



## **DÁIL ÉIREANN**

*Dé Máirt, 22 Meán Fómhair, 2026*  
*Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026*

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**CEISTEANNA**  
**QUESTIONS**

71

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

6195

**Chun an Taoiseach: To the Taoiseach**

1. To ask the Taoiseach the tourism figures for summer 2026 in comparison to summer 2025; and the amount grossed over the summer from the tourism sector.

PQ66884/26 | JOE NEVILLE

**CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH  
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY****Chun an Fiontar, Turasóireachta agus Fostaíochta: To the Enterprise, Tourism and Employment**

2. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if, in the interest of transparency, he will instruct his Department to publish the original unedited report (details supplied) on the value of data centres to Ireland.

PQ67206/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

3. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the reason a recent report (details supplied) published by his Department on the economic impact of data centres in Ireland did not address the net impact on the economy of increased costs of energy caused by data centres, the opportunity cost of supporting data centres instead of other infrastructure, or sustainability targets on water and energy use for data centres.

PQ67205/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

4. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the engagement he has had with the management of a company (details supplied) regarding reports of increased cabin crew redundancies in Dublin and Cork; and the steps he is taking to protect jobs and ensure meaningful consultation with workers and their representatives.

PQ67207/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

5. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the way in which his Department will address the challenges outlined in a recent report (details supplied).

PQ67208/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

6. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment when the successor to the current Regional Enterprise Plan for the West will be launched; and whether additional measures are being considered to support enterprise development in regional and rural areas.

PQ67196/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

**CEISTEANNA EILE  
OTHER QUESTIONS****Chun an Fiontar, Turasóireachta agus Fostaíochta: To the Enterprise, Tourism and Employment**

7. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on the implementation of the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity.

PQ66657/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

8. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the progress made on adjusting the mandate of Enterprise Ireland to better support small indigenous exporters; and the specific changes being considered.

PQ66665/26 | GRACE BOLAND

9. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on any engagement he has had with stakeholders, including hospitality and local government sectors on the introduction of an accommodation tax/levy.

PQ66683/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

10. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the current review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the IDA and Enterprise Ireland which is currently being undertaken by the agencies; and how this review might influence how these two agencies collaborate going forward.

PQ66802/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

11. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he has plans to simplify and streamline the regulatory requirements in the hospitality sector.

PQ66815/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

12. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to confirm the progress that has been made toward introducing statutory paid leave for early pregnancy loss/miscarriage; and when it is envisioned such a scheme would become operational.

PQ66725/26 | COLM BURKE

13. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide details of the communication he has had to date with the new owners of a company (details supplied) who employ 1100 workers in New Ross, County Wexford; if he will give assurances to all employees that their jobs are secure; the plans the new owners have for the company; and if he will undertake to visit New Ross and meet with the workers there.

PQ66772/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

14. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on the number of jobs currently supported by IDA Ireland in each of the midland counties.

PQ66656/26 | SEAN FLEMING

15. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for a progress update on the Government's Market Diversification Strategy.

PQ66862/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

16. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on the measures, if any, he has taken or intends to take to implement the will of the Dáil as expressed in its resolution of 14 July 2026 on protecting the copyright of Irish artists in the era of Artificial Intelligence.

PQ66672/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

17. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment further to previous PQs the initiatives he or his Department or associated State agencies have taken to encourage prospective new owners to establish a business at the former (details supplied).

PQ66907/26 | MATT CATHY

18. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline the supports available to communities included in the Wild Atlantic Way initiative.

PQ66482/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

19. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps being taken to support Irish enterprises facing rising global cost pressures, supply chain volatility and geopolitical uncertainty; and the specific supports being developed for SMEs to maintain competitiveness in the current economic climate.

PQ66780/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

20. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if as part of the 2025 review of the employment permit occupation lists published in May 2026, the Department considered the availability of housing and accommodation when assessing changes to the critical skills occupations List and other employment permit categories and if so, the manner in which housing capacity was factored into the review process and decision-making.

PQ66914/26 | MATT CATHY

21. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether he will respond to reports that a report commissioned by his department (details supplied) on the value of data centres "predetermined" the outcomes in favour of data centre expansion, despite evidence of adverse effects to Ireland's climate goals and strain on the energy grid associated with data centre electricity use, and consequently a negative impact on household energy bills.

PQ66908/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

22. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he acknowledges the severe cost pressures currently facing small and medium-sized businesses arising from increased labour, energy, insurance and operating costs; whether supports aimed at protecting employment and competitiveness in the SME sector will form a priority part of his engagement with the Minister for Finance in advance of Budget 2027.

PQ63666/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

23. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the actions that are being undertaken by his Department and by agencies such as Enterprise Ireland and the IDA to secure a future for the former Roche site at Clarecastle in County Clare.

PQ66535/26 | CATHAL CROWE

24. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether issues with the process around the issuing of dual use export licences to end users in Israel (details supplied) has been fully resolved; and to explain the way in which such issues occurred.

PQ66950/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

25. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has assessed the implications of recent CSO findings which indicate significant differences in AI understanding across age groups, genders and regions; and the actions being taken to ensure equitable access to AI-related opportunities throughout the State.

PQ66698/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

26. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the specific measures being considered to assist long-established family businesses in rural communities with succession planning, digitalisation, energy efficiency and rising operating costs.

PQ66949/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

27. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment in the context of Ireland's presidency of the EU Council, the action he is taking to drive forward simplification measures to ensure EU rules are proportionate, effective and supportive of enterprise.

PQ66768/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

28. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether he would consider measures to compel profitably companies to pay redundancies above the statutory cap when redundancies are made for strategic business reasons rather than financial insolvency.

PQ66917/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

29. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether an implementation plan will be published for the 63 recommendations contained in the Cost of Business Advisory Forum's final report, with clear timelines and measurable targets; and which recommendations he intends to prioritise in Budget 2027.

PQ66923/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

30. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the position regarding any engagement he has had with the major tech companies that are operating in Ireland in relation to the ever-changing jobs market due to AI technology changes and the impact it may have on their Irish workforce.

PQ66649/26 | BARRY WARD

31. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline the operation of the Enterprise Ireland innovation voucher scheme; the number of vouchers issued and redeemed; the list of institutions who are designated as knowledge providers for the scheme; the point at which an organisation (details supplied) will be added to that list; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66838/26 | SEÁN KYNE

32. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps being taken to attract new IDA-supported investment and employment to Cork North-West, particularly Mallow, Kanturk, Millstreet and Macroom.

PQ66952/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

33. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his plans to increase tourism to the heritage town of Kells in County Meath

PQ66584/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

34. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to list the number of sites held by the IDA in Cork County; the number of protected structures, monuments or historically protected buildings on each of these sites; and the measures taken by the IDA to ensure that these sites are preserved.

PQ66806/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

35. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on the plans, if any, for the development of the vacant IDA site at Ballyadam, Carrigtwohill, County Cork.

PQ66899/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

36. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment under the implementation of the Government's tourism strategy and tourism development plans, if he will consider introducing specific supports for marine and maritime tourism enterprises to enhance and develop coastal tourism; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66668/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

37. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment with recent calls from AI industry leaders for greater caution around the pace of AI advancements, the measures being taken to ensure that our SME sector is sufficiently prepared for the next generation of AI technologies; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66532/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

38. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for a progress update on the Government's efforts to assist start-ups become scale-ups; the policy actions being undertaken to deliver this; and the way in which progress is being measured.

PQ66867/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

39. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his proposals to cultivate cross-border tourism.

PQ66909/26 | CATHY BENNETT

40. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures being taken by his Department to support the adoption of artificial intelligence by SMEs; the supports available through his Department and enterprise agencies to assist SMEs in developing AI capability and competitiveness.

PQ66697/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

41. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the actions his Department is taking to address tourism capacity constraints, including accommodation shortages and infrastructure pressures in key tourism regions; and the extent to which the new National Tourism Policy Statement will support sustainable growth in both peak and off-peak seasons.

PQ66779/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

42. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his response to the Cost of Business Advisory Forum report.

PQ66661/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

43. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if the proposed flexibility on the 50:50 rule for the health and social care sector will include all homecare providers, disability services, and nursing homes equally; if he has engaged with the Department of Children, Disability and Equality on how this reform will impact on the existing recruitment and retention pressures in Section 39-funded organisations.

PQ66541/26 | JOE COONEY

44. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the reason a report commissioned by his Department (details supplied) did not include a section on the potential for higher electricity prices due to rising data centre demand, despite the terms of reference suggesting it should.

PQ66926/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

45. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his plans for reducing the regulatory burden and supporting SMEs.

PQ66660/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

46. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the rationale for not including a cost-benefit analysis of redirecting investment and infrastructure support for data centres to public services like transport or housing in a report commissioned by his Department (details supplied).

PQ66925/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

47. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the way in which his Department is supporting Irish SMEs to adopt artificial intelligence, given Ireland's position as the EU leader in AI diffusion as reported in the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN).

PQ66682/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

48. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to consider the decentralising of Government Departments to Iveragh and South Kerry to boost economic growth in these areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66701/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

49. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the factors that would restrict or prevent an organisation from receiving support under the Enterprise Ireland innovation voucher scheme; whether any categories of organisations are excluded from the scheme; the rationale for such exclusions, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66840/26 | SEÁN KYNE

50. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will review the exclusion of poultry farm worker roles under SOC Code 9111 (Farm Workers) from eligibility for employment permits; the rationale for permitting employment permits for dairy farm assistants, pig farm assistants, horticulture operatives, meat processor operatives and butchers, while excluding poultry farm workers despite similar recruitment difficulties; whether consideration will be given to introducing a specific permit category or quota for poultry farm assistants at the next review of the occupations lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66667/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

51. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the progress made on the Programme for Government commitment to undertake a look-back exercise to identify regulations that are now redundant and creating unnecessary administrative burdens for businesses; whether all Government departments and regulatory agencies have been requested to submit regulations for review; and when the first findings will be published.

PQ66664/26 | GRACE BOLAND

52. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the engagement his Department has had with an organisation (details supplied) and its employees; and the supports they will be able to provide in the event of redundancies.

PQ66534/26 | CATHAL CROWE

53. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department will consider the creation of a dedicated unit aimed at promoting workers rights, providing workers with the information and support to exercise their rights, and supporting workers and businesses wishing to enter into collective bargaining agreements, in order to ensure high-quality, stable employment, particularly in sectors with low collective bargaining coverage.

PQ66951/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

54. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on the work of the Tourism Policy Oversight Group.

PQ66658/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

55. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the stakeholder working group established to assist implementation of the eight areas of reform and modernisation applicable to Local Enterprise Offices which were presented to Government via a Memorandum for Information in July 2026.

PQ66801/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

56. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether he will increase the minimum wage for apprentices.

PQ66904/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

57. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on the number of jobs currently supported by Enterprise Ireland in each of the midlands counties.

PQ66655/26 | SEAN FLEMING

58. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his engagement with relevant stakeholders in the healthcare sector regarding the "50:50 rule" in the Employment Permits Act 2024; and if a review of the policy is being carried out which will consider risks of continuity of care due to staffing shortages, in view that non-compliance of the 50:50 rule can affect the employer's ability to renew existing permits or obtain new permits.

PQ66754/26 | COLM BURKE

59. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the development of a new Tourist Accommodation Strategy

PQ66883/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

60. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department monitors whether these salary requirements result in Irish or EU workers receiving lower wages than employment-permit holders in comparable positions; and whether this may influence employers' recruitment or retention decisions.

PQ66858/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

61. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the progress of the Action Plan to Promote Collective Bargaining.

PQ66948/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

62. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department will work with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Cork County Council to identify and service additional industrial and enterprise lands across Cork North-West, particularly in locations with access to the N20, N22 and N72.

PQ66947/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

63. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether he will consider increasing the maximum rate of payment of statutory redundancy which is capped at €600 per week to take into account inflation, rising wages and the increased cost of living.

PQ66912/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

64. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his Department's position on the usage of artificial intelligence programmes during hiring processes.

PQ66606/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

65. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his response to the recommendations of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council as set out in Ireland's Competitiveness Challenge 2026.

PQ66654/26 | TOM BRABAZON

66. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the timeline for the rollout of the €4.7 billion capital investment plan for enterprise, innovation, tourism and decarbonisation; the criteria for regional allocation; and the way in which this investment will support communities experiencing major strategic development, including those adjacent to Rosslare Europort.

PQ66782/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

67. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline his Department's efforts to promote tourism in east County Galway.

PQ66481/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

68. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the plans his Department has to bring further legislation regulating the use of artificial intelligence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66953/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

69. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the current status of the Bill to amend the 50:50 rule under the Employment Permits Act 2024 for the health and social care sector; when he expects this general scheme to go to Government; and the expected timeline for enactment.

PQ66539/26 | JOE COONEY

70. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the implementation of 'A New Era for Irish Tourism',

PQ66659/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

71. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his plans to help small businesses contend with rising employment costs.

PQ66932/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

72. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures his Department is considering to support the Irish craft industry in Budget 2027.

PQ66929/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

73. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures his Department is taking to ensure that recent growth in enterprise and employment is regionally balanced; and if he will outline the way in which emerging high growth areas, including Rosslare Harbour and other strategic coastal communities, will be supported to manage development pressures while maximising economic opportunity.

PQ66773/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

74. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on implementation of the White Paper on Enterprise 2022–2030.

PQ66639/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

75. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the timeline for the purchase of a site (details supplied) in County Longford; and projected timeline for building.

PQ66931/26 | MICHEÁL CARRIGY

76. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on the plans, if any, for the development of the vacant IDA sites in Fermoy, County Cork.

PQ66902/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

77. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide funding for a feasibility study for a passenger ferry between Dingle and Valentia/Cahersiveen; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66700/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

78. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures his Department is considering to address the increasing cost of doing business for SMEs in the North West region; and whether a regional competitiveness package is being considered for businesses facing higher transport, energy and labour costs due to their peripheral location.

PQ66597/26 | EAMON SCANLON

79. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the position regarding any Department-led initiative in relation to future proof employment legislation in the ever-changing jobs market due to AI technology changes.

PQ66645/26 | BARRY WARD

80. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department has conducted an analysis on the impact of traffic congestion on businesses across Dublin.

PQ66603/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

81. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of people employed by IDA Ireland client companies in the life sciences sector in Cork city and county in each of the years 2021 to 2025, in tabular form; his Department's assessment of the implications for Irish manufacturing sites of pricing and tariff agreements between the United States administration and pharmaceutical companies.

PQ66805/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

82. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment their proposals to increase the number of overnight, multi-night regional stays in areas currently predominantly served by day-trips.

PQ66919/26 | CATHY BENNETT

83. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the additional supports that will be provided to small businesses in rural towns and villages that are facing increased energy, insurance, wage and operating costs; and whether targeted assistance will be introduced for businesses employing people in areas such as Cork North-West.

PQ66946/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

CEISTEANNA LE HAGHAIDH FREADRAI SCRÍOFA  
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Taoiseach: To the Taoiseach

84. To ask the Taoiseach the number of overseas visitors to Ireland in each of the years from 2019 to 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ66305/26 | CATHY BENNETT

Chun an Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála: To the Foreign Affairs and Trade

85. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the steps being taken by the Government to express its dissatisfaction with the way in which women and girls are being treated in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement on the matter,

PQ66337/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

86. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the humanitarian aid that has been made available to the people of Venezuela since the earthquake earlier in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66344/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

87. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if the Irish Ambassador based in Thailand has visited the City of Pattaya since her appointment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66986/26 | SEÁN KYNE

88. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will raise concerns about an ongoing crackdown against LGBTQ activists in Turkey with the Ambassador of Turkey to Ireland, and with EU colleagues in the context of the forthcoming High Level Conference on Non-Discrimination (LGBTIQ+ rights) in October as part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU.

PQ67028/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

89. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her attention has been drawn to the delays in processing a first time passport application (details supplied); the actions she will take to ensure that it is processed in a timely manner; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67140/26 | BARRY WARD

Chun an Aeráide, Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil: To the Climate, Energy and the Environment

90. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether the SEAI will inspect properties worked on under the warmer homes scheme, where a homeowner contacts them to complain regarding the work completed.

PQ66425/26 | PAUL MURPHY

91. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the position regarding the engagement he has had with major energy suppliers in Ireland in relation to price hikes on standing charges (details supplied), regardless of use of gas and electricity and the knock on impact it is having on their customers.

PQ66417/26 | BARRY WARD

92. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he is concerned that the price increase facing households on off peak energy use (details supplied) will act as a disincentive to domestic decarbonisation projects.

PQ66416/26 | BARRY WARD

93. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the position regarding the engagement he has had with major energy suppliers in Ireland in relation to price hikes on gas and electricity and the knock on impact it is having on their customers.

PQ66410/26 | BARRY WARD

94. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he is aware of proposals to alter or discontinue payments to domestic microgenerators for surplus renewable electricity exported to the national grid under the Clean Export Guarantee; the person or body that has proposed or is considering such a change; whether his Department, the CRU, EirGrid, ESB Networks or electricity suppliers have been involved in discussions on such a proposal; his views on the potential impact of removing or reducing export payments on households that have invested significantly in solar PV and other renewable technologies.

PQ66489/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

95. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the number of jobs created under the Just Transition Fund that are expected to be long term sustainable roles rather than short term project based positions; and the measures in place to ensure employment stability.

