



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 15 Deireadh Fómhair, 2026
Thursday, 15th October, 2026

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY**Chun an Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta: To the Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht**

1. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta ar phléigh a Roinn an Staidéar Cuimsitheach Teangeolaíoch agus an córas pleanála leis an Roinn Tithíochta agus iad ag ullmhú an Ráiteas Náisiúnta Pleanála do Cheantair Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, go háirithe an tábhacht a bhaineann le 67% a bheith ag úsáid na Gaeilge, nó an bhfuil siad ar an eolas faoi, nó ar iarr siad ón Roinn Tithíochta aon chomhairle ó theangeolaithe a thug bunús don chéatadán molta sa Ráiteas do LPT go mbeadh coinníollacha tithíochta bunaithe ar líon na gcainteoirí Gaeilge sa daonáireamh móide 10%.

PQ73302/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

2. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the dedicated funding that will be available to individual Men's and Women's Sheds in 2027; if he plans to introduce a guaranteed annual grant to assist with essential running costs; the arrangements that will be out in place to ensure that individual sheds can access this funding without undue administrative burden; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73346/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

3. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when he expects the next iteration of Our Rural Future to be launched; and the way in which the Government intends to ensure that its rural development commitments are supported by adequate resources, measurable actions and clear delivery timelines.

PQ73148/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

4. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if SICAP funding for next year will be increased or decreased; and the way in which he expects to maintain the delivery of services under the programme if extra resources are not allocated, whilst current costs increase.

PQ73143/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

5. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on the progress of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund application process; whether a timeline can be provided for the announcement and release of funding under the current round; and whether consideration will be given to projects such as Newtownforbes Community Hub in County Longford, a building of significant historical and community importance, to ensure that vital community services can be delivered and expanded for the benefit of the local population.

PQ73186/26 | MICHEÁL CARRIGY

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**Chun an Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta: To the Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht**

6. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the way in which Budget 2027 will support disadvantaged urban communities.

PQ72673/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

7. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will provide increased funding for the local improvement scheme in 2027 to address the backlog of applications for the repair and improvement of non-public roads in County Galway; and whether consideration will be given to a multi-annual funding programme to provide greater certainty to local authorities and communities.

PQ72315/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

8. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to clarify recent difficulties surrounding the funding of Men's Sheds.

PQ67464/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

9. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the assurances he can give rural communities regarding the future of the LEADER programme, including its funding levels, allocation timelines and long-term security.

PQ72921/26 | SORCA CLARKE

10. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the measures his Department is taking to support the thousands of volunteers who deliver community development activities throughout rural Ireland, particularly to administration, governance, insurance and rising operating costs.

PQ72529/26 | FIONNTÁN Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN

11. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to outline the programmes in place that support capacity building among community organisations that have limited experience in grant applications (details supplied).

PQ72407/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

12. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the role his Department has taken in tackling vacancy and dereliction in our towns and villages.

PQ72877/26 | THOMAS GOULD

13. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his plans for the use of the increased SÍOL funding, as allocated under Budget 2027.

PQ72674/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

14. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the proportion of his Department's funding allocation for 2027 that will go to community development for the Traveller community.

PQ72951/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

15. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the way in which the €208 million allocated to rural development under Budget 2027 will benefit communities in Roscommon and East Galway, particularly smaller towns and villages seeking investment in regeneration and community infrastructure; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72834/26 | MARTIN DALY

16. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding available to Louth County Council under the 2026 town and village renewal scheme; the criteria used to assess applications; the expected date for announcing successful projects; and whether additional funding will be considered where the value of eligible applications exceeds the funding available.

PQ72813/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

17. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when a new funding phase will be announced for community centre building.

PQ72878/26 | THOMAS GOULD

18. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cad é líon na n-iarraitas ar ceadaiódh maoiniú dóibh faoin gClár Tacaíochtaí Pobail agus Teanga in 2024 agus in 2025; cén dáta a fuair an Roinn gach iarraitas ar éirigh leis; agus an bhfuil na leithdháiltí uile tarraingthe anuas go hiomlán ag na grúpaí pobail ar bronnadh maoiniú orthu.

PQ72899/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

19. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to confirm the level of funding that has been made available for rural community groups for improvements to Community Centres in Budget 2027; and if any funding will be made available for new builds in 2027.

PQ72668/26 | COLM BURKE

20. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding that will be provided for the establishment of a library as part of the regeneration of Limerick city centre.

PQ72902/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

21. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the basis for the €1 million allocation for North-South cooperation in Budget 2027; the way in which this compares with the allocation in 2026; and the way in which funding will be distributed between core operations.

PQ72955/26 | JOHNNY MYTHEN

22. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the consideration given to ensure that grant funding is directed towards towns, villages and communities that are lacking in social infrastructure such as community centres, performance spaces and town parks.

PQ72490/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

23. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the current position regarding the Community Centre Investment Fund.

PQ72969/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

24. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to provide an update on the timeline for the announcement and allocation of funding under the CLÁR Programme, recognising the vital role this funding plays in supporting community development projects across rural Ireland; and when groups awaiting decisions, such as the applicants from Longford community groups, can expect funding announcements and subsequent drawdown.

PQ72195/26 | MICHEÁL CARRIGY

25. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the proportion of his Department's budget allocation for 2027 that will go to community schemes, youth work, youth diversion, and other similar projects.

PQ72943/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

26. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when he expects the community centre grants to be announced, given the benefit of such centres to rural communities.

PQ72592/26 | MARK WALL

27. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department will consider providing Gaeltacht funding to Omeath.

PQ72930/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

28. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the amount of funding expended under the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy allocation for works on Inchagoill Island, County Galway (details supplied) which was advanced to Coillte; the reason Coillte has indicated that it will not be carrying out any further works on the island; and if responsibility for the completion of the project will be transferred to another body.

PQ72938/26 | SEÁN KYNE

29. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cén teagmháil a bhí ag a Roinn le Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe agus le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta maidir le tithíocht a sholáthar i bpobail Ghaeltachta i gConamara agus cén bearta sonracha atá á mbreithniú chun tacú le seachadadh tithe do mhuintir na háite agus do phobal na Gaeilge.

PQ72957/26 | SEÁN KYNE

30. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the up-to-date position regarding funding for the Community Services Programme.

PQ72959/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

31. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the additional funding and supports being considered for community organisations in disadvantaged areas in north Dublin including (details supplied), to tackle social exclusion, antisocial behaviour and support local communities.

PQ72990/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

32. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on CCIF applications for Carlow and Kilkenny.

PQ72670/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

33. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if the additional €5 million allocated to the Community Services Programme in Budget 2027 will be sufficient to meet increased salary, pension and operating costs faced by participating community organisations; the assessment his Department has made of the funding shortfall facing these organisations; and whether further funding will be provided to protect existing jobs and services.

PQ72926/26 | PAT BUCKLEY

34. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the initiatives being developed to combat social isolation in rural communities, particularly among older people and those living alone; and whether additional investment in community meeting places and local voluntary organisations is planned.

PQ72833/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

35. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on the forthcoming review of the CLÁR programme; the timeframe for its commencement and completion; and if the eligibility of footpath construction in rural towns and villages forms part of the review.

PQ72986/26 | PETER ROCHE

36. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to provide an update on his plans to support regeneration in towns and villages across Galway East.

PQ71357/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

37. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the number of communities in Galway east that became newly eligible for CLÁR funding, following the recent review of the scheme; and if he will consider further expanding eligibility to rural communities experiencing population growth but which continue to face significant deficits in community infrastructure and services.

PQ72314/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

38. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will provide an update on major infrastructural projects whose progression is blocking the development of housing in the Gaeltacht; and the actions his Department is taking to expedite same.

PQ72807/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

39. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cén fáth nach bhfuil na caighdeáin teanga foilsithe agus dáta roghnaithe faoina mbeidh oifigi stáit sa Ghaeltacht ag feidhmiú trí Ghaeilge mar a bhí geallta faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021 agus an nglacann sé leis go bhfuil sárú ar fhorálacha na reachtaíochta sin dá réir.

PQ73001/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

40. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cén fáth nach bhfuil comhlachtaí poiblí forordaithe go fóill ionas go mbeidh siad in ann glacadh le síneadh fada in ainm an duine, de réir a gcuid cumhachta faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2021, agus an bhfuil sé sásta tacú leis an mBille um Ainm agus Seoladh Gaeilge an Duine (Síneadh Fada), 2026.

PQ73003/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

41. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if the Government has allocated additional funding for SICAP; and the meaning of 'seeking efficiencies from the workers and organisations that deliver those programmes on the ground'.

PQ72881/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

42. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department will provide funding shortly for urban centre rejuvenation in medium sized towns of 20,000 to 25,000 in growing areas which once were considered rural to help with community development.

PQ72894/26 | JOE NEVILLE

43. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to consider allowing supports for the development and protection of beaches under the town and village renewal funds, which would specifically help coastal towns and villages

PQ72436/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

44. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on CLÁR applications for Carlow and Kilkenny.

PQ72669/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

45. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an mbeidh an méadú €1 milliún ar mhaoiniú Foras na Gaeilge i mBuiséad 2027 leordhóthanach chun coinneáil suas le boillsciú agus le hardú ar chostais reatha; agus cén tionchar a bheidh aige seo ar chumas an Fhorais tacú le heagraíochtaí agus tionscnaimh Ghaeilge ar fud an oileáin.

PQ72975/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

46. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he plans to introduce additional financial supports for community and voluntary organisations in County Louth experiencing increased insurance, energy, maintenance and staffing costs; and if he has considered providing recurring operational funding rather than capital grants alone.

PQ72814/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

47. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the total capital funding allocated in Budget 2027 for Gaeltacht development, Irish-language infrastructure and Irish-language organisations, compared with 2026; the reasons for any reduction in capital expenditure; and the way in which his Department intends to ensure that investment is sufficient to support the sustainability of Gaeltacht communities and the objectives of the Government's Irish-language policy.

PQ72948/26 | JOHNNY MYTHEN

48. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his views on the results of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Annual Report 2025.

PQ72941/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

49. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding available for community spaces and recreational facilities for young people in West Wicklow; and the way in which his Department will engage with young persons to identify and assess the needs.

PQ72783/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

50. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the specific supports in place in his Department and in co-operation with other Government Departments to address the issue of dereliction in towns, villages and the rural countryside.

PQ71612/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

51. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding allocated to Cavan and Monaghan county councils for lane improvements works under the local improvement scheme in each of the years 2020 to 2025 and the proposed allocations for 2026.

PQ73011/26 | MATT CATHY

52. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an bhfuil sé ar an eolas faoin moladh atá déanta ag comhairleoirí contae i gCiarraí maidir le teorainneacha na Gaeltachta a leathnú sa gcontae sin, agus an bhfuil sé i gceist aige breathnú ar an gceist.

PQ73000/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

53. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the position regarding any work ongoing within his Department to support Mná Tí and other accommodation providers to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available for secondary school students to attend Gaeltacht summer colleges courses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ71449/26 | BARRY WARD

54. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if consideration has been given to the employment of supervisors for CSP funded organisations such as community centres.

PQ72767/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

55. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his plans to clear the backlog of the Local Improvement Scheme, whether there will be an additional allocation in 2026; and the amount that will be allocated to Clare in 2027.

PQ73005/26 | JOE COONEY

56. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cén dul chun cinn atá déanta ó ceapadh an cheanneagraíocht atá freagrach as plean teanga bhaile seirbhíse Gaeltachta Mhaigh Chromtha; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh.

PQ72682/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

57. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the further incentives he is considering to ensure that small towns and villages in rural Ireland grow, develop and thrive and have the facilities and social infrastructure needed to provide a high quality of life for their communities.

PQ72996/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

58. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta an féidir leis a dheimhniú nach bhfuil aon mhaoiniú breise curtha ar fáil do mhná tí agus d'earnáil na gcoláistí samhraidh i mBuiséad 2027; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh.

PQ72994/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

59. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the way in which Budget 2027 will support urban areas with the highest concentration of disadvantage.

PQ72675/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

60. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his plans to provide a dedicated funding stream to assist community and voluntary organisations in dealing with increased running costs and expenses; if consideration has, or will be given, to introducing a scheme similar to previous versions of the Local Enhancement Programme which provided such support; and the measures being considered by his Department to ensure that these costs do not undermine the continued viability and activities of community organisations.

PQ72153/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

61. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his engagement with other Government Departments and State agencies to support hotels in rural communities and small towns.

PQ73012/26 | MATT CARTHY

62. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason no dedicated implementation funding has been identified for the successor to Our Rural Future in Budget 2027; the way in which the Government intends to ensure that its rural development commitments are supported by adequate resources, measurable actions and clear delivery timelines; and if he will publish a funded implementation plan setting out departmental responsibilities and annual expenditure commitments.

PQ72928/26 | PAT BUCKLEY

63. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the steps he has taken to ensure that a section (details supplied) in the Language Impact Statement in the Sustainable Rural and Gaeltacht Housing Draft National Planning Statement which is opposed by most Gaeltacht areas and all language groups, is amended.

PQ72870/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

64. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht his assessment of the future impact on rural and community development in eastern Mayo and Sligo if the proposed Sligo greenway is installed on the disused Western Rail Corridor railway line.

PQ72960/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

65. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when a decision will be made on RRDF applications.

PQ71285/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

66. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the way in which Budget 2027 will support community centres.

PQ72929/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

67. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the status of plans to provide a community centre/community facility in the Garryowen area of Limerick.

PQ72887/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

68. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will provide an update on plans to expand Lónra Gaeilge scheme to new towns.

PQ73007/26 | CATHY BENNETT

69. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to outline his plans to strengthen the Irish language in the two Meath Gaeltachts.

PQ71299/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

70. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will report on his engagements regarding the LEADER programme under the next EU budgetary cycle.

PQ73009/26 | CATHY BENNETT

71. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the changes being made to the town and village renewal scheme to include urban villages.

PQ72932/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

72. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cárb as a dtiocfaidh an laghdú ar bhuiséad caipitil na Gaeltachta i mBuiséad 2027, agus cad é an buiséad caipitil go sonrach a bheidh ag Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2027 i gcomparáid le 2026; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh.

PQ72993/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

73. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht for an update on the development of a new rural development policy.

PQ72900/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

74. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the reason no additional funding has been allocated to SICAP in Budget 2027, despite rising demand for its services; and the assessment that has been made of the impact on community organisations and the people they support.

PQ72920/26 | SORCA CLARKE

75. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the specific measures he will introduce to ensure that volunteer-led community centres in rural areas, including County Galway, can access funding for essential refurbishment, accessibility works and equipment without prohibitive financial or administrative barriers; if these measures will include a review of match-funding requirements, provision

for phased grant payments and practical assistance with applications and drawdown; and the timetable for implementing the commitment to a permanent, rolling Community Centre Investment Fund.

PQ72991/26 | PETER ROCHE

76. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to acknowledge the significant financial pressures facing community and voluntary organisations as a result of inflation and rising essential operating costs, including insurance, energy, heating, rent and administration; and if he will consider increasing dedicated core funding to ensure organisations can meet their day-to-day running expenses.

PQ72933/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

77. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he or his Department has any plans in place to address the long waiting times for the local improvement schemes; and if he will make funding available to local authorities as soon as possible for 2027.

PQ71609/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

78. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will commit to expanding the local improvement scheme, given the benefits to rural Ireland.

PQ72782/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

79. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the initiatives are being developed by his Department to support the long-term sustainability of rural villages experiencing population decline and reduced local services; if additional resources are being considered; and if his Department has had any engagements with the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Office of the Planning Regulator on the challenges in addressing rural depopulation.

PQ72560/26 | JOE COONEY

80. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the position regarding any engagement he has had with the Women's Sheds of Ireland with a view to supporting their expansion at a local level.

PQ71450/26 | BARRY WARD

81. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding available for the LEADER Programme under Budget 2027.

PQ72676/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

82. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department plans to support community development projects in Kildare north in the next year.

PQ72987/26 | JOE NEVILLE

83. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the dedicated funding that will be provided to implement the successor to Our Rural Future; when the new policy will be published; and the way in which its objectives will be delivered without dedicated implementation funding.

PQ72977/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

84. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding is available to support the development of community centres and facilities in rapidly growing urban areas, particularly in north Dublin including in Belmayne and Clongriffin, where community infrastructure has not kept pace with population growth; and if additional investment will be considered.

PQ72974/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

85. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to confirm the funding available for urban town groups for the construction of a new community pavilion.

PQ72720/26 | COLM BURKE

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Sláinte: To the Health

86. To ask the Minister for Health the actions she is taking to address severe cultural issues as well as capacity deficits in the National Ambulance Service; the way in which she will ensure that the independent investigation delivers accountability and protect staff who come forward; the measures she is taking through Budget 2027 to address significant workforce shortages, increase ambulance capacity and improve emergency response times; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72942/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

87. To ask the Minister for Health her views on recent changes to the DOMINO scheme in Cork University Maternity Hospital; if she has engaged with the south-west region and local management regarding the changes to this midwife-led service; and the way in which the decision to materially alter the scheme's model is consistent with the aims of the National Maternity Strategy.

PQ73318/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

88. To ask the Minister for Health if she will ensure the urgent development and implementation of a fully funded national endometriosis strategy and comprehensive national service, including regional multidisciplinary centres of excellence, improved access to diagnosis and specialist treatment, and dedicated surgical capacity; the funding allocated for these services in Budget 2027; the timeframe for delivery; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72940/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

89. To ask the Minister for Health to set out the gap between her Department's forecasted demand and actual demand for emergency department attendances, rapid access cancer clinics and endoscopies in each of the tier 3 escalation areas to date in 2026.
- PQ73351/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK
90. To ask the Minister for Health the actions she will take to follow up on allegations of sexual harassment, misogyny, bullying, and intimidation in the National Ambulance Service.
- PQ72710/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Sláinte: To the Health

91. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the proposed new emergency department at Beaumont Hospital; the current status of the project; the funding allocated to date; and the anticipated timeline for the commencement and completion of construction.
- PQ72629/26 | TOM BRABAZON
92. To ask the Minister for Health the basis for the current recruitment restrictions affecting newly qualified midwives who have recently completed their training and are now registered to practice; the number of vacant midwifery posts in University Hospital Galway; and the measures being taken to fill these vacancies to recruit newly qualified midwives into the public health service.
- PQ72271/26 | SEÁN KYNE
93. To ask the Minister for Health the steps she is taking to restore the Mullingar diabetic day centre.
- PQ72024/26 | SORCA CLARKE
94. To ask the Minister for Health if she has considered the impact that a withdrawal of private maternity care services will have on women's choice in maternity care; and if she can offer reassurances to women that have genuine concerns about this proposal and particularly those that have experienced or are likely to experience difficult or high risk pregnancies.
- PQ71452/26 | BARRY WARD
95. To ask the Minister for Health the factors contributing to urgent referrals to symptomatic breast disease clinics exceeding the ten-working-day target set out in the National Cancer Strategy; and the steps being taken to ensure timely assessment of patients.
- PQ72874/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL
96. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the major backlog in the School Dental Screening Service in Kildare; and if her Department will consider screening children earlier to ensure children are screened before leaving primary school.
- PQ72906/26 | JOE NEVILLE
97. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that the dementia unit in Sarsfield Court is still proposed for closure given her commitment that no resident would move unless families are satisfied and the number of families who do not want their loved ones to move.
- PQ72875/26 | THOMAS GOULD
98. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the potential closure of the Domino scheme in CUMH.
- PQ72876/26 | THOMAS GOULD
99. To ask the Minister for Health the action she is taking to ensure that all newly qualified nurses and midwives graduating in 2026 are offered permanent HSE contracts in accordance with existing national policy; the reason contracts are being withheld in some health regions despite significant nursing and midwifery vacancies, including at University Hospital Galway; and if she will make a statement on the matter.
- PQ72324/26 | ALBERT DOLAN
100. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the opening of the remaining floors of the new extension at Mallow General Hospital.
- PQ71613/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA
101. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the continued delays, in some cases extending over months and years, in transitioning agency staff to permanent positions within the Health Service Executive.
- PQ72919/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH
102. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to increase virtual care capacity.
- PQ72362/26 | SHAY BRENNAN
103. To ask the Minister for Health for an urgent update on the continuing lack of adequate community ophthalmology services in South Tipperary; the measures now being taken to address the significant waiting list, particularly for children; when the proposed waiting-list initiative and additional clinics will commence; and the progress that has been made in securing a sustainable long-term service for the area.
- PQ63807/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY
104. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the development of the planned new primary care centre for Gorey, County Wexford.

PQ72409/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

105. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to improve access to dental services for children and adults with additional needs living in rural communities, particularly in counties Roscommon and Galway, including access to specialist dental care and treatment under general anaesthetic.

PQ72908/26 | MARTIN DALY

106. To ask the Minister for Health if a 24 hour rapid response vehicle will be introduced at Tuam ambulance base; and if an analysis of calls to Tuam ambulance base will be undertaken.

PQ71359/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

107. To ask the Minister for Health if she will amend the criteria for the nursing homes support scheme to ensure that payment under the fair deal scheme is effective from the date the application is submitted on behalf of the patient.

PQ72972/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

108. To ask the Minister for Health for an overview of the additional hospital and community capacity that will be opened and brought into operation following Budget 2027.

PQ72327/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

109. To ask the Minister for Health for a report on CAMHS services in Galway; the number of children currently awaiting an appointment; and the way in which Budget 2027 will expand mental health services for children and adolescents in Galway.

PQ72370/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

110. To ask the Minister for Health if she has considered establishing a dedicated mental health emergency triage unit at Beaumont Hospital for patients presenting to the emergency department in an urgent mental health crisis; the measures being taken to ensure these patients receive timely assessment and appropriate care in a safe and suitable environment; and if she will engage with the HSE on progressing such a unit given the significant urgent demand.

PQ72947/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

111. To ask the Minister for Health the supports provided to health and social care professionals who qualified outside of Ireland and are required by CORU to complete a period of adaptation.

