

## NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 5 June, 2015

### Together: Building a United Community 2015 summer camps

<p>AQO 8114/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Megan Fearon (<i>SF - Newry and Armagh</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the programme of summer camps in 2015 as part of Together: Building a United Community.</b></p> <p>The Summer Camp Pilot Programme 2015 has been widely promoted. It was advertised in the 3 main daily newspapers the Belfast Telegraph, the Irish News and the News Letter - on 15 April. It was also advertised on the Department's website, was tweeted from our Twitter account and was placed on our Facebook page.</p> <p>Over 2,500 stakeholders were also advised when the Programme opened and other key partners including the Community Relations Council, Department of Education, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, Rural Community Network, Education Authority and local Councils were asked to circulate to their stakeholders.</p> <p>The Programme closed for applications on 8 May and the assessment and selection is on track to meet our target of delivering 100 Camps in 2015. The Programme is about building positive relationships among young people aged 11 to 19 from diverse backgrounds across all parts of our community. Camps should be fun and offer a range of age appropriate activities according to young people's interests but good relations-based learning must be at the heart of Camps.</p> <p>Camps must be run on a cross community basis and can be at local or regional level. They will offer young people an opportunity to get to know other young people from different parts of our community, to have fun, to try new experiences and to help to build longer term relationships.</p>
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### Update on Child Poverty Strategy

<p>AQO 8014/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Alex Maskey (<i>SF - West Belfast</i>)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Child Poverty Strategy.</b></p> <p>The Executive's first Child Poverty Strategy 'Improving Children's Life Chances' was published in March 2011. Three Annual Reports have been published, most recently the Third Annual Report on 2 March 2015, providing updates on progress against the Strategy.</p>
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## How OFMDFM engages with stakeholders in relation to the UNCRC

<p>AQO 8010/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Nelson McCausland (DUP - North Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister how their Department engages with stakeholder organisations in relation to international human rights commitments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.</b></p> <p>OFMDFM has lead responsibility for a range of United Nations Conventions.</p> <p>In each of these areas our officials work with officials in appropriate Whitehall departments to provide input to UK state reports, mid-term reports and briefings for delegations attending UN oral examinations. When preparing inputs, OFMDFM officials consult with appropriate departments and relevant stakeholders to identify issues which may be of particular interest to the UN.</p> <p>In regards to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child there is ongoing formal and informal engagement with stakeholders. This engagement supported our contribution to the recent State Party Report on UNCRC. In addition, OFMDFM is currently funding the development of an NGO report on UNCRC.</p>
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## OFMDFM update on outcome of children's budgeting pilot

<p>AQW 44263/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the outcome of the children's budgeting pilot.</b></p> <p>Research is being undertaken for the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner (NICCY) by the Social Research Unit (SRU) in Dartington, to identify the extent and effectiveness of direct public funding provided for services impacting on the well-being of children and young people. OFMDFM officials have been involved in providing data for this project, and other departments have been encouraged to work with NICCY. We await the outcome from NICCY to assess how this work can inform the approach we will take to any budgeting.</p>
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## FGM inclusion in Racial Equality Strategy

<p>AQW 43771/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the issue of female genital mutilation will be included in the Racial Equality Strategy.</b></p> <p>Officials are currently completing the analysis of the 16 week consultation on the revised Racial Equality Strategy. Many issues and concerns were raised within the context of the consultation including female genital mutilation.</p> <p>The issue of FGM engages a number of different departments. The Department of Finance and Personnel, for example, has produced Multi-Agency Guidelines.</p> <p>The guidelines set out a multi-agency response and strategies to encourage agencies to co-operate and work together on the issue. The Department of Justice is taking forward proposals to include provisions relating to FGM in the Serious Crime Bill.</p> <p>The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Education also have a key role to play in tackling this matter.</p>
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## OFMDFM update on children's budgeting pilot

<p>AQW 43430/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p><b>To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the children's budgeting pilot.</b></p> <p>Research is being undertaken for the Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner (NICCY) by the Social Research Unit (SRU) in Dartington to identify the extent and effectiveness of direct public funding being provided for services impacting on the well-being of children and young people.</p> <p>OFMDFM officials have been involved in providing data for this project. Junior Minister Bell and Junior Minister McCann updated the Delivering Social Change (DSC) Programme Board on 21 January 2015, encouraging all departments to work with NICCY in collating the necessary data for this research.</p> <p>We await follow-up from NICCY to assess how this work can inform the approach we will take to any budgeting pilot taking account of available resources in light of budgetary constraints.</p>
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## DEL plans for EMA payments to students

<p>AQW 46314/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Pat Ramsey (SDLP - Foyle)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline any departmental plans to change the payment structure of Educational Maintenance Allowance payments to eligible students. [Priority Written]</b></p> <p>I can advise the member that my Department has no plans to change the payment of the £30 a week means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance, (EMA), every two weeks. The £100 bonuses will continue to be paid twice a year. My Department, and joint owners the Department of Education, carried out an extensive independent review of the EMA scheme, followed by a public consultation, launched on 30 July 2012, for fourteen weeks. The findings of the responses formed the policy changes introduced in academic year 2013/2014. I can confirm a change to how EMA is paid to the student did not form part of the stakeholder's responses to the consultation, nor has it been raised as an issue with my Departmental officials in the past.</p>
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## DSD actions and their effect since introduction of the Autism Strategy