PQ66502/26 | CAROL NOLAN

96. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will introduce a formal prioritisation policy ensuring that former Bord na Móna workers receive first preference for all employment opportunities arising from Just Transition funding.

PQ66501/26 | CAROL NOLAN

97. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment to publish the most recent economic impact assessment of the Just Transition process, including job losses, projected job creation, and the net economic effect on County Offaly.

PQ66500/26 | CAROL NOLAN

98. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the steps his Department is taking to resolve the match funding barriers that have prevented community and local authority projects from progressing, particularly in County Offaly.

PQ66499/26 | CAROL NOLAN

99. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment to provide a full cost breakdown of the Just Transition Programme to date, including administrative costs, consultancy fees, and project delivery costs; and the way in which these costs compare to the number of jobs actually created.

PQ66498/26 | CAROL NOLAN

100. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the reason significant delays continue to occur in the drawdown of approved Just Transition projects; and the impact these delays are having on job creation timelines for affected communities.

PQ66497/26 | CAROL NOLAN

101. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the specific number of full time, permanent jobs that have been created under the EU Just Transition Fund in County Offaly and the wider midlands.

PQ66496/26 | CAROL NOLAN

102. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment further to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities' Decision Paper on the Sharing of Maximum Export Capacity behind a Single Connection Point (CRU202643), the engagement his Department has had, or intends to have, with the CRU and the system operators regarding the System Operator Implementation Roadmap for that decision; whether his Department has sought to have the roadmap timeline, currently in excess of 24 months, shortened; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66632/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

103. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment his plans to discontinue payments for excess electricity exported to the grid by domestic solar PV users; the assessment that has been made of the impact on households that installed solar panels without battery storage; whether such households will qualify for a proposed standalone home battery grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ66709/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

104. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the number of people or households on a register (details supplied), broken down by county, in tabular form.

PQ66803/26 | JOHN CLENNEN

105. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he has considered the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission's recommendation to establish an independent economic regulator for the household waste collection sector & whether his Department has undertaken any assessment of this proposal.

PQ66955/26 | GRACE BOLAND

106. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment whether he has examined the merits of moving from the current side-by-side household waste collection model to a competitive tendering model whereby operators compete for service areas rather than individual households; and whether international models have been assessed.

PQ66957/26 | GRACE BOLAND

107. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the engagement his Department has had with the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission since 2018 regarding proposed regulatory reforms to the household waste collection sector.

PQ66958/26 | GRACE BOLAND

108. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment to report on the revenue generated from the cap on market revenues; to provide a breakdown on the revenue that has been spent; the amount that remains; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67005/26 | PA DALY

109. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will consider accelerating delivery of hybrid grid connections and shared connection arrangements.

PQ66786/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

110. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the expected timetable for implementing the CRU's decision on shared grid connections for co-located renewable generation and battery storage.

PQ66783/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

### Chun an Cosanta: To the Defence

111. To ask the Minister for Defence if she will provide a schedule of aircraft that are due to be replaced in the next five years; the aircraft they will be replaced with within the Air Corp; and to provide a schedule of new aircraft, by type, that will be leased and bought by her Department and/or Air Corp in the next five years.

PQ66718/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

112. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of riding instructor posts currently filled within Defence Forces Equitation School; the number of riding instructor posts currently vacant; and the rank of Defence Forces personnel these posts are normally filled by.

PQ66717/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

113. To ask the Minister for Defence if a new cadetship recruitment campaign for the Naval Service will be launched in Quarter 4 2026.

PQ67080/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

114. To ask the Minister for Defence to review a request from the HSE in relation to leasing a building (details supplied) for an ambulance base in County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67231/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

### Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

115. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will liaise with the NTA to ensure the existing local-link service from Tullamore to Athlone (route AL12), diverts to Kilbeggan daily, given that the only direct link from Kilbeggan to Athlone is through a service (details supplied).

PQ66324/26 | ROBERT TROY

116. To ask the Minister for Transport the meetings he has held with the NTA since January 2026; if recently announced fare increases were discussed; and his response to the matter.

PQ66314/26 | CATHY BENNETT

117. To ask the Minister for Transport the KPIs associated with Bus Éireann service delivery; the rate at which they adhered to such in counties Cavan and Monaghan in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by county.

PQ66313/26 | CATHY BENNETT

118. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will work to ensure that there is a public transport service provided for the area of Ardclough village for its residents, given no such service exists.

PQ66339/26 | JOE NEVILLE

119. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will consider working alongside the NTA to run more late night train services of DART and rail lines to commuter areas including Maynooth after 11pm.

PQ66341/26 | JOE NEVILLE

120. To ask the Minister for Transport the improvements to rail services between Galway and Limerick that are anticipated under the Rail Project Prioritisation Strategy published on 15 December 2025; the infrastructure works that are planned on the corridor; the expected impact on service frequency and journey times; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66459/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

121. To ask the Minister for Transport the increase in service frequency between Galway and Dublin that is anticipated following the delivery of the Galway line early interventions and major projects identified in the Rail Project Prioritisation Strategy published on 15 December 2025; the expected number of daily services that will operate on the route upon completion of these works; the projected timeframe for achieving these service enhancements; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66458/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

122. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made towards achieving a Galway to Dublin rail journey time of 1 hour and 31 minutes following the delivery of the 'Ongoing Enhancements' and 'Priority Projects' identified in the Rail Project Prioritisation Strategy, published on 15 December 2025; the current estimated timeline for achieving this journey time target; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66456/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

123. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding will be provided under the NDP for the double tracking of the rail line between Galway City and Athenry; the expected timeframe for the delivery of this project; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66453/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

124. To ask the Minister for Transport to detail the fees budgeted and paid to date to consultants by the NTA as part of the national mobility hubs scheme, by local authority, in tabular form.

PQ66478/26 | CORMAC DEVLIN

125. To ask the Minister for Transport if funding is guaranteed for the core bus corridor works in Dolphin's Barn, Dublin 8; and the timeframe on construction for same.

PQ66576/26 | MÁIRE DEVINE

126. To ask the Minister for Transport to review an application for the RTSS scheme (details supplied).

PQ66636/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

127. To ask the Minister for Transport when will the appeals process open for the fuel support scheme for hauliers and contractors.

PQ66635/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

128. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the proposal agreed between CIÉ management and trade unions regarding the future of CIÉ pension schemes; to provide a timeline for the completion of each remaining stage of the approval process, including consideration by his Department, consideration by the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation; the statutory consultation process, and final implementation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66753/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

129. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of electric buses that are currently not in use due to a lack of charging facilities for them; the cost of storage per month of these buses; where they are being stored; and when they are expected to enter use.

PQ66770/26 | MARK WARD

130. To ask the Minister for Transport if the Government have any plans to allow a driving license exchange with all US States; and if not, can you please provide the rationale behind same.

PQ66873/26 | ROBERT TROY

131. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will require the NTA and Iarnród Éireann to preserve direct Howth services when the future DART+ Coastal North timetable is developed.

PQ66880/26 | TOM BRABAZON

132. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will consider providing a bus stop for Bus Éireann and Citylink services at a location (details supplied).

PQ66918/26 | ROBERT TROY

133. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline and schedule of stages to deliver the Second Liffey Bridge and Southern Relief Road in Newbridge; and the expected commencement and completion dates.

PQ66971/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

134. To ask the Minister for Transport if a school (details supplied) will be included in Round 5 funding of Safe Routes to School Programme given the recently completed risk assessment concluded the risk to be "Very High" to ensure safety for all.

PQ66964/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

135. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will consider the establishment of a new Local Link bus service to serve from Glencullen/Kilternan to Dundrum.

PQ66963/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

136. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding Gardaí gaining access to driving licence photographs from his driver file database as the National Vehicle and Driver File Bill 2026 is in the Dail.

PQ66945/26 | EMER CURRIE

137. To ask the Minister for Transport if he still expects construction on the Luas Finglas to begin in 2028 as per a news report (details supplied).

PQ67022/26 | RORY HEARNE

138. To ask the Minister for Transport further to a report (details supplied), to outline the details of any spending package that has been allocated for the Luas Finglas project and to outline the level of funding, if any, that has been drawn down or will be drawn down from the climate and nature fund for the delivery of the project.

PQ67021/26 | RORY HEARNE

139. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the current funding being made available by his Department for the delivery of the Luas Finglas project; and to outline any planned or anticipated additional funding for the project.

PQ67019/26 | RORY HEARNE

140. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has engaged with the National Transport Authority and Iarnród Éireann regarding proposed future service patterns on the Howth DART branch under DART+ Coastal North; and whether the Government will require that direct DART services between Howth, Sutton, Bayside and Dublin city centre are retained when future timetables are developed.

PQ66990/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

141. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of an application under the road haulage transport supply scheme (RTFF2026) submitted in March 2026 by a person (details supplied); when a decision on the application is expected to issue; and whether any further information is required from the applicant.

PQ67051/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

142. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 291 of 16 June 2026, to provide a further update on the matter.

PQ67015/26 | EMER CURRIE

143. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the current estimated timeframe for the delivery of Luas Finglas.

PQ67012/26 | RORY HEARNE

144. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the N72/N73 Mallow Relief Road; the anticipated timeline for the project to go to planning, CPO of lands associated with the project and ultimate construction.

PQ67002/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

145. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the decision by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) not to extend the proposed greenway beyond Clonmacnoise to Ballinasloe and County Galway; the reasons for TII's decision to terminate the greenway at Clonmacnoise; to address the concerns regarding the exclusion of Ballinasloe and County Galway from the proposed route; and to clarify whether any further assessment of extending the greenway to Ballinasloe and County Galway will be undertaken.

PQ67031/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

146. To ask the Minister for Transport Is there currently a mechanism by which an Irish category B licence holder can obtain code 96; and if so, the process.

PQ67039/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

147. To ask the Minister for Transport the numbers of applications received for the eSPSV26 scheme this year; and whether the scheme will reopen in 2026.

PQ67038/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

148. To ask the Minister for Transport the assessment that has been made of the number of BE driving tests carried out; and whether a B96 training route could reduce demand on an already heavily used driving-test system.

PQ67044/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

149. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has considered the Great Britain approach of extending BE trailer entitlement to Category B licence holders without requiring a separate test.

PQ67043/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

150. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will consider introducing a training-based B96 entitlement similar to France, allowing combinations up to 4,250 kg without requiring a separate driving test.

PQ67042/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

151. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is no practical route to obtaining Code 96 in Ireland, the reason the entitlement is provided for in Irish legislation and listed by the RSA and NDLS.

PQ67041/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

152. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of WTE staff, by job title currently, working within the marketing department of CIE.

PQ67076/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

153. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of passengers carried on each morning peak service between Wicklow and Dublin in the most recent month for which data is available; the seating capacity of each service; and the extent to which passenger numbers exceeded seating capacity.

PQ67134/26 | JENNIFER WHITMORE

154. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update regarding the funding requested by the NTA to provide for the updated timetable and additional frequency for the 410 and 411 bus routes in Galway city; and if this funding will be included in Budget 2028.

PQ67133/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

155. To ask the Minister for Transport if he would support the inclusion of a feasibility study into the viability of a Shannon airport to Limerick rail link using the Western Rail Corridor.

PQ67125/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

156. To ask the Minister for Transport the total amount of capital and current transport investment allocated and drawn down by region (including NUTS 2 regional assemblies: Northern and Western, Eastern and Midland, and Southern) in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025, and to date in 2026, broken down by transport mode (such as national roads, regional and local roads, public transport, active travel, and greenways), in tabular form.

PQ67124/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

157. To ask the Minister for Transport his position on passenger services (details supplied); and if he supports the policy objective and ambition of restoring passenger services to this line permanently.

PQ67123/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

158. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the twin tracking of the Limerick to Limerick Junction railway line including an updated construction timeline and estimated completion date.

PQ67122/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

159. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the provision of park and ride services at Ballysimon, Limerick; and specifically if the NTA have identified a site.

PQ67121/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

160. To ask the Minister for Transport the projected annual cost of eliminating all passenger fares on public transportation and funding services solely through public funding.

PQ67120/26 | SEÁN CROWE

161. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will pursue a request from LWR Local Link to the NTA, to provide access to Athlone Bus and Rail Station for local link services (details supplied).

PQ67189/26 | ROBERT TROY

162. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of an application under the road transporters support scheme (RTSS) in the case of a business operating in County Clare (details supplied) where an information discrepancy error was resolved via the official portal prior to the closing date of 7 September 2026; the reason for the delay in processing this payment given that other active operators within the sector have already received their financial support; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67172/26 | CATHAL CROWE

163. To ask the Minister for Transport whether an element of a project (details supplied) will remain part of the overall scheme.

PQ67137/26 | EMER CURRIE

164. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on a payment due to a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67194/26 | NIALL COLLINS

165. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that the mandatory driver-number validation rules implemented under the Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 for the Irish Motor Insurance Database (IMID) have created a technical lockout, preventing Irish policyholders from adding visiting family members holding valid non-EU International Driving Permits to their private motor policies; if his Department will establish a digital validation or manual exemption protocol within the NDLS/IMID framework for legally recognized non-EU tourist permits; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67223/26 | CAROL NOLAN

166. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding Gardaí gaining access to driving licence photographs from his driver file database as the National Vehicle and Driver File Bill is in the Dáil.

PQ66944/26 | EMER CURRIE

167. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he stands over his repeated position (details supplied); whether he will honour the commitment confirmed by the Minister's office on 13 July 2026 to meet with a person to discuss his airspace-safety concerns; whether he can confirm if a specific aviation safety and security audit was undertaken as part of the preparation or passage of the Dublin Airport passenger-cap legislation; and if so, whether that assessment will be published.

PQ67040/26 | ANN GRAVES

## Chun an Airgeadais: To the Finance

168. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will raise the income limit for those aged 65 years and over when it comes to paying tax on income to allow them to keep more of modest occupational pensions which they paid tax on while working and now do so again, to better support older people.

PQ66369/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

169. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether consideration has been given to the introduction of targeted tax measures to support public houses in view of the ongoing rate of closures, particularly in rural communities; and whether an assessment of the potential effectiveness of such measures has been carried out.

PQ66386/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

170. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will introduce a GP infrastructure investment tax relief scheme in Budget 2027, allowing individual GPs and GP partnerships to write off qualifying investment in new or expanded practice premises over a defined period.

PQ66406/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

171. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether he has considered applying a reduced rate of VAT to alcohol-free beers, wines, spirits and other non-alcoholic adult beverages as part of Budget 2027; and whether an assessment has been undertaken of the potential public health benefits of incentivising consumers to choose alcohol-free alternatives.

PQ66591/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

172. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether he has considered the introduction of a personal tax relief for gym and swimming pool memberships to encourage greater participation in physical activity and support national public health objectives, and whether his Department has assessed the potential cost and uptake of such a measure.

PQ66626/26 | JOHN LAHART

173. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether any lands owned by an organisation (details supplied) are included on Residential Zoned Land Tax maps; the number and area of such lands; whether Residential Zoned Land Tax has been assessed or is payable in respect of those lands; the amount assessed or payable in each year since the introduction of the tax; whether any exemptions, exclusions, submissions or appeals have been made in respect of those lands; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66647/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

174. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of claims received, resolved and outstanding under schemes managed by the State Claims Agency in each of the years 2016 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by claim category and scheme; the number and value of settlements, awards and other compensation payments made in each year; the associated expenditure on legal costs, expert and professional fees and other ancillary costs, by category; and the total expenditure on claims and associated costs in each year, in tabular form.

PQ66749/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

175. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the average waiting period for claim adjudication by the Financial Services and Public Ombudsman.

PQ66762/26 | JOE NEVILLE

176. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to address the taxation issues faced by Irish employees who receive share options as part of their employment via existing unapproved share option schemes; and if he will specifically consider immediate changes to the taxation of unapproved employee options schemes (details supplied).

PQ66781/26 | ANN GRAVES

177. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of enforcement notices issued by the Revenue Commissioners under the residential zoned land tax, by local authority area and year, in tabular form.

PQ66401/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

178. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the extent to which the practicality of electric vehicle usage for workers operating in rural and regional areas was examined prior to changes being made to company car benefit-in-kind reliefs; whether concerns regarding journey distances, charging availability and charging downtime were considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66967/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

179. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether, in advance of Budget 2027, consideration is being given to retaining, extending or modifying the €10,000 original market value reduction for benefit-in-kind purposes in recognition of the continuing lack of adequate charging infrastructure and limited electric vehicle suitability for many rural employees; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66982/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

180. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether consideration is being given to a review of benefit-in-kind arrangements for employees residing in rural areas who are required to undertake significant business mileage and who have limited access to suitable electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66980/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

181. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the cost of abolishing the USC surcharge on self-employed income for those earning more than €100,000.

PQ67033/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

182. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance for a breakdown of the number of hectares of agricultural land that is leased long term for the purpose of rental income tax relief on agricultural land for each of the years 2020 to 2025.

PQ67131/26 | MARTIN KENNY

183. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance for a breakdown of the amount of tax relief given to individuals for rental income for agricultural land for the each of years 2020 to 2025.

PQ67130/26 | MARTIN KENNY

184. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether Customs officials will consider a proposal (details supplied) as regards notification for post opened during customs inspections.