PQ72923/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

112. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has developed a specific waiting-list reduction plan for orthodontic patients resident in County Louth; the targets established for reducing waiting times in 2026 and 2027; the additional resources required to achieve those targets; and the date by which children requiring orthodontic treatment can expect to receive care within clinically appropriate timeframes.

PQ72815/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

113. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the progress on Ballyhale Health Centre.

PQ72428/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

114. To ask the Minister for Health if she plans to ensure all cancer patients receive medical cards.

PQ72494/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

115. To ask the Minister for Health the timeframe in which it is intended that an MRI machine will be operational in Monaghan Hospital.

PQ72992/26 | CATHY BENNETT

116. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an out-of-hours GP service in the Athy primary care centre for Athy, Monasterevin and surrounding towns.

PQ72516/26 | MARK WALL

117. To ask the Minister for Health if she will put formal supports in place for the recruitment, retention, training and development of practice nurses and the expansion of the profession generally given current need and projected demand; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72965/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

118. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to expand Ireland's stem cell transplant and CAR-T capacity and to recommence transplantation at CUH; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72205/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

119. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to reduce waiting lists for specialist endometriosis care.

PQ73016/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

120. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the orthopaedic surgical theatre in Sligo University Hospital in relation to the recent leak in the roof; and the way in which this is affecting the orthopaedic surgical waiting list in Sligo University Hospital.

PQ72642/26 | MARTIN KENNY

121. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on when skylarys will be available for patients with Friedreich's ataxia.

PQ72484/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

122. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that same-sex female couples accessing IVF may be refused medical-expense tax relief where neither partner has a diagnosed fertility condition; whether she will engage with the Minister for Finance to address this apparent inequality in the tax treatment of IVF; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72739/26 | EMER CURRIE

123. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to recruit and retain newly qualified nurses and other healthcare professionals in the public health service; and if there are sufficient funded posts available to allow graduates to take up employment and be retained in Irish healthcare.

PQ72785/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

124. To ask the Minister for Health in light of the recent changes to the day care services for older people in Blessington, County Wicklow, the plans to maintain and expand the service.

PQ72784/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

125. To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional whole-time equivalent posts that will be funded in 2027 for children's primary care services, broken down by psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and by Health Region; the number of these posts that will represent a net increase over the existing staffing compliment; and the timelines for relevant recruiting campaigns.

PQ72460/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

126. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding any engagement she has had with an organisation (details supplied) in relation to their proposal to remove VAT on counselling and psychotherapy services with a view to making these services more affordable.

PQ71451/26 | BARRY WARD

127. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the independent evaluation report by the University of Limerick on the Community Access Support Team (CAST) pilot project in Limerick.

PQ72884/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

128. To ask the Minister for Health the total number of scheduled operations and medical procedures cancelled at short notice across public hospitals to date in 2026; and the efforts being made to prevent such action.

PQ72927/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

129. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has assessed the adequacy of the €2 million allocated to the women's health applied partnership scheme for 2026 and 2027 in light of the evidence gaps identified by the Health Research Board; and whether a review of future funding requirements is planned.

PQ72695/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

130. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to reduce waiting lists in the School Dental Programme and to improve access to more complex dental treatment.

PQ72334/26 | SEAN FLEMING

131. To ask the Minister for Health if she will ensure all domestic health graduates receive offers of employment with the HSE in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72956/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

132. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to commence the remaining sections of the Health (Assisted Human Reproduction) Act 2024.

PQ72979/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

133. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the progress of the proposed Gorey primary health care centre.

PQ72389/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

134. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to address staffing and operational pressures within Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Galway; the way in which continuity of care is being ensured for young people who age out of CAMHS at 18 years-of-age, particularly where appropriate adult mental health services are limited or unavailable.

PQ67431/26 | PETER ROCHE

135. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken by her Department to reduce waiting times for assessment of need applications.

PQ69143/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

136. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the proposed elective hospital for Cork; and whether the project can proceed to planning.

PQ72718/26 | COLM BURKE

137. To ask the Minister for Health if Budget 2027 contains funding for the establishment of a sexual assault treatment unit in the Mid-West.

PQ72373/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

138. To ask the Minister for Health the number of times the National Hearing Care Plan Working Group has met since they were set up in 2014; when the groups work will be concluded; and the timeframe for action to be taken on its findings.

PQ68471/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

139. To ask the Minister for Health the proposals in place to expand CT and MRI scanners in Cavan & Monaghan, specifically any proposals to locate CT or MRI scanners at the Monaghan Hospital site; the envisaged timeframe and costs associated with these proposals; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66605/26 | MATT CARTHY

140. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Budget 2027 will provide more evening and weekend activity across operating theatres, outpatient clinics and diagnostics, making better use of existing staff, facilities and equipment.

PQ72325/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

141. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the proposed 36-bed specialist palliative care unit in Drogheda; the expected timeline for the commencement of construction and the opening of the facility to patients; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ71733/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

142. To ask the Minister for Health for an overview of the additional mental health capacity that will be opened and brought into operation following Budget 2027.

PQ72374/26 | CORMAC DEVLIN

143. To ask the Minister for Health the immediate actions being taken to address the serious levels of overcrowding and difficult conditions being experienced by patients and staff in Beaumont Hospital's accident and emergency department; the additional resources being provided in the interim to improve patient safety, reduce waiting times and ease pressure on the department; the progress of the planned new emergency department; and the expected timeline for construction and completion.

PQ72963/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

144. To ask the Minister for Health if she will review her decision to establish a private Commission of Investigation into Children's Health Ireland rather than a public inquiry; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72477/26 | PAUL MURPHY

145. To ask the Minister for Health the measures she is taking in Budget 2027 to make health care more affordable for workers and families; if she will extend eligibility for medical cards or reduce the drug payment scheme threshold; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72958/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

146. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to address shortages of occupational therapists, particularly in counties where children and adults face prolonged delays in accessing services; and whether a national workforce recruitment and training strategy is being developed.

PQ72838/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

147. To ask the Minister for Health when women who are medically unable to take hormone replacement therapy can expect a decision on the reimbursement of a medication (details supplied); the factors are contributing to the duration of the process to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72203/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

148. To ask the Minister for Health if she will meet with organisations (details supplied) to address their concerns regarding the decision not to establish a public inquiry into Children's Health Ireland; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72480/26 | PAUL MURPHY

149. To ask the Minister for Health the supports available through the HSE to assist with the cost of a private dyslexia assessment for children who are not meeting developmental milestones and face long delays in the public system.

PQ72984/26 | MARK WARD

150. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on any plans for the HSE buildings at Cois Abhainn in Youghal.

PQ72952/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

151. To ask the Minister for Health the average ambulance response times in the Tallaght area; the number of incidents in the past 12 months where patients waited more than one, two and three hours respectively for an ambulance; and whether the National Ambulance Service has sufficient ambulance and staffing capacity to meet demand in the Tallaght area.

PQ72717/26 | JOHN LAHART

152. To ask the Minister for Health if she can provide an update on the availability of mental health services, particularly the current waiting times for adults and young people seeking access to mental health and psychology services.

PQ72978/26 | PETER ROCHE

153. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the National Children's Hospital, including projected opening date, costs to date, and projected final costs.

PQ72412/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

154. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to strengthen healthcare provision in Balbriggan, including investment in primary care services and consideration of a minor injuries hub, given the continued population growth.

PQ67085/26 | GRACE BOLAND

155. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the delivery of a primary care centre for Swords.

PQ71050/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

156. To ask the Minister for Health to discuss the serious backlog and waiting times at the pain management clinic at University Hospital Waterford; and the steps she will take to improve the service.

PQ69401/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

157. To ask the Minister for Health the initiatives she is taking to improve children's dental services.

PQ72966/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

158. To ask the Minister for Health the assessment that has been undertaken of the potential patient safety implications arising from findings that evidence of English language competency, Garda vetting and overseas police clearance was absent or incomplete in a number of cases involving internationally recruited doctors; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ70204/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

159. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which continuity of consultant care will be provided in maternity hospitals as private care is phased out.

PQ72961/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

160. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken to address waiting lists for home support services in Galway; and the way in which the shortage of home care workers, particularly in rural areas, is being addressed.

PQ67430/26 | PETER ROCHE

161. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the progress of the development of ten additional beds at the Drogheda department of psychiatry; and when it is expected these beds will be fully operational.

PQ72817/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

162. To ask the Minister for Health the timeframe in which it is intended for an MRI scanner to be operational in Monaghan hospital.

PQ72962/26 | CATHY BENNETT

163. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the HSE-commissioned review into safeguarding, patient safety and governance concerns at Bloomfield Hospital; whether the final report has been completed and provided to her department; whether she will commit to its publication; the actions that have been taken to address the failures identified at the hospital; and the timelines for implementing outstanding recommendations.

PQ72463/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

164. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the provision of public health nurses in north Dublin as compared to baseline capacity for 2026; the number of developmental checks carried out in north Dublin; and the steps being taken to increase recruitment.

PQ72889/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

165. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which she is progressing new primary care centres in Kerry.

PQ72493/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

166. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to ensure timely access to therapists for children with disabilities and mental health difficulties; if she plans to work with her counterpart at the Department of Education and Youth regarding NEPS vacancies; and if NEPS vacancies are accounted for in the allocation of therapists to HSE-funded services in a given catchment.

PQ73017/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

167. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on Midleton primary care centre.

PQ72946/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

168. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the employment of newly graduated nurses and midwives.

PQ71358/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

169. To ask the Minister for Health if there are unexpected delays for hip operations at the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh as result of changes to funding allocated to the hospital.

PQ72658/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

170. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department has assessed the need for hospital-based crisis mental health nurses at Mayo University Hospital in view of demand for mental health services; the funding allocated in Budget 2027 to expand crisis intervention and mental health nursing services at Mayo University Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ69154/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

171. To ask the Minister for Health if funding will be put in place for primary care paediatric occupational therapists in Laois as it currently has no funded vacancies.

PQ72223/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

172. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department is committed to the introduction of a no wait card for people who have invisible and chronic illnesses that require urgent access to a toilet, given her commitment to the introduction of such a card.

PQ72517/26 | MARK WALL

173. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who have presented at accident and emergency departments since 2021 for suspected spiking; the current care pathways for victims within the healthcare system; and the testing currently available; and if this will be updated.

PQ72985/26 | MARK WARD

174. To ask the Minister for Health when the Limerick surgical hub will be completed; when it will become operational; and if a funding package to enable 100% operational capacity has been granted.

PQ72575/26 | JOE COONEY

175. To ask the Minister for Health the forecasted demand and separately the actual demand for symptomatic breast clinic services and lung clinic services in 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ72971/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

176. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the introduction of helicopter emergency medical services in the State.

PQ72741/26 | EMER CURRIE

177. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1949 of 4 November 2025, the current stage of the proposed €27 million stem cell tissue establishment and aseptic compounding unit at Cork University Hospital, for which a project team was established in 2024; whether capital funding for its construction has been secured in the HSE Capital Plan; the projected dates for appointment of a design and construction team, commencement of construction and commissioning of the unit; and whether the unit will be equipped to deliver CAR-T cellular therapies.

PQ72762/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

178. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on progress in relation to the recruitment of vacant lactation practitioner and consultant posts in the HSE.

PQ72804/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

179. To ask the Minister for Health her plans on the rollout of a national shingles vaccination programme.

PQ72430/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

180. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the development of the Rathmines primary care centre.

PQ71753/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

181. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Budget 2027 will provide expanded and new services in Louth County Hospital.

PQ72375/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

182. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the €108 million allocated to mental health in Budget 2027; the amount for each initiative announced; and whether it is new development funding or the cost of maintaining the existing level of service.

PQ72026/26 | SORCA CLARKE

183. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Budget 2027 will facilitate the expansion of surgical hubs, including additional theatres and six-day operations, helping more patients receive planned treatment sooner.

PQ72321/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

184. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE records the number of persons diagnosed with functional neurological disorder, by county, CHO area or hospital group; if so, to provide the figures for each of the past five years; and if not, if she will consider collecting such data to inform future service planning.

PQ72574/26 | JOE COONEY

185. To ask the Minister for Health the services available to pregnant women who require psychiatric or mental health care during their pregnancy; and if these services are available at all maternity hospitals.

PQ69393/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

186. To ask the Minister for Health the measures her Department is taking, in conjunction with the HSE, to ensure the timely restoration of healthcare services and the rescheduling of appointments affected by the planned industrial action

PQ72989/26 | PETER ROCHE

187. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Budget 2027 will result in improved access to oral health and orthodontic services for children,

PQ72332/26 | SEAN FLEMING

188. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that the CDNT team in Laois is having to take on cases to review as there are currently no paediatric occupational therapists in primary care.

PQ72222/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

189. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the development of a new model of care for trans healthcare; the current timeline being worked towards; and the allocation provided for trans healthcare in Budget 2027.

PQ72885/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

190. To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which Budget 2027 provides for the full cost of maintaining existing levels of services and accounts for demographic and inflationary pressures; the funding available for genuinely additional services and capacity; the measures she will take to prevent further recruitment and service restrictions arising from budgetary overruns; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72949/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

191. To ask the Minister for Health her plans for a major expansion of community crisis mental health supports.

PQ72377/26 | CORMAC DEVLIN

192. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Budget 2027 will support a new programme to move clinically appropriate cancer monitoring and follow-up from acute hospitals into community settings.

PQ72360/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

193. To ask the Minister for Health the measures she is taking to increase the number of mental health hospital beds in County Meath.

PQ71272/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

194. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department or the HSE has assessed the impact on patients of transferring outpatient clinics from Beaumont Hospital to Connolly Hospital.

PQ67086/26 | GRACE BOLAND

195. To ask the Minister for Health the number of the additional/replacement beds announced in Budget 2027 will be allocated for Naas General Hospital.

PQ72953/26 | JOE NEVILLE

196. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the resources provided under Budget 2027 will be targeted towards reducing waiting times for community based healthcare services.

PQ72924/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

197. To ask the Minister for Health the expanded older persons and community supports, including additional home-support hours, dementia services and community-based care that will be provided under Budget 2027.

PQ72329/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

198. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to address the need for extra beds in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, County Louth.

PQ72378/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

199. To ask the Minister for Health the projected supplementary estimate which will be needed for the health budget in 2026; the steps she has taken to achieve savings targets; the extent to which savings targets were missed; the reasons; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72945/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

200. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the delivery of a new shingles vaccine for adults aged 65+.

PQ72879/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

201. To ask the Minister for Health the plans for the establishment of the new dual diagnosis team in Dublin south-west, based in Tallaght; the proposed staffing and timeline for the team to become operational; the pathway by which patients will access the service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72922/26 | JOHN LAHART

202. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the ongoing trolley crisis at University Hospital Limerick.

PQ72883/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

203. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to ensure the timely replacement of linear accelerator machines for radiotherapy.

PQ73018/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

204. To ask the Minister for Health the specific steps being taken to accelerate the delivery of the new hospice in Tullamore; the outstanding obstacles preventing construction from progressing; and whether a firm timetable for commencement and completion can now be provided.

PQ72837/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

205. To ask the Minister for Health her views on the need to provide public convalescence care or follow up therapies for patients following their discharge from hospitals having accessed their treatment or procedure privately.

PQ72973/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

206. To ask the Minister for Health to list for each of the tier 3 escalation areas, the direct pay savings versus increases in agency spend to date in 2026.

PQ72981/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

207. To ask the Minister for Health if she has considered the provision of CT scans at Monaghan Hospital.

PQ72998/26 | CATHY BENNETT

208. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the opening of the next phase of the refurbishment and extension project at Kanturk Community Hospital.

PQ71614/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

209. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which Budget 2027 will provide additional capacity and services in University Hospital Galway.

PQ72368/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

210. To ask the Minister for Health the reason medical card recipients are not being issued with a physical medical card (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ69400/26 | CHARLES WARD

211. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the preparation of the HSE's Campus Development Control Plan for the Clonskeagh Hospital campus; when she expects the plan to be completed; and the HSE's long-term vision for the future development and the use of the campus.

PQ71755/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

212. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm that medical card income thresholds will be increased at least in line with recent social protection increases announced in Budget 2027, in order that those receiving these payments will not be disadvantaged in applying for a medical card.

PQ72719/26 | COLM BURKE

213. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to expand postnatal mental health supports for the wellbeing of new mothers and to support early bonding and healthy infant development.

PQ72805/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

214. To ask the Minister for Health the current wait times for operations at the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh; and if delays are a result of changes in funding allocated to the hospital.

PQ72654/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

215. To ask the Minister for Health if she is satisfied that people in rural counties such as County Mayo have equitable access to crisis mental health services when compared with urban centres; the steps she is taking to address any disparities identified; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ69156/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

216. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the children who, despite receiving apologies for deficiencies in their care by CAMHS in Kerry, remain excluded from the State compensation scheme; if she will make arrangements for these children can be included in the compensation scheme; if not, the reason for their continued exclusion from the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter

PQ72524/26 | PA DALY

217. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the delivery of a primary care centre for Donabate.

PQ71051/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

218. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the proposed redevelopment of St. Anne's community nursing unit in Clifden, County Galway; the current status of the project; when the project is expected to proceed to tender; and the anticipated timelines for construction and completion.

PQ72272/26 | SEÁN KYNE

219. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the current capacity and operational pressures at the emergency department in Beaumont Hospital; and the measures being taken to address overcrowding and improve patient flow.

PQ72631/26 | TOM BRABAZON

220. To ask the Minister for Health the reason there is no weekend perinatal mental health service across the 19 maternity units in the country.

PQ72976/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

221. To ask the Minister for Health the reason Cork North and East accounts for 88% of all children nationally awaiting CAMHS-ID services, with 716 children waiting at end-2025; the number of CAMHS-ID teams currently operating in Cork against HSE service requirements; and the timeline for additional teams.

PQ72761/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

222. To ask the Minister for Health her engagements with her counterparts at the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation regarding pay, recruitment and retention of healthcare staff in the public sector; and to detail the policies of her Department and agencies under her remit related to the same subject.

PQ73014/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

223. To ask the Minister for Health if funding for the operation of the remaining unused beds in a facility (details supplied) has been provided for in Budget 2027.

PQ72983/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

224. To ask the Minister for Health if she will engage with the HSE to ensure that dermatology services, previously provided at the Monaghan Hospital campus and subsequently transferred to Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda, are returned to Monaghan; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ66607/26 | MATT CARTHY

225. To ask the Minister for Health when additional funding will be provided to an organisation in order that they can expand their advocacy service capacity, noting that almost 60 new persons have contacted this organisation following the publication of a report (details supplied).

PQ72824/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

226. To ask the Minister for Health the number of doctors currently employed by the HSE and Section 38 hospitals whose personnel files do not contain completed Garda vetting; and the number whose overseas police clearance had not been obtained prior to commencing employment.

PQ70183/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

227. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area, covering a large rural catchment from Abbeyfeale to Kilcummin and from Ballydesmond to Furies, is due to have just one senior physiotherapist providing both outpatient and domiciliary services for the next six months; the steps being taken to fill the vacant domiciliary physiotherapist post which has remained unfilled since early 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72507/26 | PA DALY

228. To ask the Minister for Health her most recent engagements with trade unions representing public sector healthcare workers, in particular the engagements she has had within the past month.

PQ73015/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

229. To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to expand surgical services at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan, County Meath.

PQ71280/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

230. To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the continuing crisis in orthodontic provision in South Tipperary; the current numbers awaiting assessment and treatment and the longest waiting times; the progress made in filling long-standing specialist vacancies and providing treatment through private capacity; and whether a specific waiting-list recovery plan with measurable targets and timelines will now be put in place.

PQ63809/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

CEISTEANNA LE HAGHAIDH FREADRAI SCRÍOFA QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

231. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the reason the revised allocation for Vote 27 – International Co-operation for 2026, announced yesterday as €855 million, falls €11.4 million below the Budget 2026 allocation of €866.4 million as published in the Revised Estimates for Public Services; if she will clarify how this reduction aligns with the Government's stated commitments on Ireland's international development programme (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73142/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

232. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if she will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to her Department and bodies under her aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to her Department or to the body under her aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73289/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

233. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the purpose of the €700,000 paid to an organisation (details supplied) between 2020 and 2024; the countries and projects funded; the outcomes achieved; the reason Irish public funds were directed to a charity linked to a UK public broadcaster; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73097/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

234. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the rationale for her Department, rather than the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, funding an organisation (details supplied) to the amount of €1,499,870 for an agri food climate programme in Ireland; whether this funding was awarded through a competitive process; the deliverables agreed; the number of Irish farmers and food producers who participated; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73094/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

235. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide a breakdown of the €6,837,561 paid to an organisation (details supplied) between 2020 and 2024, setting out the amount passed directly to scholarship recipients; the amount retained for administration and overheads; the number of fellows supported in each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73093/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

236. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the purpose of the €1,600,000 paid to an organisation (details supplied) between 2020 and 2024; the objectives and measured outcomes of this funding; whether an independent evaluation was carried out; and whether funding to the organisation continues; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73092/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

237. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to provide a breakdown of the €4,300,000 paid to an organisation (details supplied) between 2020 and 2024, by year, funding scheme and programme; the outputs delivered; the extent to which this sum relates to anything other than the Reconciliation Fund lectureship in Modern Irish History announced in 2021; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73091/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

238. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the proportion of funding provided to NGOs between 2020 and 2024 paid to organisations headquartered outside Ireland and outside the countries where programmes were delivered; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73102/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

239. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the total funding provided by the Department to NGOs and other non-State bodies in 2025 and in 2026 to date, with a list of recipients and amounts, in the same format as the figures provided for 2020 to 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73101/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

240. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of grants to NGOs between 2020 and 2024 that were subject to independent evaluation or audit; the number where funds were found to be misused or not spent as agreed; and the total amount recovered by the Department in each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73100/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

241. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the amount of the €1,500,000 paid to an organisation (details supplied) between 2020 and 2024 that was State membership fees; the amount that was project funding, with a breakdown of the projects funded; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73098/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

242. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if an application for foreign births will be expedited (details supplied).

