

## **NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015**

- **Childcare Payments Bill**
- **Oversubscribed Primary School Places – South Belfast**
- **Middletown Centre**
- **Special Educational Needs Assessments**
- **Special Educational Needs Assessments**
- **Integrated Status Criteria**
- **Conflict Related Costs – Education Sector**
- **Staff Costs**
- **Together Building a United Community Buddy Scheme**
- **Home to School Transport Review**
- **Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland Recommendations**
- **GCSE Grades**
- **STEM Subject for A-Level**

- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Strategy**
- **Child Protection Register**
- **Banning Smoking in Private Vehicles Carrying Children**
- **Mental Health**
- **Adoption Applications**
- **Transfer of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery to Dublin**
- **Transforming Your Care Review**
- **MRI Scanning Equipment**
- **Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority Review of Fostering**
- **Access NI Checks**
- **Access NI Checks**
- **Youth Court**
- **Sexual Convictions**

## Office of First and Deputy First Minister

### Childcare Payments Bill

**Mr Dominic Bradley (SDLP – Newry and Armagh)** - To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they will continue to progress the Legislative Consent Motion on the Childcare Payments Bill, given the concerns that the ensuing parity may be detrimental to local recipients.

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** On 4 November 2014, the Assembly approved a Legislative Consent Motion to extend the Childcare Payments Bill to Northern Ireland. This will enable eligible working families who live here to claim support from government with their childcare costs in the same way as those living in England, Scotland and Wales. However we aim to look at the issue of affordability more generally with respect to childcare within any new childcare strategy. **(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Department of Education

### Oversubscribed Primary School Places – South Belfast

**Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP – South Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Education to detail the action his Department is taking to alleviate the number of oversubscribed primary school places in South Belfast.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** In April 2013, I approved a development proposal to increase the enrolment and admissions numbers at St Ita’s Primary School, Carryduff.

In May 2014, I also approved a development proposal to increase the enrolment and admissions numbers of Millennium Integrated Primary School, Carryduff to become a two stream entry school. A development proposal is also currently under consideration to increase the enrolment at Forge Integrated Primary School in South Belfast. However, I am aware of the continued concerns in this area and I would want to see all the sectors working together to plan a sustainable schools estate in South Belfast.

Responsibility to review demand for places is a matter for the planning authorities and I would expect them to carry out reviews on a regular basis as part of the area planning process. Therefore, I would expect that if the indications are that additional places are needed then Development Proposals will be brought forward for my consideration.

**(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Middletown Centre

**Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford)** - To ask the Minister of Education how many pupils in each Education and Library Board area are supported by the Middletown Centre.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The Middletown Centre for Autism has advised that the number of pupils who have received direct support from the Centre, following referral from the relevant Education and Library Board, from 1 April 2014 to 14 January 2015, was as follows:

Education and Library Board Area	No of Pupils
BELB	12
NEELB	9
SEELB	9
SELB	10
WELB	9

(20th January)

[Back to Top](#)

## Special Educational Needs Assessments

**Mr Daithí McKay (Sinn Féin – North Antrim)** - To ask the Minister of Education how each Education and Library Board prioritises Special Educational Needs assessments.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** Education and Library Boards do not employ any method of prioritisation in the completion of the statutory assessment process. Requests are actioned upon receipt in line with the statutory timeframes outlined in the Education (NI) Order 1996 and the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. **(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Special Educational Needs Assessments

**Mr Daithí McKay (Sinn Féin – North Antrim)** - To ask the Minister of Education how many Special Educational Needs assessments are carried out per hundred pupils in each Education and Library Board area.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The number of statutory assessments of special educational needs, completed from 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014, per hundred pupils of the total school population\* in each Board area were as follows:

Education and Library Board Area	No of Pupils
BELB	0.86
NEELB	0.59
SEELB	0.83
SELB	0.53
WELB	0.78

\* School census 2014/15

(20<sup>th</sup> January)

[Back to Top](#)

## Integrated Status Criteria

**Mr Peter Weir (DUP – North Antrim)** - To ask the Minister of Education to detail the criteria for a nursery school to qualify for integrated status.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** Pre-school education is non-sectoral. All funded settings are open to children of all backgrounds and all follow the same curriculum guidance which helps children to learn to respect different cultures, beliefs and lifestyles. Decisions on development proposals for new pre-school provision are made on a case by case basis. When a development proposal is published, it must be looked at in the context of the overall level of need in the local area.