<p>AQW 46121/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Jim Allister (TUV - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister for Social Development what innovative actions, and with what effect, have been taken since the introduction of the Autism Strategy.</b></p> <p>I am fully committed to the Autism Strategy and to delivering on the appropriate commitments contained within the associated Autism Action Plan. Officials from my Department are members of the Autism Strategy Inter-departmental Senior Officials Group and the Autism Strategy Regional Multi-Agency Implementation Team.</p> <p>As part of the work arising from the Autism Action Plan officials in my Department working with Autism NI developed an autism factsheet and associated training material which has been delivered to just over 2000 front line staff across my Department. Going forward a new e-learning Disability Awareness course giving general advice on autism has been developed by the Centre for Applied Learning and will be mandatory for all new front line staff within my Department.</p> <p>Since the launch of the Autism Strategy and accompanying Action Plan the Improving Benefit Uptake team in the Social Security Agency has been part of a multi-agency advisory team facilitating the Adult Autism Advice Services based in both Ballymena and Belfast. That team also supports the work of the Western Adult Autism Service which covers the Londonderry, Strabane, Omagh and Enniskillen areas.</p>
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		<p>Involvement with the Adult Autism Advice Services enables the Social Security Agency to provide essential support and advice to individuals aged 16 years or over who have autism. Part of this support includes a full, comprehensive and confidential benefit entitlement check to ensure that individuals and their families receive all the benefits and support that they are entitled to.</p> <p>Through the Supporting People programme my Department is committed to the provision of a range of supported housing options for people with disabilities including those people with autism.</p> <p>The Supporting People programme funds a number of accommodation and floating support services across Northern Ireland specifically for adult clients with autism. 22% of the overall Supporting People budget is used to provide housing support services to people with a disability including those people with autism.</p> <p>My Department's Interdepartmental Review of Housing Adaptations Services with the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety has identified the need for further research into the housing design needs of people with autism. The Housing Executive is co-ordinating the review on behalf of the two departments.</p>
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### DCAL budget for its tackling poverty initiative

<p>AQW 46286/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what is the 2015-16 budget for her Department's tackling poverty initiative and how much of this is capital funding.</b></p> <p>All of the activity supported by my Department is focussed on the Promoting Equality, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion (PETPSE) agenda, aimed at improving the lives of those most in need. This includes the activity undertaken directly by the Department as well that of our Arm's Length Bodies.</p> <p>There is no specific grant scheme administered by my Department in relation to PETPSE as this agenda underpins all departmental activity and is the central driving force to DCAL's core functions.</p>
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## DCAL actions and their effect since introduction of the Autism Strategy

<p>AQW 46116/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Jim Allister (TUV - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what innovative actions, and with what effect, have been taken by her Department since the introduction of the Autism Strategy.</b></p> <p>My Department supports the Autism Strategy through our commitment to establishing activity programmes that raise participation levels of people with autism through cultural, arts and leisure activities. My Department is also committed to raising awareness amongst staff and our service providers on the needs of people with autism, their families and carers. A wide range of initiatives and activities delivered by my Department and its Arms Length Bodies have contributed to the delivery of the Autism Strategy. These have included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sport NI providing funding of £6,261 to Autism Initiatives NI under the Active Awards for Sport Programme to provide Balance-ability training for two staff to deliver a 'Learn to Cycle' Programme for children under 16 years who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Project delivered 3 programmes for a total of 90 children in 3 areas of the north of Ireland. This involved 44 participants. In the current round of Active Awards for Sport, Sport NI are assessing a further projects including an application from Autism Initiatives NI to develop and deliver autism specific swimming lessons for children.</li> <li>● DCAL's Inland Fisheries Group has established a Community Outreach Team to increase participation in angling either directly or through Angling First Ltd. Inland Fisheries Group has provided £10k to Angling First Ltd to support the use of angling to address a range of issues including Autism. Groups reached so far include St Joseph Boys PS, Down Residential Project, Larchwood Care, Spring Meadows, Mountfern Adult Centre and Extern Fermanagh/Enniskillen.</li> <li>● The Arts Council support the Drake Music Project which facilitates access to independent music making for children and adults with complex disabilities. This year they will deliver music programmes which use state of the art technologies to those with visual impairment, physical disability, hearing impairment, autism, learning disabilities, dyspraxia and ADHD. The workshops provide support to the carers, parents, peers and siblings associated with target groups.</li> </ul>
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- Drake Music also delivers outreach workshops in schools and daycentres with partnership groups such as Brian Injury Matters, Headway, Cedar Foundation and both the South Eastern Health and Social Services Trust and the Western Health and Social Services Trust. This initiative has a target of 126 attendees per week over the course of the year and a target audience of 1080.

- Autism NI has been National Museums NI's 'Charity of the Year' for the last two years. During that period, National Museums has raised awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorder through a range of initiatives including a Children's Art Exhibition at the Ulster Museum, a light show at the Ulster Museum during Autism Awareness month, prominent display of Autism NI merchandise at all sites and providing complimentary family passes for distribution to Charity members. Representatives of Autism NI delivered training to front-of-house staff to enhance the visitor experience for people on the autism spectrum.

- Libraries NI has run Music Therapy and Read Aloud sessions across a range of age groups and across a number of libraries. There are a number of other examples of local libraries working with individuals who are on the autism spectrum, autism units in schools and adult groups either regularly or on a one-off basis.

- On 21 January 2015 Belfast Central Library hosted the launch of a strategic partnership with the Cedar Foundation's and its new signposting and information service for people with autism. The service operates weekly from Belfast Central Library and also from libraries in Derry, Omagh and Enniskillen.

- At Armagh Observatory two individuals with ASD benefit from therapeutic work-experience 3-4 hours per week providing personal development such as improved communication and computer skills with the support of a job coach provided by Mencap. Armagh Planetarium offers free visits to all forty special schools in the north of Ireland. To date, twenty three schools have accepted the invitation, benefitting 447 children including those with autism.

To continue to raise awareness of autism, my Department has promoted World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April 2015, by issuing an Autism Factsheet across the Department including all its ALBs.

My Department will continue to make a significant contribution to deliver the Autism Strategy and developments taking place across the north of Ireland with a view to identifying opportunities for further engagement and provision.

## DE protocols for schools seeking a temporary variation in enrolment

<p>AQW 46641/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Danny Kinahan (UUP - South Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the protocol for schools seeking a temporary variation in their enrolment figures.</b></p> <p>The policy and procedure by which schools can seek a temporary variation of their admission and/or enrolment numbers is explained in detail in the Department's Circular 2015/03, which can be viewed on the DE website at <a href="http://www.deni.gov.uk">www.deni.gov.uk</a>.</p>
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## Update from DE on development proposals

<p>AQW 46622/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the (i) development proposals awaiting decisions; and (ii) timescale for those decisions.</b></p> <p>A list of published Development Proposals (DPs) awaiting decisions is available on my Department's website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/area-planning/14-schools_estate_devprop_pg/current_development_proposals.htm">http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/area-planning/14-schools_estate_devprop_pg/current_development_proposals.htm</a></p> <p>As outlined in Circular 2014/21, I endeavour to make a decision on each DP as soon as practicable following the end of the statutory two month objection period. However, the time taken can vary depending on the individual circumstances of each proposal.</p>
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## DE Minister's assessment of this year's preschool nursery provision

<p>AQO 8291/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Sydney Anderson (DUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education for his assessment of this year's pre-school nursery provision.</b></p> <p>As members are aware, the Executive has a Programme for Government commitment to ensure at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.</p> <p>The admissions process for 2015/16 has just concluded and parents whose children had not been placed at the end of stage one received letters on Saturday 30 May advising them if their child had been placed at stage two. I am pleased to advise members that for 2015/16 admissions 99.8% of children whose parents stayed with the admissions process received the offer of a funded pre-school place:</p> <p>To set this in context: applications for 2015/16 admissions have increased by over 400; almost 450 more children have been placed and almost 200</p>
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		<p>more children placed in their first preference setting. A total of 39 children, whose parents engaged with the process to the end remain unplaced. Places remain available in settings in all regions and I would encourage the parents of children who have not been placed to stay in contact with their local region of the Education Authority.</p>
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## DE provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for pupils

<p>AQO 8290/11-15</p>	<p>Mrs Karen McKevitt (SDLP - South Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what percentage of post-primary schools provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation training to pupils on an annual basis.</b></p> <p>The Department does not collate information on the specific topics that pupils are taught about in the classroom.</p> <p>The minimum of what should be taught in our schools is detailed in legislation as high level Areas of Learning and within this framework schools can introduce topics, make connections and draw on a wide range of resources from a range of sources to meet the needs of their pupils.</p> <p>The Areas of Learning provide opportunities for schools to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for their pupils through Personal Development and Mutual Understanding in primary school and Learning for Life and Work in post-primary school but the decision to take up such opportunities is a matter for each teacher/school.</p> <p>The Department of Education does recognise that this is an important issue and we will be working with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in taking forward implementation of its Community Resuscitation Strategy. This will include facilitating the availability of CPR training resources through the C2k ICT managed service.</p>
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## Latest projections for primary school enrolment over next 5 years

<p>AQO 8287/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Edwin Poots (DUP - Lagan Valley)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to outline the latest projections for primary school enrolments over the next five years.</b></p> <p>The actual 2014/15 primary school (years 1-7) enrolments are 165,548. The most recent projected enrolments for grant-aided primary schools are published on my Department's website and are based on the 2013/14 enrolment data and population projections:</p> <p>The projected 2015/16 enrolments are 166,946. The projected 2016/17 enrolments are 169,334.</p>
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		<p>The projected 2017/18 enrolments are 170,862.          The projected 2018/19 enrolments are 171,350.          The projected 2019/20 enrolments are 170,580.          The projected figures based on 2014/15 school census data and population projections will be published in August.</p>
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### DE update on proposed hydrotherapy pool for Roddensvale Special School

<p>AQO 8286/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Oliver McMullan (SF - East Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the proposed hydrotherapy pool for Roddensvale Special School, Larne.</b></p> <p>The economic appraisal for the hydrotherapy pool at Roddensvale has been approved and the pool will be installed when capital budget becomes available.</p> <p>As Roddensvale School is a controlled special school it is the responsibility of the Education Authority (EA). I understand that the scheme has been fully designed and a competition to appoint a contractor is underway however given the significant cut to the EA's minor works capital budget for FY15/16 it is not currently possible to confirm a projected date for delivery of this project. Both I and the EA remain committed to this scheme but the timing of delivery remains dependent upon the available budget.</p>
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### Support for pupils with a statement of special educational needs

<p>AQW 46529/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Gary Middleton (DUP - Foyle)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education whether he will consider an alternative to the provision of a classroom assistant for pupils of secondary school age if a mentor is more appropriate for their needs.</b></p> <p>A statement of special educational needs details the educational and non-educational provision, as agreed by all relevant parties, needed to meet the individual needs of the child concerned. The Education Authority is bound by legislation to provide the specific support detailed in the statement, including a classroom assistant if appropriate.</p>
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## Makeup of Board of Governors

<p>AQW 46527/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr John McCallister (IND - South Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what action his Department has taken to ensure the Board of Governors in schools of all management types are more reflective of the religious, cultural and socio economic makeup of the local population.</b></p> <p>School Boards of Governors are comprised of different groups of people. Typically there will be individuals nominated by the Trustees or Transferors, individuals nominated or appointed by my Department, parent governors and teacher governors.</p> <p>School governors are volunteers and those nominated or appointed by my Department self nominate in response to publicised opportunities. I recognise the value in having diversity amongst governors and to this end my Department, when re-constituting Boards of Governors, advertises governor opportunities widely in an effort to attract applications from all walks of life. All applications are welcome.</p>
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## Extent of bullying in primary schools

<p>AQW 46416/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Gregory Campbell (DUP - East Londonderry)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to estimate the extent of bullying in primary schools between 2009 and 2014.</b></p> <p>There is currently no requirement for schools to report bullying incidents and no detailed figures for levels of bullying in primary or secondary schools are available.</p> <p>DE collates annual statistics on the total number of suspensions and expulsions, including those occurring as a result of bullying behaviour. These are available at: <a href="http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/education-statistics/suspensions-and-expulsions.htm">http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/education-statistics/suspensions-and-expulsions.htm</a> .These returns, however, only analyse the recorded cause for all suspensions / expulsions and do not distinguish between primary and post-primary schools.</p> <p>The Department undertakes periodic research into the bullying experiences of pupils. The most recent research report (<i><b>The Nature and Extent of Bullying in Schools in the North of Ireland, 2011</b></i>) surveyed 60 primary schools and interviewed 904 Year 6 pupils. It found that 39% of the Year 6 pupils reported being bullied at school in the 2 months preceding the survey. This compares to previous reports which found 43% of Year 6 pupils surveyed in 2007 and 40% of those surveyed in 2002 reported being bullied.</p> <p>This research uses a wide and inclusive definition of bullying and records</p>
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		<p>behaviours which may have occurred only once or twice. The figures quoted should therefore only be considered indicative. The full report, which provides a much more detailed analysis, is available at: <a href="http://www.deni.gov.uk/no_56_report_final_2011.pdf">http://www.deni.gov.uk/no_56_report_final_2011.pdf</a></p> <p>I believe the paucity of reliable, quantitative data on bullying in schools hinders each school's ability to monitor the problem and assess the effectiveness of their policies in addressing it. It also hinders the ability of DE to monitor the true scale and nature of the problem, identify emerging trends and ensure appropriate policies are in place to respond to this difficult issue.</p> <p>I have therefore included a requirement for all grant-aided schools to monitor and record bullying incidents as part of an Anti-Bullying Bill which I will soon be introducing to the Assembly.</p>
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### DE update on Atlantic Philanthropies Shared Education programme

<p>AQW 46372/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the Atlantic Philanthropies Shared Education programme; and whether funding will be made available for the Together: Building a United Community commitment to roll out a nursery and primary school buddy system.</b></p> <p>The Delivering Social Change Shared Education Signature Project is jointly funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, the Department of Education and Atlantic Philanthropies. The first call of the application process closed on 18 December. Thirty two partnership applications involving seventy three schools have been approved with a further ten partnerships being invited to resubmit after addressing identified issues.</p> <p>A second call for applications closed on 22 May. The Education Authority is currently assessing the applications prior to approval by the Project Board and it is anticipated that all applicants will be informed of its decision before the end of June.</p> <p>The nursery and primary school buddy scheme is a separate commitment within Together: Building a United Community. The position on the implementation of this commitment remains as set out in my reply to AQW 45699/11-15.</p>
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### Children with Special Educational Needs and previous statements from other UK

## jurisdictions

<p>AQW 46305/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Basil McCrea (NI21 - Lagan Valley)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education how many children requiring statements of Special Educational Needs have had previous statements from other UK jurisdictions, in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency.</b></p> <p>The Education Authority has advised that four of the five regions do not hold this information.</p> <p>The South Eastern region does not hold this information by constituency but has advised that the number of children who received statements in the north of Ireland who had previous statements in England, Scotland or Wales was as follows:</p> <p>1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011 - 6          1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 - 5          1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013 - 5          1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014 - *          1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015 - *</p> <p>*denotes fewer than 5 pupils suppressed due to potential identification of individual pupils.</p>
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## Number of children who have received statements of Special Educational Needs

<p>AQW 46304/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Basil McCrea (NI21 - Lagan Valley)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education how many children have received statements of Special Educational Needs in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency.</b></p> <p>This information is not held by constituency. The Education Authority has advised that the number of children who received statements of special educational needs, broken down by region, was as follows:</p> <p><b>April 2010 – March 2011</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="598 1637 1396 1951"> <tr> <td>Belfast</td> <td>389</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Eastern</td> <td>296</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Eastern</td> <td>368</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern</td> <td>327</td> </tr> </table>	Belfast	389	North Eastern	296	South Eastern	368	Southern	327
Belfast	389									
North Eastern	296									
South Eastern	368									
Southern	327									

Western	274
<b>Total</b>	<b>1654</b>

**April 2011 – March 2012**

Belfast	382
North Eastern	335
South Eastern	318
Southern	389
Western	327
<b>Total</b>	<b>1751</b>

**April 2012 – March 2013**

Belfast	320
North Eastern	396
South Eastern	521
Southern	414
Western	356
<b>Total</b>	<b>2007</b>

**April 2013 – March 2014**

Belfast	444
North Eastern	400
South Eastern	520
Southern	446
Western	427

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>2237</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>April 2014 – March 2015</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belfast</td> <td>455</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Eastern</td> <td>433</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Eastern</td> <td>685</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern</td> <td>468</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western</td> <td>484</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>2525</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2237</b>	<b>April 2014 – March 2015</b>		Belfast	455	North Eastern	433	South Eastern	685	Southern	468	Western	484	<b>Total</b>	<b>2525</b>
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### DE update on free schools meals and other benefits in advance of Welfare Reform

AQW 46208/11- 15	Mr Samuel Gardiner MBE (UUP - Upper Bann)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education for an update on discussions within his Department regarding the future criteria for eligibility for free school meals and any other passported benefits in advance of Welfare Reform.</b></p> <p>In advance of agreement of the Welfare Reform Bill in the Assembly, some preliminary consideration was given to the identification of potential options for determining eligibility for free school meals under Universal Credit. However, as no agreement has been reached to date on how Welfare Reform, including Universal Credit, will be implemented here, this work has not been progressed.</p>
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### Provision of sign language training for parents of deaf children

AQW 46189/11- 15	Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what provision is in place, or being considered, to provide sign language training for the parents of deaf children.</b></p> <p>The Education Authority has advised that while it facilitates limited training for parents of deaf children through the National Deaf Children's Society, its priority has been and will continue to be provision of direct support to children and young people with hearing loss.</p>
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## Early intervention and help for parents of deaf children

<p>AQW 46188/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education what coordination is taking place between his Department and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to ensure early intervention and help for parents of deaf children.</b></p> <p>I remain committed to the close collaboration between the Education and Health sectors, and other Departments, in supporting pupils with special educational needs, including those with a hearing loss.</p> <p>As an example of coordination between the sectors to help ensure early intervention, The Education (NI) Order 1996, Article 14, places a duty on Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTS) to inform the Education Authority, after consulting with the parent, that a child who has not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age has, or probably has, special educational needs (SEN). In addition, if the EA is to undertake a statutory assessment, it will seek the advice of the HSCT's in relation to children with a hearing loss.</p> <p>To further facilitate intervention as early as possible close liaison is maintained at all times with all relevant parties, including Health professionals and parents, to ensure that an appropriate network of support is available as soon as possible following diagnosis by Health professionals, tailored to the individual needs of each child.</p> <p>Once a child with hearing loss has been brought to the attention of the Education Authority, which may be through the New Born Hearing Screening Programme, specific support services will be provided by Qualified Teachers of the Deaf and other support staff for children and parents. Support for parents may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to assist them in adjusting to deafness in a child;</li> <li>Provision of information on the nature and impact of deafness;</li> <li>Provision of information to inform their decision making about communication approaches and education options;</li> <li>Advice regarding the effective use and maintenance of hearing aids/cochlear implants at home;</li> </ul> <p>Co-ordinating and facilitating contact with other families with deaf children, professionals and voluntary organisations.</p> <p>My Department will continue to work closely with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and other key Departments/Agencies to ensure that joined up working is effective for those children and young people with hearing loss who rely on the services of more than one sector.</p>
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## DE promotion and support of youth work in rural areas

<p>AQW 46181/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education how his Department is promoting and supporting youth work in rural areas, to reflect the aims and objectives of Priorities for Youth: Improving young people's lives through youth work.</b></p> <p>Priorities for Youth states that targeted youth provision will be supported to meet the needs of young people living in rural isolation as they may be at greater risk of social inclusion, marginalisation or isolation because they experience a combination of barriers to learning.</p> <p>The future planning, funding and delivery of youth work will be based on composite assessment of local and regional need by the Education Authority and the Youth Council. A Regional Youth Development Plan for 2015-16, informed through stakeholder engagement in the form of the Regional Advisory Group, has been developed to address the Department's priorities in the regional and local context.</p>
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## Updates to Priorities for Youth to compliment new Education Authority

<p>AQW 46180/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education whether his Department will update Priorities for Youth: Improving young people's lives through youth work, to compliment the new Education Authority.</b></p> <p>Schedule 2 (Paragraph 4) of the Education Act provides that any reference to a dissolved body in any statutory provision or document shall, from 1 April 2015, be construed as a reference to the Education Authority. This means that the Department does not need to make large numbers of amendments to regulations or documents merely to substitute references to the ELBs or Staff Commission with references to the Education Authority.</p> <p>Priorities for Youth is currently being implemented, by the Education Authority and the Youth Council, collaboratively as appropriate, through a phased approach with full implementation expected by the end of 2016.</p>
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## Update on when the Strategic Review of Integrated Education will start

<p>AQW 46171/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education when the Strategic Review of Integrated Education will commence.</b></p> <p>I am currently considering the advantages and disadvantages of a number of potential options for a future review of integrated education.</p>
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## Funding for shared campus and shared education projects

<p>AQW 46170/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the funding committed by his Department for (i) shared campus projects; (ii) shared education projects.</b></p> <p>The Shared Education Signature Project is a £25m project, jointly funded by Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdfM), Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) and Department of Education (DE). DE have committed £5m for the period up to June 2018.</p>
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## Primary school admission when address changes post application

<p>AQW 46108/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education whether a primary school can approve and then revoke a child's admission to the school if the child moved address post application, and no longer qualifies on the basis of distance.</b></p> <p>Where a school is oversubscribed with applications it is required to rank the applicants based on the school's published admissions criteria in order to distinguish which children it can accept to the last available place. Places are allocated based on the information provided by the parent/guardian on the child's application form.</p> <p>The Board of Governors has a duty to verify "qualifying information" contained within applications to its school if, at the point of applying the admissions criteria, it has "general knowledge or belief" of a problem with false information within applications. The duty to verify is established at the point where a school applies its admissions criteria. Parents are provided the opportunity to update application information during the application process, however there is no legal duty to do so. It is a matter for the school's Board of Governors to decide how to treat applications from children whose addresses changed post application.</p> <p>The Board of Governors, as the admissions authority within the Open Enrolment process, is responsible for setting the admissions criteria that will</p>
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		<p>be used to determine which pupils to admit. The Department plays no role in the setting of these criteria. The Department, however, provides guidance on the duty of a Board of Governors to verify application information by way of a Circular issued to all schools. This information can be found on the Departmental website at <a href="http://www.@deni.gov.uk">www.@deni.gov.uk</a> Circular 2013/24 'Guidance on a School's Duty to Verify Application Information'.</p>
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### Primary school admissions and changes in entrance requirements

<p>AQW 46106/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education whether a parent is obliged to inform a primary school of a change of circumstances in the weeks following an application which would mean their child no longer meets the entrance requirements.</b></p> <p>Where a school is oversubscribed with applications it is required to rank the applicants based on the school's published admissions criteria in order to distinguish which children it can accept to the last available place. Places are allocated based on the information provided by the parent/guardian on the child's application form.</p> <p>The Board of Governors has a duty to verify "qualifying information" contained within applications to its school if, at the point of applying the admissions criteria, it has "general knowledge or belief" of a problem with false information within applications. The duty to verify is established at the point where a school applies its admissions criteria. Parents are provided the opportunity to update application information during the application process, however there is no legal duty to do so. It is a matter for the school's Board of Governors to decide how to treat applications from children whose addresses changed post application.</p> <p>The Board of Governors, as the admissions authority within the Open Enrolment process, is responsible for setting the admissions criteria that will be used to determine which pupils to admit. The Department plays no role in the setting of these criteria. The Department, however, provides guidance on the duty of a Board of Governors to verify application information by way of a Circular issued to all schools. This information can be found on the Departmental website at <a href="http://www.@deni.gov.uk">www.@deni.gov.uk</a> Circular 2013/24 'Guidance on a School's Duty to Verify Application Information'.</p>
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## Number of sign language interpreters in schools with deaf pupils

<p>AQW 46053/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Education how many sign language interpreters have been provided for deaf pupils in local schools in each of the last five years.</b></p> <p>The Education Authority has advised that the number of sign language interpreters provided for deaf pupils in each of the last five financial years is as follows:</p> <p>2010/11 - 3 2011/12 - 2 2012/13 - 3 2013/14 - 3 2014/15 - 5</p>
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## Local council powers to stop the sale of legal highs

<p>AQW 46243/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Alex Easton (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what powers do local councils have to stop the sale of legal highs.</b></p> <p>Currently local councils have no specific powers to stop the sale of New Psychoactive Substances (so called 'legal highs'). However, several councils in Northern Ireland have used powers under the General Products Safety Regulations 2005 to apply for an order for the forfeiture of a product on the grounds that it is dangerous and there is inadequate labelling and safety information on such substances. Action taken by Belfast City Council, in partnership with the PSNI and the Attorney General, has led to an injunction against one operator and subsequently 3 people being sentenced in court. Belfast City Council believes this action has closed all the "headshops" operating in the city.</p> <p>Following lobbying from my Department, the UK Government is currently developing UK-wide legislation to provide a blanket ban on the sale and supply of New Psychoactive Substances. Consideration is being given to how this legislation could be enforced and it is possible that further powers could be given to local councils in this regard.</p>
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## Numbers of speech therapists in the Western Health and Social Care Trust

AQW  
46234/11-  
15

Ms  
Caitríona  
Ruane  
(SF -  
South  
Down)

**To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of full time speech therapists in the Western Health and Social Care Trust, excluding those on maternity leave and long term illness, in each of the last five years to date.**

HSC Trusts have supplied the following information. The tables below show the number of full-time staff, the total headcount and the total whole-time equivalent (WTE) for each service at 31st March in each year.

### Northern HSC Trust

Year	Full-Time Staff	Total Headcount	Total WTE
2011	44	89	73.70
2012	54	100	83.06
2013	55	102	86.07
2014	55	96	81.46
2015	50	100	83.35

### South Eastern HSC Trust

Year	Full-Time Staff	Total Headcount	Total WTE
2011	32	68	57.03
2012	25	65	52.24
2013	30	72	58.01
2014	33	74	61.02
2015	34	73	61.06

Southern HSC Trust

Year	Full-Time Staff	Total Headcount	Total WTE
2011	36	70	54.96
2012	37	65	52.55
2013	34	79	58.54
2014	31	72	55.06
2015	29	71	51.54

Western HSC Trust

Year	Full-Time Staff	Total Headcount	Total WTE
2011	27	54	46.45
2012	32	58	50.29
2013	31	59	51.98
2014	34	61	54.26
2015	30	60	52.45

## Waiting times for adult and child referrals to mental health services

AQW  
46163/11  
-15

Mr  
Roy  
Beggs  
(UUP -  
East  
Antrim  
)

To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the current waiting time for an (a) adult; and (b) child referral to mental health services; and (ii) the number of individuals awaiting their first professional assessment, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

(a) Table 1 overleaf details the current waiting times for adults referred for mental health services at 30 April 2015 by Health and Social Care Trust.