PQ72857/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

243. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if officials from her Department participate in UNWRA Advisory Commission proceedings; and if so if she will publish all statements made to the commission on Irelands behalf by these officials since 2023.

PQ72781/26 | CAROL NOLAN

244. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade her Department's position on an issue (details supplied).

PQ72704/26 | EMER CURRIE

245. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of EU membership candidate states Ireland maintains a resident diplomatic presence, including embassies, consulates-general and other diplomatic missions.

PQ72692/26 | EMER CURRIE

246. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of EU member states Ireland maintains a resident diplomatic presence, including embassies, consulates-general and other diplomatic missions.

PQ72691/26 | EMER CURRIE

247. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department has assessed the implications for Ireland of instability or a blockade in the Taiwan Strait, given goods imports from Taiwan of €4.3 billion in 2025, the majority in computer and data processing equipment; if Ireland has raised military pressure on Taiwan with the Chinese authorities; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72665/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

248. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Ireland's position on Taiwan's meaningful participation in international bodies, including the World Health Assembly, the International Civil Aviation Organization and Interpol; the occasions on which Ireland has stated that position publicly since 2020; and if a statement will be made on the matter.

PQ72663/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

249. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the Irish mission that provides consular services to Irish citizens resident in or visiting Taiwan; her Department's estimate of the number of Irish citizens residing there; the number of consular cases handled in each of the years 2022 to 2026; her views whether these arrangements are adequate without an Irish presence in Taipei; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72662/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

250. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if guidance exists on visits to Taiwan by Ministers, Ministers of State, public officials or State agency staff; the number of such visits since 2015; the number of meetings between the Department and the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland in each of the years 2020 to date in 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72661/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

251. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department was consulted, or provided advice, regarding the closure in 2012 of the Irish trade office in Taipei or a subsequent review of Ireland's presence there; if considerations relating to relations with the People's Republic of China formed a part of that advice; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72660/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

252. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the number of representations, démarches or communications the Department has received from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China or Chinese authorities concerning Ireland's engagement with Taiwan since 1 January 2020, by year and subject, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72657/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

253. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade further to Parliamentary Question No. 53850/26, if it will be confirmed that the opening of an office in Taipei by Enterprise Ireland or IDA Ireland would be fully consistent with Ireland's One China Policy, as the equivalent offices of 16 other EU member states are with their own; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72656/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

254. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to set out the precise wording of Ireland's position on Taiwan as agreed when diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China were established in 1979; if Ireland's One China Policy differs from the One China Principle as stated by the People's Republic of China; if Ireland has ever formally accepted that Taiwan is part of the People's Republic of China; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72653/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

255. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade her Department's views on Montenegro's capacity to translate all EU law accurately; and the implications this has on potential accession in 2028.

PQ72580/26 | EMER CURRIE

256. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the latest position on Georgia's accession to EU membership.

PQ72579/26 | EMER CURRIE

257. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the position on Armenia's accession to EU membership.

PQ72578/26 | EMER CURRIE

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

258. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment to outline the legal and site specific measures that were taken in respect of Dunsink dump/landfill following the decision of the European Court of Justice in Case C-494/01; which of these measures are still being implemented; and can he confirm whether the European Commission continues to monitor the measures Ireland is taking with respect to the Dunsink dump/landfill.

PQ73035/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

259. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the projected increased cost of the Dublin District Heating Project; if his Department has met with Dublin City Council since the cost projected was revised upwards; if the Council has sought further grants from his Department to fund the development; and his views on the need for sustainable district heating options in urban centres, and Dublin in particular; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73149/26 | IVANA BACIK

260. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73328/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

261. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the policy changes if any he is considering to provide greater transparency and oversight relative to the deposit return scheme for plastic bottles and cans; if the unclaimed cash can be estimated with a view to the State taking control of part of the sum for use in the public interest; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73177/26 | JOHN MCGUINNESS

262. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment further to Parliamentary Questions Nos. 70575/26 and 70577/26, whether the feasibility study on transitioning household waste collection to a franchise model, described in those replies as recently completed, will be published; the date of publication; whether the National Waste Collection Permit Office study on incentivised charging structures will also be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73167/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

263. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment when his Department will bring forward legislation to fully implement the Energy Efficiency Directive.

PQ72967/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

264. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment when the NORA levy will be reapplied to relevant fuels.

PQ72672/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

265. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he is aware that due to the low obligation rates proposed in the renewable heat obligation scheme compliance costs will accrue which could increase costs to consumers, while no additional renewable liquid fuels to reduce carbon emissions in home heating will come on stream.

PQ72632/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

266. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he is aware that the proposed obligation rates of 1.5 per cent and 3 per cent in the renewable heat obligation scheme will have no impact in increasing the use of low carbon liquid fuel for home heating, as these rates are already being supplied by the industry.

PQ72630/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

267. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he has evaluated the concerns of the liquid fuel sector that the proposed obligation rates in the forthcoming renewable heat obligation scheme are too low to provide any additional renewable fuel and will consequently have no impact in reducing carbon emissions.

PQ72628/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

Chun an Cosanta: To the Defence

268. To ask the Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 69615/26, if she will address the specific matters raised in further correspondence (details supplied), including the rationale for the withdrawal of a proposed property sale, apparent inconsistencies in correspondence issued by her Department regarding occupancy of the property, and the application of current disposal policies in light of previous sales of similar properties in the same estate.

PQ73062/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

269. To ask the Minister for Defence if she will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to her Department and bodies under her aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to her Department or to the body under her aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73330/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

270. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of applications for direct-entry commissions and direct-entry non-commissioned officer appointments in the Reserve Defence Force that have been received, processed and approved to date; and the expected timeline for the commencement of such appointments.

PQ73220/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

271. To ask the Minister for Defence the outstanding administrative, regulatory, policy or procedural measures, if any, that remain before direct-entry commissions and direct-entry non-commissioned officer appointments within the Reserve Defence Force can operate in practice.

PQ73219/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

272. To ask the Minister for Defence further to the recording of Recommendation 76 of the Commission on the Defence Forces, concerning direct-entry commissions and direct entry at non-commissioned officer level within the Reserve Defence Force, as having been completed in November 2025; and the reason no direct-entry commissions or direct-entry NCO appointments have yet been made.

PQ73218/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

273. To ask the Minister for Defence the gross internal floor area of Áras an tSáile, Renmore, Galway; the number of Defence Forces and civilian staff based in the building; the other Departments or bodies that occupy space in it; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72860/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

274. To ask the Minister for Defence the energy costs incurred for Áras an tSáile, Renmore, Galway, in each month since substantial completion of the retrofit works on 19 July 2026; if any energy saving has been recorded to date compared with the same months prior to the works; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72858/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

275. To ask the Minister for Defence the total annual energy consumption, in kilowatt hours, of Áras an tSáile, Renmore, Galway, in each of the three years prior to the commencement of retrofit works on 19 March 2025, broken down by electricity, gas and any other fuel; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72856/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

276. To ask the Minister for Defence the total annual energy cost of Áras an tSáile, Renmore, Galway, in each of the three years prior to the commencement of retrofit works on 19 March 2025, broken down by electricity, gas and any other fuel (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72855/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

277. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of members of the Reserve Defence Forces who have been insured at PRSI class H in each of the past five years; and if the 21-consecutive-day threshold in schedule C, paragraph 4 of S.I. 312 of 1996 has been assessed against the Department of Defence's 14-consecutive-day limit on reserve service and the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997.

PQ72809/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

278. To ask the Minister for Defence if she will consider a proposal for lands at the Curragh camp (details supplied) given the urgent need in County Kildare.

PQ72740/26 | MARK WALL

279. To ask the Minister for Defence the updated position regarding the use of her Department's swimming pool for public use; the times allocated; if classes are available for the public; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72738/26 | MARK WALL

280. To ask the Minister for Defence the up-to-date position on her plans for the curragh plains in County Kildare; the most recent meetings held about these plans; the timeframe involved in the action on the curragh plains; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72737/26 | MARK WALL

281. To ask the Minister for Defence the number of permanent members of the Defence Force, broken down per year from 2016 to date, in tabular form.

PQ72734/26 | EMER CURRIE

282. To ask the Minister for Defence the total annual Budget allocation her Department has received between 2020 to date, in tabular form.

PQ72732/26 | EMER CURRIE

283. To ask the Minister for Defence further to Parliamentary Question No. 70836/26, the number of protected disclosures made by members and staff of the Defence Forces (details supplied), either directly to her Department or through internal Defence Forces channels, in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025; the number of which returned by the Office of the Protected Disclosures Commissioner for examination; and the status or action taken regarding such by category, such as referred to a separate body or closed.

PQ72651/26 | MATT CARTHY

Chun an lompair: To the Transport

284. To ask the Minister for Transport if it remains the intention that the National Transport Authority's capital investment plan to 2030 will be published before the end of 2026; if he will confirm whether the BusConnects Galway Dublin Road Scheme is expected to be included within that plan; and if he will provide an update on the current status of the scheme, including progress on compulsory purchase procedures, the appointment of engineering consultants for detailed design works, and the anticipated timelines for the commencement of construction and completion of the project.

PQ72997/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

285. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason for the delay issuing a driving licence (details supplied).

PQ73306/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

286. To ask the Minister for Transport the oversight arrangements in place to monitor contractual claims, cost variations and financial risks arising from Iarnród Éireann's contracts with a company (details supplied); if his Department, National Transport Authority or NewERA have undertaken any review of these matters since January 2024; and if he is satisfied that adequate financial controls and reporting arrangements are in place.

PQ73288/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

287. To ask the Minister for Transport whether Iarnród Éireann has entered into negotiations with a company (details supplied) during 2026 concerning the settlement of contractual claims or disputed payments; the number and aggregate value of claims under consideration; whether any settlements have been agreed; the amounts involved; and whether the Department or National Transport Authority has been informed of any material financial exposure.

PQ73287/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

288. To ask the Minister for Transport if there is an appeal process under the fuel support scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73347/26 | FRANKIE FEIGHAN

289. To ask the Minister for Transport the total value of contractual claims, variations and disputed payments currently outstanding between Iarnród Éireann and a company (details supplied); the extent to which these represent potential additional liabilities for Iarnród Éireann; and whether financial provisions have been made for such liabilities.

PQ73285/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

290. To ask the Minister for Transport whether the ICE2EV scrappage scheme has been fully exhausted; and whether his Department plans to launch a second round of funding.

PQ73321/26 | EMER CURRIE

291. To ask the Minister for Transport if a new bus will be considered to travel through the Fonthill Road, onto the N4 road toward the city centre; if existing routes can be rerouted to serve this path; and to outline the process of route determination.

PQ73118/26 | MARK WARD

292. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he is aware of the lack of a comprehensive statutory framework specifically addressing psychoactive substance testing across all safety-sensitive aviation roles as highlighted in the Irish Aviation Authority's consultation document on an Employer-Led Drug and Alcohol Testing Framework; whether his Department has any plans to produce such a statutory framework to address this legal gap.

PQ73116/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

293. To ask the Minister for Transport regarding the Irish Aviation Authority's proposed Employer-Led Drug and Alcohol Testing Framework, whether his Department has considered retaining testing as an independent State function while providing the IAA and/or An Garda Síochána with the resources necessary to operate an effective testing regime.

PQ73114/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

294. To ask the Minister for Transport whether his Department has advised the Irish Aviation Authority on the constitutional, employment-law, licensing, criminal-law, privacy, data-protection and fair-procedure implications of its proposed Employer-Led Drug and Alcohol Testing Framework.

PQ73113/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

295. To ask the Minister for Transport if he supports the transfer of responsibility for alcohol and psychoactive substance testing from State authorities to individual airlines or other private entities under the Irish Aviation Authority's proposed Employer-Led Drug and Alcohol Testing Framework; and whether his Department will make a submission to the IAA's ongoing consultation regarding the proposed framework.

PQ73112/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

296. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73342/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

297. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide a schedule of all contracts awarded by Iarnród Éireann a company (details supplied) since 1 January 2021, including rolling stock, signalling, infrastructure, maintenance, technical support and consultancy services; the original value of each contract; its current approved value; the value of any approved variations; and the anticipated final cost.

PQ73286/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

298. To ask the Minister for Transport the number and value of contract variations requested a company (details supplied) across all contracts with Iarnród Éireann since 1 January 2023; the number approved and refused; and the additional expenditure arising from approved variations, by contract and year, in tabular form.

PQ73284/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

299. To ask the Minister for Transport the number and total monetary value of contractual claims submitted an organisation (details supplied) to Iarnród Éireann in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; and the amounts accepted, rejected, settled and remaining outstanding, by year and contract, in tabular form.

PQ73283/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

300. To ask the Minister for Transport in relation to the disabled parking scheme, if the criteria adequately caters for a disabled child (details supplied).

PQ73207/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

301. To ask the Minister for Transport if the eligibility criteria for the disabled parking permit scheme will be reviewed to ensure that children with significant developmental, intellectual or communication disabilities are not excluded solely because their mobility difficulties do not present as a conventional physical walking impairment.

PQ73210/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

302. To ask the Minister for Transport if the disabled parking permit scheme provides any mechanism for exceptional cases to be assessed according to the child's actual functional ability, mobility requirements and safety risks, including the need for a special-needs buggy, rather than physical walking ability alone.

PQ73209/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

303. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of applications for the road transporters support scheme received, by county; the number and percentage in each county which were approved for payment; the number and percentage in each county for which payment has issued; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73013/26 | MATT CARTHY

304. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the current status of the BusConnects Galway Cross-City Link; the progress made to date in respect of planning, land acquisition, design and procurement processes associated with the scheme; the estimated timeline for the conclusion of the judicial review proceedings, the commencement of construction and the completion of the project; whether the project will be included in the forthcoming National Transport Authority capital investment plan to 2030, which is due to be published later in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73004/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

305. To ask the Minister for Transport further to Parliamentary Question No. 71158/26 when the appeals portal for the road transporters support scheme (RTSS) will open; whether his Department will provide a helpline or other mechanism to assist applicants through the process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73010/26 | MATT CARTHY

306. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department has been informed of the specific economic baseline and calculations used by the National Transport Authority to justify fare increases of up to 30% on regional bus routes servicing Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72907/26 | MATT CARTHY

307. To ask the Minister for Transport his engagements with the National Transport Authority (NTA) in respect of the decision to implement an average 15% price increase on adult public transport fares from January 2027; his response to projections showing this will cause a drop in public transport usage; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72886/26 | MATT CARTHY

308. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will introduce legislation to extend existing requirements for priority seating on public transport to explicitly include elderly and vulnerable passengers; and if he will consider creating a legal requirement for passengers who do not require priority seating to vacate such seats when they are needed by an elderly, disabled or vulnerable passenger

PQ72882/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

309. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered amending the Railway Safety Bill 2026 to strengthen the preventative role of the Railway Accident Investigation Unit (RAIU); if the reporting, recording and investigation of near miss incidents, including incidents at level crossings, will form part of the statutory framework under the Bill; if the RAIU will have powers to make recommendations on emerging safety risks before serious accidents occur; and if annual reports on railway safety recommendations and trends will be submitted to the Minister and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

PQ72873/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

310. To ask the Minister for Transport to confirm if funding has been allocated to the implementation of Phase 8 of BusConnects as part of Budget 2027; and to outline the timeframe for this phase of BusConnects to be introduced.

PQ72868/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

311. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will request a report from Iarnród Éireann regarding an incident at railway crossing XM234, near Mayo Abbey, County Mayo, on 30 August 2026, in which members of the public alerted the emergency services after approximately 25 cattle gained access to the railway line; whether the incident was formally recorded by Iarnród Éireann; the follow up action that was taken; if recognition or acknowledgement was provided to the individuals involved whose actions may have assisted in preventing a serious rail incident; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72859/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

312. To ask the Minister for Transport the maximum operating speed on all sections of the Dublin to Rosslare rail line; and the efforts to increase those speeds.

PQ72796/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

313. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on matters raised in correspondence (details supplied).

PQ72755/26 | EMER CURRIE

314. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the B-Spine rollout following Budget 2027.

PQ72751/26 | EMER CURRIE

315. To ask the Minister for Transport whether a service (details supplied) will be launched following Budget 2027, providing additional funding for new bus services.

PQ72750/26 | EMER CURRIE

316. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of new disabled persons parking permits issues for the last three years per county; and the number of disabled parking permits refused, in tabular form.

PQ72746/26 | MARK WALL

317. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are plans to increase the fine for persons parking in disabled persons parking bays; and if so, what are his plans to remodel the scheme.

PQ72745/26 | MARK WALL

318. To ask the Minister for Transport the eligibility criteria for a disabled person parking permit for a person (details supplied) in county Kildare.

PQ72743/26 | MARK WALL

319. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding the new priority bus lane for the N7; the timeline for completion of construction; and the timeline for the lane to be operational.

PQ72733/26 | MARK WALL

320. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline for the delivery of a Dart+ south-west service to Hazlehead.

PQ72731/26 | MARK WALL

321. To ask the Minister for Transport If interim measures including extra services and more carriages, are being considered and put in place in advance of the Dart+ south-west project.

PQ72730/26 | MARK WALL

322. To ask the Minister for Transport the safety measures being carried out on commuter and intercity train journeys within the State; if Irish Rail has responsibility to carry out such inspections; if Irish Rail records the amount of overcrowding on their train services; and if the information is available, if it can be provided.

PQ72729/26 | MARK WALL

323. To ask the Minister for Transport regarding the proposed change to the regulatory framework governing alcohol and psychoactive substance testing of pilots and other safety-sensitive aviation, whether consideration has been given to retaining testing as an independent State function while providing the IAA and/or An Garda Síochána with the resources necessary to operate an effective testing regime; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ72715/26 | PA DALY

324. To ask the Minister for Transport regarding the proposed change to the regulatory framework governing alcohol and psychoactive substance testing of pilots and other safety-sensitive aviation personnel in Ireland, whether his Department supports the transfer of responsibility for alcohol and psychoactive substance testing from State authorities to individual airlines or other private entities; whether the constitutional, employment-law, licensing, criminal-law, privacy, data-protection and fair-procedure implications of such a transfer have been fully examined; and if he will make a statement on the matter

PQ72714/26 | PA DALY

325. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide for each rail service operating between Carlow and Dublin on weekdays during 2025 and to date in 2026 the scheduled seating capacity; the average passenger numbers; the number of services recorded as exceeding seating capacity; the number of customer complaints relating to overcrowding; and the number of instances in which additional capacity was provided, in tabular form.

PQ72686/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

326. To ask the Minister for Transport his views whether it is appropriate for parking season tickets to be sold at railway stations where parking spaces cannot be guaranteed for season-ticket holders; and whether this practice has been reviewed by his Department or Iarnród Éireann.

PQ72685/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

327. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans being considered by Iarnród Éireann to increase parking capacity at Carlow railway station; the status of proposals relating to the development of additional parking facilities in the vicinity of the station; and the anticipated timeline for delivery of such facilities.

PQ72684/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

328. To ask the Minister for Transport the current number of car parking spaces available at Carlow railway station; the average occupancy levels recorded during weekday mornings over the past 12 months; and the number of parking season tickets currently issued for the station.

PQ72683/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

329. To ask the Minister for Transport if consideration has been given to providing complimentary seat reservations for annual and monthly season-ticket holders on intercity commuter routes, including the Carlow-Dublin line, in recognition of the substantial annual cost incurred by such passengers.

PQ72681/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

330. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to annual and monthly season-ticket holders on the Carlow-Dublin route that are required to pay additional seat reservation charges on many peak-time services; when these charges were introduced; the rationale for the charges; and whether public consultation was undertaken prior to their introduction.

PQ72680/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

331. To ask the Minister for Transport the additional rolling stock, carriages or service enhancements that have been introduced on the Carlow-Dublin rail corridor since 2020; and the additional capacity planned for the route over the next three years.

PQ72679/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

332. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to persistent overcrowding on the peak-time rail services operating between Carlow and Dublin; the passenger capacity and average passenger numbers recorded on each morning and evening peak service serving Carlow during the past 12 months; the number of occasions on which passengers were required to stand due to a lack of seating; and the measures being taken to address overcrowding on the route.

PQ72678/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

333. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount spent on wheelchair accessible taxis, by Iarnród Éireann, during the engineering works on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th of September.

PQ72611/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

334. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of wheelchair accessible buses/coaches that were hired by Iarnród Éireann on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September while engineering works had hindered train transport.

PQ72610/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

335. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of wheelchair user passengers who used Iarnród Éireann services on Saturday and Sunday 26 and 27 September 2026, appreciating that the Iarnród Éireann website showed all wheelchair spaces having been booked.

PQ72609/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

336. To ask the Minister for Transport to substantially increase the funding available to local authorities under the low-cost safety improvement works scheme, recognising the significant number of towns, villages and settlements across the country where additional traffic-calming and road-safety measures are required.

PQ72602/26 | DAVID MAXWELL

337. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the extension of free travel for children under 9-years-of-age to eligible commercial PSO bus services; the current position regarding the measure; whether funding is being considered to support its introduction; the timeframe for a decision on the matter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72581/26 | EMER CURRIE

338. To ask the Minister for Transport the reason the non-statutory public consultation on the emerging preferred option for the FourNorth project, due to take place in 2026, has now been delayed to the first half of 2027; and if he will ensure that this emerging preferred option is made available to the public as soon as possible

PQ72577/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

339. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline current funding commitments and the progression plan for the N62 Thurles bypass project.

