DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 12 Samhain, 2026
Thursday, 12th November, 2026

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection

1. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider making specific supports available for persons on metered energy who run out of money and are left without energy, in the time it takes to apply for and receive supplementary welfare allowance; and if he is aware that this period of disconnection can disrupt the powering of essential mobility devices, allow food to spoil and generally bring about serious hardship.

PQ80201/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

2. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps his Department is taking to honour the Programme for Government commitments to enhance outcomes for kinship carers; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80125/26 | EOIN HAYES

3. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the details of the supports currently in place for long-term unemployed persons; the measures under consideration to support them back to work; the penalties that exist for refusal to engage with job activation; and the further penalties that will be forthcoming.

PQ80499/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

4. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware that older people accessing payments such as the living alone allowance and fuel allowance are now losing such payments due to a family member having to move back home; and the steps he is taking to address the issue.

PQ78258/26 | MARK WALL

5. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the timeframe for setting up the cross department review on the bereaved partners pension as recommended by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection on Wednesday 4 November 2026, in order that persons bereaved by the biggest life changing loss, are not locked out of secondary supports such as back to school allowance, fuel allowance, retraining for back to work without the fear of losing their pension.

PQ80540/26 | RICHARD O'DONOGHUE

6. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason the core universal monthly rate of child benefit has remained frozen at €140 per child; if he acknowledges that the baseline rate has not seen a structural increase since 2017; and his Department's assessment of the way in which this prolonged freeze has impacted middle and low-income families.

PQ80316/26 | CAROL NOLAN

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection

7. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an overview of the Budget 2027 supports for disabled people.

PQ79888/26 | SEAN FLEMING

8. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the plans that are in place to review the wage subsidy scheme appreciating the low level of employment amongst people living with a disability.

PQ80227/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

9. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the percentage of Domiciliary Care Allowance applications with addresses in Cork refused; and the percentage of these then accepted on appeal.

PQ79073/26 | THOMAS GOULD

10. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if pensioners with lifelong disabilities who are in receipt of the State pension (contributory) or State pension (non-contributory) will be eligible for the cost of disability payment on the same basis as working-age recipients of disability allowance or invalidity pension; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79892/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

11. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his Department's estimate of the number of families in Dublin that are eligible for, but not currently claiming the working family payment.

PQ80154/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

12. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to change staffing levels and conditions in Intreo centres; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80139/26 | EOIN HAYES

13. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the key budget social protection measures to support rural communities in 2027.

PQ80208/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

14. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will report on the Budget 2027 changes to the community employment, Tús and the rural social scheme.

PQ79901/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

15. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide an update on the disability payment following the recent Cost of Disabilty Summit.

PQ80231/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

16. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department has any plans to expand their administrative services in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79722/26 | CATHAL CROWE

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

PQ78720/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

18. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to outline his reasoning for not including long-term recipients of the disability allowance and invalidity pension that have transferred to the State pension in the eligibility criteria for the cost of disability payment.

PQ78318/26 | MARK WALL

19. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will examine the feasibility of introducing a targeted employer PRSI rebate scheme for small and medium-sized enterprises to help alleviate the rising cost of doing business.

PQ79776/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

20. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the Government still commits to allowing older people in receipt of the State pension and carer’s allowance to receive a full rate carer’s allowance, rather than the current half-rate.

PQ78327/26 | MARK WALL

21. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has considered providing an enhanced payment or support package for families caring for adult children with intellectual disabilities who must remain at home due to the lack of available residential placements; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80220/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

22. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of additional people in Kildare that are qualifying for the carer’s allowance since July 2026.

PQ80180/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

23. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons that qualify for the carer's allowance; and the way in which this compares to the end of June 2026.

PQ79857/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

24. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the details of any State funding given to companies (details supplied) in each of the years 2020 to 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ78984/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

25. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the evaluation of the hot school meals programme; and the progress of the renumeration of 98 schools for the instances in which they were overcharged by €786,000 as detailed in the 2025 Comptroller and Auditor General's Report.

PQ80277/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

26. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for a report on his campaign to raise awareness on eligibility and how to apply for the household benefits package.

PQ79902/26 | SHAY BRENNAN

27. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No’s 47658/26 and 67576/26, the assistance he will provide to those who face financial barriers to accessing social welfare payments such as the cost of a GP visit or doctor's note where these are essential criteria for the payment in question.

PQ80282/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

28. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm the changes made to social protection payments in Budget 2027, to support older people and carer's; and the timeframe for these changes to take effect.

PQ80009/26 | COLM BURKE

29. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the current and projected levels of surplus in the Social Insurance Fund; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80137/26 | EOIN HAYES

30. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress made to date on the implementation of the family carer payment; the timeline for its full introduction; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79301/26 | GRACE BOLAND

31. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to his commitment that the Programme for Government undertaking to phase out the means test for carer's allowance will be delivered during the lifetime of this Government, the further measures planned to advance this objective; and the timeframe envisaged for the full abolition of the means test.

PQ80165/26 | PETER ROCHE

32. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an overview of the Budget 2027 supports for people in employment or jobseekers.

PQ79899/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

33. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide an update on improvements to the hot school meals programme this school year.

PQ79910/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

34. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the Work and Access Employment Programme.

PQ79868/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

35. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware of the hardship the provision in the Bereaved Partner's Pension Bill, to exclude divorced and separated partners has had, particularly in the instance of lone parents; and if he will consider extending supports to this small group.

PQ80279/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

36. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware of the growing concerns that the €10 core social welfare increase is not sufficient to match the pace of inflation; the measures he will take to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80086/26 | PA DALY

37. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide an update on the national schools in Clare that no longer have access to the hot school meals programme; and his plans to ensure that schools in more remote areas are not discriminated against in accessing this programme in the future.

PQ74191/26 | JOE COONEY

38. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider increasing the household benefits package, recognising the increase in electricity and gas bills.

PQ80146/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

39. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of cases of overpayment currently with his Department; the overall number of cases; the overall amount involved; and the highest amount of overpayment in a single case.

PQ80088/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

40. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the eligibility criteria and payment date for the €500 cost-of-disability payment announced in Budget 2027; the timetable for introducing a permanent payment; and the way in which its sufficiency will be assessed against the additional costs faced by people with disabilities.

PQ80100/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

41. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will clarify whether a person in receipt of disability allowance or invalidity pension who qualifies for a state pension (contributory) or state pension (non-contributory) will continue to receive the new cost of disability payment upon reaching pension age; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79890/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

42. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in Galway west who are expected to benefit from the new €500 cost of disability payment announced in Budget 2027; and the consideration that will be given to additional disability-support measures.

PQ80261/26 | SEÁN KYNE

43. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department will review the eligibility requirements for the bereaved partners pension; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80127/26 | EOIN HAYES

44. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to outline the appeals process for carer's allowance and disability allowance; the number of appeals made in both and the number of successful appeals for the past three years.

PQ80275/26 | MARK WARD

45. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the extension of illness benefit to the self-employed.

PQ80240/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

46. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the review carried out in his Department on the system of means tests for all schemes in his Department; if he will provide the report to the house; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80138/26 | EOIN HAYES

47. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether there are statutory or administrative time limits on the recovery of historic social welfare overpayments, particularly those arising during the Covid-19 pandemic; and whether consideration is given to the passage of time and the circumstances in which such overpayments occurred.

PQ78600/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

48. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide additional financial supports to healthcare workers suffering with long-Covid.

PQ78721/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

49. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will consider overhauling how community welfare officers operate so that, rather than being based in departmental and INTREO offices, they would revert to holding clinics in local communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79720/26 | CATHAL CROWE

50. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to report on the disability work and skills week.

PQ79752/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

51. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the means-testing arrangements for jobseeker's allowance in the case of cohabiting couples, given that the income of a cohabiting partner is assessed for social welfare purposes while such couples are not afforded the same treatment as married couples for taxation purposes, including the ability to be jointly assessed by the Revenue Commissioners; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80228/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

52. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for a progress update on his plans to remove the means-test for the carer's allowance.

PQ79991/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

53. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will give consideration to changing the reference year for the calculation of contributions for eligibility of the PRSI treatment benefit scheme given it currently stands that persons aged under 21-years-of age qualify with 39 cumulative contributions, and eligibility at 21 years-of-age is assessed using PRSI records from two years earlier, meaning contributions made at 20 years-of-age are ignored.

PQ80151/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

54. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if means testing thresholds and the calculation rates for State benefits, for example the non-contributory pension, could be updated.

PQ80274/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

55. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether an assessment has been carried out on the impact of Budget 2027 social welfare increases on eligibility for secondary benefits and State supports, including medical cards, housing supports, fuel allowance, working family payment and other means-tested schemes; and the number of recipients estimated to be affected.

PQ79652/26 | JOE COONEY

56. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on plans to introduce a cost of disability payment; whether consideration is being given to providing this payment to people with disabilities who are in employment and do not qualify for existing disability-related social welfare supports; and when a decision on its introduction is expected.

PQ80239/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

57. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his assessment of the effectiveness of existing anti-poverty measures for children; the reforms he believes are required to meet the Government's child poverty reduction targets; the steps his Department is taking to introduce such reforms; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ78239/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

58. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to outline his estimate of the number of persons that will benefit from the Budget 2027 changes to the income disregards for the carer’s allowance.

PQ80183/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

59. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the specific timeline for the examination of the issue of pension provision for foster carers; when this examination will likely conclude; and if recommendations will be issued.

PQ80074/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

60. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of individuals who were cut off domiciliary, invalidity and disability payments following reviews; the number who were reinstated following appeals; the average wait time for reinstation, in each of the years from 2020 and to date, in tabular form.

PQ78215/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

61. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will consider extending the wage subsidy scheme to disabled entrepreneurs.

PQ80246/26 | ROSE CONWAY-WALSH

62. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to PQ67628/26, if his Department intends to make any further changes to the pension treatment of foster care work in the lifetime of this Government.

PQ80073/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

63. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will outline the new changes made to the fuel allowance scheme as part of Budget 2027; and his plans to ensure that everyone eligible for the scheme is availing of it.

PQ79352/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

64. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he will agree to meet with a group (details supplied) who were excluded from previous pension settlements, to discuss their circumstances and the possibility of a resolution.