Where a need for additional pre-school provision is established, in line with the Department's statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education, parents' wishes are taken into account where strong evidence is provided of parents' preference for formally integrated pre-school provision. **(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

### **Conflict Related Costs – Education Sector**

**Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Education whether his Department has carried out further analysis on conflict related costs with the education sector from the 2007 Deloitte 'Research into the Financial Cost of the Northern Ireland Divide'; and if not, whether he plans to do so.

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** An analysis of the report was undertaken at the time of its publication. The report itself accepted that comparative analysis of education expenditure is extremely complex and no reliable conclusions can be drawn as to the impact of the divide on education spend in the north of Ireland at a macro-level.

The report took a very simplistic approach to costing, using the management related costs across the various sectors, the Community Relations budget and an estimate of savings relating to unquantifiable costs. Little evidence was provided to support how the suggested costs had been calculated.

Given the number of significant changes since 2007 that relate to areas identified within the report, its conclusions are less relevant to the current educational structure and policy framework. **(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Staff Costs

**Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Education to detail the staff costs (i) each Education and Library Board; and (ii) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, in each of the last five financial years.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The staff costs in (i) each Education and Library Board; and (ii) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, in each of the last five financial years is as follows:

Education and Library Board Area	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>BELB</b>	£17,803,286	£17,276,295	£15,948,939	£14,643,210	£15,200,775
<b>WELB*</b>	£22,681,903	£22,038,702	£20,585,446	£19,599,220	£19,493,602
<b>NEELB</b>	£18,506,956	£17,607,556	£15,453,060	£15,330,567	£15,146,521
<b>SEELB</b>	£16,158,354	£15,125,447	£14,359,648	£13,787,908	£14,492,677
<b>SELB</b>	£24,222,644	£23,795,721	£22,406,956	£22,057,625	£22,178,022
<b>CCMS</b>	£2,893,222	£1,538,005	£3,102,426	£1,955,510	£1,952,462

\*WELB figures include costs relating to C2K. This is an earmarked initiative which is a regionalised service and where the staff costs are solely borne by the WELB. This would therefore make it difficult to draw comparisons with other ELB’s.

The figures shown above include:

- costs for Headquarter staff, out centre and youth club staff. School based staff are not included.
- employers National Insurance and Pension Contribution costs.

(21<sup>st</sup> January)

[Back to Top](#)

## **Together Building a United Community Buddy Scheme**

**Mr Chris Lyttle (APNI – East Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the progress of the roll out of the Together: Building a United Community buddy scheme in all publicly funded nursery and primary schools; and what date has been set for the completion of this target.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** Work is continuing to develop a buddy scheme in DE funded pre-school settings in line with the action in Together: Building a United Community.

My officials have engaged with colleagues in the statutory and community sectors to draw on best practice and are developing a business case. No additional funding has, however, been identified for this project and pending confirmation of the costs and the availability of funding, it is not possible to confirm a date for completion. **(21<sup>st</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **Home to School Transport Review**

**Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford)** - To ask the Minister of Education to detail the total cost of producing the Home to School Transport Review.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The total cost of the Home to School Transport Review (excluding Secretariat salary costs) was £151,077 i.e. £78,575 in 2013/14 and £72,502 in 2014/15. **(21<sup>st</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland Recommendations**

**Miss Michelle McIlveen (DUP – Strangford)** - To ask the Minister of Education for an update on the implementation of recommendations contained in Kathleen Marshall's Inquiry Report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** I have already welcomed and broadly accepted the relevant recommendations from this important report and my Department is considering how best to take these forward. I expect to be able to set out in the coming week’s further detail on the actions that the education service will take in response to the report. **(23<sup>rd</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## GCSE Grades

**Ms Caitríona Ruane (Sinn Féin – South Down)** - To ask the Minister of Education to detail the (i) percentage; and (ii) number of children that achieved at least five GCSEs at grades A\* - C in each year from 1990 to 1999, broken down by (a) gender; (b) religious background; and (c) socio-economic background.

