



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 24 Meán Fómhair, 2026
Thursday, 24th September, 2026

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

**CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY****Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection**

1. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the action he is taking to improve the quality and consistency of first-instance decisions on social welfare applications, particularly where a significant proportion of decisions are subsequently overturned on appeal; whether his Department has reviewed the reasons for those decisions being overturned; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67551/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

2. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the work his Department is undertaking to increase uptake of the Working Family Payment.

PQ67508/26 | EOIN HAYES

3. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the assessment he has made of the recent findings on child poverty (details supplied); whether he considers that the current system of income supports is sufficiently targeted at families experiencing poverty and deprivation; the changes he believes are necessary to ensure that children in the most disadvantaged households benefit from rising household incomes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67549/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

4. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is considering extending the age of Domiciliary Care Allowance from 16 to 18 in Budget 2027.

PQ67640/26 | MARK WALL

5. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the changes he proposes to introduce to support women of older generations who are not eligible for a State Pension (Contributory), despite having made PRSI contributions through employment during their working lives, but who do not have a sufficient contribution record to qualify for a pension at pensionable age; whether he is considering any further measures to recognise periods spent out of the workforce due to caring or family responsibilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67756/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS****Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection**

6. To ask the Minister for Social Protection If he will increase support for carers as part of Budget 2027.

PQ66996/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

7. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will increase the annual Carer's Support Grant.

PQ67666/26 | SEAMUS HEALY

8. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the analysis his Department has carried out on the degree to which income disregards and social welfare payment rates have kept pace with inflation and purchasing power measured against equivalent number of hours worked on minimum wage.

PQ67510/26 | EOIN HAYES

9. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to review the carer's allowance and carer's benefit with a view to the abolition of the means test in Budget 2027.

PQ67662/26 | SEAMUS HEALY

10. To ask the Minister for Social Protection in view of a recent report (details supplied) that shows that more than 60% of those in fuel poverty are not in receipt of fuel allowance, the measures he will take to address this issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67336/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

11. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of additional persons who have qualified for carer's allowance since the increase in the weekly income disregard took effect in July 2026 nationally and in Meath West.

PQ67566/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

12. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures being considered around the electricity allowance provided under the Household Benefits Package; if he will consider increasing the value of this allowance in line with rising unit costs for electricity; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67565/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

13. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he plans to include a Cost of Disability Payment given the high cost of disability faced by disabled people.

PQ67648/26 | MARK WALL

14. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the analysis and consideration that has been given to introducing a second-tier child benefit payment for households, as a taxable payment.

PQ67532/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

15. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is considering an increase in the living alone allowance in the context of Budget 2027.

PQ67244/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

16. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has benchmarked child benefit against comparable family-support payments in other European countries; the findings of any such analysis; and the way in which those findings are informing the development of measures to support families and reduce child poverty.

PQ67342/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

17. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the dieticians' report on the nutritional standards for the hot school meals scheme.

PQ67383/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

18. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding the mechanisms in place when parents or students have problems with the quality, options or nutritional value of the food provided under the Hot School Meals Programme.

PQ66651/26 | BARRY WARD

19. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the actions his Department is taking to extend access to the heating supplement.

PQ67655/26 | MARK WALL

20. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans for the introduction of baby loss certificates.

PQ67535/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

21. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the assessment he has made of the contribution made by community employment and related schemes to the provision of services in rural communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67560/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

22. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of domiciliary care allowance applications refused in Cork to date in 2026; and the number of these granted on appeal.

PQ66851/26 | THOMAS GOULD

23. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps he is taking to ensure access for the self-employed to income support when they become ill.

PQ66974/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

24. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the way in which his Department is preparing for the long-term impact of an ageing population on the sustainability and adequacy of the State Pension system

PQ67550/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

25. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will outline his intentions to reduce the means testing for people who apply for carer's allowance; the provisions he plans to make in this regard in Budget 2027.

PQ67221/26 | CATHAL CROWE

26. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total number of persons combined who are actively claiming job seekers benefit, job seekers allowance and job-seekers pay related benefit; and if he will outline trends over the past five years such as whether more or less people are claiming unemployment-related social welfare this year compared to previous years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67166/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

27. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the engagement he has had on providing a State pension for foster carers; and the timeframe on this.

PQ66968/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

28. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he intends to make changes to and increase the Household Benefits Package in the coming months.

PQ67521/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

29. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures his Department is considering to assist households facing high energy costs as winter approaches, particularly in rural counties such as Mayo where many households remain reliant on oil and solid fuels; and if he will make a statement on this matter.

PQ67594/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

30. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he consideration will be given to review the minimum 16 hours weekly worked hours to qualify for carer's benefit; and the impact the current rules have for teachers who are not on full time hours.

PQ67659/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

31. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department has considered providing any additional social protection payment supports specifically for households who are reliant on home heating oil.

PQ67645/26 | MARK WALL

32. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there has been an increase in the number of persons qualifying for the carers allowance on each of the occasions when the qualification threshold has been relaxed, or each occasion where the income disregard has increased; and if he will outline the number of new persons successfully claiming the allowance after each change to the criteria.

PQ67173/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

33. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the new working age payment.

PQ66686/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

34. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he has assessed the adequacy of the fuel allowance for households that have no alternative to oil; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67558/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

35. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current refusal rates for first-time applications for carer's allowance, domiciliary care allowance and disability allowance; the percentage subsequently overturned on review or appeal; the current average processing time for first-time applications of these three payments; the current average processing time for a review and/or appeal; and the costs associated with reprocessing these applications.

PQ67541/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

36. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he intends to increase the Working Family Payment in the coming months.

PQ67520/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

37. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when he will introduce a cost of disability payment.

PQ66484/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

38. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider, as part of Budget 2027, extending eligibility for Illness Benefit to self-employed workers who are unable to work due to illness; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66646/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

39. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will remove the means test for Carer's Allowance.

PQ66588/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

40. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will report on the work of the General Register Office regarding the development of a process to recognise early pregnancy loss.

PQ67537/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

41. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will grant full rate carer's allowance to applicants in receipt of other social protection payments.

PQ67665/26 | SEAMUS HEALY

42. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration has been given to increasing the amount of time that an individual in receipt of disability allowance can spend outside the State from two weeks per year; and if consideration has been given to the level of surveillance and collection of personal data that is involved when a disability allowance recipient travels outside of the State.

PQ67605/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

43. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the Government commitment to examine the pension arrangements for foster carers; and whether additional proposals to support foster carers to access the State pension system are currently planned.

PQ67628/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

44. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will consider reforming the Carer's Support Grant to provide for two qualifying dates and biannual payments or an alternative pro-rata entitlement for persons who commence or cease providing full-time care during the course of the year.

PQ67619/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

45. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding the removal of the mean's test for Carer's Allowance as committed to in the Programme for Government.

PQ66650/26 | BARRY WARD

46. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if, in light of the extension of Fuel Allowance eligibility to recipients of the Working Family Payment from 1 January 2026, he will review the eligibility criteria for Fuel Allowance for persons in receipt of Carer's Allowance; whether he acknowledges that some carers with household incomes comparable to those of Working Family Payment recipients are excluded from Fuel Allowance due to the means test; if he will consider introducing equivalent eligibility arrangements for carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66648/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

47. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if open GoFundMe campaigns are assessed in additional needs payment applications; and to outline his Departments policy on this.

PQ67323/26 | MARK WARD

48. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of appeals received and decided by the Social Welfare Appeals Office in 2025 and to date in 2026; the proportion of original departmental decisions revised or overturned on appeal, broken down by scheme; the average time to decision for appeals determined summarily and by oral hearing respectively; and the number of appellants currently awaiting an oral hearing.

PQ67465/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

49. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason organisations (details supplied) remain in operation following the cessation of referrals to the JobPath programme in June 2022 and the closure of the JobPath service in June 2024, given that the programme had cost the State €344.6 million; the services these companies are currently providing; and the total cost to the State to date.

PQ67187/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

50. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department is currently making payments to organisations (details supplied), or to companies associated with the former JobPath programme, given that €344.6 million of public money had been spent on the programme; if so, the total amount paid to these companies to date, including payments made since the JobPath service ceased in June 2024; and the services are being provided in return.

PQ67190/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

51. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he is satisfied that the eligibility criteria for the rural social scheme continues to reflect the needs of rural communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67556/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

52. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider allowing persons aged 66 years and over who continue to provide full-time care to retain a full-rate carer's allowance alongside their State pension, rather than being restricted to a half-rate payment; and his views that a carer's responsibilities and the cost of providing care do not reduce on reaching pension age.

PQ63782/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

53. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the arrangements and supports available to families caring for a person with a disability who will require lifelong care, in circumstances where the principal family carer dies, becomes seriously ill or is otherwise no longer capable of providing that care; the advance planning mechanisms that are available to such families; whether his Department works with other relevant Departments and agencies to ensure continuity of supports in such circumstances.

PQ67261/26 | PETER ROCHE

54. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures being taken to ensure that families who may previously have been ineligible for carer's allowance are aware of the significant increase in the income disregard introduced in July 2026; whether targeted communications are being issued to previous applicants; and if he will consider a further public information campaign on the revised eligibility criteria.

PQ67569/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

55. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to further reform the means test for carer's allowance, including whether he will consider its full abolition and the introduction of a non-means-tested family carer payment, in recognition of the fact that eligibility for support should reflect the significant caring responsibilities undertaken by full-time family carers.

PQ63776/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

56. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has reviewed the processes of eligibility assessments, appeals, and administration which disabled people must undergo to access supports.

PQ67516/26 | EOIN HAYES

57. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on any review carried out by his Department of social protection supports aimed at reducing energy poverty among older persons, people with disabilities and those living alone ahead of Budget 27; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67563/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

58. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in Dublin Bay North who availed of the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance payments this year.

PQ67542/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

59. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the dietician report into the nutritional standards of the hot school meals scheme, including recommendations for improving the nutrition.

PQ67250/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

60. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will outline the supports in-place for self-employed people who must reduce their hours; the adequacy of these supports in the context of the rising cost of living; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67568/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

61. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason exceptional needs payments for boiler replacements are being refused by DSP when local authority schemes do not cover replacement boilers, when SEAI warmer homes schemes and similar grants are taking 24-36 months to complete and people are left without heating or hot water when their boiler breaks down.

PQ67421/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

62. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the implementation of the Programme for Government commitments to support pensioners.

PQ67416/26 | TOM BRABAZON

63. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to increase the weekly rate of Carer's Allowance Benefit to €325 to recognise the additional cost of providing fulltime care in a cost of living crisis.

PQ67385/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

64. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has engaged with public transport operators in relation to these operators charging free travel pass holders booking fees for free travel journeys.

PQ66483/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

65. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether, given the Government's stated ambition to support entrepreneurship and small business growth, he believes that the Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed) scheme and the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance remain fit for purpose in the modern economy; and whether a review of both schemes will be undertaken.

PQ66710/26 | GRACE BOLAND

66. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on MyFutureFund following the recent opt out window.

PQ67284/26 | SEAN FLEMING

67. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number and percentage of Disability Allowance application refusals overturned on appeal in 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ66589/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

68. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will outline the level of service his Department already provides within the town of Shannon in County Clare; the way in which his Department proposes to address any deficiencies or expand their service offering in the town.

PQ67218/26 | CATHAL CROWE

69. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether, in the context of Budget 2027, he intends to introduce a permanent cost of disability payment to recognise the additional and ongoing costs faced by people with disabilities; the estimated annual cost of introducing such a payment at different weekly rates; and the number of people who would potentially qualify.

PQ67386/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

70. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons claiming job-seekers allowance who are new to Ireland and have never worked in Ireland prior to claiming the allowance; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67175/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

71. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of households that will receive the fuel allowance in the 2026/2027 season, by county.