PQ78597/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

65. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to examine the delays in assessing social welfare payment applications, in particular, the working family payment which on 2 November 2026, was processing applications from 18 September 2026, and ensure the levels of staffing are increased to allow for more timely assessment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80042/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

66. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when he expects to bring forward proposals to introduce a pay related parent's benefit, as committed to in the Programme for Government.

PQ79313/26 | GRACE BOLAND

67. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review his decision to continue means testing for the carers allowance and make a provision for this in the Social Welfare Bill that is currently being debated in Dáil Eireann; and to make a statement on the matter.

PQ80041/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

68. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an overview of the Budget 2027 supports for families and children.

PQ79891/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

69. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has plans to review the means test for the State pension (non-contributory) or the disability allowance.

PQ79882/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

70. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will roll out a nationwide Intreo Disability Work and Skills Week.

PQ79886/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

71. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he has considered the impact of the treatment benefit scheme contribution conditions on older people who have substantial lifetime PRSI contribution records but are ineligible for hearing aid supports because they do not satisfy the requirement to have 39 paid or credited contributions in the contribution years used to assess entitlement.

PQ79729/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

72. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department will commit to a review of the excessive paperwork and administrative burdens surrounding the wage subsidy scheme and the work and access scheme which employers and disabled jobseekers report acts as a barrier to employment.

PQ80195/26 | LIAM QUAIDE

73. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of places under the expanded rural dweller pilot under the rural social scheme that will be allocated in Galway west, particularly in Connemara and island communities; and the criteria for participation.

PQ80266/26 | SEÁN KYNE

74. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the rationale for excluding children under 16 in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance from the new €500 annual Cost of Disability Payment announced in Budget 2027; and whether consideration will be given to reviewing their eligibility as part of the future development of the scheme.

PQ78926/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

75. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 75946/26 of 3 November 2026, if he is aware of a significant anomaly arising whereby a large cohort of 21-year-olds are ineligible to received treatment under the PRSI treatment benefit scheme unless they have worked a considerable amount, given that as it currently stands, under-21-year-olds qualify with 39 cumulative contributions and eligibility at age 21 is assessed using PRSI records from two years earlier, meaning contributions made at 20 years-of-age are ignored.

PQ80152/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

76. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm whether the income means test threshold for fuel allowance for older people will increase in line with increases to other State pension payments for older people in the Budget; and, if so, to confirm the new rates.

PQ80010/26 | COLM BURKE

77. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide an update on increasing the domiciliary care allowance from 16 and 18 years.

PQ78321/26 | MARK WALL

78. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department will review eligibility requirements for the cost of disability payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80128/26 | EOIN HAYES

79. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the introduction of a pay-related carer’s benefit for family carers.

PQ78325/26 | MARK WALL

80. To ask the Minister for Social Protection what cross-departmental work his Department is undertaking to explore measures that could reduce the additional household costs faced by people with disabilities, including whether targeted support to access plug-in solar and battery systems for those on low incomes will be reviewed.

PQ66579/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

81. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps his Department is taking in responding to the additional costs associated with living in rural areas such as County Mayo, including transport, fuel and service accessibility; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80122/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

82. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when the cost of disability payment will be increased to realistic levels; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80119/26 | PAUL MURPHY

83. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average wait time for medical review for those on domiciliary, disability and invalidity in each of the past five years.

PQ78218/26 | PEADAR TÓIBÍN

84. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his attention has been drawn to concerns related to the quality and nutritional value of some of the food provided under the Hot School Meals Programme; if he proposes to create guidelines regarding standards and nutritional requirements for service providers.

PQ78653/26 | BARRY WARD

85. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of people in receipt of carer's allowance for the years 2022-2026 inclusive; and the way in which the income disregards for carer's allowance have made a difference to carers during this time.

PQ79351/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

86. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will review the rules governing receipt of carer's allowance and carer's benefit with a view to increasing the maximum number of hours carers may engage in employment, self-employment, education or training outside the home, which is currently limited to 18.5 hours per week.

PQ80219/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

87. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the cost of disability payment will be extended to disabled people not currently in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80120/26 | PAUL MURPHY

88. To ask the Minister for Social Protection his plans to review the means test for the qualified adult payment for pensions.

PQ79867/26 | ERIN MCGREEHAN

89. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an overview of the Budget 2027 supports for carers.

PQ79893/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

90. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether he intends to bring forward a cost of disability payment for disabled people not currently in receipt of a social welfare payment.

PQ79100/26 | THOMAS GOULD

91. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to report on the findings of the nutritional review and survey on hot school meals.

PQ79751/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

92. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the rate of rejected domiciliary care allowance applications subsequently overturned on appeal; and the average length of time taken to process an appeal.

PQ80289/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

93. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps he will take to ensure that seasonal workers, including those who work in schools, who lose working family payment during holiday time, do not have to wait six or eight weeks when employment resumes to get their WFP back in payment.

PQ80099/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

94. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether consideration is being given to extending eligibility for domiciliary care allowance from 16 to age 18 years-of-age; the rationale for the current age limit; and the review undertaken or planned in this regard.

PQ80174/26 | PETER ROCHE

95. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures being taken by his department to improve awareness and uptake of the Household Benefits Package among eligible people, particularly those aged 70 and over; and whether an automatic enrolment of eligible recipients would be considered.

PQ78927/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

96. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an overview of the Budget 2027 supports for pensioners.

PQ79889/26 | SEAN FLEMING

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH TOSAÍOCHT DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

97. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he is taking to improve public transport services in in rural Ireland; if he anticipates a further slowdown in connecting Ireland; and if he will commit to delivering a Tralee town bus service in 2027.

PQ80082/26 | PA DALY

98. To ask the Minister for Transport if his attention has been drawn to capacity and reliability issues and related matters across the public transport network; and if he will detail his engagement and that of his officials with the National Transport Authority and Transport for Ireland to enhance the commuter experience.

PQ80528/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

99. To ask the Minister for Transport further to his comments made in Dáil Éireann, if he still believes public passenger numbers will grow in 2027 despite the budget scenario he received from the NTA which projected that the fare hike will lead to a decline in passenger numbers (details supplied); the analysis he or his Department carried out to evidence the claims he made in Dáil Éireann regarding an increase in passenger numbers next year.

PQ80081/26 | PA DALY

100. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to ensure that the Galway Ring Road delivers improved safety for vulnerable road users; and his views on an ordinary citizen with no legal representation who felt it necessary to take a judicial review challenge in order to secure basic safety measures for cyclists in the area.

PQ80538/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

101. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will commission a review of the bus services in the Dún Laoghaire area, including but not limited to the 4, L25, E1 and E2 routes.

PQ80527/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

102. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the delivery of DART+ South West; the progress made on funding and procurement to date; and the anticipated timeline for commencement of construction.

PQ80263/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS

Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

103. To ask the Minister for Transport for the provision of dedicated pavement works funding to address sections of a road (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the mater.

PQ79898/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

104. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures being taken to ensure that transport infrastructure investment is aligned with the Government's housing delivery targets, particularly in growing regional towns.

PQ80207/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

105. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on PSO program discussions in relation to the promised increase in the 132 Bus Éireann regional /commuter service, which was scheduled for April 2025 and the commencement of the 199 local link service from Bray to Glendalough.

PQ80314/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

106. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures in place to support the long-term provision of driving test services in North Kildare, including the possibility of a permanent driving test centre and permanently assigned testers in Leixlip.

PQ80175/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

107. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures his Department is considering for rail infrastructure serving County Mayo and the western region, to improve service reliability, journey times and passenger capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80121/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

108. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the planned introduction on the battery-operated train service from Dublin to Wicklow; and for confirmation that it is still on target for 2029.

PQ80319/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

109. To ask the Minister for Transport if he has considered proceeding with the planned toll hikes in January 2027; the review that has been carried out on the impact of toll hikes on reducing congestion; and if consideration has been given on their impact on the cost-of-living.

PQ80164/26 | PA DALY

110. To ask the Minister for Transport if public transport passengers are required to vacate wheelchair spaces when needed; the full fares charged to free travel pass holders on 4 July on Irish Rail services; who authorised Expressway and Irish Rail reservation fees; their EU legal basis and revenue recipients; if he will outline Irish Rail’s free seat allocation and €10 return reservation charges; and the proportion of Bus Éireann commuter buses that are low-floor wheelchair accessible.

PQ79330/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

111. To ask the Minister for Transport the position regarding work ongoing within his Department to encourage the use of, or research the benefits of, HVO fuel as a direct alternative to diesel across a variety of sectors including transport, agriculture and industry with a view to reducing emissions in these sectors.

PQ76660/26 | BARRY WARD

112. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeframe for the NTA to publish its plans for public transport service improvements in 2027; if he has engaged with the NTA in relation to these plans; and if there will be improvements to public transport services in County Galway where capacity issues have been identified.

PQ79511/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

113. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the merits of promoting the use of HVO fuel as a direct alternative to diesel across a variety of sectors including transport, agriculture and industry with a view to reducing emissions in these sectors.

PQ76659/26 | BARRY WARD

114. To ask the Minister for Transport the immediate measures being taken to address persistent overcrowding on DART services, particularly during peak hours on the Malahide to Bray route; whether additional carriages and services will be introduced; and for an update on DART+ Coastal North, including the expected timeline for delivering increased passenger capacity.

PQ80248/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

115. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of Local Link services for the east Cork area as provided for in Budget 2027.

PQ80132/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

116. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider introducing a statutory indemnity or other legal protection for members of An Garda Síochána who, acting lawfully and in good faith, engage in pursuit of persons using scramblers, e-bikes, e-scooters and other vehicles.

PQ70481/26 | TOM BRABAZON

117. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to further amend scrambler, e-bikes and e-scooters regulations, following the introduction of new measures in 2026.

PQ80197/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

118. To ask the Minister for Transport to report on progress to meet his commitments under the national human rights strategy for disabled people; the measures taken since the strategy was introduced; the key metrics identified to measure progress; if he is satisfied with the progress that has been made; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80083/26 | PA DALY

119. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the recently announced new vehicle adaptation scheme to open in early 2027, including the number of applications envisioned; and the number and location of pre-approved suppliers.

PQ78929/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

120. To ask the Minister for Transport for a report on the projects and programmes that have been designated as critical infrastructure.

PQ75690/26 | SEAN FLEMING

121. To ask the Minister for Transport the action the Government will now take to finally resolve a long-running case (details supplied).

