



DÁIL ÉIREANN

Déardaoin, 7 Nollaig, 2023
Thursday, 7th December, 2023

CEISTEANNA
QUESTIONS

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CEISTEANNA I gCOMHAIR FREAGRA Ó BHÉAL
QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH
QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

1. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline the details of the financial support package for a trust (details supplied) agreed at Cabinet last week; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54356/23]

2. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in light of the ongoing challenges in our housing sector, if he will provide an update on the progress and effectiveness of the current strategies implemented by his Department, particularly in the realms of affordable housing provision and homelessness prevention; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [54300/23]

3. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of affordable homes delivered via the Affordable Housing Fund, the Cost Rental Equity Loan and Project Tosaigh by the end of Q3 of this year; and to estimate the number of homes that will be delivered via these schemes by the end of the year. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54357/23]

4. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to increase the grant awards allowable for local authority housing adaptation grants to meet the increased building costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mattie McGrath. [54366/23]

5. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage further to Parliamentary Question No. 126 of 9 November 2023, what engagement he or his Department have had with the Galway Social Housing Taskforce regarding the issues raised in the Galway Social Housing Taskforce Chairperson's Report on Progress to end-2022, since the report was received by his Department; the details of any engagement he or his Department has had with the Taskforce in 2023 regarding the availability of properties available to rent in Galway within standard/discretionary HAP limits; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54386/23]

**CEISTEANNA EILE
OTHER QUESTIONS**

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

6. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his proposals for improved consistency and alignment throughout all tiers of planning; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [53916/23]

7. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the number of housing commencements and completions in Carlow to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O’Connor. [53847/23]

8. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to publish his Department’s AEV and REV for 2023, including all of the individual spending programmes under each subhead, the AEV for 2024 including all of the individual spending programmes under each subhead and to give a commitment to publish the REV for 2024 when it is complete including all of the individual spending programmes under each subhead. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54147/23]

9. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what role will a person (details supplied) play in Uisce Éireann’s capital investment plan. — Brian Stanley. [53991/23]

10. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to report on the sharp increase in family homelessness, and what measures he intends to take to ensure that this trend is reversed as a matter of urgency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [54220/23]

11. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the work of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [54063/23]

12. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps his Department are taking to insure affordable housing is provided in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [53596/23]

13. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures that will be implemented at an early date to progress the proposal to extend the Shannon navigation from Lough Allen, County Leitrim to Dowra, County Cavan in view of the substantial preparatory work carried out on the project some years ago and the benefits of such a development for the upper Shannon region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [53977/23]

14. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when the review into the differential rent scheme for local authority housing support will conclude; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [54166/23]

15. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will comment on a report (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [54167/23]

16. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will activate the cities fund to ensure that more of the affordable homes developed in cities, particularly by the LDA, can be offered for affordable purchase, and make it easier for potential eligible buyers of such homes to establish that there are sufficient buyers with the necessary access to funds to avoid any uncertainty about take-up. — Richard Bruton. [54192/23]

17. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta cur síos a dhéanamh ar an ról atá, má tá, ag a Roinn in ullmhúcháin do threoirínte maidir le cúrsaí pleanála sa Ghaeltacht; chun a fhiafraí dó ar labhair sé féin nó Rannóg na Gaeltachta le haon eagrais Ghaeilge nó Ghaeltachta maidir leo. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [53895/23]

18. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on engagements he has had with the engineering sector with respect to certification of specific options under the defective concrete block scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [54174/23]

19. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta cén uair a fhoilseofar na treoirínte pleanála don Ghaeltacht; an mbeidh forálacha speisialta do na hoileáin Ghaeltachta sna treoirínte seo; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54175/23]

20. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to report on the progress of the cost rental delivery; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [54223/23]

21. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage why the regeneration of a local authority housing complex in Dolphin House in Dublin 8 has been dogged and continually frustrated by bureaucratic delays; and when is it now expected to proceed to other phases of the work considering that Phase 1 was completed over five years ago. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [53936/23]

22. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what additional supports his Department provided to Cork City Council and Cork County Council following the floods caused by Storm Babet; if he is satisfied that the local authorities have the necessary resources available to them during such adverse weather events; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [53975/23]

23. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the delivery of housing on public owned sites in Dublin 9 and Dublin 11. — Paul McAuliffe. [54216/23]

24. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will bring in a ban on no-fault evictions during winter months given that homeless services in Galway are currently overwhelmed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54109/23]

25. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline the changes that took place to the tenant purchase scheme in recent months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [53597/23]

26. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the funding available for the Energy Efficiency Social Housing Retrofit Programme in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [53935/23]

27. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he can avail of modern housing production methods to facilitate the provision of supply of homes to the market in addition to those already in hand in order to address the ever increasing demand arising from the termination of tenancies or other factors which might make it difficult or even impossible for families to provide housing by other means such as purchase or rental through the local authorities; if he can identify those counties currently trying to face this challenge with a view to increasing the supply within months rather than years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54106/23]

28. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to advise what affordable housing schemes are planned for counties Roscommon and Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [53470/23]

29. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans for the restructuring and resourcing of An Bord Pleanála; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O'Callaghan. [53917/23]

30. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he would introduce a weighted system into the scheme of letting priorities for allocations of local authority homes; if as part of this system there could be bonus points for people who work; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [54203/23]

31. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage To ask the Minister for Housing for an update on the number of successful applications for the First Home Scheme, and a breakdown on a county-by-county basis. — Paul McAuliffe. [54215/23]

32. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications received under the vacant homes scheme in each county to date; the number approved and the number where the grant has been paid; the total cost of the scheme to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54176/23]

33. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the key targets for 2024 under Housing for All; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [53974/23]

34. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will publish written confirmation from the Banking and Payments Federation that homes remediated or rebuilt under the enhanced defective concrete block grant scheme will be mortgageable or re-mortgageable once completed. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [54172/23]

35. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of the Implementation Steering Group with respect to the defective concrete block scheme; why stakeholders, including affected homeowners, the banking industry, insurance industry, engineering sector and others are not included to resolve key outstanding issues; if a commitment was ever made by the Minister or his Department to establish such an oversight group with the aforementioned stakeholders, and if so, when; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54204/23]

36. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the measures he is taking to increase certainty across the planning system through the introduction of statutory timelines for decision making; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [53976/23]

37. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his attention has been drawn to the Residential Tenancies Board Rent Index Report Q2 2023, which showed that Galway City had the largest annual increase in average rents for new tenancies in any city in Ireland at 12.7%; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54201/23]

38. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the report reviewing housing adaptation grants for older people and people with a disability; to provide a date by which we can expect said report to be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54103/23]

39. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will consider emergency housing measures to increase the supply of housing to those counties particularly affected by the threat of homelessness; the steps he will take to address these ever increasing housing needs in order to ensure that homelessness does not become an endemic and that families including parents and children have an option to avail of in the event of finding themselves homeless arising from eviction, or through the ongoing increasing demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54105/23]

40. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage whether private sector investors will be used to finance Uisce Éireann’s capital investment plan; if these will be PPP’s or shareholders in Uisce Éireann; and why his Department is not fully financing Uisce Éireann’s capital plan. — Brian Stanley. [53992/23]

41. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he has any information on how many first-time buyers have purchased homes to date in 2023; how this compares to 2021 and 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [53938/23]

42. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his target for assistance to restore properties through the vacant property refurbishment grant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [53879/23]

43. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide details of all approved housing projects for both Cork City Council and Cork County Council from 1 January 2020 to today’s date; the number that have now been fully completed and are occupied; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [53372/23]

44. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if consideration will be given to extending the timeline for completing works under croí cónaithe scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [54187/23]

45. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will increase the HAP limits in line with rents; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [54222/23]

46. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his views on whether it is equitable that additional measures approved under Housing for All to incentivise the activation of increased housing supply and help reduce housing construction costs does not include people in rural Ireland on group water schemes as it only refunds Uisce Éireann water and wastewater standard connection charges; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [54169/23]

47. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the current status of the Implementation Steering Group with respect to the defective concrete block scheme; if he will establish an oversight group including key stakeholders, including affected homeowners, the banking industry, insurance industry, engineering sector and others in order to resolve key outstanding issues; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh. [54173/23]

48. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the multi-annual rural water programme 2024 – 2026; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54058/23]

49. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of delays with Residential Tenancies Board issuing confirmation letters to tenants on notice of terminations submitted to them by landlords; the delays without receipt of confirmation for tenants to get their notice of termination validated by Threshold; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [54188/23]

50. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when Ireland's new National Biodiversity Action Plan will be launched; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Christopher O'Sullivan. [54213/23]

51. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the details of the increase in septic tank grants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [53930/23]

52. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the funding available to support the delivery of social homes in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Cowen. [53934/23]

53. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline his plans to reduce rising rents in counties Roscommon and Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [53471/23]

54. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the action he will take to ensure local authorities increase the number of Traveller accommodation units; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O'Callaghan. [53988/23]

55. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on the provision of both social and affordable housing in Carlow; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jennifer Murnane O'Connor. [53848/23]

56. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to advise when data from each local authority in relation to the properties entering the vacant homes action plan

programme and outcomes will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [53373/23]

57. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update on the work of Land Development Agency; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [54062/23]

58. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on developments under the croí cónaithe cities scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [53854/23]

59. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he is aware of the significant increase in average rent in County Donegal, according to the ESRI and the Residential Tenancies Board new renters in County Donegal are paying almost 30% more each month than existing tenants; if the Government have any plans to deal with this significant increase; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54082/23]

60. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline why defective concrete block homeowners in counties Donegal, Mayo, Clare and Limerick have been offered support through another limited grant scheme rather than an actual redress scheme similar to the pyrite remediation scheme. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [54171/23]

61. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for an update on plans to include Broadford and Cooraclare, County Clare in a pilot sewerage scheme for unsewered villages. — Cathal Crowe. [53846/23]

62. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to extend access to local authority home loans to tackle long-term vacancy and dereliction; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [53880/23]

63. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline his plans to develop housing on State owned lands in line with the principles of the transit-oriented development in Limerick metropolitan area; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [54133/23]

64. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to develop housing policy with appropriate density and zoning, such that it supports the development of district heating networks and rail transport; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brian Leddin. [54134/23]

65. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what consultation or discussions he has had with stakeholders in relation to the help-to-buy scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cormac Devlin. [53973/23]

66. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his plans to commence parts 4 and 5 of the Electoral Reform Act 2022; the barriers in doing so to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [53336/23]

67. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to what extent is the use of modern methods of construction used in the provision of housing under the Government’s Housing for All Programme; how many of these have been delivered; what is the future direction

of the Department in relation to this; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54059/23]

68. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the progress being made under the Rural Water Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [53972/23]

69. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide in tabular form a list of all completed cost rental housing schemes delivered to date by the Land Development Agency and Approved Housing Bodies including the name of each development; the local authority in which each scheme is located; the number of units in each scheme including a unit bedroom number breakdown; and the monthly rent charged for each unit by size in each scheme. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54151/23]

70. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his proposals for strategic ten-year development plans for local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [53931/23]

71. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps he is taking to ensure that the water from private wells is of a safe standard, given that since Uisce Éireann was established, homeowners with private wells have to pay a private lab service for testing of their drinking water, a service which previously was available free through the local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [53411/23]

72. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of houses currently under construction by each local authority in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [53692/23]

73. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline details of the Voids Programme for 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54190/23]

74. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what actions he plans to take to constrain the exorbitant rise in private rental prices; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [54168/23]

75. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when emergency funding for interim fire safety and other measures for homeowners and OMCs with celtic tiger era building defects will be made available. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54149/23]

76. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many new homes have been completed so far this year; how many new homes have seen construction start; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [53855/23]

77. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will outline the proposals which he plans to table for consideration by the citizens of Dublin of future governance for the city. — Richard Bruton. [54193/23]

78. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline when he intends to bring forward the promised “first refusal” legislation with regard to the tenant-in-situ scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [54219/23]

79. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the action he has taken to ensure that more households qualify for the septic tank grants and are supported to upgrade or replace their tank; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Moynihan. [53971/23]

80. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what immediate and urgent actions will be taken to reverse the month on month increases in homelessness; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Cian O’Callaghan. [53987/23]

81. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what measures he is going to put in place to address those families and individuals in homeless services who are above the income limits for social housing; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [54221/23]

82. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to outline what recent engagements his Department has had with the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform regarding income thresholds and grant limits for housing adaptations for older people and people with a disability. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54104/23]

83. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the amount of money paid out under the vacant property refurbishment grant in each month since it was established; if he will provide detail in relation to the qualification criteria for the grant, the amount of applications received for the grant and the amount of grants approved, in tabular form.; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [53693/23]

84. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage when he intends to bring forward legislation to give effect to the planning recommendations of the Expert Group on Traveller Accommodation published in 2019. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54148/23]

85. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the timeline for the publication of the draft planning guidelines for Gaeltacht areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54200/23]

86. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage his assessment of the impact of affordable purchase initiatives on increasing home ownership; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — James Lawless. [53937/23]

87. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide in tabular form a list of all completed housing schemes funded via the Affordable Housing Fund including the name of each scheme; the local authority area in which the scheme is located; the number of units in each scheme including a unit bedroom number breakdown; the purchase price of each unit by size in each scheme; and the cost of the State’s equity share for each unit by size in each scheme. — Eoin Ó Broin. [54150/23]

88. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to provide an update in relation to the provision of affordable housing in Galway; when affordable housing will be available for purchase in Galway, and when people will be able to register their interest for it; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54110/23]

89. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he can outline what measures his Department will be putting in place with Uisce Éireann to reduce the levels of

raw sewage entering into local waterways across the Sligo and Leitrim area. — Martin Kenny. [54234/23]

CEISTEANNA AR SONRAÍODH UAIN DÓIBH QUESTIONS NOMINATED FOR PRIORITY

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

90. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider reviewing the wage subsidy scheme for people with disabilities, in particular the fact that the subsidy an employer is paid has not kept pace with the increases in the minimum wage. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54238/23]

91. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will ensure there will be a guarantee that no claimant will receive less under the new pay-related jobseeker's benefit than they would currently receive; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mick Barry. [54132/23]

92. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the pay claim submitted by the rural social scheme and Tús supervisors to the Department for pay parity with community employment supervisors. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54239/23]

93. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the decision not to include long Covid as an occupational illness; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [53874/23]

94. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to give an update on the progress regarding the pay parity claim by supervisors of RSS and TUS. — Marian Harkin. [54377/23]

CEISTEANNA EILE OTHER QUESTIONS

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

95. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps which she is taking to increase employment participation levels among those in receipt of one parent family payments from her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [53876/23]

96. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the pension entitlements being worked on for carers by her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [54071/23]

97. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which she might consider a partial State pension commensurate with their contributions or with a slight enhancement to those who currently have contributions but not sufficient to warrant payment of pension and who may not qualify otherwise; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54107/23]

98. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to report on the progress made regarding benchmarking the State pension at 34% above average earnings, considering the Budget 2024 increase in State pensions has not matched the spending power of State pensions from 2020. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54102/23]

99. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will ensure measures are taken to align the pay of Tús supervisors with CE supervisors; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [54156/23]

100. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will take into account the negative reaction of people with disabilities to the Green Paper on Disability Reform in devising further policy in the area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [54228/23]

101. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications received by the Department in each of the last five years for domiciliary care allowance; the number rejected each year; the reason for these rejections; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54178/23]

102. To ask the Minister for Social Protection why an approved carer's allowance applicants are waiting weeks to receive their first payment; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [53472/23]

103. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider raising employers PRSI to the EU average. — Joan Collins. [51736/23]

104. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm that benchmarking of the State pension will be included in Budget 2025 as per the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025 (details supplied). — Joan Collins. [53990/23]

105. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the SCOPE investigation into RTE; how many cases have concluded; and what the verdicts were. — Brian Stanley. [54002/23]

106. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if it is her intention to reduce payment rates for recipients of social welfare engaged in criminal behaviour; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Robert Troy. [54157/23]

107. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department will look at extending the Households Benefits Package and the Living Alone Allowance to single parent families; if her Department can provide a costing for this measure; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [53939/23]

108. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her Department's plans for a public awareness campaign to alert long-term carers to changes in their pension provisions under the provision of Social Welfare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [52958/23]

109. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the fact that, standard disregards for maintenance that apply in the means testing of other payments, do not apply in the means testing of the Guardians payment non-contributory. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54244/23]

110. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if a 'cost-of-disability' payment will be introduced in Budget 2025 (details supplied). — Joan Collins. [53989/23]

111. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when details on the carer's pension will be available; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [54185/23]

112. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if provision will be made to have child benefit paid in respect of students in full-time education who reach the age of 18 during the current school year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54211/23]

113. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide details of her plans following the public consultation stage on document (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [54165/23]

114. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide details on her Department's efforts to reform jobseeker's allowance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [54064/23]

115. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the status of plans to close the pay gap between Tús supervisors and CE supervisors; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54184/23]

116. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are any measures under consideration by her Department to reduce poverty levels among those with disabilities that were not announced in the Budget. — Gary Gannon. [54180/23]

117. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the tender for EmployAbility which was due to be published in April 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54242/23]

118. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will outline the specifics regarding the pension entitlements being worked on for carers by her Department presently if she will outline the specifics regarding the pension entitlements being worked on for carers by her Department presently; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Niamh Smyth. [53598/23]

119. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will consider opening a scheme in the near future for those who are missing PRSI contributions to receive a State pension; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54061/23]

120. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department has been contact with the OPW in relation to the loss of car parking facilities by Social Protection staff in Cavan town; if alternative facilities are being considered; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [54159/23]

121. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason there was no co-production and co-design involved between her Department and disabled persons representative organisations and disability organisations in relation to the production of the Green Paper on Disability Reform and the subsequent consultation process; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pauline Tully. [54158/23]

122. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress in relation to the implementation of the pilot scheme to support people experiencing food poverty based on a case work model, as funded by her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Marc Ó Cathasaigh. [49682/23]

123. To ask the Minister for Social Protection about the free travel scheme and the introduction of booking fees of between €2-€10 by private transport companies for some passengers who avail of the scheme; if she plans to tackle this to ensure that public transport remains free for those who are eligible for the free travel scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [53906/23]

124. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are any measures under consideration by her Department to reduce poverty levels in single parent families that were not announced in the Budget. — Gary Gannon. [54181/23]

125. To ask the Minister for Social Protection how many people availed of the Activation and Family Support Programme in 2022 to fund the cost of training supports and education courses for people on social welfare; how this compares to 2020 and 2021, respectively; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [53940/23]

126. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to indicate whether consideration might be given to an easier system of transfer to disability allowance or other form of payment to those applicants who heretofore already qualified for domiciliary care allowance and who have no contributions to facilitate an ongoing payment on reaching the end of their DCA entitlement; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54108/23]

127. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if measures will be introduced to assist applicants that have domiciliary care applications progressed where there are delays outside the control of parents in having necessary assessments carried out for children; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54212/23]

128. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she believes the level of social welfare payments is adequate to prevent child poverty; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [54226/23]

129. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when legislation to remove child maintenance as household means for lone parent payments will be introduced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [53473/23]

130. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps which she is taking to increase part-time employment participation levels among those in receipt of jobseeker’s payments from her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [53877/23]

131. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are plans to make provision for pension contributions for foster carers where they are unable to take-up other employment due to their role as a foster carer. — Paul McAuliffe. [54218/23]

132. To ask the Minister for Social Protection what work is being done to reduce the processing time for disability allowance applications which have increased by two weeks since December 2022; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [54101/23]

133. To ask the Minister for Social Protection about the recent increase in scam text messages and phone calls concerning the lump sum payments from her Department; what the Department

is doing to combat these; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [54066/23]

134. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to confirm that core social welfare rates will be raised to at least the rate of inflation since 2013 when once-off cost-of-living payments end, so that core social welfare rates have not been cut in real terms since 2013 (details supplied). — Joan Collins. [53993/23]

135. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the “working week” for working age payments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [53875/23]

136. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications received for the humanitarian assistance scheme after flooding in Cork City and Cork County in October 2023; the number of applications processed and approved; the number of applications outstanding; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O’Sullivan. [54070/23]

137. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the progress made with the report on means testing in the social welfare system; when it is hoped it will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54177/23]

138. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if there are any measures under consideration by her Department to reduce child poverty that were not announced in the Budget. — Gary Gannon. [54179/23]

139. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has considered the scope of a partnership with a body like An Post to continue the sort of well-being support offered to people at risk of isolation, which was so successful during Covid, becoming a permanent feature in our communities. — Richard Bruton. [54195/23]

140. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the measures that are being taken to reduce the current processing times by the appeals department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Aindrias Moynihan. [54186/23]

141. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will increase all social welfare payments over the poverty line to ensure no one is living in poverty; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [54225/23]

142. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the progress on the auto-enrolment pensions scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54060/23]

143. To ask the Minister for Social Protection about the recent changes to the Reasonable Accommodation Fund and the Disability Awareness Support Scheme and what these will comprise; if these changes will result in the creation of a new fund or scheme; if there were considerations given to allow funding to follow the person instead of being granted to the business; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Cathal Crowe. [54067/23]

144. To ask the Minister for Social Protection how many complaints her Department has received this year regarding social welfare inspections. — Gary Gannon. [54182/23]

145. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she thinks it is acceptable that the SCOPE investigation will take fifteen years to complete; and what steps she is taking to speed it up. — Brian Stanley. [54003/23]

146. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in receipt of the fuel allowance in each of the past ten years, 2023 inclusive. — Peadar Tóibín. [53694/23]

147. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has considered the development of programmes to support people approaching retirement to better prepare for the substantial changes which need to be managed. — Richard Bruton. [54194/23]

148. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the long-term carers contribution scheme; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Farrell. [54065/23]

149. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her plans to extend the public consultation deadline on the Green Paper on disability reform; the number of submissions received to-date; the expected timeline for the consideration of all submissions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54183/23]

150. To ask the Minister for Social Protection To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on the number of successful applicants for fuel allowance in 2023, and how this compares to the previous five years. — Paul McAuliffe. [54217/23]

151. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her Department has looked into providing a statutory bereavement leave and the costs associated with this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [53905/23]

152. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in receipt of the disability allowance in each of the past ten years, 2023 inclusive. — Peadar Tóibín. [53695/23]

153. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she has given consideration to a submission from Family Carers Ireland on the introduction of a non-means-tested participation income for family carers; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [53878/23]

154. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on the proposed legislation on child maintenance system changes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54241/23]

155. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will review the Guardians payment, specifically where a relative is approved for child benefit, that this would then lead to the automatic signposting to the Guardians payment for the relative. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54240/23]

156. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will provide an update on the consultation of the ‘working age payment’ model mentioned in the Green Paper on Disability Reform.; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire. [54243/23]

157. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if she will ensure that the cost of disability is taken into account in setting the level of social welfare payments; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [54227/23]

158. To ask the Minister for Social Protection her reasons for not supporting proposal a union (details supplied) for pay-related jobseeker's benefit to be paid at a maximum of 70 per cent of salary or €550 for nine months; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Murphy. [54224/23]

CEISTEANNA LE hAGHAIDH FREAGRAÍ SCRÍOFA
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

*159. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs if passports will issue on time for children (details supplied) who applied for in October; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54260/23]

*160. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs the status of a foreign birth registration for a person (details supplied); the timeframe in which it will be processed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54328/23]

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

*161. To ask the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications how he intends on making eco-friendly products such as laundry products more affordable and accessible in Ireland over the coming years, considering that many people currently accessing such products are ordering from abroad; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Fergus O'Dowd. [54369/23]

Chun an Tánaiste agus Aire Cosanta: To the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence.

*162. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence the main policy achievements of his Department in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54288/23]

*163. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he will make a statement about the contents of the article in a newspaper (details supplied) on 4 December 2023 about a serving soldier receiving horrendous physical and mental abuse at the hands of superior officers in the Air Corps. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [54402/23]

*164. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence if he has reiterated to all branches of the Irish Defence Forces, in particular the protection which whistle-blowers should have and that rather than punishing those revealing abuse in the Defence Forces, they should encourage members to come forward so as to end abuse of power and authority, end bullying and physical and sexual abuse; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [54403/23]

Chun an Aire Iompair: To the Minister for Transport.

*165. To ask the Minister for Transport how much funding is being provided in 2024 for rail services to provide extra trains on busy routes. — Gino Kenny. [54254/23]

*166. To ask the Minister for Transport if he will provide funding for an extra train on the Kildare routes via Adamstown to Dublin city centre at peak times in the morning and evening. — Gino Kenny. [54255/23]

*167. To ask the Minister for Transport if the NTA requested funding for an extra train on the Kildare route via Adamstown to Dublin city centre. — Gino Kenny. [54256/23]

*168. To ask the Minister for Transport when TII will conclude an agreement in relation to goodwill payments to landowners along the route of the proposed new road from Limerick to Foynes. — Niall Collins. [54296/23]

*169. To ask the Minister for Transport if there are plans to introduce legislation to make it mandatory for the users of e-scooters to wear helmets and protective gear while operating the vehicles on public roads; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [54335/23]

*170. To ask the Minister for Transport to provide the current average waiting time to sit a driving test for each test centre; what steps are being taken to reduce the wait time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54339/23]

*171. To ask the Minister for Transport when the catering trolley will return to the Galway to Dublin train line; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54341/23]

*172. To ask the Minister for Transport if a review has taken place on the Galway to Dublin train line to facilitate the growing number of students commuting to Galway for third level education; the details of the review; if additional capacity has been added; if not, if additional capacity is being considered given the overcrowded nature of the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54342/23]

*173. To ask the Minister for Transport the progress made with the provision of a passing loop at Oranmore to allow for more frequent services on the Galway to Athenry rail line; when it is hoped that work will commence on this project; when it is hoped it will be completed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54352/23]

*174. To ask the Minister for Transport the grounds on which aircraft on contract to the US military transportation command are being allowed by his Department to transit through Shannon Airport and through Irish airspace on their way to and from supporting wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, including Israeli bombardment of Gaza; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54354/23]

*175. To ask the Minister for Transport if his Department approved the transport of US soldiers, weapons or munitions on aircraft (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54355/23]

*176. To ask the Minister for Transport whether the Saturday service for the 209 bus in Cork has been suspended or reduced; whether this change is permanent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Thomas Gould. [54365/23]

*177. To ask the Minister for Transport what action his Department is taking to improve a bus route in Cork city in view that there are recurring issues with reliability of the service (details

supplied); if Saturday has been removed from the route; if so, the reason; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [54367/23]

*178. To ask the Minister for Transport how he intends to proceed implementing seven recommendations in the Irish Coast Guard following an inquest (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [54375/23]

*179. To ask the Minister for Transport if costs incurred by a family in the course of an inquest will be reimbursed by the State (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Violet-Anne Wynne. [54376/23]

*180. To ask the Minister for Transport the key initiatives taken to improve transport services in both urban and rural Ireland since 27 June 2020. — Michael Moynihan. [54399/23]

Chun an Aire Airgeadais: To the Minister for Finance.

*181. To ask the Minister for Finance the main policy achievements of his Department in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54290/23]

*182. To ask the Minister for Finance if an individual who has agreed to purchase farm land, and who has the contracts signed in December 2023, but with a sale that will close in January 2024, still qualifies for 2023 agricultural relief based on the fact that they have an agreement in place in December 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [54338/23]

*183. To ask the Minister for Finance if he will address the issues raised in correspondence regarding the help-to-buy scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Niall Collins. [54350/23]

*184. To ask the Minister for Finance if measures will be introduced to assist in the provision of better credit facilities for small and medium enterprises as many businesses, particularly small enterprises, are facing serious difficulties due to the non-availability of reasonable loan and overdraft facilities from the pillar banks; if he is aware that some businesses that had reasonable credit facilities with banks that exited the Irish market recently do not have similar arrangements with their new banks; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54392/23]

*185. To ask the Minister for Finance what action has been taken to boost Ireland's economic competitiveness since 27 June 2020. — Michael Moynihan. [54395/23]

Chun an Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadta ar an bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, agus Athchóirithe: To the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

*186. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform if a light will be turned on at a location (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [54252/23]

*187. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform what action he has taken to enhance and expand public investment since 27 June 2020. — Michael Moynihan. [54393/23]

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

*188. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment the actions taken to boost jobs and businesses since 27 June 2020. — Jim O’Callaghan. [54389/23]

*189. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to confirm what action will be taken to recruit additional legal staff to the Health and Safety Authority to assist the coronial service so that inspectors reports cannot be finalised, which require a solicitor’s sign off before it can be progressed, particularly in light of the fact that the coronial service, and families affected, have been experiencing significant delays in cases being listed for inquest; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [54394/23]

*190. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to outline the measures that will be made available to assist small and medium enterprises with the challenges that have arisen for such businesses due to increased costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54397/23]

Chun an Aire Oideachais: To the Minister for Education.

*191. To ask the Minister for Education if she will intervene and provide funding for a school bus (details supplied) and ensure that the service continues for the rest of the school year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [54245/23]

*192. To ask the Minister for Education if her Department will increase the rate of pay for school transport escorts to a level commensurate with special needs assistants; and the reason school transport escorts continue to have to sign on for unemployment benefits when schools are on holidays. — Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. [54246/23]

*193. To ask the Minister for Education whether there is any funding stream available to assist a school in purchasing additional land for a safe drop-off area when existing conditions are unsafe; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [54248/23]

*194. To ask the Minister for Education when arrears in school secretaries pay will be paid to people who are now retired; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [54259/23]

*195. To ask the Minister for Education if she will detail, in tabular form, on a county-by-county basis, as of 30 November 2023, the number of Ukrainian pupils enrolled in Irish schools at primary and post-primary level; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jim O’Callaghan. [54297/23]

*196. To ask the Minister for Education how many children in County Meath are on the waiting lists to get into primary schools between 1st class and 6th class, i.e., children transferring during the school year due to a change in circumstances; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O’Rourke. [54301/23]

*197. To ask the Minister for Education the steps that can be taken to facilitate a move for a child (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [54302/23]

*198. To ask the Minister for Education the pupil/teacher ratio in primary schools in County Meath; the ten schools with the highest ratios in County Meath; her plans to reduce this ratio; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Darren O'Rourke. [54303/23]

*199. To ask the Minister for Education the status of the approval process for additional school accommodation and toilets which is awaiting financial review to allow the works to proceed at a school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [54305/23]

*200. To ask the Minister for Education when payments for the July Provision will be made to those who provided the service; the reason the payments have not been made; if she will accept that such delays will create an unwillingness by teachers and other providers not to engage with the programme next year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Carol Nolan. [54306/23]

*201. To ask the Minister for Education if she will consider a review of the current wellbeing curriculum in order to ensure that students are receiving comprehensive education in regard to emotional resilience and mental health; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [54310/23]

*202. To ask the Minister for Education if autism units/classes will be provided for 2024 in school (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [54320/23]

*203. To ask the Minister for Education if there is a plan to establish a new Irish-speaking secondary school in the Swords area; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [54332/23]

*204. To ask the Minister for Education to detail her policy in relation to secondary school-aged student who have not been offered a place in a secondary school; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54343/23]

*205. To ask the Minister for Education to detail the catchment area criteria for English medium and Irish medium secondary schools both for voluntary schools and ETB schools; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54344/23]

*206. To ask the Minister for Education the name and location of all the schools that applied for funding under the summer works scheme in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022; if she will provide a list of all the schools that successfully secured funding in those years under the scheme; the value of the summer works scheme grant for each respective project, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ged Nash. [53356/23]

*207. To ask the Minister for Education when the review into school transport commenced; when it will be completed; whether it is intended to publish the report; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54382/23]

*208. To ask the Minister for Education whether parental alienation, a highly contested condition, being used as a means to support one or other side in family law cases, is also being referred to where choice of second level school has not been agreed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54410/23]

Chun an Aire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán: To the Minister for Tourism, Culture; Arts; Gaeltacht; Sport and Media.

*209. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if she will provide an update on the progress of the working group to develop a National Disinformation Strategy; the expected date for their final report; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Imelda Munster. [54261/23]

*210. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media if the inequalities of media support (details supplied) will be addressed; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [54281/23]

*211. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide an update on a club's (details supplied) sports capital grant; and when the club can expect to receive a decision on its application. — Chris Andrews. [54384/23]

*212. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to provide a comprehensive overview of funding stream available to sports clubs for capital, current and ad hoc expenditure; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pádraig O'Sullivan. [54391/23]

*213. To ask the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the additional measures that will be introduced to deal with the spread of misinformation on social media platforms; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54401/23]

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

*214. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to clarify what changes, if any, can be made to the sustainable housing policy to ensure that individuals choose to locate their homes in rural areas, in view that many rural areas are in decline because of the lack of clarity on sustainable housing policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [49714/23]

*215. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if his Department will undertake an assessment to determine whether or not EU proposals for rewetting the bogs may lead to flooding on neighbouring farm land; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Peadar Tóibín. [49283/23]

*216. Chun a fhiafraí den Aire Housing, Local Government and Heritage cad is cúis leis an moill ar an eolas a theastaíonn ón Aire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta a fháil ó Roinn na Gaeltachta chun na treoirínte pleanála geallta a fhoilsiú; cathain a bheidh sé curtha ar fáil aici dó; agus an ndéanfaidh sé ráiteas ina thaobh. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [53615/23]

*217. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if he will review the current system for determining business and commercial rates for SMEs that are challenged with rising costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [51527/23]

*218. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what actions he has taken to expedite the process of issuing payments under the croí cónaithe scheme to applicants who have submitted payment requests through their local authority, following the successful completion of works; the total value of payments that have been issued to persons who have completed works and issued payment requests, by each local authority; the amount paid out to individuals who have completed the required works and submitted payment requests; the number of applications and that are waiting for payment approval by his Department to each local authority; the length of time that this payment is outstanding, since July 2022, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [54279/23]

*219. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage what actions he has taken to expedite the issuing of clarification on unvouched expenditure that has been submitted with payment requests to local authorities through approved applications under the croí cónaithe scheme, given the lack of clarification on unvouched expenditure is delaying the processing of payments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [54280/23]

*220. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the main policy achievements of his Department in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54291/23]

*221. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of applications received, the number of grants approved and the number of grants completed and paid out under the mobility aids grant, housing adaption grant for people with a disability and housing aid for older people grant in Mayo for the years 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54298/23]

*222. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage how many homes have been purchased for tenants at risk of homelessness by each of the AHBs or local authorities under the tenant-in-situ-cost rental scheme and for each county; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [54317/23]

*223. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage if an assessment been done on the stated reasons by AHBs or local authorities for not going ahead with a tenant-in-situ purchase of a dwelling; and the steps that will be taken to address those problems to ensure more tenants at risk of homelessness can remain in their homes having been bought through the tenant-in-situ scheme. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [54318/23]

*224. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps a family can take in a situation in which a landlord is happy to sell to a housing agency through the tenant-in-situ scheme to ensure the tenants of 14 years standing can remain in the community in circumstances (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Aengus Ó Snodaigh. [54319/23]

*225. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the total number of local authority housing starts recorded on a monthly basis over the course of the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54430/23]

*226. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which the local authority housing stock has increased by way of purchase of extra houses or new builds over the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54431/23]

*227. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he expects extra local authority houses to become available in the course of the next twelve months; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54432/23]

*228. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent, if any, to which rapid build or modular housing has been offered to Kildare County Council, having regard to the seriousness of the housing situation and recognising that this will not improve unless drastic steps are taken to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54433/23]

*229. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which planning procedures can be expedited to facilitate the building of extra local authority houses, with particular reference to the need to make a serious impact on the numbers currently on local authority waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54434/23]

*230. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the steps he can take to address the acute problem of the local authority housing shortage in the short term, and to identify more ambitious targets; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54435/23]

*231. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which he might authorise the reintroduction of the rural housing programme, with particular reference to those on the local authority housing lists coming from a rural area being facilitated by way of a programme to ensure that they might be housed in their own area rather than adding to the waiting lists in urban areas; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54436/23]

*232. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which serviced or serviceable lands, zoned or unzoned, have been identified by each of the local authorities in the greater Dublin area to facilitate a rapid build housing programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54437/23]

*233. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the extent to which the number of families deemed homeless in County Kildare are likely to achieve accommodation in the near future; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54438/23]

*234. To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the degree to which he expects to meet the imminent demand in respect of housing, following the displacement of tenants from private accommodation for a variety of reasons including repossession, and the immediate needs of such tenants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54440/23]

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

*235. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to address the ongoing issue of the 15% pay gap between Tús supervisors and community employment supervisors within South Dublin County partnership at County Hall, despite performing similar duties; if her Department has any plans to resolve this pay disparity issue between Tús supervisors and community employment supervisors; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [54271/23]

*236. To ask the Minister for Social Protection if her attention has been drawn to the fact that people who are suffering from long Covid and can no longer work are not being financially supported by the Government; if this issue can be addressed with the Minister for Health to introduce a payment for those suffering from long Covid; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54329/23]

*237. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for a timeframe to finalise the pay parity claim of RSS and Tús supervisors. — Marian Harkin. [54378/23]

*238. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the steps which she is taking to increase part-time employment participation levels among those in receipt of jobseeker's payments from her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54273/23]

*239. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to outline the timeline for the proposed future changes to the level of PRSI stamp that pensioners who are still in paid employment will have to pay; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Ruairí Ó Murchú. [51423/23]

*240. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) will get a decision on an application for habitual residency; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54277/23]

*241. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the reason a person (details supplied) is on a reduced rate of pension (non-contributory); the reason this was reduced; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [54282/23]

*242. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the main policy achievements of her Department in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54293/23]

*243. To ask the Minister for Social Protection for an update on her efforts to close the 15% pay gap between Tús and CE supervisors (details supplied); the reason the Principal Officer in her Department working on this did not recently meet with officials in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform as planned; if Tús supervisors will receive the update promised to them on 8 December 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill. [54294/23]

*244. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the details on the total amounts of monies awarded to County Louth via the Humanitarian Fund for flooded homes; the total number of applications received for funding under this scheme; the amount paid out to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Peter Fitzpatrick. [49610/23]

*245. To ask the Minister for Social Protection to provide an update on work ongoing to address the pay gap between Tús scheme supervisors and CE scheme supervisors; whether her Department will commit to meeting Tús committees and union representatives without further

delay; the reason for the delayed response to their pay claim; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [54311/23]

*246. To ask the Minister for Social Protection further to Parliamentary Question No. 709 of 7 November 2023, if precautions are in place to ensure that the deciding officer who rejects an applicant's social protection payment is not also the appeals officer who conducts the appeal on the rejected application; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Louise O'Reilly. [54373/23]

*247. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the breakdown of the number of families in each county receiving the double child benefit payment; and the number of children in each county in respect of whom a payment was made, in tabular form. — Jim O'Callaghan. [54379/23]

*248. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of social welfare recipients in each receiving the Christmas bonus double payment, by county, in tabular form. — Jim O'Callaghan. [54380/23]

*249. To ask the Minister for Social Protection when a person (details supplied) may qualify for appropriate payment such as domiciliary care allowance in respect of their four-year-old daughter who suffers from a number of health issues; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54406/23]

*250. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which carer's allowance is payable in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54411/23]

*251. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the degree to which efforts continue to be made to award State pensions to those men and women whose contribution record was interrupted for family or other reasons; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54412/23]

*252. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the current position in respect of restoration of a carer's allowance in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54417/23]

*253. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which her Department has direct contact with other jurisdictions with which a bilateral arrangement for social welfare exists, with particular reference to the need to ensure a smooth and expeditious process in dealing with claims particularly where contributions in two or more jurisdictions arise; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54419/23]

*254. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of persons in receipt of carer's allowance whose allowance has been withdrawn for whatever reason in each of the past four years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54420/23]

*255. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of applications for pension based on a combination of Irish and overseas contributions that have yielded a lesser pension to the applicant than those based solely on single-country contributions; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54421/23]

*256. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total number of persons in receipt of the State pension (contributory); the extent to which this number has fluctuated over the past ten years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54422/23]

*257. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the total number of persons in receipt of the State pension (non-contributory); the extent to which this number has fluctuated over the past ten years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54423/23]

*258. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent, if any, to which time taken to determine appeals can be improved; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54424/23]

*259. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the number of exceptional needs payments made to persons or families in other than bereavement circumstances in each of the past five years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54425/23]

*260. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average length of time taken to determine entitlement to disability allowance; the extent to which this has fluctuated in each of the past five years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54426/23]

*261. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the average length of time taken to determine entitlement to invalidity pension; the extent to which this has fluctuated in each of the past five years to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54427/23]

*262. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the extent to which any backlogs have been addressed in respect of various headings and payments operated; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54429/23]

*263. To ask the Minister for Social Protection the rate of the State pension (contributory) that will apply to those who have an entitlement to the maximum rate of contributory pension from January 2024, should they decide to defer drawing down their pension until they reach ages 67, 68, 69, and 70 years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [50752/23]

Chun an Aire Dlí agus Cirt: To the Minister for Justice.

*264. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 244 and 245 of 1 June 2023, the number of reported cases made to An Garda Síochána with respect to financial fraud; the number of cases investigated with respect to same; the number of cases closed with conviction with respect to same; the value of money recovered with respect to same in each of the years 2016 to date in 2023, in tabular form, across relevant categories as per aforementioned replies; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54230/23]

*265. To ask the Minister for Justice further to Parliamentary Question Nos. 244 and 245 of 1 June 2023, the number of reported cases made to An Garda Síochána with respect to authorised push payment fraud; the number of cases investigated with respect to same; the number of cases closed with conviction with respect to same; the value of money recovered with respect to same in each of the years 2016 to date in 2023, in tabular form across relevant categories as per aforementioned parliamentary question replies; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54231/23]

*266. To ask the Minister for Justice the criteria used by her Department to assess applications from foreign nationals who have become naturalised citizens, who wish to have dependent children, spouses, and other relatives join them in this country; if there are limits on the number granted entry; the number of such persons granted entry to join their naturalised citizen from 2019 to date; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Ring. [54258/23]

*267. To ask the Minister for Justice if, having regard to the provisions of the EU treaties, any non-Irish EU, EEA or Swiss citizens living in Ireland have been expelled on the grounds of public policy, public security or public health; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Haughey. [54284/23]

*268. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of Garda recruits that completed phase 1, phase 2, phase 3 and phase 4 training, respectively, in the Garda College for each of the years 2016 to 2023, inclusive, and the number of Garda recruits that were attested as Gardaí between 2016 and 2023, in tabular form by phase and year; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Kelly. [54299/23]

*269. To ask the Minister for Justice the reason for the large number of days that the school remained closed in Castlerea Prison this year up to 31 August 2023; the steps taken to rectify this; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Éamon Ó Cuív. [54353/23]

*270. To ask the Minister for Justice if, in light of recent events in Dublin city, additional security measures will be considered for upcoming citizenship ceremonies; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Connolly. [54359/23]

*271. To ask the Minister for Justice the number of persons on remand in places of detention pending criminal trials as of 1 December 2023. — Charles Flanagan. [54360/23]

*272. To ask the Minister for Justice to confirm what action will be taken to recruit additional staff to provide support to coroners, particularly in light of the fact that the coronial service, and families affected, have been experiencing significant delays in cases being listed for inquest; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [54370/23]

*273. To ask the Minister for Justice the key initiatives taken to fight crime and anti-social behaviour in both urban and rural areas since 27 June 2020. — Jim O’Callaghan. [54398/23]

*274. To ask the Minister for Justice the likely future residency position in the case of a person (details supplied); if the current situation can be confirmed, including receipt of details; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54407/23]

*275. To ask the Minister for Justice the current or anticipated residency status in the case of a person (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54408/23]

*276. To ask the Minister for Justice when a stamp 4 status might be made available in the case of a person (details supplied); the extent to which they both qualify for citizenship; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54416/23]

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

*277. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine whether he is considering financial aid for a sector (details supplied) given the significant challenges being faced by the industry; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Paul Kehoe. [54232/23]

*278. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine when payments will commence for ACRES; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [54233/23]

*279. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the main policy achievements of his Department in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54286/23]

*280. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if the Interim Standard for Felling and Reforestation - version October 2019, issued by his Department, is the current relevant standard for forestry felling operations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54321/23]

*281. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of pollution incidences that have occurred annually over the past ten years in forestry felling operations because of the use of urea for the treatment of conifer stumps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54322/23]

*282. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of pollution incidences that have occurred annually over the past ten years from herbicide or pesticide being applied on forestry land with a manual knapsack sprayer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54323/23]

*283. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how many pollution incidences have occurred annually over the last ten years because of the application of fertiliser to forestry lands only; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54324/23]

*284. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of pollution incidence that have occurred annually over the past ten years because of the removal of temporary bridges on forestry harvesting sites only; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54325/23]

*285. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the definition of deforestation; the area of land deforested annually over the past ten years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54326/23]

*286. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine the number of landowners that have been prosecuted annually over the past ten years for failing to comply with the replanting obligation on a felling licence; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard O'Donoghue. [54327/23]

*287. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine if he will review the implementation of the index changes by an organisation (details supplied), in light of the fact that

these changes were made after farmers signed up for the Suckler Carbon Efficiency Programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Denis Naughten. [54345/23]

*288. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine further to Parliamentary Question No. 119 of 29 November 2023, if, with regard to the difference in premiums between the new Forestry Programme and the previous programme, consideration has been given to raising premiums established under the previous programme to accommodate for factors such as inflation, and to support farmers forestry owners with any additional costs they might incur as a result of the new programme rules; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Claire Kerrane. [54358/23]

*289. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to detail the specific section of the specific policy document that specified a maximum peat depth of 50 cm applied to the afforestation scheme in the last forestry programme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Fitzmaurice. [54368/23]

*290. To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine how the agri-food sector has been strengthened and developed since 27 June 2020. — Michael Moynihan. [54396/23]

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

*291. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth about an application for a children's disability services grant (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [54249/23]

*292. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth whether a valid application has been received through the strengthening children's disability services scheme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Lowry. [54264/23]

*293. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if the necessary resources can be made available to survivors of mother and baby homes to trace their records; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Seán Canney. [54253/23]

*294. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the main policy achievements of his Department in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54287/23]

*295. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 540 of 28 November 2023, if he will provide a breakdown of each of the nine locations providing emergency and permanent accommodation in County Mayo; the type of accommodation facilities in the emergency settings; and a breakdown of the number at each location. — Alan Dillon. [54304/23]

*296. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he will provide an update on an offer of commercial accommodation for a person (details supplied); when this will be processed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54309/23]

*297. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the status of the implementation of the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision; and the estimated timeframe for ending direct provision. — Holly Cairns. [54315/23]

*298. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number and grade of staff assigned to implementing the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision, by year from 2021 to date, in tabular form. — Holly Cairns. [54316/23]

*299. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if an application has been made or is being considered being made for accommodation for international protection applicants and those availing of the temporary protection for people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine (details supplied). — Sean Sherlock. [54336/23]

*300. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to clarify whether it is intended that the new International Protection child payment of €140 per month, or €32.11 per week, announced in Budget 2024, will be paid in addition to the existing daily expense allowance for children of €29.80, or will it just replace that; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Brady. [54361/23]

*301. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth further to Parliamentary Question No. 332 of 21 November 2023, answered by the Minister for Social Protection, given the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth has policy and legal responsibility for maternity leave, if he will consider broadening the eligibility for the State maternity benefit in order to ensure that PhD candidates can receive the benefit. — Jim O'Callaghan. [54444/23]

Chun an Aire Sláinte: To the Minister for Health.

*302. To ask the Minister for Health if he will reconsider the application/request for assistance towards hospitalisation/treatment for cataracts in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54418/23]

*303. To ask the Minister for Health if respite will be arranged for a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [54229/23]

*304. To ask the Minister for Health if ophthalmology patients with age-related macular degeneration living in Donegal and travelling to Sligo for regular eye injections can have such injections at Letterkenny University Hospital; if not, if this is being considered; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54247/23]

*305. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) can expect to receive an appointment for a surgical procedure; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pa Daly. [54251/23]

*306. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the new adaptation programme offered to overseas applicants by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [54265/23]

*307. To ask the Minister for Health his views on concerns expressed in relation to assessment processes undertaken by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [54266/23]

*308. To ask the Minister for Health the criteria for the pandemic special recognition payment; and the grounds on which a distinction between home and residential care assistants in an organisation (details supplied) can be made. — Martin Browne. [54262/23]

*309. To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications received by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland from non-EU applicants, by country of training and in tabular form for each year from 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [54267/23]

*310. To ask the Minister for Health the number of decision letters issued by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland to non-EU applicants, by country of training and in tabular form for each year from 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [54268/23]

*311. To ask the Minister for Health the number of non-EU applicants who were registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland by country of training and in tabular form, for each year 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — David Cullinane. [54269/23]

*312. To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter in relation to mileage subsistence for those providing palliative care (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [54270/23]

*313. To ask the Minister for Health when a person (details supplied) will receive an appointment; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Michael Healy-Rae. [54272/23]

*314. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) can have treatment at the ophthalmology clinic in Letterkenny University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54275/23]

*315. To ask the Minister for Health if a person (details supplied) can have treatment at the ophthalmology clinic in Letterkenny University Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Pearse Doherty. [54276/23]

*316. To ask the Minister for Health whether his Department has articulated a policy on the roll-out of pulmonary rehabilitation for those patients suffering with lung fibrosis; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Bruton. [54307/23]

*317. To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the public consultation by CORU on its proposed standards of proficiency and criteria for training and the training of psychotherapists that closed on 1 December 2023; whether there was sufficient, in-depth consultation with the professional bodies in reaching the CORU proposals; the process of engagement that took place with the professional bodies to ensure public safety and appropriate quality of training; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — John Lahart. [54308/23]

*318. To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the provision of a new paramedic training facility in Cork which was projected to open to trainees in January 2024; the current projected opening date for the facility; and the cost of the facility. — Holly Cairns. [54312/23]

*319. To ask the Minister for Health if the delayed opening of a new paramedic training facility in Cork is related to budgetary constraints; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [54313/23]

*320. To ask the Minister for Health the number of paramedic trainees who had been issued contracts to train in a new facility in Cork; whether these trainees will be accommodated in other training centres; what assistance is available to trainees who may be asked to change training locations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Holly Cairns. [54314/23]

*321. To ask the Minister for Health the timeline on the recruitment of a coordinator for the Cabra Finglas Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [54330/23]

*322. To ask the Minister for Health the reason for the delay in the recruitment of a new coordinator for the Cabra Finglas Drugs and Alcohol Task Force; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Duncan Smith. [54331/23]

*323. To ask the Minister for Health the rationale of the proposed educational level requirement for registration of psychotherapy and counselling through CORU; for an update on the registration process; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mark Ward. [54333/23]

*324. To ask the Minister for Health the process for pregnant women to obtain the medication cariban under the drugs payment scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54346/23]

*325. To ask the Minister for Health if he will be reviewing the process whereby a consultant must prescribe the medication cariban rather than a general practitioner; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54347/23]

*326. To ask the Minister for Health how the accessibility to the medication cariban in Ireland differs to the international standard practice; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54348/23]

*327. To ask the Minister for Health the number of cariban prescriptions that have been processed through the drug payment scheme to date, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Mairéad Farrell. [54349/23]

*328. To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of private patients in beds in public hospitals as a total percentage of all patients in public hospitals for the 12 months ending October 2021, October 2022 and October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [54362/23]

*329. To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of public patients being cared for in private hospitals as a percentage of the total number of beds available for the 12 months ending October 2021, October 2022 and October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [54363/23]

*330. To ask the Minister for Health the total amount of money collected from private insurers by public hospitals in the years in ending October 2021, October 2022 and October 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Colm Burke. [54364/23]

*331. To ask the Minister for Health if a company will be in a position to begin the diabetic retina screening programme in January 2024 (details supplied); if this organisation has signed its contract with the National Screening Service; the reason the National Screening Service appointed a sole bidder for all of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Róisín Shortall. [54381/23]

*332. To ask the Minister for Health the progress to date in making a permanent appointment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54383/23]

*333. To ask the Minister for Health if the Government intends to become a signatory to the WHO Pandemic Treaty (details supplied); if he will commit to putting this matter to the people in a referendum; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Willie O’Dea. [54385/23]

*334. To ask the Minister for Health the measures that will be implemented to deal with the shortage of home support workers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Brendan Smith. [54400/23]

*335. To ask the Minister for Health the current position in regard to the ongoing treatment at Blanchardstown Hospital in the case of a person (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54409/23]

*336. To ask the Minister for Health if the eleven-year-old son of a person (details supplied) qualifies for dental benefit/assistance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54415/23]

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

*337. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the main policy achievements of his Department in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54292/23]

*338. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science the reason NCEF courses are not included in the Government HEA cost of living package; the reason for their exclusion; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54295/23]

*339. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science when the new International Education Strategy for Ireland is due to be published; and if he will make a statement on the need to have an International Education Strategy in place. — Ivana Bacik. [54351/23]

*340. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science if he is aware of a number of third-level institutions which are refusing to accept cash on-site in college restaurants, shops, and other establishments; and if he is aware of the difficulties this is causing many students. — Louise O’Reilly. [54374/23]

*341. To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science whether the excessive rent costs in the case of a person (details supplied) can be reconsidered on hardship grounds; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Bernard J. Durkan. [54405/23]

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

*342. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development if her Department will provide funding for women's sheds; if so, when the scheme will be open for applications; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Martin Kenny. [54250/23]

*343. To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development the main policy achievements of her Department in 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Alan Dillon. [54289/23]