PQ67287/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

72. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will report on the impact to date of the change in income disregards for the carer's allowance which came into effect in July 2026.

PQ67290/26 | CORMAC DEVLIN

73. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will amend the current weekly means limit for the increase for qualified adult allowance for recipients of the State pension and increase the current means limit of €100 which has been in place since 2007; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66608/26 | MATT CARTHY

74. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps his Department is taking to ensure that the current State pension provides an adequate income for older persons in view of the cost of living pressures that pensioners are reporting, particularly for pensioners living in rural areas; and if he will make a full statement on the matter.

PQ67626/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

75. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress his Department has made in reducing the waiting times for processing social welfare appeals.

PQ67654/26 | MARK WALL

76. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm whether consideration would be given to introducing a support specifically for older people to help with the cost of home heating oil.

PQ67543/26 | COLM BURKE

77. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the review carried out by his Department on the system of means tests for all schemes in his Department; and if he will lay the report before the House.

PQ67512/26 | EOIN HAYES

78. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to implement a disregard of carer's allowance and carer's benefit in the assessment of income for other social protection payments such as the working family payment.

PQ67664/26 | SEAMUS HEALY

79. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps he is taking to remove financial and administrative barriers faced by people when obtaining medical evidence and legal aid required for social welfare and housing applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67576/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

80. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason carer's allowance payments are included in the calculation of income when deciding the eligibility for the BSCFA when other payments, such as WFP, are not; and whether there are plans to remove carers allowance from the BSCFA calculations.

PQ67423/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

81. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his views in relation to the phasing out of the carers allowance means test as committed to in the Programme for Government; and the timeline for this commitment to be met.

PQ66892/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

82. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of carers whose applications for carer's allowance were refused solely as a result of the means test in each of the past five years; and the average amount by which applicants exceeded the income threshold.

PQ67315/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

83. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons holding a free travel pass on 31 August 2026, by qualifying category including State pension, disability allowance, invalidity pension, blind pension and carer's allowance recipients; the beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine, where applicable, international protection applicants, where applicable, and all other qualifying categories; and the estimated cost to the Exchequer of providing free travel under each category in each of the past five years.

PQ67316/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

84. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the plans in place to enhance and expand Social Welfare and Intreo Services in County Laois to match local population growth to ensure timely access for claimants.

PQ67396/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

85. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether the review of means testing in the social protection system will be completed this quarter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66609/26 | MATT CARTHY

86. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the proposed cost of disability payment.

PQ67199/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

87. To ask the Minister for Social Protection If he will provide a county breakdown of the numbers of students receiving a hot school meal every day.

PQ67249/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

88. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in Cavan Monaghan that are eligible for Fuel Allowance.

PQ67384/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

89. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he is considering advocating, as part of the pre-budget process, for targeted employer PRSI relief measures for SMEs, particularly in respect of lower-paid workers, in order to help locally owned businesses maintain employment and remain competitive in the face of rising business costs.

PQ63668/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

90. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration has been given to the way that eligibility reviews are communicated to persons in receipt of the State Pension (non-contributory), particularly given that these individuals are often vulnerable.

PQ67603/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

91. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has had any engagement with an organisation (details supplied) in relation to Budget 2027.

PQ67198/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

92. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to tackle youth unemployment.

PQ66583/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

93. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department has assessed the impact of the child benefit payment rate remaining unchanged since 2016; and whether any review of the payment rate is planned.

PQ67341/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

94. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current status of the Government's commitment to review the means test for carer's allowance; and whether he is considering the abolition of the means test in recognition of the vital role played by family carers.

PQ67391/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

95. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the next steps in terms of progressively increasing the weekly rates of Carer's allowance and Carer's Benefit as committed to in the Programme for Government.

PQ67618/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

96. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures are being taken to ensure that social welfare recipients can transition into further education, apprenticeships and training programmes without suffering a loss of income that would discourage participation.

PQ66712/26 | GRACE BOLAND

97. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider increasing the income thresholds for the Working Family Payment as part of Budget 2027.

PQ66998/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

98. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will undertake a review of opportunities for people to stay on employment schemes after they have turned 65 years old, given the valuable work they contribute and the shortage for people in schemes such as Tús and Community Schemes (CE) schemes in vulnerable communities.

PQ67629/26 | SEÁN KYNE

99. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if persons on invalidity pensions are eligible for fuel allowance; to outline the criteria for fuel allowance; and if any changes will be included in the upcoming budget.

PQ67324/26 | MARK WARD

100. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his views on the possibility of a disability payment that is an entitlement for each person with a disability in the interests of equality and supporting independent living; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ67339/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

101. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will increase carer's allowance and carer's benefit to €325 per week.

PQ67667/26 | SEAMUS HEALY

102. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department will consider further reforms to the pension treatment of foster care work, including bringing foster care work directly within the State Pension system.

PQ67646/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

103. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons who have applied for the job seekers allowance or job seekers benefit who listed their previous employment as farming; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67163/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

104. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider extending the continuation period for social welfare payments from six weeks to 12 weeks.

PQ67652/26 | MARK WALL

105. To ask the Minister for Social Protection in the context of Budget 2027, he will consider further reform of Carer's Allowance, including increasing the weekly rate and further easing or removing the means test in recognition of the significant contribution made by family carers; and the estimated cost of each of these measures.

PQ67387/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

106. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the targeted income supports in relation to those with disabilities he is considering as part of Budget 2027 negotiations.

PQ67299/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

107. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the process used by his Department to identify and investigate suspected social welfare fraud; the number of cases of social welfare fraud detected and confirmed in each of the past three years; the value of any overpayments identified and recovered during that period; the measures currently in place to prevent fraud and abuse of the social welfare system; any additional measures being considered to strengthen fraud detection and compliance activities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66706/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

108. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the timeline for the abolition of the carer's means test.

PQ66849/26 | THOMAS GOULD

109. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will outline his plans to reform the domiciliary care allowance.

PQ66685/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

110. To ask the Minister for Social Protection following the increases in the income disregards for the carer's allowance means test, the next steps his Department intends to take towards the Programme for Government commitment to phase out the means test; the further changes to the income disregards or qualifying criteria that are being considered; and the timeframe for their introduction.

PQ67262/26 | PETER ROCHE

111. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether consideration is being given to increasing investment in digital inclusion measures, particularly for older persons, people with disabilities and those at risk of digital exclusion.

PQ67531/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

112. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to change the Household Benefits Package to alleviate poverty amongst households most in need.

PQ67525/26 | EOIN HAYES

113. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if consideration will be given to making fuel allowance an automatic entitlement to everyone over 70 years-of-age; and the estimated cost that will be incurred to make this change.

PQ67575/26 | COLM BURKE

114. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will examine targeted supports in Budget 2027 such as increasing the monthly allowance of €35 for those with gas or electricity as part of the Household Benefits Package.

PQ67298/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

115. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the added measures his Department hope to introduce in Budget 2027 to help families with the cost of living.

PQ67635/26 | JOE NEVILLE

116. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to review the qualifying eligibility and the rate of the living alone allowance.

PQ67326/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

117. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the new cost-of-disability payment being rolled out by his Department will be means tested based on a partner's income, in the same fashion that the carers allowance was; if he has met with disability rights groups regarding the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67177/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

118. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 219 of 16 September 2026, the child fares that will be reduced as stated in the response; if he anticipates that the fare hikes on public transport will lead to a reduction in the use of public transport as reported by the NTA at the Oireachtas committee hearing on 16 September 2026; if he has considered reversing these proposed hikes; if there will be any other changes to fares as part of budget 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ67278/26 | PA DALY

119. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will detail the way in which he plans to comply with the €18m levy applied to his Department's vote for 2027; and if he will ensure that public transport commitments and obligations are fully resourced.

PQ67530/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

120. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on implementation of the recommendations of the all island rail review; and his plans to improve capacity on rail services

PQ67279/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

121. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide the €70 million in funding that the NTA says is required to avoid the increase in public transport fares; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68009/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

122. To ask the Minister for Transport to rebalance the overall funding for roads in Laois (details supplied).

PQ67753/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

123. To ask the Minister for Transport to retain a bus service in Dublin West (details supplied).

PQ67775/26 | EMER CURRIE

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

124. To ask the Minister for Transport the reasoning behind the proposed removal of the direct 126D bus service to Dublin City University as part of the revised 126 corridor; the assessment carried out of the impact on students currently using the service; and whether the National Transport Authority will consider retaining direct peak-time services to DCU where demand exists.

PQ67344/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

125. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason €20 million was spent by Dublin Airport Authority insulating homes in the noise preferential route of the North runway when these homes are not being flown over since August 2023.

PQ67017/26 | GILLIAN TOOLE

126. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of collisions involving trains in Ireland in each of the past ten years.

PQ67174/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

127. To ask the Minister for Transport for updates on the fuel subsidy support schemes.

PQ66662/26 | DANNY HEALY-RAE

128. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he is aware that two routes in Cork under BusConnects had to be rerouted because a bus cannot traverse Church Hill despite numerous public consultations and millions spent to date.

PQ66853/26 | THOMAS GOULD

129. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of ongoing capacity issues on the 15 bus route; and the measures that are being taken to ensure that local residents can reliably access the service.

PQ67534/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

130. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on Dart+West; and whether Irish Rail plans on engaging with the local community on the closure of level crossings.

PQ67496/26 | EMER CURRIE

131. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he has conducted any affordability tests on fare increases in Cork.

PQ66855/26 | THOMAS GOULD

132. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the actions undertaken to improve transport in rural areas.

PQ67411/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

133. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update as of September 2026 on the proposed increased fares on public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67661/26 | EOGHAN KENNY

134. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the new projected costs for Metrolink; if he will commit to delivering Metrolink within this new projected cost; if he will commit to equivalent ambition and resourcing for public transport projects outside of Dublin over the same period; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67303/26 | PA DALY

135. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the progress being made by the National Transport Authority towards a public consultation during the second half of 2027 for a potential new Tullamore Town bus service.

PQ67620/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

136. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the establishment of a Strategic Integrated Transportation Office in Cork City.

PQ67327/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

137. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will examine the introduction of a multidisciplinary investigation model for fatal and serious road collisions, similar to the system operating in Finland, bringing together expertise in policing, road engineering, vehicle safety, medicine and behavioural science to identify contributory factors and make recommendations aimed at preventing future collisions.

PQ63674/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

138. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will visit Letterkenny to meet with Donegal County Council and local representatives to see at first hand the severe traffic congestion currently affecting the town; and to discuss the immediate and long-term measures required to address Letterkenny's transport infrastructure needs.

PQ67469/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

139. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department are considering creating a congestion management plan for Dublin to counteract the negative impacts of traffic congestion.

PQ66604/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

140. To ask the Minister for Transport to report on accessibility on public transport; if he is aware of concerns that many bus stops and train platforms remain inaccessible; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67308/26 | PA DALY

141. To ask the Minister for Transport further to PQ64566/26 of 16 September 2026, to provide the report (details supplied); the proportion that are new services; the proportion that are enhancements; the number he expects will actually be delivered given a similar list contained in the submission for budget 2026; if the Government will commit to providing the resources to deliver these 140 new services and enhancements; if there are specific projects that will be prioritised; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67302/26 | PA DALY

142. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the work of his Department in managing and reducing traffic congestion across Dublin.

PQ66599/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

143. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will undertake a feasibility study on the development of a North Drogheda railway station and a new railway station in Mid-Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66673/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

144. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the current status of the Project Four North DART+ programme; the timeline for publication of the emerging preferred option and commencement of public consultation; the anticipated timeline for progressing the project through planning and delivery.

