

NICCY Summary: Written Assembly Questions week ending 10 July, 2015

Age of those on housing waiting list, including 16-18 year olds in West Belfast

<p>AQW 47374/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr William Humphrey (DUP - North Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown of the age profile of people on the housing waiting list in West Belfast, including sixteen to eighteen year olds.</p> <p>The information is not fully available in the format requested because some of the Common Landlord Areas, the geography by which Waiting List information is collated, overlaps the Parliamentary constituencies of Belfast North, South and West.</p> <p>Therefore the Housing Executive has advised that the table below provides details of waiting list figures by the age profile requested for West Belfast at 31 March 2015.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="563 1093 1394 1883"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="563 1093 692 1352">Age Band</th> <th data-bbox="692 1093 927 1352">West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency</th> <th data-bbox="927 1093 1161 1352">North & West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary*</th> <th data-bbox="1161 1093 1394 1352">West & South Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="563 1352 692 1541">16 – Under 18 yrs.</td> <td data-bbox="692 1352 927 1541">23</td> <td data-bbox="927 1352 1161 1541">1</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1352 1394 1541">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="563 1541 692 1693">18 – 59 yrs.</td> <td data-bbox="692 1541 927 1693">3,459</td> <td data-bbox="927 1541 1161 1693">124</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1541 1394 1693">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="563 1693 692 1809">60+ yrs.</td> <td data-bbox="692 1693 927 1809">356</td> <td data-bbox="927 1693 1161 1809">30</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1693 1394 1809">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="563 1809 692 1883">Total</td> <td data-bbox="692 1809 927 1883">3,838</td> <td data-bbox="927 1809 1161 1883">155</td> <td data-bbox="1161 1809 1394 1883">33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Common Landlord Areas of Ainsworth, Upper Woodvale and Hamill Street spread across the three Parliamentary Constituencies. The information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.</p>	Age Band	West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency	North & West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary*	West & South Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary*	16 – Under 18 yrs.	23	1	1	18 – 59 yrs.	3,459	124	30	60+ yrs.	356	30	2	Total	3,838	155	33
Age Band	West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency	North & West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary*	West & South Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary*																			
16 – Under 18 yrs.	23	1	1																			
18 – 59 yrs.	3,459	124	30																			
60+ yrs.	356	30	2																			
Total	3,838	155	33																			

Age of those on housing waiting list, including 16-18 year olds in North Belfast

<p>AQW 47373/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr William Humphrey (DUP - North Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown of the age profile of people on the housing waiting list in North Belfast, including sixteen to eighteen year olds.</p> <p>The information is not fully available in the format requested because some of the Common Landlord Areas, the geography by which Waiting List information is collated, overlaps the Parliamentary constituencies of Belfast North and West.</p> <p>Therefore, the Housing Executive has advised that the table below provides details of waiting list figures by the age profile requested for North Belfast at 31 March 2015.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="587 884 1396 1496"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Band</th> <th>North Belfast Parliamentary Constituency</th> <th>North & West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary *</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16 – Under 18 yrs.</td> <td>26</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18 – 59 yrs.</td> <td>3,221</td> <td>124</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60+ yrs.</td> <td>500</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,747</td> <td>155</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Common Landlord Areas of Ainsworth and Upper Woodvale spread across the two Parliamentary Constituencies</p> <p>The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.</p>	Age Band	North Belfast Parliamentary Constituency	North & West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary *	16 – Under 18 yrs.	26	1	18 – 59 yrs.	3,221	124	60+ yrs.	500	30	Total	3,747	155
Age Band	North Belfast Parliamentary Constituency	North & West Belfast Parliamentary Constituency Cross Boundary *															
16 – Under 18 yrs.	26	1															
18 – 59 yrs.	3,221	124															
60+ yrs.	500	30															
Total	3,747	155															