PQ72566/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

340. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to reduce toll costs in Meath; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72564/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

341. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has given directive to the RSA to begin work on the Irish US driver's license exchange process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72563/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

342. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the progress made regarding Irish-US drivers licence exchange processes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72561/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

343. To ask the Minister for Transport the work he is carrying out to amend Statutory Instrument No. 537/2006 to allow renewal of an expired Irish driver's licence with the classes and categories previously approved by Ireland, if the person holds a current licence from America; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72559/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

344. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will detail the list of non-EU countries Ireland maintains bilateral driving licence exchange agreements; the audit or review mechanism used by his Department and the RSA to monitor the safety standards and testing procedures of those countries; whether any updates or reforms are planned for the reciprocal exchange framework; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72558/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

345. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures in place to ensure that drivers exchanging non-EU driving licences under reciprocal recognition agreements possess adequate knowledge of Irish road traffic law, national speed limits, and standard road signage; whether any requirement exists for drivers from non-EU jurisdictions to undergo a theory assessment or demonstrate familiarity with Irish driving regulations before receiving a full Irish driving licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72557/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

346. To ask the Minister for Transport the extent of bilateral agreements currently in place between the Road Safety Authority (RSA) / National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) and non-EU jurisdictions for the reciprocal recognition and exchange of driving licences; the specific criteria, technical assessments, and verification processes, used to evaluate foreign driving standards prior to entering into such agreements; whether these assessments evaluate driver comprehension of Irish road signs and traffic legislation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72556/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

347. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of plans for a double track line from Mullingar to Maynooth on the Sligo - Connolly line; and if this a priority for public transport in the region.

PQ72514/26 | ROBERT TROY

348. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of plans to re-open the Mullingar to Athlone rail line; and if this is a priority for public transport in the region.

PQ72513/26 | ROBERT TROY

349. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of plans to re-open Killucan train station; and if this is a priority for transport in the region.

PQ72512/26 | ROBERT TROY

Chun an Airgeadais: To the Finance

350. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will consider extending the 9% VAT rate to qualifying beauty, aesthetic and nail-care services, which already applies to hairdressing services as part of the Finance Bill 2027 (details supplied). whether he acknowledges that extending the 9% rate would provide a fairer and more consistent VAT framework for the wider personal-care sector.

PQ73344/26 | SEÁN KYNE

351. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73333/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

352. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he has considered introducing income tax relief on overtime earnings, particularly for workers maintaining essential public services and infrastructure; whether any such relief could be restricted to overtime verified through employer records or other auditable systems; and the estimated annual Exchequer cost of exempting the first €2,500, €5,000 and €10,000 of overtime earnings per worker

PQ73308/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

353. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the Government's future plans regarding the eight-year deemed disposal regime for investment funds and ETFs; and whether further changes are under consideration following the measures announced in Budget 2027.

PQ73241/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

354. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance for and updated timeline for the completion of a review (details supplied).

PQ73195/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

355. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he has considered reviewing the income thresholds that apply for the purposes of the Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT) exemption for persons aged 65 years and over; his views on whether the current thresholds continue to reflect increases in the State Pension and other income supports in recent years; whether his Department has undertaken any analysis of the number of older persons who may no longer qualify for the exemption as a result of such increases.

PQ73211/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

356. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has assessed the potential financial and economic implications for Ireland of the European Commission's proposed new own resource based on non-collected waste electrical and electronic equipment, including the potential cost to the Exchequer and impacts on businesses and consumers.

PQ72880/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

357. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of Revenue audits and compliance interventions carried out on businesses in the nail and beauty sector in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the amount of tax, PRSI, interest and penalties collected as a result; the number of such interventions carried out jointly with the Workplace Relations Commission or An Garda Síochána; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72846/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

358. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of consignments of cosmetic and nail care products detained or seized by the Revenue Commissioners at ports and airports in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026, on the grounds that they did not comply with EU product safety or cosmetics rules; the value of those consignments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72842/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

359. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has assessed a proposal (details supplied) to fund a flood insurance protection contribution of approximately €24 per insured household annually by removing the 3% insurance premium tax on household insurance and allowing the 1% insurance compensation fund levy to lapse; the estimated 2025 yield from the insurance premium tax on household policies; when the insurance compensation fund levy is expected to fall to zero; and if such a rebalancing of insurance levies is under consideration.

PQ72776/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

360. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the Government's position on a request (details supplied) that the Government endorse a national flood framework and establish a sustainable flood insurance fund and flood agency through enabling legislation, with collection of a flood insurance protection contribution to begin in 2027 and the fund to begin taking on risk by 2028; the date by which the Flood Insurance Protection Gap Working Group is due to report; and whether the 2027 timeline is considered achievable.

PQ72774/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

361. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has engaged with the Central Bank and an organisation (details supplied) on the credit risk posed by uninsured flood-exposed homes; and if he has considered the proposal by another organisation in August 2026 for mortgage top-up lending to fund property-level flood resilience works.

PQ72773/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

362. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the purpose and regulatory effect of transferring a regulated client-servicing business from a firm in liquidation to another entity (details supplied); the protections available to former clients in relation to professional indemnity insurance and ongoing communication; and which body is responsible for ensuring that affected clients are adequately informed and protected; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72706/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

363. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the regulatory protections available to investors where an investment vehicle has entered liquidation and the regulated intermediary that advised on or serviced that investment has also entered liquidation (details supplied); the responsibilities that a regulated intermediary retains for advice provided prior to liquidation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72705/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

364. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will consider expanding or adjusting the Small Benefit Exemption framework to explicitly incentivise and favour locally administered town or chamber gift card schemes; if he will assess the way in which such a mechanism can prevent economic leakage and sustain local retail sectors in rural border towns; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72913/26 | MATT CARTHY

365. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if his Department has conducted a costing of the proposal to align the substantial shareholding exemption with the dividend participation exemption; and, if so, to outline the costs involved.

PQ72697/26 | EMER CURRIE

366. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the position regarding any review of the requirement under the Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles (ICAV) Act 2015 for the central bank to maintain a publicly accessible database of company directors that includes their name, date of birth, personal residential address and a copy of their signature; and if he is concerned about the implications on their privacy as a result of this requirement.

PQ72687/26 | BARRY WARD

367. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to outline the CPI projections that underpin the Budget 2027 rather than the HICP.

PQ72659/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

368. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance whether a person who has received the help to buy grant at the rate of €30,000 but has not yet drawn down their mortgage is eligible for the additional €5,000.

PQ72693/26 | THOMAS GOULD

369. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Flood Insurance Protection Gap Working Group has met yet; if so, the matters discussed; the frequency with which it is due to meet; the schedule of options it will discuss; the manner in which its recommendations will be published and considered; and a timeline for same.

PQ72623/26 | IVANA BACIK

370. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the safeguards in place to ensure that Revenue enforcement and sheriff procedures adequately provide for exceptional circumstances when dealing with small, family operated businesses; and whether additional discretion should be available in cases where hardship, bereavement or serious family illness can be clearly evidenced.

PQ72619/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

371. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the number of businesses that registered and submitted returns for each of the two accounting periods 1 May - 30 June and 1 July - 31 August for the e-liquid products tax (EPT); the volumes and values of e-liquid products subject to EPT in that period; the total tax collected; the available breakdown by geography, size and type of business making the return; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72542/26 | EMER CURRIE

372. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance to provide further detail on the scope and intended focus of the enterprise tax review announced as part of Budget 2027; the specific areas of tax that will be considered as part of the review; the expected timeline for its initiation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72541/26 | EMER CURRIE

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

373. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation the estimated capital and current expenditure associated with implementing the European Digital Identity Wallet; the projected annual operating cost; and the source of funding for same.

PQ73079/26 | CAROL NOLAN

374. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider

name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73338/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

375. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to consider decentralising Government departments to Iveragh and south Kerry to boost economic growth in these areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73355/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

376. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to provide the necessary funding to help address the significant coastal erosion at Rossbeigh Beach, Glenbeigh, County Kerry (details supplied).

PQ73254/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

377. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to provide the necessary funding to address tidal flooding where family homes have been flooded at Cromane Lower, Killorglin, County Kerry

PQ73253/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

378. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to address a pension related matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73193/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

379. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will provide an update on capital infrastructure allocations under the national development plan specifically earmarked for Cavan and Monaghan; to ensure that the specific economic vulnerabilities of rural border towns are weighted heavily in upcoming mid-term budgetary reviews; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72917/26 | MATT CARTHY

380. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation further to the OPW's statement that the 56 completed flood relief schemes protect some 12,200 properties, the number of those properties whose details have been shared with Insurance Ireland under the memorandum of understanding between the OPW and Insurance Ireland; the most recent data from Insurance Ireland on the proportion of those properties offered flood cover, and the date of that data; and the average time between a scheme's completion and its notification to insurers.

PQ72772/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

381. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation whether the OPW has examined a national grant scheme for property-level flood resilience measures, such as flood doors, non-return valves and raised electrics, for homes where flood relief schemes are not planned in the near term, as proposed in the homeowner flood adaptation scheme in insurance Ireland's report, Flood Protection Gap – Proposed Solution (August 2026); whether such a scheme could be delivered through the SEAI's existing retrofit grant model; and whether a flood performance certificate at point of sale, similar to the building energy rating, is under consideration.

PQ72771/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

382. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to provide details of contracts (details supplied).

PQ72708/26 | DESSIE ELLIS

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

383. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide clarity on the refusal of an employment permit (details supplied); and what is required in order to remedy this.

PQ73232/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

384. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether Fáilte Ireland or other State tourism bodies have assessed the tourism potential of Carriglass Manor and Demesne; whether any engagement has taken place with Longford County Council or the landowner concerning its possible development as a heritage or visitor attraction; and the supports that may be available to facilitate a viable conservation-led tourism project in County Longford.

PQ73055/26 | SORCA CLARKE

385. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment in relation to the general employment permit application, if websites (details supplied) are acceptable online platforms for the second job advertisement required for the Labour Market Needs Test.

PQ73231/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

386. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether the Workplace Relations Commission or his Department has received complaints or carried out inspections relating to pay differences between permit holders and other workers in the private home care and nursing home sectors in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ73085/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

387. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has assessed the position where the minimum annual remuneration for healthcare assistants and home carers, equivalent to €16.12 an hour on a 39 hour week, exceeds the national minimum wage of €14.15 an hour, such that Irish and EEA workers in the same roles may legally be paid less than permit holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73084/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

388. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department collects or holds any data comparing the pay of employment permit holders with that of Irish and EEA workers in the same occupations and with the same employers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73083/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

389. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73332/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

390. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to outline any plans that he may introduce for compulsory safety reporting and monitoring of frontier artificial intelligence.

PQ73268/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

391. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the practical remedies available to employees where an employer refuses trade union recognition or reasonable workplace access to external union representatives; whether he acknowledges the limitations of the existing voluntary code of practice in such circumstances; and whether enforceable statutory access rights are being considered under the Action Plan to Promote Collective Bargaining 2026–2030.

PQ73239/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

392. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether the Government will consider legislation to provide enforceable workplace access rights for trade union representatives if agreement cannot be reached between organisations (details supplied); when a decision on this matter is expected; and whether such a decision will be made before the scheduled 2028 mid-term review of the Action Plan to Promote Collective Bargaining.

PQ73238/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

393. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the additional supports in place for the community enterprise sector as a result of Budget 2027.

PQ73225/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

394. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the safeguards being put in place regarding the use of AI helpdesks and AI-tools to screen queries and complaints from the public within his Department and within bodies under its aegis.

PQ72988/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

395. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his Department considered the ability of civil servants to adequately support EU presidency work requirements in digital and AI policy units of his Department prior to appointing external consultants to digital policy teams; whether criteria for specific expertise were laid out; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72980/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

396. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the steps his Department is taking to ensure the surplus in the National Training Fund is deployed more effectively to directly support small business owners and their staff with upskilling and digital transformation; if he will consider specific allocations or streamlined access for rural and border-town business networks (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72909/26 | MATT CARTHY

397. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if the Health and Safety Authority has issued specific guidance on occupational exposure limits, ventilation and extraction requirements for nail salons and nail bars; if so, if that guidance addresses the protection of customers as well as workers; if the authority plans a targeted inspection campaign of the sector; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72845/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

398. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of inspections carried out by the Health and Safety Authority of nail salons and nail bars in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of breaches identified relating to ventilation, exposure to chemical fumes and dust, and the provision of protective equipment; the number of improvement notices, prohibition notices and prosecutions that followed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72844/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

399. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of employment permits issued for roles in the nail, beauty and personal services sector in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of such permits revoked or refused renewal following inspection or enforcement action; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72832/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

400. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the number of inspections carried out by the Workplace Relations Commission of nail salons and nail bars in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of breaches of employment law detected; the number of compliance notices, fixed payment notices and prosecutions that followed; the amount of unpaid wages recovered; the number of those inspections carried out jointly with An Garda Síochána; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72831/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

401. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment his Departments definition of "data sovereignty" and its policy approach to current geopolitical discussions on data sovereignty, residency and localisation.

PQ72800/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

402. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if there is a process through which his Department receives employment related complaints from persons granted work permits; if so, the number of such complaints received in each year from 2022 to date in 2026.

PQ72778/26 | CAROL NOLAN

403. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to provide an update on his Department's work on the transposition of the Platform Work Directive.

PQ72690/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

404. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the measures required of, or agreed with, sectors benefiting from employment permit quotas to increase domestic recruitment, training, apprenticeships and workforce retention; and whether targets, benchmarks or timelines have been established to reduce reliance on overseas recruitment in each occupation currently subject to a quota.

PQ72640/26 | MATT CARTHY

405. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the Department of Health, the Department of Education and Youth, or any other Department with responsibility for public infrastructure and services, is formally consulted prior to a decision being taken to establish, renew or increase employment permit quotas; and the nature of any such consultation undertaken in respect of quotas introduced or amended in 2026.

PQ72639/26 | MATT CARTHY

406. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether regulations have been made pursuant to section 47(12)(a) of the Employment Permits Act 2024 specifying accommodation to be provided to a foreign national as a condition of the grant of a general employment permit or seasonal employment permit; if so, to set out the employments and categories of employment to which such regulations apply; and if not, whether consideration is being given to making such regulations, particularly in respect of occupations subject to employment permit quotas.

PQ72635/26 | MATT CARTHY

407. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether the availability and capacity of housing, healthcare, education, childcare, transport and other public services are taken into account when determining the number of employment permits made available generally or under individual occupational quotas; if so, the methodology used to assess these factors; and the Departments, agencies and other bodies consulted in this regard.

PQ72625/26 | MATT CARTHY

408. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment the methodology and criteria used to determine the number of employment permits made available under occupational quotas; the basis on which the numerical quota for each occupation currently subject to a quota was calculated; the labour shortages identified in each such occupation; and the number of permits sought by relevant sectoral representatives during the most recent review compared with the quota ultimately approved.

PQ72624/26 | MATT CARTHY

409. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment for an update on the progress of the Government's life sciences strategy; the expected date for publication of the strategy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72540/26 | EMER CURRIE

410. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his previous commitment to make a decision to abolish subminimum pay rates for young workers in 2029 still stands; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72532/26 | PAUL MURPHY

411. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if his attention has been drawn to the concerns of an organisation (details supplied) in relation to the requirement for their industry to have least half of their workforce to be EEA, UK, or Swiss nationals; and if any flexibility or derogation can be considered.

PQ72498/26 | BARRY WARD

412. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment whether his Department has conducted or commissioned any assessment of the impact of employment permits on housing demand in the State, including the additional housing requirement arising from permit holders and their dependent family members; if so, the findings of any such assessment; and if not, whether he intends to undertake or commission such an assessment.

PQ72637/26 | MATT CARTHY

Chun an Oideachais agus Óige: To the Education and Youth

413. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of suitable places available for ASD and special school places this school year, broken down by constituency, in tabular form.

PQ73030/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

414. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the steps being taken to increase the early identification of children at risk of reading difficulties; the supports being given to deliver evidence-informed literacy instruction and intervention for children who struggle with reading; to outline the teacher education in literacy and dyslexia; and if there will be an Increase in specialist reading classes within children's local communities.

PQ73137/26 | MARK WARD

415. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of children in Waterford that require specialist placements for September 2027.

PQ73027/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

416. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans for children who cannot secure an appropriate placement in an ASD or special school place.

PQ73034/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

417. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of additional ASD classes or special school places planned for the next school year; and when these will be confirmed.

PQ73031/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

418. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will carry out a review of patronage of national schools in the Killester, Raheny, Clontarf school planning area to ensure that parents' clear preference for multi-denominational provision is met.

PQ73050/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

419. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to report on the additional school accommodation application by a school (details supplied) and the delay in its processing; and the timeline for the approval and funding for the project.

PQ73324/26 | SEÁN CROWE

420. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to respond to the issues raised in the attached communication regarding school transport to school (details supplied).

PQ73261/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

421. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to lift the moratorium on hiring school secretaries.

PQ73068/26 | JEN CUMMINS

422. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether any of the additional funding for expansion of DEIS plus announced in Budget 27 can be utilised to support the Drogheda schools previously excluded from DEIS plus; noting that these schools are still seeking DEIS plus recognition.

PQ73065/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

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

PQ73256/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

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

PQ73224/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

425. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the way in which a DEIS band 2 designation for new amalgamated schools be justified when the amalgamation itself would result in fewer teachers and reduced support for the students.

PQ73090/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

426. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to ensure a DEIS BAND 1 is given to an amalgamation of two schools (details supplied).

PQ73089/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

427. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to fund more youth workers serving the young people of the South West Inner City.

PQ73088/26 | JEN CUMMINS

428. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the position regarding school transport for a student who is attending a special school; and if there is any interim financial support available to families who are incurring substantial transport costs while waiting for transport to commence.

PQ73131/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

429. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 64534/26, if she will provide an update on the matters raised.

PQ73129/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

430. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to ensure that the Convention on Education is treated in the same manner as reports of a Citizens' Assembly when it reports next year; if the report will be considered by the Education Committee; the consideration that will be given to the report by the Government; and the extent of her plans to ensure that this important exercise in participatory democracy will be evaluated in full, and implemented.

PQ73123/26 | IVANA BACIK

431. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to her Department and bodies under her aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to her Department or to the body under her aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73331/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

432. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to children (details supplied) who do not currently have access to school transport to their special schools; and the actions she is taking to resolve this.

PQ73032/26 | THOMAS GOULD

433. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to a school (details supplied) that has not had an assigned NEPS psychologist for the past two years and that to date none have been assigned for the 2026/27 school year; will she comment on the fact that a major residential hub with 14 primary schools serving the Blackrock area has been completely without this service across multiple school years;

will she agree that the structural freeze on educational assessments means that vulnerable children across every one of these schools are missing out and being left behind by the system.

PQ73176/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

434. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current status of an application (details supplied); the reason for the delay in progressing the application; and the expected timeline for a decision and, subject to approval, the provision of funding for the proposed extension.

PQ73171/26 | PAUL MURPHY

435. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to list those countries in the OECD which have school principals who also teach classes and those which have principals who only work as administrators; the reason this State has teacher principals; and if she will consider introducing administrator principals.

PQ73259/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

436. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the qualifications a person requires to become a SENO, given that they will be dealing with schools and children's needs; if they require experience teaching additional needs children and working as an SNA in a school setting; and if not, if she will consider introducing such a requirement.

PQ73258/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

437. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department has issued guidance to post-primary schools on the position of students with dyslexia who hold an exemption from Irish and experience significant difficulty learning a modern foreign language; if not, if she will issue guidance clarifying that, while an Irish exemption does not automatically extend to a foreign language, such students should have their individual educational needs considered and should be informed of available alternative arrangements; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73237/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

438. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department monitors school policies requiring students to study modern foreign languages, including the impact of such policies on students with dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties; whether any assessment has been undertaken of differences in school policies and their impact on access to the curriculum; and whether she will review the need for national guidance to ensure consistency and appropriate flexibility for students with additional educational needs.

PQ73236/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

439. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if post-primary schools are required to consider reasonable accommodation for students with dyslexia who experience significant difficulties learning a modern foreign language; the guidance issued by her Department on the application of reasonable accommodation to subject selection and participation in language classes; whether such consideration should include alternative subjects or other arrangements where appropriate; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73235/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

440. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to examine the vetting process for staff in special schools; and to outline the process that takes place if it has been established that there is a recorded TUSLA finding of concern against a particular candidate.

PQ73196/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

441. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will consider including schools (details supplied) in the first tranche of changes following her Departments primary school survey.

PQ73194/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

442. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 65501/26, for an update on the implementation of the SC L1/L2 programmes for special schools.

PQ73185/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

443. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of applications received, appointments made and vacancies existing within the Inspectorate in each of the past five years; and whether a further recruitment competition is planned.

PQ73222/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

444. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will review the criteria governing the recognition of overseas teaching service for incremental credit and pensionable service purposes; the number of years of overseas teaching service that may currently be recognised; and whether consideration is being given to recognising all teaching service completed abroad where it can be verified.

PQ73221/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

445. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the process for applying for a new Gaelcholáiste; to outline such a process; and if applications for new Gaelcholáistí will be considered other than if it is the outcome of the public voting process which has been in place in various locations in recent years.

PQ72701/26 | DONNCHADH Ó LAOGHAIRE

446. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if Bus Éireann will confirm the number of over 70-year-old school transport drivers that have been approved to return driving since the introduction of the new policy to allow drivers over 70 continue driving.

PQ72918/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

447. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the way in which the proposed common enrolment system will operate where linked schools have different patrons; whether parents will have an opportunity to vote on a specific proposal; the way in which the transition will accommodate pupils already enrolled; and the options that will be available to schools that do not join the initial group by 31 October 2026.

PQ72903/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

448. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the immediate steps her Department and the NCSE are taking to sanction and secure a specialist post-primary school placement for a child (details supplied) in County Cavan for September 2027; if she will ensure that a review of this case is conducted as a matter of urgency; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72893/26 | MATT CARTHY

449. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if the design team has submitted the tender report in relation to the new school building project for a school (details supplied) to her Department; and if construction is still due to commence in Q4 2026.

PQ72871/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

450. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if assistance and support is available to parents whose children are ready to transfer from a special school placement into a mainstream placement, but who cannot obtain an available mainstream placement in their locality.