PQ67399/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

145. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of lost kilometres on the Ratoath-Dublin 103 bus service for each of the years 2024, 2025 and to this in 2026; the efforts he is making to improve the 103 bus service and to hold Bus Éireann to account for poor performance.

PQ66586/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

146. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the proposed Transport Hub in Nenagh.

PQ67647/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

147. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will travel to Donegal and meet with locally elected councillors to learn at firsthand about the serious traffic management crisis in Letterkenny impacting the people of and visitors to Donegal; and the proposed local roads infrastructure projects that can address this crisis.

PQ67363/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

148. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to increase the use of public transport; and his views on whether the increased fares will have the opposite effect.

PQ67406/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

149. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to advance the introduction of simulators to training modules for learner drivers to improve road safety; and the work the RSA has done to develop the incorporation of simulators into driver training.

PQ67426/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

150. To ask the Minister for Transport when a project will proceed to the next stage (details supplied).

PQ67617/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

151. To ask the Minister for Transport If he is considering intervening to halt proposed increases in public transport fares.

PQ67405/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

152. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has had any engagements with the NTA regarding the process in place for expanding existing local link routes, adding stops to routes and developing new routes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66800/26 | MATT CARTHY

153. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Western Rail Corridor project.

PQ67225/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

154. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update of the Northern Ring Road for Kilkenny.

PQ67470/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

155. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure an earlier train service for students and patients travelling to Sligo from Boyle in County Roscommon.

PQ66979/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

156. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on Dart+ Southwest; when the project will be delivered; and if there will be an increase in capacity in the existing lines in advance of the project progressing.

PQ67322/26 | MARK WARD

157. To ask the Minister for Transport for a progress update on the N/M20 Cork to Limerick, N72/N73 Mallow Relief Road, Cork City Northern Transport Project, N25 Carrigwohill to Midleton, and M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy schemes; their phase under the Infrastructure Guidelines, the allocations and drawdowns in 2026, and planning submission dates to An Coimisiún Pleanála; the status of the N/M20 business case and its timeline for Government approval; and the 2026 funding allocated to Cork City and County Councils for the Cork Northern Distributor Multi-Modal Road.

PQ67467/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

158. To ask the Minister for Transport the timelines on the N4 project to extend the N4 beyond Mullingar to connect to the Rooskey bypass; and the progress to date.

PQ66934/26 | MICHEÁL CARRIGY

159. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding any initiative his Department is progressing to improve passenger safety on public transport.

PQ66653/26 | BARRY WARD

160. To ask the Minister for Transport the roads and public transport funding he plans to make available to services in County Waterford.

PQ67607/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

161. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Luas Green Line extension to Tyrrelstown.

PQ67562/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

162. To ask the Minister for Transport for the latest update and timeline of construction for the Finglas Village renewal scheme, given there are reported delays to the project which is being jointly overseen by Dublin City Council and the National Transport Authority.

PQ67515/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

163. To ask the Minister for Transport whether consideration is given to school and education-related travel demand when planning and expanding Local Link services in rural areas.

PQ67621/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

164. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on plans to introduce registration requirements for e-scooters; to outline the work being undertaken in developing such a system; and the anticipated timeline for its introduction.

PQ67414/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

165. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider extending the proposed DART+ network northwards beyond Drogheda to include Dunleer, County Louth; if his Department has undertaken or plans to undertake any assessment of the feasibility; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66675/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

166. To ask the Minister for Transport when a decision will be made on the funding for Dart+ SW.

PQ66601/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

167. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the three BusConnects Cork sustainable transport corridor schemes approved by Government, including the date on which the planning application for each scheme was or is due to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála; the date on which the redesigned Cork bus network will commence operation; the additional fleet and driver numbers required to deliver the planned increase in service levels and the number recruited to date; and the current estimated capital cost of the programme.

PQ67466/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

168. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the delivery of Metrolink.

PQ67227/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

169. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason, almost two years (October 2024) after the introduction of the hourly Enterprise train service and one year (October 2025) after the reduction in car parking capacity at Clarke Station Dundalk has there been no progress in the provision of additional car parking spaces at Dundalk station; and the plans to increase car parking at the station.

PQ67424/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

170. To ask the Minister for Transport the need to provide funding to local authorities for traffic cams and pedestrian crossings in rural towns and villages, including those on national roads; and whether he acknowledges that high speeds become a problem for safety of pedestrians and vulnerable road users.

PQ67539/26 | SEÁN KYNE

171. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures his Department is taking to introduce effective safety measures at rail level crossings in an effort to protect individuals from further tragic accidents; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67554/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

172. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he will request the National Transport Authority to urgently review the 2027 fare increases applying to rail commuters in Skerries and Balbriggan, having regard to the scale and speed of the cumulative increases and the continuing capacity pressures experienced by passengers.

PQ67093/26 | GRACE BOLAND

173. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the proposed increase in public transport fares; if this will be reconsidered in the budget; and when the fares will come into effect.

PQ67321/26 | MARK WARD

174. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will intervene to reverse planned fare hikes to public transport in the new year, that will have a negative impact on commuters.

PQ66894/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

175. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department can provide an update on the implementation of contactless payment on our public transport services.

PQ67630/26 | JOE NEVILLE

176. To ask the Minister for Transport if it would be possible for bus route 891 to include Hugginstown along its route.

PQ67471/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

177. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress of the bypass for Granard and Ballymahon.

PQ66933/26 | MICHEÁL CARRIGY

178. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has authority over the National Transport Authority (NTA); and if the NTA is accountable to his Department.

PQ67016/26 | GILLIAN TOOLE

179. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of schools that will be included in round 5 funding under the Safe Routes to School Programme.

PQ66977/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

180. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road scheme; and when it is envisaged that this project will be completed.

PQ66617/26 | MATT CARTHY

181. To ask the Minister for Transport if he could outline what actions are being taken to improve the reliability of the Dublin Bus Network in light of serious issues of 130 bus service including repeated cancellations and inconsistencies between scheduled and operated services; the number and percentage of scheduled 130 services that were cancelled or did not operate in each month of 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form; the reasons for these cancellations; and the measures that are being taken to improve reliability on the route.

PQ67398/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

182. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the hourly train to Wicklow; and steps being taken to ensure the promised 2029 deadline is achieved.

PQ67657/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

183. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department can outline how they liaise with the NTA on introducing new bus routes and schedules in areas of growing population and if it is based on need for the service of funding made available by his Department.

PQ67548/26 | JOE NEVILLE

184. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the rollout of new DART carriages; and the additional capacity each individual carriage provides.

PQ67544/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

185. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding greenways; to provide an update on the Listowel to Tralee delivery; to report on a projected timeline for delivery; and whether this will be delivered in the next 12 months.

PQ67306/26 | PA DALY

186. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on his work to improve transport connections in North Louth.

PQ67412/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

187. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the proposed development and introduction of safety measures on a road (details supplied).

PQ67599/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

188. To ask the Minister for Transport If he will provide increased funding to Cork County Council for the restoration and maintenance of regional and local roads in Cork as part of Budget 2027, particularly where roads were damaged by severe weather in early 2026.

PQ66999/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

189. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to reduce road collisions and road fatalities.

PQ66587/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

190. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware of concerns of severe overcrowding on the Oranmore to Galway train part of the Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail Dublin Heuston to Galway InterCity line; whether he accepts this shows the need for additional capacity and if he would make correspondence with Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail to ensure additional carriages would be made available to ensure public safety.

PQ67610/26 | SEÁN KYNE

191. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the proposed development of a road (details supplied).

PQ67590/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

192. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the status of the Glanmire to Cork city cycle route phase 2; and the progress made to date since the Public Consultation in 2024.

PQ67552/26 | COLM BURKE

193. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider adding a stop on the 126 route in Athgarvan considering that the village is poorly serviced by public transport in the evening time.

PQ66893/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

194. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will consider revising the timeline for the Luas green line extension to Tyrrelstown, in view of the proposed Dunsink Urban Area Plan.

PQ67572/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

195. To ask the Minister for Transport the immediate actions being taken to address severe overcrowding on Galway commuter rail services, particularly between Athenry, Oranmore and Galway city, where passengers are routinely forced to stand in overcrowded conditions, raising concerns regarding passenger comfort, accessibility and health and safety; and if he will outline a timeline for increasing capacity on the route.

PQ67393/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

196. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the proposed expansion of the Luas network to Poolbeg.

PQ66690/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

197. To ask the Minister for Transport the reasons for the delay in the roll out of the Bus Connects network redesign in Dublin and when the required additional current expenditure will be provided to the NTA and Dublin Bus to complete the network redesign roll out.

PQ66602/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

198. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will request the NTA to examine the feasibility of establishing a dedicated shuttle bus service along the emerging preferred route for the proposed Navan rail line, serving Navan, Kilmessan and Dunshaughlin and connecting passengers with the existing rail services at M3 Parkway/Dunboyne; and if consideration will be given to operating such a service as an interim public transport measure pending the delivery of the Navan Rail Line, with timetables coordinated with train departures and arrivals to facilitate commuting to and from Dublin.

PQ67573/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

199. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the roll out of light rail; to provide an update on the delivery over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter .

PQ67301/26 | PA DALY

200. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the current status of the M20 Cork–Limerick motorway; the anticipated timeline for the project to go to planning, CPO of lands associated with the project and ultimate construction.

PQ67000/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

201. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an overview of the soon-to-be-launched Ennis town public bus service; the hours of operation; the extent of bus stops; the range of vehicles; the expected price fares for all ticket and concessionary passengers; if there are plans to provide further public bus routes across County Clare, including the potential to provide more on-demand TFI Anseo services in rural parts of the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67332/26 | CATHAL CROWE

202. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the timeline for the long awaited restoration of the Derry to Dublin airlink.

PQ67365/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

203. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on double-decker buses due to be deployed across the State in 2026 and 2027; when they will be deployed in Galway specifically; and if he will advise on the routes that will be deployed.

PQ67591/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

204. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the analysis undertaken by his Department regarding the impact of the recent NTA announcement on public transport fare changes and the effect of this on rural commuters; and the steps being taken to ensure public transport is affordable and accessible for rural commuters; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67593/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

205. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure funding for the N24 and N25 upgrades.

PQ67606/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

206. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he accepts that the cumulative effect of the 2025 and 2027 fare determinations, under which commuters in Skerries and Balbriggan will face fare increases of almost 50 per cent within approximately 20 months, is disproportionate and unfair; and the action he will take to address this anomaly.

PQ67092/26 | GRACE BOLAND

207. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the proposed enhancement of the NX Navan-Dublin service; the date on which the proposed 24% increase in peak-time service levels is expected to commence; and if additional capacity will be provided where passenger demand continues to exceed available capacity following implementation of the revised timetable.

PQ67578/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

208. To ask the Minister for Transport for the latest update and timeline of construction for the Finglas Roundabout projects at St Margaret's Road and McKee Avenue, given there are reported delays to the projects.

PQ67519/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

209. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on progress towards the establishment of a transport security force; and the anticipated timeline for its establishment and commencement of operations.

PQ67413/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

210. To ask the Minister for Transport if, in view of the fact that public transport connections to Dublin Airport are being significantly increased and improved, his plans to increase public transport accessibility to Shannon Airport, including the provision of a long-heralded rail spur to Shannon Airport.

PQ67282/26 | CATHAL CROWE

211. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will support funding for an orbital bus route for residents of Kinsealy in order that they can access Portmarnock and Malahide train stations while reducing congestion.

PQ67228/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

212. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the status of the Dunkettle Road AT Scheme (Phase 2); and when it is envisaged that same will be completed.

PQ67555/26 | COLM BURKE

213. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will engage with the Minister for Justice; Home Affairs and Migration and An Garda Síochána on the urgent strengthening of dedicated roads policing units; whether roads policing should operate within a dedicated command structure; and whether Garda allocations should better reflect factors such as the scale and length of the road network in each county.