PQ67073/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

185. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the cost to the Exchequer in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively for companies claiming an amount equal to 25% of qualifying expenditure attributable to a company for R&D activity as provided for in 766X and 766D TCD 1997; the number of annual instalments to date in each year; the number of companies that have claimed this; and to provide a breakdown of companies by number of employees.

PQ67144/26 | GED NASH

186. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to provide a breakdown of statistics for the R&D tax credit for 2023 and 2024 respectively as per the May 2025 Revenue report (details supplied) showing where companies elected to claim the credit in the manner that preceded measures

introduced in Finance Act 2022; and the cost of the accelerated payments in respect of an accounting period commencing before 1 January 2022 for second and/or final instalments, in tabular form.

PQ67143/26 | GED NASH

187. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the amount raised by the residential zoned land tax in 2025 and to date in 2026; to provide a breakdown of yield by local authority, in tabular form; and to confirm if the revenue raised is returned to the respective local authority.

PQ67142/26 | GED NASH

188. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the amount that was raised by the vacant homes tax in 2025 and to date in 2026; to provide a breakdown of the yield by local authority, in tabular form; and to confirm if the revenue raised is returned to the respective local authority.

PQ67141/26 | GED NASH

189. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he has any concerns in relation to the risk of privacy related to the manual opening of letters by customs officials rather than them being scanned.

PQ67139/26 | BARRY WARD

190. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the position regarding the mechanisms in place to minimise the number of letters or packages that need to be opened manually instead of being scanned.

PQ67138/26 | BARRY WARD

191. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the position regarding the mechanisms in place to protect privacy of sender and receiver in cases whereby they are required to open a package or letter.

PQ67136/26 | BARRY WARD

192. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to consider, in the context of Budget 2027 and in consultation with (details supplied) the introduction of a permanent 8% regional uplift to the Section 481 film tax credit for qualifying productions undertaken outside the Dublin Metropolitan Area, including Ashford; to assess the potential of such a measure to increase regional film and television production, support employment, skills development and investment in screen-production infrastructure, including the continued development of studio facilities in West Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67151/26 | MICHAEL COLLINS

193. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether customs officials will consider a proposal (details supplied) as regards notification for posts opened during customs inspections.

PQ67075/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

194. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether consideration has been given to proposals for a tax incentive on gym and swimming pool memberships as a means of supporting the objectives of the National Swimming Strategy and increasing physical activity levels.

PQ67714/26 | JOHN LAHART

## Chun an Caiteachais Phoiblí, Bonneagair, Athchóiriúcháin Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúcháin: To the Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation

195. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the status of the new Garda station in Tubbercurry, County Sligo; and if a review of the operational requirements has been completed by An Garda Síochána.

PQ66325/26 | EAMON SCANLON

196. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to install a river level gauge at a location (details supplied) as part of the flood prevention measures in East Cork.

PQ66372/26 | PAT BUCKLEY

197. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will amend the Critical Infrastructure Act 2026 to include public healthcare facilities within its scope, with a view to accelerating the delivery of essential health infrastructure.

PQ66405/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

198. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the average time taken to process a pension-increase proposal submitted under Circular 16/2021; the longest period taken to reach a decision on such a proposal; the administrative cost and staff resources required to operate the approval process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66412/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

199. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number and percentage of pension-increase proposals submitted by commercial semi-state bodies under Circular 16/2021, since its introduction, that were refused, amended or otherwise changed as a result of the ministerial approval process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66411/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

200. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation whether he will commission an independent review of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme arrangements for uniformed services with fast-accrual pension terms, including disparities with pre-2013 arrangements and the income gap before State Pension age; and if not, the reasons for this decision.

PQ66449/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

201. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation whether he will consider a pension enhancement or accrual multiplier for Garda members covered by the single public service pension scheme to recognise long service and promotion, particularly progression into supervisory and management roles later in their careers, and support retention

PQ66448/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

202. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the estimated annual and long-term cost, broken down by service, of extending the Occupational Supplementary Pension to existing members of An Garda Síochána, the Prison Service, Fire Service and Defence Forces covered by the single public service pension scheme who must retire before State Pension age.

PQ66446/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

203. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number of WTE staff, by job title, currently working at the Blasket Centre, Kerry.

PQ66563/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

204. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the nature of refurbishment works that the OPW carried out at Daniel O'Connell House in 2025 and to date in 2026; and if each refurbishment project is still ongoing or completed, in tabular form.

PQ66562/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

205. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if the Office of Public Works has plans to restore and reinstate the historic railings at Carlow Courthouse; the stage the project is currently at; whether funding has been allocated for the works and dates for the expected commencement and completion.

PQ67025/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

206. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the amount that the OPW collected in rent fees from external restaurants/cafes within OPW Heritage Sites in 2025 and the first seven months of 2026, in tabular form.

PQ67078/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

## Chun an Fiontar, Turasóireachta agus Fostaíochta: To the Enterprise, Tourism and Employment

207. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the list of projects under the coast-to-coast capital investment scheme; the status of those projects; and the expected delivery time.

PQ66312/26 | CATHY BENNETT

208. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will report on his proposals to cultivate cross-border tourism.

PQ66311/26 | CATHY BENNETT

209. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of bed nights available in each county, in tabular form.

PQ66309/26 | CATHY BENNETT

210. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline the work undertaken to promote all-island tourism in relation to major international sporting events which will be hosted in Ireland until 2030, by sporting project, in tabular form.

PQ66304/26 | CATHY BENNETT

211. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the dates on which the critical skills occupation list has been updated since 2023; the changes made in each instance; and the timeframe for the next review of the list.

PQ66303/26 | CATHY BENNETT

212. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the reason poultry farm worker roles remain on the list of ineligible categories of employment when exemptions and quotas have been established for other agri-food sectors experiencing labour shortages (details supplied); whether his Department has undertaken an evidence-based assessment demonstrating that recruitment challenges in the poultry sector differ from those experienced in these sectors; if not, whether he will commit to reviewing the eligibility of poultry farm worker roles for employment permits as part of the next occupations list review.

PQ66394/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

213. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline the importance of digital infrastructure, including data centres, to the Irish economy.

PQ66520/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

214. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline Ireland's engagement with the European unified patents system; and his plans for a referendum to join the system.

PQ66519/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

215. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he is satisfied that Ireland's current regulatory and enforcement framework is adequately equipped to address the rapidly developing risks associated with artificial intelligence; the progress made in implementing and enforcing the EU Artificial Intelligence Act in Ireland; the bodies that will have responsibility for oversight and enforcement; the resources and expertise being provided to those bodies; whether he has identified regulatory gaps in areas including employment, financial services, professional services and consumer protection.

PQ66490/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

216. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the reason for the lack of representation for the music or arts sector at the AI Advisory Council and AI Office despite the Government's support for such representation (details supplied); if he will ensure such representation; and if he will acknowledge that the lack of a regulator responsible for the music, arts and creative sector has resulted in no national competent authority to maintain regulatory coherence and efficiency in compliance with copyright law and with whom the AI Office can work to protect these sectors.

PQ66506/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

217. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if funding is available through his Department or Fáilte Ireland for the development of feasibility studies for tourism projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66494/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

218. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has assessed the potential impact of the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence on regulated and professional sectors in Ireland, including legal, financial, insurance and other professional services; and whether further national safeguards, in addition to those provided under the EU AI Act, are being considered.

PQ66491/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

219. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of Critical Skills Employment Permits granted in each of the past five years and to date in 2026, by occupation, standard occupational classification (SOC) code and nationality; and the percentage of the total represented by each occupational category, in tabular form.

PQ66693/26 | GARY GANNON

220. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the reason there is no representation for music or arts at AI office despite government commitment to the Dáil motion in July this year and repeated requests from organisations (details supplied) for such representation.

PQ66620/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

221. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment what steps are being taken to ensure that social enterprises have equal and consistent access to Local Enterprise Office grants, mentoring and business development supports in every local authority area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66777/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

222. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether a representative of the social enterprise sector will be appointed to the Cost of Business Advisory Forum, in recognition of the particular difficulty these organisations face in absorbing or passing on increased employment and operating costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66778/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

223. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the total number of work visas and the critical skill visas issued by his Department in each of the past ten years, in tabular form.

PQ66900/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

224. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the total employment in IDA Client companies in Laois for each of the past five years; and the number of new jobs created in each of the past five years.

PQ66887/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

225. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures he plans to introduce to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in managing rising labour costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66669/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

226. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his proposals to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in addressing the rising costs of fuel and energy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66670/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

227. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department will work with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Cork County Council to identify and service additional industrial and enterprise lands across Cork North-West, particularly in locations with access to the N20, N22 and N72.

PQ66962/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

228. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the specific measures are being considered to assist long-established family businesses in rural communities with succession planning, digitalisation, energy efficiency and rising operating costs.

PQ66961/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

229. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of full time advertising and consumer engagement co-ordinators posts filled by gender and location, employed by Tourism Ireland as of 15 September 2026, in tabular form.

PQ67077/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

230. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment further to PQ63192/26 of 7 September 2026, the duties a manufacturer has when it receives a formal product-safety complaint and supporting technical evidence, in particular whether it is required to investigate the reported safety risk, rather than simply attribute the problem to the installer (details supplied).

PQ67068/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

231. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the current legislative timeline for the full implementation of the Short-Term Letting and Tourism Bill 2025 and the establishment of the short-term letting register; and the specific measures being taken to ensure local authorities are adequately resourced to enforce the associated planning regulations.

PQ67200/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

232. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment when the growth and sustainability loan scheme (GSLs) will reopen for applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66903/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

233. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department will conduct a cost benefit analysis of the value to the economy of operational roles related to data centres (estimated by his Department as 7,636 additional operational jobs from 2010 to 2024) against the increased energy costs associated with the operation of data centres.

PQ67220/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

## Chun an Oideachais agus Óige: To the Education and Youth

234. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the total expenditure by her Department on campaigns to promote teaching as a profession and to encourage teacher recruitment in each of the years from 2018 to 2025 and to date in 2026, including expenditure under the Teaching Transforms Campaign, by advertising, media placement, digital advertising, creative and production costs, public relations, consultancy and other expenditure; and the total expenditure planned for these purposes in 2027.

PQ66331/26 | PETER ROCHE

235. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current status of the transfer of lands at Magee Barracks, County Kildare to her Department; the expected timeline for its completion; to detail the post-closing obligations; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66298/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

236. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth If she will review the case of a person (details supplied); if she will provide an update on the school bus ticket application; and if the tickets could be issued given the circumstances.

PQ66293/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

237. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update on a new school project (details supplied); and a timeframe for next steps.

PQ66343/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

238. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department or the Teaching Council has surveyed registered Irish teachers currently resident outside the State to determine the factors preventing or discouraging them from returning to teach in Ireland, including salary, recognition of overseas teaching experience, housing, availability of permanent full-time positions and registration requirements; if so, to provide the findings; and if not, whether she will undertake such a survey in 2026 as part of the development of the teacher workforce plan.

PQ66355/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

239. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the estimated annual expenditure in 2026 on measures specifically designed to address post-primary teacher recruitment and supply, broken down by measure, including promotional campaigns, bursaries, initial teacher education expansion, subject upskilling programmes, recruitment initiatives and other teacher-supply measures; and to compare this with the estimated cost of recognising verified teaching experience in accredited private schools outside the European Union for incremental credit purposes.

PQ66353/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

240. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of post-primary teaching positions that required re-advertisement because a suitable candidate was not appointed following an initial recruitment process in each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, broken down by county, subject and school type where available; the number advertised on three or more occasion.

PQ66329/26 | PETER ROCHE

241. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide guidance to the parents of a child with additional needs who is experiencing difficulties in their current school placement (details supplied); the options open to the parents to engage with the school in the best interests of the child; and the school's responsibility and duty of care in such a case.

PQ66368/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

242. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding any back up plans in relation to the provision of school places in Cherrywood, County Dublin if a new school is not in place for September 2028 when it is known that demand will increase due to significant population growth in this area (details supplied).

PQ66364/26 | BARRY WARD

243. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding a timeline for the development of a new secondary school in Cherrywood, County Dublin; and if she is concerned that the significant growth in population in this area is not being match with school places.

PQ66363/26 | BARRY WARD

244. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding the development of a new secondary school in Cherrywood, County Dublin; and if she is concerned that the significant growth in population in this area is not being match with school places.

PQ66362/26 | BARRY WARD

245. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider providing for an Irish medium secondary school in Cherrywood, County Dublin; and if any assessment of demand has been carried out.

PQ66360/26 | BARRY WARD

246. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to the concerns of management in a school (details supplied) in relation to the failure of her Department to maintain support levels and resourcing to match their significant growth in student numbers.

PQ66359/26 | BARRY WARD

247. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding the mechanisms in place to support schools that are experiencing rapid growth due to significant population increases in their locality; and the way they can be supported to manage this growth in terms of resources.

PQ66358/26 | BARRY WARD

248. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to the concerns of parents and management in a school (details supplied) in relation to the lack of secondary school places available for children attending this primary school.

PQ66357/26 | BARRY WARD

249. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the basis for the requirement for secondary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours has been negotiated with the relevant teacher unions; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66383/26 | BARRY WARD

250. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the basis for the requirement for secondary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours can be outlined; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66381/26 | BARRY WARD

251. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if a school (details supplied) who applied for the climate action summer works scheme in 2025 will be included in Tranche 2 funding given they are struggling with single pane leaking windows and receiving very high energy bills and are depending on this funding.

PQ66380/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

252. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the requirement for secondary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours is under review; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66379/26 | BARRY WARD

253. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding the requirement for secondary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours; if this is set out as a requirement in their contracts; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66378/26 | BARRY WARD

254. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the basis for the requirement for primary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours has been negotiated with the relevant teacher unions; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66377/26 | BARRY WARD

255. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the basis for the requirement for primary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours can be outlined; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66376/26 | BARRY WARD

256. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the requirement for primary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours is under review; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66375/26 | BARRY WARD

257. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding the requirement for primary school teachers to complete Croke Park hours; if this is set out as a requirement in their contracts; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66373/26 | BARRY WARD

258. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the specific funding streams available through her Department for national schools that wish to develop or upgrade outdoor facilities within their schools to encourage play, exercise and mobility.

PQ66398/26 | GED NASH

259. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her views on a matter (details supplied).

PQ66404/26 | JENNIFER MURNANE O'CONNOR

260. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether she will review the requirement under the school transport scheme that pupils must attend their nearest school, having regard to ethos and language, to qualify for transport; whether she accepts that this can significantly restrict parental choice of school, particularly where concessionary places are unavailable due to capacity constraints; and if greater flexibility will be introduced under the scheme.

PQ66421/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

261. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of post-primary teacher vacancies identified in each county in the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 school years, by subject; the number of positions remaining unfilled following an initial recruitment process; the number being filled by a teacher who does not hold the relevant subject qualification; and the number of subjects which schools have reported being unable to offer due to teacher recruitment difficulties.

PQ66439/26 | COLM BURKE

262. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her views on concerns raised by parents regarding the Leaving Certificate scheduling which resulted in maths paper 2 and Irish paper 1 being held on the same day; whether she acknowledges that both Irish and maths are difficult for many students and would be best held separately and on their own; and whether she will examine this in advance of the schedule for 2027 being published.

PQ66452/26 | SEÁN KYNE

263. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to clarify when the construction phase will commence for the Cork Educate Together Secondary School at Douglas Co. Cork.

PQ66487/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

264. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will clarify whether an existing permanent AP1 teacher must permanently relinquish their substantive, secure AP1 position to take up the new senior cycle redevelopment role, given that the availability of the new post is contingent on fluctuating school enrolment numbers and subject to a stated review in 2031.

PQ66461/26 | CATHAL CROWE

265. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will clarify the position under Circular Letter 0037/2026 regarding the new senior cycle redevelopment co-ordinator posts of responsibility; specifically, the status of an existing permanent Assistant Principal I (AP1) post holder who successfully applies for and is appointed to this newly created position.

PQ66460/26 | CATHAL CROWE

266. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department has assessed the average salary differential experienced by a post-primary teacher returning to Ireland whose verified teaching service in a private school outside the European Union is not recognised for incremental credit compared with a teacher with an equivalent number of years of recognised teaching service, to provide illustrative salary differentials for teachers returning following three, five and seven years of such service.

PQ66445/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

267. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to research (details supplied) if her Department has estimated the number of these teachers who have accumulated teaching experience abroad who would not currently qualify for any degree for incremental salary credit on returning to teach in Ireland; if figures can be split between primary and post-primary teachers, country of residence and years of teaching experience; and if no such analysis has been undertaken, whether she will request that such an analysis be carried out as part of the Department's teacher workforce planning.

PQ66444/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

268. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether she will consider providing funding to assist in the completion of centre (details supplied).

PQ66530/26 | PAUL MURPHY

269. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the steps being taken to maximise participation in the Summer Programme 2027; and to ensure that the highest possible number of students can avail of it.

PQ66533/26 | PAUL MURPHY

270. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais agus Óige á chur san áireamh go bhfuil 23,000 cúntóir riachtanas speisialta agus 21,000 múinteoir tacaíochta foghlama sa chóras oideachais anois, conas atá breis is 60,000 dalta iar-bhunscoile ann faoi láthair le díolúine ó staidéar na Gaeilge; an bhféadfadh sí a chur in iúl an bhfuil sé mar sprioc shonrach ag na cúntóirí riachtanas speisialta agus na múinteoirí tacaíochta foghlama sin, nó mar chuid dá gcúraimí, cabhrú leis an líon daltaí iar-bhunscoile le díolúine a laghdú; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh.