PQ72812/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

451. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current position regarding planned improvements works to a school (details supplied), especially given the projected large increase in the local young population as a consequence of the ongoing regeneration of Cherry Orchard.

PQ72811/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH

452. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of children in Ireland who are home-educated; and the measures in place to assess the quality of that education.

PQ72802/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

453. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update on the work of the AI in Schools External Advisory Taskforce; to list its membership; the number of meetings to date; and to indicate when it expects to report.

PQ72798/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

454. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of youth clubs in Kildare who received funding from her Department for each of the last three years, the names, locations, and the amount of funding, in tabular form.

PQ72756/26 | MARK WALL

455. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of applications for a special school place in county Kildare for the school year of 2026-2027; the age profile of the applicants; the number that have being successful; and the plans to provide a school place for those that were unsuccessful.

PQ72754/26 | MARK WALL

456. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the plans to expand a special school in County Kildare (details supplied); and the timeframe involved.

PQ72753/26 | MARK WALL

457. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of Parliamentary Questions answered by her Department regarding school transport issues, broken down by year, from 2023 to date in 2026

PQ72699/26 | EMER CURRIE

458. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the total number of reps submitted to Bus Éireann school transport via the designated public representatives line, broken down by year, from 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ72698/26 | EMER CURRIE

459. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has undertaken an assessment of the actual average cost incurred by families providing private transport under the special transport grant or exceptional no service interim grant compared with the grant amounts paid.

PQ72696/26 | EMER CURRIE

460. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the educational campaigns that are being implemented in schools to inform teenagers about the harms of recreational nitrous oxide use.

PQ72689/26 | JOHN LAHART

461. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide an update on the commitment in the DEIS plus scheme to increase funding for youth services (details supplied) near post primary schools.

PQ72664/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

462. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the mandatory items that must be on every agenda of a Board of Management meeting for primary schools in Ireland as required by law and under the School Governance Manual 2023-2027; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72620/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

463. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether her Department has the authority to direct a primary school Board of Management to review or remove a designated liaison person (details supplied) where concerns have been formally substantiated; and the procedures in place to address such matters while ensuring fair procedures for all involved.

PQ72608/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

464. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Oideachais agus Óige cad iad a pleananna chun an liúntais do mhúineadh trí Ghaeilge a thabhairt ar ais do mhúinteoirí meánscoile chun aitheantas a thabhairt do na dúshláin a bhaineann leis an obair sin.

PQ72591/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

465. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the breakdown of the €687 million allocated to the school transport scheme in Budget 2027; the level of funding provided in 2026; the additional funding provided in 2027; the extent to which the increase will support increased pupil numbers, expanded services, increased operator costs, fleet investment or other measures; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72583/26 | EMER CURRIE

466. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to provide a detailed breakdown of the €687 million allocated to the school transport scheme in Budget 2027; the amount allocated to existing school transport services, service expansion, fleet investment; the new initiatives or pilots to help operators meet increased bus contractor running costs; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72582/26 | EMER CURRIE

467. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth whether two schools (details supplied) can be considered for additional supports following the additional allocation in Budget 2027 to enable the expansion of DEIS Plus and home school liaison supports.

PQ72565/26 | EMER CURRIE

468. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth for an update on funding for the climate action summer works scheme; and when applications for the next round will be accepted.

PQ72539/26 | EMER CURRIE

469. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the breakdown of the way in which the additional allocation secured for ETS in Budget 2027 will be distributed; the number of additional educational psychologists that will be hired from same; and the number of additional schools that will benefit from the programme.

PQ72530/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

470. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the impact the additional teachers provided for in Budget 2027 will have on class sizes and the pupil to teacher ratio.

PQ72511/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

471. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the changes to school transport fees planned for 2027-2028 arising from Budget 2027.

PQ72510/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

472. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the amount her Department paid in abortive fees related to capital projects in each of the past five years to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ72508/26 | DARREN O'ROURKE

473. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to shortfalls at a school (details supplied) resulting in graduates being unable to have their diplomas recognised by an organisation; if this issue has been satisfactorily resolved; and if not, if a process has been put in place to allow graduates of this course to gain recognition.

PQ72492/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

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

474. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether he has considered legislation to require providers of subscription television services to supply subscriber information to the issuing agent under section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 for the purpose of identifying unlicensed premises; and whether his Department has sought the views of the Data Protection Commission on such a measure.

PQ73075/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

475. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the most recent estimate of the television licence evasion rate and of the annual revenue forgone; and the corresponding estimates for each of the years 2019 to 2025.

PQ73073/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

476. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether, under the multi-annual funding arrangement for RTÉ agreed in 2024, the amount paid to RTÉ under section 123(3) of the Broadcasting Act 2009 is calculated as the difference between a fixed total funding figure and television licence fee receipts; if so, whether any increase in licence fee receipts arising from improved compliance would reduce the Exchequer contribution rather than increase total funding to RTÉ.

PQ73072/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

477. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73329/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

478. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when applicants to the new basic income for the arts scheme will be notified of the outcome of the selection process, given that applications closed on 12 May 2026, when payments under the scheme are expected to commence; whether payments will be backdated to September 2026 as announced; and when successful applicants can expect to receive their first payment.

PQ73108/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

479. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if his Department will consider including "escape-room" activities within the activities covered by any future youth culture/activity cards; whether independent escape-room businesses can register their interest as potential participating providers under any future scheme; whether there will be a consultation or application process for businesses wishing to participate in

any future scheme; and whether any business wishing to participate in any future scheme can provide further information on their activities to his Department.

PQ73103/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

480. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if he will consider an extension to the deadline to register with the Spraoi system.

PQ73262/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

481. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether any consideration was given to expanding the basic income for the arts scheme in Budget 2027.

PQ72982/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

482. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the measures he will put in place to offset the carbon footprint of an event (details supplied); and the way in which sustainability will be promoted at the event.

PQ72939/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

483. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the engagement he has had with RTE regarding progress on reforms prior to Budget 2027, including the dates of any such meetings in the past six months; and whether pulling of funding was raised as a possibility during said engagements.

PQ72934/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

484. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the reason his Department did not allocate additional funding to TG4 and Screen Ireland in Budget 2027.

PQ72931/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

485. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the position regarding the basic income for artists; if the full 2000 allocations been filled; to provide a breakdown by region of number of the successful applicants; the numbers pertaining to each category of artists involved, musicians, writers, painters and so on; and if he make a statement on the matter.

PQ72968/26 | JOHNNY MYTHEN

486. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport further to Parliamentary Question No. 32814/26, to make a firm commitment that the necessary funding will be provided by his Department to rebuild the facility (details supplied); and provide the necessary funding.

PQ72820/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

487. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the total amount drawn down in funds to date under the Large Scale Sporting Infrastructure Fund announcement of October 2024; the proportion of the overall funds awarded that this represents; and the reason funds have not been distributed.

PQ72803/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

488. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the date on which the general scheme of the digital identity framework regulation Bill will be published; whether it will be referred for pre-legislative scrutiny and to which committee; which provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1183 it will give national standing to; if an eIDAS steering group has been established; and the Departments which will participate on same.

PQ72769/26 | CAROL NOLAN

489. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport if the exercise scenario for Eastern Pearl is included the activation or simulated activation of a national emergency coordination, emergency planning or crisis-management structures

PQ72555/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

490. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport whether a situation (details supplied) included consideration of support from foreign military, intelligence or security agencies in response to disruption of critical subsea telecommunications infrastructure.

PQ72553/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

491. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the protocols governing information sharing between Ireland and Britian under the joint framework for responding to disruption of subsea telecommunications cables.

PQ72548/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

492. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport the organisations, agencies, companies and Departments that participated in or observed the joint Ireland-UK subsea telecommunications resilience exercise known as Eastern Pearl on 30 September 2026.

PQ72537/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

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

493. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to establish whether the development at a location (details supplied) can qualify for the interim remediation scheme or any related remediation scheme; if not, the reason for its exclusion; and if a review or alternative route to support is available to ensure homeowners are not left facing potentially substantial remediation costs without access to appropriate financial assistance.

PQ73296/26 | PAT BUCKLEY

494. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether his Department is aware of the documented condition of Carriglass Manor, County Longford, including its inclusion on An Taisce's Buildings at Risk Register; whether his Department has engaged with Longford County Council or the owner regarding the conservation of the building and associated demesne; what heritage grants, conservation

supports or technical assistance may be available; and whether he will engage with the relevant parties to explore options for the building's long-term preservation and reuse.

PQ73054/26 | SORCA CLARKE

495. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the purpose and intended operation of the Cost Rental Allocation Plan Regulations 2025; when he intends to commence the provisions enabling cost rental landlords to apply additional allocation criteria under section 31A of the Affordable Housing Act 2021, as inserted by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024; and if these regulations will facilitate the introduction of a defined local priority category within cost rental allocations, similar to the priority arrangements permitted under section 8 of the Affordable Housing Act 2021.

PQ73316/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

496. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the average and median time taken by An Bord Pleanála/An Coimisiún Pleanála to determine planning appeals in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025, and to date in 2026; the percentage determined within the statutory objective period; and the number of appeals outstanding for more than six, twelve and eighteen months, by year and local authority, where available.

PQ73214/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

497. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether he has data available recording the amount of the new social housing delivery since 2023 has been has been wheelchair and disability accessible; the amount of next year's delivery and future years' delivery is projected to be wheelchair and disability accessible, in tabular form; if possible including data pertaining to social homes delivered by AHBs and acquired from private developers; and his plans to ensure that the social housing stock under construction currently has an adequate proportion of wheelchair and disability accessible social homes.

PQ73121/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

498. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73336/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

499. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to confirm that persons exiting from the temporary protection directive will be entitled to access housing assistance payments; and if his Department has conducted any assessment of the potential cost implications of same.

PQ73192/26 | CAROL NOLAN

500. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of planning appeals determined by An Bord Pleanála/An Coimisiún Pleanála in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025, and to date in 2026, broken down by local authority; the number and percentage of cases in which the original local authority decision was upheld, reversed or otherwise varied, in tabular form.

PQ73213/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

501. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of planning appeals lodged with An Bord Pleanála/An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of decisions made by each local authority in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025, and to date in 2026; to provide a breakdown by local authority and year, in tabular form.

PQ73212/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

502. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider more advertising for pellet and biomass heating systems (details supplied).

PQ73041/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

503. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason recipients of compensation payments under the cessation of turf cutting compensation scheme are being contacted by his Department in relation to being offered advance payments under the scheme (details supplied).

PQ72995/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

504. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department will provide emergency capital funding to Monaghan County Council to bridge the €400,000 budget shortfall caused by escalating construction costs for the specialized adaptation of the former Newbliss Garda barracks; if he is aware that this project was specifically allocated to a family (details supplied) caring for a child with Rett syndrome who requires 24-hour care; and the emergency capital mechanisms available to prevent critical local disability housing projects from being abandoned due to rising tender costs.

PQ72891/26 | MATT CARTHY

505. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason companies are excluded from eligibility for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant; whether he intends to extend eligibility to company-owned properties, given the potential to bring vacant and derelict buildings back into residential use and revitalise towns and villages across Cork and nationally; whether any necessary amendments are awaiting ministerial approval; and the expected timeframe for approval and implementation.

PQ72854/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

506. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware that the application of SI 612/2024 is leaving some elderly people unable to access grants for much needed adaptation where the income of all siblings is considered when only one sibling lives in the dwelling requiring adaptation; the supports that are available to a person who has had a grant for much needed adaptation refused because of the income of siblings who do not reside in or contribute to the house; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72843/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

507. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the way in which a sibling living in the family home in circumstances (details supplied) can prove that the other siblings make no financial contribution; if being able to do so, proves this would mean accessing the grant if means allow; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72840/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

508. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of CAS projects currently under consideration for funding or are being funded by his Department via AHB's and Cork County Council; the breakdown of the type of housing being provided that is, elderly, disability and so on; and the number of houses in each project.

PQ72821/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

509. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether his Department collects data on the number of residential units granted planning permission in flood zones A and B under the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (November 2009); if so, the number for each of the years 2022 to 2025; whether the flood mitigation measures required as conditions of such permissions are recorded centrally; and whether his Department intends to update the 2009 guidelines to reflect current climate projections.

PQ72770/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

510. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the approved housing bodies regulatory authority are considering the sale of any approved housing body; the criteria they are considering as part of such a sale; the number and location of any such houses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72749/26 | MARK WALL

511. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if the approved housing bodies regulatory authority have approved the sale of an approved housing body home since its inception in 2019; and the number and location of any such houses.

PQ72748/26 | MARK WALL

512. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of school wardens employed by the State over each of the past three years; and the number per county, in tabular form.

PQ72735/26 | MARK WALL

513. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. PQ70626/26, whether he intends that the prospective changes to social housing income limits will have retrospective effect, as was the case for previous changes in social housing income limits.

PQ72721/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

514. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the reason retained and full-time firefighters who continue to pass annual medical and fitness assessments are required to retire upon reaching 62 years of age; whether he will review this policy in light of increased life expectancy and ongoing recruitment and retention difficulties within the fire service; whether consideration is being given to permitting firefighters who continue to meet all occupational health and fitness standards to remain in service until at least the State pension age of 66.

PQ72649/26 | MATTIE MCGRATH

515. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if victims of domestic violence who have to flee their homes can be considered eligible for social housing while they are waiting for legal aid to finalise legal separations on the basis that they have legal confirmation and a signed affidavit, knowing that the waiting list for legal aid in Mayo is in excess of 50 weeks.

PQ72601/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

516. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has engaged with Uisce Éireann regarding the operation of the connection charge rebate scheme after 31 December 2026; if guidance will issue on how completion of homes will be determined for rebate purposes; and if allowances in refunding of rebate will be made with regard to administrative delays.

PQ72523/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

517. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the scheme to allow victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse to change local authority housing list and keep their time; and if people on HAP transfer lists will also be considered for same.

PQ72520/26 | MARK WARD

518. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the Department's review of a draft final report (details supplied).

PQ72495/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

519. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the grants available for properties with residential units above shops in town centres.

PQ72475/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection

520. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether the €500 cost of disability payment, announced as a permanent payment in Budget 2027, will be placed on a statutory basis through legislation to guarantee its continuation in future years; whether the rate will be reviewed and increased in line with inflation and evidence on the actual additional costs of disability; and the further changes to the payment that are being considered.

PQ73140/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

521. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the specific evidential criteria used by deciding officers when determining which parent has care of a child for the majority of the time in shared-care arrangements (details supplied); the types of documentary evidence considered; and whether both

parents are routinely afforded an opportunity to review and respond to information gathered by a social welfare inspector before a determination is made.

PQ73132/26 | SEÁN KYNE

522. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the assessment undertaken by his Department of the adequacy of supports available to older people living alone, including the living alone allowance and household benefits package; and whether further improvements to these supports are being considered.

PQ73037/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

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

PQ73144/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

524. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to allow for a swap to regular jobseekers benefit from seasonal jobseekers benefit for a person (details supplied).

PQ73058/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

525. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a parent (details supplied) will urgently be granted a domiciliary care allowance on appeal in respect of their child; the current status of the appeal; and when a decision will be reached.

PQ73307/26 | COLM BURKE

526. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a request for a review of carer's arrears being withheld and further recovery of payments as a result of an IQA payment paid in error where the error was on the part of his Department, was accepted; if these repayments are paused while this review is ongoing; and if a judgement has taken place and was unsuccessful whether the family has a right to appeal.

PQ73317/26 | COLM BURKE

527. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of a review and appeal for disability allowance (details supplied); and when a decision will be reached given that it has been submitted for some time.

PQ73313/26 | COLM BURKE

528. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 71162/26, the number of allegations of suspected social welfare fraud received by his Department in each year from 2020 to date in 2026 that resulted in a formal investigation, a finding of fraud, a cessation or reduction of payment, an overpayment being assessed, a referral for prosecution, a successful prosecution; and the total value of overpayments identified and recovered arising from such investigations in each year concerned.

PQ73066/26 | CAROL NOLAN

529. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the eligibility criteria for domiciliary care allowance (DCA) in respect of children with type 1 diabetes who reach the age of 16 years; if he acknowledges that the condition requires ongoing intensive daily management and supervision beyond age 16; and if he will consider extending DCA eligibility to age 18 for those affected.

PQ73323/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

530. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of young people with type 1 diabetes who have transitioned from domiciliary care allowance to disability allowance in each of the past three years; if his Department has examined the financial impact on families arising from the cessation of DCA at age 16; and if he will outline any proposals under consideration to support families caring for young people with lifelong conditions such as type 1 diabetes during this transition.

PQ73322/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

531. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if people who were in receipt of disability allowance before moving over to the state pension will be considered for the €500 cost of disability payment; to outline the decision process for who receives this payment; and if this will be reviewed.

PQ73107/26 | MARK WARD

532. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will review the refusal of Invalidity Pension (details supplied).

PQ73106/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

533. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review Schedule C, paragraph 4 of S.I. 312 of 1996, which treats Reserve Defence Forces service of up to 21 consecutive days as subsidiary employment, in light of Supplemental Military Service of up to 100 days a year and the 14-consecutive-day limit on reserve service.

PQ73105/26 | CAROL NOLAN

534. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether his Department intends to review the operation of household or family means-testing arrangements affecting disabled adults who reside with parents or other family members; whether consideration is being given to assessing only the disabled person's own income for the purposes of disability-related income supports; and the timeline for any such review.

PQ73127/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

535. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73340/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

536. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on her Department's plans to end the means test for carer's allowance; the timeline for this process; and the evidence a self-employed person should provide to show their current income after starting to provide care.

PQ73178/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

537. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated number of persons aged 66 and over in receipt of the State Pension (Contributory) or State Pension (Non-Contributory) who were previously in receipt of invalidity pension, disability allowance or blind pension; the estimated cost of extending the €500 cost of disability payment to this cohort; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73271/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

538. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the qualifying payments and eligibility criteria for the €500 cost of disability payment announced in Budget 2027; the reference date on which recipients must be in payment to qualify; whether a person must make an application or will be paid automatically; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73270/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

539. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether persons who were in receipt of invalidity pension immediately prior to reaching pension age and who have since transferred to the State Pension (Contributory) will qualify for the €500 cost of disability payment announced in Budget 2027; if not, the reason such persons are excluded given that their disability and associated costs continue after age 66; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73269/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

540. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the estimated cost of raising the income threshold for single people over the age of 66 to €800 per week.

PQ73260/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

541. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if an exceptional needs payment will be awarded to a person (details supplied).

PQ73198/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

542. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the qualifying rules for the €500 Disability payment announced in Budget 2027, including whether a person who transfers from a long-term disability payment to a State Pension shortly before the payment is made will still qualify.

PQ73188/26 | MÁIRE DEVINE

543. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons who currently hold a verified MyGovID account; the estimated number of adults who do not; and whether his Department has assessed the risk of exclusion from the European Digital Identity Wallet for persons who are unable or unwilling to obtain a verified MyGovID account.

PQ73078/26 | CAROL NOLAN

544. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider introducing a savings disregard in the jobseeker's allowance means test for those saving for their first home.

PQ73002/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

545. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average time it takes to process EU social insurance contribution records for people returning to Ireland; whether he would consider introducing interim social protection supports for those returning who have met PRSI contribution records in the years preceding that in which they emigrated, subject to a time-bound cut-off point.

PQ72999/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

546. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a person in receipt of disability allowance can inherit ownership of their current residence without it affecting their eligibility for the payment (details supplied).

PQ72905/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

547. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason families in receipt of the domiciliary care allowance (DCA) have been excluded from the €500 cost of disability lump sum payment announced in Budget 2026; if he acknowledges that the significant, additional cost of living with a disability applies equally to children under the age of 16; and if he will expand the eligibility criteria for this lump sum to include DCA recipients to prevent these families from being left behind; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72888/26 | MATT CARTHY

548. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to outline the benefits of the wage subsidy scheme; and his plans to promote awareness of the scheme to ensure a greater uptake by employers.

PQ72797/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

549. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of appeals submitted to his Department with respect to carers allowance and carers benefit in 2025 and to date in 2026; and the number of such appeals that were allowed and the number disallowed.

PQ72775/26 | CAROL NOLAN

550. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there is a facility currently, or plans for the future, to allow employees pay more than the set percentages under the national auto enrolment scheme.

PQ72747/26 | MARK WALL

551. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the State pension or redress available to women who were denied the ability to work due to the marriage ban.

PQ72725/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

552. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware that a State pensioner who has an occupational pension may fail the fuel allowance means test because their occupational pension brings their income above the prescribed limit; if he is aware that because they do not qualify for fuel allowance, they consequently lose that gateway to the warmer homes scheme; if he will review this issue; and if he will consider whether receipt of the State pension should itself become a qualifying category for the warmer homes scheme.

PQ72724/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

553. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the means assessments for carer's allowance and disability allowance include or exclude consideration of ex gratia compensation payments such as those made to individuals who developed narcolepsy following administration of the pandemrix vaccine; if included in either case, the reason for this, given that these payments are compensation for injury rather than income; if it is treated differently for either payment, the reason; and if he plans to extend the exemption both payments.

PQ72576/26 | DAVID CULLINANE

554. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or jobseeker's benefit; and the breakdown, by nationality, indicating the number of Irish citizens, UK nationals, EU/EEA nationals and persons from the rest of the world, and by duration on the payment, in tabular form.

PQ72573/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

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

555. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his views on whether existing laws are sufficient to discourages instances of underage drinking.

PQ73170/26 | BARRY WARD

556. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the method by which average gross annual earnings are calculated for the purposes of the temporary protection transition scheme, including whether the assessment is based on the contracted annual salary, the gross pay on payslips dated within the six-month reference period, or annual earnings recorded by Revenue; the exact start and end dates of the reference period; and whether arrears of pay relating to the reference period but paid after 30 September 2026 are counted.