PQ63673/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

214. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on Bus Connects Galway; when the new network will be implemented; if it is still on track for 2028; and if not, the delays that are impacting the rollout.

PQ67598/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

215. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding that has been made available to local authorities to install, replace and update speed limit signage arising from changes to speed limits; and whether he is satisfied that local authorities have sufficient resources to carry out this work.

PQ67260/26 | PETER ROCHE

216. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that increased funding will be provided in 2027 for the non national road network taking into account the urgent need for road improvements and upgrading work in County Cavan and County Monaghan, given the huge dependency in both counties on this road network with a small percentage of the road network having a national road status.

PQ67604/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

217. To ask the Minister for Transport the efforts being made to safeguard motorists from wild deer on our roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67582/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

218. To ask the Minister for Transport the protocols which are in place when a train is late departing its departure station; the way in which the information regarding the delay is communicated to the various stations where that train will subsequently be late arriving and to the other trains using the same line, and to the mechanisms operating level crossings around the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67176/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

219. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Athenry Relief Road project.

PQ67226/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

220. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the Public Service Obligation PSO programme discussions in relation increasing the 132 bus service and improving the reliability of the service.

PQ67656/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

221. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has examined any additional infrastructural road safety measures on motorways following a number of incidents in recent months, including fatal collisions involving motorists driving the wrong way down slip roads and motorways.

PQ67643/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

222. To ask the Minister for Transport the actions he is taking to ensure that all public transport is fully accessible for people with disabilities.

PQ66652/26 | BARRY WARD

223. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the independent feasibility study for a metro to South-West Dublin.

PQ66691/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

224. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 96 of 15 January 2026, whether his Department has had any engagement with the UNECE Working Party on Lighting and Light-Signalling task force regarding excessive brightness and intensity of modern LED and HID car headlights; and the nature of that engagement.

PQ67638/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

225. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made by the National Transport Authority and Iarnród Éireann in improving the provision of real-time disruption information through the Irish Rail app; and when passengers can expect enhanced disruption notifications to be available through the app.

PQ67343/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

226. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update as of September 2026 on the Mallow Relief Road project, including if the timeline of the project progression is being met; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67660/26 | EOGHAN KENNY

227. To ask the Minister for Transport to request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to provide funding for a route (details supplied).

PQ67371/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

228. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the introduction of catering services, particularly on long services, such as the Mayo to Dublin; and if he will make a full statement on the matter.

PQ67547/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

CEISTEANNA LE HAGHAIDH FREADRAI SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

229. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade her response to raids and arrests targeting the LGBTQ+ community in Turkey; and if she has contacted the Turkish Embassy in Dublin to convey the Irish Government's serious concerns.

PQ67686/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

230. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will review the case of a person (details supplied); and if the application for a first-time passport will be expedited.

PQ67709/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

231. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade for an update on an application under foreign birth registration (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67805/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

232. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the actions that she has taken and plans to take in the future in response to the ongoing persecution of members of the LGBTQIA+ community in Turkey.

PQ67785/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

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

233. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if extended producer responsibility scheme for tyres under the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2017 will go ahead in 2026.

PQ67746/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

234. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment his response to the recent report (details supplied).

PQ67735/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

235. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if, given the recognised importance of pollack for recreational angling in Ireland and the role that recreational angling plays in supporting valuable tourism and charter boat business in many coastal communities, if it is intended to conduct any review of the Pollack Fishing Conservation Bye-Law No. 1028 of 2026.

PQ67854/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

236. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the status of the proposed scheme between local authorities and Irish Water to provide drinking water fountains nationwide; to provide a break down of the funding allocated of the €2 million in funding from the Circular Economy Fund made available for the rollout of public water infrastructure through Uisce Éireann, Local Authorities and the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, in tabular form.

PQ67719/26 | MARK WARD

Chun an Cosanta: To the Defence

237. To ask the Minister for Defence to provide, a list of items, in particular armaments, vehicles and ammunition, purchased by the Defences Force in each of the last six years; and the name of the company purchased from and the country purchased from, in tabular form.

PQ67809/26 | DONNCHADH Ó LAOGHAIRE

Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

238. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to expand the rural link bus services nationwide; the measures being taken to improve service frequency, extend operating hours and introduce additional routes in rural communities; if he will provide details of any planned service enhancements for County Louth; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66676/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

239. To ask the Minister for Transport the breakdown of the funding that has been invested in existing train services from 2020 to 2025 and to date in 2026 in Dublin West, by year, in tabular form.

PQ67712/26 | EMER CURRIE

240. To ask the Minister for Transport the breakdown of the funding that has been invested in new bus routes versus existing services from 2020 to 2025 and to date in 2026 in Dublin West, by year, in tabular form.

PQ67708/26 | EMER CURRIE

241. To ask the Minister for Transport the transport infrastructure projects, service enhancements and capital investments planned, funded or under consideration for Newbridge and the wider South Kildare area over the next five years; the way in which these proposals are aligned with projected housing and population growth; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67744/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

242. To ask the Minister for Transport the proposals under consideration by the National Transport Authority to introduce additional direct bus services between Newbridge and major employment centres in Dublin; to expand overall public transport capacity for the South Kildare commuter belt; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67743/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

243. To ask the Minister for Transport whether consideration is being given by the National Transport Authority and Iarnród Éireann to increasing the number of Intercity services stopping at Newbridge and reducing current gaps between services, including the introduction of later-night rail services between Dublin and Newbridge; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67742/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

244. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans in place to increase commuter rail capacity and service frequency on the Dublin-Kildare corridor serving Newbridge; whether additional peak-time and off-peak services are under consideration; and the timelines for any proposed enhancements.

PQ67741/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

245. To ask the Minister for Transport the current and projected passenger demand being used by the National Transport Authority and Iarnród Éireann for transport planning in Newbridge and the wider South Kildare area; and whether existing rail services are considered sufficient to meet that demand.

PQ67740/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

246. To ask the Minister for Transport if free travel passengers are now being treated differently than paying customers, specifically, that free travel passengers cannot book a return seat a month in advance without being charged €2.50, while paying customers can; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67815/26 | JOHN MCGUINNESS

247. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered measures to reduce the barriers faced by Irish citizens returning from the United States who hold valid US driving licences; the proposals currently under consideration by his Department; and if he can make a statement on the matter.

PQ67912/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

248. To ask the Minister for Transport if driving licence fees, learner permit fees, or driving test fees are waived, reduced, or paid on an applicant's behalf by his Department, the Road Safety Authority, or any other State body for asylum seekers or refugees; if so, the legal or administrative basis for this; the annual cost in each year since asylum seekers became eligible to apply for a driving licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67733/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

249. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of driving licence and/or learner permit applications received nationally from asylum seekers and refugees in each of the years 2022 and to date in 2026; the number of those applications approved, refused, or still pending; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67732/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

250. To ask the Minister for Transport the average driving test waiting time at each Road Safety Authority driving test centre nationally, for each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026, identifying the centre with the highest and the centre with the lowest waiting time in each of those years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67731/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

251. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide, in tabular format, the number of driving licence and learner permit applications processed at each National Driver Licence Service centre nationally, broken down by application type (for example first learner permit, licence renewal, exchange of a foreign licence, and replacement of a lost or stolen licence), for each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67728/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

252. To ask the Minister for Transport to carry out emergency measures to prevent deer from causing death and serious injury to motorists and all road users; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67959/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

253. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will provide an update on the matter.

PQ67879/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

254. To ask the Minister for Transport to introduce legislation to compel the registration of E Scooters and Bikes and a licencing system for users.

PQ67757/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

255. To ask the Minister for Transport to increase funding for CIS (Community Involvement Investment) in Laois to carry out works in local authority housing estates as some of them require re-surfacing.

PQ67755/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

256. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 55313/26, to provide an update on the development of the Arklow Coastguard Station; and if he will publish the review that was carried out and to set out a timeframe for the completion of works.

PQ67976/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

257. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to reform the driving test including the introduction of transparency and technology in Irish driving tests; his views on suggestions (details supplied); and his views on if lessons can be learned from European colleagues in terms of best practice.

PQ67844/26 | SEÁN KYNE

258. To ask the Minister for Transport the current recruitment program of drivers overseas for Dublin Bus; if recruitment targets have been met; whether additional recruitment campaigns need to be put in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68017/26 | DESSIE ELLIS

259. To ask the Minister for Transport an update on the NTA's consideration of a route (details supplied); and for a decision to be made at the nearest opportunity given the lack of connectivity in the area.

PQ67808/26 | EMER CURRIE

260. To ask the Minister for Transport in view of the fact that the railway order has been granted, to outline a timeline for when works on the Luas Finglas line will commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68012/26 | DESSIE ELLIS

261. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has engaged with Mayo County Council regarding traffic congestion issues in Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, particularly at the Clare Street junction; whether consideration has been given to undertaking a feasibility assessment for the installation of traffic lights at this location; whether any traffic counts or traffic management reviews are planned for Ballyhaunis town centre in 2026 or 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67782/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

262. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of a fuel income support scheme application (details supplied); and the timeframe for funds to issue to the eligible applicant.

PQ67935/26 | COLM BURKE

263. To ask the Minister for Transport to carry out emergency measures to prevent deer from causing death and serious injury to motorists and all road users; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67960/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

264. To ask the Minister for Transport to carry out emergency measures to prevent deer from causing death and serious injury to motorists and all road users; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67962/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

Chun an Airgeadais: To the Finance

265. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance his views on whether the help to buy scheme reflects the principal of a fresh start as set out by the Central Bank (details supplied); and if this is under review within his Department.

PQ67721/26 | BARRY WARD

266. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the engagement he has had with Insurance Ireland regarding a suggested €24 levy on insured households to be placed into an insurance fund; his views that such a proposal has merit or is an unfair charge on households given the increased risk of flooding due to climate change and the likely impact of this on flood insurance cover and premiums

PQ67831/26 | SEÁN KYNE

267. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of individual tax units that have benefitted from the childcare services relief scheme in each year since its introduction; and the annual cost for each of these years.

PQ67904/26 | GED NASH

268. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the action being taken to protect mortgage holders whose loans have been sold to non-bank entities and who are being charged interest rates in excess of 6%; if any assessment has been made of the link between these rates and the rise in early arrears; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67903/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

269. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of principal dwelling home mortgage accounts in arrears that are held by credit servicing firms and other non-bank entities; the average interest rate applied to these accounts compared with accounts held by retail banks; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67902/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

270. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of principal dwelling home mortgage accounts that entered early arrears (under 90-days) in each of the last four quarters; the number of these classified as first-time arrears cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67901/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

271. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners, including through the Criminal Assets Bureau, have identified organised criminal involvement in the importation, distribution or retail of illicit e-liquid and vaping products in the State; and the number of related referrals or actions in 2025 and 2026.

PQ67929/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

272. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of compliance interventions, audits or inspections carried out by the Revenue Commissioners in respect of the retail vaping sector since 1 November 2025; and if he is satisfied that enforcement activity is directed at unlicensed and non-compliant sellers rather than concentrated on registered, tax-compliant retailers.

PQ67928/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

273. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners have identified the practice of applying Irish-market labelling to e-liquid products sourced abroad on which no E-liquid Products Tax has been accounted for; and the enforcement action taken in respect of that practice.

PQ67927/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

274. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners are undertaking joint or coordinated enforcement action with the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána in respect of unlicensed retailers selling non-compliant e-liquid and vaping products, including products containing HHC or other unauthorised substances; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67931/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

275. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the measures the Revenue Commissioners have in place to detect and prevent the importation from Northern Ireland of e-liquid products on which the E-liquid Products Tax has not been accounted for; the number of such

detections in 2026; and if consideration has been given to the enforcement implications for the State of the United Kingdom's Vaping Products Duty and Vaping Duty Stamps Scheme, which commence on 1 October 2026.