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The information contained in the following tables refers to the achievement of pupils leaving mainstream grant aided post-primary schools during the academic years 1989/90 to 1989/99. For some of the earlier years the religion and the socio-economic background of a pupil were not collected. In such instances the earliest year of available data is reported. A pupil's socio-economic background has been derived using free school meal entitlement.

### Number and percentage of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\*-C, by gender, 1989/90 to 1989/99(1,2)

Year	Boys		Girls	
	Number	%	Number	%
1989/90	4569	36.6	5564	46.2
1990/91	4790	39.7	5800	49.9
1991/92	4789	39.8	5907	51.6
1992/93	4883	43.1	6167	56.1
1993/94	5270	44.1	6568	57.6
1994/95	5735	45.7	7235	60.3
1996/97	6307	48.1	7662	60.8
1997/98	6017	46.9	7701	60.2
1998/99	6337	48.8	8172	65.7

Source: School Leavers Survey

1. Please note that in 1995/96 the School Leavers Survey was not published due to missing data.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.

**Number and percentage of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\*-C, by religion of pupil, 1996/97 to 1998/99(1,2)**

Year	Protestant		Catholic		Other(3)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1996/97	5768	54.2	6963	53.6	1238	59.5
1997/98	5809	54.5	6872	52.0	1037	59.3
1998/99	5928	55.8	7451	56.8	1130	67.0

Source: School Leavers Survey

Notes:

1. Please note that in 1995/96 the School Leavers Survey was not published due to missing data.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications.
3. Other religion category includes Other Christian, No Religion and Non-Christian.

**Number and percentage of school leavers achieving at least five GCSEs at grades A\*-C, by free school meal entitlement, 1991/92 to 1998/99(1,2)**

Year	Not entitled to free school meals		Entitled to free school meals	
	Number	%	Number	%
1991/92	9692	52.1	1004	20.5
1992/93	9952	56.2	1098	23.9
1993/94	10459	57.6	1379	26.6
1994/95	11649	60.0	1321	25.9
1996/97	12259	61.8	1710	29.0
1997/98	12074	60.5	1644	28.9
1998/99	12908	64.1	1601	30.3

Source: School Leavers Survey

1. Please note that in 1995/96 the School Leavers Survey was not published due to missing data.
2. Includes equivalent qualifications. **(23rd January)** [Back to Top](#)

## STEM Subject for A-Level

**Mr Peter Weir (DUP – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of pupils taking at least one STEM subject for A-level at schools that are (i) single sex (a) male; and (b) female; and (ii) co-educational.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The answer is contained in the table below:

### Year 14 pupils with 1 or more examination entries in STEM subject A-levels, 2012/13

	Number of year 14 pupils with 1+ examination entries in an A-level STEM subject <sup>1</sup>	Number of year 14 pupils <sup>2</sup>	% of year 14 pupils with 1+ examination entries in an A-level STEM subject
Girls Schools	1012	2676	37.8
Boys Schools	975	2014	48.4
All Single Sex Schools	1987	4690	42.4
Mixed Schools	4573	9076	50.4
Total	6560	13766	47.7

Source: RM Education1, Annual School Census2

(23<sup>rd</sup> January)

[Back to Top](#)

## **Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Strategy**

**Ms Claire Sugden (IND – East Londonderry)** - To ask the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 40276/11-15, to detail any plans his Department has to fulfil the priorities for Education, as outlined in the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety led draft Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Strategy, by introducing an awareness programme for use in post-primary schools.