PQ73039/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

557. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether, under the temporary protection transition scheme, an applicant who was in continuous PAYE employment for the six months prior to 30 September 2026 may combine that employment income with self-employment income earned in the same period in order to meet the minimum income threshold of €29,432; and the way in which such an applicant should complete the online application form, which permits only one employment type to be selected.

PQ73036/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

558. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps being taken to ensure our institutions and public IT systems are protected from cyberattacks (details supplied); and that any such cyberattack from a company with a presence in Ireland can be properly investigated and prosecuted.

PQ73046/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

559. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration for an update on the mental health crisis de-escalation team in operation in Limerick; and if similar teams will be rolled out in other parts of the State.

PQ73292/26 | MARK WARD

560. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the way in which a person (details supplied) who is a Thai national, married to an Irish citizen, living in the North of Ireland on a temporary EU pre-settlement scheme visa, land in Dublin airport and travel north within the law.

PQ73304/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

561. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he plans to bring forward legislation to combat nitrous oxide misuse in Ireland.

PQ73290/26 | MARK WARD

562. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will address delays in processing visa appeals for Palestinian students who have secured places at Irish universities and are at risk of missing the start of their courses as a result.

PQ73352/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

563. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether any review has been initiated following the European Parliament's adoption of Resolution B10-0424 by 381 votes to 167 to identify organisations, associations, charities, student bodies or other entities operating in Ireland that have links to, receive support from, or promote the ideology of an organisation (details supplied).

PQ73060/26 | CAROL NOLAN

564. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his attention has been drawn to the adoption by the European Parliament of Resolution B10-0424; whether the concerns expressed within that resolution regarding Islamist extremism, radicalisation and organisations associated with political Islam have been examined by his Department; whether the activities of an organisation (details supplied) and any affiliated organisations operating within the State form part of that assessment.

PQ73059/26 | CAROL NOLAN

565. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 1249 of 18 March 2026, whether any organisation or individual known to be associated with an organisation (details supplied) is currently permitted to raise funds, recruit members, organise events or otherwise operate within the State; and the measures in place to monitor such activities where concerns arise regarding links to extremism or terrorism

PQ73056/26 | CAROL NOLAN

566. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Gardaí currently covering the Thomastown area of County Kilkenny.

PQ73315/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

567. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will review and advise on the case of a person (details supplied).

PQ73117/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

568. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration of the total number of non-Irish nationals released from prison in 2025 who were subject to a deportation order at the time of release, to outline which orders were subject to legal challenge, suspended or otherwise not deemed valid at that time; the number in each such category; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73111/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

569. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 70972/26, in respect of the four individuals who applied for international protection and the one individual subject to an ongoing High Court challenge, whether each remains in detention or is at liberty in the State; the stage reached in each international protection application; in respect of the 15 individuals removed; the time elapsed between release from custody and removal in each case and the number removed in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73110/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

570. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 70972/26, which stated that 29 individuals subject to valid deportation orders were released from custody in 2025, the status of the nine individuals not accounted for in that reply; whether each of these persons remains in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73109/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

571. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his views on the merits of creating a standalone law that would make adults permitting underage drinking in their household or other setting illegal.

PQ73099/26 | BARRY WARD

572. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73337/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

573. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the position regarding any engagement that he is having with his counterpart in Pakistan in relation to issues facing Afghan refugees in Pakistan in terms of securing a visa to assist with their Irish Refugee Protection Programme application (details supplied).

PQ73376/26 | BARRY WARD

574. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his attention has been drawn to an application made under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (details supplied); and if his attention has been drawn to the specific concerns related to the amended qualifying criteria for this programme.

PQ73368/26 | BARRY WARD

575. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the status of an appeal (details supplied); the current processing timeline for appeal types such as this; and when it is likely that a decision will be reached.

PQ73174/26 | COLM BURKE

576. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if no plans are in place to use a hotel (details supplied) for international protection accommodation, given that residents have reported it to be occupied; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73265/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

577. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if plans are in place to use a hotel (details supplied) for international protection accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73264/26 | PAUL NICHOLAS GOGARTY

578. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the capacity of the Dochas Centre; and the current number of inmates currently serving sentence within the centre.

PQ73250/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

579. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity at Loughan House prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73249/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

580. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity at Shelton Abbey prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73248/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

581. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity at Cork Prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73247/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

582. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity at Arbour Hill Prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73246/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

583. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity at Portlaoise Prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73245/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

584. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity of Limerick Prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73244/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

585. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity at Mountjoy Prison; and the number of inmates currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73243/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

586. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the maximum capacity of Castlereagh Prison; and the number of prisoners currently serving sentences within the prison.

PQ73242/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

587. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of bench warrants currently outstanding in each Garda region.

PQ73240/26 | CAROL NOLAN

588. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the method by which average gross annual earnings are calculated for the purposes of the temporary protection transition scheme, including whether the assessment is based on the contracted annual salary, the gross pay on payslips dated within the six-month reference period, or annual earnings recorded by Revenue; the exact start and end dates of the reference period; whether arrears of pay relating to the reference period but paid after 30 September 2026 are counted; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73183/26 | PAUL MURPHY

589. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether, under the temporary protection transition scheme, an applicant who was in continuous PAYE employment for the six months prior to 30 September 2026 may combine that employment income with self-employment income earned in the same period in order to meet the minimum income threshold of €29,432; the way in which such an applicant should complete the online application form, which permits only one employment type to be selected; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73182/26 | PAUL MURPHY

590. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on the implementation of his recent changes to the criminal legal aid scheme and his assessment of their impact on the operation of the court system.

PQ73180/26 | CAROL NOLAN

591. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if his attention has been drawn to the application made under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (details supplied); and if his attention has been drawn to the specific concerns related to the amended qualifying criteria for this programme.

PQ73370/26 | BARRY WARD

592. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether, in light of the particular circumstances of elderly beneficiaries of temporary protection who remain dependent on State-supported accommodation and who have limited or no capacity to supplement their income through employment, he will seek a review of the categories exempted from the revised €38.80 weekly payment, with a view to including persons of pensionable age; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72867/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

593. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether he has engaged with the Minister for Social Protection regarding the application of the revised weekly payment of €38.80 to beneficiaries of temporary protection who continue to reside in designated State-supported accommodation; whether consideration has been given to exempting persons of pensionable age or older persons who cannot reasonably be expected to enter employment from the reduced payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72866/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

594. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the current responsibilities of his Department in respect of beneficiaries of temporary protection in Ireland; the responsibilities which now rest with other Government Departments in relation to their accommodation, income supports, housing and integration; and if he will provide clarity as to the lead Department responsible for the overall coordination of Government policy concerning beneficiaries of temporary protection.

PQ72865/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

595. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to clarify the status and entitlements of beneficiaries of temporary protection who are required to leave State-supported accommodation, including whether such persons may access social housing supports, housing assistance payment, rent supplement or other housing and rental supports, subject to the relevant eligibility criteria; the guidance that has been provided to local authorities and other State agencies in this regard; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72864/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

596. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of beneficiaries of temporary protection currently accommodated by the State who, following the introduction of the revised accommodation arrangements, are expected to remain eligible for State-supported accommodation on grounds such as age, disability or other vulnerability; the projected capacity required to accommodate this cohort; whether sufficient designated accommodation capacity is currently available; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72863/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

597. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if an application or approval process exists whereby an accommodation provider whose contract for the provision of accommodation to beneficiaries of temporary protection has recently been terminated may apply to become a designated accommodation centre for persons who remain eligible for State-supported accommodation; the criteria applying to the designation of such centres; whether former or existing BOTP accommodation providers may apply; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72862/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

598. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of suspected victims of human trafficking provided with State accommodation and support in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of those persons who had been working in the nail, beauty or personal services sector; the average time taken from first contact to the provision of accommodation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72830/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

599. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the guidance issued by An Garda Síochána to its members and to the public on recognising indicators of exploitation in nail salons and nail bars, including workers being directed to wear masks or prevented from speaking to customers; the confidential reporting channels available to workers who fear immigration or employment consequences if they report coercion; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72829/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

600. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether An Garda Síochána or the Criminal Assets Bureau are investigating recruitment debts, debt bondage and associated money flows linked to nail salons and nail bars in the State; the number of such investigations opened in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of related assets frozen or seized; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72828/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

601. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the reason the provisions of the Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Act 2024 providing for the revised National Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking have not yet been commenced; the date by which he intends to commence those provisions; the interim arrangements in place for identifying and supporting victims pending commencement; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72827/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

602. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Garda operations, inspections or investigations involving nail salons and nail bars in the Cork City Garda division in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72825/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

603. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions arising from Garda inspections or operations involving nail salons and nail bars in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026, broken down by offence type, including human trafficking, money laundering, immigration offences and drugs offences; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72823/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

604. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of nail salons and nail bars inspected by An Garda Síochána, whether alone or jointly with the Workplace Relations Commission, for indicators of human trafficking or labour exploitation in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026, broken down by Garda division; the number of persons assessed for trafficking indicators during those inspections; the number of those persons formally identified as suspected victims of trafficking; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72822/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

605. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on the work being undertaken to ensure employed or self-employed residents in IPAS housing make a financial contribution toward their reception costs.

PQ72780/26 | CAROL NOLAN

606. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide a full up to date progress of an application for Irish citizenship (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72716/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

607. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of stalking offences recorded by An Garda Síochána since the commencement of the relevant legislation, broken down by year; the number of cases in which a person was charged; the number of investigation files submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72703/26 | GARY GANNON

608. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of persons prosecuted for offences under the stalking legislation, broken down by year since its commencement; the number of those prosecutions resulting in a conviction; and the number currently before the courts.

PQ72700/26 | GARY GANNON

609. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of instances he is aware of, whether alleged or otherwise, of unauthorised disclosures of information to media from Gardaí, in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the action taken in each instance; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72667/26 | BARRY WARD

610. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of complaints made to Fiosrú relating to unauthorised disclosures of information to media from Gardaí, in each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; the status of each complaint; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72666/26 | BARRY WARD

611. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration for an update on the proposed refurbishment of Lusk Garda Station; the current status of the project; whether the Office of Public Works and Garda Estate Management have completed their review of the works required following the 2024 tender process; the current estimated cost of the refurbishment; whether funding has been identified within the available budget; and if he will provide a timeframe for the commencement and completion of the works.

PQ72648/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

612. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the average and longest time protected disclosures remained at initial assessment stage in each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; the number closed at that stage for insufficient evidence; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72647/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

613. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether his Department has examined the published protected disclosure procedures of public bodies and prescribed persons for consistency in how they describe the prima facie evidence threshold at initial assessment; whether he will issue guidance under section 21 of the Act to clarify the distinction between clarifying a report and verifying an allegation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72646/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

614. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration whether the initial assessment required under section 6A(1)(d)(i) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, as amended, is intended as a preliminary screen of whether the information reported, if true, would show a relevant wrongdoing, or whether it requires supporting evidence or corroboration of the allegation before a report can proceed to follow up; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72645/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

615. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of alleged drug facilitated sexual offences reported to An Garda Síochána in each of the years 2021 to 2025 in which toxicological testing was requested; the number in which samples were obtained and analysed; the number in which a substance was detected; and the number where testing could not be completed because of delay in sample collection.

PQ72614/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

616. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in cases reported to An Garda Síochána in each of the years 2021 to 2025 in which it was alleged that a person was drugged or incapacitated to facilitate a sexual offence, the number resulting in no further action; the number resulting in charge or summons; the number resulting in prosecution and conviction; and the number in which poisoning or administration of the substance formed part of the charge.

PQ72613/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

617. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of cases recorded by An Garda Síochána in each of the years 2021 to 2025 in which it was reported that a drug, intoxicating substance or other substance was administered without consent to facilitate a sexual assault, rape or other sexual offence; and whether such cases are separately identifiable from general spiking incidents on PULSE.

PQ72612/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

618. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps his Department will take with the house at Forgehill estate, Stamullen, which is owned by his Department and which was previously reported to be intended to provide accommodation for persons who had applied for international protection.

PQ72604/26 | CAROL NOLAN

619. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of private residential properties that are now owned by his Department or are managed by his Department to provide accommodation for former residents of IPAS centres.

PQ72603/26 | CAROL NOLAN

620. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if applications for Irish citizenship by naturalisation that have been lodged before the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2026 is enacted will be assessed under the rules that applied when they were submitted.

PQ72528/26 | JOE COONEY

621. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the changes, if any, being introduced following Budget 2027 to the remuneration and fee structures payable to solicitors providing services under the civil legal aid scheme; whether rates payable to private practitioners and Legal Aid Board solicitors will be revised; the estimated cost of any such measures; and the date on which any revised payment arrangements will take effect.

PQ72497/26 | MATT CARTHY

622. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the changes, if any, that will be made to the financial eligibility thresholds for the civil legal aid scheme arising from Budget 2027; whether the disposable income and disposable capital limits will be revised and when any such changes will take effect; and the estimated number of additional persons who will become eligible for civil legal aid as a result.

PQ72496/26 | MATT CARTHY

623. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to reply directly to correspondence (details supplied).

PQ72478/26 | PAUL DONNELLY

624. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide a breakdown by county of the value of TAMS grants paid for the period 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73029/26 | MARTIN KENNY

625. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide a breakdown by investment category and year of the monetary value of applications paid and applications approved and waiting payment under TAMS for the period 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73028/26 | MARTIN KENNY

626. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide a breakdown by investment category and year of the number of TAMS application that were rejected and approved, for the period 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73022/26 | MARTIN KENNY

627. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide a breakdown of the number of TAMS applications that are approved and waiting payment to farmers for each of the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ73019/26 | MARTIN KENNY

628. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73326/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

629. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the opportunities exist for residents and community organisations to make submissions regarding the proposed afforestation at Carrickglass Demesne; the applicable consultation deadlines; whether the Department will consider submissions concerning the historic character and tourism potential of the demesne; and the measures that are available to ensure that relevant public concerns are considered before a licence decision.

PQ73053/26 | SORCA CLARKE

630. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the environmental impact assessment screening and appropriate assessment screening that have been undertaken, or will be undertaken, in relation to the proposed afforestation at Carrickglass Demesne; whether the proximity of Carriglass Manor, the Gandon stable and farmyard complex, historic landscape features, archaeological features and watercourses has been assessed; which statutory bodies and heritage organisations have been consulted; and whether he will ensure that all relevant heritage and environmental considerations are addressed before a decision is made.

PQ73052/26 | SORCA CLARKE

631. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the position regarding an afforestation licence (details supplied).

PQ73051/26 | SORCA CLARKE

632. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will provide an update on the application for port listing of Killybegs in line with new regulations published over two years ago for the listing of port across the EU; that as a consequence of inaction the entire pelagic sector both catching and processing, is severely disadvantaged as Denmark and Latvia obtained port listing status within three months of publication of the regulations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73128/26 | PAT THE COPE GALLAGHER

633. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is aware of recent report by the Climate Change Advisory Council which noted that approximately 83% of fruit and vegetables purchased in Ireland are imported; and the measures he is taking to support the indigenous horticulture sector.

PQ73263/26 | CAROL NOLAN

634. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has been asked to approve new roll-on/roll-off vessels containing live animals out of Ireland in accordance with the provisions of Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 580/2007 - Diseases of Animals (Animal Transport) (Roll-on/Roll-off Vessels) Order 2007.

PQ73187/26 | CAROL NOLAN

635. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 70318/26, which stated that comparing Ireland's proposed ring fenced allocation of €8.162 billion under the Common Agricultural Policy for 2028 to 2034 with the approximately €10.7 billion for 2021 to 2027 is not a like for like comparison, to provide a like for like comparison of the two allocations, in tabular form, setting out which interventions are included in each figure; and if the he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73168/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

636. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to provide an update on the new Animal Welfare Strategy.

PQ73208/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

637. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if Ireland supports a ring-fenced allocation for young farmers under the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy.

PQ73215/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

638. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the measures being pursued by Ireland in the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy negotiations to support generational renewal and encourage more young people into farming.

PQ73217/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

639. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he is considering the introduction of a dedicated farm succession scheme to support the transfer of farms to younger generations.

PQ73216/26 | CATHERINE CALLAGHAN

640. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to consider purchasing a ship to be used by his Department to transport cattle from Ireland to international markets.

PQ72964/26 | PAT BUCKLEY

641. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the reasons his Department rejected an offer of the planting of a forest in Adare, County Limerick to offset the carbon footprint for the hosting of a sporting event (details supplied); the reason they refused to meet with and engaged with the project promoters; and the measures being put in place to support carbon offsetting for this event.

PQ72937/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

642. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he has received reports that veterinary personnel at Greyhound Racing Ireland licensed greyhound tracks are under instruction not to euthanise injured dogs; that greyhound owners are being advised to attend their own vets should their dog be so seriously injured as to require euthanasia, and that this is being done to minimise the number of track deaths being recorded and reported.

PQ72819/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

643. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the specific recommendations in respect of greyhound welfare and integrity as contained in a report (details supplied) are to be funded by the allocation of a further 2.9 million to the Horse and Greyhound Fund in Budget 2027.

PQ72818/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

644. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he can confirm reports that a registered racing greyhound died during the week of 22 June 2026 while being transported in very high temperatures between Croom, County Limerick and County Carlow; and if he can confirm that the owner of the vehicle in which the dog was travelling did not hold valid type 1 transporter authorisation for this vehicle.

PQ72816/26 | RUTH COPPINGER

645. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the cooperation or discussions undertaken with his northern Ireland counterpart with respect to the monitoring of bluetongue infection rates.

PQ72779/26 | CAROL NOLAN

646. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has formulated any contingency measures to support Irish farmers in the event of a highly reduced EU CAP budget.

PQ72777/26 | CAROL NOLAN

647. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for a breakdown of the amount of money allocated to the TAMS scheme; and the amount that was paid out in the years 2024 to date.

PQ72626/26 | MARTIN KENNY

648. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for a breakdown of the number of TAMS applications received, refused, granted, and paid per year for the years 2004 to date.

PQ72622/26 | MARTIN KENNY

649. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for a breakdown on where the recent cases of bluetongue have been found; if they were found on farms or in meat processing plants / factories; and to clarify if they were ovine or bovine.

PQ72621/26 | MARTIN KENNY

650. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of hectares of land currently under afforestation and receiving a forestry premium.

PQ72589/26 | MARTIN KENNY

651. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of hectares of land currently under afforestation in Ireland.

PQ72586/26 | MARTIN KENNY

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

652. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department has considered whether repeat assessments of need are the best use of available resources, given the significant waiting lists for children awaiting assessment and support.

PQ73026/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

653. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps being taken to ensure that information already gathered on a child's assessment of need is shared appropriately and that duplicate requests to schools are avoided.

PQ73025/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

654. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the circumstances that justify a repeat assessment of need; and the way families and schools are informed of the reason.

PQ73024/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

655. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number children have received more than one assessment of need within a three-year period, broken down by constituency, in tabular form.

PQ73023/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

656. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will clarify a matter (details supplied).

PQ73020/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

657. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the reason for the delay in a real-time finder of regulated ELC and SAC settings, which has been pushed to phase 3 of the First Five Implementation Plan.

PQ73350/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

658. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the reason the consultation process on terminology relating to the ELC and SAC sector, committed to under First Five, has been put under review.

PQ73349/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

659. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the reason for the delay in developing a national policy statement on the use of digital technologies and digital learning in Early Learning and Care, building on OECD (2023) Empowering Young Children in the Digital Age; and the status of this work.

PQ73345/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

660. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to her Department and bodies under her aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to her Department or to the body under her aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73327/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

661. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the steps being taken to encourage and incentivise childcare providers that have previously left the core funding scheme to rejoin; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73325/26 | DENISE MITCHELL

662. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her plans for increasing capacity and funding for additional early childhood care and education spaces in Kildare.

PQ73082/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

663. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her Department will encourage and support more registered childminders in rural and growing communities to meet growing demand for childcare.

PQ73080/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

664. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if funding is available for the maintenance or repair of damage to playgrounds in disadvantaged rural towns following damage due to anti-social behaviour or wear and tear.

PQ73356/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

665. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the report into sexual abuse an organisation (details supplied), by recommendation; her views on progress made implementing those recommendations; and whether a statutory inquiry is required.

PQ73314/26 | EMER CURRIE

666. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if an assessment of need application by a person (details supplied) will be expedited.

PQ73309/26 | ROBERT TROY

667. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the cost of the new playground at Cavan CDNT, the policies that will govern access to this facility; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73175/26 | MATT CARTHY

668. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if her attention has been drawn to correspondence from an organisation (details supplied) in relation to their proposal to assist with addressing significant CDNT4 waiting lists.

PQ73172/26 | BARRY WARD

669. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality where a client's disability-related support needs increase and their existing package is no longer sufficient, but the local HSE disability services does not have sufficient funding available within its existing budget, the process the local HSE disability services should follow to obtain the additional funding required; if there a mechanism for the local disability service to submit a business case or funding request to a higher level within the HSE who has responsibility for approving additional funding where the local service does not have sufficient resources.

PQ73202/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

670. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on speech and language therapy for child (details supplied); and if she will engage with the family on the matter.

PQ73353/26 | EOGHAN KENNY

671. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality where a client's disability-related support needs increase and their existing package is no longer sufficient, but the local HSE disability services does not have sufficient funding available within its existing budget, if a lack of funding within a local region prevents an individual from receiving support that has been assessed as necessary.

PQ73203/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

672. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the progress of the work being undertaken by an organisation (details supplied) for her Department in developing a searchable price comparability website for parents, as provided for under the partnership for the public good.

PQ72568/26 | MARK WALL

673. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the estimated number and percentage of families who will actually pay €550 or less per month; the average saving per family, rather than the saving calculated from the two maximum fee levels; to clarify if the €550 proposed cap is a monthly cap or is calculated on the basis of four weeks; and to outline the actual saving for a family using a typical full time Dublin crèche offering more than 50 hours per week.