PQ67925/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

276. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of seizures of illicit, non-compliant or drug-laced e-liquid or vaping products made by the Revenue Commissioners in each of the years 2024 and 2025 and to date in 2026; the estimated volume in millilitres and value of product seized in each period; and the number of such cases referred for prosecution.

PQ67922/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

277. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance his views on widely expressed concerns of long term holders of prize bonds in relation to the inadequate current variable rate of interest and also taking into account that the holders of such bonds have invested long term in such State schemes with benefits to this State

PQ67724/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

278. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the four scheduled stages by which the temporary excise reductions on petrol and diesel are to be restored from 1 November 2026 to the end of February 2027, including the effective date and the cent per litre increase at each stage for both petrol and diesel; the current cent per litre value of the temporary reduction remaining in place for each fuel, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67943/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

279. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if, in advance of any change to the rate of the E-liquid Products Tax in Budget 2027, his Department has assessed the effect of a rate increase on the size of the illicit and cross-border market, having regard to the differential with the rate applying in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67930/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

280. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the projected full year yield of the carbon tax increase to €78.50 per tonne scheduled for 2027; the estimated cost to the Exchequer of deferring that increase for a further year; the estimated per litre effect on petrol and on diesel of that increase; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67949/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

281. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the current status of the carbon tax increase on home heating fuels that was deferred from 1 May 2026 to 14 October 2026; the average effect of that increase on a 1,000 litre fill of home heating oil; whether a further deferral is under consideration in the context of Budget 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67954/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

282. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the estimated additional VAT accruing to the Exchequer for each 10 cent increase in the average retail price of a litre of petrol and diesel; the total VAT collected on petrol and diesel in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67946/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

283. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the rate of VAT currently applying to home heating oil (kerosene); the estimated full year cost of reducing that rate from 13.5 per cent to 9 per cent, in line with the temporary rate applied to domestic gas and electricity; whether any such reduction is under consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67952/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

284. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department received or considered any independent analysis, including analysis prepared by an organisation (details supplied), on the likely effect of the E-liquid Products Tax on the illicit market and on tax leakage prior to commencement; and if his Department will publish any such assessment held.

PQ67919/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

285. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if, prior to the introduction of the E-liquid Products Tax, his Department or the Revenue Commissioners assessed a tax-stamp and track-and-trace model as an alternative to the self-declaration first-supply model; the projected tax leakage under each option considered; and the reasons a self-declaration model was chosen.

PQ67917/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

286. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance his Department's estimate of the volume and value of e-liquid products consumed in the State that fall outside the E-liquid Products Tax, that is, the illicit and untaxed share of the market; the basis and date of that estimate; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67915/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

287. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the total revenue collected from the E-liquid Products Tax since its commencement on 1 November 2025 to the latest available date; the number of suppliers registered with the Revenue Commissioners under the first-supply model; and the way the yield to date compares with the yield projected by the Department when the measure was designed.

PQ67913/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

288. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he is considering introducing a tax equivalent to Luxembourg's long established 'taxe d'abonnement' in relation to funds domiciled in Ireland; and the amount that would be raised on an annual basis if the Luxembourg system was adopted by Ireland (details supplied).

PQ67880/26 | GED NASH

289. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the projected cost of reducing the VAT rate on home heating oil to 9%, from the current 13.5% rate for 2027; and the additional projected cost of introducing it from 6 October 2026.

PQ67877/26 | GED NASH

290. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if counterfeit toys seized by customs are assessed for child-safety and CE compliance and referred for destruction where a serious risk is identified; and the number so referred in 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ67975/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

291. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners undertake joint or coordinated operations with An Garda Síochána and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission targeting retail premises selling counterfeit goods; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67974/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

292. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of counterfeit or unsafe product detections referred by the Revenue Commissioners to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission in each of the years 2024 and 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ67973/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

293. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the resources, including staffing, allocated to customs enforcement against counterfeit goods at ports, mail centres and other points of importation; and if he is satisfied that this resourcing is adequate.

PQ67972/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

294. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners have identified counterfeit goods, including counterfeit toys and electronic accessories, being imported through or from Northern Ireland and sold in retail premises alongside untaxed or non-compliant e-liquid products; and the enforcement action taken.

PQ67971/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

295. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number, category and estimated value of counterfeit goods seized by the Revenue Commissioners through Customs in each of the years 2024 and 2025 and to date in 2026; and the number of such cases referred for prosecution.

PQ67970/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

296. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if counselling and psychotherapy treatments and services qualify for tax relief for health expenses, where the individual providing that service is qualified to provide the service; if CORU registration is considered for the purposes of being a 'registered practitioner'; and if not, if he will consider expanding tax relief for these services.

PQ68027/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

297. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department have explored expanding the bike to work scheme to include third-level students.

PQ67940/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

298. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will advise whether a review of the help to buy scheme is currently planned; whether consideration is being given to revising the eligibility criteria, particularly the requirement that applicants obtain a mortgage at or above a specified percentage of the property's value; and whether consideration has been given to the difficulties this requirement creates for lower-income earners and self-build applicants who may qualify for smaller loans (details supplied).

PQ67750/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

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

299. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number of visitors to an OPW Heritage site (details supplied) for each of the years 2021-2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ67675/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

300. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the number of visitors projected to visit an OPW Heritage site (details supplied) in the next calendar year, 2027.

PQ67676/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

301. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation whether consideration would be given to the closure of OPW Heritage site (details supplied).

PQ67677/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

302. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the amount that has been spent on the Financial Management Shared Service Project to date; the Departments or Votes that have indicated they will not use the system; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67671/26 | JOHN BRADY

303. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation whether the mandate for staff members in the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) to work two days per week in office rather than the present obligation of working for one day has come from his Department, and the rationale for this increase considering that the NSSO is not a public facing organisation and staff do their work from home diligently and effectively.

PQ67745/26 | SEÁN KYNE

304. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the statutory grounds under which he has suspended autonomy for day to day spending from several HSE regions; to detail any consultation he had with the Minister for Health on this matter; and to detail the date and manner in which this decision was communicated to each of affected HSE regions.

PQ67758/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

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

305. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the preparations his Department has undertaken for the implementation in Ireland of the EU REACH restrictions on the use of lead ammunition; the timeline for the introduction of any necessary regulations to give effect to the restrictions; if a transition plan is being developed to support owners of licensed firearms who may be affected; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67720/26 | CATHY BENNETT

306. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department was consulted or informed regarding Fáilte Ireland's decision to support the 12th International Conference on Degrowth in Cork in 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67896/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

307. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the process concerning the transposition of Directive (EU) 2025/2450 of 26 November 2025 amending Directive 2009/38/EC as regards the establishment and operation of European Works Councils and the effective enforcement of transnational information and consultation rights; whether the transposition will require amending the Transnational Information and Consultation of Employees Act 1996; whether a timeline is in place concerning the transposition of the directive; and if not; when a timeline will be available; and to outline the consultation process.

PQ67736/26 | PAUL MURPHY

308. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the total value of support, financial or in kind, provided or committed by Fáilte Ireland to the 12th International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity in Cork in 2027; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67883/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

309. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if Fáilte Ireland has provided support to the 12th International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity, to be held in Cork in 2027; the form that support has taken, including any financial sponsorship, grant funding, promotional support, provision of speakers or use of branding; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67881/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

310. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if Fáilte Ireland assessed any reputational, economic or stakeholder risks arising from its association with a conference (details supplied); the conclusions reached; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67894/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

311. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the person or grade within Fáilte Ireland who authorised the decision to support a conference (details supplied); and the level at which approval was given; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67892/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

312. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if a written business case, briefing note, risk assessment or evaluation was prepared by Fáilte Ireland before support was approved for a conference (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67887/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

313. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the statutory power or internal policy under which Fáilte Ireland decided to support a conference (details supplied); the manner in which that decision was assessed as consistent with the statutory objective of the National Tourism Development Authority to support a competitive and sustainable tourism sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67885/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

Chun an Oideachais agus Óige: To the Education and Youth

314. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she is aware of the situation of a first year student (details supplied) who is currently without a school place without the learning supports they require, despite their family applying to several schools; and if she will intervene to secure a suitable special school placement for this child.

PQ67699/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

315. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on an Emergency Works Grant application for a school (details supplied).

PQ67687/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

316. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide and update and a timetable for when construction works at a school (details supplied) will be completed.

PQ67718/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

317. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update and timeframe for construction works at a school (details supplied) to be completed.

PQ67716/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

318. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide for immersive Irish medium provision in Brussels according to the demand for same and in line with her powers under the policy governing language of instruction in European schools.

PQ67710/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

319. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider reopening Route 4 recognising prior learning and experience of individuals wishing to qualify as teachers; and if she has given consideration to other measures to enhance the career progression of SNAs in our education system.

PQ67707/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

320. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will extend a post primary school transport route to collect a student (details supplied) who is attending a special class from her house.

PQ67739/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

321. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will review correspondence (details supplied); if she will confirm whether spare capacity exists on the school transport route for the 2026/2027 school year; and if the application could be reconsidered given that the student traveled on this service last year when capacity became available.

PQ67899/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

322. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to support a unions request to provide immediate investment to address teacher shortages and overcrowded classrooms (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67897/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

323. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on a new school building (details supplied); and the reason Stage 2A is taking longer than expected.

PQ67938/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

324. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to parliamentary question 64517/26, if she will review the case of a person (details supplied); if she will address the particular circumstances outlined whereby the schools classified as nearer are not suitable options for the student concerned; and if she will consider whether a capacity review of the route in question could provide a practical solution.

PQ67955/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

325. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to PQ 64830/26, if she will review the case of a person; if she will clarify the reason the children concerned have been classified as non-eligible given that their home address is closer to the school they attend than to the school being treated as their nearest post-primary school; and if their eligibility status could be reviewed accordingly.

PQ67916/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

326. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of primary schools that have been reclassified from DEIS Urban Band 2 to DEIS Urban Band 1 since the conclusion of the 2022 DEIS identification and appeals process; and whether any such reclassifications have taken place outside of a Department-wide application of the DEIS identification mode.

PQ67777/26 | GARY GANNON

327. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when the next application of the DEIS identification model to all schools will take place for the purposes of determining inclusion in the DEIS programme and the classification of existing schools as DEIS Urban Band 1 or Urban Band 2; and whether consideration has been given to undertaking a new assessment having regard to changes in the profile and concentration of educational disadvantage since the model was last applied to all schools in 2022.

PQ67776/26 | GARY GANNON

328. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on a capital project for a school (details supplied).

PQ67848/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

329. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth If she will urgently review the case of a child (details supplied) in County Kildare, and been refused the home tuition scheme hours on the basis that an alternative preschool place is available in another location; if she will outline the rationale for this decision given that the child has already secured and commenced a supported transition to a preschool; and if consideration was given to the child's individual educational and developmental needs and the importance of continuity and familiarity in the transition process.

PQ67847/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

330. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the reason a recent emergency works application for a school (details supplied) was refused; and if she will ensure contact is made from her Department to the school on this serious safety issue.

PQ67843/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

331. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider the case of a child (details supplied) with a diagnosis of autism and a moderate intellectual disability who, despite applications to a number of special schools, has been unable to secure a school place for the current academic year; and the steps that will be taken to ensure that an appropriate school placement is provided without further delay.

PQ67853/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

332. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on a school building project (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67804/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

333. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on an application for additional accommodation (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67802/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

334. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding an application submitted under the climate action summer works scheme for a school (details supplied); and if the school will be considered for funding in the next phase of the scheme due in October 2026.