PQ79454/26 | FIONNTÁN Ó SÚILLEABHÁIN

122. To ask the Minister for Transport if there has been recent engagement between his Department and TII regarding funding for the provisions of the N80 Mountmellick relief road; and if it will be included in the National Development Plan.

PQ79928/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

123. To ask the Minister for Transport the timeline for the introduction of a town bus for Newbridge; and if funding has been guaranteed for its introduction given the public consultation that recently opened.

PQ72519/26 | MARK WALL

124. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans to fund electric vehicle charging stations in South Donegal (details supplied); the grants available for businesses to put in fast chargers; and the funding available to county councils to install chargers in public places.

PQ67814/26 | CHARLES WARD

125. To ask the Minister for Transport to advise on plans to expand Local Link services in rural Roscommon and Galway.

PQ78587/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

126. To ask the Minister for Transport the number of bus drivers recruited from South Africa for the bus routes in Cork; and the number currently able to drive buses under the PSO contract.

PQ79075/26 | THOMAS GOULD

127. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the N/M20 project which is a vital infrastructure project for the southern part of the country and in particular for areas of north Cork such as Charleville, Ballyhea, Buttevant, New Twopothouse and Mallow.

PQ79354/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

128. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on plans for light rail in Galway; and when the National Transport Authority will examine a potential route option for same.

PQ80075/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

129. To ask the Minister for Transport when additional rail carriages will be provided to address ongoing overcrowding on services operating on the Athenry to Galway rail route; if he has engaged with Iarnród Éireann regarding capacity constraints on this increasingly busy commuter corridor; and if consideration is being given to increasing the frequency of services on this heavily utilised commuter route.

PQ80123/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

130. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans in place to expand the provision of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points, particularly fast and rapid charging facilities, in rural towns and communities across Roscommon and East Galway; whether additional funding will be made available to local authorities to address gaps in charging infrastructure in towns such as Boyle, Castlerea, Ballaghaderreen, Ballygar and Roscommon town; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ78354/26 | MARTIN DALY

131. To ask the Minister for Transport if the National Transport Authority has assessed gaps in public transport inter-connectivity within Kildare north, particularly the availability of direct services between neighbouring towns and key education, employment and service centres.

PQ80177/26 | NAOISE Ó CEARÚIL

132. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will intervene and request that the National Transport Authority provide a permanent bus stop in the village of Culfadda, County Sligo which is on existing bus route 977.

PQ79880/26 | MARTIN KENNY

133. To ask the Minister for Transport to clarify the reason it is taking so long to re-establish the Dublin to Derry air link; and the reason the target date of October 2026 has now been missed.

PQ79513/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

134. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the introduction of contactless payments on transport networks here; and if he will outline the routes that may be included in the pilot scheme when testing the new service.

PQ80186/26 | JOE NEVILLE

135. To ask the Minister for Transport when the emerging preferred route for Luas Lucan is expected to be published; and the anticipated timeframe for public consultation and the next stages of the project.

PQ80260/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

136. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps his Department is taking to improve road safety on rural roads in County Mayo, given the high dependence on the road network in rural communities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80118/26 | KEIRA KEOGH

137. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the proposed upgrade of the N25 corridor between Carrigtwohill, Midleton and Youghal in East Cork.

PQ80058/26 | NOEL MCCARTHY

138. To ask the Minister for Transport for a commitment to fund the NTA proposal for services for the Clonburris SDZ.

PQ79366/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

139. To ask the Minister for Transport to outline the engagement he has had with Clare County Council in respect of safety issues on the R352, including at the junction at Henchy's Cross; the outcomes of that engagement; and the plans to address the issue.

PQ79924/26 | JOE COONEY

140. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review the planned increases in motorway and road toll charges for heavy goods vehicles due to come into effect from January 2027, in light of concerns raised by an organisation (details supplied) regarding the cumulative impact of rising transport costs on hauliers, commuters, consumers and supply chains; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80242/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

141. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress being made on the deployment of average speed cameras, red-light cameras and other road safety technologies; and the locations currently under consideration for such measures.

PQ80163/26 | GRACE BOLAND

142. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on capital funding applications submitted by Clare County Council for a comprehensive safety overhaul and road realignment at a location (details supplied); if he is aware that a previous €2 million application under the strategic regional and local roads scheme for this specific blackspot was rejected by his Department; his plans to review this decision given the strategic importance of this commuter route linking East Clare to the M18; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80017/26 | CATHAL CROWE

143. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Killarney bypass.

PQ80267/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

144. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will accept the invitation from the elected councillors of the Letterkenny-Milford Municipal District of Donegal County Council to come to Donegal, to meet them and discuss how he and his Department can help alleviate the traffic crisis in Letterkenny town which affects thousands of people daily.

PQ80144/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

145. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will consider measures to reduce the significant upfront costs associated with obtaining a new taxi licence, given concerns that these costs may be acting as a barrier to entry for new drivers and contributing to taxi availability shortages in both urban and rural areas.

PQ80276/26 | SEÁN KYNE

146. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will ensure that adequate funding is provided to Cavan and Monaghan County Councils for the non-national road network for 2027 taking into account the urgent need for increased investment in upgrading and repairing local and regional roads.

PQ80126/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

147. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on the Bus Connects project in Limerick and the lack of a bus service on the Condell Road in Limerick.

PQ80224/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

148. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide an update on the 893 bus for Suncroft, County Kildare.

PQ72518/26 | MARK WALL

149. To ask the Minister for Transport whether he is aware of growing congestion in Cork city; and whether he will consider emergency funding for park and ride services to reduce this.

PQ79076/26 | THOMAS GOULD

150. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures being taken by his Department and transport agencies to minimise disruption to passengers arising from engineering and maintenance works scheduled over bank holiday weekends.

PQ80168/26 | NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

151. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department is engaging with Iarnród Éireann regarding the provision of new and additional carriages on mainline rail routes such as Dublin to Cork, Limerick, and Portlaoise as passenger numbers have increased significantly.

PQ79927/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

152. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the proposed Tuam to Athenry TFI local link service; the timeframe he expects the service to commence operation; whether funding has been secured for its delivery; and if he will outline the proposed service frequency and timeline for implementation.

PQ80218/26 | ALBERT DOLAN

153. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is concerned that barriers to entry and unviable upfront costs are causing serious taxi availability shortages in urban and rural areas; and his plans to address the problem.

PQ80024/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

154. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress that has been made on the development of the proposed replacement of the disabled drivers and disabled passengers' scheme and the timeline for its implementation.

PQ68871/26 | PETER ROCHE

155. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that taxi and hackney unavailability is causing huge challenges for the night time economy, particularly in rural areas; and if he will take urgent action to tackle this problem.

PQ80025/26 | PETER 'CHAP' CLEERE

156. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of plans for additional park-and-ride facilities serving commuters in north County Dublin; and the expected delivery timelines for such projects.

PQ80159/26 | GRACE BOLAND

157. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will outline the requirements for orbital bus routes to be sanctioned and receive funding; and if his Department will provide funding for orbital routes between Swords, Blanchardstown, Kinsealy, Malahide and Portmarnock train stations.

PQ79845/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

158. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department in conjunction with TII has considered plans to alleviate the congestion on the N80 through the Market Square and the centre of Portlaoise.

PQ79929/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

159. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will reverse the planned increase to public transport fares in January 2027, including for overcrowded and low quality services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80117/26 | PAUL MURPHY

160. To ask the Minister for Transport the action being taken to address the ongoing issue of scheduled Dublin Bus services failing to arrive despite appearing on real-time passenger information displays; whether figures are available on the number of services that fail to operate, particularly across Dublin bay north; and the measures that are planned to improve service reliability and passenger information.

PQ80250/26 | BARRY HENEGHAN

161. To ask the Minister for Transport the engagement that has taken place to date between the Department of Transport and other relevant Departments such as Education and Youth and Rural and Community Development on the topic of examining the use of existing public transport such as the Local Link services to compliment the current school transport scheme.

PQ78928/26 | JOHN CLENDENNEN

162. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the rollout of the 515 Local Link service from Mallow to Killarney which has been promised for some time now.

PQ79353/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

163. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will report on Irish Rails train management system; if this was raised with at any meeting; if he was ever alerted to any problems with implementing the system or if this was never disclosed to him; and if he will a statement on the matter.

PQ80166/26 | PA DALY

164. To ask the Minister for Transport for the provision of dedicated funding in 2027 for a programme of interim safety improvement works on the N22 between Macroom and Ballincollig pending the delivery of any long-term upgrade scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79894/26 | AINDRIAS MOYNIHAN

165. To ask the Minister for Transport the plans for enhancing and improving facilities such as weather shelters and toilets at railway stations in order to encourage more people to use public transport.

PQ79926/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

166. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures being taken to address capacity constraints and increase service frequency on TFI local link routes experiencing significant passenger growth.

PQ80205/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

167. To ask the Minister for Transport the actions his Department is taking in response to the huge congestion issues in Swords; and if his Department has engaged with the local council about the need to stagger different roadwork projects.

PQ79840/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

168. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on capital funding for the completed rollout of Bus Connects.

PQ79365/26 | EOIN Ó BROIN

169. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Road; and the progress made to date.

PQ74745/26 | COLM BURKE

170. To ask the Minister for Transport if, as part of the ongoing interdepartmental consideration of horse-drawn vehicles on public roads, he will examine the introduction of a statutory minimum age for persons driving or otherwise in control of such vehicles; and if he has concerns regarding children or young persons being in control of horses and horse-drawn vehicles on public roads from both an animal welfare and public safety perspective.

PQ64138/26 | MICHAEL MURPHY

171. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will engage with the National Transport Authority to extend Leap card rail fare discounts to commuters travelling from County Laois.

PQ79815/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

172. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide dedicated and adequate funding to local authorities to carry out much needed upgrades and improvement works to footpaths.

PQ78594/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

173. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the capacity of trains at peak morning and evening times along the Kishoge, Fonthill, Adamstown line; and the expected timeframe for additional capacity to be added.

PQ80142/26 | MARK WARD

174. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide details of representations that he or his Department made to Irish Rail prior to the licensing of a greenway on the former railway track between Claremorris and Collooney which make up part of the Western Rail Corridor.

PQ79873/26 | MARTIN KENNY

175. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will both future-fund and retrospectively-reimburse the boards of State-owned airports who have had to significantly invest in their security systems (within their terminals and along their perimeter boundaries); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ79723/26 | CATHAL CROWE

176. To ask the Minister for Transport If he is aware that Dublin Bus is currently refusing staff holiday leave entitlements due to the need to ensure necessary staffing levels to operate current services; and his plans to ensure that staff can take desired holiday leave and honour the promised number of 'rest days' available to staff who are willing to work on their days off.

PQ80030/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

177. To ask the Minister for Transport the current status of the Northern Ring Road and the Northern Distributor Road in Cork; and whether there is a timeline for the delivery of same.

PQ74743/26 | COLM BURKE

178. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on the improvements that will improve efficiency, reliability and passenger numbers on the Western Rail Corridor in Clare, including progress on the flood alleviation scheme at Ballycar.

PQ79940/26 | JOE COONEY

179. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the necessary funding for upgrades to the Ring of Kerry Road, which is a major tourist route.

PQ80271/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

180. To ask the Minister for Transport if he or his Department have recently undertaken a review of the updated scrambler, e-bike and e-scooter regulations that have been implemented since January 2026.

PQ80167/26 | PAUL MCAULIFFE

181. To ask the Minister for Transport whether the National Transport Authority is considering the expansion of local link services in rural County Galway, particularly in the areas surrounding Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Tuam, through increased service frequency, extended operating hours and additional routes; and the assessment undertaken of the contribution such services make to supporting local economies, employment and town centre activity in rural communities.

PQ80173/26 | PETER ROCHE

182. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will reverse proposed fare hikes considering the financial pressure commuters are under due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

PQ79904/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

183. To ask the Minister for Transport to ensure that policy on local town bus services, includes services to new housing developments on the outskirts of towns such as Graiguecullen and Portlaoise.

PQ79925/26 | BRIAN STANLEY

184. To ask the Minister for Transport if the proposal for additional car parking (details supplied) at Rush and Lusk railway station has Government approval and secured funding; when these additional spaces will be delivered; if CIÉ has been instructed to progress the expansion of the existing car park on CIÉ-owned lands; the engagement that has taken place with Fingal County Council regarding improved pedestrian, cycling and bus access to the station; and the reason commuters in Rush and Lusk continue to face significant parking pressures without a clear commitment or delivery timeline for additional parking.

PQ79148/26 | ROBERT O'DONOGHUE

185. To ask the Minister for Transport to consider revisions to the BusConnects B-Spine (details supplied).

PQ79866/26 | EMER CURRIE

186. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department will liaise with the TFI to extend the 113 Trim to Maynooth to Dunboyne route, to also service Celbridge.

PQ80204/26 | JOE NEVILLE

187. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on when construction funding for DART+ South West will be provided.

PQ80264/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

188. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is concerned that significant barriers to entry and high upfront costs for drivers are contributing to taxi shortages in both urban and rural areas; and the measures he intends to introduce to improve recruitment and retention within the taxi sector and address taxi availability issues.

PQ79941/26 | SEÁN KYNE

189. To ask the Minister for Transport his views on the timeline associated with the Luas to Poolbeg; and if he will report on his engagement with the National Transport Authority in respect of same and the works underway in his Department for the project.

PQ78958/26 | JAMES GEOGHEGAN

190. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will introduce a TFI 90-minute fare structure within Limerick.

PQ80225/26 | MAURICE QUINLIVAN

191. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will support the introduction of an earlier daily train to Sligo to support students and people with hospital appointments.

PQ78601/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

192. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he will take to address overcrowding on public transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80115/26 | PAUL MURPHY

193. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps he is taking to promote public transport usage.

PQ80149/26 | MARK WARD

194. To ask the Minister for Transport his plans in the near term to address overcrowding on commuter trains to and from Kildare towns.

PQ79872/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

195. To ask the Minister for Transport the amount spent on BusConnects Cork to date; the funding available for delivery of the project; and the timeline being worked towards for completion.

PQ80147/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

196. To ask the Minister for Transport to clarify when a system will be in place to allow property owners to safely run electric charging cables across a public footpath.

PQ77817/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

197. To ask the Minister for Transport the urgent measures being progressed to address insufficient car parking capacity at Clarke railway station, Dundalk (details supplied); the outcome of engagement between Irish Rail, CIÉ Group Property and Louth County Council on additional parking, including at the former railway goods yard and lands adjacent to the Bus Éireann garage; the number of additional spaces proposed, funding required and delivery timeline; and the interim arrangements that will be provided.

PQ79334/26 | RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ

198. To ask the Minister for Transport the outcome of the NTA's public consultation on proposed new bus routes serving Adamstown and Clonburris; the next steps towards introducing these services; and the anticipated implementation timeframe.

PQ80258/26 | SHANE MOYNIHAN

199. To ask the Minister for Transport if he is aware that electric cars are more expensive to refuel than petrol or diesel; if he is concerned that this will undermine efforts to switch the electric vehicles for persons that do not have access to at home charging; the measures he is taking to address this; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80155/26 | PA DALY

200. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will commit to ensuring funding is available for much needed safety upgrades to the N25 at multiple sites of frequent accidents.

PQ78591/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

201. To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on plans to extend the operating hours of the bus service between Cork city and Cork Airport, to include earlier morning and later night services.

PQ80087/26 | SÉAMUS MCGRATH

202. To ask the Minister for Transport given health and safety concerns on crowded Irish Rail services, his plans to ensure that capacity and frequency of Dart and commuter services is increased.

PQ80019/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

203. To ask the Minister for Transport If he and or his or predecessors and or officials developed and finalised a return on investment reports in respect of BusConnects, all Dart plus, Luas expansion and MetroLink projects; and if so, If he intends to publish same.

PQ78931/26 | AIDAN FARRELLY

204. To ask the Minister for Transport the date on which he will accept the invitation from the elected councillors of the Letterkenny, Milford Municipal District of Donegal County Council to come to Donegal, to meet them and discuss the way in which his Department can help alleviate the traffic crisis in Letterkenny, affecting thousands of people every day.

PQ79508/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

205. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the restoration of catering services on the Tralee to Dublin line.

PQ80161/26 | PA DALY

206. To ask the Minister for Transport the funding allocated for Dart+ Southwest; the timeline for the project; and if his Department will work to deliver the project ahead of time.

PQ74829/26 | MARK WARD

CEISTEANNA LE HAGHAIDH FREADRAI SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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

207. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to request consular assistance be provided to an Irish citizen in prison in England (details supplied) as a matter of urgency.

PQ80335/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

208. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Ireland's position on the Council of Europe's follow-up to the joint statement of 10 December 2025 on the interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights in migration cases, which Ireland signed; and the way in which the Government reconciles that position with its stated commitment to the independence of the European Court of Human Rights.

PQ80492/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

209. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if Ireland will advocate for a one year timeline for negotiations for a legally binding protocol prohibiting lethal autonomous weapons systems.

PQ80526/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

210. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if there is no consensus during negotiations for a legally binding protocol on lethal autonomous weapons systems in Geneva, if her Department will invoke Article 8 to ensure that a legally binding framework on regulation of AI assisted weapons and prohibition of lethal autonomous weapons systems can be advanced internationally.

PQ80529/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

211. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade further to Parliamentary Question No. 27878/26, and in view of the forthcoming event (details supplied), if she will raise again at the United Nations, the EU Foreign Affairs Council and in other appropriate international fora the persecution of Christians affecting 220 million people and the need to have adequate and robust measures put in place to support those adversely affected for their Christian beliefs.

PQ80530/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

212. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade if her Department will advocate for the inclusion of strict regulation based on meaningful human control, and where necessary prohibition of the use of decision support systems, in weapons systems and military contexts in any negotiations on autonomous weapons.

PQ80531/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

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

213. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he has considered how the obligation rates proposed in the renewable heat obligation scheme will facilitate the RES-H target of 10% by 2030 being met.

PQ80334/26 | SEAN FLEMING

214. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if he is aware that the obligation rates of 1.5 and 3% proposed in the forthcoming renewable heat obligation scheme will not lead to any additional low carbon fuels being introduced to the home heating sector as these rates are already being met by the industry.

PQ80332/26 | SEAN FLEMING

215. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment if increases in the obligation rate for the renewable heat obligation scheme beyond year two will be introduced.

PQ80331/26 | SEAN FLEMING

216. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the way in which the 1 January 2027 target for the introduction of the renewable heat obligation scheme will be met as the legislation has not yet been published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80329/26 | SEAN FLEMING

217. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the role the deposit return scheme can play in strengthening Ireland's circular economy; the potential benefits of developing domestic food-grade rPET processing capacity, including reducing reliance on overseas processing, retaining more economic value in Ireland and supporting green jobs.

PQ80369/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

218. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the assessment his Department has made of the increase in recycling of in-scope bottles and cans since the introduction of the deposit return scheme; the estimated overall recycling rate now being achieved; and the way in which this compares with the position before the scheme was introduced.

PQ80370/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

219. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment the name of each person employed as an advisor or special advisor by him and the Ministers of State in his Department, and the salary of each, in tabular form.

PQ80297/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

220. To ask the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment If he would designate as critical infrastructure all pipelines and structures required to bring onshore energy generated by offshore wind.

PQ80431/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

Chun an Cosanta: To the Defence

221. To ask the Minister for Defence further Parliamentary Question No. 76831/26, to specify if a birth certificate and a valid passport are required as proof of identify or if it is the case that a birth certificate alone may suffice, or a passport alone may suffice; and if she will also confirm that security vetting involves An Garda Síochána checking police records in the persons stated country of origin.

PQ80398/26 | CAROL NOLAN

Chun an Iompair: To the Transport

222. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will reintroduce and expand the electric vehicle scrappage scheme which was piloted earlier in 2026.

PQ78302/26 | EDWARD TIMMINS

223. To ask the Minister for Transport the status of the 2020 design study to address recurring flooding on the Limerick-to-Ennis railway line at Ballycar, County Clare; if his Department will engage with Clare County Council and the Office of Public Works to formally designate a lead agency to progress these works; and the funding streams available to implement the flood mitigation design.

PQ80337/26 | CATHAL CROWE

224. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on the Galway Metropolitan Transport Strategy; and when it will be published.

PQ80324/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

225. To ask the Minister for Transport If funding has been allocated to automate the 12 manual level crossings on the Limerick to Ballybrophy railway line; whether Irish Rail has assessed the cost and feasibility of introducing remotely controlled level crossings and re-signalling along the route; if the current reliance on manual gatekeepers is restricting the frequency and speed of rail services, including services in Castleconnell; and the plans and timeline in place to modernise the line to facilitate increased commuter services and reduced journey times.

PQ80378/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

226. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will review the policy of the National Car Testing Service under which purchasers of used vehicles inherit missed NCT test schedules from previous owners, resulting in certificates of significantly less than 12 months' duration despite the vehicle passing the test; if he considers this fair to new owners who were not responsible for the missed test dates; and if he will consider providing a full 12-month certificate from the test date following a change of ownership.

PQ80368/26 | PAULA BUTTERLY

227. To ask the Minister for Transport if Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority have examined the feasibility of introducing a station reversal service on the West Limerick rail corridor to facilitate direct rail connections from Limerick Colbert station to proposed rail services for an event (details supplied); if this option will provide a more direct and efficient transport link for spectators staying in Limerick city; and if he will engage with the NTA and Irish Rail to assess its operational feasibility, cost and implementation timeline ahead of the event.

PQ80377/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

228. To ask the Minister for Transport if the National Transport Authority has considered incorporating a suburban rail station into the proposed park and ride facility at Newport Roundabout/Annacotty, given the proximity of the Limerick to Ballybrophy railway line; if consideration has been given to integrating the proposed Annacotty and Ballysimon park and ride facilities with the rail network; and if he will request the NTA to assess the feasibility and cost of such an integrated transport hub.

PQ80376/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

229. To ask the Minister for Transport the estimated cost of introducing a 24-hour bus service connecting University Hospital Limerick, the city centre and the University of Limerick; and if funding has been identified for the service and an anticipated timeline for its implementation.

PQ80375/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

230. To ask the Minister for Transport the steps his Department and the RSA are taking to address concerns regarding excessive glare from modern vehicle headlights and the associated potential road safety risk.

PQ80384/26 | CATHAL CROWE

231. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on ongoing works at Ceannt Station; the costs associated; and expected completion date.

PQ80309/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

232. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will advise whether the National Transport Authority has undertaken an assessment of the demand for a direct Public Service Obligation (PSO) bus service direct between Galway and Limerick; whether consideration is being given to the introduction of a direct PSO-supported commuter service between the two cities; and if he will outline plans by the National Transport Authority to introduce such a service, including a peak-time express service aimed at workers and students travelling between Galway and Limerick.

PQ80389/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

233. To ask the Minister for Transport the assistance his Department will provide to address the serious road safety concerns raised by the principal of a school (details supplied). following a further near miss on 4 November 2026; the steps he will take to address the delays in funding and implementing the Safe Routes to School Project at the school; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80298/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

234. To ask the Minister for Transport the name of each person employed as an advisor or special advisor by him and the Ministers of State in his Department; and the salary of each, in tabular form.

PQ80296/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

235. To ask the Minister for Transport when funding will be allocated to the active travel scheme at a school (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80494/26 | CHARLES WARD

236. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he can take to increase the number of public transport offerings connecting Gorey, County Wexford with the SETU Campus, Waterford.

PQ80428/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

237. To ask the Minister for Transport the measures he can take to increase the number of public transport offerings connecting Gorey, County Wexford with the SETU Campus, Carlow.

PQ80427/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

238. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide an update on his Department’s plans to develop additional funding for further park and ride facilities; and whether he has plans to expand capacity at the Red Cow Park and Ride in Dublin.

PQ80447/26 | MARK WALL

Chun an Airgeadais: To the Finance

239. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 143 and 144 of 6 October 2026, if credit servicing firms are considered the legal owners of mortgages; and if so, the reason for considering a credit servicing firm the legal owners when they are not the beneficial owner.

PQ80343/26 | PEARSE DOHERTY

240. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if he will review the exclusion of development land from the capital gains tax (CGT) reductions introduced in Budget 2027; if he will examine the potential anomaly where the disposal of a derelict building for housing qualifies for a 31% rate

while a vacant site for the same purpose remains at 33%; if a Committee Stage amendment to the Finance Bill will be considered to extend the 31% rate specifically to land brought forward for genuine residential development.

PQ80338/26 | CATHAL CROWE

241. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the introduction of the Outbound Payments Defensive Measures (OPDM) has satisfied the relevant milestone under Ireland's Recovery and Resilience Plan; if there is any continuing obligation under the plan or any requirement of the European Commission to retain these measures following completion of that milestone; if he has sought or received clarification from the European Commission on the implications of amending or abolishing the measures for receipt of the final Recovery and Resilience Facility payment; and if his Department has concluded its review of the interaction bet.

PQ80361/26 | EMER CURRIE

242. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance the immigration or residency criteria applied to applicants seeking assistance under the help-to-buy scheme; if applicants are required to hold valid immigration permission granting them a right to reside in Ireland for a specified period; if minimum residency or future residency requirements apply; if these eligibility conditions are currently under review; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80465/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

243. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if individuals who have applied for international protection but have not yet received a final decision on their application are eligible for the help-to-buy scheme; and the basis upon which such applicants may qualify for taxpayer-funded assistance.

PQ80464/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

244. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if applicants for the help-to-buy scheme are required to hold valid immigration permission to reside in Ireland at the time of application; if applicants awaiting a decision on an immigration or international protection application may qualify; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80461/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

245. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners verify the immigration status or right to reside in the State of applicants under the help-to-buy scheme; if so, the documentation required and the Government department responsible for verification; and if not, the reason this is not a condition of eligibility.

PQ80463/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

246. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if a person holding temporary immigration permission, including permission which is due to expire, may qualify for the help-to-buy scheme; whether any minimum period of remaining immigration permission is required; and if he will provide details of the applicable criteria.

PQ80462/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

247. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if the Revenue Commissioners collect or maintain data on the nationality and immigration status of recipients of the help-to-buy scheme; if so, the breakdown of recipients, by nationality and immigration permission category, subject to data protection requirements; and if not, if such data will be collected in future.

PQ80460/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

248. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Finance if any help-to-buy payments have been recovered from recipients who subsequently ceased to occupy the property as their principal private residence due to the loss or refusal of immigration permission; the number of such cases; and the amounts recovered, in tabular form.

PQ80459/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

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

249. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation if he will consider issuing a new circular providing special leave without pay, with a right to return, for civil servants who are members of the Reserve Defence Force while on Supplemental Military Service or service outside the State, separate from Circular 51/1979 on training leave.

PQ80500/26 | MAIRÉAD FARRELL

250. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation his views on the requirement imposed by a company (details supplied) that players purchase a minimum of two lines when entering the National Lottery Lotto draw; whether consideration has been given to permitting single-line entries; and if he is satisfied that the current arrangement provides adequate consumer choice within a State-licensed monopoly.

PQ80488/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

251. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation to provide funding to carryout urgent coastal protection works adjacent to the Lower Road, Valentia, County Kerry.

PQ80443/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

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

252. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment if he has had any communication from an organisation (details supplied) concerning the future of their shops in Ireland; and if any measures can be put in place to help secure the employment of those working in those shops.

PQ80432/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

Chun an Oideachais agus Óige: To the Education and Youth

253. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her attention has been drawn to delays in progressing assistive technology grants related to industrial action by civil servants (details supplied); and the actions she will take to ensure that any delays are worked through as quickly as possible.

PQ80340/26 | BARRY WARD

254. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the amounts paid by primary schools in water charges in each of the years since 2020.

PQ80326/26 | EOIN HAYES

255. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if she will amend Circular 54/2019 to permanently allow teachers participating in approved job-sharing arrangements to undertake substitute teaching on their rostered-off days, given that the restriction has been repeatedly suspended in recent years; and if she will introduce appropriate safeguards to ensure that teachers availing of this arrangement do not exceed full-time contractual hours.

PQ80383/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

256. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of pupils enrolled in mainstream schools who were eligible for the Summer Programme in 2026; the number and percentage who subsequently availed of the programme; the number of schools that provided an in-school Summer Programme.

PQ80382/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

257. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the number of pupils enrolled in special schools who were eligible for the Summer Programme in 2026; the number and percentage who subsequently availed of the programme; the number of special schools that provided an in-school Summer Programme.

PQ80381/26 | AISLING DEMPSEY

258. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to review the funding of training educational psychologists to ensure that the €40,000 income cap is upwardly revised to account for the €15,920 fee burden, and the 2026 cost of living.

PQ80311/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

259. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth her plans to change the current bursary structure that funds training educational psychologists to a salaried model to bring parity with HSE trainees.

PQ80310/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

260. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to allow for students that have completed college to degree level to gain classroom experience (details supplied), without the need to register with the teaching council.

PQ80391/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

261. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if an application under the climate action summer works scheme has been received from a school (details supplied); if that application has been assessed; if not, the reason the application was not assessed prior to the announcement of successful schools under the scheme; whether there is any mechanism through which the board of management could seek reimbursement of the costs incurred in preparing their application (€2000 for professional engineer services); and if their application can be granted approval in light of the circumstances.

PQ80423/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

262. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth In light of the upcoming bicentenary of the national school system in 2031 the steps her Department is taking to identify the old national schools in existence; and the plans she has to commemorate this important milestone.

PQ80437/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

263. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if her Department considers that the 2024 procedures provide an appropriate framework for ensuring that facilities developed with public community funding are made available to communities; if her Department has issued guidance on the arrangements required to ensure that such facilities remain accessible to the wider community, particularly in circumstances where schools have previously restricted external use of their premises on insurance or liability grounds; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80454/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

264. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth further to her Department's updated June 2024 procedures on the use of school property and sports facilities outside of school hours, whether her Department has engaged with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, regarding schools which have received public funding for the development of community sports facilities and Community Centre Investment funds; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80453/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

265. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth if applications under the ISL home tuition scheme for the 2026/2027 school year have been delayed due to reviews or examinations of tutor payment claims; the number of families affected; the number of applications currently awaiting sanction; and the timeframe in which the outstanding sanction letters will issue.

PQ80452/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

266. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the current status of the review of outstanding ISL home tuition tutor payment claims; the reason some tutors have not received payment for claims submitted since February 2026; the expected completion date of the review (details supplied).

PQ80451/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

267. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to clarify if a formal diagnosis, professional report or assessment of need is required for children who need to access a SET, SNA or special class in a mainstream setting; and if this has been communicated to schools.

PQ80445/26 | MARK WALL

268. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the reasons for the halt on vital building works on a school (details supplied); and the actions she will take to ensure building works commence as soon as possible.

PQ80513/26 | SINÉAD GIBNEY

269. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth the enrolment figures for a school (details supplied), by year, in tabular form.

PQ80532/26 | EMER CURRIE

270. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth when a proposed building project will proceed to the next stage (details supplied).

PQ80537/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

271. To ask the Minister for Education and Youth to address issues raised in correspondence (details supplied); and to allow for a more transparent, fast tracked system, and funding for extra places for PME education.

PQ80390/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

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

272. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport when An Post pensioners, who were due a 6% increase on 1 January 2025 and a further 1% on 1 June 2025, will receive their payment, given neither increase has issued to date; and if the increase will be backdated.

PQ80380/26 | ROBERT TROY

273. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport for an update on the rollout of National Broadband in County Wicklow.

PQ80364/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

274. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport for an update on the rollout of National Broadband in County Wexford.

PQ80363/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

275. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to provide an update on funding (details supplied).

PQ80410/26 | DANNY HEALY-RAE

276. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to provide a breakdown by general artistic discipline (such as musician, dancer, visual artist and so on) of successful applicants under the current basic income for the arts scheme.

PQ80426/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

277. To ask the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport to provide a breakdown by general artistic discipline (such as musician, dancer, visual artist and so on) of all recipients of the first / pilot basic income for the arts scheme.

PQ80425/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

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

278. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he plans to introduce a support plan for civil and plant contractors who provide machinery and digger drivers to local authorities and building contractors (details supplied).

PQ80339/26 | FRANKIE FEIGHAN

279. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide data on the number of fresh start applicants disqualified from the scheme based on the 10% deposit criteria.

PQ80327/26 | CONOR D. MCGUINNESS

280. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the rationale for charging public services, for example primary schools, for water.

PQ80325/26 | EOIN HAYES

281. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the instructions he has given to local authorities with regard to the allocation of local authority accommodations in reference to those either on the housing list or on the homeless list; and if he will he make a statement on the matter.

PQ80365/26 | DESSIE ELLIS

282. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider increasing central funding for Tipperary County Council for 2027.

PQ80385/26 | ALAN KELLY

283. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether the balance of surplus local property tax allocated to self-fund housing services in surplus local authorities represents expenditure that was previously funded directly by the Exchequer; the amount of Exchequer

housing funding displaced by this mechanism in each year since its introduction; and the housing expenditure headings to which the displaced funding relates.

PQ80323/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

284. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether an assessment has been carried out of the impact of requiring surplus local property tax authorities to self-fund housing and/or roads services from locally raised property tax receipts; the amount of Exchequer funding displaced by this mechanism in each year since its introduction; and if he will provide a breakdown of the amounts involved, by county.

PQ80322/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

285. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of local property tax surplus generated in the Fingal County Council area in each year since the introduction of the self-funding mechanism for surplus local authorities; the amount of that surplus applied towards self-funding housing and/or roads services in each year; and the amount retained for the Council's own use.

PQ80321/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

286. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the year in which the requirement was first introduced for local authorities with local property tax LPT yields above their baseline allocation to apply the balance of surplus LPT towards self-funding housing and/or roads services; the policy rationale for introducing this requirement; and the amount of surplus LPT allocated by each surplus local authority towards such self-funding arrangements, for each year since its introduction, in tabular form.

PQ80320/26 | DUNCAN SMITH

287. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department will consider providing a higher rate of housing adaption grant to a person (details supplied) given the exceptional circumstances.

PQ80299/26 | ROBERT TROY

288. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware that the Pyrite Remediation Board is set to close the scheme to new applications at the end of this month, and this is viewed by many residents in housing estates affected by pyrite as premature; and if he is aware it can take up to 40 years for full oxidisation and that a significant proportion of people living in affected estates will be locked into their properties permanently.

PQ80396/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

289. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage given the adverse impacts that the imminent close of the pyrite remediation scheme will have on homeowners in pyrite affected estates who cannot afford to assess their houses and the wider housing market supply, if he will, in the interest of fairness, extend the application deadline and provide a more reasonable notice period.

PQ80403/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

290. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware that it is not possible to sell a property in an estate where houses have been affected without proof of a clear drilling sample which can cost over €4,000 or proof of remediation, as lending bodies will not approve buyers mortgages; and his views that the Pyrite Remediation Board closing the applications for the scheme, without first providing a mechanism for an upfront grant for inspections for houses in estates confirmed to be affected, risks removing hundreds to thousands of houses from the market amid a housing crisis.

PQ80402/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

291. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware that it costs over a thousand euro to have an inspection carried out before determining if a person is eligible to apply for the scheme; his views that in the current environment this kind of unexpected cost simply is not manageable for many families particularly not in the short amount of notice given by the Pyrite Remediation Board.

PQ80399/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

292. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the review of the current septic tank grant system; and if he will confirm if the scheme will be expanded, given, there are a large amount of applications on hand across local authorities.

PQ80411/26 | ROBERT TROY

293. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the percentage of private home ownership out of total housing stock by each county in 2026, compared to 2016, 2006, and 1996.

PQ80497/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

294. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if, on foot on the findings of Census 2027, he intends to request An Coimisiún Toghcháin to review the electoral boundaries for the next Dáil, European and local elections; and if so, the timeframe he envisions for such reviews.

PQ80496/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

295. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he will announce if there will be an increase in the overall number of city and county councillors nationally; and the criteria to be used in determining where those councillors will be allocated.

PQ80495/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

296. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if existing holiday homes will be protected under the new legislation; if properties specifically purchased and marketed as holiday homes will be treated differently from residential properties; the consideration being given to rural developments which were originally built for holiday-home and tourism use; and if he will reconsider the legislation to ensure that genuine holiday-home owners are not unfairly penalised.

PQ80493/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

297. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if a local authority can refuse a housing application based on a 52 week work requirement (details supplied).

PQ80413/26 | NIALL COLLINS

Chun an Coimirce Sóisialaí: To the Social Protection

298. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is aware of delays that are being caused for persons appealing a finding of the deciding officer due to the paperwork not being sent by the deciding officer; if there is a timeframe in which this information should be communicated; and if not, if he is considering bringing in a time limit.

PQ75666/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

299. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he will provide clarity on the qualifying criteria for the cost of disability payment; if those with a disability, who are working, may qualify for this payment; and if the payment is payable with partial capacity.

PQ80342/26 | ROBERT TROY

300. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the actions being taken to improve turnaround times when a submission in respect of a disallowed application is submitted to the appeals office.

PQ80308/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

301. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps being taken to reduce poverty among people with disabilities, particularly those dependent on social welfare payments as their sole source of income.

PQ80304/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

302. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons that have been refused the fuel allowance in each of the past three years due to the operation of the means test; and whether a review of the qualifying criteria is planned.

PQ80303/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

303. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if he is satisfied that current rates of social welfare payments are keeping pace with inflation and rising housing, energy and food costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80301/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

304. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if the Government will implement further reforms to support family carers; whether consideration is being given to increasing the carer's support grant and earnings disregard; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80307/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

305. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress made to date in implementing the commitments contained in the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2026-2030; and the number of actions scheduled for delivery in 2026 that have been completed.

PQ80306/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

306. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if persons with a medically certified disability who are not in receipt of disability allowance, invalidity pension, blind pension or partial capacity benefit may qualify for the cost of disability payment under any discretionary, exceptional or hardship provision; and if applications will be considered on an individual basis in such cases.

PQ80294/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

307. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if his Department will consider introducing a structured mechanism to enable representatives of pensioner members of occupational pension schemes to participate in ongoing engagement with scheme trustees, including being informed of and contributing to discussions on proposals and decisions affecting members already in receipt of benefits; if consideration has been given to models operating in the Netherlands and Austria, recognising that, while trade unions often play an important role in scheme governance, representatives of pensioner members have no formal channel of collective communication

PQ80395/26 | LOUISE O'REILLY

308. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons currently awaiting a decision on a disability allowance application for more than 12 weeks; the longest waiting period recorded; and the actions being taken to address the backlog.

PQ80300/26 | WILLIAM AIRD

309. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to evidence before the Committee of Public Accounts on 22 October 2026, that the five largest suppliers account for approximately 70% of the School Meals Programme market and that two major suppliers share common ownership, the identity of those suppliers; the total value of payments made to them under the programme in each of the past five years; and the assessment that has been undertaken of competition within the market.

PQ80407/26 | CAROL NOLAN

310. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to evidence given by officials from his Department before the Committee of Public Accounts on 22 October 2026, that a school meals supplier withdrew from the provision of meals to 112 schools on the grounds that servicing those schools was not economically viable, if he will identify the supplier concerned; the number of schools affected in each county; and the dates on which his Department was notified of the withdrawal.

PQ80406/26 | CAROL NOLAN

311. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of social welfare claims held by non-Irish nationals that were the subject of a control review or investigation in each of the years from 2020 to 2025 and to date in 2026; the number that resulted in a payment cessation or reduction; and the total value of overpayments assessed in respect of those claims.

PQ80401/26 | CAROL NOLAN

312. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of non-Irish nationals in receipt of each major social protection payment, including jobseeker's allowance, disability allowance, one-parent family payment, carer's allowance and State pension, at the end of each year from 2020 to 2025 and at the latest available date in 2026; and the estimated annual cost of those payments in each year.

PQ80400/26 | CAROL NOLAN

313. To ask the Minister for Social Protection whether, in the context of forthcoming proposals on surrogacy leave, he will also consider additional income and financial supports for intended parents who have undertaken surrogacy arrangements and incurred significant associated costs.

PQ80424/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

314. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 71226/26, if correct legislation has been applied to the case taking into account the additional information (details supplied).

PQ80506/26 | BRIAN BRENNAN

315. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total cost incurred by his Department for providing interpreter and translation services specifically to facilitate the processing of habitual residence condition (HRC1) applications in each of the past three calendar years; the number of applicants who requested this service by checking the relevant box on the HRC1 form; and the breakdown of the primary languages requested.

PQ80317/26 | CAROL NOLAN

316. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to review a review refusal of ARP (details supplied); and urgently allow for same in this circumstance.

PQ80312/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

317. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of members of the Reserve Defence Force insured at PRSI Class M in each of the past five years; the number of paid days of reserve service in respect of which no PRSI contributions were credited; and whether he will review Schedule C, paragraph 4 of S.I. 312 of 1996.

PQ80519/26 | JOHN PAUL O'SHEA

318. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total number of habitual residence condition (HRC1) assessments conducted in the past 24-months; the specific percentage of applicants who failed the initial assessment; and the number of those failed assessments that were subsequently overturned on appeal to the social welfare appeals office.

PQ80315/26 | CAROL NOLAN

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

319. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of Gardaí in County Meath.

PQ80366/26 | JOHNNY GUIRKE

320. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps his Department is taking to support public bodies and local authorities in implementing the new Code of Practice for the operation of CCTV under the recent Act.

PQ80374/26 | CONOR SHEEHAN

321. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 70460/26, if the information has become available.

PQ80372/26 | EMER CURRIE

322. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration further to Parliamentary Question No. 70461/26, if the information has become available.

PQ80371/26 | EMER CURRIE

323. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the status of an appeal lodged with the International Protection Appeals Tribunal by a person (details supplied) following a negative recommendation from the International Protection Office in January 2026; when the person can expect to be scheduled for an oral hearing, given that they have been waiting for most of 2026 without a date or any update; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80394/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

324. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of international protection applicants currently accommodated at a location (details supplied); the maximum number of residents per room; whether the centre meets the national standards for accommodation offered to people in the protection process and is subject to independent inspection; the measures in place to ensure residents' safety and access to adequate sleep and privacy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80393/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

325. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration if he will arrange for an inspection of the IPAS accommodation centre at a centre (details supplied) in view of reports that residents are sharing rooms of up to 15 people, and concerns regarding noise, safety and residents' ability to sleep; the date the centre was last inspected and by whom; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80392/26 | RICHARD BOYD BARRETT

326. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the ten nationalities with the highest number of study visa applications received in each of the years 2024, 2025 and to date in 2026; and the number of applications received and approved for each nationality in each of those periods, in tabular form;

PQ80278/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

327. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the average time to process an application for asylum from inception to decision.

PQ80429/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

328. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the steps his Department has taken since the adoption of the Council of Europe's Chișinău Declaration on the European Convention on Human Rights and migration on 15 May 2026 to give effect to its provisions on the expulsion of foreign nationals convicted of serious criminal offences; and if legislative or administrative changes are planned as a result.

PQ80490/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

329. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the number of applications for naturalisation received by his Department in each month to date in 2026.

PQ80421/26 | RODERIC O'GORMAN

330. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the total number of asylum applications in Ireland; and of those, the number where the applicant has been waiting between six and twelve months for a decision, between twelve and eighteen months for a decision, between eighteen and twenty-four months for a decision, and for more than two years for a decision.

PQ80430/26 | MALCOLM BYRNE

331. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to provide an update on establishing a child maintenance service.

PQ80446/26 | MARK WALL

332. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration his plans to address severe overcrowding in prisons; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80516/26 | SHÓNAGH NÍ RAGHALLAIGH

333. To ask the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration the measures in place to support Irish SMEs facing AI driven cyber threats and cyber attacks; and if additional measures will be put in place.

PQ80533/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

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

334. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if BlackBoot galvanised steel fence posts will be considered for inclusion in the TAMS grant.

PQ80498/26 | MICHAEL HEALY-RAE

335. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the measures his Department is taking to support the development of smaller regional marinas as economic and tourism assets in coastal communities, particularly those with potential to support local commercial fishing activity, marine tourism, recreational boating and employment; and if additional capital funding or technical assistance will be made available to local authorities seeking to develop such facilities.

PQ80487/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

336. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department will support engagement between Kerry County Council and relevant stakeholders to examine the management and operational model at Fenit Marina, including its annual berth-fee income, long-term tenancy arrangements with the RNLI and commercial operators, and its ability to operate on a self-funding basis; if his Department has undertaken or commissioned any assessment of successful marina management models in Ireland; and if similar models will be supported at smaller coastal locations such as Knightstown.

PQ80486/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

337. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he plans to introduce further funding opportunities under the local authority marine infrastructure scheme to support the upgrading, servicing and commercial development of smaller regional marinas and harbours; and if Knightstown marina would be eligible for funding towards improved security, accessibility, essential services and facilities for local commercial operators and visiting recreational vessels.

PQ80485/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

338. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has engaged with Kerry County Council regarding the ongoing management and operation of Knightstown marina (details supplied); and if funding or guidance is available to assist local authorities to improve the management, safety and environmental standards of publicly owned marinas and harbours.

PQ80484/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

339. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has engaged with the RNLI or Kerry County Council regarding the provision of a dedicated berth for the RNLI lifeboat as part of any proposed redevelopment of Knightstown marina; if discussions have taken place regarding the RNLI's potential involvement in or support for such a development; and if his Department will facilitate engagement between the relevant stakeholders.

PQ80483/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

340. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has engaged with Kerry County Council regarding proposals to develop Knightstown marina into a small, multi-purpose serviced marina facility; if funding is available under existing or planned marine infrastructure schemes to support such a development; and if his Department will support the progression of a feasibility study and the development of a suitable investment proposal.

PQ80482/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

341. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if his Department has received a subsequent or revised funding application from Kerry County Council for security and accessibility improvements at Knightstown marina; if so, the current status of that application; the measures taken by the Council to address the shortcomings of its previous application; and when a decision is expected.

PQ80481/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

342. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the details of the assessment and outcome of Kerry County Council's unsuccessful application under the local authority marine infrastructure scheme for funding towards security and accessibility upgrades at Knightstown Marina, Valentia Island; the specific reasons the application was unsuccessful; the criteria against which it was assessed; and if feedback was provided to Kerry County Council identifying areas requiring improvement.

PQ80480/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

343. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to carryout improvement works to Dromatoor Pier in Ballyheigue, County Kerry (details supplied).

PQ80478/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

344. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 68013/26, the way in which he reconciles this response with the repeated, documented use of "snare", "snares" and "snaring" by NPWS and DAFM officials in 2015, 2018, 2023 and 2024, including selective retention of that terminology by a person (details supplied) in his substantive 2024 reply.

PQ80515/26 | PAUL MURPHY

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

345. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the measures she plans to take to protect parents whose childcare provider does not participate in Core Funding from continued, substantial fee increases; the reason families attending facilities outside the Core Funding model are excluded from affordability measures introduced in the recent budget; and, if she will consider extending affordability supports or introducing appropriate fee protections across all registered childcare providers, in order that families are not disadvantaged by the funding model of their chosen facility.

PQ80409/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

346. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the reason the Section 39 workers in an organisation (details supplied) have not received their pay increments for 2025 and to date in 2026; and the reason some staff are not being paid the amount agreed upon in their contracts of employment.

PQ80397/26 | ALAN KELLY

347. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the average amount of redress that has been paid to each survivor under the mother and baby institutions payment scheme.

PQ80419/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

348. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to outline her efforts to ensure that survivors of mother and baby homes can access their personal records from State bodies; and her efforts to simplify this process for survivors.

PQ80418/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

349. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if there plans to extend eligibility beyond first cousins for the identification programme under the Institutional Burials Act 2022.

PQ80417/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

350. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if the coroner is notified when remains are found during the excavation of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home site.

PQ80415/26 | LOUIS O'HARA

351. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 71221/26, which stated that other States in which Tusla places children employ their own inspection bodies, to provide details by host jurisdiction; the regulator or inspection body for each jurisdiction in which Tusla placed a child since 2021; the number of establishments used; the number that were registered with and inspected by the relevant body at the time of placement; and the inspection rating recorded for each establishment at its most recent inspection before placement, in tabular form.

PQ80470/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

352. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 71221/26, which referred to regular visits to children in out-of-State placements but did not specify their frequency, if Tusla has a written policy setting the frequency of social work visits to children in out-of-State placements; the required frequency and the way in which it compares with Article 24 of the Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995; whether visits may be unannounced; and whether the child is seen alone during each visit.

PQ80469/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

353. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 71221/26, concerning complaints relating to children in out-of-State placements, if children in out-of-State placements and their parents or guardians are informed in writing of the right to complain through Tusla's Tell Us process and to the Ombudsman for Children; whether such complaints are included in Tusla's published complaints figures; and the number received through Tell Us in each year from 2021 to 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80468/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

354. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 71221/26, which addressed the recording of complaints and serious incidents concerning children in out-of-State placements, if Tusla obtains confirmation from each establishment outside the

State used for a placement, that procedures are in place for prompt notification of significant events under Article 15 of the Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995; the required notification timeframe; if such incidents are recorded on a Tusla incident management system; and the number notified to the National Review Panel since 2021.

PQ80467/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

355. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality if she is aware that some ECCE providers whose sole income derives from ECCE will be forced to close (details supplied); the reason this situation arises when the objective of setting up the business is to earn 'private profits', even when the amount of this profit is just sufficient to pay their wages; and if she will clarify or provide an example of a childcare business whose sole funding is ECCE, which is not set up to earn 'private profit' and is therefore exempt from commercial rates.

PQ80505/26 | WILLIE O'DEA

356. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 71221/26 (details supplied), if Tusla will review the case records of children placed outside the State, and provide the number of significant events recorded under Article 22(2)(h) of the Child Care (Placement of Children in Residential Care) Regulations 1995, by placement type, and event category, suppressing figures below five where necessary to protect privacy, for each of years from 2021 to 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80466/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

357. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of currently unoccupied residential places in HSE-funded disability services that became vacant following the death of a resident in each of the HSE health regions, in tabular form; and the average time taken to fill such places.

PQ80434/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

358. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality the number of residential places in HSE-funded disability services that are currently unoccupied in each of the HSE health regions, in tabular form.

PQ80433/26 | PÁDRAIG O'SULLIVAN

359. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide information on the procedures in place where physical abuse of a child occurs and a medical report of said abuse is required for courts and so on, where the child's GP has no availability for appointments; and if a process is in place with Tusla to have such an examination carried out.

PQ80386/26 | CLAIRE KERRANE

360. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality further to Parliamentary Question No. 78138/26, if she will provide a list of all projects awarded funding; the amount of funding for each project; and the details each project aims to use the funding for, in tabular form.

PQ80444/26 | MARK WALL

361. To ask the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality to provide a breakdown of Core Funding participation rate, by county, in tabular form.