**Table 1**

HSC Trust	Waiting Times					Total
	0 – 3 weeks	>3 – 6 weeks	>6 – 9 weeks	>9 – 13 weeks	>13 weeks	
<b>Belfast</b>	593	306	156	46	20	<b>1,121</b>
<b>Northern</b>	672	322	135	0	0	<b>1,129</b>
<b>South Eastern</b>	310	156	21	0	0	<b>487</b>
<b>Southern</b>	494	381	305	148	17	<b>1,345</b>
<b>Western</b>	385	236	136	52	5	<b>814</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4,896</b>

(i)(b) Table 2 below details the current waiting times for children to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services at 30 April 2015 by Health and Social Care Trust.

**Table 2**

HSC Trust	Waiting Times					Total
	0 – 3 weeks	>3 – 6 weeks	>6 – 9 weeks	>9 – 13 weeks	>13 weeks	
Belfast	162	82	44	1	0	<b>289</b>
Northern	63	39	44	60	23	<b>229</b>
South Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Southern	42	21	20	0	0	<b>83</b>
Western	116	71	67	10	0	<b>264</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>865</b>

(ii) Table 3 below details the total number of individuals awaiting their first professional assessment at 30 April 2015 by Health and Social Care Trust area.

**Table 3**

HSC Trust	No. of individuals waiting first professional assessment
Belfast	1,410
Northern	1,358
South Eastern	487
Southern	1,428
Western	1,078
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,761</b>

### Appointment of a Paediatric Gastroenterology consultant in the WHSC Trust

<p>AQW 46072/11-15</p>	<p>Ms Michaela Boyle (SF - West Tyrone)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he plans to appoint a Paediatric Gastroenterology consultant in the Western Health and Social Care Trust.</b></p> <p>Recruitment matters are the responsibility of HSC Employers. At present Paediatric Gastroenterology is a specialist tertiary service commissioned for the whole of Northern Ireland and delivered by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. The Western Health and Social Care Trust has advised me that there are no plans to appoint a consultant in this specialty area.</p>
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### Measures to address shortage in the Paediatric Gastroenterology Department at the Royal

<p>AQW 46071/11-15</p>	<p>Ms Michaela Boyle (SF - West Tyrone)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to address the shortage of consultants in the Paediatric Gastroenterology Department in the Royal Victoria Hospital.</b></p> <p>Recruitment matters are the responsibility of HSC employers. The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has advised me that it currently employs two consultants and one nurse specialist in the Paediatric Gastroenterology Department in the Royal Victoria Hospital. At present one consultant is currently on a leave of absence and the Trust is in the process of appointing a locum to cover this post and is in discussion with the Health and Social Care Board regarding an increase in the number of theatre lists to reduce waiting times for patients.</p>
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### HSSPS actions and their effect since the introduction of the Autism Strategy

<p>AQW 46027/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Jim Allister (TUV - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what innovative actions, and with what effect, have been taken since the introduction of the Autism Strategy.</b></p> <p>It is intended that an update on the progress of the cross-departmental Autism Strategy (2013 - 2020) and Action Plan (2013 - 2016) will be shared with the Assembly by the end of June 2015.</p>
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## Delivery of NICE guidelines on autism

<p>AQW 46026/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Jim Allister (TUV - North Antrim)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of how far his Department is succeeding in adhering to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines on autism.</b></p> <p>Substantial progress has been made in Northern Ireland in delivering NICE Clinical Guidelines <b>CG 128 'Autism Diagnosis in Children and Young People'</b> and <b>CG 170 'The Management and Support of Children and Young People on the Autism Spectrum'</b>, through the Six Steps of Autism Care regional model.</p> <p>However, full implementation in achieving standard timescales from referral to assessment, assessment to diagnosis, and then to appropriate intervention, are not presently being met, as a result of the very considerable increase in referrals and the inability of current service capacity to meet this demand.</p>
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## HSSPS funding for children's respite care

<p>AQW 46000/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP - South Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the funding allocations to children's respite care, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust in (i) 2014/15; and (ii) 2015/16.</b></p> <p>As respite care is provided across a number of Programmes of Care, information on Health and Social Care Trust's funding allocations to children's respite services is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.</p>
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## Number of people treated for self harm and suicidal thoughts, including under 16's

<p>AQW 45898/11 -15</p>	<p>Mr Samuel Gardine r MBE (UUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people were treated in each Emergency Department for self-harm and/or suicidal thoughts in (i) 2014/15; (ii) 2011/12; and (iii) 2007/08; and to detail how many were aged under 16 years old.</b></p> <p>Information on the number of people treated for self-harm and/or suicidal thoughts is not available. However, information is available on the number of self-harm and suicidal ideations (thoughts) presentations at emergency care departments, and is detailed in the table overleaf.</p> <p>This information is sourced from the Northern Ireland (NI) Registry of Self-Harm which was implemented in all five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts on 1st April 2012, and information is therefore not available prior to this date. Information is however, available for emergency care departments in the</p>
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Western HSC Trust, from 2007/08 onwards, as the register was piloted in this HSC Trust in 2007.

**Number of Self-harm and Suicidal Ideation Presentations 1 at Emergency Care Departments (2007/08, 2011/12 and 2014/15)**

Department	2007/08		2011/12		2014/15 2	
	Under 16	Total	Under 16	Total	Under 16	Total
Mater	-	-	-	-	36	858
Royal Victoria	-	-	-	-	51	1,280
RBHSC	-	-	-	-	6	16
Antrim Area	-	-	-	-	49	981
Causeway	-	-	-	-	15	367
Downe	-	-	-	-	3	56
Lagan Valley	-	-	-	-	8	115
Ulster	-	-	-	-	48	782
Craigavon Area	-	-	-	-	43	904
Daisy Hill	-	-	-	-	19	345
Altnagelvin Area	32	997	26	983	34	880
South West Acute	9	217	5	363	26	365
Tyrone	4	225				

		County 3					
<p>1 The number of presentations does not equal the number of individuals, as an individual can present to an emergency care department more than once</p> <p>2 Includes provisional information for the period 1st April 2014 – 31st December 2014</p> <p>3 Tyrone County stopped acute services on 1st April 2012</p>							

### Waiting lists at the Royal Hospital for sick children

<p>AQW 45075/1 1-15</p>	<p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP - South Belfast)</p>	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the waiting lists across all medical disciplines at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.</b></p> <p>Information on the number of patients waiting, in weeks, to receive (i) a first outpatient appointment, (ii) a diagnostic test and (iii) inpatient treatment at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) is shown below.</p> <p><b>(i) Number of patients waiting, in weeks, to receive a <u>first consultant led outpatient appointment</u> at the RBHSC, at 9th April 2015</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8">Number of patients waiting, in weeks, to receive a <u>first consultant led outpatient appointment</u> at the RBHSC, at 9th April 2015</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>0-6 weeks</th> <th>&gt;6-9 weeks</th> <th>&gt;9-12 weeks</th> <th>&gt;12-15 weeks</th> <th>&gt;15-18 weeks</th> <th>&gt;18 weeks</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>RBHSC</b></td> <td>1,894</td> <td>747</td> <td>558</td> <td>264</td> <td>252</td> <td>1,527</td> <td><b>5,242</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>(ii) Number of patients waiting, in weeks, for a <u>diagnostic test</u> at the RBHSC, at 13th April 2015</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="8">Number of patients waiting, in weeks, for a diagnostic test at the RBHSC, at 13th April 2015</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>0-6 weeks</th> <th>&gt;6-9 weeks</th> <th>&gt;9-13 weeks</th> <th>&gt;13-21 weeks</th> <th>&gt;21-26 weeks</th> <th>&gt;26 weeks</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number of patients waiting, in weeks, to receive a <u>first consultant led outpatient appointment</u> at the RBHSC, at 9th April 2015									0-6 weeks	>6-9 weeks	>9-12 weeks	>12-15 weeks	>15-18 weeks	>18 weeks	Total	<b>RBHSC</b>	1,894	747	558	264	252	1,527	<b>5,242</b>	Number of patients waiting, in weeks, for a diagnostic test at the RBHSC, at 13th April 2015									0-6 weeks	>6-9 weeks	>9-13 weeks	>13-21 weeks	>21-26 weeks	>26 weeks	Total								
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<b>RBHSC</b>	233	11	4	0	0	0	<b>248</b>
<b>Number of patients waiting, in weeks, to receive <u>inpatient treatment</u> at the RBHSC, at 9th April 2015</b>							
<b>Number of patients waiting, in weeks, to receive inpatient treatment at the RBHSC, at 9th April 2015</b>							
	<b>0-6 weeks</b>	<b>&gt;6-13 weeks</b>	<b>&gt;13-21 weeks</b>	<b>&gt;21-26 weeks</b>	<b>&gt;26 weeks</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<b>RBHSC</b>	179	305	271	169	403	<b>1,327</b>	

### Role of social media in the trial process and impact for young people

AQW 46138/11-15	Mr David McIlveen (DUP - North Antrim)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Justice what strategy his Department has in place to respond to the increasing role of social media in the trial process and the repercussions for young people.</b></p> <p>There is no specific Justice strategy in place for this. I am aware of concerns about young people making inappropriate, ill-advised or indeed criminal use of social media. This would need a broader consideration than from the justice perspective, and a wider range of Departments and organisations would have an interest in this matter.</p>
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### Strategy to reduce delays in criminal court cases involving young defendants

AQW 46131/11-15	Mr David McIlveen (DUP - North Antrim)	<p><b>To ask the Minister of Justice what strategy his Department has in place to reduce delays in criminal court cases involving young defendants.</b></p> <p>I am overseeing an ambitious and far-reaching programme of work to transform the performance of the criminal justice system through a range of procedural and legislative reforms.</p> <p>The programme has given a particular focus to cases involving young people and has already delivered Youth Engagement Clinics which provide additional support to young people at an early stage in proceedings to help them make better informed decisions about their case. Early indications are that this initiative, which was developed to begin to prepare the system in</p>
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		<p>anticipation of statutory time limits in the Youth Court, has the potential to free up capacity by reducing the number of cases that proceed to court unnecessarily and are then withdrawn for a diversionary disposal to be administered.</p> <p>My officials are also working with justice partners to improve the timeliness of forensic evidence and medical reports which tend to be the main causes of delay in youth cases.</p> <p>In addition, the Justice Bill which is currently before the Assembly will deliver crucial reforms to improve performance in youth cases by streamlining the summons process and providing for the introduction of statutory case management, which will place a general duty on everyone in the system to expedite cases.</p>
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