PQ67801/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

335. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on an application for an extension to a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67800/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

336. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she is aware of the financial pressures facing primary schools arising from increased costs such as heating, electricity, insurance and cleaning; if consideration is being given to increasing the primary school capitation grant in Budget 2027; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68026/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

337. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on an application for additional accommodation (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67799/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

338. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide an update on the tender process for a school (details supplied).

PQ67796/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

339. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update on the assessment of a report for a school (details supplied); and if her Department can confirm that the revised documentation submitted by the school was reviewed distinct from the first documentation submitted.

PQ67780/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

340. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the status of the Additional School Accommodation (ASA) project at a school (details supplied); and if she will address the fact that this vital project has successfully cleared Stage 2b (Detailed Design & Planning) and attained full planning permission for 2 mainstream classrooms, 1 SEN Base, and a multi-purpose playing pitch, yet has been excluded from the immediate National Development Plan (NDP) 2026–2027 priority list; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67835/26 | MATT CARTHY

341. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether she will engage with an organisation (details supplied) regarding the policy on incremental credits; and whether it adequately assesses past experience of teaching abroad.

PQ67983/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

342. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will give the go ahead for the addition of the construction of an extension and a safe car park at a school (details supplied).

PQ67981/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

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

343. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to consider emergency life or death situations by immediately addressing the mobile phone black spots in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67821/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

344. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when the next round of Sports Capital Grant Funding will be open for applications.

PQ67832/26 | DONNCHADH Ó LAOGHAIRE

345. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to confirm if his Department has appointed a suitably qualified individual to carry out an assessment of the issues faced by An Post retirees, as requested by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Media, Communications, Culture and Sport in a letter dated 29th of May 2026; and to outline the reason agreed pension increases have not yet been paid to An Post retirees.

PQ67957/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

346. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to assist an organisation (details supplied) to obtain Govern Body status; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67939/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

347. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport for an update on the overhaul of the grant application system at the Arts Council and the review into the IT systems at the Arts Council.

PQ67890/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

348. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport for further details on the proposed introduction of a Youth Culture Card, including the date on which it would be available.

PQ67888/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

349. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when all broadband black spots in County Kerry will be addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67869/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

350. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if his attention has been drawn to the sale of a property (details supplied); if consideration will be given by the State to acquiring the property; his views on the potential to develop the site into a National Museum of Irish Education; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67868/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

351. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport for an update on an application (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ67798/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

352. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the total funding provided to each recipient media organisation under the local democracy reporting scheme since its establishment.

PQ67837/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

353. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the total amount of funding allocated under the local democracy reporting scheme in 2025.

PQ67836/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

354. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the number of journalist posts created or supported under the local democracy reporting scheme.

PQ67839/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

355. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether funding provided under the local democracy reporting scheme is provided per specific title of media outlet or per company.

PQ67838/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

356. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if he will consider providing additional funding in Budget 2027 for TG4; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67995/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

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

357. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a firm deadline for the completion and publication of any report recommending changes to local electoral areas ahead of the 2029 local elections; when he expects the report to be finalised and delivered; and if he will ensure that any proposed changes are brought forward at the earliest possible opportunity to allow sufficient time for local authorities, elected representatives and prospective candidates to prepare for the 2029 local elections.

PQ67951/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

358. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason guidelines for local authorities on local memorialisation of former Mother and Baby Home and County Home sites have not yet been published, noting that the relevant working group's report and guidelines were stated to be at an advanced drafting stage in April 2025; and to provide a definitive timetable for their completion and publication.

PQ67779/26 | GARY GANNON

359. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of the guidelines being developed for local authorities in relation to local memorialisation projects associated with former Mother and Baby Homes and County Home Institutions; whether the guidelines have been completed and submitted for Ministerial approval; and the date on which they will be published and circulated to local authorities.

PQ67778/26 | GARY GANNON

360. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the statutory process followed by An Coimisiún Pleanála in determining an appeal arising from a planning authority decision on a retention permission application for a domestic dwelling extension; whether both the applicant and eligible third parties may appeal such decisions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67878/26 | CAROL NOLAN

361. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which local authorities are mandated and supported to ensure growing urban communities have adequate greenspace; and if he is considering implementing minimum requirements in this regard.

PQ67876/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

362. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of a case (details supplied); if there is a comprehensive explanation for the significant delay in emergency service availability; and the efforts ongoing to ensure such delays do not occur in the future.

PQ67870/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

363. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his Department's policy on the commencement of work on sites where ecological impact assessments are over five years old and significant activity of a protected species has been observed, such as the establishment of a bat colony, in the intervening five years.

PQ67987/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

364. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) no longer send a representative to attend a committee (details supplied); and if the NPWS will send a representative to attend meetings in the future.

PQ67783/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

365. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of people are there on the housing waiting list who are on working visas; who are applying for asylum; and who have achieved asylum.

PQ67986/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

366. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of people on the housing waiting list who have less than one year habitual residence in Ireland; two years' habitual residence in Ireland; three years' habitual residence in Ireland; four year's habitual residence in Ireland; and five years' habitual residence in Ireland.

PQ67984/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

367. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the supports that are available for homeowners who need grants to help update their small group septic tank systems (details supplied).

PQ67982/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

368. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to introduce a visitor accommodation levy to offset the societal cost of tourism and raise revenue for community infrastructure.

PQ67717/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection

369. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide a full account of the outcomes and success rate of the JobPath programme operated by organisations (details supplied), including the number of people referred, the number who secured employment and the number who remained in employment for a sustained period, given that 351,319 people were referred between 2015 and 2022 and the programme cost the State €344.6 million; and the total cost to the State to date.

PQ67192/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

370. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person aged under 66 years-of-age who moved from receiving an invalidity pension to a bereaved partners contributory pension is no longer eligible to receive the living alone increase; whether this distinction has been reviewed for fairness and equality; if he will consider amending legislation to include widows and widowers under 66 years-of-age who live alone and are in receipt of a bereaved partners contributory pension as eligible to receive the living alone increase; and the additional measures he is considering to support widows and widowers under 66 who live alone.

PQ67747/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

371. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the final number of participants in MyFutureFund who were eligible to opt out during the first opt-out window ending on 31 August 2026; the number and percentage who opted out; the number who subsequently cancelled an opt-out request during the cooling-off period; the total value of employee contributions refunded; the corresponding value of employer and State contributions retained in participants' funds (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67997/26 | JOHN MCGUINNESS

372. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware of reports from employers participating in the My Future Fund auto-enrolment pension initiative regarding significant delays in the processing and reimbursement of payments due to businesses; if his Department has assessed the impact such delays are having on the cash flow of small and micro-enterprises; the average waiting time currently being experienced for reimbursement; and the measures being taken to improve response times and communication with participating employers.

PQ67985/26 | CHARLES WARD

373. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a school (details supplied) can qualify for funding to support the provision of a breakfast club in the school which is currently provided using funds from an organisation (details supplied).

PQ67696/26 | BARRY WARD

374. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the position regarding funding for breakfast clubs for non DEIS schools; and if there is a scheme for schools in this position to apply for.

PQ67695/26 | BARRY WARD

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

375. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration under the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Bill 2026, if any person who holds any period of reckonable residence on the day the act commences, continues to be assessed under the residence conditions in force on that day (details supplied).

PQ67694/26 | ROBERT TROY

376. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide the recognition or appeal-success rate for international protection appeals to date in 2026, by year, nationality, application procedure; and whether an oral hearing was held and, where legally permissible, with an individual Tribunal member or Appeals Officer.

PQ67711/26 | GARY GANNON

377. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the guidelines, practice directions, training materials and country-of-origin information provided to members of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal and Appeals Officers of the Tribunal for Asylum and Returns Appeals when determining international protection appeals; whether these materials are publicly available; and if he will publish any that are not currently available.

PQ67705/26 | GARY GANNON

378. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of deportation orders that have been revoked by his Department in each of the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67703/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

379. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide a list of all Peace Commissioners appointed from 20 June 2024 to date in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67702/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

380. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on current processing times for stamp 0 permissions; if he is aware that there is a person (details supplied) who is currently waiting six months to renew their Stamp 0 permission, which has to be renewed on an annual basis; and the steps his Department is taking to address the delays.

PQ67701/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

381. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of judicial reviews that were undertaken by asylum seekers against IPAT rulings for each of the past five years; the cost to the State in terms of free legal aid for those taking the judicial reviews and also for those defending against these judicial reviews, for each of the past five years.

PQ67700/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

382. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the position regarding join family visa applications (details supplied).

PQ67813/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

383. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the current Garda strength assigned to the Mayo Garda Division, including community policing personnel; the number of Garda vacancies in the division; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67828/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

384. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the measures being taken to address repeat offending and anti social behaviour in towns and rural communities; the number of persons convicted of repeat theft and public order offences in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67827/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

385. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the reason the Garda vetting process does not allow for Northern Ireland to be selected as a birthplace, given Northern Ireland is recognised as an identity in the Northern Ireland census; whether he will change it for persons who do not consider themselves as primarily Irish or British but Northern Irish; whether this has changed since the introduction of the ECRIS (European Criminal Records Information System); and whether he considers it acceptable that 20 additional days are required in the vetting process for people who include an address for Northern Ireland.

PQ67898/26 | EMER CURRIE

386. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if the Department, or any agency under the Department's aegis, funds, part-funds, or reimburses driving lessons, driving instructor fees, or driving test fees for asylum seekers or refugees; if so, the name of the scheme, its eligibility criteria, the total spend in each year since the scheme began, and the number of individuals assisted in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67734/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

387. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of incidents of criminal damage, arson and threats to kill or cause serious harm recorded in the Cork City division in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026 that were assessed as connected to the collection or enforcement of drug-related debts; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67945/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

388. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of reports made under the Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by Garda division, with a specific breakdown for the Cork City and Cork/Kerry divisions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67937/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

389. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of persons refused leave to land at each airport in the State outside Dublin Airport in 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67936/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

390. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the current whole-time-equivalent strength of the divisional drugs units in the Cork City and Cork/Kerry divisions in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67944/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

391. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the arrangements in place to ensure that every arriving international flight at airports outside Dublin is met by an immigration officer; the number of arriving international flights at Kerry Airport in 2025 and to date in 2026 that were not met by an immigration officer; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67934/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

392. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Garda National Immigration Bureau immigration officers assigned to each airport in the State outside Dublin Airport, namely Cork, Shannon, Kerry, Knock and Donegal; if each of these airports has immigration officer coverage for all arriving international flights; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67933/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

393. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of nominated Garda Inspectors currently assigned to the Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme in the Cork City and Cork/Kerry divisions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67942/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

394. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of cases referred by An Garda Síochána to the Criminal Assets Bureau arising from drug-related debt enforcement and intimidation in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67948/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

395. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to set out the process by which the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism was appointed; the term of the appointment; and whether the role is established on a statutory or an administrative basis.

PQ67966/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

396. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration which Department and Minister currently hold responsibility for the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism; and to set out the reporting and oversight arrangements that apply to the role.

PQ67965/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

397. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the declaration of interest and conflict of interest safeguards that apply to the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism, having regard to any concurrent professional, commercial or advocacy activities of the office holder in the area of antiracism training and consultancy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67969/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

398. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide a county by county breakdown of the payments made to barristers in criminal legal aid payments for the individual months of May, June, July and August this year; and the amount paid out in criminal legal aid payments by county to barristers for the corresponding four months in 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67895/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

399. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether a code of conduct, terms of reference or standards of office apply to the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism; and the procedure by which a member of the public may raise a concern or complaint regarding the office.

PQ67968/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

400. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the total cost to the Exchequer of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism in each year since its establishment, including any fees, expenses or supports paid to the office holder; and the source of that funding.