PQ80539/26 | CIARÁN AHERN

Chun an Sláinte: To the Health

362. To ask the Minister for Health if her Department or the HSE engaged with manufacturers on the price of RSV vaccines for older adults before deciding to defer a programme on cost-effectiveness grounds; and, if not, the way in which she is satisfied that list price reflects the price at which a programme could be procured.

PQ80341/26 | BARRY WARD

363. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) will continue in their role; and if an interim person has been appointed to this role.

PQ80336/26 | THOMAS GOULD

364. To ask the Minister for Health if she will review the case of a person (details supplied); and if the appointment will be expedited.

PQ80379/26 | NIAMH SMYTH

365. To ask the Minister for Health the number of sanctioned, filled and vacant paramedic and advanced paramedic posts in the National Ambulance Service serving Cork city and county, as of the latest date for which figures are available; and the number of new development posts approved for the area for 2027.

PQ80367/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

366. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that patients requiring appointments are being referred to outsourcing with just two weeks to respond to a letter informing them, that such a letter could easily go missing or that a patient may not see it in time resulting in them being removed from the waiting list (details supplied); the reason there is no voicemail message when the phone in outsourcing is unstaffed and the possible impact on patients who may be calling repeatedly pointlessly; and her view that this is likely to result in patients needing treatment being removed from the waiting list.

PQ80373/26 | DONNA MCGETTIGAN

367. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment for an urgent surgery.

PQ80387/26 | TONY MCCORMACK

368. To ask the Minister for Health whether consideration has been given to introducing a fully funded national DEXA screening programme for women aged 50 years-of-age and over; whether the clinical benefits and cost-effectiveness of such a programme have been assessed or referred to the National Screening Advisory Committee; and the measures being taken to ensure equitable access to bone density testing.

PQ80293/26 | PA DALY

369. To ask the Minister for Health to report on the number of students on unpaid student placements in the HSE for each of the past five years by job category, that is nurses, midwives, doctors, and so on; and the length of the work placements, in tabular form.

PQ80292/26 | EOIN HAYES

370. To ask the Minister for Health her plans to lift the hiring embargo on medical physicists to address the vacancies in a unit (details supplied).

PQ80408/26 | JEN CUMMINS

371. To ask the Minister for Health if the National Ambulance Service plans to introduce a direct-entry pathway allowing PHECC-registered advanced paramedics who qualified outside Ireland to be employed at advanced paramedic grade; and the number of such applicants in each of the years 2024 to 2026.

PQ80503/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

372. To ask the Minister for Health the expected date for advertising the next HSE National Ambulance Service recruitment campaign for qualified (PHECC-registered) paramedics; the number of candidates currently on the qualified paramedic panel; and the number offered posts in HSE south-west since January 2025.

PQ80502/26 | PÁDRAIG RICE

373. To ask the Minister for Health further to Action 14 of the HSE Position Paper on FASD Prevention, and the decision not to recommend population-based screening, the clinical protocols that have been introduced to identify children and adults who may be living with FASD; if the HSE has established a national system to record diagnosed and suspected cases; the outcome of its Health Research Board funding application to research screening and responses to prenatal alcohol exposure; and the way in which it will establish reliable national prevalence and service-demand figures.

PQ80501/26 | SORCA CLARKE

374. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people waiting for a PET Scan at Cork University Hospital (details supplied), in tabular form; and the measures that are being taken to address these waiting times.

PQ80422/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

375. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse Services in Cork University Hospital (details supplied).

PQ80420/26 | JAMES O'CONNOR

376. To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting a PET scan in each hospital that carries out PET Scans throughout the country; and the length of time awaiting, by weeks one to ten and longer, in tabular form.

PQ80475/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

377. To ask the Minister for Health to identify each project or programme governance structure and body to which the Operational Readiness Review of Children's Health Ireland was provided; and the date each received it; if her Department received a copy; and, if so, the date.

PQ80474/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

378. To ask the Minister for Health the person or body that is responsible for reviewing the decision on publication of the Operational Readiness Review of Children's Health Ireland; the frequency and the criteria it is reviewed on; the date it was last reviewed; and if a summary of the 13 recommendations will be published before the new children's hospital opens.

PQ80473/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

379. To ask the Minister for Health to provide the quarters and purchase order references for payments relating to the Operational Readiness Review of Children's Health Ireland (details supplied); whether the HSE has set a date or criteria for the fees to cease being treated as commercially sensitive; and whether the review's cost will be published when the contract concludes in April 2027.

PQ80472/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

380. To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) is setting aside the HSE's recommendation that the WHO 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines are the most appropriate criteria for assessing the potential health impacts of wind turbine noise; whether the HSE intends to take any further action in response to ACP's decision to depart from this recommendation; and, if not, on what basis the HSE considers that no further action is necessary, given its stated position on the importance of the WHO guidelines in protecting public health.

PQ80416/26 | NIALL COLLINS

381. To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who have been diagnosed with cancer in County Kerry and in each county during the past five years and to date in 2026, in tabular form.

PQ80479/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

382. To ask the Minister for Health the value of the February 2024 contractual variation to a contract (details supplied) regarding the external Operational Readiness Review of Children's Health Ireland; the specific paragraph and subparagraph of Regulation 72 of S.I. No. 284/2016 relied upon to permit the modification without a new procurement process; the person or body that approved the variation and the date; whether a contract modification notice was published; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80471/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

383. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the West and Northwest RHA was operating below its direct pay budget for year to date to end of August 2026.

PQ80442/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

384. To ask the Minister for Health to set out in specific detail the dataset, methodology and the weighting applied in the “data driven scientific approach” to the application process for the social deprivation practice grant.

PQ80441/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

385. To ask the Minister for Health to list the average waiting time to access a DEXA scan in both the public hospital system and in primary care respectively.

PQ80440/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

386. To ask the Minister for Health the numbers waiting for a DEXA scan in the hospital system and in the primary care system respectively.

PQ80439/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

387. To ask the Minister for Health the number of DEXA scanners in operation within the public health system for each of the years 2019 to date in 2026.

PQ80438/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

388. To ask the Minister for Health to publish the report of the national vaginal mesh implant oversight group issued to her Department in 2025.

PQ80436/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

389. To ask the Minister for Health the number of nursing and midwifery vacancies approved in the 2026 Workforce Plan; the number currently vacant; the number of newly qualified nurses and midwives awaiting assignment to posts; the number of posts subject to regional recruitment controls; and the average time between graduation and commencement in employment for the 2026 cohort.

PQ80435/26 | JOHN CONNOLLY

390. To ask the Minister for Health to provide details of the budget, and the actual spend for third party medical imaging diagnostics associated with the ECC and primary care contracts, in each of the years 2019 to 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ80508/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

391. To ask the Minister for Health the number of MRIs, CTs, XRA and DEXA scans requested under the ECC and primary care contracts, in each of the years 2019 to 2025 and to date in 2026.

PQ80507/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

392. To ask the Minister for Health the current position with regard to graduate nurse contracts; when the current embargo will be lifted; if all withdrawn contract offers will be re-issued as a matter of urgency; and the amount of additional costs being incurred by way of agency nursing staff as a result of the embargo.

PQ80313/26 | ROBERT TROY

393. To ask the Minister for Health to review a matter (details supplied) regarding a hospital site in Killarney, County Kerry.

PQ80449/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

394. To ask the Minister for Health the current staffing in each of the endometriosis hubs per WTE funded and WTE filled.

PQ80510/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

395. To ask the Minister for Health the number of women on wait lists to access endometriosis hubs; and the average wait time to receive a first appointment.

PQ80509/26 | MARIE SHERLOCK

396. To ask the Minister for Health to consider opening all community hospital beds in County Kerry, including Dingle community hospital, Cahersiveen community hospital, Kenmare community hospital and the new Killarney community nursing unit (details supplied).

PQ80448/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

397. To ask the Minister for Health when she expects the adult diabetes service to move into new building block under development in Letterkenny University Hospital.

PQ80514/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

398. To ask the Minister for Health if she will be providing access to psychology support as a matter of urgency for children and adults living with type 1 diabetes in Letterkenny University Hospital.

PQ80512/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

399. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the paediatric endocrinologist listed in Letterkenny University Hospital estimates since 2025 as a vital missing resource to support local children and their families living with type 1 diabetes has never been sanctioned; and if she will urgently sanction the appointment of a paediatric endocrinologist for Letterkenny University Hospital.

PQ80511/26 | PÁDRAIG MAC LOCHLAINN

400. To ask the Minister for Health her Department's plans to introduce a minimum age limit for tattoo's.

PQ80523/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

401. To ask the Minister for Health in view of the success of the pilot lung cancer screening programme led by Beaumont RCSI Cancer Centre, if a national lung cancer screening programme will be rolled out at an early date.

PQ80535/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

402. To ask the Minister for Health the proposals to lower the age limit for the Bowel Screening Programme.

PQ80536/26 | BRENDAN SMITH

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

403. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the rationale for requiring a married student under 23 years-of-age who is living independently of their parents to be assessed as a dependent student for SUSI grant purposes; and whether consideration is being given to providing an exemption in such circumstances.

PQ80302/26 | SEÁN Ó FEARGHAÍL

404. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if his Department has plans to progress an apprenticeship programme for childcare providers.

PQ80525/26 | MAEVE O'CONNELL

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

405. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to significantly increase the number of DEIS scholarships and increase the grant to 100% in the Kerry Gaeltacht (details supplied).

PQ80489/26 | MICHAEL CAHILL

406. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if his Department monitors the extent of community access following the allocation and drawdown of funding, including the range of community organisations permitted to use the facility; if there are conditions attached to funding awards requiring recipients to maintain community access for a specified period; and if these conditions are subject to ongoing compliance checks.

PQ80457/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

407. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if a school-based facility which has received funding under the community centres investment fund can subsequently be considered an existing community hall or community facility when assessing applications for further community infrastructure funding in an area.

PQ80458/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

408. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if funding recipients are required to establish a formal community management or co-management structure involving representatives of the local community; and whether management and access arrangements may remain entirely at the discretion of the school board of management (details supplied).

PQ80456/26 | KEN O'FLYNN

409. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht if facilities which have received funding under the Community Centres Investment Fund, including facilities developed on school grounds, are required to demonstrate that the completed facility is being operated and made accessible for the benefit of the wider community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ80455/26 | KEN O'FLYNN