PQ66419/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

271. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais agus Óige á chur san áireamh gur tháinig ardú ar bhuiséad na Roinne Oideachais le haghaidh Oideachas Riachtanas Speisialta ó €468 milliún in 2004 go €2.9 billiún in 2025, cén fáth nach bhfuil laghdú tagtha ar líon na ndíolúintí ón staidéar ar an nGaeilge sa tréimhse chéanna má tá an oiread sin tacaíochtaí breise curtha ar fáil; agus an ndéanfaidh sí ráiteas ina thaobh.

PQ66418/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

272. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the rationale of the 30 September date for pupil enrolments in determining teacher allocations for schools; if the date will be reviewed, given enrolment of pupils does not cease on that date, and given the consequences of decreased allocations for schools such as amalgamated classes of over 30 pupils.

PQ66600/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

273. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the estimated number of teachers currently participating in job-sharing arrangements at primary and post-primary level; and the number who availed of substitute teaching opportunities on their non-teaching days in each of the past three school years.

PQ66596/26 | GRACE BOLAND

274. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has considered permitting job-sharing teachers to undertake substitute teaching within their own school on non-teaching days, particularly where this would provide continuity for pupils and assist schools experiencing teacher shortage.

PQ66595/26 | GRACE BOLAND

275. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether job-sharing teachers were permitted to undertake substitute teaching on their non-teaching days under arrangements that applied in previous school years; if so, the years during which such arrangements applied; and the reasons these arrangements may not been continued for the 2026/2027 school year.

PQ66594/26 | GRACE BOLAND

276. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current position regarding job-sharing primary and post-primary teachers undertaking substitute teaching on their non-teaching days during the 2026/2027 school year.

PQ66593/26 | GRACE BOLAND

277. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the way in which a parent can access the school transport scheme for children with special educational needs; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ66713/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

278. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth given the increased demand for special classes, if her Department has plans to designate a special class for children with Autism in a school (details supplied); and her plans to increase the number of special classes in primary schools in Fingal East.

PQ66711/26 | ANN GRAVES

279. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on the proposed redevelopment of (details supplied); the current status of the project; the next steps required to advance the development; the anticipated timeline for progression to the next stage.

PQ66679/26 | GRACE BOLAND

280. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department permits State-funded primary schools to outsource mandatory school-day curriculum delivery to private contractors at direct cost to parents; and the mechanisms her Department is putting in place to enforce existing regulations against coercive fee invoicing for school-day activities.

PQ66644/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

281. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to PQ 63760/26 of 7 September 2026; if ongoing local development, lack of capacity in surrounding local schools and the unique experience of the school regarding enrolments will be considered in relation to teacher allocation, given the determining factors are restrictive and do not take into account local needs or the unique circumstances of the school.

PQ66721/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

282. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether she is satisfied that the current teacher education framework adequately supports individuals with substantial experience in special education, including special needs assistants and early childhood education professionals, who wish to qualify as teachers in special schools and special classes; and whether consideration is being given to a dedicated initial teacher education pathway for special education.

PQ66764/26 | GRACE BOLAND

283. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether consideration is being given to the development of an alternative, rigorous initial teacher education programme focused on special education, which would enable suitably qualified and experienced professionals to qualify directly for work in special schools and special classes.

PQ66763/26 | GRACE BOLAND

284. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has examined international models of initial teacher education specifically designed for special education teaching; and whether any such models are being considered in Ireland.

PQ66761/26 | GRACE BOLAND

285. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether the current approach of requiring teachers to first qualify as mainstream primary or post-primary teachers before undertaking specialist SEN training has been evaluated in the context of teacher supply challenges in special schools and special classes.

PQ66760/26 | GRACE BOLAND

286. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has undertaken a review of the pathways available to experienced special needs assistants and other education professionals seeking to qualify as teachers in special education settings.

PQ66759/26 | GRACE BOLAND

287. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has considered the introduction of a dedicated initial teacher education pathway for individuals seeking to become special education teachers.

PQ66758/26 | GRACE BOLAND

288. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide an update on the urgent funding options that are available or are being considered to address the roofing defects in a primary school (details supplied) in county Clare; if she will confirm whether the roof repairs are currently on the relevant remedial works list; and if so, the expected timeline for assessment and completion; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66771/26 | CATHAL CROWE

289. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the date on which the junior cert results will be released.

PQ66825/26 | SORCA CLARKE

290. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on new build and refurbishment works for a school (details supplied); if her Department's review is complete; and if this project will be prioritised given works have been delayed for over a decade and are desperately needed.

PQ66807/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

291. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide an update on the development of the Youth Workforce Development Strategy; the number of submissions that were received to the consultation process; and the timelines for development of a strategy.

PQ66822/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

292. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the meetings she has had with her Ministerial colleagues over the summer on the resources, services and supports for children and young people that are needed to ensure youth services are available in communities.

PQ66821/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

293. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide an update on the review of the UBU scheme undertaken by her Department; the stage the review is at; if her Department has captured stakeholder insights; if evidence-based recommendations to inform future scheme enhancements will be made; and when the review will be published.

PQ66820/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

294. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide details on research that is currently being funded by her Department in respect of youth work and youth affairs.

PQ66819/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

295. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the grants that are being made available under her Department to support activities and initiatives under the EU Presidency.

PQ66818/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

296. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she can advise on when the new set of actions for Opportunities for Youth: National Strategy for Youth Work and Related Services 2024 – 2028 will be published given the current set are due to end at the end of 2026.

PQ66817/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

297. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she can provide a comprehensive update on the implementation of Opportunities for Youth: National Strategy for Youth Work and Related Services 2024 – 2028.

PQ66816/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

298. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the way in which schools engage with CAMHS and other relevant professionals when a child with additional needs is experiencing significant emotional distress and difficulty accessing school; and if there is guidance around facilitating an interagency approach in such circumstances.

PQ66905/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

299. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide a progress update on the construction of the new school building (details supplied); the current status of the works following commencement; and the expected structural completion and opening dates.

PQ66970/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

300. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will ensure a school transport place is provided for a pupil (details supplied).

PQ66994/26 | ROBERT TROY

301. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if a school in County Kerry (details supplied) will be successful in their appeal for a much needed special needs assistant position; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66984/26 | SEÁN KYNE

302. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when school transport will be arranged for three children with additional needs, two of whom have been unable to attend a single day of the 2026/2027 school year due to the absence of transport arrangements, while the third is reliant on a taxi service that is not consistently available; the reasons transport arrangements were not put in place prior to the commencement of the school year; why parents were not informed of potential delays when applying for and subsequently being approved for school transport; and the measures being taken to ensure these children can access their education.

PQ67049/26 | MATTIE MCGRATH

303. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will review the school transport case of a person (details supplied); if she is aware that three children have been unable to secure school bus transport despite reported available capacity on relevant routes; if she will engage with Bus Éireann regarding the allocation of seats and route eligibility; and if she will provide an update on the application and arrangements for the children concerned.

PQ67048/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

304. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to expand the DEY funded eight week block courses for teacher professional learning in inclusive and special education.

PQ67013/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

305. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth If she will ensure a school bus ticket is awarded to a person (details supplied).

PQ67011/26 | ROBERT TROY

306. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth If she will ensure a school bus ticket is awarded to a pupil (details supplied).

PQ67009/26 | ROBERT TROY

307. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if a school bus ticket can be awarded to a pupil (details supplied).

PQ67006/26 | ROBERT TROY

308. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth If she will ensure a school transport ticket is awarded for a pupil (details supplied).

PQ67003/26 | ROBERT TROY

309. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if a school bus ticket can be awarded to a pupil (details supplied).

PQ67001/26 | ROBERT TROY

310. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth If she will ensure a school bus ticket is awarded to a pupil (details supplied).

PQ66997/26 | ROBERT TROY

311. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she is aware of current teacher shortages across primary and post-primary levels.

PQ67095/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

312. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she is aware of primary teachers facing difficulty in obtaining secure, long-term employment in areas outside of Dublin.

PQ67091/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

313. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether a school transport route could be changed to address a safety issue (details supplied).

PQ67084/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

314. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth To provide an update on the ongoing review and data re-evaluation of the DEIS Plus identification model; how she will address the concerns of school principals regarding the fairness and transparency of the data inputs used, specifically the reliance on the HP Deprivation Index.

PQ67106/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

315. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will outline the exact selection methodology and publish the scoring criteria in tabular form for DEIS + allocation to ensure transparency for excluded schools.

PQ67110/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

316. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the projected demand for post-primary school places in County Wicklow for each of the next five years; and the additional places currently in development.

PQ67135/26 | JENNIFER WHITMORE

317. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for a comprehensive breakdown of the total number of modular school units delivered across primary and post-primary schools in each year from 2020 to date in 2026.

PQ67127/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

318. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for a breakdown of the total amount spent by her Department on modular, prefab, and temporary school accommodation, including purchase, installation, and rental or leasing costs, in each year from 2020 to date in 2026.

PQ67126/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

319. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the timeframe for the delivery of a planned school (details supplied).

PQ67186/26 | EMER CURRIE

320. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the timeframe for the delivery of a planned school (details supplied).

PQ67202/26 | EMER CURRIE

321. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the total expenditure and number of units delivered by her Department on the procurement, leasing, and installation of modular classroom units under the current Modular Accommodation Framework compared to the previous tendering system from 2020 to 2026, in tabular form; the average cost per square metre of modular delivery under the new framework versus the old system; and the value-for-money metrics used to assess this framework.

PQ67201/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

322. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide guidance for the parent of a child with specific medical needs who is having difficulty attending school due to issues with care (details supplied); the responsibility of the school in this circumstance; and the further supports can be put in place to ensure the child is allowed to attend school safely on a full time basis, as is their right.

PQ67204/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

323. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will address the funding shortfall facing schools with sanctioned SEN classes, where the standard capital and start-up grants do not cover the full cost of equipping a dedicated sensory room; if her Department will increase the baseline sensory room grant or introduce a flexible top-up mechanism.

PQ67197/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

324. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to an issue (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66552/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

325. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to an issue (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66536/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

## Chun an Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt: To the Culture, Communications and Sport

326. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the amount expended in respect of legal costs relating to a report by a company regarding the economic impact of hosting the ryder cup in 2027.

PQ66294/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

327. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the measures that are being taken to increase adult participation in gym, leisure centre and swimming pool activities; and if he will outline any engagement he has had with stakeholders on the matter.

PQ66629/26 | JOHN LAHART

328. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport has consideration been given to putting in place a regulator similar to Coimisiún na Meán for arts, music and media.

PQ66622/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

329. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when he is next scheduled to meet the Director General of TG4.

PQ66723/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

330. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the number of post offices operating in the State at the latest date available and at the equivalent point ten years previously, broken down by county; the number and location of post offices which have closed in each year during that period, by county.

PQ66742/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

331. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the interventions or remediation schemes planned to address premises trapped in BLUE commercial areas due to direct buried copper leads to allow fibre broadband.

PQ66841/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

332. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to list which of the 36 actions remain outstanding from the Nighttime Economy Taskforce 2021.

PQ66839/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

333. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the policy interventions or remediation schemes planned for households unable to reach the baseline 30 Mbps threshold due to sub-surface copper bottlenecks.

PQ66844/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

334. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the international sporting events taking place in Ireland that are being supported by his Department until 2030, by sporting project, in tabular form.

PQ66910/26 | CATHY BENNETT

335. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if he will now reconsider a project's application (details supplied) submitted under the 2024 Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF); whether the achievement of planning approval will now be taken into account in reassessing the project's readiness and deliverability; whether his Department will engage directly with Galway City Council with a view to progressing an allocation from the existing LSSIF round rather than requiring the project to await a future funding call; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66985/26 | SEÁN KYNE

336. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport given the significant increase in subscription fees (details supplied), if he will consider introducing a content levy on streaming services to support Irish content production.

PQ67046/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

337. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the amount of Exchequer funding allocated to Sport Ireland towards the cost of paying salaries of coaches of athletics within high performance units in each of the years of 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ67071/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

338. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when applicants for the basic income for the arts scheme will be informed regarding the outcome of their application.

PQ67069/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

339. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when a person (details supplied) can expect to have a new Eircode they have applied for processed, approved and communicated to them; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67156/26 | CATHAL CROWE

### Chun an Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht: To the Housing, Local Government and Heritage

340. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 390 of 14 July 2026, if he will provide an update on the commitment in Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-2030 to explore an extension of the Vacant Above the Shop Grant to micro companies; if this work has now been completed; and if he will outline the outcome.

PQ66366/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

341. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of notifications for detached auxiliary habitable dwellings received to date by his Department, by local authority area.

PQ66389/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

342. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he is aware that local authorities are only providing tenant moves from the private rental sector, and signing first time social housing tenancy agreements two weeks to move into their council property and two weeks HAP from the date the social housing tenancy is signed for, despite the fact that the Residential tenancies Act requires private tenants to provide between 4 and 6 weeks notice on termination of a tenancy; and if he will review the matter to ensure that local authorities arrangements for tenancing and HAP payments are in line with the legal requirements of the RTA.

PQ66392/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

343. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to state whether any guidance or policy is provided by his Department to local authorities dealing with tenancy arrangements and terminations for tenants who have received custodial jail sentences.

PQ66391/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

344. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of the Monard Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in Cork; and the proposed timelines and targets regarding same.

PQ66440/26 | COLM BURKE

345. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the process and expected timeframe for the allocation of Eircodes to newly developed residential properties; whether he is aware of delays affecting residents in Whitecross (details supplied), County Cork; and what steps can be taken to resolve such delays, particularly where they are preventing residents from obtaining broadband and accessing services and employment requiring home working

PQ66485/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

346. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of the proposed connection of 69 residential properties in a location (details supplied) to the public wastewater network; the current position regarding the €992,000 funding allocation understood to be available for the project; the reason works have not yet commenced despite funding being approved and subsequently increased; whether additional funding is required to allow the project to proceed; and if he will provide a timeline for the commencement and completion of the works; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66488/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

347. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will address issues raised in correspondence (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66503/26 | NIALL COLLINS

348. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he will review the exclusion of local authority tenants living in homes acquired under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2024 from the tenant purchase scheme, particularly where tenants were originally advised that they would have an opportunity to purchase their home and where the tenancy agreement makes no reference to the property being a part V dwelling; whether transitional or exceptional arrangements will be introduced for tenants affected by this exclusion; and the steps available to such tenants to appeal a refusal.

PQ66477/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

349. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of the proposed fuel support scheme for the construction sector; the reasons for the delay in finalising and implementing the scheme; the steps being taken to expedite its approval; when eligible construction businesses can expect to apply for and draw down support; and the proposed eligibility criteria and level of assistance.

PQ66476/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

350. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if funding is available through his Department or The Heritage Council for the development of feasibility studies for tourism and heritage projects; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66495/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

351. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has been informed of the significant ongoing costs being incurred by 69 households in a location (details supplied) operating and maintaining private wastewater treatment systems, including electricity and maintenance costs; whether he will engage with Kerry County Council and Uisce Éireann to identify what is preventing the project from progressing; whether every effort will be made to ensure that the outstanding funding shortfall is resolved and the connection to the public sewerage network is delivered as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66492/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

352. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of an occasion recently where a fire engine was unable to access Gabhla Island in County Donegal in an emergency; and the action he will take to ensure this does not happen in an emergency again.

PQ66699/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

353. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide assurances that members of the fire service on Arranmore Island will be retained in their current numbers; and if changes to arrangements on the island are being planned.

PQ66705/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

354. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the Government has considered reviewing their national policy regarding fire services on islands; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66702/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

355. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has estimated the level of pent-up housing demand in the State; the current estimate of that demand; and the projected level of such demand to 2035.

PQ66731/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

356. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide an update in respect of the issue of the voting age that was examined by An Coimisiún Toghcháin as part of its research programme from 2024 to 2026; and if An Coimisiún Toghcháin have provided him with an interim and or full report and or recommendations in respect of that work.

PQ66745/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

357. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an updated timeline on the forthcoming new planning guidelines in relation to the rear of property buildings; if he will provide details on the changes that will be included in relation to such buildings.

PQ66787/26 | ROBERT TROY

358. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current average length of time taken by Tailte Éireann to process applications for the first registration of land or property titles; and the measures being taken to reduce processing times.

PQ66882/26 | EAMON SCANLON

359. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department has provided any guidance or instructions to Local Authorities regarding the financial contribution scheme for age friendly rightsizing.

PQ66959/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

360. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update, including a timeline, on the fuel subsidy support scheme for the construction industry.

PQ67036/26 | JOE COONEY

361. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the guidelines available to planners within local authorities to assess the impact of a high concentration of renewable energy infrastructure within a rural area; and the extent to which the landscape and local community are taken into consideration.