PQ67967/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

401. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to urgently issue visas to Gaza students (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67882/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

402. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide a grandfather clause in the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2026 to ensure that marriages entered into before 2025 remain subject to the existing three-year residency requirement for spouses of Irish citizens.

PQ67762/26 | EAMON SCANLON

403. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide a county by county breakdown of the payments made to solicitors in criminal legal aid payments for the individual months of May, June, July and August this year; and the amount paid out in criminal legal aid payments by county to solicitors for the corresponding four months in 2025, in tabular form; and if will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67891/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

404. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the total amounts that have been paid out to barristers in criminal legal aid payments for the individual months of May, June, July and August this year; and the amount paid out in criminal legal aid payments to barristers for the corresponding four months in 2025, in tabular form; and if can make a statement on the matter.

PQ67889/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

405. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the total amounts that have been paid out to solicitors in criminal legal aid payments for the individual months of May, June, July and August this year; and the amount paid out in criminal legal aid payments to solicitors for the corresponding four months in 2025, in tabular form; and if will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67886/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

406. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will consider and reply to correspondence from an organisation regarding the points relevant to his Department (details supplied).

PQ67977/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

407. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration when the outstanding visa appeals for Palestinian nationals seeking to study in Ireland will be processed, given that third-level courses have already commenced for the current academic year and students risk losing their placements; and the specific criteria or differentiating factors that distinguished the 46 applications from Palestinian nationals that were recently granted visas from those that remain pending or have been refused.

PQ67867/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

408. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he has considered the suspension of visa free travel for Israeli citizens; and the mechanisms by which he ensures that individuals who may have committed war crimes in Gaza in the course of Israel's genocide do not pose a risk to the safety of Irish communities.

PQ67866/26 | CATHY BENNETT

409. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of arrests made for public order offences within Galway city in each month for 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ67842/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

410. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his plans to ensure that students who have had their visas rejected coming from Palestine will have any appeals to this refusal looked at in as little time as possible.

PQ67834/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

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

411. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when a decision can be expected in respect of the reconsideration of afforestation application (details supplied) following the decision of the Forestry Appeals Committee to set aside and remit the original decision; whether his Department has set a target timeframe for the reconsideration of remitted cases; and if he will provide a specific timeframe for the conclusion of this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67812/26 | JOHN MCGUINNESS

412. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an update on the engagement between his Department and an organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67964/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

413. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when his Department will publish the report of the Food Vision Seafood Sector Group established last year.

PQ67855/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

414. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department will review its position in relation to requests for records concerning the use of snares to capture badgers; whether searches for such records will encompass records described using terms (details supplied); and whether his Department continues to maintain that requests referring to "snares" do not encompass the stopped cable or body restraints used in its badger capture programme.

PQ68016/26 | PAUL MURPHY

415. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is aware that, in official correspondence dated 15 March 2024 concerning the Department's badger capture programme, the Head of the Wildlife Unit referred to the "total number dead in snare/cage" and to "non-target animals captured in snares/cages", before referring to those capture devices as "restraints"; whether his Department accepts that the term "snare" was being used by its Wildlife Unit to describe the stopped cable or body restraints used to capture badgers; and, if not, to identify precisely the devices the Head of the Wildlife Unit was referring to as "snares".

PQ68013/26 | PAUL MURPHY

416. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for an update on the development of the new Regional Veterinary Laboratory in Sligo; the current status of the project; the anticipated timeline for planning, tendering and construction; and the expected completion date.

PQ67803/26 | EAMON SCANLON

417. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the numerical, scientific and editorial verification that was undertaken before publication of the Wildlife Unit End of Year Report for 2025; whether his Department has since identified further errors, including the statement that 2,051 badgers removed for epidemiological reasons in 2025 represented an increase from 413 in 2024 when Table 4 records 1,638 such removals in 2024; and whether a fully corrected version of the report will now be published identifying all amendments made.

PQ68011/26 | PAUL MURPHY

418. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide the methodology and calculation supporting the estimate in the Wildlife Unit End of Year Report for 2025 that approximately 65,000 recorded badger setts represent between 7,000 and 10,000 badger social groups, given that the same report states that a social group typically uses four to six setts; and to identify the scientific or other evidence on which the estimate is based.

PQ68010/26 | PAUL MURPHY

419. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to clarify the distinction between the 61,895 confirmed badger setts and the figure of more than 65,000 setts referred to in the Wildlife Unit End of Year Report for 2025; to state the exact number represented by each figure and the definition applied to each category; and whether unconfirmed, inactive, duplicate or historical sett records account for the difference.

PQ68008/26 | PAUL MURPHY

420. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether the stated total of 5,258 badger captures in the 2022 row of Table 4 of the Wildlife Unit End of Year Report for 2025 is incorrect, given that the component figures shown in that row total 7,247; to identify the correct figure; and whether his Department will correct the published report and any other records containing the erroneous figure.

PQ68007/26 | PAUL MURPHY

421. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to clarify the statement in the Wildlife Unit End of Year Report for 2025 that CVERA "assess the applications" for badger-removal permits, in circumstances where CVERA has stated that it does not determine whether eligibility criteria have been met and does not assess the epidemiological evidence, veterinary information or wildlife attribution underpinning

applications; the substantive assessment CVERA undertakes before approving capture blocks or issuing permits; and whether the report will be corrected if its description of CVERA's role is inaccurate.

PQ68006/26 | PAUL MURPHY

Chun an Leanaí, Míchumais agus Comhionannais: To the Children, Disability and Equality

422. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the mechanism that exist to ensure that the digitisation of public services across Government does not result in persons who are older, disabled, digitally excluded or unable to use online systems being denied equal access to State services, supports or entitlements; and whether she has sought a Government-wide review of this issue.

PQ67683/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

423. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the guidance her Department has issued to public bodies concerning their obligations under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty when introducing or expanding digital-only services; whether equality and human-rights assessments are required before such services replace existing non-digital access; and if not, the reason.

PQ67680/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

424. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of registered childminders in their own home, by county, in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ67905/26 | GED NASH

425. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality as part of the HSE's National Service Plan 2026 to outline the location by county and by town/village of the proposed new 152 created residential placements for people with disabilities (details supplied).

PQ67851/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

426. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for a breakdown of all 9,000 residential places for people with disabilities by county and by town/village in that county.

PQ67850/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

427. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the share of expenditure spent on agency staff for every section 39 organisati

PQ68024/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

428. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the development of Shaping the Future Phase 2; and when it will be published in 2026.

PQ67979/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

429. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to confirm that home support will be provided for a person (details supplied) in the week where they are not currently receiving home support, given that they receive this care the three other weeks of the month.

PQ67704/26 | COLM BURKE

Chun an Sláinte: To the Health

430. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to publish the Heads of a Bill on adult safeguarding; whether the published framework for adult safeguarding in the health and social care sectors will inform the legislation; and her views on whether the elderly and those with disabilities are vulnerable to threats and that safeguarding legislation is required.

PQ67697/26 | SEÁN KYNE

431. To ask the Minister for Health if she will clarify the roll out of insulin pumps at the diabetic clinic based at the midlands regional hospital Mullingar; if the clinic currently has the capacity to roll out pumps; and the steps being taken to provide the necessary resources.

PQ67693/26 | ROBERT TROY

432. To ask the Minister for Health if she will clarify the position of the diabetic clinic at the Midlands regional Hospital Mullingar; if the clinic will be closing temporarily from 1 October 2026; if so, the provisions being made for those who have scheduled appointments post this date; if she will further clarify the current staffing levels at this diabetic clinic; and if positions remain to be filled.

PQ67692/26 | ROBERT TROY

433. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for the implementation of the newly approved Huntington's Disease Care Pathway, following the approval notification issued by the Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland on 28 August 2026.

PQ67691/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

434. To ask the Minister for Health the policy in Ireland on umbilical cord donation for stem cell collection and treatment; and if her Department has considered the creation of a public cord blood bank.

PQ67690/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

435. To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to address the severe delays in neurology review appointments for degenerative conditions, with specific reference to cases where patients with Huntington's disease have had long waits to see their neurologist; and the specific measures within the new care pathway to reduce these waiting lists.

PQ67689/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

436. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the Tobacco Free Ireland Policy Review; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67688/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

437. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide new funding to Diabetes Ireland to employ two psychologists to further support delivery of its Mental Health and Wellbeing Programmes to people living with diabetes and their parents/carers.

PQ67685/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

438. To ask the Minister for Health if she will sanction a HIQA Health Technology Assessment on the effectiveness and long term health benefits of continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) for people with other types of diabetes, such as type 2 diabetes, cystic fibrosis-related diabetes, type 3c diabetes and so on, using daily insulin injections (basal-bolus) to potentially expand access to CGM based on clinical need rather than a type of diabetes.

PQ67684/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

439. To ask the Minister for Health if she will make continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) available to women with type 2 diabetes (approximately 300 women per year) for the duration of their pregnancy to minimise the health risks for mother and baby.

PQ67682/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

440. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide new funding to provide a new registered advanced nurse practitioner post in each young adult diabetes clinic in all level 4 hospitals to support the further development of each local service.

PQ67681/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

441. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of an incident (details supplied); and the measures she will take to increase ambulance personal and vehicle capacity in County Meath.

PQ67722/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

442. To ask the Minister for Health if she 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.

PQ67678/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

443. 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 1 diabetes from accessing continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), which clinical evidence and recommendations overwhelmingly supports as first-choice glucose monitoring treatment for all people with type 1 diabetes.

PQ67679/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

444. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department, in conjunction with the relevant regulatory and clinical bodies has reviewed whether additional safeguards are required in relation to access by children and adolescents to over-the-counter medicines which may be used in incidents of self-harm.

PQ67825/26 | COLM BURKE

445. To ask the Minister for Health whether consideration will be given to issuing clear and nationally consistent guidance to pharmacies and non-pharmacy retailers regarding the sale of paracetamol and other commonly available medicines to children and adolescents.

PQ67824/26 | COLM BURKE

446. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department will examine the introduction of a statutory minimum age for the purchase of over the counter paracetamol products, having regard to safeguarding concerns relating to children and adolescents.

PQ67823/26 | COLM BURKE

447. To ask the Minister for Health to clarify the current legal position regarding the sale of over the counter paracetamol products to persons under 18 years-of-age; and whether any statutory minimum age currently applies in pharmacies or non-pharmacy retail outlets.

PQ67822/26 | COLM BURKE

448. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm that the entirety of funding for a person (details supplied) to attend an adult disability day placement will urgently be made available due to the needs of the person.

PQ67820/26 | COLM BURKE

449. To ask the Minister for Health the outcome if a home subject to the fair deal scheme was not insured and damaged by fire; and the way in which the contribution to the fair deal scheme will be settled.

PQ67816/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

450. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has plans to raise the mileage rate for HSE workers, especially those working caring for patients in more rural areas and who have to travel longer distances; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67829/26 | CATHAL CROWE

451. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will seek an update from her officials.

PQ67819/26 | CORMAC DEVLIN

452. To ask the Minister for Health the obligations for homeowners who have entered into the fair deal scheme for providing insurance against fire and so on; the arrangements in place where the householder no longer has capacity to enter into an insurance contract; and if there is no power of attorney in place for someone else to do it on their behalf.

PQ67818/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

453. To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to expanding dedicated support for family members who accrue or inherit responsibility for a relative's drug debt, in recognition of the intimidation and financial harm involved; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67926/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

454. To ask the Minister for Health when a family will receive an offer of primary care psychology intervention (details supplied).

PQ67737/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

455. To ask the Minister for Health the number of family support workers funded in the Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force area in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67924/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

456. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in the printing of physical medical cards; and if there is an update on when the issues will be addressed.