PQ72970/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

674. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of childcare providers that currently fall into bands E and F.

PQ72954/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

675. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the maximum weekly and annual parental fees for each core funding band after the proposed changes announced in Budget 2027.

PQ72950/26 | CIAN O'CALLAGHAN

676. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will intervene in the crisis case of a vulnerable child in County Cavan (details supplied); and the immediate crisis stabilisation and multi-disciplinary resources the HSE (CDNT) will deploy to support the family.

PQ72895/26 | MATT CARTHY

677. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide details of the proposed extension to the deadline for registration of childminders with Tusla as required under the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028.

PQ72850/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

678. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the mid-point review of Nurturing Skills, which was due out by 2025, given that the mid-point review and revised implementation plan are scheduled to be completed in early Q2 2026.

PQ72849/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

679. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the process of the mapping exercise commenced in March 2026 to establish a comprehensive overview of current Continuing Professional Development opportunities and to identify any gaps between workforce skills requirements and available training provision.

PQ72848/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

680. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the public consultation on the development of an induction process, as committed to under Nurturing Skills.

PQ72847/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

681. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she will consider and reply to correspondence (details supplied) from an organisation regarding the points relevant to her Department.

PQ72799/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

682. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of childcare providers who have opted out of core funding for each of the last three years; and the location and name of the providers, in tabular form.

PQ72758/26 | MARK WALL

683. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an example of the families that will benefit from the recently announced reduction in childcare fees in the Budget; the costs a family would be paying to avail of the fees; if the provider used by the family would need to be in receipt of core funding; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72757/26 | MARK WALL

684. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide a breakdown of the number of core funding places offered nationally in fee bands A, B, C, D, E and F respectively, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72702/26 | DANIEL ENNIS

685. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the timeline for the review of Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017; whether the review will include a public consultation; whether the sex of adults providing intimate and personal care to children will be within the scope of the review; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72599/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

686. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality following confirmation that no provision relating to the sex of adults supervising children in the Children's First National Guidance 2017, whether an organisation providing a relevant service under the Children First Act 2015 may lawfully adopt a policy that intimate care, changing, showering or overnight supervision of children be carried out only by an adult of the same sex as the child; whether her Department has sought or received legal advice on the way in which such a policy interacts with the Employment Equality Acts, the Equal Status Acts and the Gender Recognition Act 2015.

PQ72598/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

687. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of staff employed in disability services in both counties Cavan and Monaghan; the total number of posts; and the vacancy rate, by service, by county, in the years 2021 to date, in tabular form.

PQ72597/26 | CATHY BENNETT

688. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she could provide a date of when the new respite service at Drumbear, Monaghan will be open for use.

PQ72595/26 | CATHY BENNETT

689. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she could provide a breakdown of the amount spent on disability services in Cavan and Monaghan in the years 2021 to date, in tabular form, by county, by year, by service.

PQ72594/26 | CATHY BENNETT

690. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures being taken to increase childcare capacity in the Kilshanroe, Johnstownbridge, Carbury and Enfield areas of county Kildare; and whether an assessment has been carried out of childcare demand and available capacity in these rapidly growing communities.

PQ72572/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

691. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the work being conducted with local authorities to update the national planning guidelines for the development of early years and school age care settings.

PQ72569/26 | MARK WALL

692. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide an update on the national policy statement on outdoor learning and play in ELC.

PQ72570/26 | MARK WALL

693. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for an update on the delayed ELC database for planning and development of EY services designed to facilitate the monitoring of children's progress as they transition from ELC through to the primary education system and onwards to post-primary and beyond.

PQ72571/26 | MARK WALL

694. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the assistance that will be provided to affected families affected by the proposed closure of the creche in TUD in Tallaght (details supplied).

PQ72509/26 | PAUL MURPHY

695. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her views on whether the "cap" of €550 announced on crèche fees for providers within core funding is not a cap, and parents of children who are on 50-hour contracts will continue to pay significantly more than €550; the number of children are on this top band of hours; and the percentage of all children in crèches in core funding that represents.

PQ72487/26 | PAUL MURPHY

696. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the actions she is taking to address the cost of childcare, specifically for families that use childcare centres that are not part of the core funding scheme.

PQ72486/26 | BARRY WARD

697. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if there is any significant discrepancy between the percentage of childcare centres that participate in the core funding scheme in Dublin when compared to the national level.

PQ72485/26 | BARRY WARD

698. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the position regarding the total percentage of childcare centres that are participating in the core funding scheme in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council district.

PQ72483/26 | BARRY WARD

699. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the position regarding the total percentage of childcare centres that are participating in the core funding scheme in Dublin.

PQ72482/26 | BARRY WARD

700. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the position regarding the total percentage of childcare centres that are participating in the core funding scheme at a national level.

PQ72481/26 | BARRY WARD

701. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the position regarding any engagement she is having with childcare centres that have withdrawn from the core funding scheme; if any further engagement is proposed following the budget announcement related to the €550 cap on childcare fees.

PQ72479/26 | BARRY WARD

702. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality her views on a matter (details supplied).

PQ72476/26 | JOHN LAHART

Chun an Sláinte: To the Health

703. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 33243/26, the reason no national impact assessment was carried out of the agency conversion programme on waiting times, patient access and staffing stability; whether the Health Service Executive intends to carry out such an assessment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73141/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

704. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 50574/26, the number of the 525 compliance audits of home support providers carried out in each health region in each year since 2023; the number which found noncompliance; the action taken in each case, including warnings, suspension or removal from the home support authorisation scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73139/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

705. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 68555/26, which confirmed that post operative complication and re-admission data for the treatment abroad scheme patients is held only on individual patient records, whether the Health Service Executive will establish central recording of outcomes for patients treated under the scheme; if not, the means by which her Department assesses the clinical outcomes and value for money of the scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73138/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

706. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 68555/26, to confirm by yes or no whether she, her Department or the Health Service Executive has requested the Comptroller and Auditor General to conduct a value for money examination of the treatment abroad scheme; whether the 2022 audit referenced in that reply was a financial audit or a value for money examination; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73136/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

707. To ask the Minister for Health the number of newly qualified nurses and midwives who have been offered jobs in hospitals on completion of their studies in 2026; the number of newly qualified nurses and midwives who have not been offered roles due to the HSE hiring freeze; if there are vacancies in hospitals not being filled due to the hiring freeze; and her plans to ensure that these newly qualified medical professionals are offered jobs in Irish hospitals.

PQ73134/26 | RYAN O'MEARA

708. To ask the Minister for Health the total expenditure under the treatment abroad scheme in each of the years 2020 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of S2 authorisations issued in each of those years; the number of patients under 18 years-of-age approved in each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73151/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

709. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 41918/26, which confirmed that both the estimated cost at approval and the final invoiced cost are recorded for each treatment abroad scheme case; the number of cases in each year since 2020 in which the final cost exceeded the estimate by less than 10%, by 10% to 25%, by 25% to 50%, and by more than 50%, respectively; the total value of such excess costs in each year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73150/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

710. To ask the Minister for Health the total spend, by Health Service Region, on agency or contract staff, each year from 2021 to 2025, inclusive, and to date in 2026.

PQ73038/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

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

PQ73033/26 | ROBERT TROY

712. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 64873/26, the number of consultants in HSE South West, by hospital, remaining on contracts with permit private practice in public hospitals; the steps being taken to increase transfers to the public only consultant contract 2023 in the region; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73147/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

713. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will be appointed to the position offered by the HSE.

PQ73049/26 | GED NASH

714. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 64873/26, the total number of consultants employed in each health region as of August 2026; the number in each region remaining on the 2008 consultant contract or earlier contracts; the number of consultants who transferred to the Public Only Consultant Contract 2023 in each quarter since January 2025; the reason transfers from previous contracts have slowed; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73145/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

715. To ask the Minister for Health the case-specific information 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; an indicative timeframe for reimbursement; and whether consideration will be given to providing meaningful individual updates rather than general information regarding current backlogs.

PQ73045/26 | ROBERT TROY

716. 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 explain how completed applications submitted in 2025 may remain outstanding while some applications submitted in January and February 2026 have subsequently been reimbursed.

PQ73044/26 | ROBERT TROY

717. 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.

PQ73042/26 | ROBERT TROY

718. To ask the Minister for Health if a copy of the Monalee Report which details the results into a County Wexford community workshop in Enniscorthy will be provided to this Deputy.

PQ73301/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

719. To ask the Minister for Health if hospital by hospital implementation plans have been developed for the transition to a public-only maternity care model; if so, if these plans include projected patient numbers, staffing and infrastructure requirements, continuity of care arrangements, funding allocations and implementation timelines; and whether they will be published.

PQ73300/26 | GARY GANNON

720. To ask the Minister for Health the arrangements in place to monitor staffing, capacity, waiting times and continuity of care during the transition to a public-only maternity model; and the measures that will be available to address any service pressures or gaps in provision identified during implementation.

PQ73299/26 | GARY GANNON

721. To ask the Minister for Health the assessment that has been undertaken of the additional consultant obstetrician, midwifery, nursing and other healthcare staffing requirements associated with the transition to a public-only maternity care model; and the projected staffing requirements nationally and by maternity hospital.

PQ73298/26 | GARY GANNON

722. To ask the Minister for Health the evaluations that have been undertaken of the operation and delivery of maternity services across public maternity hospitals, particularly in relation to staffing levels, service capacity, waiting times, continuity of care, clinical outcomes and patient experience; whether the findings of these evaluations have been published; and how they are informing ongoing maternity service planning and reform.

PQ73297/26 | GARY GANNON

723. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which continuity of care is being delivered in maternity services at present; if women have access to continuity with a particular consultant or midwife where appropriate; the measures being taken to support this; and the anticipated timeline for introducing enhanced continuity arrangements.

PQ73295/26 | GARY GANNON

724. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an organisational chart in respect of the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB); the number of staff in the public affairs and communications section of the NPHDB, by grade and point on salary scale; and the annual costs incurred by the NPHDB in respect of external communications and public relations services since the foundation of the board, by the name of the service provider and the duration of the contract.

PQ73293/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

725. To ask the Minister for Health if the case of a person (details supplied) will be reviewed; and the reason they cannot access a continuous glucose monitoring device/diabetic arm patch.

PQ73057/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

726. To ask the Minister for Health the assessments that have been undertaken of regional disparities in access to maternity services, including the availability of different models of care, staffing levels and continuity of care; the measures being taken to ensure equitable access to high quality maternity services across the country; and whether the findings of these assessments will be published.

PQ73305/26 | GARY GANNON

727. To ask the Minister for Health the consultation that has taken place with women accessing maternity services regarding the transition to a public only model; the organisations and representative groups consulted; the principal issues raised; and the way in which this feedback has informed implementation planning.

PQ73303/26 | GARY GANNON

728. To ask the Minister for Health the status of claims on lipoedema surgery reimbursement; the reason for delay; and the expected timeline for a resolution.

PQ73291/26 | MARK WALL

729. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 179 of 23 September 2026, to provide a response (details supplied); the date on which the correspondence from her Department was issued; and if further steps will be taken regarding the original concerns outlined to her Department.

PQ73320/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

730. To ask the Minister for Health if the Solace Cafe announced in Budget 27 for Louth will be open on a 24-hour 7-day per week basis.

PQ73071/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

731. To ask the Minister for Health the staffing complement that will be in place at the Solace Cafe announced in Budget 27 for Louth.

PQ73070/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

732. To ask the Minister for Health the location of the Solace Cafe announced in Budget 27 for Louth.

PQ73069/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

733. To ask the Minister for Health when the Solace Cafe announced in Budget 27 for Louth will be operational; if people will be able to self refer; and if the service can be accessed without an appointment.

PQ73067/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

734. To ask the Minister for Health if she will expedite an appointment for surgery for a person (details supplied).

PQ73064/26 | ROBERT TROY

735. To ask the Minister for Health when the crisis mental health nursing team announced in Budget 2027 for Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda will be operational; the additional staffing complement that will be in place for this team; the funding that will be provided for this team; and if this will be a recurring annual funding provision.

PQ73063/26 | JOANNA BYRNE

736. To ask the Minister for Health her views on a matter (details supplied).

PQ73061/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

737. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which she will fund the approved national care pathway for Huntington's disease; if Budget 2027 allocations to her Department contain sufficient funding for the care pathway; and the timeline for the implementation of same.

PQ73343/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

738. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the My Home Project in Galway County and City.

PQ73096/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

739. To ask the Minister for Health her views on the merits of creating a campaign outlining the dangers and risks of underage drinking, specifically targeted at the parents of teenagers.

PQ73095/26 | BARRY WARD

740. To ask the Minister for Health whether her Department is considering further legislative measures to reduce the prevalence of vaping among children and young people, including increasing the minimum legal age for the sale of vaping products from 18 to 21 years, in line with the provisions of the Public Health (Tobacco) (Amendment) Act 2024, restricting the sale of flavoured vaping products to tobacco-flavoured products only, and introducing additional restrictions on the advertising, promotion and display of vaping products; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73087/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

741. To ask the Minister for Health the actions are being taken to compensate the children who were affected by the delays in surgery for scoliosis and spina bifida; and if a public inquiry into the matter is being considered.

PQ73104/26 | ROBERT TROY

742. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on increasing the number of inpatient beds for eating disorder treatment, for both adults and children; and if an individual (details supplied) will be offered inpatient treatment for their eating disorder.

PQ73130/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

743. To ask the Minister for Health the whole-time equivalent number of pharmacists assigned to emergency departments in each Model 3 and Model 4 hospital; and the corresponding figure for Mayo University Hospital, in tabular form.

PQ73126/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

744. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent pharmacists assigned to paediatric services at Mayo University Hospital; and the number assigned to paediatric services in each Model 3 and Model 4 hospital that provides inpatient paediatric care, in tabular form.

PQ73125/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

745. To ask the Minister for Health whether dedicated pharmacy services are provided to surgical wards at Mayo University Hospital; the way in which this compares with other Model 3 and Model 4 hospitals; whether the HSE considers this level of provision adequate; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73124/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

746. To ask the Minister for Health the date on which the next internal audit of the treatment abroad scheme is scheduled, in view of the most recent internal audit having been completed in 2019; whether the scheme is included in the 2026 or 2027 HSE internal audit plan; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73160/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

747. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 64873/26, the total number of consultants employed in each health region as of August 2026; the number in each region remaining on the 2008 consultant contract or earlier contracts; the number of consultants who transferred to the Public Only Consultant Contract 2023 in each quarter since January 2025; the reason transfers from previous contracts have slowed; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73159/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

748. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 50582/26, the approval threshold and grade of officer that applied to treatment abroad scheme purchase orders prior to 19 June 2026; the nature of the derogations that applied prior to that date; the reason the approval arrangements were changed; the number and total value of treatment abroad scheme purchase orders exceeding €10,000 authorised by the Chief Executive Officer since 19 June 2026; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73158/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

749. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 50574/26, the number of the 525 compliance audits of home support providers carried out in each health region in each year since 2023; the number which found noncompliance; the action taken in each case, including warnings, suspension or removal from the home support authorisation scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73155/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

750. To ask the Minister for Health to confirm, by yes or no, whether she the Department or the Health Service Executive has requested the Comptroller and Auditor General to conduct a value for money examination of the treatment abroad scheme; whether the audit of the scheme referred to in recent replies was a value for money examination or part of the annual audit of the Health Service Executive's financial statements; the year in which that audit took place, in view of replies stating both 2020 and 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73154/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

751. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 43243/26, which confirmed that the treatment abroad scheme does not require documentary evidence from foreign healthcare providers of compliance with local child protection legislation or Hague Convention obligations; whether she will introduce such a requirement for applications involving children; the number of children approved for treatment abroad in each year since 2020; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73153/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

752. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 41891/26, which confirmed that treatment abroad scheme records are maintained on a dedicated system (details supplied), the date by which the replacement records management solution will be operational; the estimated cost of the project; whether a risk assessment of the current system has been carried out; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73152/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

753. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent pharmacists employed in each Model 3 and Model 4 hospital; the ratio of pharmacists to inpatient beds in each hospital; the way in which Mayo University Hospital compares with the national average; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73122/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

754. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on steps being taken by her Department to ensure healthcare professionals suffering from long-Covid can qualify for a critical illness payment. Is the Minister aware that there are currently over 150 such employees of the HSE suffering from long-Covid who have been deemed ineligible for this payment recently (details supplied).

PQ73120/26 | ROBERT TROY

755. To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent pharmacists employed at Mayo University Hospital, by grade and specialty area; the approved staffing complement for each grade; the number of vacant posts; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73119/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

756. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to her Department and bodies under her aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to her Department or to the body under her aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73335/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

757. To ask the Minister for Health the measures being taken by her Department and the HSE to ensure that newly qualified nurses can secure employment within the public health service on graduation; whether additional posts are being approved to facilitate the recruitment of 2026 nursing graduates; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73312/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

758. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that newly qualified nursing graduates in Galway who had accepted nursing positions and were due to commence induction in October 2026 were subsequently informed that the planned induction would not proceed; the reasons for this decision; the circumstances that led to the change in recruitment arrangements; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73311/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

759. To ask the Minister for Health the number of permanent and temporary nursing positions currently approved and available within Galway University Hospitals and associated HSE services for newly qualified nurses graduating in 2026; the number of graduates awaiting placement; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73310/26 | PAUL LAWLESS

760. To ask the Minister for Health the number of workplace injuries and incidents of physical aggression against staff recorded at Midleton Community Nursing Unit in 2025 and to date in 2026; the sick leave rate among staff there over the same period; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73282/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

761. To ask the Minister for Health whether the opening of five additional beds at Midleton Community Nursing Unit will affect those already on its admissions waiting list; the number on that list; the criteria used to allocate the new beds; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73281/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

762. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the closure of the dementia unit in Glanmire, County Cork; the number of residents affected; where each has been or will be placed, including at Midleton Community Nursing Unit; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73280/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

763. To ask the Minister for Health the status of the healthcare assistant role at Midleton Community Nursing Unit; the date on which recruitment, Garda vetting and occupational health clearance began; the revised date for the role to be operational; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73279/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

764. To ask the Minister for Health the dependency assessment tool and staffing framework used by the HSE to determine the day and night rosters at Midleton Community Nursing Unit, County Cork; the number of staff on the floor by grade under the current and proposed rosters; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73277/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

765. To ask the Minister for Health where a client has been allocated a specific number of hours/funding as part of their care/support package, but the agency providing the service is unable to fulfil all of those allocated hours, can the unused hours be carried forward and used by the client at a later date; if is there a time limit on when those hours can be used; can these hours be used if the client migrates over to a self-directed programme; and can the HSE reallocate funding associated with unused hours to another HSE client

PQ73200/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

766. To ask the Minister for Health the number of women waiting for urogynaecology appointments nationally and by CHO Area; and the number waiting less than six months; more than six months; and more than one year.

PQ73199/26 | CAROL NOLAN

767. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the status of a pricing and reimbursement application (details supplied); and the expected timeline for a decision.

PQ73197/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

768. To ask the Minister for Health further to correspondence (details supplied), whether she would urgently review access and reimbursement; and if her office would correspond with the family in question on the matter.

PQ73190/26 | HOLLY CAIRNS

769. To ask the Minister for Health the average wait time for an application to be processed under the cross border directive; the longest waiter; and the number who applied in 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ73184/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

770. To ask the Minister for Health the work her Department is doing to improve capacity at the Symptomatic Breast Unit at University Hospital Galway so that patients can be seen within the recommended two week window; if it has been brought to her attention that there is currently a ten week wait for this.

PQ73181/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

771. To ask the Minister for Health to instruct her Department to look into a case (details supplied), engaging with the person in question, and determine whether an exception can be granted.

PQ73169/26 | PAUL MURPHY

772. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 70659/26, which stated that development of a new National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan will depend on a new National Cancer Strategy, the arrangements in place in the interim for the surveillance of patients at high risk of melanoma, including former patients of the pigmented lesion service at Cork University Hospital; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73165/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

773. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 70619/26, whether her Department or the Health Service Executive holds data on the number of claims managed by the State Claims Agency arising from alleged delay in ambulance response or allocation in each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the total amount paid in respect of such claims, in view of the reply from the Minister for Finance to Parliamentary Question No. 70619/26 stating that this matter falls under the remit of the Minister for Health; if so, to provide the figures; and if the Minister will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73164/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

774. To ask the Minister for Health when publicly funded donor assisted reproduction services, including donor sperm IUI and IVF will be made available to same sex female couples or others who require donor gametes, if the Government has a specific timeline for the provision of this service including programmes of donor assisted treatment including sperm donation and if funding for this service have been provided for in the 2027 Estimates for her Department.

PQ73163/26 | GEORGE LAWLOR

775. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 60730/26, the average weekly cost of care per resident in voluntary nursing homes in each of the years 2022 to 2025; the average dependency level of residents in HSE nursing homes compared with private nursing homes in the same years; the net average weekly cost to the State per resident in HSE and private nursing homes after resident contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73162/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

776. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 64873/26, the number of consultants in HSE South West, by hospital, remaining on contracts which permit private practice in public hospitals; the steps being taken to increase transfers to the Public Only Consultant Contract 2023 in the region; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73161/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

777. To ask the Minister for Health if a person is a regular user of a respite service and their additional support requirements are already known and documented, does the respite service have to prepare and submit a new business case every time that person attends respite; if a business case can be submitted and approved on an ongoing basis to cover the person's established additional support requirements for future respite stays.

PQ73206/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

778. To ask the Minister for Health If a person attending a respite service requires additional support during their respite stay because their disability-related needs cannot be adequately met within the standard staffing/resources available, is the respite service responsible for submitting a

business case to the HSE requesting additional funding to provide that support; and if so, the process for submitting such a business case; who within the HSE should the service submit it to; if the respite service expected to make the application, or whether this the responsibility of the individual's local disability services.