**Mr O’Dowd (The Minister of Education):** The Department is committed to fulfilling its priorities under the Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

In respect of post-primary programmes, Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is a statutory component of both the Personal Development and Home Economics statements of requirement for Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4, RSE is a statutory component of the Personal Development strand of Learning for Life and Work. RSE provides the opportunity for specific attention to be given to a pupil’s emotional wellbeing, health and safety, relationships and the development of a moral thinking and value system. The strand also offers a vehicle for exploring with children and young people sensitive issues such as domestic violence and sexual abuse in an age appropriate way. **(23<sup>rd</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Department of Health

### Child Protection Register

**Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of children on the child protection register in each year since 2011.

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The number of children on the child protection register is published annually in ‘Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland’. Quarterly figures on the number of children on the child protection register are also available in ‘Quarterly Child Protection Statistics for Northern Ireland’. These publications can be found on the Department’s website at the following link: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/socialcare/child-protection-register.htm>

The table below contains the number of children on the child protection register at 31 March from 2011 to 2014.

**Table 1: Children on the Child Protection Register at 31March (2011 – 2014)**

Years	2011	2012	2013	2014
No. of Children on the Child Protection Register	2,401	2,127	1,961	1,914

Source: Children Order Child Protection Return CPR1

**(20th January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **Banning Smoking in Private Vehicles Carrying Children**

**Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson (UUP – Upper Bann)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on plans to bring forward legislation banning smoking in private vehicles carrying children.

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** Earlier plans to consult on options around banning smoking in private vehicles carrying children were put on hold as a result of a substantial programme of tobacco control which included progression of the Tobacco Retailers Act 2014 through the Assembly and proposals to prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes to persons under the age of eighteen.

There may now be an opportunity to include regulation-making powers to restrict smoking in private vehicles carrying children in the draft Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill which is due to be introduced to the Assembly in coming months. I am considering this option at present. **(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **Mental Health**

**Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP – South Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the concerns over the mental health of students in other parts of the UK, what action his Department is taking to ensure that students receive the help and support they require.

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** There are currently a number of activities across DHSSPS, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and the Public Health Agency (PHA) aimed at promoting the mental health and wellbeing of students, including:

- the development of a new suicide prevention strategy, which will include the early intervention and promotion of mental health for students;
- the PHA's participation in the UK Healthy Universities Network which aims to offer a facilitative environment for the development of a whole university approach to health and wellbeing. Good practice from the network is shared with the universities in Northern Ireland;
- the distribution by the PHA of the 'Mind your Head' Student Book at Fresher's week in Northern Ireland universities;
- the "Lifeline" helpline, which is publicised in universities and further education

- colleges and is available 24/7 for any student in crisis;
- the “i-Matter” programme, led by the Department of Education and supported by my Department and other key stakeholders, which focuses on positive prevention by building coping skills in children and young people in schools, and which complements the personal development strand of the curriculum;
  - the PHA’s “Roots of Empathy” classroom programme which aims to foster the development of emotional resilience among school children; and
  - the PHA / Irish Football Association (IFA) schools based programme, which involves the IFA going into schools to discuss mental health promotion, suicide prevention, drugs and alcohol, and healthy eating.

Students also have the same access to mental health services as the rest of the population. Mental health services are tailored to meet each individual’s particular needs and are provided through a stepped care model in a variety of settings, depending on the nature and seriousness of the condition. Services range from support through GPs, to more specialist support from community mental health teams, to inpatient care. Services are also available through commissioned community and voluntary sector organisations.

**(20<sup>th</sup> January)**     [Back to Top](#)

## **Adoption Applications**

**Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of applications for adoption from same-sex couples; and (ii) the number of people adopted by same-sex couples, since December 2013.