PQ67923/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

457. To ask the Minister for Health the average wait time for an ambulance in the County Meath region; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67727/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

458. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance personnel employed to serve the County Meath region; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67726/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

459. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance vehicles dedicated to County Meath; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67725/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

460. To ask the Minister for Health when a payment in respect of the Cross Border Directive will be paid to a person (details supplied).

PQ67723/26 | SEAN FLEMING

461. To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided for family support services for families affected by a member's addiction in the Cork/Kerry region in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026, including any services working alongside families experiencing drug-related intimidation; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67921/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

462. To ask the Minister for Health the funding allocated to the Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67920/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

463. To ask the Minister for Health the number of residential addiction treatment beds available to residents of the Cork/Kerry region in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67918/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

464. To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for community and residential addiction treatment services in the Cork/Kerry region in each of the years 2021 to 2025 and to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67914/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

465. To ask the Minister for Health if approval has been granted to Cork University Hospital to recruit the staff required to operationalise 21 additional acute inpatient beds, due to be delivered by year end.

PQ67774/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

466. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the 21 in-patient beds due to be delivered in Cork University Hospital this year; the timeline for opening these beds; and the total additional staff requirement to operationalise all 21 beds, by grade.

PQ67773/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

467. To ask the Minister for Health the number of days in which CT scanners in Cork University Hospital were closed or capacity was restricted due to staff shortages in 2026.

PQ67771/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

468. To ask the Minister for Health the number of CT scan machines in Cork University Hospital.

PQ67769/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

469. To ask the Minister for Health the number of radiographers employed in Cork University Hospital in each of the years from 2020 to date in 2026.

PQ67763/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

470. To ask the Minister for Health the protocols in place for the care and supervision of patients presenting with acute psychosis while awaiting psychiatric assessment in emergency departments; the supports available to family members accompanying such patients; and whether her Department is reviewing these arrangements with a view to improving patient safety and dignity during prolonged waits for assessment.

PQ67761/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

471. To ask the Minister for Health the facilities available at Mayo University Hospital for patients presenting in an acute mental health crisis, including those experiencing psychosis; the number of dedicated mental health assessment rooms available; whether additional facilities are planned (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67760/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

472. To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time for psychiatric assessment for persons presenting with acute psychosis or other acute mental health crises at the Emergency Department of Mayo University Hospital in each of the past three years; the longest wait recorded during this period; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67759/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

473. To ask the Minister for Health to advise on matter raised in correspondence (details supplied).

PQ67884/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

474. To ask the Minister for Health if staff from existing HSE sites are to be redeployed to commission the HSE South West Surgical Hub; if so, the number of staff, broken down by grade and location (details supplied).

PQ67754/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

475. To ask the Minister for Health the number of posts required for the HSE South West Surgical Hub, by grade; the number of posts funded; the number of posts approved; and the number of staff in post.

PQ67752/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

476. To ask the Minister for Health If she will review the case of a person (details supplied).

PQ67751/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

477. To ask the Minister for Health if she will consider and reply to correspondence from an organisation (details supplied) regarding the points relevant to her Department.

PQ67978/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

478. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a list of the services currently available in Monaghan Hospital.

PQ67857/26 | CATHY BENNETT

479. To ask the Minister for Health the number of wards currently in use in Monaghan Hospital and what they are used for.

PQ67858/26 | CATHY BENNETT

480. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the number of staff employed in Monaghan Hospital, by department.

PQ67859/26 | CATHY BENNETT

481. To ask the Minister for Health the number of beds currently available in Monaghan Hospital for both in-patient and outpatient services.

PQ67860/26 | CATHY BENNETT

482. To ask the Minister for Health if she could provide a list of the diagnostic equipment in Monaghan Hospital.

PQ67861/26 | CATHY BENNETT

483. To ask the Minister for Health if she could provide a list of theatre procedures done in Monaghan Hospital.

PQ67862/26 | CATHY BENNETT

484. To ask the Minister for Health the current number of rooms in Monaghan Hospital; the number that are in use and number that are unused.

PQ67863/26 | CATHY BENNETT

485. To ask the Minister for Health the other facilities are available in Monaghan Hospital.

PQ67864/26 | CATHY BENNETT

486. To ask the Minister for Health the WTE staff in cardiology allocated to Monaghan Hospital.

PQ67865/26 | CATHY BENNETT

487. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the development of specific services for adults with ADHD in County Galway.

PQ67841/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

488. To ask the Minister for Health whether consideration has been given to increasing recovery bed capacity for patients undergoing cerebral angiograms and other neurovascular procedures at Beaumont Hospital; whether an additional dedicated recovery bed or beds could be provided to reduce cancellations arising from bed shortages; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68018/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

489. To ask the Minister for Health the average and longest waiting times from diagnosis of a cerebral aneurysm to definitive treatment in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68022/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

490. To ask the Minister for Health the average and longest waiting times from diagnosis of a cerebral aneurysm to definitive treatment in each of the past five years; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68021/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

491. To ask the Minister for Health the number of cerebral angiogram procedures cancelled at Beaumont Hospital in each of the past five years due to a lack of available inpatient or recovery beds; the number of patients whose procedure was cancelled on more than one occasion; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68019/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

492. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients who had a cerebral angiogram appointment cancelled on the day of their scheduled procedure due to the unavailability of a recovery bed in each of the past five years; the number of patients whose procedure was cancelled on four or more occasions before receiving treatment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68015/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

493. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to reduce delays for patients awaiting non urgent cerebral angiograms and aneurysm treatment; the number of recovery beds designated for neurosurgical and neurovascular patients at Beaumont Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68014/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

494. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE is the owner of the buildings and lands (details supplied).

PQ67806/26 | EMER CURRIE

495. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department has researched AI therapy chatbots or mental health tools; and if her Department is exploring options for the regulation of AI tools purporting to provide therapeutic services.

PQ68023/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

496. To ask the Minister for Health to provide 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 respectively.

PQ67794/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

497. To ask the Minister for Health to examine the case of an advance nurse practitioner (details supplied) who is still being paid at the candidate ANP rate despite being formally registered as of June 2026.

PQ67793/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

498. To ask the Minister for Health the case-specific information available to an applicant seeking an update on an outstanding Cross-Border Directive reimbursement application; whether applicants can be informed of the stage their application has reached; whether it has been assessed as complete; whether further information or review is required; the indicative timeframe for reimbursement; and whether consideration will be given to providing meaningful individual updates rather than general information regarding current backlogs.

PQ67996/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

499. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a two-year waiting list for an speech and language therapist for children has been allowed to develop; the number of children that are currently waiting for a Speech and Language assessment in HSE Dublin and North East, HSE Dublin and Midlands and HSE Dublin and South-East Regions; the steps her Department are taking to address this backlog; and the number of speech and language therapists currently employed by the HSE in the Clontarf, Kilbarrack, Coolock and Coastal Children's Disability Network Teams.

PQ67792/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

500. To ask the Minister for Health to examine the case of a person (details supplied).

PQ67791/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

501. To ask the Minister for Health to examine the case of a person (details supplied) whose scheduled spinal surgery has been cancelled ten times.

PQ67789/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

502. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm 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 reason completed applications submitted in 2025 may remain outstanding while some applications submitted in January and February 2026 have subsequently been reimbursed.

PQ67994/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

503. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm 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; if so, to outline those circumstances and explain how completed applications submitted in 2025 may remain outstanding while some applications submitted in January and February 2026 have subsequently been reimbursed.

PQ67788/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

504. To ask the Minister for Health the case-specific information that is available to an applicant seeking an update on an outstanding Cross-Border Directive reimbursement application; whether applicants can be informed of the stage their application has reached, whether it has been assessed as complete; whether further information or review is required, and an indicative timeframe for reimbursement; and whether consideration will be given to providing meaningful individual updates rather than general information regarding current backlogs.

PQ67787/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

505. To ask the Minister for Health to provide 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 respectively, in tabular form.

PQ67992/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

506. To ask the Minister for Health if the position of adult speech and language therapists has been filled for HSE North and North West and specifically for Leitrim and Sligo.

PQ67990/26 | MARTIN KENNY

507. To ask the Minister for Health the assessment that has been made of the financial and healthcare impact of prolonged Cross-Border Directive reimbursement delays, including on patients servicing loans used to fund treatment and patients whose subsequent treatment has been postponed or cancelled while awaiting reimbursement; the additional staffing or resources that have been allocated to address the current backlog; the measures being taken to reduce processing times; and whether a target date has been established for returning processing times to the HSE's stated aim of reimbursement within 30 working days.

PQ67786/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

508. To ask the Minister for Health if she will increase the qualifying income thresholds for a medical card for those over the aged of 70.

PQ67784/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

509. To ask the Minister for Health to clarify if staff recruited by acute hospitals to achieve baseline implementation of Phase 1 of the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix are counted separately from, or included within, each site's employment ceiling.

PQ67781/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

510. To ask the Minister for Health the number of funded radiographer posts from 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026 which remain vacant in Cork University Hospital; the number for which approval has been sought; the number for which approval has been granted; and of those that have been approved, the number in post.

PQ67766/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

511. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1661 of 18 March 2026, to confirm that a drug (details supplied) is to be discontinued from January 2027; and the plans that are in place to replace this product which is essential for many people who are undergoing weight loss treatment.

PQ67833/26 | MATT CARTHY

512. To ask the Minister for Health for any plans the HSE have to increase the parking capacity at Merlin Park Hospital Galway.

PQ67840/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

513. To ask the Minister for Health to list for every section 39 organisation the share of expenditure spent on agency staff.

PQ68025/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

514. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Sláinte cén uair a bheas níos mó spásanna in Áras Mhic Dara oscailte, agus céard é an t-eolas is déanaí maidir leis na naoi leaba a bhí geallta níos luaithe i mbliana.

PQ68020/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

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

515. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for an update on the case of a student (details supplied) who has completed the academic component of a PLC course and has now received provisional results, but whose official results may not be uploaded in time to allow their qualification to be considered for the final CAO offer round on 29 September 2026; whether his Department has engaged with the relevant bodies to identify a means of ensuring the student is not disadvantaged solely as a result of the timing of the results process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67817/26 | EMER CURRIE

516. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the government has considered utilizing accumulated surplus balances in the National Training Fund to address identified structural funding deficits in the higher education sector; and whether exceptional arrangements have been examined to allow such funding to be deployed outside of existing departmental budgetary expenditure ceilings.

PQ67958/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

517. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if the full cost of pay awards arising under Government-approved national pay agreements will be provided through recurring core grant funding to higher education institutions in 2027; and whether this will include funding to address recognised legacy shortfalls associated with previous pay agreements.

PQ67956/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

518. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will give detailed consideration to the requests outlined by a national organisation (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67963/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

519. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the manner in which the recruitment of 25 professor positions for the TU sector will be advanced, including the timeline for recruitment; whether there will be a phased approach; whether individual TUs will compete to secure funding for positions, or if each TU has been assigned a number of positions for which they may recruit; if in the case of the latter the allocation by institution, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67849/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

520. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason a level eight (honours) degree (details supplied) is not included in the SUSI student grant scheme 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67810/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

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

521. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the level of additional funding he plans to seek for the Irish language and Gaeltacht sector in Budget 2027; the measures being considered to support the implementation of the Government's language objectives and An Plean Fáis, and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ68005/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

522. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the amount of ORIS funding that has been allocated to Meath county council for each of the years 2020 to 2025, and to date in 2026, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67738/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

523. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if provision is being made within Budget 2027 to increase investment in the Irish language and Gaeltacht sector, including support for organisations (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ67993/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

524. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will consider providing additional funding in Budget 2027 for Foras na Gaeilge and Údarás na Gaeltachta; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ68299/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL