs engaged in cross-border parcel trade; and if he will outline any draft policy proposals currently under consideration. — Ken O’Flynn. [13711/26]

*290. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on current and planned tourism investment along the Wild Atlantic Way, including Fáilte Ireland and Shared Island Fund support; to specify what funding has been allocated for protection, restoration, and enhancement of landscapes and natural heritage along the route; to outline the process for prioritising projects and how local communities and stakeholders are involved in decision-making; the measures being taken to ensure that tourism development along the Wild Atlantic Way is sustainable and benefits local communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13730/26]

*291. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the supports being made available to workers facing redundancy at a factory (details supplied); the progress on a possible replacement company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [13769/26]

*292. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department has undertaken any research on the four day working week; if he will publish that research; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [13770/26]

*293. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update in regards to a matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13805/26]

*294. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his position on the proposed €450 billion allocation for competitiveness and R&D in the Multiannual Financial Framework to address the EU’s competitive gap with the US and China; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13822/26]

*295. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if the Government plans to introduce legislative measures to increase transparency and auditability of recommendation algorithms used by major online platforms operating in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Donna McGettigan. [13842/26]

*296. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of employment permits issued in 2025 by sector; whether each sector is classified as experiencing a verified skills shortage; and whether an updated labour market needs analysis has been completed for 2026 permit quotas. — Ken O’Flynn. [13866/26]

*297. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the total amount paid out in flood compensation from the vote allocation of his Department each year since 2011, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [13909/26]

*298. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on efforts to secure alternative employment at a manufacturing plant (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [11906/26]

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

*299. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the rationale for the reduction of three SNA posts at a Kildare school (details supplied), when the NCSE review was supposed to pertain to only one above-SERC post; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh. [13438/26]

*300. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the reason her Department’s Circular 11/95 includes a State-mandated break time for primary schools, but not for post-primary schools, which is becoming an issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Conor D. McGuinness. [13443/26]

*301. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the application for an ASD unit for a school (details supplied); if the application has been reviewed by her Department; the current status of same; the timeline for a decision in this case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [13445/26]

*302. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to strongly consider an appeal under the emergency works programme for an application for a school (details supplied), that was refused, to repair the dangerous, flooded area outside the infant classrooms that children must negotiate four times daily to access the yard and any recreation area; that she would address the safety concerns of the school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13458/26]

*303. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update on the new school building project for a school (details supplied); to outline when the second tranche of new school building projects will be announced; if the school will be prioritised in the next tranche, as it has planning permission and will provide four much needed special education classes for the local community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [13463/26]

*304. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if youth participation and outcomes in youth services will be presented via an open data dashboard, scheme, county/ETB, demographics, updated annually or quarterly; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [13465/26]

*305. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when the public facing dynamic map of youth services will launch; the way in which it will feed a national/local youth spaces policy with

prioritisation criteria for underserved areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [13466/26]

*306. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 212 of 12 February 2026, to explain the process in which schools without suitable accommodation for newly sanctioned special classes can get modular accommodation; if any schools announced in the first, second and third tranche of sanctioned special classes have made a request for modular accommodation; and if so, the requests which have been approved; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [13468/26]

*307. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the way in which the proposed national youth sector reference group will interface with the interdepartmental/interagency group to ensure sector input directly informs budgetary and policy decisions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13488/26]

*308. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide a table of increases for the Youth Affairs funding subhead between 2025 and 2026; if she will provide this information to include 2025 allocation, 2026 allocation and percentage increase; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13489/26]

*309. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the provisions made for cost-of-living and pay comparability pressures to prevent erosion of youth service capacity across funded organisations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13490/26]

*310. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider the establishment of more reading schools and reading classes in North Dublin area to cater for children with dyslexia; the actions she is taking to increase capacity in this area given the increased demand; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denise Mitchell. [13494/26]

*311. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if she will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if she will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13503/26]

*312. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current timeline for the reintegration of a student into school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [13519/26]

*313. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the reduction of SNA’s in Dublin 12 after the latest review, by each school. — Jen Cummins. [13525/26]

*314. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if an updated CID Circular is expected to be issued; if it will address issues where teachers are providing ongoing service over a number of years without access to permanency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [13529/26]

*315. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the Teaching Council process following a request by a third level institution for the accreditation of a course leading to a teaching

qualification; the length of time such accreditation takes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13538/26]

*316. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to legislate for a change to Croke Park hours for teachers due to concerns that have been raised (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruth Coppinger. [13541/26]

*317. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide, with respect to the 2026/27 academic year, a full list of schools in Longford-Westmeath that have been sanctioned by the NCSE and her Department to open new ASD classrooms; the timeframe for delivery for each one; the status of each; to outline the supports that will be put in place to ensure these classes are operational in a timely manner. — Sorca Clarke. [13544/26]

*318. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to confirm if she received correspondence dated 27 January 2026 from a company (detail supplied) when she intends to respond to this correspondence. — Willie O'Dea. [13545/26]

*319. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether in recent special needs assistant review cycles, any revised guidance has issued to the National Council for Special Education distinguishing between Level 2 and Level 3 primary care needs for the purpose of determining reductions in SNA allocation; and if she will clarify the policy basis for any such distinction. — Ken O'Flynn. [13546/26]

*320. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the safeguards which exist within the special needs assistant review appeals process to ensure that schools are not discouraged from lodging appeals; whether any departmental guidance addresses the possibility of further allocation changes following an appeal; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13547/26]

*321. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the quality assurance procedures that are in place within the National Council for Special Education to ensure accuracy in SNA allocation correspondence issued to schools; whether any internal review has taken place following instances of incorrect allocation notifications, and if she will outline the governance framework governing such communications. — Ken O'Flynn. [13548/26]

*322. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current operational status of the special needs assistant redeployment scheme referenced in Circular 0032/2025; whether it is fully operational nationwide; and the way allocation reductions are managed in schools pending full implementation of the scheme. — Ken O'Flynn. [13549/26]

*323. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of primary schools in County Cork that have experienced a reduction in special needs assistant allocation following National Council for Special Education review during the 2024 and 2025 school years; and whether her Department is satisfied that reductions are being applied consistently and proportionately. — Ken O'Flynn. [13550/26]

*324. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department can intervene in the case of a person (details supplied) to ensure that adequate special needs assistants provision is obtained; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoghan Kenny. [13551/26]

*325. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will explain the criteria for reducing the special needs assistant allocation for a school in Kildare (details supplied). — Mark Wall. [13552/26]

*326. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will explain the criteria for reducing the special needs assistant allocation for a school in Kildare (details supplied). — Mark Wall. [13553/26]

*327. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will explain the criteria for reducing the special needs assistant allocation for a school in Kildare (details supplied). — Mark Wall. [13554/26]

*328. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will review correspondence (details supplied); if she will provide an update on the proposed ASD classroom; the current status of the school's application with her Department; the stage the project is at within the approval process; the anticipated timeline for a decision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [13561/26]

*329. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will confirm the total number of special needs assistants and whole time equivalents that were employed by the State in each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [13565/26]

*330. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update on the launch of a new school bus route between schools (details supplied); whether a commencement timeline is available; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Emer Currie. [13570/26]

*331. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13572/26]

*332. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13573/26]

*333. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13574/26]

*334. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13575/26]

*335. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13576/26]

*336. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13577/26]

*337. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13578/26]

*338. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13579/26]

*339. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13580/26]

*340. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the capital project for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13581/26]

*341. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current number of special reading classes in the north Dublin area; whether she intends to increase this provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Naoise Ó Muirí. [13584/26]

*342. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if further supports will be given to the current cohort of schools not included in the phased rollout of the education therapy service (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [13586/26]

*343. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has considered establishing a national reporting framework requiring schools to submit anonymised data on serious disciplinary incidents involving weapons; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13620/26]

*344. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has issued specific national disciplinary guidance addressing incidents involving weapons on school premises, distinct from general critical incident guidance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13621/26]

*345. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth how her Department satisfies itself that current governance arrangements adequately monitor trends in serious safety incidents, including weapon-related incidents, in the absence of centralised data collection; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13622/26]

*346. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to improve access to special reading schools for children with significant dyslexia; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [13651/26]

*347. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the reason special needs assistants (SNAs) who have worked on zero-hour contracts are not considered for incremental salary increases, even where documentary evidence of previous hours worked is available; whether her Department has examined this matter in the context of fair employment practices and retention of experienced SNAs; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [13663/26]

*348. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the decision to withdraw SNAs from a school (details supplied) will be overturned; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13688/26]

*349. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the decision to withdraw SNAs from a school (details supplied) will be overturned; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13689/26]

*350. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of early intervention preschool classes for autistic children in mainstream schools and special schools which are being redesignated to primary autism classes/other special classes for the 2026/2027 school year. — Darren O'Rourke. [13713/26]

*351. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if urgent steps will be taken to address the dangerous condition of a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13760/26]

*352. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to urgently put in place a major investment programme in County Kerry (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13767/26]

*353. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to carry out an emergency health and safety audit of all school buildings and facilities in County Kerry (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13768/26]

*354. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the planned building project, including an SEN class at a school (details supplied). — Malcolm Byrne. [13771/26]

*355. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of SNAs currently allocated to a school (details supplied); the number projected for the 2026-2027 school year; the assessments which have been carried out as to the adequacy of this provision; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [13772/26]

*356. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if an appointment of a SENO for schools in the north Wexford area has been or will be made; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [13773/26]

*357. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of schools at primary and secondary level respectively, that operate on split campuses that require staff and students to travel between campuses during the school day. — Malcolm Byrne. [13774/26]

*358. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of classrooms across the State currently operating out of prefabs; and the prefab classrooms that have been in use for longer than ten years. — Malcolm Byrne. [13775/26]

*359. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans for the development of an additional SEN class at a school (details supplied); and the engagement with the school to ensure all SEN classes are at ground floor and to a similar standard will take place. — Malcolm Byrne. [13776/26]

*360. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the steps or research which has been undertaken by her Department to assess or reduce the administrative burden on school principals; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [13777/26]

*361. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the planned school building programme at a school (details supplied). — Malcolm Byrne. [13778/26]

*362. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether any formal or informal guidance has been issued by her Department or by the National Council for Special Education in the 2025–2026 review cycle indicating that pupils in 5th and 6th class in mainstream primary settings should not be considered eligible for special needs assistant support solely by reference to their class level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13779/26]

*363. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether the eligibility criteria for special needs assistant allocation are based exclusively on documented care needs rather than age or class grouping; and to outline the current policy position governing this. — Ken O’Flynn. [13780/26]

*364. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether any revised circular, directive, operational instruction or internal policy guidance was issued to the National Council for Special Education or to Special Educational Needs Organisers in advance of the 2026 SNA review cycle altering the weighting of mainstream primary care needs; and if so, to provide details. — Ken O’Flynn. [13781/26]

*365. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether the SNA appeals mechanism permits a reduction in allocation beyond that originally notified where an appeal is submitted; and to outline the procedural safeguards in place to ensure that the exercise of the right of appeal does not expose schools to additional allocation loss. — Ken O’Flynn. [13782/26]

*366. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has conducted any review of the operation of the SNA redeployment scheme for the 2025–2026 school year; to provide the number of SNA posts redeployed nationally in that period; and to outline how redeployment interacts with reductions notified to schools. — Ken O’Flynn. [13783/26]

*367. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the net national change in mainstream SNA posts, excluding special class allocations, between the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 school years; and to provide the number of primary schools experiencing a reduction of one or more full-time equivalent SNA posts for September 2026. — Ken O’Flynn. [13784/26]

*368. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department and the NCSE will engage with a person (details supplied) to ensure an appropriate school place is provided; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Eoghan Kenny. [13797/26]

*369. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth what will happen when the current public-private partnerships in operation in schools cease; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Malcolm Byrne. [13826/26]

*370. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 94 of 12 February 2026, the approach the IDG will take ‘to examine the levers and mechanisms that may be brought to bear so that those responsible for schools where historical sexual abuse happened meet their obligations to survivors’; if international comparisons will be made; if so,

with which countries/states; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [13845/26]

*371. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the status of an application (details supplied) for required accommodation; if the application has been reviewed by her Department; the current status of same; the timeline for a decision in this case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [13905/26]

*372. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if an urgent sanction can be provided for a third mild special class at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [13906/26]

*373. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when a decision will issue in respect of the application for additional special classes at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [13907/26]

*374. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the statutory basis permits non-registered healthcare staff in schools to undertake clinical interventions ordinarily carried out by regulated professionals; whether responsibility for clinical risk in such cases rests with the Department, the HSE, or the individual board of management; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [13932/26]

*375. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether she is aware of reported needle-stick injuries sustained by school staff in a school (details supplied) arising from invasive diabetic care procedures and the schools repeated requests for nursing support; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [13933/26]

*376. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the amount of funding provided to a school (details supplied) that is separate from and not tied to the standard capitation grant and is specifically ring-fenced for essential and mandatory emergency administration of medication; the details of any such funding available to special schools to cover required training in areas including the administration of emergency medication such as buccolam (midazolam), diabetes management, insulin administration, and other high-risk clinical medical procedures; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [13934/26]

*377. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the measures her Department is taking to increase autism class places in schools in County Mayo; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [13950/26]

*378. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide an update on additional school accommodation application (details supplied); if the application has been reviewed by her Department; if so, the current status of same; the timeline for a decision in this case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [13955/26]

*379. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she is aware of a proposed reduction in allocated SNA hours for a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13974/26]

*380. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the annual national budget allocation for SNA resources for the years 2020 to 2025 inclusive, and the projected budget for 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13975/26]

*381. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth is she is aware of a case (details supplied); if her officials will investigate the case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13977/26]

*382. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of schools that the NCSE propose to increase, decrease, or leave unchanged SNA allocation posts from September 2026, broken down by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13978/26]

*383. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of schools that have appealed NCSE proposed SNA post allocations for September 2026, as of 14 February 2026, by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13979/26]

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

*384. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when Eir and An Post pensioners will be paid their overdue increase (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13439/26]

*385. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when Eir and An Post pensioners will be paid their overdue increase (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13440/26]

*386. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when Eir and An Post pensioners will be paid their pension increase (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Cahill. [13444/26]

*387. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13501/26]

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

*388. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department is aware of the “Global Biodiversity Loss, Ecosystem Collapse and National Security: A National Security Assessment” published by the UK government recently; the steps being taken to address the biodiversity crisis to strengthen Ireland’s national security in the wake of this assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [13959/26]

*389. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the implementation of the 59 recommendations from the Citizens’ Assembly on Biodiversity Loss by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [13960/26]

*390. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the projects that local authorities have applied for to-date under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2026; the breakdown in the details and the cost of those initiatives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [13961/26]

*391. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps being taken by his Department to address ‘unfavourable’ conservation status of 90% of Ireland’s protected habitats, according to the “The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, 2025: Summary Report”; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Réada Cronin. [13963/26]

*392. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the cessation of turf cutting compensation schemes as the payment period concludes for many applicants; if a replacement support is being considered; if so, the details of any such support or supports; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louis O’Hara. [13431/26]

*393. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the National Flood Forecasting and Warning Service; the amount expended on the development of the service to date; the schedule of the persons and entities that have contributed to its development; and the date on which it is targeted to go live for the general public to access the service. — John Brady. [13446/26]

*394. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the date his Department decided to conclude centralised monitoring of the ‘room for a student – local authority tenancies scheme’ after December 2024; the analysis or performance metrics informed that decision; whether any formal submission, briefing note, or internal recommendation supported that decision; and whether he will provide the criteria used to determine that the scheme no longer required ongoing national oversight. — Ken O’Flynn. [13471/26]

*395. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the administrative costs incurred by his Department and local authorities in developing, promoting, and operating the ‘room for a student – local authority tenancies scheme’ between December 2023 and December 2024; whether any value-for-money review has been conducted; and whether the cost per additional room delivered has been calculated. — Ken O’Flynn. [13474/26]

*396. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the formal reporting framework now exists, if any, to provide his Department with ongoing national oversight of the scheme’s performance; whether any standardised reporting template has been issued to local authorities; and the way he satisfies himself that the scheme remains operational and effective across all local authority areas. — Ken O’Flynn. [13475/26]

*397. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will request an update from the DCB Appeals Panel to provide the number of appeals made to 31 January 2026; the numbers of decisions made; the average waiting time for those decisions, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [13476/26]

*398. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the grant supports to sink wells are eligible for houses that have been built prior to 2007, and have been connected to Uisce Eireann /Group Water Scheme up to now, but the house is experiencing significant and ongoing water outages because of its location/elevated site or poor water pressure due to its position at the end of the line where new properties are now draining the service even more; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [13493/26]

*399. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13509/26]

*400. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if can provide an update on the inclusion of homes in Skerries and Rush in the defective blocks scheme; the timeline for the application process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [13612/26]

*401. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of funding for Galway County Council in 2025, and each local authority in the State for comparison, in tabular form. — Claire Kerrane. [13637/26]

*402. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether his Department maintains an internal monitoring framework, dashboard or structured reporting mechanism which tracks the number of Notices of Termination issued in the private rental sector as a core housing performance indicator; if so, the frequency at which such data is formally reviewed at senior management or Ministerial level; whether any thresholds, trend analyses or risk alerts are applied to this data to identify emerging pressures in the rental sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13662/26]

*403. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether reviews were undertaken at the end of phase one and phase two of the National Landscape Strategy 2015–2025; if so, to provide an update on Ireland's ongoing obligations under the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and how these are being fulfilled following the conclusion of the National Landscape Strategy 2015–2025; his plans to prepare an updated National Landscape Strategy and implementation programme, including consultation with communities, stakeholders, local authorities, and committees who contributed to the 2015 document; to provide an update on the completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment and how it is being integrated into broader policies and frameworks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13722/26]

*404. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to the release of the Coastal Change Management Strategy Report in 2023, to provide an update on the development of Ireland's National Coastal Change Management Strategy; the current status of the Strategy, which is overdue; the expected timeline for its publication; the current position of the National Coastal Change Management Strategy Steering Group, including its membership, the number of times it has met since establishment, the issues it has considered, and the timeline for completing its work; to provide an update on each of the fifteen recommendations of the Interdepartmental Group on the National Coastal Change Management Strategy, indicating in each case whether a decision has been made regarding implementation, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13723/26]

*405. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether a formal policy decision was taken in 2025 to reduce or limit the use of tenant-in-situ acquisitions under the Second-Hand Acquisitions Programme; if so, the date of that decision; whether Cabinet approval was sought; and the policy rationale underpinning the change. — Ken O'Flynn. [13854/26]

*406. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total capital allocation provided for tenant-in-situ acquisitions in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025; the originally approved allocation for 2026; whether any revised spending ceiling has been issued to local authorities for 2025 or 2026, by local authority. — Ken O’Flynn. [13855/26]

*407. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of tenant-in-situ acquisitions completed nationally in 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025; the number approved but not yet completed; and the number of applications refused or withdrawn in each year. — Ken O’Flynn. [13856/26]

*408. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether the Department has undertaken any assessment of the impact of reduced tenant-in-situ acquisitions on entries into emergency accommodation in 2025; and if so, if he will publish that assessment. — Ken O’Flynn. [13857/26]

*409. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether any circular, directive or written guidance was issued to local authorities in 2025 limiting, prioritising or redefining the criteria for tenant-in-situ acquisitions; and if so, if he will provide a copy of that guidance. — Ken O’Flynn. [13858/26]

*410. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether funding previously allocated for tenant-in-situ acquisitions has been reallocated to the Buy and Renew programme; the value of any such reallocation; and the policy justification for that shift. — Ken O’Flynn. [13859/26]

*411. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the average acquisition cost per dwelling under the tenant-in-situ approach in 2023, 2024 and 2025; and how this compares to the average cost per dwelling under the Buy and Renew programme in the same period. — Ken O’Flynn. [13860/26]

*412. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether the Government intends to continue the tenant-in-situ approach as a core homelessness prevention measure in 2026; and if so, what target number of acquisitions has been set. — Ken O’Flynn. [13861/26]

*413. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total annual population increase in each of the years 2022 to 2025; the number of residential housing completions in each corresponding year; and whether the Department has assessed the impact of net migration on housing demand projections to 2030. — Ken O’Flynn. [13868/26]

*414. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total expenditure on social housing acquisitions for each year from 2020 to 2025 and the allocation for 2026; and the number of units purchased with this funding in each year with a breakdown by category (i.e. tenant-in-situ, vacant acquisition etc.), in tabular form. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13890/26]

*415. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide a breakdown of social housing acquisition funding for 2026 for each local authority. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13891/26]

*416. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the work of the Housing Activation Office including the number of applications for funding it

had received from which Local Authorities and for what infrastructure; and to provide an update on the progress of each application. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13892/26]

*417. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether local authorities can fund attic conversions for their own housing stock from their capital funding to provide additional bedroom space for families experiencing overcrowding and who would otherwise have to apply for a social housing transfer to a larger home. — Eoin Ó Broin. [13893/26]

*418. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether his Department has identified any structural, legal, financial, or administrative constraints that limit the effective use of the Land Acquisition Fund by local authorities, including issues related to site viability, timing, valuation, or co-funding requirements; and if he will outline any steps taken to address such constraints. — Albert Dolan. [13903/26]

*419. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether consideration has been given to introducing greater flexibility into the Land Acquisition Fund, including but not limited to staged acquisitions, advance purchase, or earlier intervention in the land market, in order to accelerate housing delivery; and if not, the reasons for same. — Albert Dolan. [13904/26]

*420. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to detail the annual funding allocation to Circle Housing AHB for the years 2020 to 2025, and to confirm if there is a dedicated contact email for Oireachtas members; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [13976/26]

*421. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to clarify the administrative boundaries that will be used to determine towns in excess of 20,000 people for the purposes of regulating short-term rentals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13326/26]

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

*422. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to consider a once-off emergency winter payment for disabled people, as it would provide immediate relief in the disproportionate burden being carried by most of them; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [13483/26]

*423. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13513/26]

*424. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total administration fees paid, over the span of a scheme participant enrolment in MyFutureFund, as a percentage of their total employee contributions to their fund, by €5,000 band of average annual income from €20,000 to €80,000 that is, €20,000, €25,000, €30,000, €35,000 and €80,000, as against the age at which they entered the scheme, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Hayes. [13524/26]

*425. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the specific reasons an application (details supplied) and subsequent appeals, for carer's allowance were refused; if the applicant will receive back pay; if the person must submit a new application; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [13527/26]

*426. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person (details supplied) will be approved immediately for the bereaved partner's contributory pension based on the extensive evidence provided. — John McGuinness. [13790/26]

*427. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total actual expenditure incurred (as opposed to allocated or contracted amounts) to date in respect of clients classified as TPU and referred to contracted public employment services; to provide a breakdown of this expenditure by programme (Local Area Employment Services (LAES) and the National Employment Services (NES)); to outline the number of TPU clients referred under each programme during that period; the average cost per TPU client; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13899/26]

*428. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total amount paid out in flood compensation from the vote allocation of his Department each year since 2011, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [13908/26]

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

*429. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 858 and 859 of 10 February 2026, the number of scrambler bikes sold by An Garda Síochána in each of the years from 2020 to date; the number of scramblers destroyed for the same period, by year; the monies raised in disposal of scrambler bikes, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [13436/26]

*430. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 858 and 859 of 10 February 2026, the total number of scramblers and quad bikes seized by an Garda Síochána in each of the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [13437/26]

*431. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether his Department has held any formal meetings since 1 January 2025 with the Department of Children, Disability and Equality regarding safeguarding-disclosure or re-vetting arrangements in the early years sector. — Ken O'Flynn. [13462/26]

*432. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will meet with a person (details supplied) who has contacted his office with regard to his search for truth and justice in relation to a murder of his mother; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Matt Carthy. [13492/26]

*433. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 735 of 20 January 2026, the position regarding a timeline for the completion of the review of the Garda vetting procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13496/26]

*434. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13510/26]

*435. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the annual statistical data relating to alcohol test-purchase operations carried out by An Garda Síochána under the Intoxicating Liquor Act 2008, from 2008 to the end of 2025, (details supplied). — Alan Kelly. [13530/26]

*436. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if a person residing in Ireland permanently on a Stamp 3 (details supplied) can apply for a Stamp 4 in order to enable her to access supports in her old age; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [13568/26]

*437. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of newly qualified Gardaí allocated to County Roscommon in each of the past five years, in tabular form. — Claire Kerrane. [13633/26]

*438. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide real-time figures for the number of Garda staff allocated and at work in Garda stations (details supplied). — Claire Kerrane. [13634/26]

*439. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide the amount of overtime paid for Gardaí in County Roscommon in each of the last five years, in tabular form. — Claire Kerrane. [13635/26]

*440. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to opt into the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, his Department completed or commissioned any Ireland-specific written impact assessment, quantitative modelling exercise, or formal risk analysis examining the projected effect of participation in the Pact's solidarity mechanism on the number of international protection applicants entering the State; and if so, the title, date of completion, and whether such assessment was submitted to Government prior to Cabinet approval. — Ken O'Flynn. [13682/26]

*441. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether, prior to the opt-in decision, his Department conducted any Ireland-specific analysis or modelling of potential secondary movements into the State from the United Kingdom, including movements across the Northern Ireland land border, arising from the implementation of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact; and if so, the methodology used, the principal findings; and whether the analysis was reflected in Cabinet briefing materials. — Ken O'Flynn. [13683/26]

*442. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether his Department prepared any written projections of international protection accommodation demand, reception capacity requirements, or associated public service pressures linked to Ireland's participation in the EU Migration and Asylum Pact; and if so, the projected figures for the first three years of operation; and whether these projections were considered by Government prior to the opt-in decision. — Ken O'Flynn. [13684/26]

*443. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether his Department prepared any fiscal impact analysis estimating the potential cost implications for the State arising from Ireland's participation in the solidarity mechanism under the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, including scenario modelling under high-inflow conditions; and if so, the estimated cost ranges identified; and whether such analysis was submitted to Government. — Ken O'Flynn. [13685/26]

*444. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether a formal risk register, sensitivity analysis, or scenario-planning document was prepared by his Department prior to Ireland opting into the EU Migration and Asylum Pact; and if not, the reasons no structured Ireland-specific quantitative risk assessment was completed in advance of the Cabinet decision. — Ken O'Flynn. [13686/26]

*445. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether he will publish any Ireland-specific impact assessments, modelling documents, briefing papers, or risk analyses prepared by his Department in advance of the Government decision to opt into the EU Migration and Asylum Pact; and if not, the grounds upon which publication is being withheld. — Ken O'Flynn. [13687/26]

*446. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if it can be ensured that a person (details supplied) receives appropriate medical and mental health treatment as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ann Graves. [13841/26]

*447. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether the Government operates a formal capacity-based planning framework linking annual inward migration projections, including asylum and temporary protection; if so, to provide details of the metrics used; and if not, whether he will introduce such a framework. — Ken O'Flynn. [13862/26]

*448. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the projected gross inward migration figures for 2026 and 2027, broken down by international protection applicants, beneficiaries of temporary protection, and family reunification. — Ken O'Flynn. [13863/26]

*449. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the current average processing time from initial international protection application to first instance decision; the average time to final determination including appeal; and the measures being implemented to reduce decision timelines in 2026. — Ken O'Flynn. [13864/26]

*450. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of final negative international protection decisions issued in each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025; the number of deportation orders signed in each year; and the number executed; and whether additional resources have been allocated to enforcement capacity in 2026. — Ken O'Flynn. [13865/26]

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

*451. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason a full payment has not been made to a person (details supplied) for TB in their herd; the timeline for when the farmer will be paid; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James O'Connor. [13441/26]

*452. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of funding allocated by Rásaíocht Con Éireann to their two dedicated care homes (details supplied) in 2025 and the number of non-coursing greyhounds homed by the operators of these two care homes both domestically and internationally in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [13479/26]

*453. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount of money given to private rehoming organisations by Rásaíocht Con Éireann/Irish Retired Greyhound Trust in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [13480/26]

*454. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the two increases in prize money announced by Rásaíocht Con Éireann since October 2025, and the absence of an increase in budgetary funding to this organisation in Budget 2026 means that spending on greyhound welfare, specifically in relation to amounts allocated by Rásaíocht Con Éireann to their homing programme (details supplied), will be reduced in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [13481/26]

*455. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13498/26]

*456. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of matings in the greyhound racing and coursing industries that involved surgical artificial insemination in each of the years 2019 to 2025; the number of those matings that involved the use of semen obtained from a sire deceased at the time the surgical artificial insemination occurred; the date of death of the sire, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13595/26]

*457. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the specific date for making the results of Greyhound Racing Ireland's public consultation on artificial insemination in greyhounds available for public review; to provide a specific timeline in respect of the next steps following this consultation; when a ban on surgical artificial insemination of greyhounds will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13596/26]

*458. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of active approved centres for artificial insemination of greyhounds, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13597/26]

*459. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of active approved inseminators for artificial insemination of greyhounds, by county, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13598/26]

*460. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of artificial insemination licences issued yearly within the greyhound industry in each of the years 2019 to 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13599/26]

*461. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the fee cost or other compensation paid directly or indirectly by Greyhound Racing Ireland to social media influencers for the 2025 Irish Greyhound Derby; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13600/26]

*462. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of greyhounds homed directly by the greyhound racing industry; the number of greyhounds homed by rescues with the assistance of the greyhound racing industry in 2025; the amount of money paid to rescues to aid the homing of these greyhounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13601/26]

*463. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if a registered veterinarian attends every race meeting and trial scheduled at Youghal greyhound track in Cork, since 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13602/26]

*464. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of greyhound litters born in Ireland in 2025; the number of individual pups born; the breakdown of coursing versus non-coursing pups of both litters and individual pups; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [13603/26]

*465. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there is a specific law that prohibits the FSAI from giving information to a member of the public enquiring from a human health perspective about which food business operators and retailers are processing animal products for human consumption imported from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [13669/26]

*466. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the measures in place to ensure traceability for Brazilian beef imports under EU and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine licence conditions; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13670/26]

*467. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the protocols for serial numbers or labelling used on Brazilian beef consignments entering Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13671/26]

*468. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to clarify if the exact tonnage of Brazilian beef imports in 2025 is publicly disclosed or is it commercial sensitive; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13672/26]

*469. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the percentage of beef sourced from Ireland versus the UK or EU by processors involved in Bord Bia schemes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13673/26]

*470. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if poultry is imported from Brazil by Irish processors, and if so, the percentage of total imports this represents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13674/26]

*471. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if there are any regulatory obstacles in domestic producers and suppliers sourcing pigmeat from outside the EU; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13675/26]

*472. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the steps taken to maintain farm-to-fork standards when Brazilian-sourced products are involved in Irish processing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13676/26]

*473. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if any Irish processors have had meat recalls, and whether any such incidents involved Brazilian beef; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13677/26]

*474. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the records that are maintained for testing all imported beef, including consignments from Brazil; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13679/26]

*475. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if all Brazilian beef imports are tested for banned hormones and antibiotics; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13680/26]

*476. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the process by which positive release is achieved for every batch or shipment of imported beef; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13681/26]

*477. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 486 of 12 February 2026, if he will engage with an organisation and other animal welfare charities in relation to a specific case (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13714/26]

*478. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 486 of 12 February 2026, the actions he will take to address the specific situation in relation to a case (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13715/26]

*479. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 486 of 12 February 2026, the actions he is taking to prevent sulky racing before it becomes a matter of road safety; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13716/26]

*480. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding inspections related to the welfare of horses forced to participate in sulky racing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13717/26]

*481. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding any work ongoing in his Department in relation to the illegal and improper care and housing of horses and other animals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [13718/26]

*482. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if heifers remained in the trucks while waiting to be loaded onto the vessel, or were they taken to an assembly centre where they were unloaded, rested, and fed when they were exported from Ireland to Libya on 5 January 2025 (details supplied); if they were held at an assembly centre; if so, which centre(s) were used; the reason for the extended duration of the voyage; if there was adequate feed on board to cover the additional three days; the stage of pregnancy the heifers were at the time of transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert O'Donoghue. [13758/26]

*483. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will consider a specific statutory provision against sulky racing and training on public roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [13809/26]

*484. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an update on the publication of the new Animal Welfare Strategy 2026-2030; if it will contain stronger provisions against improper and illegal use of horses on public roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [13810/26]

*485. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his plans to orient future CAP implementation towards incentives rather than obligations to reduce administrative burdens on farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13820/26]

*486. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will report on the potential benefits of merging agri-environmental measures with eco-schemes to halve administrative requirements and make programs more attractive to Irish farmers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13821/26]

*487. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how the proposed €40 billion innovation window in the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework will be utilised to support Irish agricultural advancements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13823/26]

*488. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total amount paid out in flood compensation from the vote allocation of his Department each year since 2011, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [13910/26]

*489. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the specific supports and guidance being provided to tillage farmers in counties such as Offaly, to comply with the new GAEC 7 crop rotation and diversification requirements and the catch crop alternative under the 2026 BISS scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13916/26]

*490. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the estimated administrative and compliance costs for tillage farmers arising from the updated GAEC standards in 2026; the measures he is taking to minimise the regulatory burden on family farms; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13917/26]

*491. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine his views on a recent statement by a farmer representative organisation (details supplied); if he will engage with processors to ensure farmers receive a fair return that reflects market fundamentals; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13918/26]

*492. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide the latest weekly and year-to-date cattle slaughter figures for 2026; his assessment of the 30,000+ head shortfall in the first six weeks of the year; the steps his Department is taking to safeguard both farmer incomes and processing capacity in the beef sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13919/26]

*493. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his attention has been drawn to reports of potential redundancies in beef processing facilities amid declining cattle throughput;

the contingency measures in place to protect rural employment in counties such as County Offaly; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13920/26]

*494. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an update on the findings of the government-funded PigTail Project; his Department's position on the widespread concerns expressed by Irish pig farmers regarding the risks and costs of ceasing tail docking; the financial or practical supports he intends to provide should regulatory changes be pursued; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13921/26]

*495. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will rule out any unilateral move to ban or restrict tail docking in the Irish pig sector without full compensation, revised housing standards and market premiums for producers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13922/26]

*496. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide a breakdown of the €193.8 million in BISS and CRISS payments made to pension-age farmers in 2025; his views on the fact that almost 40% of applications came from or on behalf of those over 65; the specific actions being taken to improve land access and CAP support for young and new-entrant farmers in Offaly and nationally; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13923/26]

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

*497. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether the current statutory framework governing Garda vetting requires mandatory re-vetting at defined intervals for individuals working in regulated child-care or early years settings; if so, to specify the legislative provision underpinning such requirement; and if not, whether legislative amendment has been considered. — Ken O'Flynn. [13461/26]

*498. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps her Department is taking to address staff shortages and recruitment challenges in Irish-language preschools, including measures to attract and retain qualified Irish-speaking staff; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13811/26]

*499. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the plans in place to improve the availability of Irish-medium training programs and qualifications for staff in Irish-language early childhood services, including the reinstatement of discontinued QQI modules and the development of Level 8 qualifications with parity to primary teachers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13812/26]

*500. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the details of additional funding and investment proposed for Irish-language preschools, including increases to annual grants, capital funding for buildings, and support for operational sustainability in rural and island areas; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13813/26]

*501. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the actions being taken to upgrade infrastructure and facilities in Irish-language early childhood services to address limitations leading to waiting lists, including support for co-location with schools or community buildings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13814/26]

*502. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures her Department will implement to meet the growing demand for Irish-language preschools, particularly in Gaeltacht areas with long waiting lists; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13815/26]

*503. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the proposals to improve pay rates and employment conditions for staff in Irish-language early childhood services, including the introduction of fixed salaries, language premiums, permanent contracts, and benefits such as maternity top-ups; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13816/26]

*504. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps being taken to ensure the expansion and sustainability of Irish-language early childhood services outside Gaeltacht areas, including in areas such as County Offaly; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13817/26]

*505. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the initiatives to enhance integration between Irish-language early childhood services and the broader education system, including collaborations with primary schools via programs like Mo Scéal and support for children with additional needs through schemes like AIM or Better Start; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13818/26]

*506. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the details of strategic planning and future goals for Irish-language early childhood education, key performance indicators for growth, and efforts to preserve the Irish language through these services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [13819/26]

*507. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she is aware of a potential Judicial Review of the 2025 ERO for the childcare sector being brought before the courts; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Wall. [13265/26]

*508. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality regarding the impact of the change to guardians ad litem via the Child Care (Amendment) Act 2022 on the role and function of guardians ad litem in court proceedings; if she has any concerns regarding the effect of these legislative changes on the protection and representation of children's best interests before the courts; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [5960/26]

*509. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the role her Department plays in public awareness campaigns for paternity leave and parent's leave, including targeted outreach to employers and employees; the plans in place to increase awareness and take-up by men; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Grace Boland. [1859/26]

*510. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will consider mandating employers to top up parental leave payments, including maternity and paternity payments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [1622/26]

*511. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures her Department is taking to deliver on the ground supports in relation to the National Human Rights Strategy 2025, in particular supports which will enable disabled people to live independently and be an active part of their communities; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Keira Keogh. [13428/26]

*512. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children in County Kerry waiting for an assessment of need at the latest available point in 2024 and 2025; the number of assessments conducted in 2024 and year-to-date in 2026; and the number of applications received in those periods, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [13434/26]

*513. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children waiting for children's disability network team services in County Kerry, at the latest available point in 2025, by team and service type, in tabular form. — Pa Daly. [13435/26]

*514. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality when approval will be given to the application made for a personalised budget for a person (details supplied; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [13456/26]

*515. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update in the changes being made to the Wards of Court and the Assisted Decision-Making Capacity Act in the case of a person (details supplied; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O'Shea. [13485/26]

*516. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if she will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if she will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13499/26]

*517. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department receives, on an annual or periodic basis, aggregated statistical reports from Tusla on the number of emergency child removal applications made under Section 13 of the Child Care Act 1991; whether such reports include age breakdowns, including children under one year of age; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13613/26]

*518. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether she requires Tusla, under any governance framework agreed with her Department, to report on the outcomes of emergency child removal proceedings, including rates of reunification, care orders, guardianship or adoption; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13614/26]

*519. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department requires Tusla to conduct internal audit, quality assurance review, or evidential compliance review of emergency child removal applications; whether summary findings of such reviews are reported to her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13615/26]

*520. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department has sought or received any data from Tusla in the past five years regarding emergency child removal applications in which material allegations were subsequently amended, withdrawn, or corrected during proceedings; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13616/26]

*521. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether any national policy guidance, approved or noted by her Department, requires Tusla to apply additional procedural safeguards, specialist assessment protocols, or disability-informed practice standards when

child protection proceedings involve a parent with a diagnosed autism spectrum condition or intellectual disability; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13617/26]

*522. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether she has issued, or is considering issuing, any general policy direction to Tusla under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 in relation to evidential standards, proportionality thresholds, or quality assurance mechanisms in emergency child removal cases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13618/26]

*523. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether the Tusla Board is required to report to her Department on governance risks or systemic concerns arising from emergency child removal decisions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13619/26]

*524. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the figures for the number of children put in special emergency arrangements in each of the years 2020-2026 to date. — Claire Kerrane. [13624/26]

*525. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the providers used for special emergency arrangements in 2025; the amount given to each; and the number of times each provider has been inspected since used as a provider by Tusla for such arrangements, in tabular form. — Claire Kerrane. [13625/26]

*526. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if the TUSLA therapeutic team at a centre (details supplied) is being made redundant; if so, the reason this service is being ceased even though there are referrals for over 30 children between Wexford and Waterford who cannot be outsourced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13627/26]

*527. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department can ensure that funding for the TUSLA Therapeutic team at a centre (details supplied) can be made available after May 2026 considering that TUSLA is expanding access to play therapists to children in care, recognising the invaluable care provided through this service; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13628/26]

*528. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the total number of long-term residential places available, by county for disabled people. — Claire Kerrane. [13638/26]

*529. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the total number of disabled people on waiting lists for long-term residential care by county, the average waiting times for such spaces. — Claire Kerrane. [13639/26]

*530. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the payment of building blocks improvement scheme 2023 grant for a creche (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Paul O’Shea. [13640/26]

*531. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide the latest figures for the number of children currently awaiting an assessment of need, per RHA, in tabular form, at the end of January 2026. — Sorca Clarke. [13727/26]

*532. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether the figure of four governance or safeguarding concerns received since 2020, as referenced in correspondence to the Deputy, relates solely to concerns formally recorded by Tusla's Alternative Care Inspection and Monitoring Service in respect of registered children's residential centres under Part VIII of the Child Care Act 1991; and whether any additional governance, safeguarding, compliance or oversight concerns have been recorded since 2020 in relation to private companies providing care services funded by the State outside that specific statutory inspection framework. — Ken O'Flynn. [13745/26]

*533. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department is formally notified when Tusla records governance or safeguarding concerns relating to privately operated residential centres; if so, the mechanism and timeframe for such notification; and what policy review, contractual oversight, or funding control measures are triggered at Departmental level following receipt of such notification. — Ken O'Flynn. [13746/26]

*534. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department maintains a centralised register or consolidated database of governance, safeguarding, compliance or regulatory concerns relating to private companies delivering care services funded in whole or in part by the State; if not, whether she will establish such a register in the interests of transparency, public accountability, and value-for-money oversight. — Ken O'Flynn. [13747/26]

*535. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the total annual Exchequer funding paid to privately operated children's residential centres in each year since 2020; and whether she has conducted or commissioned any risk assessment examining whether the scale of private provision presents governance, safeguarding, or systemic oversight risks. — Ken O'Flynn. [13748/26]

*536. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children currently in State care who have been in care for more than two years, more than five years, and more than ten years; whether her Department sets any national policy targets, benchmarks, or key performance indicators in respect of time-to-permanency for children in care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13753/26]

*537. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department has issued any written guidance, circulars, or policy directions to Tusla concerning the maximum duration a child may remain in voluntary care under section 4 of the Child Care Act 1991; whether any statutory or administrative time thresholds apply requiring escalation or court review after a defined period in voluntary care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13754/26]

*538. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether any mandatory senior management review, independent permanency review, or Department-level reporting requirement is automatically triggered once a child exceeds a defined duration in State care, including two years or more; if so, the details of the relevant policy framework; and if not, whether she will introduce such a requirement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13755/26]

*539. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality what proportion of children currently in long-term foster care are subject to adoption orders, enhanced guardianship, special guardianship, or other permanent legal arrangements; whether her Department requires formal consideration of adoption or guardianship once a child exceeds a defined duration in care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O'Flynn. [13756/26]

*540. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department compiles or publishes data on the average and median duration of time spent in State care before permanency is secured; whether such data is reported to her on a periodic basis; and if she will outline the governance and oversight mechanisms through which time-to-permanency outcomes are monitored at Departmental level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13757/26]

*541. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department accepts that the Children First Act 2015 and Children First National Guidance do not provide an express statutory basis for early years services to share serious staff-conduct safeguarding information between employers where the conduct falls short of a criminal threshold, including for recruitment references, suitability assessments, and risk management; and if she will outline the Department’s position on whether primary legislation is required to address this. — Ken O’Flynn. [13879/26]

*542. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department has conducted, commissioned, or received any legal, policy, or regulatory review since 2020 on “lawful information-sharing” in the early years sector for safeguarding concerns relating to adults working with children, including analysis of data protection, employment law, and fair procedures constraints; and if she will provide the title, date, and executive summary findings of any such review. — Ken O’Flynn. [13880/26]

*543. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department has considered establishing a statutory safeguarding-disclosure scheme for early years services, including (a) a defined threshold for disclosure based on risk to children, (b) independent assessment prior to any adverse finding, (c) notice to the staff member, (d) an appeal mechanism, (e) time limits and proportionality rules, and (f) oversight and audit arrangements; and if she will outline the options assessed and the preferred approach. — Ken O’Flynn. [13881/26]

*544. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality what guidance her Department has issued to early years services on the recording, retention, and sharing of staff-related safeguarding concerns that do not meet the mandated reporting threshold, including guidance on risk assessments, internal investigations, and reference requests; and if no such guidance has issued, whether she will publish sector specific guidance in 2026. — Ken O’Flynn. [13882/26]

*545. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether her Department has engaged with Tusla, the Data Protection Commission, and representative bodies for early learning and childcare providers on the practical barriers to safeguarding information-sharing about staff conduct across early years settings; and if she will provide the dates of engagement and the key issues raised. — Ken O’Flynn. [13883/26]

*546. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the amount of money being spent by Tusla each year on special emergency arrangements between 2023 to 2025; the total number of children in special emergency arrangements per year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marie Sherlock. [13915/26]

*547. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department plans to deliver a State-run childcare facility in the Tulla/Kilkishen area of County Clare, given it has a rapidly increasing population and has a dearth of facilities at present; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donna McGettigan. [13957/26]

*548. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of adults in County Wexford with an intellectual disability; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — George Lawlor. [13964/26]

*549. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the initiatives and legislative change underway to deal with the backlog in the assessment of needs (AON) list; the way these will impact on reducing the waiting lists for AONs and provide greater access to the necessary therapies; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13211/26]

*550. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether she is formally notified, either directly or through structured reporting arrangements, of substantiated governance or safeguarding failures identified by Tusla in early years services that receive public funding; if so, to outline the reporting mechanism, frequency, and thresholds for notification; and if not, to state how she satisfies herself that systemic safeguarding risks are escalated to Ministerial level. — Ken O’Flynn. [14828/26]

*551. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of occasions since 1 January 2020 on which substantiated governance or safeguarding failures in publicly funded early years services have been escalated to her Department at senior official level; the categories of concern involved; and whether any resulted in policy review, regulatory amendment, contractual revision, or funding sanction at Departmental level. — Ken O’Flynn. [14831/26]

*552. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to set out the formal governance interface between her Department and Tusla in respect of oversight of early years services, including whether a structured compliance reporting template exists, whether trend analysis is conducted centrally, and whether aggregated safeguarding data informs policy development or funding decisions. — Ken O’Flynn. [14832/26]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*553. To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be made available via the Mental Health Capital Plan for a specific mental health crisis unit for County Wexford; and if so, if she can outline a timeline for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13564/26]

*554. To ask the Minister for Health the measures that are in place to inform the public if a product for human consumption is found to contain a cancer-causing substance, or any other human health issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [13668/26]

*555. To ask the Minister for Health the length of time the CAHMS vacancy for a psychologist for Gorey, County Wexford has been vacant for; the reason this position has not yet been filled; the amount of patients currently waiting to be seen by a member of CAHMS in the vicinity, including a breakdown per year of how long they have been waiting to receive care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13423/26]

*556. To ask the Minister for Health the length of time the CAHMS vacancy for an occupational therapist for County Wexford has been vacant for; the reason this position has not yet been filled; the amount of patients currently waiting to be seen by a member of CAHMS in the vicinity, including a breakdown per year of the length of time they have been waiting

to receive care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13424/26]

*557. To ask the Minister for Health the length of time the CAHMS vacancy for an assistant psychologist for County Wicklow has been vacant for; the reason this position has not yet been filled; the amount of patients currently waiting to be seen by a member of CAHMS in the vicinity, including a breakdown per year of the length of time they have been waiting to receive care; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13425/26]

*558. To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacancies there currently are for CAHMS County Wicklow and County Wexford; the length these roles have been vacant for; the reason this position has not yet been filled; the amount of patients currently waiting to be seen by a member of CAHMS in the vicinity, including a breakdown per year of the length of time they have been waiting to receive care; if there are any plans to increase the number of posts allocated to both counties for CAHMS; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13426/26]

*559. To ask the Minister for Health if plans have been completed and funded to develop a liaison service for CAHMS across the South East, as stated in the service plan for 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13427/26]

*560. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Primary Care Reimbursement Service holds reimbursement claims data for salbutamol nebulas dispensed under the general medical services scheme from 1 January 2025 to date; and if so, to provide the total number of claims and the monthly breakdown. — Ken O'Flynn. [13447/26]

*561. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Primary Care Reimbursement Service holds reimbursement claims data for alternative nebulised bronchodilator products dispensed under the general medical services scheme from 1 January 2025 to date; and if so, to provide the total number of claims and the monthly breakdown, including identification of the relevant product categories. — Ken O'Flynn. [13448/26]

*562. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department or the HSE conducted any national analysis of prescribing substitution patterns arising from reported shortages of salbutamol nebulas since 1 January 2025; and if so, to provide details of the methodology used and any conclusions reached. — Ken O'Flynn. [13449/26]

*563. To ask the Minister for Health the national monitoring framework which is in place within her Department or the HSE to assess the patient impact of essential medicine shortages under the general medical services scheme; and whether this framework includes tracking of clinical substitution, cost impact, or regional variation. — Ken O'Flynn. [13450/26]

*564. To ask the Minister for Health whether any additional expenditure has arisen under the general medical services scheme as a result of prescribing alternative products due to salbutamol nebule shortages since 1 January 2025; and if so, to provide the estimated amount and the basis of calculation. — Ken O'Flynn. [13451/26]

*565. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on a new cardiovascular strategy; the expected timeline for its publication; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13452/26]

*566. To ask the Minister for Health whether a new national cardiovascular strategy will be produced; if it will include nationwide screening and early detection of structural heart disease, cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular risk assessment programmes; how Ireland will align with OECD and EU recommendations (details supplied); if dedicated resources will be allocated to prevention and early detection; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13453/26]

*567. To ask the Minister for Health if she will urgently review the case of a person (details supplied) in relation to their personal assistant budget, where an increase was verbally agreed by the HSE but has not been reflected in recent payments; the reason the agreed hourly rate increase has not been implemented; the steps being taken rectify the matter as a matter of urgency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [13459/26]

*568. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the weekly urgent and emergency care reports for each ED from 1 January 2026 to-date; the reason these reports are not available publicly on the HSE website as was previously the case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Joe Cooney. [13477/26]

*569. To ask the Minister for Health the steps she is taking to immediately address the ongoing failures at the Central Mental Hospital, where patients continue to experience unacceptable conditions including heating system malfunctions and service deficiencies; to provide a clear timeline by which all necessary repairs and operational improvements will be completed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Sorca Clarke. [13487/26]

*570. To ask the Minister for Health the rates of non-attendance for bowel screening appointments for 2023, 2024 and 2025, broken down by individual hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [13491/26]

*571. To ask the Minister for Health if she will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if she will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if she will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13508/26]

*572. To ask the Minister for Health for the average ambulance response time in County Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13531/26]

*573. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance bases in Galway; the location of each; the permanent number of ambulances assigned to each base; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13532/26]

*574. To ask the Minister for Health the number of full time paramedic staff with the ambulances service in County Galway; the number of staff permanently located at each ambulance base within Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13533/26]

*575. To ask the Minister for Health the number of requests for ambulance service that were not facilitated on 6 February 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13534/26]

*576. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the means by which ambulance service triage call for ambulance requests; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13535/26]

*577. To ask the Minister for Health the number of calls made for an ambulance request on 6 February 2026 in County Galway that were responded to where the ambulance arrived at the correct patient location, in tabular form (details supplied). — John Connolly. [13536/26]

*578. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the progression of the development works on the new ambulance base at Recess, County Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Connolly. [13537/26]

*579. To ask the Minister for Health the steps her Department is taking to address the gaps in the assisted human reproduction legislative framework that continue to affect LGBTQ+ families, including the lack of recognition for international surrogacy arrangements, the exclusion of some same-sex female couples from parental recognition pathways, the limited routes available to gay men seeking to become parents', the absence of definitions that reflect the lived realities of transgender parents; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Shay Brennan. [13543/26]

*580. To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be made available via the Mental Health Capital Plan for a specific mental health crisis unit for County Wexford following discussions on Friday 13 February with the HSE; and if so, if she can outline a timeline for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Fionntán Ó Súilleabháin. [13563/26]

*581. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm that the estimate for immunisation has increased from €10,788,000 in 2025 to €54,377,000 in 2026 in the Revised Estimates for Public Service under Primary Care Reimbursement Services (details supplied); the cause for this increase in immunisation spend; the services or costs which fall under this increased allocation; whether any budget has been allocated for the expansion of adult immunisation programmes, such as RSV vaccination for older adults; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13594/26]

*582. To ask the Minister for Health to provide, the full list of all non-statutory bodies in receipt of direct funding from her Department in each of the past five years; the annual amount allocated to each body; the policy unit responsible for oversight of each body; whether a formal governance framework is applied by the Department to each body; and the statutory or administrative basis under which such oversight is exercised, in tabular form. — Ken O'Flynn. [13606/26]

*583. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department requires non-statutory bodies in receipt of direct funding to maintain: a Department-approved safeguarding policy, a designated safeguarding officer, mandatory reporting procedures to the Department in the event of safeguarding concerns, compliance with Children First Act 2015 obligations, where applicable; and periodic certification of safeguarding compliance to the Department. — Ken O'Flynn. [13607/26]

*584. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department maintains a central risk register in respect of non-statutory bodies receiving direct Departmental funding, conducts formal risk assessments prior to the allocation of funding, applies a risk-rating classification to such bodies, requires annual risk statements from funded bodies; and has defined escalation procedures where governance or safeguarding risks are identified. — Ken O'Flynn. [13608/26]

*585. To ask the Minister for Health whether funding agreements with non-statutory bodies include defined service-quality standards, measurable performance indicators, reporting obligations beyond financial statements, periodic compliance reviews conducted by Department officials and documented evaluation of service delivery outcomes. — Ken O’Flynn. [13609/26]

*586. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the frequency with which policy units formally review governance documentation submitted by funded non-statutory bodies, whether site visits or structured compliance engagements are undertaken by Department officials; whether written governance assessment reports are generated by the Department; and the number of instances in the past five years in which funding conditions were revised, suspended, or withdrawn due to governance concerns. — Ken O’Flynn. [13610/26]

*587. To ask the Minister for Health to specify the oversight mechanisms operated directly by her Department in respect of non-statutory bodies receiving direct funding, separate from annual financial audit, expenditure controls and post-hoc review by the Comptroller and Auditor General; and to identify the policy framework governing such mechanisms. — Ken O’Flynn. [13611/26]

*588. To ask the Minister for Health the number of claims submitted under the General Medical Services Scheme, Drugs Payment Scheme and Long-Term Illness Scheme for salbutamol nebulas or equivalent short-acting bronchodilator nebulas products in (a) 2024 and (b) 2025; the number and value of such claims paid; the number and value rejected or unpaid; and whether she will provide the corresponding figures for claims processed under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements during registered shortage periods. — Ken O’Flynn. [13629/26]

*589. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Department or the Health Service Executive maintains centralised data on the number of patients whose access to reimbursable salbutamol nebulas or equivalent substitute products was impacted during registered shortage periods in 2024 and 2025; if so, the number recorded; and if not, whether she intends to introduce a monitoring mechanism to quantify patient impact during essential medicines shortages. — Ken O’Flynn. [13630/26]

*590. To ask the Minister for Health whether any formal risk assessment, clinical safety review, or value-for-money analysis was conducted in relation to the ongoing shortages of salbutamol nebulas during 2024 and 2025; whether contingency procurement arrangements were activated; and what governance structures are in place to ensure uninterrupted reimbursement access for essential respiratory medicines for medical card holders. — Ken O’Flynn. [13631/26]

*591. To ask the Minister for Health the total expenditure incurred in 2024 and 2025 on salbutamol nebulas and equivalent substitute products under the Community Drug Schemes; the additional expenditure, if any, arising from the use of Exempt Medicinal Products during shortage periods; and the budgetary provisions in place to manage future supply disruptions. — Ken O’Flynn. [13632/26]

*592. To ask the Minister for Health when 24/7 cover of the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) in Roscommon will be operational given that the advanced paramedic roster for the RRV is now full; and when this cover will be restored. — Claire Kerrane. [13636/26]

*593. To ask the Minister for Health whether the 2021 consultant post in child and adolescent psychiatry approved under the National Gender Service Model of Care (2018), referenced in PQ 70457/25, included in its job description or person specification any requirement to adhere

to WPATH Standards of Care; and if so, the exact wording of that requirement and the date on which it was first approved. — Ken O’Flynn. [13641/26]

*594. To ask the Minister for Health the governance and approval pathway by which any requirement to adhere to WPATH Standards of Care was authorised for inclusion in the 2021 consultant child and adolescent psychiatry post referenced in PQ 70457/25, including the Departmental or HSE national clinical governance structure under which such approval was granted. — Ken O’Flynn. [13642/26]

*595. To ask the Minister for Health the policy rationale, evidential basis, and clinical guidance relied upon when approving the 2021 consultant child and adolescent psychiatry post referenced in PQ 70457/25; and whether any written clinical safety assessment, risk assessment, or governance memorandum was prepared at the time of approval. — Ken O’Flynn. [13643/26]

*596. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Department or the HSE retains documentary records, minutes, memoranda, or correspondence relating to the approval of the 2021 consultant child and adolescent psychiatry post referenced in PQ 70457/25; and whether the Minister will confirm the existence of such records and their retention under national governance procedures. — Ken O’Flynn. [13644/26]

*597. To ask the Minister for Health the number of recruitment campaigns undertaken to fill the 2021 consultant child and adolescent psychiatry post referenced in PQ 70457/25; the dates of each campaign; and the policy-level reasons recorded for the campaigns being unsuccessful. — Ken O’Flynn. [13645/26]

*598. To ask the Minister for Health when the review of the National Gender Service Model of Care (2018), referenced in PQ 70457/25, formally commenced; the governance structure overseeing the review; and the anticipated completion date. — Ken O’Flynn. [13646/26]

*599. To ask the Minister for Health the manner in which the findings of the Cass Review are being incorporated into the review of the National Gender Service Model of Care (2018); and whether the Minister will publish the terms of reference for that review. — Ken O’Flynn. [13647/26]

*600. To ask the Minister for Health what national clinical governance arrangements currently apply to specialist gender healthcare services for children and adolescents while the National Gender Service Model of Care (2018) is under review; and whether any interim clinical guidance has been issued since publication of the Cass Review. — Ken O’Flynn. [13648/26]

*601. To ask the Minister for Health whether any future recruitment specifications for consultant posts in child and adolescent gender-related services will be required to align strictly with the revised National Gender Service Model of Care; and the national clinical governance structure that will approve such specifications. — Ken O’Flynn. [13649/26]

*602. To ask the Minister for Health the oversight role exercised by her Department in approving or reviewing national clinical models of care which inform consultant recruitment specifications; and whether the Minister retains ultimate policy responsibility for ensuring that such models align with international evidence and best practice. — Ken O’Flynn. [13650/26]

*603. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has conducted a formal risk assessment of the requirement that dispensing pharmacies must contact the Primary Care

Reimbursement Service on a case-by-case basis to secure reimbursement approval for clinically equivalent substitute medicines during a formally declared shortage; whether any patient-safety analysis has been undertaken regarding potential delays in access to time-sensitive respiratory medicines; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13652/26]

*604. To ask the Minister for Health whether there is a formal Departmental policy providing for automatic reimbursement of clinically equivalent substitute medicines once the Health Products Regulatory Authority has listed a reimbursable product as being in shortage; if not, whether she will outline the policy rationale for the absence of such an automatic trigger mechanism; and whether consideration is being given to introducing same. — Ken O’Flynn. [13653/26]

*605. To ask the Minister for Health to set out the statutory, regulatory, or administrative basis under which Exempt Medicinal Products are supported under Discretionary Hardship Arrangements during medicine shortages; whether these arrangements are governed by published criteria; and whether her Department intends to place such arrangements on a formalised national footing. — Ken O’Flynn. [13654/26]

*606. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has assessed the administrative burden placed on community pharmacies in circumstances where substitute reimbursement must be individually queried with the Primary Care Reimbursement Service; whether any review has been undertaken of processing times, approval rates, or rejected applications in such cases over the past three years; and if she will provide the findings of any such review. — Ken O’Flynn. [13655/26]

*607. To ask the Minister for Health whether national clinical governance guidance has been issued by her Department or by the HSE in respect of reimbursement decision-making during shortages of time-sensitive respiratory medicines, including salbutamol nebulas; whether such guidance addresses continuity of care, risk mitigation, and equity of access; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13656/26]

*608. To ask the Minister for Health the number of occasions in the past three years on which medicines listed on the Community Drug Schemes Reimbursement List were formally declared in shortage by the Health Products Regulatory Authority; in how many such cases substitute reimbursement required discretionary approval; and whether her Department maintains a central register of such occurrences. — Ken O’Flynn. [13657/26]

*609. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has conducted any value-for-money or cost-comparison analysis between maintaining automatic substitute reimbursement mechanisms during shortages and operating the current discretionary case-by-case approval model; and if she will provide details of any such analysis undertaken since 2020. — Ken O’Flynn. [13658/26]

*610. To ask the Minister for Health whether any equity impact assessment has been conducted to determine whether patients without medical cards or without established Drugs Payment Scheme eligibility face additional barriers in accessing substitute medicines during shortages; and whether she will outline any measures in place to prevent differential access arising from reimbursement mechanisms. — Ken O’Flynn. [13659/26]

*611. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has engaged with representative bodies for community pharmacists, respiratory clinicians, or patient advocacy groups in relation to reimbursement continuity during medicine shortages; whether any formal consultation process

has been undertaken since 2020; and if she will provide details of the outcome of any such engagement. — Ken O’Flynn. [13660/26]

*612. To ask the Minister for Health whether she will commit to publishing a formal contingency reimbursement protocol setting out clear, automatic procedures for substitute medicine reimbursement where a reimbursable product is listed in shortage by the Health Products Regulatory Authority; and if she will indicate a timeframe for the development and publication of such a protocol. — Ken O’Flynn. [13661/26]

*613. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2074 of 13 January 2026, to list all written directions, circulars, guidance notes, governance frameworks, or performance requirements issued by her Department to the HSE since 2018 concerning the Treatment Abroad Scheme, including prior authorisation governance, escalation rules for high-cost approvals, and the reporting of approvals and expenditure to the Department; and if none, to state how her Department ensures formal oversight of high-cost overseas referrals funded from the Health Vote. — Ken O’Flynn. [13690/26]

*614. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2074 of 13 January 2026, whether her Department receives any routine dataset or report from the HSE on Treatment Abroad Scheme approvals and expenditure, including the number of applications received, the number approved, the number refused, the average cost per approval, and total spend by year since 2018; and if so, to specify the reporting frequency, the responsible unit in her Department, and the date on which such reporting commenced. — Ken O’Flynn. [13691/26]

*615. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has issued any written requirement to the HSE since 2018 to categorise Treatment Abroad Scheme expenditure by procedure type for departmental governance and cost control purposes; and if not, to state the reason her Department does not require procedure-level categorisation for exchequer oversight. — Ken O’Flynn. [13692/26]

*616. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has approved any national governance, safeguarding, and clinical governance framework for gender identity services for children and young people, including required standards, audit arrangements, and lines of accountability; and if so, to provide the title, date of approval, and the name of the unit responsible for monitoring compliance. — Ken O’Flynn. [13693/26]

*617. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has conducted or commissioned, since 2019, any risk assessment, safeguarding assurance review, or governance assessment of gender identity services for children and young people, including assessment of diagnostic governance, consent safeguards, data completeness, and clinical oversight; and if so, to provide the date, the commissioning body, and whether recommendations were issued to the HSE for implementation. — Ken O’Flynn. [13694/26]

*618. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has completed any formal assessment since 2018 of the WPATH Standards of Care for the purposes of alignment with Irish health governance frameworks, including appraisal methodology, conflicts-of-interest screening, and evidence grading; and if so, to provide the date and the governance route by which the assessment was approved. — Ken O’Flynn. [13695/26]

*619. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has issued any written instruction to the HSE to establish a national dataset for gender identity services for minors, including referral volumes, diagnostic profiles, treatment pathways, and outcomes; and if so, to

specify the minimum dataset fields required, the legal basis relied upon, and the target date for national coverage. — Ken O’Flynn. [13696/26]

*620. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has approved a national KPI set for recruitment governance across services funded under the Health Vote, including vacancy definitions, clearance timelines, time-to-hire, and development post delivery; and if so, to list the KPIs, the definitions used, and the date of departmental approval. — Ken O’Flynn. [13697/26]

*621. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2162 of 13 January 2026, whether her Department requires the HSE to provide recruitment and vacancy data to the Department on a standardised national template with consistent definitions across all regions; and if so, to provide the date such standardisation was introduced and the compliance arrangements in place. — Ken O’Flynn. [13698/26]

*622. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2164 of 13 January 2026, whether her Department will require the HSE to report quarterly to the Department the estimated cost to the Health Vote of Bed Days Lost associated with Delayed Transfers of Care, including Type E homelessness and housing support categories; and if not, to state the reason cost reporting is not required for a clearly identified driver of hospital capacity loss. — Ken O’Flynn. [13699/26]

*623. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2164 of 13 January 2026, whether her Department has approved any standard national methodology for calculating bed-day cost for governance and planning purposes, including the cost basis used and whether it is applied consistently across hospital groups; and if so, to provide the methodology reference and the date it was approved. — Ken O’Flynn. [13700/26]

*624. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department requires maternity services to record and report, as a national patient safety governance measure, any instance where signs of life are observed following a termination of pregnancy, including whether any national data return is required from maternity hospitals to the Department or to a national programme; and if not, to state the policy basis for the absence of a mandatory national governance return. — Ken O’Flynn. [13701/26]

*625. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has commissioned or overseen since 2019 any national clinical audit, serious incident learning review, or patient safety governance review in relation to reporting and governance arrangements for cases where signs of life are observed following a termination of pregnancy; and if so, to provide the number of reviews, the dates, and whether findings were provided to her Department. — Ken O’Flynn. [13702/26]

*626. To ask the Minister for Health further to the reply to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 2312 to 2316 of 13 January 2026, whether her Department holds the HSE tender evaluation summary, cost-effectiveness analysis, and decision documentation underpinning the decision not to procure enhanced influenza vaccines for the 2025 to 2026 season; and if so, to state whether she will publish the non-commercially sensitive elements of that documentation in the interests of transparency. — Ken O’Flynn. [13703/26]

*627. To ask the Minister for Health the Government’s long-term approach to supporting people suffering from long-Covid, in circumstances where specific illness benefit arrangements for long-Covid ended on 31 December 2025 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [13704/26]

*628. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the efforts being made to secure the services of an orthodontist for the regional orthodontic service based at Louth County Hospital, Dundalk; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13733/26]

*629. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the number, age range and category of patient currently waiting for orthodontic assessment and orthodontic treatment at the regional orthodontic centre based at Louth County Hospital, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [13734/26]

*630. To ask the Minister for Health the full list of national workforce Key Performance Indicators currently agreed between her Department and the HSE for 2025; the date on which each KPI was formally approved; the reporting frequency for each; and whether each KPI is published, in tabular form. — Ken O'Flynn. [13740/26]

*631. To ask the Minister for Health whether the average time taken to fill funded vacant posts, from approval to commencement in post, is monitored at national level; if so, the most recent national figure; and if not, whether she will introduce a national time-to-fill benchmark as a matter of policy. — Ken O'Flynn. [13741/26]

*632. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the number of funded vacant whole-time equivalent posts in each of the six health regions as of the most recent reporting date; and the corresponding vacancy rate expressed as a percentage of funded workforce. — Ken O'Flynn. [13742/26]

*633. To ask the Minister for Health to state the total expenditure on agency staffing in each Health Region in 2024 and 2025 to date; and whether her Department has undertaken any analysis correlating agency expenditure with funded vacancy levels. — Ken O'Flynn. [13743/26]

*634. To ask the Minister for Health to outline the recruitment control measures introduced in 2023 and 2024; the policy rationale for those measures; and whether any impact assessment was undertaken regarding their effect on vacancy levels, service delivery, or patient waiting times. — Ken O'Flynn. [13744/26]

*635. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that there are delays of up to ten working days arising in providing access to IT accounts for HSE staff returning to work after periods of statutory leave; the details of the average wait time for the provision of access to IT accounts for all grades of staff returning from statutory leave, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ciarán Ahern. [13759/26]

*636. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of medicines listed as being in short supply on the national medicines shortage list maintained by the Health Products Regulatory Authority; the number of these classified as critical or without a clinically equivalent alternative; the average duration of shortages recorded in each of the past three years; and the steps being taken at Departmental level to reduce recurrence and duration of shortages. — Ken O'Flynn. [13762/26]

*637. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department maintains a formal medicines supply resilience strategy addressing strategic stockholding, diversification of supply chains, early warning mechanisms and substitution protocols; if so, when it was last reviewed; and if she will outline the key policy measures currently in force. — Ken O'Flynn. [13763/26]

*638. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department receives routine structured reports from the Health Products Regulatory Authority and the HSE regarding medicines shortages affecting chronic disease management, including respiratory conditions; the frequency and format of such reports; and how this information informs policy and budgetary planning. — Ken O’Flynn. [13764/26]

*639. To ask the Minister for Health whether automatic reimbursement mechanisms are in place under community drug schemes to ensure that where a reimbursable medicine is unavailable due to shortage, clinically appropriate substitute medicines are reimbursed without additional administrative burden on patients or prescribers; and if not, whether she will introduce such a mechanism. — Ken O’Flynn. [13765/26]

*640. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has undertaken any assessment of the patient safety, treatment interruption or cost implications arising from medicines shortages in the past three years; if so, the findings of that assessment; and if not, whether such an assessment will now be commissioned. — Ken O’Flynn. [13766/26]

*641. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has issued formal policy guidance to the Health Service Executive or to the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics regarding the appropriate time horizon to be applied in health technology assessments where medicines are intended to reduce the long-term incidence of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13785/26]

*642. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department requires that lifetime modelling of avoided downstream healthcare costs, including reduced hospital admissions, surgical interventions, dialysis, and long-term disability supports, be incorporated as standard practice in value-for-money assessments conducted under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13786/26]

*643. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has undertaken any review of the balance between short-term budget impact considerations and long-term prevention-based savings in medicines reimbursement decisions under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013; and whether any policy changes are under consideration in this regard. — Ken O’Flynn. [13787/26]

*644. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has assessed the extent to which population-level disease prevention benefits are reflected in cost-effectiveness evaluations carried out by or on behalf of the Health Service Executive; and whether she intends to issue policy guidance clarifying how such prevention benefits are to be weighted in future reimbursement decisions. — Ken O’Flynn. [13788/26]

*645. To ask the Minister for Health whether any internal Departmental policy documents, circulars, or guidance notes exist concerning the incorporation of long-term prevention outcomes in medicines reimbursement decisions under the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013; and whether she will arrange for any such documents to be published. — Ken O’Flynn. [13789/26]

*646. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department receives annual or quarterly statistical reports from the Health Service Executive on discretionary medical card approvals and refusals granted under the General Medical Services scheme in respect of persons aged over 70; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ken O’Flynn. [13798/26]

*647. To ask the Minister for Health whether the data provided to her Department by the Health Service Executive on discretionary medical card decisions is disaggregated by age cohort, geographic region, and outcome; and if she will outline the categories of data routinely received. — Ken O’Flynn. [13799/26]

*648. To ask the Minister for Health the number of discretionary medical cards granted to persons aged over 70 following a means assessment in each of the years 2020 to 2025 inclusive; and the number of applications in that age cohort refused following discretionary assessment in each year. — Ken O’Flynn. [13800/26]

*649. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has conducted any review, audit, or policy assessment since 2020 of trends in the exercise of discretion in medical card eligibility decisions affecting persons aged over 70; and if she will provide details of any such review. — Ken O’Flynn. [13801/26]

*650. To ask the Minister for Health whether national guidance or policy directives are issued by her Department to ensure consistency in the exercise of discretion under the medical card scheme; and if she will outline the governance arrangements in place to monitor consistency and equity of outcomes for older persons. — Ken O’Flynn. [13802/26]

*651. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has assessed the financial impact on older persons who are refused discretionary medical card eligibility but granted a GP Visit Card; and if she will outline any policy considerations arising from such assessment. — Ken O’Flynn. [13803/26]

*652. To ask the Minister for Health when she will consider and publish the review of the physician assistant or associate role in the health service; if she will sanction the grade and role; the steps she is taking to ensure robust governance; the steps she is taking to ensure that other professions which could or do perform some of the roles proposed for physician associates are supported to practice at the top of their licence in order to provide a clear niche for this role, if it is deemed necessary; the steps she is taking to engage with professional groups on the matter; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [13804/26]

*653. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of whole-time equivalent GPs practising in the State in each year from 2020 to 2025; the estimated population per GP ratio in each year; and whether demographic change, including inward migration, is factored into primary care workforce planning models. — Ken O’Flynn. [13869/26]

*654. To ask the Minister for Health the total amount of funding allocated in 2025 and to date in 2026 to commission external private providers under Service Level Agreements or Grant Aid Agreements for the provision of primary care level child and adolescent psychological interventions in HSE South West; and the breakdown of that funding by provider and agreement type. — Ken O’Flynn. [13870/26]

*655. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adolescents referred to external commissioned providers under Service Level Agreements or Grant Aid Agreements in HSE South West in 2025 and to date in 2026; the average cost per intervention episode; and the average number of sessions delivered per child. — Ken O’Flynn. [13871/26]

*656. To ask the Minister for Health the impact of the commissioning of external psychological service providers in HSE South West on primary care child psychology waiting

lists; the reduction achieved in average waiting time in months; and the performance metrics used by the HSE to evaluate value for money and clinical outcomes under these agreements. — Ken O’Flynn. [13872/26]

*657. To ask the Minister for Health whether it is Government policy to continue the commissioning of external private providers for primary care level child and adolescent psychological interventions beyond 2025; and how this commissioning model aligns with national workforce planning for publicly employed psychologists. — Ken O’Flynn. [13873/26]

*658. To ask the Minister for Health whether all Service Level Agreements and Grant Aid Agreements entered into in 2025 in HSE South West for the provision of primary care child psychology services are subject to formal clinical audit; and if so, the dates of audits conducted and whether any compliance or performance issues were identified. — Ken O’Flynn. [13874/26]

*659. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department receives, holds, or reviews aggregated data from the Health Service Executive or the Primary Care Reimbursement Service on the exercise of discretion in medical card eligibility decisions following a means assessment; the total number of applications in which discretion was considered in each of the years 2020 to 2025; the number granted on a discretionary basis; the number refused following discretionary consideration; whether such data is disaggregated by age cohort including persons aged over 70; whether the Department analyses trends or regional variation in discretionary decision-making; and the policy, audit, or governance mechanisms in place to ensure national consistency in the exercise of discretion under the general medical services scheme. — Ken O’Flynn. [13884/26]

*660. To ask the Minister for Health whether any formal reporting framework exists between the Health Service Executive and her Department in respect of discretionary medical card decisions; the frequency of any such reporting; whether performance indicators, audit reviews, or internal compliance checks are conducted in relation to discretionary refusals; and if she will outline the Department’s role in supervising the exercise of discretion under the general medical services scheme. — Ken O’Flynn. [13885/26]

*661. To ask the Minister for Health the steps that have been taken to progress the lymphoedema and lipoedema model of care further to successful outcomes from Proof-of-Concept services; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13894/26]

*662. To ask the Minister for Health when the draft Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) (Amendment) Bill will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13895/26]

*663. To ask the Minister for Health the aspects of the National Strategy for Accelerating Genetics and Genomic Medicine that will be progressed in 2026; the funding that will be required to do so; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13896/26]

*664. To ask the Minister for Health the aspects of the Hereditary Cancer Model of Care that will be progressed in 2026; the funding that will be required to do so; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13897/26]

*665. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the implementation of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) screening within the national newborn bloodspot screening programme; the target date for the rollout of SMA screening to all newborns; the Government’s

ongoing commitment to expanding the newborn screening programme to include additional rare diseases; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [13898/26]

*666. To ask the Minister for Health if she will address the exclusion of some general practices from the revised social deprivation practice grant (details supplied); if she will take urgent steps to amend the way in which deprivation is measured given the serious flaws identified in the current categorisations; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13926/26]

*667. To ask the Minister for Health if general practitioners have been provided with guidelines with respect to the diagnosis and treatment of premenstrual dysphoric disorder; if so, to provide a copy; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13927/26]

*668. To ask the Minister for Health if she will commit to the publication of a comprehensive framework outlining a programme for the diagnosis and treatment of premenstrual dysphoric disorder, encompassing a multidisciplinary contribution from general practitioners, psychiatric and gynaecological specialists; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13928/26]

*669. To ask the Minister for Health the research her Department is consulting or conducting with respect to the use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for the treatment for premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13929/26]

*670. To ask the Minister for Health the research her Department is consulting or conducting with respect to diagnostic pathways for people with premenstrual dysphoric disorder; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13930/26]

*671. To ask the Minister for Health to provide details on any public awareness programmes or campaigns that her Department or the HSE has carried out to inform people of the symptoms of premenstrual dysphoric disorder; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13931/26]

*672. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people on a waiting list for pre-exposure prophylaxis, by clinic; and the wait time to be offered a new appointment in each clinic, in tabular form. — Pádraig Rice. [13935/26]

*673. To ask the Minister for Health to list all public pre-exposure prophylaxis clinics; and to identify the sites in which waiting lists are closed to new self-referrals, in tabular form. — Pádraig Rice. [13936/26]

*674. To ask the Minister for Health the funding allocated to public pre-exposure prophylaxis services to expand capacity, reduce waiting lists and ensure that the waiting lists in all public clinics are open to new self-referrals; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13937/26]

*675. To ask the Minister for Health if a new model of pre-exposure prophylaxis will be considered, given the strain on existing clinics (details supplied); if she will review this model; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13938/26]

*676. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 359 of 11 February 2026, to confirm that she has received the HSE's report into the physician associate grade; if she will publish this report; the timeline for same; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13939/26]

*677. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a copy of the HEMS Feasibility Study (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13940/26]

*678. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 351 of 10 December 2025, to respond to correspondence from HIQA which clearly states that criteria used in their Health Technology Assessment (HTA) of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) was not limited to patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus who have required insulin from the outset (details supplied); the steps she will take to address this discrepancy; if this reimbursement decision will be revisited; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13941/26]

*679. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm the intended location for the proposed Drimmagh primary care centre, specifically whether the site selected is at Curlew Road, Drimmagh, Dublin 12, or Davitt Road, Drimmagh, Dublin 12; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Ardagh. [13945/26]

*680. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the status of the proposed Primary care centre for Drimmagh, including the current stage of the project, and a timeline for its progression to completion; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Ardagh. [13946/26]

*681. To ask the Minister for Health when new facilities and upgraded accommodation will be provided at a health care centre (details supplied) in view of the longstanding commitment to undertake such works; if much needed improvement works and adequate accommodation will be provided at the existing site, or if it is still proposed to co-locate with another health care facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13951/26]

*682. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) is not receiving enough home help hours; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [13956/26]

*683. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that a respite service in Westmeath is being used by one service user as a long-term residential place and is preventing other service users using it for respite; and the number of long-term residential care places for young adults there are in Westmeath. — Robert Troy. [13968/26]

*684. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 2460 of 13 January 2026, to provide an update on the review of the Medical Cannabis Access Programme; if a chairperson has been appointed; if not, the status of work to put the chairperson and membership in place; the timeline she is working towards; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13969/26]

*685. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for implementation of Ava's protocol, recommended by Cork City Coroner's office in 2024; if she is committed to implementing this change to the administration of medical cannabis in hospital settings; if this will be implemented through primary or secondary legislation; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig Rice. [13970/26]

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

*686. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13507/26]

*687. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to Parliamentary Question No. 1268 of 10 February 2026, if he will provide an updated table (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [13925/26]

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

*688. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if funding will be made available for the development of a library in Castletroy, Limerick City; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Conor Sheehan. [13562/26]

*689. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if a building (details supplied) will be community asset transferred for community use; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pat Buckley. [13454/26]

*690. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will outline each section of enacted legislation, where the responsibility lies in the Minister to commence that section, that has not been commenced; if he will outline each section of enacted legislation which provides for the making of regulations by the Minister that have not been made by the Minister; if he will outline all sections of enacted legislation or secondary legislation which provide for the publication of guidelines by the Minister that have not been published, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Geoghegan. [13512/26]

*691. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the programmes or funding that have been provided to support rural communities and Gaeltacht areas along the Wild Atlantic Way for sustainable tourism, cultural activities, and landscape/heritage protection; the details of the funding, projects supported, and expected outcomes for community development and conservation of local landscapes and heritage; how local communities and stakeholders are engaged in planning and delivering these projects; the measures being taken to ensure tourism growth benefits rural and Gaeltacht communities while protecting landscapes and heritage; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Lawless. [13731/26]

*692. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when details of the next CLÁR Programme will be announced; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [13971/26]