PQ67096/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

362. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of persons with an intellectual disability currently on the local authority housing waiting list in areas (details supplied); the number in each local authority who have been waiting less than one year, one to three, three to five, five to ten and more than ten years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67081/26 | MICHAEL COLLINS

363. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current plans for retrofitting all local authority homes including the timeline and estimated cost per year; the number of homes retrofitted for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67170/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

364. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the construction cost of building one, two, three, four bed homes on publicly owned land; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67150/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

365. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the construction cost of building one, two, three, four bed homes on local authority land; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67149/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

366. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the estimated cost of planned Part V purchases under Housing for All, by year; the projected cost per unit for one, two, three, four bed homes; and the number planned to be purchased for each year, by local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67148/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

367. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number and size of homes bought by each local authority in 2021 and the first two quarters of 2022; and the cost of these homes to each local authority; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ67147/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

368. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the average cost of acquiring one, two, three and four bed homes outside Dublin under the buy and renew scheme; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ67146/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

369. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the average cost of acquiring one, two, three and four bed homes in Dublin under the buy and renew scheme; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ67145/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

370. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures in place to assess the impact of a high concentration of renewable energy infrastructure within a rural area; the person or body responsible for carrying out that assessment; and the extent to which the landscape and local community are taken into consideration.

PQ67094/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

371. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the estimated full year cost to the exchequer of increasing income limits for social housing by 20%; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67152/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

372. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the full cost of retrofitting all local authority owned homes by 2030; the estimated average cost per home in 2023; the number to be carried out in 2026; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ67167/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

373. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the full year cost of increasing HAP limits to the average cost of rents in each area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67165/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

374. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the full year cost of the Traveller Accommodation Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67162/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

375. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide a list of the emergency accommodation centres for homeless people in Dublin; the number of places in each; the cost of running each; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67161/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

376. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide the estimated full year cost of providing emergency accommodation for homeless people in Dublin in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67158/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

377. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide the estimated full year cost of providing emergency accommodation for homeless people in 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67157/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

## **Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection**

378. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the humanitarian assistance scheme is still open for applications from storm Eowyn.

PQ66348/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

379. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the income supports are available to people who are unable to work, or whose capacity to work is significantly reduced, as a result of long-Covid; and whether consideration has been given to the particular long-term financial impact of Long Covid on affected individuals.

PQ66317/26 | PA DALY

380. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the rationale for requiring a person undergoing a review of their disability allowance to provide details regarding other persons residing in their household, including the source of income of those persons; the circumstances in which the income or financial circumstances of another household member, other than a spouse, civil partner or cohabitant, are relevant to the claimant's entitlement; and the legislative or administrative basis for requesting this information.

PQ66422/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

381. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the assistance that is available to a school when no catering provider is willing/able to serve its area, for school meals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66434/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

382. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures that are in place to ensure that small rural and Gaeltacht schools are not excluded from the school meals programme because of their location; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66435/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

383. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide additional funding or a different delivery model where the standard catering arrangements for school meals are not viable; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66436/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

384. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the immediate solution can be put in place for a school (details supplied) so that the pupils can receive the same hot meals as children in other schools; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66437/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

385. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the assistance that can be provided to a school (details supplied) in a rural Gaeltacht area that is unable to access the Hot School Meals Programme because it has been unable to secure a catering provider; and the measures are available to ensure that small rural and Gaeltacht schools are not excluded from the programme due to difficulties securing a provider.

PQ66442/26 | PA DALY

386. To ask the Minister for Social Protection regarding the provision of hot school meals and the difficulties facing small rural and Gaeltacht schools in securing a catering provider (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66443/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

387. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the timeframe for when he or his Department expects to issue the next round of Community Services Programme (CSP) funding for community organisations who initially expressed interest and were unsuccessful on the first round this year.

PQ66457/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

388. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the interaction between Illness Benefit, One-Parent Family Payment and Working Family Payment for parents with dependent children who are diagnosed with a terminal or life-limiting illness; and to consider measures to prevent a significant loss of household income when such parents are no longer able to work due to their illness.

PQ66465/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

389. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has examined the adequacy of income supports available to lone parents with dependent children who are unable to continue working due to a terminal or life-limiting illness; and if he will outline any proposals under consideration to prevent such families from experiencing a sharp reduction in income when transitioning from employment to illness-related supports.

PQ66464/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

390. To ask the Minister for Social Protection If his Department has assessed the impact of the 18.5-hour weekly employment limit for Carer's Allowance recipients on their ability to satisfy financial requirements under other Government schemes, including family reunification arrangements administered by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

PQ66480/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

391. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the carers allowance application of a person (details supplied).

PQ66554/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

392. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide a review on the jobseeker's pay-related benefit application of a person (details supplied).

PQ66592/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

393. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide a solution to a problem (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66643/26 | DANNY HEALY-RAE

394. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total expenditure by his Department on ICT contractors and consultants in each of the past five years and to date in 2026; the number of ICT contractors currently engaged by the Department; the number of permanent civil servants currently employed in ICT roles; and if he will provide the information, in tabular form.

PQ66735/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

395. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has conducted any analysis comparing the cost of ICT contractors with directly employed civil service ICT staff; if so, if he will provide a copy of that analysis, including the average comparative cost across ICT roles on an anonymised and aggregated basis, with individual contractor rates or commercially sensitive supplier information redacted as necessary.

PQ66734/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

396. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the application for a State Pension (Contributory) for a person (details supplied) which has been under consideration by his Department for many months.

PQ66766/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

397. To ask the Minister for Social Protection with regards to the State Pension (Non-Contributory) means assessment, the way in which a joint bank account is assessed in cases where the individuals in question are not married, civil partners, or cohabiting.

PQ66788/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

398. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will undertake a comprehensive review of the financial and social protection supports available to family carers, including Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit and the Carer's Support Grant, with particular consideration given to the interaction between caring responsibilities, employment, taxation and pension entitlements.

PQ66791/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

399. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the plans his Department has to establish equivalent structures (details supplied) to provide occupational pensioners with a collective voice in the governance of occupational pension schemes in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66808/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

400. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has examined the cost and feasibility of introducing a temporary employer PRSI rebate for recognised social enterprises in respect of employees earning below €44,000 per annum; whether such a rebate could be administered through Revenue's existing payroll infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66776/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

401. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm that consideration would be given to including an increased income threshold in the Fuel Allowance for those with dependent children; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66924/26 | COLM BURKE

402. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has assessed the extent to which recipients of Carer's Allowance are experiencing financial hardship as a result of increases in essential household costs, including electricity, heating, food, insurance and housing; the measures that are available specifically to support carers experiencing such hardship or will they be addressed in Budget 2027.

PQ66916/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

403. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department will further investigate the supplementary welfare allowance application of a person (details supplied) who has had no income for over six months.

PQ66956/26 | ROBERT TROY

404. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has examined the impact of the current fuel allowance means test on lone-parent households; if he acknowledges that, for applicants under 66 years-of-age, the means test applies a single-person income threshold regardless of the presence of dependent children in the household; if he will consider introducing higher income disregards or revised means-test thresholds that take account of household composition and the additional costs associated with raising dependent children.

PQ66991/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

405. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the case of a person; and if he will provide an update on the application.

PQ67037/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

406. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will provide an update on the application.

PQ67035/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

407. To ask the Minister for Social Protection estimated additional annual cost of increasing fuel allowance by €20 per week for current recipients.

PQ67030/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

408. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated full year cost of abolishing the waiting period of a year for fuel allowance for those on jobseeker's allowance.

PQ67029/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

409. To ask the Minister for Social Protection estimated additional full-year cost of increasing fuel allowance by €20, extending the payment period to 32 weeks and extending eligibility to all pensioners and to all in receipt of the working family payment.

PQ67027/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

410. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for his Department to engage with a school (details supplied) to roll out the School Meals Programme.

PQ67010/26 | EMER CURRIE

411. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding any plans or research that has been carried out into the merits of providing a family payment scheme that would allow one parent to work in the home and care for their children in cases whereby this would otherwise be impossible due to financial constraints.

PQ66828/26 | BARRY WARD

412. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to allow workers enrolled in the National Auto Enrolment / #my Future Fund pension scheme to make small additional personal contributions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67230/26 | GED NASH

## Chun an Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce: To the Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

413. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will urgently review the high rate of study visa refusals issued to Palestinian students from Gaza who have secured fully funded university scholarships at third-level institutions in Ireland; if his Department will establish an accelerated, fast-track process for processing these visa appeals before the 17 September 2026 deadline required for students to board upcoming evacuation flights; and if he will acknowledge the impossibility of students retrieving original, physical documentation from a conflict zone where educational and civil infrastructure has been destroyed.

PQ66302/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

414. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of allegations of penalisation arising from the making of a protected disclosure by a member of Garda personnel recorded in each year from 2016 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of such allegations that were upheld, partially upheld, not upheld, discontinued or remain under examination; the median time taken to determine them; and if he will provide the information in anonymised and aggregated form.

PQ66371/26 | GARY GANNON

415. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of reports received through the internal protected-disclosures channels of An Garda Síochána in each year from 2016 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number in each year that were assessed as protected disclosures, referred for investigation, substantiated in whole or in part, not substantiated, discontinued or awaiting determination; the median time from receipt to final determination; and if he will provide the information, in tabular form.

PQ66370/26 | GARY GANNON

416. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the total expenditure incurred by his Department, and any body under the aegis of his Department, in connection with the visit of President Donald J. Trump to Ireland in September 2026; and if he will provide a breakdown of such expenditure by category, in tabular form.

PQ66365/26 | GARY GANNON

417. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the reason for the delay in commencing the Court Proceedings (Delays) Act 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66356/26 | BARRY WARD

418. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his Department maintains a consolidated implementation register in respect of recommendations concerning the treatment and protection of Garda reporting persons arising from the Morris Tribunal, the O'Higgins Commission of Investigation, the Disclosures Tribunal and the 2016 report of the Policing Authority on the Garda protected-disclosures policy; if he will publish that register, specifying the implementation status of each recommendation; and the body responsible.

PQ66384/26 | GARY GANNON

419. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to consider an application for a family reunification for family members (details supplied) given they are Gazan refugees and have been considered refugees by UNRWA.

PQ66393/26 | PA DALY

420. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the timeframe for decisions on visa applications for Gaza students to be made and communicated to the students; and to expedite the process given their courses have started already; and to ensure maximum flexibility is exercised in their favour due to their exceptionally difficult circumstances.

PQ66455/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

421. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration If consideration has been given to the impact of the €75,000 three-year income threshold for non-EEA family reunification on recipients of Carer's Allowance whose employment is restricted under State rules; and whether any discretion or exceptional circumstances provisions exist in such cases.

PQ66479/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

422. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of vehicles seized by Gardai within Kerry Division for having no tax in each of the years of 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ66561/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

423. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the way he defines "a case" in the new flat fee payment model for criminal legal aid introduced on 1 July 2026; and the way this applies when an accused person is before the courts for separate and distinct offences committed on separate dates.

PQ66557/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

424. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the amount the State expects to save annually from the new payment model for the criminal legal aid scheme he introduced on 1 July 2026.

PQ66556/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

425. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps being taken to address the operational and financial impact on legal practitioners following the restructuring of the criminal legal aid scheme on 1 July 2026; if his attention has been drawn to concerns regarding the long-term viability of the system and the risk of reduced access to legal representation in smaller court venues; if consideration will be given to introducing judicial discretion to allow separate legal aid certificates for distinct cases, subject to a statutory cap or sliding scale; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66624/26 | CATHAL CROWE

426. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Gardaí that are currently fully trained and licensed in the use of drones.

PQ66722/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

427. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he has received a request from Garda management for additional funding to purchase additional water cannons and other public order equipment in 2026 to date.

PQ66720/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

428. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of appeals currently pending before the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT).

PQ66789/26 | MATT CARTHY

429. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to PQ63641/26, what individual assessment was actually undertaken before the accommodation was allocated to this family, what information was relied upon in determining that it was suitable, and did the decision-maker have access to an assessment addressing the child's (details supplied) actual disability, accessibility, manual-handling and personal-care requirements.

PQ66792/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

430. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 2600 of 7 September 2026, the steps that were taken in the case of a family (details supplied) to maintain continuity of their established healthcare and supports.

PQ66794/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

431. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 2600 of 7 September 2026, if the relocation decision was made before or after the relevant medical and disability evidence concerning a child (details supplied) was available to the decision-maker; if the decision was made without this information, whether the decision will now be reconsidered in light of the professional evidence which has been provided; if the information was already available, how was the proposed accommodation assessed as suitable in light of those needs.

PQ66793/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

432. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to expedite an IRP card renewal application in respect of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66846/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

433. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the position regarding the repeal the Dance Halls Act 1935 and replace with a new Sale of Alcohol Bill as per the recommendations of the Night Time Economy Task Force.

PQ66845/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

434. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the position regarding reforming the Licensing Acts 1833 to 2018 and the Registration of Clubs Acts 1904 to 2008.

PQ66843/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

435. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Gardaí that are being moved from stations around the Country to cover EU presidency events.

PQ66842/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

436. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the position regarding the mechanisms that were put in place to allow United States Secret Service operatives to carry firearms during President Donald Trump's visit to Ireland.

PQ66877/26 | BARRY WARD

437. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of prisoners actively following a course with the Open University at the present time in each institution; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66872/26 | JENNIFER WHITMORE

438. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration when a location (details supplied) will be returned to community use; when the security fencing surrounding the site will be removed; and the total cost incurred to date in providing 24-hour security at the property.

PQ66969/26 | MATTIE MCGRATH

439. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of times spiking was mentioned on the Garda PULSE system for the years 2021 to 2026.

PQ66965/26 | MARK WARD

440. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Gardaí by rank currently attached to Galway Divisional Immigration Unit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66987/26 | SEÁN KYNE

441. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will address the concerns raised in correspondence (details supplied) regarding the proposed changes to the Irish Naturalisation Rules.

PQ67060/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

442. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration for an update on the commencement of part 5 of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023, in view of his Department accepting new applications for the community-based CCTV grant aid scheme.

PQ67055/26 | EMER CURRIE

443. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to clarify if the residence years from five to eight include transitional provisions for people already lawfully resident here; and the evidence base for eight years rather than five.

PQ67079/26 | ROBERT TROY

444. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 2216 of 28 July 2026, if he has received the relevant information from Garda Authorities to answer this PQ.

PQ67072/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

445. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of years experience a member of the Garda force must have, before applying to join the Roads Policing Unit.

PQ67183/26 | EMER CURRIE

446. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the grounds upon which a visa application for a person (details supplied), who was selected to receive a year-long scholarship to attend Trinity College Dublin commencing in academic year 2026/2027, was denied; and if he will liaise with the applicant to assist with their application, given the urgency of the academic year beginning.

PQ66413/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

447. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration when decisions on visa applications for Gaza students will be made and communicated to them, to ensure it is done more expeditiously given that their courses have started already, and to ensure maximum flexibility is exercised in their favour due to their exceptionally difficult circumstances.

PQ66441/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

448. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide a list of all women's refuges in the country and the full year cost of running each of them; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67154/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

449. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the estimated full year cost of providing enough women's refuge places to bring us in line with our commitments under the Istanbul convention.

PQ67153/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

## Chun an Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara: To the Agriculture, Food and the Marine

450. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department will outline in relation to the 2026 scheme of investment aid for innovation and diversification in horticulture, the amount the scheme was allocated; the amount of that allocation that was actually drawn down; the number of applications that were received and approved; and the way in which the funding was distributed by enterprise type and by county.

PQ66326/26 | JOE NEVILLE

451. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if EU fines will be imposed if Ireland fails to meet afforestation targets in the future; if so, the expected amount those fines will be; and when they will issue.

PQ66323/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

452. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if fines have ever been issued to the Irish Government for failing to meet afforestation targets in the past.

PQ66322/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

453. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the expected timeframe for Coillte to replant the 14,500 hectares of their forests destroyed by storm Éowyn in January 2025.

PQ66321/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

454. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of plants Coillte must replant to replenish the 14,500 hectares of their forests destroyed by storm Éowyn in January 2025.

PQ66320/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

455. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if Coillte will have enough home-grown nursery stock to replant the 14,500 hectares of their forests destroyed by storm Éowyn in January 2025.

PQ66319/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

456. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of meetings held between his Minister of State with responsibility for forestry, and organisations within the forestry sector since June 2026.

PQ66431/26 | MARTIN KENNY

457. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the projected levels of afforestation for 2026 and 2027, based on applications received by his Department.

PQ66430/26 | MARTIN KENNY

458. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to outline the performance of the current forestry programme based on his own Departments KPI data.

PQ66432/26 | MARTIN KENNY

459. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the key changes he will propose for the next forestry programme to improve current planting levels.

PQ66433/26 | MARTIN KENNY

460. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the total number of afforestation hectares submitted to his Department each year from 2010 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and the actual hectares planted each year.

PQ66429/26 | MARTIN KENNY

461. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide details of halal slaughter and processing activity taking place in a factory (details supplied); the number and type of animals slaughtered in accordance with halal requirements in each of the past five years; the total tonnage of meat produced from such slaughter; the meat processing plants or slaughter facilities involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66424/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

462. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the governance arrangements that are in place to ensure that persons who report alleged illegal forestry, and persons affected by such investigations, have access to the procedures governing the receipt, assessment, investigation and determination of Alleged Illegal Forestry (AIF) cases; whether the Alleged Illegal Forestry Section operates under published standard operating procedures, investigation procedures, protocols or other procedural guidance; if such procedures exist, where they may be accessed by the public; if they are not published, the reason for their non-publication.

PQ66525/26 | PAUL MURPHY

463. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if it is possible to include a requirement for Irish-grown grain to be used in whiskey marketed as Irish whiskey in the revised Irish Whiskey Technical File.