Number of educational psychologists in the former SEELB

<p>AQW 48073/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of educational psychologists employed in the former South Eastern Education and Library Board.</p> <p>The Education Authority has advised, as at 1 July 2015, there are 34 full-time equivalent (FTE) educational psychologists employed in the South Eastern Region. 27 of these FTE posts are full-time and the other 7 FTE posts are covered by 10 part-time educational psychologists.</p> <p>Of the 34 FTE educational psychologists, 27.2 FTE provide core educational psychology services on behalf of the South Eastern Region. The remaining 6.8 FTE educational psychologists provide services for all five Education Authority Regions including: (i) 0.8 FTE Queen's University Doctorate Course in Educational, Child and Adolescent Psychology; (ii) 0.87 FTE Lakewood School Bangor (Children in Care); and (iii) 1.0 Beechcroft Education Centre Belfast (Regional Child & Adolescent Mental Health Unit).</p>
---------------------------------	---	--

Sexting and use of social media by young people

<p>AQW 48066/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Judith Cochrane (APNI - East Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education, given the rise in the number of cases linked to sexting and the increased use of social media by young people, whether (a) his Department has any authority over how schools educate pupils on the dangers of sexting and social media or do individual schools determine how they educate pupils; and (b) he has any plans to promote safe use of the internet through the curriculum.</p> <p>In schools, the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils is the responsibility of a school's Board of Governors. In the exercise of those duties schools are required to have in place policies on discipline, bullying and the safe and effective use of the Internet and Digital technologies. The Department has reminded schools of their responsibility to have in place an eSafety policy and has provided guidance and advice on eSafety matters. As with all aspects of the curriculum, the specifics of what is taught in the classroom is a matter for each teacher/school.</p> <p>In terms of educating our pupils about online safety, ICT plays a central role in the statutory curriculum and Using ICT, a cross-curricular skill, requires pupils to learn how to keep safe and display acceptable online behaviour. Teachers have been provided with detailed advice and guidance on the safe use of the Internet through the C2k ICT Managed Service which includes a dedicated eSafety zone.</p>
---------------------------------	--	--

		<p>During May and June 2015, C2k, in conjunction with UK Safer Internet, ran a number of eSafety Conferences attended by over 400 school representatives. The Department also recently issued a circular letter to all schools and the Youth Council, containing advice provided by the PSNI and endorsed by the Safeguarding Board NI (SBNI) about how to stay safe online.</p>
--	--	--

Home school e-learning

<p>AQW 48044/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Stephen Moutray (DUP - Upper Bann)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail what action has been taken to make better use of home school e-learning.</p> <p>I issued a letter to schools in September 2013 to raise awareness of C2k's video-conferencing software Elluminate and to provide some examples of how this facility may be used. This is one of the e-Learning tools available to schools.</p> <p>Subsequently, a Joint Working Party (comprised of representatives of the teaching unions and employing authorities) developed a Protocol for Home School e-Learning, TNC 2015/1, negotiated through the forum of the Teachers' Salaries and Conditions of Service Committee.</p> <p>It is intended that schools will take part in e-Learning home-school pilot projects which will cover one school term initially. At the end of the pilot projects an evaluation will be conducted to identify the benefits, models of good practice and recommendations.</p>
---------------------------------	--	--

Discussions with Early Years to inform new Pathways Fund

<p>AQW 47997/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education what discussions he has had with current Early Years funded groups, to inform the new Pathways Fund available in April 2016.</p> <p>If funding is available, it is my intention that a new Pathway Fund will replace the current Early Years Fund with awards being made from April 2016 onwards. The Pathway Fund would be open to all providers of Early Years education.</p> <p>I am also reviewing my budgets for this current financial year to see whether there is any scope to support those providers whose funding is due to end in August 2015 for the bridging period until the new Pathway Fund is established.</p>
---------------------------------	--	---

		<p>Once the position is clear on the availability of funding to support a new Fund, my officials will ensure that this is communicated to the sector, including to current Fund recipients.</p>
--	--	---

Education legislation coming forward in this Assembly mandate

<p>AQW 47991/11-15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education what legislation he intends to bring forward before the end of the current Assembly mandate.</p> <p>I intend to bring forward the following legislation before the end of the current Assembly mandate:</p> <p>Shared Education Bill; Anti-bullying Bill; and Early Years Education and Learning Bill.</p> <p>The Special Educational Needs and Disability Bill was introduced to the Assembly on 2 March 2015 and it is my intention that it completes its passage before the end of the current Assembly mandate.</p>
----------------------------	--	--

How children with autism are being catered for within education system

<p>AQW 47916/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Dominic Bradley (SDLP - Newry and Armagh)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to outline how children with autism that have been excluded from school are catered for within the education system.</p> <p>The Education Authority (EA) has a range of options to cater for children with autism who have been excluded from school which take account of the individual special educational needs (SEN) of the child, the views of their parents and consultation with the school. Where relevant, input from other stakeholders will also be sought to inform the decision making process.</p> <p>In cases where a pupil with autism is finding attendance at school stressful, and where their disruptive behaviour may be likely to result in exclusion, a support package including reasonable adjustments and, if required, staff training will be provided by EA specialist services along with suggested strategies to include in the pupil's Education Plan. Where in-school support is not proving effective the EA may consider a statutory assessment of the child's SEN.</p>
----------------------------	---	---

		<p>Following a pupil being excluded from school, the EA may consider the following options:</p> <p>another school placement may be sought. If the pupil has a statement of SEN or is undergoing statutory assessment, the EA may consider additional support in a mainstream school, a specialist learning support class in a mainstream school or a special school based on advice and support from specialist services;</p> <p>specialist EA services will provide direct support during the period when the pupil is not attending school, to help them maintain positive links with their school as far as possible;</p> <p>consideration may be given to referring the child to the Middletown Centre for Autism. Where such a referral is considered there will be a clear plan for re-integration to an educational setting;</p> <p>depending on the individual needs of the pupil the EA may consider a tailored package of education to be delivered through Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) e.g. in a small group setting with a more flexible approach than a mainstream school and where the learning environment can be more easily controlled. Alternatively a mainstream school placement with a part-time EOTAS partnership placement in a specialist centre may be considered to address any difficulties that may be inhibiting attendance at a mainstream school;</p> <p>the EA may also provide home tuition or education in a local community setting for those pupils where medical advice has determined that the child cannot or should not receive their education through attendance at a school.</p>
--	--	--

Pupils for who English is not their first language

<p>AQW 47833/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr David McNarry (UKIP - <i>Strangford</i>)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils in (a) primary; and (b) post-primary school that do not have English as their first language.</p> <p>There are 11,100 pupils who do not have English as their first language in primary schools (including pupils in nursery and reception classes) and 6,116 in post-primary schools.</p> <p>These figures include all pupils that do not have English as a first language, regardless of whether or not they are a newcomer pupil (one</p>
---------------------------------	--	--

		<p>who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and does not have a language in common with the teacher).</p> <p>Source: NI school census</p>
--	--	---

Strategies to increase pupil participation in departmental consultations

<p>AQW 47739/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education what consideration is being given to strategies that will increase pupil participation in departmental consultations.</p> <p>The Department's Equality Scheme acknowledges the importance of consultation and the need to consider format and accessibility needs to remove barriers to engagement. The Equality Scheme also refers to the Equality Commission's guidance, "Let's Talk Let's Listen – Guidance for public authorities on consulting and involving children and young people" (2008). Recent consultations have included workshops, focus groups, involvement with schools and partner organisations as well as young persons' versions of questionnaires to ensure pupils of all ages were able to understand proposals and respond meaningfully to consultations.</p> <p>During the consultation on how to help tackle the problem of bullying in schools, the Department made extensive efforts to engage with pupils and young people. Schools, the NI Anti-bullying Forum and other key stakeholders actively promoted the consultation through their own contact networks and encouraged young people to participate. Innovative use was also made of the C2k network to directly reach school pupils and link them to online response forms. As a result, the consultation attracted 4860 responses, with 4221 of these coming directly from young people.</p>
----------------------------	---	---

Responses in relation to proposals for the future of the Youth Council

<p>AQW 47325/11-15</p>	<p>Mr David McIlveen (DUP - North Antrim)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Education to detail the number of responses received in relation to proposals for the future of the Youth Council.</p> <p>The consultation closed on Friday 3 July 2015, 49 responses were received in total.</p>
----------------------------	---	--

Update on Men B vaccination programme

<p>AQW 47774/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Paula Bradley (DUP - North Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that as of September 2015 in England and Scotland, babies aged two months will be offered the Men B vaccine, a second dose at four months and a booster at twelve months, as well as a limited catch-up programme for infants who are due their three and four month vaccinations in September, whether this vaccination will also be offered to local babies.</p> <p>The Men B vaccination programme for babies will be introduced in Northern Ireland in September 2015 in line with the rest of the UK.</p>
---------------------------------	---	--

Children waiting paediatric gastroenterology services

<p>AQW 47686/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Ross Hussey (UUP - West Tyrone)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of children awaiting paediatric gastroenterology services broken down by Health and Social Care Trust; and (ii) the number of hospitals with this service (a) currently; (b) in 2012; (c) in 2013; and (d) in 2014.</p> <p>(i) Currently, paediatric gastroenterology is a tertiary service provided by the Belfast Trust at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. At the 23rd June 2015, there were 41 children waiting for an outpatient appointment and 215 children waiting for an endoscopy inpatient procedure within the paediatric gastroenterology service.</p> <p>(ii) The Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children who currently provides the paediatric gastroenterology service also provided this service in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Western Trust provided paediatric gastroenterology services at Altnagelvin Hospital in 2012 and 2013. Northern, South Eastern and Southern Trusts have not provided paediatric gastroenterology services in any of these years.</p>
---------------------------------	---	---

Update on progress of adoption legislation

<p>AQW 47553/11-15</p>	<p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (SDLP - South Belfast)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the progress of adoption legislation.</p> <p>At this stage, Executive agreement to consult on a draft Bill is outstanding. However, I remain committed to consultation on the Bill within the current mandate.</p>
----------------------------	--	--

Keeping children and young people safe when online

<p>AQW 46962/11-15</p>	<p>Mrs Sandra Overend (UUP - Mid Ulster)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what actions his Department is taking to keep children and young people safe online in the absence of a cross-departmental internet safety strategy.</p> <p>Through sponsorship grant, or with the financial support of a number of other departments, and in advance of the delivery of a cross-departmental e-safety strategy, the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) is taking forward a number of projects aimed at keeping children and young people safe, particularly on-line. This includes the delivery of key safety messages, through the SBNI's e-safety forum. The forum has already developed guidance on sexting, on-line grooming and blackmail, which was released through schools and an existing e-safety training package is being reviewed to ensure consistency across Northern Ireland. Also, the SBNI was funded to deliver a play to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation. The play, which was attended by nearly seven thousand young people, parents and professionals across Northern Ireland, dealt specifically with on-line grooming. Other funded SBNI projects include the development of safeguarding apps to give young people and parents access to online safety information and advice.</p>
----------------------------	--	--

Cross-departmental internet safety

<p>AQW 46959/11- 15</p>	<p>Mrs Sandra Overend (UUP - Mid Ulster)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the development of a cross-departmental internet safety strategy.</p> <p>At its meeting on 29 January 2015, the Northern Ireland Executive agreed to formally commission the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) to develop an e-safety strategy and action plan. Terms of Reference (TOR) have been developed and the SBNI has appointed a project manager to deliver the work within an 18 month timeframe. The aim is that the draft e-Safety strategy will be ready for consultation by the end of the financial year and the draft strategy and action plan will be presented to the Executive once complete.</p>
---------------------------------	--	---

Accessibility of health services for children and young people

<p>AQW 46946/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Pat Ramsey (SDLP - Foyle)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail how his Department monitors the (i) physical health; (ii) mental health; and (iii) accessibility of health services and opportunities for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities.</p> <p>The HSC Trusts have a statutory requirement to undertake a yearly review of people with a learning disability which involves a multidisciplinary meeting and covers every element of the individual's life including health. HSC staff have a duty to monitor and record any deterioration in an individual's health and raise with the family and/or key workers.</p> <p>As children with disabilities may have additional health needs, there is enhanced screening programmes and access to services such as specialist paediatrics based on the child's needs. All children who have mental health needs regardless of other conditions are entitled to the appropriate support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).</p> <p>A Learning Disability Directed Enhanced Service is also in place for GPs to provide an annual health check for adults with a learning disability. The check includes screening for both physical health and mental health conditions.</p>
---------------------------------	---	--

Budget allocated to children's respite services

<p>AQW 46891/11 -15</p>	<p>Mr Pat Ramsey (SDLP - Foyle)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the amount allocated per Health and Social Care Trust to (i) residential; and (ii) non-residential children's respite services for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016.</p> <p>The information requested is provided in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 663 1439 1429"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">2014/2015</th> <th colspan="2">2015/16</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Trust</th> <th>Residential</th> <th>Non-Residential</th> <th>Residential</th> <th>Non-Residential</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Belfast</td> <td>£1,163,177</td> <td>£564,450</td> <td>£1,184,201</td> <td>£635,057</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern</td> <td>£1,690,802</td> <td>£471,375</td> <td>£1,698,393</td> <td>£520,159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Eastern</td> <td>£1,267,686</td> <td>£792,712</td> <td>£1,263,268</td> <td>£794,509</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern</td> <td>£1,674,058</td> <td>£1,228,020</td> <td>£1,642,209</td> <td>£1,281,928</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western</td> <td>£1,059,627</td> <td>Data not collected</td> <td>Funding to be confirmed</td> <td>Data not collected</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2014/2015		2015/16		Trust	Residential	Non-Residential	Residential	Non-Residential	Belfast	£1,163,177	£564,450	£1,184,201	£635,057	Northern	£1,690,802	£471,375	£1,698,393	£520,159	South Eastern	£1,267,686	£792,712	£1,263,268	£794,509	Southern	£1,674,058	£1,228,020	£1,642,209	£1,281,928	Western	£1,059,627	Data not collected	Funding to be confirmed	Data not collected
	2014/2015		2015/16																																		
Trust	Residential	Non-Residential	Residential	Non-Residential																																	
Belfast	£1,163,177	£564,450	£1,184,201	£635,057																																	
Northern	£1,690,802	£471,375	£1,698,393	£520,159																																	
South Eastern	£1,267,686	£792,712	£1,263,268	£794,509																																	
Southern	£1,674,058	£1,228,020	£1,642,209	£1,281,928																																	
Western	£1,059,627	Data not collected	Funding to be confirmed	Data not collected																																	

Number of full-time Autism coordinators

<p>AQW 46855/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Fearghal McKinney (<i>SDLP - South Belfast</i>)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of full-time Autism spectrum coordinators within each Health and Social Care Trust.</p> <p>Headcount and whole-time equivalent (WTE) figures for staff employed full-time as Autism Spectrum Disorder Coordinators by each HSC Trust are shown in the table below. Total headcount and WTE for all staff, including part-time staff, are also shown.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="580 734 1396 1574"> <thead> <tr> <th>Trust</th> <th>Full-Time Staff</th> <th>Total Headcount</th> <th>Total WTE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern Health and Social Care Trust</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern Health and Social Care Trust</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Western Health and Social Care Trust</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: HSC Trusts</p>	Trust	Full-Time Staff	Total Headcount	Total WTE	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0	Northern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0	South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0	Southern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0	Western Health and Social Care Trust	0	1	0.6
Trust	Full-Time Staff	Total Headcount	Total WTE																							
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0																							
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0																							
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0																							
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	1	1	1.0																							
Western Health and Social Care Trust	0	1	0.6																							

Support for 17-19 year old transitioning to adult services

<p>AQW 46361/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the support available for 17-19 year olds with learning difficulties and disabilities to transition from the care received as a child to care provision as an adult; and to detail how progression into adulthood impacts upon the care they receive.</p> <p>It is a statutory duty to begin to plan for the transition of young people with a learning disability from the age of 14. The process is carried out in partnership with special schools, the young person and their family/carer and ensures as far as possible that the young person's needs and wishes are well understood before the transition take place and that services are in place to meet these whenever possible. More detailed planning takes place closer to the actual transition date and depending on the young person's needs such supports include social work, nursing, psychiatry, psychology and allied health professionals, for example, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. It is important for staff to minimise the uncertainties for the young person by providing good information and support throughout the process.</p>
---------------------------------	--	--

Cost of Special Educational Needs and Disability tribunals

<p>AQW 47984/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Peter Weir (DUP - North Down)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Justice to detail the average cost of a Special Educational Needs and Disability tribunal.</p> <p>The remuneration rates for Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) panel members are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="520 1453 1394 1688"> <thead> <tr> <th>Panel Member Category</th> <th>Rate per day</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>£336</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lay Member</td> <td>£171</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Panel members are paid per hearing day, with a half day fee being paid when appropriate. A hearing day is normally exclusive to one appeal and more than one hearing day can be required before the panel can reach a final decision. The table below details the legal costs incurred by SENDIST in each of the last five years.</p>	Panel Member Category	Rate per day	Chairman	£336	Lay Member	£171
Panel Member Category	Rate per day							
Chairman	£336							
Lay Member	£171							

Year	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Legal Costs	£619	£1,201	£19,034	£40,796	£10,407

The estimated average cost of a SENDIST hearing is £1,247. This includes panel member fees for one day, an estimated cost of facilities within the Tribunal Hearing Centre and staff administration costs associated with the hearing. Information on the number of SENDIST tribunals held and the number of appeals upheld is available in respect of the last four financial years only, this is detailed in the table below.

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Number of Hearings	15	15	12	16
Appeals Upheld	8	8	7	9
Partially Upheld	2	0	1	1

Appeal number 30/13 required eight hearing days in total and the approximate cost was £9,544 which includes panel member fees, the cost of facilities provided within The Tribunal Hearing Centre and staff administration costs associated with the hearings.

Justice legislation coming forward in this Assembly mandate

<p>AQW 47986/11- 15</p>	<p>Ms Claire Sugden (IND - East Londonderry)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Justice what legislation his Department plans to bring forward by the end of the current Assembly mandate.</p> <p>My Justice Bill has just completed its Assembly passage and is now awaiting Royal Assent. At its core the Bill has three aims: to improve services for victims and witnesses; to speed up the justice system; and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of key aspects of the system.</p> <p>I have also very recently introduced a Justice (No. 2) Bill into the Assembly to improve arrangements for the collection and enforcement of financial penalties and to enhance key aspects of prison services. The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and I have introduced the Mental Capacity Bill into the Assembly to create a</p>
---------------------------------	--	---

		<p>composite framework for both mental capacity and mental health law. I am currently in the process of seeking Executive agreement to change the law on abortion in relation to fatal fetal abnormality. I also have an extensive programme of secondary legislation in both the criminal and civil justice fields.</p>
--	--	--

Location of the function of Office of Public Guardian

<p>AQW 47615/11- 15</p>	<p>Mr Patsy McGlone (SDLP - Mid Ulster)</p>	<p>To ask the Minister of Justice where the function of the Office of Public Guardian will lie within the Court structure, in particular whether it will lie within the Family Division or the Chancery Division of the High Court.</p> <p>The Office of the Public Guardian will be an office within the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. It will be distinct from the High Court, but will maintain a close working relationship with the Courts.</p> <p>An initial scoping exercise has been completed for the establishment of the Office of Public Guardian, including estimated staffing requirements for both that office and for the functions remaining with the High Court. Further work is required to assess fully the impact of the establishment of the Office of Public Guardian, but experience in other jurisdictions would indicate that initial workload will be substantial and that the work of the Family Division of the High Court is also likely to increase. Once the timeline for the implementation of the provisions within the Mental Capacity Bill is finalised, appropriate resources will be put in place.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Public Guardian will be a civil service appointment within the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. Therefore, the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission will not make the appointment and the post holder will not be exercising judicial authority. Decisions have not been made yet regarding any potential job specification for the post.</p>
---------------------------------	---	---