PQ73205/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

779. To ask the Minister for Health where a person attending a respite service requires additional support during their respite stay because their disability-related needs cannot be adequately met within the standard staffing/resources available, is the respite service responsible for submitting a business case to the HSE requesting additional funding to provide that support.

PQ73204/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

780. To ask the Minister for Health where a client has been allocated a specific number of hour/funding as part of their care/support package, but the agency providing the service is unable to fulfil all of those allocated hours, whether the HSE intends to reallocate those hours or the associated funding, is the original client required to be notified; can the HSE remove or reallocate unused hours without informing the client who was originally allocated those hours; is there a HSE policy governing the treatment of unused care hours, or if this is determined locally by each HSE region.

PQ73201/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

781. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on any review of the motor travel rates applicable to HSE home support staff who use their privately owned vehicles in the course of their duties; and if consideration is being given to the increased costs associated with fuel, vehicle maintenance, insurance and depreciation since the rates were last revised in September 2022?

PQ73223/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

782. To ask the Minister for Health to provide further details regarding her plans for the €7 million allocation for general practice reform in Budget 2027; and if the Strategic Review of General Practice will conclude by year end.

PQ73319/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

783. To ask the Minister for Health whether applications for reimbursement under the cross border healthcare directive are processed strictly in chronological order according to their date of receipt; if not, the circumstances in which applications may be processed out of sequence; and the reason applications for other procedures submitted in 2026 have been processed and reimbursed, while some lipoedema applications submitted in 2025 and early 2026 remain outstanding.

PQ72916/26 | CATHAL CROWE

784. To ask the Minister for Health the reason any change to the processing, clinical review or eligibility requirements for lipoedema applications under the Cross Border Healthcare Directive was not communicated to patients in advance, having regard to the written commitment issued by the National Director of HSE National Services and Schemes on 29 August 2025 that advance notice and published guidance would be provided for future changes to CBD processes and that a fair and reasonable transition period would apply.

PQ72914/26 | CATHAL CROWE

785. To ask the Minister for Health if applications for reimbursement for lipoedema treatment under the Cross Border Healthcare Directive have been placed on hold, delayed or otherwise prevented from progressing pending clinical review or clinical advice; if so, the date on which this commenced; the reason for the decision; the number of applications affected; and the anticipated timeframe for resolving the matter.

PQ72912/26 | CATHAL CROWE

786. To ask the Minister for Health If she will address a payroll issue at Cavan General Hospital where a person (details supplied) has been informed that arrears and salary corrections will be delayed until after Christmas 2026 despite one year of continuous service in the role; and if she will direct the HSE to expedite this payment.

PQ72904/26 | MATT CARTHY

787. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients seeking private maternity care who have been refused access at major maternity hospitals, including the National Maternity Hospital, since the implementation of the public only consultant contract; the specific safety and contingency protocols in place for pregnant women with complex medical histories or past trauma who are transitioned into the public system; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72901/26 | MATT CARTHY

788. To ask the Minister for Health the number of formal complaints or items of correspondence received by her Department from women affected by the restrictions regarding the number of patients seeking private maternity care who have been turned away or refused access at major maternity hospitals, including the National Maternity Hospital, since the implementation of the Public Only Consultant Contract (POCC); the specific budgetary resources and additional funding allocated to major maternity units to expand public capacity and staffing; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72898/26 | MATT CARTHY

789. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the original and current timelines and costs for delivery of MedLIS; the expenditure to date and projected final cost, including national and local costs incurred or planned for staffing, agency cover, outsourcing of laboratory testing, capital works, equipment, software and infrastructure; if these costs are included in the overall programme cost and value-for-money assessment; and if financial penalties will be imposed if the system is not rolled out to all planned sites within the projected timeframe.

PQ72897/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

790. To ask the Minister for Health the clinical governance in place to ensure each laboratory discipline within MedLIS is safe and fit for purpose; if appropriately qualified medical and scientific specialists in each discipline are involved in assessing and accepting clinical risk; if an independent review of the microbiology component has been requested and the outcome; and if such a review has been requested but not undertaken, the basis for deciding it is not required and the evidence supporting such an assessment.

PQ72896/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

791. To ask the Minister for Health if an evaluation has been undertaken of MedLIS at sites where it is already in use (details supplied); the evidence, beyond the absence of reported incidents, that demonstrates that the microbiology component is safe and operationally fit-for-purpose; if the existing sites are representative of hospitals awaiting implementation, including maternity, paediatric and neonatal services; and the manner in which learnings from existing sites have been implemented.

PQ72892/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

792. To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the implementation of home support hours for a person (details supplied) that were previously approved and whose family advises that, despite the hours having been approved since April 2026, the care has not yet been put in place due to capacity constraints; if she is aware that the person continues to provide care on a largely unsupported basis and has advised that this is becoming unsustainable; if she will outline the steps being taken to source the required care supports as a matter of urgency.

PQ72872/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

793. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No.19805/26, for an update on the timeline for a decision on the acarizax reimbursement application (HSE100082); when a decision is expected; the stage the review process of the application is currently at; and if interim supports or exceptional access arrangements may be available for patients currently prescribed this treatment.

PQ72861/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

794. To ask the Minister for Health if the Health Products Regulatory Authority has received complaints or reports regarding the use of non-compliant or unlabelled nail products in salons in the State in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of products withdrawn or recalled as a result; if guidance has been issued to salon operators and the public on identifying compliant nail products; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72841/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

795. To ask the Minister for Health the number of inspections, market surveillance checks and product sampling exercises carried out by the Health Products Regulatory Authority on cosmetic products used in nail salons and nail bars, including acrylic monomer liquids and gel nail products, in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number of products found to contain substances prohibited or restricted under the EU Cosmetics Regulation; the enforcement action taken in each case; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72839/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

796. To ask the Minister for Health the reason reimbursement applications under the HSE Cross Border Directive dating back to November 2025 remain outstanding (details supplied); the number of applicants waiting six months or longer for reimbursement; whether sufficient funding has been allocated to clear the current backlog; the reason applicants are receiving conflicting information regarding the status of their claims; the urgent measures being implemented to support patients experiencing financial hardship as a result of prolonged delays; and if sufficient funding has been secured for future reimbursement demand.

PQ72826/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

797. To ask the Minister for Health the number of consultants now operating on public only consultant contracts; and the percentage of the total number of consultants in each public hospital that these numbers represent.

PQ72810/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

798. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on waiting times for HSE dental services for children in County Laois; and the measures being taken to reduce waiting times.

PQ72792/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

799. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the number of vacant speech and language posts, both adult & child services, in County Laois; the length of time each post has remained vacant; and when she expects these posts to be filled.

PQ72791/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

800. To ask the Minister for Health when paediatric ophthalmology services in County Laois will recommence.

PQ72790/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

801. To ask the Minister for Health when the position of paediatric dietitian in County Laois will be reinstated.

PQ72789/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

802. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the vacant adult speech and language therapy post in County Laois; and when she expects the post to be advertised.

PQ72788/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

803. To ask the Minister for Health the current status of the vacant adult speech and language therapy post in County Laois; and when she expects the post to be advertised.

PQ72787/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

804. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to include sickle cell disease as a listed eligible condition under the long-term illness scheme.

PQ72786/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

805. To ask the Minister for Health if a tailored winter overcrowding plan, similar to the measures introduced at University Hospital Limerick, will be implemented at Cork University Hospital, given that trolley numbers there rose from 405 in June 2025 to 708 in June 2026 according to INMO trolley watch.

PQ72766/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

806. To ask the Minister for Health the number of elective procedures cancelled on the day at Cork University Hospital in 2025 and to date in 2026 due to bed unavailability, by specialty.

PQ72765/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

807. To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 28272/26, the current stage of detailed design for the Cork elective hospital; the projected dates for planning lodgement, commencement of construction and opening of the hospital.

PQ72764/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

808. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients referred from Cork University Hospital to St. James's Hospital and University Hospital Galway for stem cell transplantation in each of the years 2023 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the average wait from referral to transplant; and the number of referred patients who did not proceed to transplant.

PQ72763/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

809. To ask the Minister for Health the counselling services available for families of persons severely injured in accidents (details supplied); the location of any such family counselling; and if there are plans to improve or develop such a service.

PQ72752/26 | MARK WALL

810. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of additional charges being applied by private nursing homes for social activities and other non-clinical services; if she is satisfied that these charges are transparent and consistent with residents' contracts of care; and the oversight measures in place to prevent unclear or excessive costs.

PQ72723/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

811. To ask the Minister for Health the location of a service (details supplied); if people will be able to self-refer into the service; if people will be able to walk in without appointments; if referrals will take place to more acute services; and if the service will operate on a 24/7 basis.

PQ72722/26 | MARK WARD

812. To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been drawn to reports (details supplied) that women referred as urgent cases to the symptomatic breast unit at University Hospital Galway are currently facing waiting times of up to ten weeks for assessment, despite the recommended two-week timeframe for urgent referrals; the reason for these delays; and the steps being taken by her Department and the HSE to address them.

PQ72707/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

813. To ask the Minister for Health when a comprehensive endometriosis national service and strategy will be established; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72694/26 | RÉADA CRONIN

814. To ask the Minister for Health the reason a person (details supplied) is unable to get a physiotherapy appointment post-partum; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72677/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

815. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will engage with a family (details supplied) with a view to accessing local adult day services for their child, as soon as possible.

PQ72671/26 | GED NASH

816. To ask the Minister for Health the funds that will be ringfenced, as part of the health allocation in Budget 2027, for provision of the Huntington's disease care pathway.

PQ72644/26 | IVANA BACIK

817. To ask the Minister for Health the current consultant neurologist staffing levels and vacancies nationally and in county Kerry.

PQ72638/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

818. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to address shortages in Parkinson's nurse specialist posts both nationally and in County Kerry.

PQ72636/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

819. To ask the Minister for Health the current and planned numbers of Parkinson's nurse specialists nationally and in County Kerry.

PQ72634/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

820. To ask the Minister for Health the average wait time for a transfer from prison to the Central Mental Hospital, Portrane.

PQ72618/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

821. To ask the Minister for Health the national arrangements in place for toxicological testing where a person attending a sexual assault treatment unit or other healthcare service believes a drug or substance was used to facilitate a sexual assault or rape; whether testing is routinely available where clinically indicated; the usual timeframes for obtaining samples for different substances; and the barriers identified to timely testing.

PQ72617/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

822. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons attending sexual assault treatment units in each of the years 2021 to 2025 who reported or expressed concern that drugs, alcohol or another substance had been used to facilitate a sexual assault or rape; the proportion this represented of total attendances; and whether this information is centrally collated by the HSE.

PQ72616/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

823. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting transfer from prison to the Central Mental Hospital Portrane, by prison and gender, in tabular form.

PQ72607/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

824. To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant posts in the Central Mental Hospital Portrane, by grade, in tabular form.

PQ72606/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

825. To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff in the Central Mental Hospital Portrane, by grade, in tabular form.

PQ72605/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

826. To ask the Minister for Health the date of which the single point of access will commence in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the original date of commencement; and the reason for delays.

PQ72596/26 | CATHY BENNETT

827. To ask the Minister for Health whether there are plans to facilitate clinical trials in Ireland for patients with a condition (details supplied), particularly for emerging treatments; whether Irish patients can access clinical trials taking place in other EU countries or the UK; and whether early access arrangements are being considered for these treatments.

PQ72593/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

828. To ask the Minister for Health following the transposition of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 whether food businesses can limit the use of customer-provided containers to service points where they can be handled safely and appropriate hygiene standards can be maintained, including where other service points such as kiosks, drive-throughs, service hatches or collection points are not suitable; if businesses can communicate these restrictions to customers; the guidance the Food Safety Authority of Ireland provides in this regard; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72588/26 | EMER CURRIE

829. To ask the Minister for Health following the transposition of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, the guidance is available to food businesses on foods and drinks that may not be suitable for serving in containers brought into stores by customers, particularly where the container could come into contact with dispensing equipment or where food needs to be kept at a specific temperature; the actions a business should take where its food safety assessment finds that a product cannot safely be supplied in a customer-provided container; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72587/26 | EMER CURRIE

830. To ask the Minister for Health if, under Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 food businesses can set reasonable conditions for accepting containers brought in by customers, including requirements around cleanliness, condition, size and suitability for holding food; whether businesses can refuse to use containers that do not meet these requirements; the steps businesses should take to make customers aware of these conditions; where responsibility lies for the handling and storage of the food once it leaves the premises in a customer-provided container; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72585/26 | EMER CURRIE

831. To ask the Minister for Health if, under Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 food businesses can accept and fill containers brought in by customers where appropriate food safety measures are included in their HACCP procedures; whether these measures can include having a designated area for filling containers, minimising staff handling and avoiding contact with food preparation surfaces and equipment; whether the Food Safety Authority of Ireland has issued guidance on any additional measures businesses should take; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72584/26 | EMER CURRIE

832. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the waiting list numbers and waiting times for all specialist services in Dublin and Cork dental schools, between oral surgery and oral medicine for the years 2024, 2025 and to date 2026.

PQ72567/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

833. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a list of sites for dental procedures, where hospital sessions are available for special needs patients under general anaesthetic in the Republic of Ireland; the relevant waiting lists for each; and the number of patients treated in each unit under general anaesthetic in 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ72562/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

834. To ask the Minister for Health if she will undertake an independent review of the decision to permanently transfer consultant-led dermatology outpatient services from Monaghan Hospital to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, including an assessment of whether the stated objectives of a more streamlined and efficient model of care have been achieved; whether consideration will be given to restoring consultant-led outpatient clinics at Monaghan Hospital, including through visiting consultant arrangements; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72554/26 | MATT CARTHY

835. To ask the Minister for Health the estimated annual cost of providing consultant-led dermatology outpatient services at Monaghan Hospital prior to their transfer to Drogheda; the projected financial savings or additional expenditure associated with the centralisation of these services; the actual savings or additional expenditure recorded to date; the additional staffing, accommodation and other costs incurred at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital; whether a cost-benefit analysis was completed prior to the transfer; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72551/26 | MATT CARTHY

836. To ask the Minister for Health the number of dermatology outpatient appointments provided at Monaghan Hospital in each of the years 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025; the number of dermatology outpatient appointments provided to residents of counties Monaghan and Cavan at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, in each year from 2023 to date; the number of new and return appointments separately; the additional consultant, nursing and administrative resources allocated to Drogheda to accommodate the transfer; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72550/26 | MATT CARTHY

837. To ask the Minister for Health the detailed rationale for the decision to centralise the dermatology referral pathway previously provided at Monaghan Hospital in Q2 2024 and to permanently transfer consultant-led dermatology outpatient services to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, in Q4 2025; the person or body responsible for each decision; the dates on which the decisions were taken; the clinical, financial and

operational assessments undertaken; if alternative arrangements to retain services at Monaghan Hospital were considered; and if copies of the relevant business cases and decision documents will be provided.

PQ72547/26 | MATT CARTHY

838. To ask the Minister for Health to urgently address a matter (details supplied) and allow for an increase in travel allowance (mileage allowance) for HSE staff, especially those whose position require them to travel to meet and provide care to patients.

PQ72546/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

839. To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients from counties Monaghan and Cavan awaiting a first dermatology outpatient appointment, in tabular form; the average and longest waiting times for such appointments, at the end of each quarter from 2023 to date; the corresponding figures for patients waiting more than six, twelve and eighteen months; if these figures demonstrate an improvement or deterioration in waiting times following the transfer of dermatology services from Monaghan Hospital to Drogheda; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72544/26 | MATT CARTHY

840. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department or the HSE has conducted an assessment of the impact on patient outcomes arising from the centralisation of the dermatology referral pathway from Monaghan Hospital to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, in 2024 and the subsequent permanent transfer of consultant-led dermatology outpatient services in 2025; the specific improvements in clinical outcomes, access to treatment and service efficiency that have been identified; if a copy of such an assessment will be provided; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72538/26 | MATT CARTHY

841. To ask the Minister for Health her views on a matter relating to psychiatric nurses (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72536/26 | JOHN MCGUINNESS

842. To ask the Minister for Health if she will list each service which was previously provided at the Monaghan Hospital campus since 2020 which has subsequently transferred to other hospital sites, including Cavan; the year in which each service was removed; the hospital site to which each service was transferred, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72531/26 | MATT CARTHY

843. To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the compensation scheme for children who were subject to deficiencies in their care at CAMHS in Kerry; the reason children who have received apologies remain excluded; if she plans to include them; the timeline in which this will take place; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72526/26 | PA DALY

844. To ask the Minister for Health to provide a detailed breakdown of the additional funding provided for in Budget 2027 in relation to the cost of maintaining existing levels of service, demographic growth and inflation; and separately, funding for new services, expanded services and reform.

PQ72525/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

845. To ask the Minister for Health the number of domiciliary physiotherapy home visits carried out in the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area in each of the past three years; the number currently awaiting assessment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72506/26 | PA DALY

846. To ask the Minister for Health the number of domiciliary physiotherapy home visits carried out in the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area in each of the past three years; the number currently awaiting assessment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72505/26 | PA DALY

847. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the reduction in physiotherapy staffing levels in the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area is consistent with the objectives of Sláintecare and enhanced community care, which seek to ensure patients receive treatment in the right place and at the right time; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72504/26 | PA DALY

848. To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the HSE intends to provide timely community physiotherapy services across the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area (details supplied); if an assessment has been carried out of the impact that reduced physiotherapy staffing levels may have on patient outcomes, including increased risks of falls, injuries and the development of chronic conditions due to delayed treatment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72503/26 | PA DALY

849. To ask the Minister for Health the number of outpatient physiotherapy referrals received in the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area in each of the past three years; the average waiting time for assessment and treatment; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72502/26 | PA DALY

850. To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE intends to recruit additional physiotherapy staff for the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area; the timeline for filling existing vacancies; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72501/26 | PA DALY

851. To ask the Minister for Health when the domiciliary physiotherapist post previously based in Castleisland became vacant; the reason the post has remained unfilled since that date; if approval has been granted to recruit to the position; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72500/26 | PA DALY

852. To ask the Minister for Health the number of physiotherapists currently assigned to the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area; the number assigned in each year from 2020 to date; if she is aware that physiotherapy staffing in the Castleisland-Farranfore primary care area is due

to be reduced to a single senior physiotherapist for the next six-month rotation period; whether a risk assessment was carried out prior to this reduction; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72499/26 | PA DALY

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

853. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide a breakdown of his Departments current budget in relation to North/South educational programmes, initiatives and so on, for a list of changes introduced in Budget 2027 and the dates any changes are due to take effect.

PQ73043/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

854. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73334/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

855. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to clarify if household or parental income thresholds with respect to accessing SUSI grants have increased in Budget 2027.

PQ73179/26 | CAROL NOLAN

856. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science further to the reply to Parliamentary Question No. 70909/26, the reason none of the 268 additional nursing and midwifery places approved under the 2022 Higher Education Capacity Building process were allocated to University College Cork or Munster Technological University; whether any application was received from those institutions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73166/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

857. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the measures in place to encourage employers to provide work experience opportunities to undergraduate students.

PQ72801/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

858. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if a person (details supplied) in County Kildare can resume a chosen career given the previous issues that forced them to withdraw from the apprenticeship that they had commenced.

PQ72742/26 | MARK WALL

859. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to provide further detail on the way in which employers will be able to access the National Training Fund funding announced as part of Budget 2027; the eligibility criteria that will apply; the expected timeline for the introduction of the application process; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ72590/26 | EMER CURRIE

860. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to give details of the €53m of efficiencies he identified in his Department for Budget 2027.

PQ72549/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

861. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to give a breakdown of how the €150m unlocked from the NTF in the Budget will be spent over the next three years.

PQ72545/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

862. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is concerned that TUD has decided to close its creche in the Tallaght campus; if he is concerned that students may have to drop out as a consequence; and if he will intervene with TUD to put the case for keeping the creche open.

PQ72522/26 | PAUL MURPHY

863. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the steps his Department is taking to assist students following the unexpected and immediate closure of a language college in Cork (details supplied) given that the abrupt closure of the college has left students who rely on it for their immigration status in a uncertain and distressing situation.

PQ72515/26 | COLM BURKE

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

864. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will provide a schedule of external communications and or public relations services provided to his Department and bodies under his aegis, by the costs incurred, the service provider name, nature and or summary of services provided; and if any of the service providers engaged are contracted to his Department or to the body under his aegis, in each of the years 2023 to date in 2026.

PQ73339/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

865. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the additional supports in place for social enterprises as a result of Budget 2027.

PQ73226/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

866. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department will provide dedicated capital funding to Cork County Council in 2027 for the planned development of community and recreational amenities, independently of grant schemes reliant on applications from voluntary community groups, particularly to address serious amenity deficits in rapidly growing settlements in east Cork; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ73348/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

867. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the new measures and funding that have been provided in Budget 2027 to address rural isolation and loneliness, particularly among older people and those living in remote communities.

PQ72925/26 | PAT BUCKLEY

868. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the funding allocated to the Social Inclusion and Community Action Programme (SICAP) for 2027.

PQ72853/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

869. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the level of funding remaining under the LEADER Programme 2023-2027; and the measures being taken to ensure that funding is fully utilised.

PQ72852/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

870. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht when the next round of the Local Enhancement Programme will be announced; and the level of funding that will be available for community groups.

PQ72851/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

871. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht the timeline for the next round of applications for the Community Centre Investment Fund; the eligibility criteria; and the funding limits that will apply.

PQ72795/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

872. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if he will bring forward approvals for the current CCIF program for emergency cases.

PQ72768/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

873. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail, agus Gaeltachta cé mhéad go sonrach atá le baint ó bhuiséad caipitil na nOileán agus cé mhéad atá le baint ó bhuiséad caipitil na Gaeltachta sa chiorrú atá leagtha amach sa Bhuiséad ar airgead caipitil na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán ó €55,362,000 in 2026 go €50,362,000 in 2027.

PQ72491/26 | AENGUS Ó SNODAIGH