PQ66538/26 | CHRISTOPHER O'SULLIVAN

464. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the gross profit margin before interest and tax used in calculating the afforestation grant rate for the forestry programme 2023 to 2027.

PQ66618/26 | MICHAEL FITZMAURICE

465. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the charge rate for approved foresters per day used in calculating the afforestation grant rate for the forestry programme 2023 to 2027.

PQ66616/26 | MICHAEL FITZMAURICE

466. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the breakdown of the fixed overheads used in calculating the afforestation grant rate for the Forestry Programme 2023 to 2027.

PQ66615/26 | MICHAEL FITZMAURICE

467. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine In the COFORD report of 2022 , Economic Activity and employment levels in the Irish Forest Sector; what did the report state average labour cost would need to increase by if contractors were not to be lost to the construction or other sectors.

PQ66613/26
MICHAEL FITZMAURICE

468. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine In the COFORD report of 2022 , Economic Activity and employment levels in the Irish Forest Sector, for afforestation, the forester and office inputs in days, per hectare planted.

PQ66612/26
MICHAEL FITZMAURICE

469. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if farmers who are affected by TB in their animals and face loss of animals or wipe out of herds are advised and given information as to the believed reason for the outbreak; and any other information that might be helpful to them.

PQ66633/26
CLAIRE KERRANE

470. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if work is ongoing in his Department on reducing the incidence of TB with a view to eradicating it entirely; the efforts for reduction and eradication; the additional measure that can be taken to reduce incidence; and the specific actions his Department are taking to make this happen.

PQ66631/26
CLAIRE KERRANE

471. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the National Fodder & Food Security Committee is reconvened to provide a clear pathway of actions around a fodder support scheme for farmers under pressure as a result of the long drought and fodder pressures.

PQ66627/26
CLAIRE KERRANE

472. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide the maximum national co-funding under the European Commission's recently announced €540 million fertiliser support package for farmers affected by the ongoing fertiliser crisis.

PQ66619/26
CLAIRE KERRANE

473. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether he is concerned that the current TAMS rules regarding internal slurry agitation points may unintentionally exclude older but otherwise functional livestock buildings from grant support for safety, animal welfare and environmental improvements; whether his Department has assessed the impact of this provision on investment decisions by farmers; and if he will consider amendments to future TAMS schemes to allow a phased transition towards external agitation systems while continuing to support necessary upgrades to existing farm infrastructure.

PQ66680/26
ALBERT DOLAN

474. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the way in which the remaining funds of the fuel income support scheme will be distributed and allocated, in view that approximately €58 million has been left unspent

PQ66769/26
COLM BURKE

475. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether his Department has identified any fruit or vegetable supply chains where Ireland is particularly dependent on countries or regions considered highly vulnerable to climate change; the products concerned; and the measures being taken to reduce the risk of future disruption.

PQ67061/26
ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

476. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in respect of the top 20 countries from which Ireland imports fresh fruit and vegetables, if his Department has assessed the exposure of these supply chains to climate-change risks, including drought, flooding, extreme heat, water scarcity and changing growing conditions.

PQ67059/26
ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

477. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the top 20 countries by volume and value from which Ireland imported fresh fruit and vegetables in 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the quantity and value imported from each country in tabular form.

PQ67058/26
ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

478. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the measures in place to assess the impact of a high concentration of renewable energy infrastructure on rural land; the person or body responsible for undertaking such assessments; and the way in which the effects on the landscape and agricultural land are taken into account.

PQ67097/26
RYAN O'MEARA

479. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of hectares of peat land designated as areas of natural constraint land; and the number of hectares in each category.

PQ67129/26
MARTIN KENNY

480. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reason there has been a decline in the number of mushroom growers in Ireland; and the strategies he is taking to encourage more mushroom growing.

PQ67178/26
MALCOLM BYRNE

481. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether he will provide funding in Budget 2027 for a dedicated Agricultural Emissions Reduction Pilot Fund to support the testing and adoption of innovative emissions reduction technologies on commercial farms; and if he will outline the Government's plans to support evidence-based investment in practical measures that assist farmers in meeting climate targets while maintaining productivity and competitiveness.

PQ66684/26
ALBERT DOLAN

482. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her Departments plans to address recruitment and retention within the early years sector.

PQ66308/26 | CATHY BENNETT

483. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children receiving AIM supports in counties Cavan and Monaghan in each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by county, by year, and by duration of wait, in tabular form.

PQ66307/26 | CATHY BENNETT

484. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children waiting to receive AIM supports in counties Cavan and Monaghan in each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by county, by year, and by duration of wait, in tabular form.

PQ66306/26 | CATHY BENNETT

485. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to advise when the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024 will be progressed.

PQ66367/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

486. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to examine the correspondence (details supplied).

PQ66361/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

487. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she plans to raise paid paternity leave to eight weeks to improve the lives of young families and facilitate the relationship between fathers and their newborns.

PQ66354/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

488. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if consideration has been given to creating a system that would allow for parents to be paid the NCS subsidy directly in cases whereby their choice of pre-school/ childcare centre is not signed up to this scheme and therefore they cannot benefit from it and must pay the full cost of the fees.

PQ66428/26 | BARRY WARD

489. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if consideration has been given to creating a system that would allow for parents to be paid the ECCE subsidy directly in cases whereby their choice of pre-school/ childcare centre is not signed up to this scheme and therefore they cannot benefit from it and must pay the full cost of the fees.

PQ66427/26 | BARRY WARD

490. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality whether consideration will be given to providing a redress mechanism for persons who were boarded out as children and who are not eligible for existing redress schemes, including the mother and baby institutions payment scheme; and the engagement has taken place with representatives of boarded-out survivors regarding their exclusion from existing schemes.

PQ66447/26 | PA DALY

491. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her plans to introduce multi-annual funding Department funded services.

PQ66511/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

492. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the planning undertaken regarding the demand, supply and funding of service delivery across regions.

PQ66510/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

493. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of Department funded services that are receiving less than in 2008.

PQ66509/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

494. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of Department funded services; and the number of children cared for by each, for each of the years 2008 to date in 2026.

PQ66508/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

495. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the way in which Department funding is reallocated when a Department funded service closes; and if she will confirm whether it is reallocated to services providing same or similar services in the locality.

PQ66507/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

496. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the Building Blocks Grant Extension (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66582/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

497. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on an application (details supplied) under the Building Blocks Extension Grant; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66581/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

498. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on an application (details supplied) under the Building Blocks Extension Grant; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66580/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

499. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the consultation that took place before the introduction of the revised AIM funding and payment arrangements, including the linking of AIM payments to National Childcare Scheme approvals; and the stakeholders that were consulted in this process.

PQ66708/26 | DANIEL ENNIS

500. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the approved staffing complement for each Children's Disability Network Team; the number of sanctioned, filled and vacant whole-time equivalent posts in each team, broken down by discipline and grade; the number of children currently waiting for services in each team, by service type and time waiting; the average and median waiting time for initial contact and for commencement of intervention, by team and service type, at the latest date available, in tabular form.

PQ66741/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

501. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of children currently attending Children's Disability Network Teams in County Louth; the number awaiting access to occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, psychology and physiotherapy services respectively; the average waiting time for each service; the number of children with an assigned key worker; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66387/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

502. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the role of occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists and physiotherapists working within Children's Disability Network Teams; the proportion of clinician time allocated to direct therapeutic intervention, assessment and administrative duties respectively; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66385/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

503. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to confirm that consideration will be given to increasing paid paternity benefit and leave to eight weeks; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66623/26 | COLM BURKE

504. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality when the next round of funding under the building blocks capital programme will be announced.

PQ66995/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

505. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the staff vacancy rate for CDNTs in CHO7 as of 31 August 2026, in tabular form.

PQ67082/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

506. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the potential to provide co-located state led early years provision at the location of a planned school (details supplied).

PQ67188/26 | EMER CURRIE

507. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality in respect of safeguarding referrals or notifications relating to people in disability services, the number recorded under each category of safeguarding concern used by the HSE, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse, neglect, discriminatory abuse, institutional abuse, self-neglect and any other category recorded, in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67169/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

508. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the consideration that has been given to the impact of pay differentials between Section 38 and Section 39 disability service employees and equivalent HSE staff on the recruitment and retention of nursing and care staff; the measures are being taken to address any such recruitment barriers; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67155/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

509. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the specific measures being taken to support an organisation (details supplied) in recruiting and retaining appropriately qualified nursing, social care and support staff for a facility on Valentia Island, given the ongoing difficulties in filling staffing rosters; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67164/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

510. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will respond to concerns raised by the HSE that, even if additional funding for staffing at a location (details supplied) were approved, there can be no guarantee that sufficient nursing and care staff can be recruited and retained to safely meet assessed needs on an ongoing basis; the action she is taking to address this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67160/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

511. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality is there any update on the ratifying of the second optional protocol of the UNCRC.

PQ67217/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

512. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality If she will consider the salient points raised in correspondence (details supplied) regarding a Kildare based childcare provider who is considering exiting the service.

PQ67032/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

513. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to consider increasing paid paternity leave from two to eight weeks, as Ireland currently lags far behind our European neighbours when it comes to supporting fathers in the early weeks of their child's life, with countries like Spain offering nineteen weeks, Finland offering over six months of shared leave, and Norway 15 weeks.

PQ67008/26 | ANN GRAVES

514. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the criteria used by the Government when deciding to establish a public inquiry into cases involving historical sexual abuse; whether this criteria is met in relation to an organisation (details supplied); and whether survivors of the organisation will be given the same opportunity for trust and accountability that has been afforded to victims in other abuse scandals.

PQ67053/26 | EMER CURRIE

**Chun an Sláinte: To the Health**

515. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients from County Mayo transferred from Mayo University Hospital to other hospitals due to bed capacity constraints in each of the past three years and to date in 2026; the hospitals to which patients were transferred; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66335/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

516. To ask the Minister for Health the specialist services currently available for people living with long Covid; the investment being made in research and specialist clinical care for long Covid, including research into its underlying causes and potential treatments; and whether there are plans to further develop specialist multidisciplinary long Covid services in Ireland.

PQ66301/26 | PA DALY

517. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of people waiting for MRI scans, by county, by duration of wait, zero to three months, three to six months, six to 12 months, 12 months plus, by age that is 16 and under; 18 and under and 18 plus.

PQ66300/26 | CATHY BENNETT

518. To ask the Minister for Health the actions she is taking to restrict access by young people to HHC (Hexahydrocannabinol) products, specifically those under 18 years-of-age purchasing such products; and if she will ensure greater public awareness around potential risks of these products.

PQ66342/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

519. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will provide an update on the HSE EEPR review on Hip Dysplasia; and if she will provide a timeline on when it may be completed.

PQ66340/26 | JOE NEVILLE

520. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which oncology service provision at Naas General Hospital aligns with the objectives of the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 regarding integrated and patient-centred care delivered closer to home.

PQ66352/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

521. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to reduce recruitment delays at Naas General Hospital; and the average time taken from advertisement to appointment for nursing posts during the past three years.

PQ66351/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

522. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to reduce recruitment delays at Naas General Hospital; and the average time taken from advertisement to appointment for nursing posts during the past three years.

PQ66350/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

523. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide details of the current oncology nursing complement at Naas General Hospital; whether a dedicated oncology nurse coordinator post existed at the hospital; if that post has been discontinued, reconfigured or left vacant; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66349/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

524. To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently on the waiting list for speech and language therapy in CAMHS Wexford South, CAMHS Enniscorthy and North Wexford, in tabular form; and if she will make the statement on the matter.

PQ66347/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

525. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will assess a medication (details supplied) for availability and reimbursement here as a viable treatment option for phenylketonuria; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66346/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

526. To ask the Minister for Health whether she will introduce a no wait card for those with medical conditions requiring urgent access to toilets; and if so, when she expects that it will be available.

PQ66345/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

527. To ask the Minister for Health to review the case of a person (details supplied) who requires an MRI scan and has yet to receive this appointment.

PQ66388/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

528. To ask the Minister for Health to review the case of a person (details supplied) who has been referred to Croom Orthopaedic Hospital Limerick for knee surgery; and when the person will receive an appointment date.

PQ66382/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

529. To ask the Minister for Health if she will introduce a multi-annual funding framework for the health service that reflects demographic change, healthcare inflation, agreed pay costs and projected demand; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66395/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

530. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE Pay and Numbers Strategy will be revised to take account of safe staffing requirements, projected patient demand and the workforce needed to implement new clinical programmes and Sláintecare reforms.

PQ66397/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

531. To ask the Minister for Health if she will develop and resource a national safe medical staffing framework for doctors working in HSE services, specifying the number and appropriate grade of doctors required for different clinical workloads; and the proposed timeframe for its introduction.

PQ66399/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

532. To ask the Minister for Health when detailed medical workforce projections will be published by speciality and Regional Health Area, taking account of population growth, disease prevalence, part-time working and anticipated attrition; and whether postgraduate medical training places will be expanded accordingly.

PQ66400/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

533. To ask the Minister for Health if she will publish quarterly reports on the net number of additional acute hospital, mental health, rehabilitation and community nursing beds opened, broken down by hospital and Regional Health Area.

PQ66403/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

534. To ask the Minister for Health if she will increase the number of additional inpatient beds planned under the Acute Hospital Bed Capacity Expansion Plan 2024–2031 from 3,438 to at least 5,000; and if she will publish a detailed delivery plan setting out the location, cost, staffing requirement and opening date for these beds.

PQ66402/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

535. To ask the Minister for Health if outpatient surgeries were cancelled in St. James Hospital on 31 of August 2026; and if so, the number and the reason.

PQ66420/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

536. To ask the Minister for Health her views that regulation is needed to protect autistic people from unscientific and unregulated products / protocols that can cause serious harm, such as chlorine dioxide solution and chlorine dioxide enemas; and her views that marketing chlorine dioxide as a 'cure' to treat autism should be banned.

PQ66423/26 | PAUL MURPHY

537. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the proposed new 60-bed Community Nursing Unit in Cashel, County Tipperary; whether the site selection process and associated report, which remained in draft in January 2026, have now been completed; whether the HSE has concluded negotiations for the acquisition of any additional property required; whether a preferred site has now been selected; the current stage of the project; and the next steps and indicative timeframe for progressing to design, statutory approval and construction.

PQ66414/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

538. To ask the Minister for Health if she will expand the Chronic Disease Management Programme to all adults with eligible chronic conditions, regardless of whether they hold a medical card or GP visit card; and the estimated cost and timeframe for implementing this expansion.

PQ66409/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

539. To ask the Minister for Health if she will increase and reform the dedicated funding available to GP practices serving remote rural communities and areas of urban deprivation; and if she will outline her plans in this regard.

PQ66407/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

540. To ask the Minister for Health when nursing graduates from Dundalk Institute of Technology will be able to commence their HSE contracts; if she is aware of the uncertainty caused by the lack of clear commencement dates, with graduates advised that only a small number may start before December 2026 and others delayed into early 2026; and if she will ensure the HSE provides clear and timely information to all affected graduates.

PQ66451/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

541. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will consider funding increased access to ICS-formoterol combination inhalers prescribed as maintenance and reliever therapy (MART) in Budget 2027, given the potential for improved asthma control to reduce exacerbations, emergency healthcare utilisation and associated healthcare-related carbon emissions.

PQ66486/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

542. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the HSE review of the Huntington's Disease Care Pathway; when she expects the pathway to be approved; and whether she will provide the funding necessary for its immediate implementation across all health regions.

PQ66462/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

543. To ask the Minister for Health the number of orthoptists employed in the acute hospital system and across all health services, respectively.

PQ66518/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

544. To ask the Minister for Health the number of orthoptists employed in the primary care system.

PQ66517/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

545. To ask the Minister for Health the efforts the HSE have made to deploy HSE owned buildings for the development and relocation of primary care services.

PQ66515/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

546. To ask the Minister for Health the efforts the HSE have made to deploy HSE owned buildings for use for GP care.

PQ66514/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

547. To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of all HSE owned buildings that are currently vacant.

PQ66513/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

548. To ask the Minister for Health the plans the HSE has developed regarding HSE owned buildings that are no longer in use.

PQ66512/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

549. To ask the Minister for Health to review the case of a person (details supplied) to remain in Dingle Community Hospital, where the person has been a resident since March 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66493/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

550. To ask the Minister for Health if the recruitment process for the vacant professorial consultant post associated with Cork University Hospital and University College Cork will take account of the need to maintain skin cancer surveillance capacity for existing at-risk patients; the interim arrangements in place to maintain that capacity pending the appointment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66529/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

551. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who were under skin cancer surveillance at Cork University Hospital at the time the service ceased; of that number, the number whose care was reviewed; the number transferred to another clinician; the number contacted directly in writing to inform them the service had ended; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66528/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

552. To ask the Minister for Health in circumstances where the clinical nurse specialist post responsible for patient communication, coordination and safety-netting at Cork University Hospital has been vacant for approximately seven months, the arrangements currently in place to perform that safety-netting function for patients requiring skin cancer follow-up; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66527/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

553. To ask the Minister for Health the date on which Cork University Hospital submitted its request to the national HSE for approval to recruit a replacement clinical nurse specialist to support skin cancer follow-up; the current status of that request; the reason it remains outstanding after a vacancy of approximately seven months; the date by which approval is expected to issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66526/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

554. To ask the Minister for Health whether the HSE monitored the substitution between nebulised products (details supplied) during the supply shortages affecting these medicines in 2025 and 2026; and the steps taken to ensure continuity of treatment for affected patients.

PQ66545/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

555. To ask the Minister for Health the data the HSE holds on patients who were unable to access a reimbursed nebulised bronchodilator during recent supply shortages and who consequently purchased an alternative product privately at their own expense; and, if no such data is held, to state that plainly.

PQ66544/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

556. To ask the Minister for Health whether the reimbursement of alternative nebulised bronchodilator products during periods of shortage, including under the Discretionary Hardship Arrangements, is applied consistently across all health regions; and to provide the number of such claims processed in the period January to June 2026, by health region.

PQ66543/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

557. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 774 of 14 May 2026, whether the HSE produces prescribing trend analysis for nebulised bronchodilator medications at health region level; and if so, to provide that analysis for the period January to June 2026 broken down by health region.

PQ66542/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

558. To ask the Minister for Health the total annual cost to the HSE of providing uniforms to Healthcare Assistants over the past five years, in tabular form; whether any assessment has been undertaken of the financial impact on staff of requiring them to purchase their own uniforms; and if she will provide details of any consultation undertaken with recognised trade unions prior to any decision to discontinue the provision of uniforms.

PQ66537/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

559. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the public consultation on the mandatory fortification of non-wholemeal flour with folic acid launched on 13 July 2026; including the number of submissions received to date; the date by which the Department expects to complete its assessment of those submissions; whether she intends to make a decision before the closure of the consultation on 5 October 2026; whether legislation will be required to implement mandatory fortification; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66546/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

560. To ask the Minister for Health to set out the powers available to the State under Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 concerning the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods to restrict or prohibit the placing on the market of a fortified food on public health grounds; and whether the Department has assessed or considered the application of any such powers in respect of fortified flour entering Ireland from the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66550/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

561. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the most recent available data on the annual incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland, including the number of affected pregnancies and, where available, live births, stillbirths and terminations; the Department's current estimate of the number of neural tube defect affected pregnancies that could be prevented annually through mandatory fortification of non-wholemeal flour with folic acid, including the evidence and modelling underpinning that estimate; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66549/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

562. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Food Safety Authority of Ireland has completed or commissioned an updated assessment of population-wide folic acid exposure in Ireland, taking account of existing voluntary fortification, dietary intake and folic acid entering the Irish market

through fortified flour imported from the United Kingdom; and, if so, if she will publish the assessment and underlying data before making any decision to introduce mandatory fortification; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66548/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

563. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the recommendation of the National Committee on Folic Acid Food Fortification in 2006 was not implemented, including the specific scientific and clinical concerns identified at that time, and to provide details of the subsequent scientific evidence assessed by her Department and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland in relation to the potential masking of vitamin B12 deficiency in older persons, cancer risk and any other identified adverse effects; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66547/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

564. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm the arrangements 2026 General Nursing graduates in respect of their entitlement to the permanent HSE contracts outlined in HR Memo 013/2026; the number 2026 nursing graduates have currently been offered employment; the number that are still awaiting contracts; if graduates are being phased into employment over the coming months; and the reason for this and the criteria used to determine when individual graduates can commence employment as WTEs with the HSE.

PQ66577/26 | GED NASH

565. To ask the Minister for Health if a hospital appointment will be expedited for a person (details supplied).

PQ66571/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

566. To ask the Minister for Health the powers available to the State under Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 to restrict or prohibit the addition of vitamins or minerals to foods on public health grounds, including the circumstances in which such measures may be taken; whether her Department has assessed the application of those powers to fortified flour imported from the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66570/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

567. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the most recent available data on the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland, including the source, coverage and most recent year of the data; the estimated annual reduction in neural tube defect-affected pregnancies that her Department expects to result from mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66569/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

568. To ask the Minister for Health whether the Food Safety Authority of Ireland has carried out or commissioned an updated assessment of population-wide folic acid exposure in Ireland, taking account of existing voluntary fortification, dietary intake and folic acid entering the Irish market through flour and food products imported from the United Kingdom; if she will publish that assessment before any decision is made to introduce mandatory fortification; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66568/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

569. To ask the Minister for Health the reasons the mandatory folic acid fortification policy recommended by the National Committee on Folic Acid Food Fortification in 2006 was not implemented, including the scientific and policy concerns that subsequently arose regarding mandatory fortification; to provide details of the evidence since assessed concerning the potential masking of vitamin B12 deficiency in older persons and any potential association between folic acid exposure and cancer risk; and she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66567/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

570. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the public consultation on the mandatory fortification of non-wholemeal flour with folic acid launched on 13 July 2026, including the number of submissions received to date; the expected timeline for consideration of those submissions and a decision following the closing date of 5 October 2026; whether her Department intends to bring forward legislation to provide for mandatory fortification; and she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66566/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

571. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE consultant orthopaedic surgeons with a special interest in knee and hip replacement surgery based at Kerry University Hospital as of 14 September 2026, in tabular form.

PQ66565/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

572. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the review of feasibility study for the new renal dialysis unit at Sligo University Hospital; and an update on the Development Control Plan (DCP) for Sligo University Hospital.

PQ66614/26 | EAMON SCANLON

573. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of delays in progressing the National Ambulance Service Student Paramedic Apprenticeship competition (NRS14980), which opened in September 2025; the reasons aptitude tests and interviews have not yet commenced; whether training places in affiliated colleges risk remaining vacant as a result; the impact on National Ambulance Service workforce planning and staffing levels; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66590/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

574. To ask the Minister for Health the delay with a person (details supplied) in receiving a hospital bed at home.

PQ66585/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

575. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of home support workers employed, by CHO area under the home support service for older people; and the number of vacancies, by CHO area.

PQ66642/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

576. To ask the Minister for Health to consider an organisation (details supplied) submission and ensure adequate funding to support the measures outlined; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66696/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

577. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people in Donegal waiting for approved home support hours, by area; the length of time they are waiting; and reason for delay, in tabular form.

PQ66641/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

578. To ask the Minister for Health if she will include asthma to the long-term illness scheme; to ensure better supports and access to medications; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66695/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

579. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the current stage on the HSE assessment of a medication (details supplied); to confirm when the HSE's Drugs Group will issue their recommendation to the HSE Senior Management Team to progress the reimbursement decision on this medication; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66640/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

580. To ask the Minister for Health to allow for free MART combination inhalers, starting with young people aged 12–17 years-of-age and progressing towards wider community access; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66694/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

581. To ask the Minister for Health the number of doctors who completed specialist training in public health medicine in 2026; the number currently employed in consultant public health medicine posts; whether a recruitment embargo is affecting the filling of such posts; and when any such restrictions will be lifted.

PQ66638/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

582. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE specialist neurology nurses that are employed at Tallaght University Hospital in comparison to the national guidelines.

PQ66715/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

583. To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting times to see a consultant rheumatologist at St James's Hospital for a first appointment.

PQ66714/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

584. To ask the Minister for Health when approved home support will commence for an older person (details supplied) in County Donegal; if she is aware a community hospital bed is taken up because of the delay; and if recruitment or capacity within current HSE staff and other providers in the area is being considered.

PQ66625/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

585. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has commenced research into the development of a safe medical staffing framework; the work carried out to date; and the timeline she is working towards.

PQ66621/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

586. To ask the Minister for Health her views on a pre-budget submission (details supplied).

PQ66719/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

587. To ask the Minister for Health the number of days per week CT scanning services are operational and fully facilitated for patients at Ennis hospital; the operating hours of the service on those days; and if there are any specific capital, staffing, or operational plans currently in place to increase the number of days or daily hours that CT scans are provided in Ennis hospital.

PQ66707/26 | CATHAL CROWE

588. To ask the Minister for Health the reason tirzepatide (Mounjaro), despite being authorised for the treatment of type two diabetes, is not currently covered under the medical card, long-term illness scheme or drugs payment scheme; and if she will outline the current position regarding access to this medication through the State schemes.

PQ66674/26 | DAVID MAXWELL

589. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to provide a residential addiction detox unit in Limerick, as there are no public services currently available in the mid-west.

PQ66666/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

590. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for a first appointment to see a consultant neurosurgeon at Cork University Hospital; and the average waiting times to see the consultant neurosurgeon.

PQ66733/26 | DONNCHADH Ó LAOGHAIRE

591. To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE registrar in anaesthetics posts filled at South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital as of 1 September 2026; if she will provide the same figures as of 1 September 2023, in tabular form.

PQ66732/26 | DONNCHADH Ó LAOGHAIRE

592. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) is waiting so long for approval to take up a nursing community post in County Monaghan; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66724/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

593. To ask the Minister for Health the details of approved posts which are unfilled, by location and grade for each region by service in tabular form; and the length of each vacancy.

PQ66740/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

594. To ask the Minister for Health the details of major hospital equipment stock which has a use in diagnostics, such as various scan or lab test machines, and the level of throughput for each for each public hospital, in tabular form; the difference between potential full capacity and actual throughput; and the rate of breakdown for each and equivalent days lost due to breakdown

PQ66739/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

595. To ask the Minister for Health the extent of use of virtual ward technology across each public hospital, requested from each hospital, including the amount of units available, the average amount deployed at any time, and the equivalent to traditional capacity, for 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ66738/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

596. To ask the Minister for Health the number and proportion of CAMHS consultations which are conducted in person and remotely for each year 2020-2026, by CAMHS team, in tabular form; and the extent of telemedicine across each CAMHS team.

PQ66737/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

597. To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultant psychiatrists working in each CAMHS team by contract type and tenure, in tabular form; the number of whole time equivalent; and the headcount.

PQ66736/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

598. To ask the Minister for Health the number of opened and staffed high dependency unit beds that are available in each model 4 hospital as of 14 September 2026, in tabular form.

PQ66716/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

599. To ask the Minister for Health the financial position of the health service to end of August 2026; the year-to-date budget or expenditure profile and actual expenditure, and resulting over- or underspend in euro and percentage terms, nationally and for each HSE health region, National Service and other relevant expenditure area, against target for each spend type for each regional area, in tabular form; and the projected full-year financial outturn.

PQ66751/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

600. To ask the Minister for Health the savings and productivity targets set for each region and service area, or spend type for 2026; and the value of savings or overspend achieved to date in 2026; and the variance against each target, in tabular form.

PQ66750/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

601. To ask the Minister for Health the number of claims received, resolved and outstanding under the clinical indemnity scheme in each of the years 2016 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by HSE region and claim category, including specialty or clinical area where available, in tabular form; the number and value of settlements, awards and other compensation payments made in each region and year; the associated expenditure on legal costs, expert and professional fees and other ancillary costs; and the total expenditure on clinical claims and associated costs in each region and year.

PQ66748/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

602. To ask the Minister for Health the total expenditure on one-to-one, two-to-one or three-to-one supervision, or other enhanced observation, for children and adolescents with an intellectual disability admitted to each Cork University Hospital and University Hospital Limerick, by month from January 2026; the number of admissions for this cohort; whether each such admission was to a paediatric ward or an adult ward for the young person; the longest duration of any such admission in 2026; and whether that admission was to a paediatric or adult ward.

PQ66765/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

603. To ask the Minister for Health the spend by the HSE on agency staffing in each of the years 2016 to 2025 and to date in 2026, nationally and broken down by HSE health region; and, where not possible, by the relevant predecessor hospital group, community healthcare organisation or other unit; the expenditure in each year, by staff category, in tabular form.

PQ66747/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

604. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) is still awaiting an appointment for surgery; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66746/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

605. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent staff employed in excess of the approved 2026 staffing allocation or employment ceiling in each HSE health region and national service at the latest date available; the number of WTEs above allocation by staff category; the associated annualised pay cost; and the extent to which these posts are funded within the existing pay allocation, in tabular form.

PQ66744/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

606. To ask the Minister for Health the approved whole-time equivalent staffing allocation or employment ceiling for 2026 for each HSE Health Region and National Service; the actual number of WTE staff in post at the latest date available; the number of allocated WTE posts which remain unfilled; and the allocation, number in post and number unfilled broken down by grade and service division in tabular form.

PQ66743/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

607. To ask the Minister for Health in relation to seeking approval for backfilling a post once a staff member leaves, the wait time for approval.

PQ66796/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

608. To ask the Minister for Health to list the hours and days of operation for each of the perinatal mental health units within the 19 maternity units across the country.

PQ66826/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

609. To ask the Minister for Health to publish the Health Service Personnel Census Report for each month from January 2023 to the most recent data available.

PQ66824/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

610. To ask the Minister for Health To ask the Minister for Health whether any progress has been made in relation to the future plans for the current Children's Hospital site on the Davitt Road, Dublin 12 once patients and staff are transferred later this year or next year.

PQ66804/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

611. To ask the Minister for Health the policy with respect to a prescription for a 'months' worth of drugs; whether this represents a generic 28 days work of drugs, or can it represent 29, 30 or 31 days of the drug depending on the month; and if it can only represent 28 days, is it acceptable that this will require a second dispensing during that month.

PQ66799/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

612. To ask the Minister for Health if she will engage with the HSE regarding the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66856/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

613. To ask the Minister for Health if the Department or the HSE maintains any estimate of unmet need for home support, including persons who have not applied owing to known delays in the service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66835/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

614. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in acute hospitals whose discharge is currently delayed pending the commencement of a home support service by hospital and by HSE health region, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66833/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

615. To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours delivered nationally in 2025 and to date in 2026, set against the funded target for each period by HSE health region, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66832/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

616. To ask the Minister for Health when the review of the mother and infant care scheme commenced; and when it is due for completion.

PQ66809/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

617. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the Government's position regarding the Equal Status (Access to Toilet Facilities) Bill 2026 (details supplied); if she will support the progression of the Bill to Second Stage and engage with the relevant stakeholders to progress a national "No Wait Card" initiative; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66878/26 | ROBERT TROY

618. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons assessed and approved for home support who are currently waiting for the service to commence by HSE health region and, where available, by community healthcare organisation and county; the average and longest time spent waiting in each area, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66830/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

619. To ask the Minister for Health the number of admissions to CHI run hospitals on the grounds of mental health for each of the year 2016 to 2025.

PQ66811/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

620. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients attending each emergency department operated by Children's Health Ireland presenting with mental health issues in each of the years 2016 to 2025.

PQ66810/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

621. To ask the Minister for Health If she will outline the processes in place for private property owners to offer suitable residential premises to the HSE for use as supported or community accommodation; and if she will advise how a property owner can engage directly with HSE Estates in this regard.

PQ66936/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

622. To ask the Minister for Health to outline and clarify charges regarding GMS patients for routine blood tests; and the steps her Department are taking to make sure people are not being improperly charged for routine tests.

PQ66895/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

623. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration is being given to providing dedicated funding for mental health and wellbeing supports for people living with diabetes, and their parents or carers where appropriate, including through programmes delivered by Diabetes Ireland.

PQ66886/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

624. To ask the Minister for Health the number of invoices for €100 issued in respect of ED attendances without a GP referral letter; and the number paid for each of the years between 2019 and to date in 2026.

PQ66879/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

625. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the progress of the Full Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for a drug (details supplied) for the treatment of eosinophilic oesophagitis, which was commissioned by the HSE on 25 June 2024, when the assessment is expected to be completed and whether consideration is being given to making this drug available under the Medical Card Scheme, Drugs Payment Scheme or other community drug reimbursement arrangements, given its importance for patients living with this chronic condition.

PQ67023/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

626. To ask the Minister for Health if she will remove the specific criteria of “insulin initiation from the start” that is preventing approximately 500-700 people with a clinical diagnosis of type one diabetes from accessing continuous glucose monitoring, which clinical evidence and recommendations overwhelmingly supports as first-choice glucose monitoring treatment for all people with type one diabetes.

PQ66993/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

627. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to begin the implementation of the National Diabetes Strategy by providing funding to create a regional diabetes clinical lead post in each HSE Health Region including in North Dublin in the upcoming budget.

PQ66992/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

628. To ask the Minister for Health if Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, held interviews with new graduate nurses for nursing posts this year; if a panel was formed; if so, when was it formed, the number on the panel; and when will offers be made to panelists.

PQ66989/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

629. To ask the Minister for Health the number of total knee replacement surgeries carried out at Galway University Hospital in 2025 and to date in 2026 in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66988/26 | SEÁN KYNE

630. To ask the Minister for Health the supports available to adults who cannot afford private ADHD assessments and are unable to access the public system in their area; and if she would make a statement on the matter.

PQ66981/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

631. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the average wait time for an adult ADHD assessment; and the number of people currently on the waiting list for an assessment; by LHO, in tabular form.

PQ66978/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

632. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the staffing capacity of each adult ADHD service; by LHO, in tabular form.

PQ66976/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

633. To ask the Minister for Health to provide detail on the number of completed adult ADHD assessments in West Cork/Kerry; per month, from 2025 to date.

PQ66975/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

634. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of staffing capacity across all Adult ADHD services in Cork and Kerry; to provide detail on any unfilled roles within the service; and to provide an update on the recruitment of each unfilled role, by LHO, in tabular form.

PQ66973/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

635. To ask the Minister for Health the floor area of a now disused building (details supplied); and the intended use of the building since its residents were relocated.

PQ67034/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

636. To ask the Minister for Health the status of plans to develop a day-care oncology unit in the space designated beneath the new 42-bed ward currently under construction at Sligo University Hospital; and the funding that has been allocated or is proposed for the fit-out of this facility.