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The information requested is not routinely collected and has therefore been provided for the period 27 June 2013 (the date on which the judgement relating to existing adoption law and guidance was handed down by the Court of Appeal) to 31 December 2014. The Health and Social Care Trusts and voluntary adoption agencies in Northern Ireland have reported that, during that period, a total of 13 applications for adoption from same-sex couples have been received.

Of the applications received by HSC Trusts and voluntary adoption agencies to date, none have led to adoption orders being granted by a Northern Ireland court. **(20<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **Transfer of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery to Dublin**

**Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP – South Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, following the decision to endorse the recommendations put forward in Dr. Mayers International Working Group report, to what extent have parents, charities and voluntary organisations been involved in the on-going inter-departmental discussions concerning the transfer of paediatric cardiac surgery to Dublin.

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** Parents, charities and voluntary organisations are not involved in inter-departmental discussions about the proposed transfer of paediatric cardiac surgery to Dublin, as these discussions would be conducted between officials from my Department and the Department of Health in the Republic of Ireland. Patients, their families and the various organisations which represent them have, however, been actively involved in the seven public consultation meetings held by my Department around Northern Ireland. These meetings, as well as the written responses to the consultation, provide opportunities for their views, based on their first hand experiences, to be relayed directly to those officials and to help shape how both the surgical element and the wider congenital cardiac services will be delivered in future.

The International Working Group’s recommendations include the establishment of a Family Advisory Group as “an essential feature of an all Island approach as it will give an on-going voice to patients and families with congenital heart disease and will serve to provide early warning of problems with how the system is functioning.” It also recommends patient representation from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland on a governance committee to oversee how the model would operate. The consultation process to date has echoed the importance of these recommendations, and I would wish to ensure that patients and their families have a continuing role to play in such a model through these means. **(22<sup>nd</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Transforming Your Care Review

**Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP – South Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the dialogue between the expert panel established to oversee the Transforming Your Care review and the Health and Social Care Board staff who conducted the review. **[Priority Written]**

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The then Minister for Health, Edwin Poots MLA, commissioned a review of health and social care provision in Northern Ireland in June 2011. Whilst the review was not to be fully independent, he wanted to have a strong independent overview to the process to provide challenge to any proposals. A Review Panel, comprising five external advisors, was therefore appointed to support this process.

The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) have reported that dialogue between the Review Panel and HSCB staff was on-going and regular throughout the review and included:

- A range of stakeholder engagements, including meetings with Trust, councils and the TUS Partnership Forum;
- Public meetings;
- Clinical Workshops;
- Panel meetings;
- Report planning meetings;
- Literature reviews, and review of evidence and documents;
- Review and challenge of report drafts; and
- Meetings with the Minister.

**(23<sup>rd</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **MRI Scanning Equipment**

**Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir (Sinn Féin – South Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the reasons for the lack of MRI Scanning equipment the The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children; and (ii) his plans for installing the equipment. [Priority Written]

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The business case for a dedicated MRI scanner in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) was agreed in November 2012 in response to rising waiting times. It was anticipated then that the scanner would be operational in 2014. However, surveys have since identified the need for additional works including the removal of asbestos as well as complex site service alterations. I can now confirm that the scanner, which due to its complexities is built to order, is to be delivered to the RBHSC in Spring 2015 and commissioned for use shortly after that. **(23<sup>rd</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## **Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority Review of Fostering**

**Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP – South Belfast)** - To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the actions taken forward as a result of the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority Review of Fostering.

**Mr J Wells (The Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority Review of Fostering made 46 recommendations. Of the 7 recommendations directed to the Department, one was completed in March 2014 through an amendment to Kinship Care Standards. The remaining 6 are linked to the development of Fostering Service Standards. Work has commenced on the development of these standards and the membership of a stakeholder group is currently being confirmed. Further engagement is planned throughout the year to inform drafting of the standards and the draft standards will be subject to public consultation.

The Health & Social Care Board and Trusts were charged with the delivery of 39 recommendations. Sixteen of these have been achieved in full. Adherence to one recommendation is dependent on the development of Fostering Service Standards by the Department. A number of recommendations have been achieved in part.

Of those remaining, work is on-going to develop regionally consistent approaches and systems in place of Trust-specific approaches. **(23<sup>rd</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

## Department of Justice

### Access NI Checks

**Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Justice what are the contributory factors to delays in processing Access NI checks; and what is being done to mitigate against these delays.

**Mr Ford (Minister of Justice):** AccessNI is currently processing applications within a week of receipt. There are no delays in processing either basic or standard checks. The position on enhanced checks, in cases which have to be sent to PSNI for consideration, is more difficult. In these instances, principally because of pressures on PSNI resources, there are currently around 27% of cases which are not being issued within the 4 week target.

PSNI have a recovery plan in place, agreed with Senior Officers, with steps being taken to reduce the number of outstanding cases over the next few months. AccessNI will continue to work with PSNI and to monitor the situation. **(19<sup>th</sup> January)**

[Back to Top](#)

### Access NI Checks

**Mr Steven Agnew (GPNI – North Down)** - To ask the Minister of Justice, in relation to Access NI checks submitted in each of the most recent 12 months for which figures are available, (i) what percentage of checks have been processed within four weeks; and (ii) what is the longest time taken to process an application.

**Mr Ford (Minister of Justice):** The four week target concerns enhanced checks. (Standard and basic checks are being processed within a week of receipt.)

In relation to (i), the table below sets out the percentage of enhanced checks issued by AccessNI within 4 weeks for the last 12 months.

In relation to (ii) the second line of the table shows the number of cases that remain outstanding received in each month since December 2013. These are cases where a certificate has not yet been issued and therefore are still being processed.

As at 16 January 2015 the longest outstanding application is 410 days. During the 12 month period the longest time taken to clear an application was 402 days. This is due to PSNI experiencing delays in returning cases to AccessNI. AccessNI is working closely with PSNI to manage this backlog. 20/01/15

	Dec 2013	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Apr 2014	May 2014	Jun 2014	Jul 2014	Aug 2014	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014
<b>Checks issued within 4 weeks (%)</b>	72%	77%	94%	94%	93%	94%	96%	95%	95%	97%	97%	97%
<b>Number of checks still outstanding</b>	10	19	21	34	36	56	78	118				

(20<sup>th</sup> January)

[Back to Top](#)

## Youth Court

**Mr Jim Allister (TUV – North Antrim)** - To ask the Minister of Justice whether a special Youth Court is to be built in Laganside Court; and if so, at what cost.

**Mr Ford (Minister of Justice):** The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service will wish to consider the future provision of a Belfast Youth Court within the context of a consultation paper on the Rationalisation of the Court Estate which is due to be issued shortly. (22<sup>nd</sup> January)

[Back to Top](#)

## Sexual Convictions

**Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley (DUP – Fermanagh and South Tyrone)** - To ask the Minister of Justice in how many instances over the last five years have sexual convictions, committed outside Northern Ireland, become known to the local relevant agencies and

resulted in notification orders or alternative restrictions being imposed, broken down by court division.

**Mr Ford (Minister of Justice):** The number of defendants who received at least one Sexual Offences Notification Order<sup>1</sup> in each of the last five calendar years is presented by court division in the table below.

Court Division	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014P
Belfast	0	1	1	0	0
Londonderry	1	1	0	0	0
Antrim	0	0	1	0	0
Fermanagh and Tyrone	2	1	0	3	0
Armagh and South Down	1	2	0	0	0
Ards	1	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Integrated Court Operations System (ICOS)

PData are currently provisional and may be subject to change.

- <sup>1</sup>Data include Interim Sexual Offences Notification Orders that were not subsequently made Sexual Offences Notification Orders.
- The identification of alternative restrictions imposed upon offenders who committed a sexual offence outside Northern Ireland would incur a disproportionate cost.

**(22nd January)**

[Back to Top](#)