PQ67026/26 | EAMON SCANLON

637. To ask the Minister for Health if an appointment can be expedited for a patient (details supplied) given the very serious and urgent medical circumstances.

PQ67057/26 | ROBERT TROY

638. To ask the Minister for Health the steps taken to implement the findings of the Health Research Board annual bulletin on people engaging with disability services, produced using the National Ability Supports System data, in relation to the provision of accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities; the number and percentage of the total adult population with an intellectual disability in the State represented in the annual bulletin in each year; the number of service providers, by Section 38, Section 39 and HSE-operated statutory services (details supplied) in each of the years from 2022 to 2025 to date in 2026.

PQ67045/26 | MICHAEL COLLINS

639. To ask the Minister for Health Who will be getting the shingles vaccine for free.

PQ67101/26 | JEN CUMMINS

640. To ask the Minister for Health If her Department has reviewed the findings of the 2015 independent report into Midwest public orthodontic services; if she will verify allegations that children suffered clinical damage due to systemic oversight failures highlighted in that unpublished report; and the clinical audit structures currently in place to protect children undergoing public orthodontic treatment.

PQ67099/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

641. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the status of the independent review completed in February 2015 by two UK-based professors into public orthodontic services in the Midwest region; the reasons this report has not been published by the HSE to date despite previous commitments to do so; and if she will state when the report will be published.

PQ67098/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

642. To ask the Minister for Health the number of orthopaedic outpatient clinics that are held at Beaumont hospital each week; the hours each clinic is available; the names of consultants and or registrars that are present at each of those clinics, in tabular form.

PQ67074/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

643. To ask the Minister for Health the engagement she has had with the HSE and relevant bodies regarding concerns raised in relation to the lack of permanent posts being offered to new nursing and midwife graduates in a number of HSE regions; and the efforts been made on the matter.

PQ67105/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

644. To ask the Minister for Health her views on the issues of staffing and capacity at the University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UNMHL) where patients have faced consecutive days of necessary and scheduled C-Sections being cancelled.

PQ67104/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

645. To ask the Minister for Health the eligibility criteria for HSE-funded nurse-prescriber training in mental-health services; whether nurses employed by Section 39 organisations providing HSE-funded inclusion-health services are eligible to access such training; if not, whether eligibility will be extended to these organisations; and the estimated cost of doing so.

PQ67067/26 | GARY GANNON

646. To ask the Minister for Health whether an assessment has been undertaken of the additional community and outreach mental-health capacity required before the Mental Health Act 2026 is commenced, particularly for people experiencing homelessness who may not access emergency departments or conventional mental-health services; the additional funding sought for this purpose in the 2027 Estimates; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67066/26 | GARY GANNON

647. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to require inpatient psychiatric services to provide the referring clinician with an appropriate discharge plan following an involuntary psychiatric admission, including information necessary to ensure continuity of care; whether national guidance currently exists in respect of such communication; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67065/26 | GARY GANNON

648. To ask the Minister for Health whether she intends to expand the data collected through the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland to include ethnicity, nationality and accommodation or housing status; the way in which the State intends to identify vulnerable communities using robust real-time surveillance data where these variables are not currently recorded; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67064/26 | GARY GANNON

649. To ask the Minister for Health whether all vulnerable communities identified in the evidence base underpinning Connecting for Life 2026–2035, including international protection applicants, beneficiaries of temporary protection and refugees, will be explicitly included in the 2026–2028 implementation plan; when that implementation plan will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67063/26 | GARY GANNON

650. To ask the Minister for Health the number of graduate nursing post offers issued this year in the HSE West & North-West; when were these offers issued; the number of these offers that were accepted; the number of contracts that have issued thus far to said graduates.

PQ67107/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

651. To ask the Minister for Health the number of graduate midwifery post offers issued this year in the HSE South West; when were these offers issued; the number of these offers that were accepted; the number of contracts that have issued thus far to said graduates.

PQ67111/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

652. To ask the Minister for Health the number of graduate nursing post offers issued this year in the HSE South West; when were these offers issued; the number of these offers that were accepted; the number of contracts that have issued thus far to said graduates.

PQ67109/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

653. To ask the Minister for Health the number of graduate midwifery post offers issued this year in the HSE West & North-West; when were these offers issued; the number of these offers that were accepted; the number of contracts that have issued thus far to said graduates.

PQ67108/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

654. To ask the Minister for Health the number of 2026 graduates in HSE South-West that have been issued offers to join the HSE staff bank.

PQ67112/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

655. To ask the Minister for Health the number of 2026 graduates in HSE West and North-West that have been issued offers to join the HSE staff bank.

PQ67113/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

656. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing posts awaiting approval in the HSE South-West region.

PQ67116/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

657. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing posts awaiting approval in the HSE West and North-West region.

PQ67115/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

658. To ask the Minister for Health the number of graduate nursing post offers issued this year in the HSE Dublin & North East; when were these offers issued; the number of these offers that were accepted; the number of contracts that have issued thus far to said graduates.

PQ67114/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

659. To ask the Minister for Health if, in relation to the proposed compulsory addition of folic acid to non-wholemeal flour, she can assure those who may be required to avoid folic acid due to certain medical conditions or because they are undergoing certain medical treatments that unfortified flour and bread products will remain readily available.

PQ67185/26 | DENISE MITCHELL

660. To ask the Minister for Health if she will remove the specific criteria of 'insulin initiation from the start' that is preventing approximately 500-700 people with a clinical diagnosis of type one diabetes from accessing continuous glucose monitoring, which clinical evidence and recommendations overwhelmingly supports as first-choice glucose monitoring treatment for all people with type one diabetes; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67184/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

661. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to begin the implementation of the National Diabetes Strategy by providing funding to create a Regional Diabetes Clinical Lead post in each HSE Health Region in the upcoming budget; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67181/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

662. To ask the Minister for Health to provide, in respect of safeguarding referrals or notifications relating to residents of nursing homes, the number recorded under each category of safeguarding concern used by the HSE, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, financial abuse, neglect, discriminatory abuse, institutional abuse, self-neglect and any other category recorded, in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67159/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

663. To ask the Minister for Health the number of completed Cross-Border Directive reimbursement applications currently awaiting payment; the date of receipt of the oldest outstanding completed application; the current average and median processing time; and the number of applications outstanding for more than 30, 60, 90, 120 and 180 working days, in tabular form.

PQ67214/26 | DENISE MITCHELL

664. To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the national budgetary restrictions or expenditure controls currently limiting the HSE's ability to fill essential frontline posts in community nursing units, including Riada House in Tullamore; the steps being taken to address these constraints; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67215/26 | CAROL NOLAN

665. To ask the Minister for Health whether Cross-Border Directive reimbursement applications continue to be processed in the order in which they are received; whether there are circumstances in which a completed application received at a later date may be processed and reimbursed before an earlier completed application; and, if so, to outline those circumstances and the way in which completed applications submitted in 2025 may remain outstanding while some applications submitted in January and February 2026 have subsequently been reimbursed.

PQ67216/26 | DENISE MITCHELL

666. To ask the Minister for Health the actions being taken to address staff burnout, sickness levels and the sustainability of current staffing arrangements at Riada House Community Nursing Unit; the supports being provided to frontline staff working under severe pressure; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67213/26 | CAROL NOLAN

667. To ask the Minister for Health the immediate intervention measures that will be put in place to ensure that Riada House Community Nursing Unit has sufficient staff to provide safe and appropriate care to elderly and vulnerable residents; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67212/26 | CAROL NOLAN

668. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm the current staffing levels at Riada House Community Nursing Unit, including the number of funded posts, the number of vacancies, and the measures being taken by HSE Midlands management to address the impact of these pressures on resident care; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67211/26 | CAROL NOLAN

669. To ask the Minister for Health the recruitment restrictions, budgetary controls or staffing ceilings that are currently in place within the HSE that affect the ability of Riada House Community Nursing Unit, Tullamore, County Offaly, to recruit and retain sufficient nursing and care staff; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67210/26 | CAROL NOLAN

670. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on an appointment for a scoliosis patient (details supplied).

PQ67222/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

671. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the consideration for medications (details supplied) to be included in the drugs payment scheme, specifically in relation to their usage for weight management in patients at risk of developing type two diabetes.

PQ67224/26 | DENISE MITCHELL

672. To ask the Minister for Health the level of funding that will be provided in the 2027 Estimates for community and outreach mental-health services for people experiencing homelessness and other socially excluded groups; whether dedicated funding will be provided for services delivering mobile and out-of-hours mental-health crisis responses; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67062/26 | GARY GANNON

673. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the development and implementation of the National Diabetes Strategy; and the funding has been provided to commence implementation of priority actions under the strategy.

PQ67243/26 | COLM BURKE

674.
To ask the Minister for Health whether additional funding is being considered to expand access to continuous glucose monitoring technology for people with diabetes who are currently outside the HSE reimbursement criteria.
- PQ67242/26
COLM BURKE
675.
To ask the Minister for Health whether she will request or support a Health Technology Assessment by HIQA examining the extension of continuous glucose monitoring access to people with other forms of diabetes, including Type 2 diabetes, cystic-fibrosis-related diabetes and Type 3c diabetes, with eligibility based on clinical need.
- PQ67241/26
COLM BURKE
676.
To ask the Minister for Health whether consideration will be given to providing access to continuous glucose monitoring systems for all people with Type 1 diabetes on the basis of current clinical need and specialist recommendation, rather than the circumstances or timing of their original diagnosis.
- PQ67239/26
COLM BURKE
677.
To ask the Minister for Health whether she will review the current eligibility criteria for reimbursement of continuous glucose monitoring systems for people with clinically diagnosed Type 1 diabetes, particularly the requirement that a person must have required insulin from the outset; whether consideration will be given to ensuring that people whose diagnosis was delayed, atypical or initially incorrect are not excluded from access to CGM technology.
- PQ67237/26
COLM BURKE
678.
To ask the Minister for Health the proportion of flour used in Ireland that is imported from the United Kingdom, distinguishing between imports from Great Britain and Northern Ireland; her Department's assessment of the impact on the Irish market of the UK Bread and Flour (Amendment) Regulations 2024, under which folic acid fortification of non-wholemeal wheat flour is required from 13 December 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ66572/26
KEN O'FLYNN
679.
To ask the Minister for Health whether Ireland made any objection, observation or reservation in response to the notification of the United Kingdom's folic acid fortification regulations to the World Trade Organization or, insofar as Northern Ireland is concerned, to the European Commission; if so, to provide details of any such submission, or if not, to explain her Department's assessment of the implications of the regulations for the Irish market; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ66573/26
KEN O'FLYNN
680.
To ask the Minister for Health whether there are concerns that the policies and the bureaucratic burden placed on clinical staff operating within the CAMHS framework may be having an impact on staff retention and having an impact on the level of service.
- PQ66790/26
RYAN O'MEARA
681.
To ask the Minister for Health the engagement her Department has had with Irish millers, bakers and food producers regarding the sourcing, labelling, traceability and compliance implications arising from folic acid-fortified flour entering the Irish market from the United Kingdom; whether her Department has identified any compliance or consumer-information risks arising from the change; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ66575/26
KEN O'FLYNN
682.
To ask the Minister for Health to provide the most recent estimate of the proportion and volume of flour used or placed on the Irish market that is imported from the United Kingdom; to set out the Department's assessment of the impact on the Irish flour, milling, baking and food manufacturing sectors of the UK Bread and Flour (Amendment) Regulations 2024, under which the fortification of non-wholemeal wheat flour with folic acid will become mandatory from 13 December 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ66551/26
KEN O'FLYNN
683.
To ask the Minister for Health whether Ireland made any objection, observation, comment or reservation through the World Trade Organization notification process or through the European Commission in relation to the United Kingdom's Bread and Flour (Amendment) Regulations 2024 concerning mandatory folic acid fortification; and, if no such representation was made, the reason Ireland did not make such a representation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ66553/26
KEN O'FLYNN
684.
To ask the Minister for Health the engagement the Department has had with Irish millers, flour importers, bakers and food manufacturers concerning the implementation, labelling, traceability and compliance implications arising from folic acid fortified flour entering the Irish market from the United Kingdom from 13 December 2026; whether any guidance has been issued or is proposed for affected businesses; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ66564/26
KEN O'FLYNN

Chun an Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta: To the Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

685.
To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will remove the mature dependent category in SUSI and treat all those over the age of 23 as independent regardless of their living situation.
- PQ66408/26
DONNA MCGETTIGAN
686.
To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason there is no graduate degree orthotics course offered in Ireland.
- PQ66516/26
MARIE SHERLOCK

687. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will review the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will provide an update regarding their SUSI application.

PQ66504/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

688. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to increase the number of heavy vehicle mechanic apprentice programmes and make more classroom space available specifically for HVM apprentices as presently the off-the-job training is divided across three separate college phases, phase two lasting approximately six months, followed by phases four and six lasting approximately three months each.

PQ66837/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

689. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science his proposals in conjunction with the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, to support employers and workers through training, retraining and upskilling initiatives in response to the rapidly changing nature of work; the measures being considered to address skills shortages and future workforce needs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66671/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

690. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for a breakdown of the income and expenditure of the National Training Fund in 2025

PQ67020/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

691. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when the next review of SUSI income thresholds is due to take place.

PQ67018/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

692. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he intends to reduce the student contribution fee as part of Budget 2027, given the Programme for Government commitment to reduce the fee over the lifetime of the Government; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67007/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

693. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if there is support with transport costs for a person starting out on a 1st year electrical apprenticeship.

PQ67118/26 | MARK WALL

## **Chun an Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta: To the Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht**

694. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason grants for Men's Sheds are not proceeding in 2026; if he will reconsider the decision in view of the important role Men's Sheds play in tackling social isolation, loneliness and supporting community participation, particularly among older men; and if he will give a commitment to safeguarding dedicated funding for Men's Sheds in future years.

PQ66318/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

695. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when his Department will commence section 4 of the Charities (Amendment) Act 2024.

PQ66390/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

696. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason the grant for Men's Shed running costs is being cut in 2026; the total cost of this grant scheme in 2025; and if he is aware of the crucial role Men's Sheds play in communities throughout the country.

PQ66336/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

697. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to address the current system of the men's shed grants regarding its cumbersome, bureaucratic administration and its interlink with enhancement grants; if he will consider a flat rate grant across the board for each Men's Shed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66426/26 | JOHNNY MYTHEN

698. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department will provide an interim funding solution for men's sheds to bridge the fund gap for 2025/2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66415/26 | JOHNNY MYTHEN

699. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reasons behind the decision to halt the specific Men's Sheds grant funding allocation for the 2026–2027 period.

PQ66438/26 | FIONNTÁN Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN

700. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to ensure that funding for men's sheds/women's sheds is continued; if he will provide the €3000 operational grant as a permanent annual fixture; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66505/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

701. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding that will be available to Men's Sheds in 2026 and 2027 specifically towards day-to-day running costs; whether consideration will be given to restoring a dedicated sustainability grant of up to €3,000

per shed; and the way in which his Department will ensure that Men's Sheds receive adequate support where funding is provided through wider community funding programmes.

PQ66692/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

702. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when the next allocation of funding under the local improvement scheme (LIS) will be announced for counties Cavan and Monaghan; the amount of funding expected to be allocated to each county.

PQ66681/26 | DAVID MAXWELL

703. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason for the decision to withdraw the Men's Sheds Running Costs Grant for 2026; the reason this decision was communicated so late in the year; whether alternative funding will be made available to support Men's Sheds with essential costs such as rent and insurance; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66703/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

704. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht whether he will amend the reporting requirements for Community Services Programme-funded social enterprises with annual income below €250,000 to permit the submission of detailed non-audited financial statements, subject to appropriate oversight and sign-off; the engagement that has taken place with Pobal and the Department of Public Expenditure on this proposal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66775/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

705. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht whether provision will be made in Budget 2027 for 30 additional places under the Community Services Programme and an increase in the level of support for existing participants to reflect higher wage and operating costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66774/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

706. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the provision being made in Budget 2027 for the continued funding of Men's Sheds running costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66836/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

707. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to provide, for each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026, the total funding allocated to Men's Sheds running costs; the number of sheds funded; the average grant paid per shed; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ66834/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

708. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht whether running costs support for Men's Sheds in the current year is being provided through a dedicated Men's Sheds grant or through the Local Enhancement Programme; and the amount ring-fenced specifically for Men's Sheds as distinct from other community organisations drawing on the same fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66831/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

709. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to set out the current status of the dedicated Men's Sheds running costs grant for 2025/2026; including whether the scheme will open for applications this year; the total allocation; the maximum grant per shed; and the intended opening and closing dates; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66829/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

710. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will provide a progress update on the construction of the €18.18 million Newbridge Library following the commencement of works; and the expected completion date.

PQ66972/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

711. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will reconsider the decision not to proceed with the Men's Sheds Grant for 2025/2026; if interim funding will be provided to support essential running costs until the next grant scheme in 2027.

PQ66960/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

712. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will review the correspondence (details supplied); and if he will provide an update on the matter

PQ67132/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

713. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason for the ending of grant funding to Men's sheds and similar organisations across the country; and whether a new grant scheme will replace the old funding; the other Departmental funding available to ensure these vital community support schemes survive.

PQ67193/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

714. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht which cities have Town Regeneration Officers; and the reason Cork City does not have such a role.

PQ67117/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE