

Wednesday 27 July 2011

## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

### Finance and Sustainable Growth

**Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what (a) financial assistance and (b) other operational support has been provided to Blindcraft Edinburgh by (i) it and (ii) Scottish Enterprise since 2009.

**Holding answer issued: 19 July 2011**

**(S4W-1060)**

**Fergus Ewing:** BlindCraft Edinburgh has received no financial assistance from either the Scottish Executive or Scottish Enterprise since 2009.

Over the past 8 years the City of Edinburgh Council has contributed over £11m to BlindCraft. Since 2002-03, the levels of subsidy from the Council have been as follows:

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
£2.34m	£1.74m	£1.72m	£1.7m	£1.02m	£1.3m	£1.0m	£1.0m

The Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism met with the City of Edinburgh Council and other interested parties in November 2010 to explore potential options for BlindCraft Edinburgh. Unfortunately no new solutions were found at that time. The Minister has subsequently offered to meet the Council and Unions again to ensure every option has been considered fully.

The City of Edinburgh Council provides tailored in-house support for all employees with additional support needs, including those at BlindCraft. Support has also been provided by the local PACE Partnership, making full use of Jobcentre Plus expertise and experience of supporting individuals with multiple needs. PACE has secured additional assistance from specialist agencies, including RNIB Scotland.

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many central heating systems it estimates will be installed under the Energy Assistance Package scheme over the next five years, broken down by local authority area.

**Holding answer issued: 20 July 2011**

**(S4W-1076)**

**Fergus Ewing:** We do not hold this information. The Energy Assistance Package is a demand led scheme. The volume and location of installations depends on the receipt of eligible applications, along with the available budget. Future funding for EAP will be a matter for the forthcoming Spending Review.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will consider providing funding for a subscription-led and voluntary property annual inspection pilot scheme.

**Holding answer issued: 26 July 2011**

**(S4W-1321)**

**Keith Brown:** The Scottish Government encourages owners to inspect their properties on a regular basis to identify any repair needs. There are also powers available to local authorities under the Building (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 to intervene where owners are not carrying out necessary works to keep a building in a good state of repair.

The Scottish Government has no plans to fund a voluntary inspection scheme but would encourage people concerned about maintenance of their building to contact their local authority who may be able to provide advice or assistance.

**Stuart McMillan (West Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what marketing awards VisitScotland has received in the last year.

**Holding answer issued: 26 July 2011**

**(S4W-1376)**

**Fergus Ewing:** VisitScotland's marketing activities consistently win various highly-acclaimed marketing industry awards. VisitScotland has achieved awards across 9 categories at the Marketing Society in 2010 and 6 categories in 2011. 2011 awards include Gold in the Tourism and Leisure Category for the Meet the Scots campaign and Silver Star Marketing Team Award. In 2011 the effectiveness of VisitScotland's Winter White 2010 campaign won over the judges of the Institute of Promotional Marketing awards. VisitScotland won 8 of these awards including their Grand Prix Award. These awards pay tribute to the effectiveness of VisitScotland's campaigns in generating additional revenue for Scotland's tourism industry and contributing to our international image.

**Jamie Hepburn (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the average number of passengers travelling directly from (a) Helensburgh Central, (b) Glasgow Queen Street, (c) High Street and (d) Bellgrove to Edinburgh via the Airdrie to Bathgate rail link has been since the service started and how this compares with the estimated figure for the service.

**(S4W-1415)**

**Keith Brown:** This information is not held by the Scottish Executive.

**Jamie Hepburn (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it is taking to monitor the number of passengers using the Airdrie to Bathgate rail link in comparison with the estimated figure for the service.

**(S4W-1417)**

**Keith Brown:** We have asked ScotRail to monitor patronage figures on the Airdrie to Bathgate link and this work is currently underway.

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what progress is being made in ensuring effective provision for cyclists at public transport hubs such as railway stations and park and ride facilities.

**(S4W-1438)**

**Keith Brown:** The Scottish Government encourages local authorities and regional transport partnerships to provide cycle facilities at major transport hubs, including rail stations and Park and Ride/ Choose sites. Provision of cycle facilities at bus stations is a matter for the owner of the bus station.

ScotRail has previously fulfilled its obligation to install secure cycle storage facilities at all stations and it continues to seek funding from external groups to install further facilities. Recently ScotRail funded new facilities at Haymarket and at some Strathclyde and east Lothian stations.

In addition all five new rail stations opened as part of the Airdrie- Bathgate project have covered, secure racks in place.

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what its policy is on segregated cycle path provision alongside trunk roads.

**(S4W-1440)**

**Keith Brown:** The Trunk Road Cycling Initiative requires that special consideration is given to cyclists in all new trunk road schemes and within improvements of existing trunk roads (including bridge and structural maintenance improvements). Guidance on where segregated cycle path provision is considered appropriate is set out in *Cycling by Design* which is published on Transport Scotland's website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/strategy-and-research/publications-and-consultations/cycling-by-design>.

**Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with (a) the UK Government and (b) other bodies about protecting landing slots at Heathrow Airport for domestic flights from Aberdeen in each of the last three years.

**(S4W-1463)**

**Keith Brown:** The issue of the protection of access to slot-constrained airports such as Heathrow is always at the forefront of our dialogue with the UK Government and its Regulators, both at Ministerial and at official level. I had discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport in February on this issue in the wake of bmi's announcement to withdraw its Glasgow/Heathrow service. This was followed up by an exchange of correspondence.

Continuing access to global hub airports is essential for Scottish business and to maintain our competitiveness and to sustain economic growth. We will continue to lobby for an adequate protection mechanism, including through the current UK Government consultation on a new sustainable aviation policy framework.

**Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions it has had with (a) the UK Government and (b) other bodies regarding devolving air passenger duty in each of the last three years.

**(S4W-1464)**

**Keith Brown:** As part of our engagement on the Scotland Bill in 2010 and 2011, the Scottish Government has repeatedly made the case to the UK Government for early devolution of Air Passenger Duty (APD). In our regular discussions over the last 3 years with the main Scottish airports and with airlines, we have also raised the devolution of APD and the opportunities that this would present for them and for Scotland.

**Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive how much money has been allocated to support district heating schemes in each year since 1999.

**(S4W-1467)**

**Alex Neil:** There is no central comprehensive record of funding allocated specifically to support district heating. However, as highlighted in the answer to question S4W-01468 on 27 July 2011, district heating schemes have benefited from around £23 million funding from UK Government and Scottish Government sources during this time.

All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/MAQASearch/QAndMSearch.aspx>.

**Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive which district heating schemes have received funding and how much each has received in each year since 1999.

**(S4W-1468)**

**Alex Neil:** There is no central comprehensive record of funding allocated to, or received by, district heating schemes in Scotland each year since 1999.

However, district heating schemes have benefited from around £23 million funding from UK Government and Scottish Government during this time. Some examples of the recorded programmes are detailed in the following tables.

	Pre - 2007	Post - 2007
UK Government (Community Energy Programme – Closed 2007)	£17,385,681	-
Scottish Executive / Scottish Government (SCEDS, SCHRI, SBSS, SRDP, SBHS, CARES, Energy Efficiency Design Awards and Energy Efficiency Budget allocation)	£330,895	£5,208,893

#### UK Government Community Energy Programme

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2002	Shetland Heat & Power	£500,000
	Aberdeen City Council	£659,716
	University of Edinburgh	£250,000
	University of Edinburgh	£1,630,948
	University of Dundee	£50,000
	Midlothian Council	£449,200
2003	Perthshire HA	£39,796
	Cloch HA	£23,600
	Shetland HA	£260,080
	Angus Community Care Trust	£42,009
2004	Edinburgh University	£2,691,780
	Shetland Heat & Power	£230,935
	Aberdeen University	£1,753,000
	Clydebank HA	£775,760
	Lanarkshire HA	£35,000
	Dundee University	£65,000
	Aberdeen Heat & Power	£1,334,190
	Aberdeen Heat & Power	£613,052
2005	Highland Council	£1,545,000
	Aberdeenshire Council	£109,000
	Fife Council	£1,591,043
	Falkirk Council	£983,730
	Highland Council	£1,380,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,012,839</b>

Under this UK Government Programme, in addition to the capital grants, Scottish schemes were awarded a total of £372,842 development funding between 2002-2005 to help with feasibility studies and business planning. Unfortunately, there is no record of how this is broken down between schemes.

Scottish Clean Energy Demonstration Scheme (SCEDS)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2002	Whitegates	£77,000
2003	Lynn Road Housing Development (Orkney Housing Association)	£78,071
	Total	£155,071

SCHRI Householder/Energy Saving Scotland home renewables grant funding (specifically provided to owner occupiers connecting to the Lerwick District Heating Scheme)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2004	Lerwick District Heating Scheme	£1,368
2005		£29,243
2006		£13,229
2007		£28,898
2008		£25,648
2009		£13,628
2010		£12,902
2011		£3,905
	Total	£128,821

Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (Community)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2004	Braemar District Heating Scheme (Feasibility)	£5,475
2005	Braemar District Heating Scheme (Feasibility)	£4,639
2007	Aboyne Academy (Capital)	£100,000
2008	Houndwood Biomass Project (Feasibility)	£6,500
	Cardenden Heat and Power (Feasibility)	£9,467
	Dunedin Housing Association (Capital)	£50,000
	Total	£176,081

Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative (Highlands and Islands)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2005	Albyn Housing Association Aviemore	£50,000
	Glenshellach Servite Housing Association	£71,870
	Total	£121,870

Scottish Biomass Support Scheme

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
F/Y 2007/08	Dalfling Biomass Heating Plant	£36,257
	Sabhal Mor Ostaig Biomass Heating Scheme	£265,960
	Blairmore	£46,503
	Great Glen Cattle Ranch Biomass Project	£47,719
	Arniston Energy Limited	£68,674
	Eco Heat (Angus)	£56,720

	Edinglassie Community Heating Scheme	£26,131
	Home Farm, Portree – Phase II-V: Biomass District Heating Scheme	£400,000
	Gelston Castle Holiday Cottages Biomass Boiler Installation	£21,361
	District Heating System for Marcassie Farmhouse and Steading	£25,309
	Touch Business Centre Biomass Project	£89,586
	Total	£1,084,220

#### Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
F/Y 2009/10	Craigton Biomass Boiler Heating System	£58,623
	Glensaugh Biomass Heating	£22,787
	Bridge of Dye Biomass	£57,302
	Westfield Farm Biomass	£58,616
	Cotton Hillock Affordable Biomass Scheme	£85,439
	South Auchedley Biomass Scheme	£32,068
	Carmichael Estate	£69,580
	Mountherrick Farm	£76,931
	Penicuik Estate	£197,000
	Total	£658,346

#### Scottish Biomass Heat Scheme (SBHS)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
F/Y 2009/10	Pleasants Housing Development, Jedburgh	£43,837
	Cairngorm Ski Services, Kingussie	£75,849
	Harper Transport Biomass distributed heating system, Inch	£18,809
	Rowan Timber Supplies (Scotland Ltd), Airdrie	£62,975
	Puffin Energy, Boyndie	£26,813
	Kingairloch district heating scheme	£82,432
	Kinloch Hotel Ltd, Blackwaterfoot	£104,128
	Drummuir woodchip district heating system	£63,523
	Angus College	£72,700
	Seggieden housing development, Inverarirt by Forfar	£94,400
	Kinnaird Castle	£99,738
	ARP Besterman, Auch Estate	£38,081
	Lovat Arms Hotel, Beauly	£78,405
F/Y 2010/11	John O'Groats Leisure Ltd	£51,808

	Angus Biofuels, Lyon Crescent, Bridge of Allan	£164,500
	Highland Wood Energy Ltd	£55,259
	R&R Construction, Houston	£93,572
	Douglas & Angus Estates	£97,639
	Total	£1,324,468

#### Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2010	Inverness	£62,265
	Findhorn	£150,000
	Douglas	£97,670
	Newmill Moray	£33,013
	Total	£342,948

#### Energy Efficiency Design Awards

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2010	Link Group Housing Association – West Bridge Mill	£199,972
	Kingdom Housing Association – John Woods Houses	£140,000
2011	Link Group Housing Association – Kilsyth Road	£207,991
	Total	£547,963

#### Energy Efficiency Budgets

Year	Scheme	Funding awarded
2011	Aberdeen Heat and Power	£1,000,000
	Total	£1,000,000

**Mark McDonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what authority is responsible for licensing and regulating the sale of alcohol on trains.

**(S4W-1473)**

**Keith Brown:** The 2005 Licensing (Scotland) Act governs the sale of alcohol in Scotland including on trains. Railway vehicles engaged on journeys are exempt from the requirement for a premises licence under the Act, although they do have to comply with certain other requirements of the Act, such as not allowing the sale of alcohol to young people.

In addition, National Railway Byelaws create offences in relation to intoxication. It is for the British Transport Police and the Courts to enforce the law on trains.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive when the feasibility study on the dualling of the A96 from Inverness to Inverness Airport will be published.

**(S4W-1490)**

**Keith Brown:** The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Stage 2 assessment of the dualling of the A96 from Inverness to Inverness Airport was completed in August 2008. More recently Transport Scotland have undertaken an assessment of infrastructure requirements between A9 Inshes and A96 Nairn to support the Local Development Plan process being undertaken by The Highland Council.

Transport Scotland and the Highland Council are currently considering the findings in the context of its implications for the adjacent local road network. It is anticipated that the study will be published once these issues are fully resolved.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive when work will start on the dualling of the A96 from Inverness to Inverness Airport.

**(S4W-1491)**

**Keith Brown:** The detailed design, assessment and statutory process cannot commence until a preferred route is identified. A preferred route will not be identified until route options have been consulted upon. It is too early to consider a future timetable for any resulting infrastructure.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what has been (a) budgeted for and (b) spent on the feasibility study on the dualling of the A96 from Inverness to Inverness Airport.

**(S4W-1492)**

**Keith Brown:** The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Stage 2 assessment of the dualling of the A96 from Inverness to Inverness Airport was completed in 2008 at a cost of £943,561.72.

The A96 Inshes to Nairn study commenced in August 2009 and £1,011,988.16 has been spent to date. Any budget for further work can only be allocated once the current studies are completed.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what proportion of the land required for the dualling of the A96 from Inverness to Inverness Airport has been acquired.

**(S4W-1493)**

**Keith Brown:** None. The relevant areas of land to be purchased cannot be identified until a preferred scheme is selected.

**Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will provide further details on its plans to establish a young Scots fund focused on sport, enterprise and creativity.

**(S4W-1517)**

**John Swinney:** Plans for the young Scots fund are a matter for the Spending Review, which will report in autumn 2011.

**Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive when it will establish a young Scots fund focused on sport, enterprise and creativity.

**(S4W-1518)**

**John Swinney:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-01517 on 27 July 2011. All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/MAQASearch/QAndMSearch.aspx>.



**Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how much funding will be allocated to a young Scots fund focused on sport, enterprise and creativity.

**(S4W-1519)**

**John Swinney:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-01517 on 27 July 2011. All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/MAQASearch/QAndMSearch.aspx>.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to reduce racism against Gypsy/Travellers.

**(S4W-1569)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government acknowledges that Gypsy/Traveller communities are amongst the most disenfranchised and discriminated against in Scotland. Our Race Equality Statement identified Gypsies/Travellers as a priority group, who are ethnically distinct and we encourage others to do the same.

Through our Race, Religion and Refugee Integration funding stream, we have allocated funding to voluntary organisations to develop projects specifically targeting the Gypsy/Traveller Community.

The previous Minister for Housing & Communities, Alex Neil MSP also chaired a Working Party which brought forward an interim strategy designed to improve and sustain relationships between gypsies/travellers and the settled community in the north east of Scotland. The strategy was published in March this year and can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/management/gt/wpstrategy>.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what resources it provides to support the Gypsy/Traveller communities.

**(S4W-1570)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government's Race, Refugee and Integration funding stream has allocated funding to voluntary organisations to develop projects specifically targeting the Gypsy/Traveller community.

During 2011-12 we are providing funding of £62,250 to Article 12, an organisation which up-skills young Gypsies/Travellers regarding issues relating to prejudice and discrimination.

Along with colleagues in Learning Directorate we have provided funding to help support the online Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP). Scottish Government funding totalling £103,700 enables STEP to help school age Gypsies/Travellers stay engaged with education, whether on the road or not.

In addition we have made available £80,000 for the development of new and existing short stay sites in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council areas in support of the strategy developed by the North East Gypsy Traveller Issues Working Party.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it has policies to specifically support the Water Gypsy community in Scotland.

**(S4W-1573)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government is not aware of any Water Gypsies, or bargee families living in Scotland currently. Policies to support this community specifically have not been developed.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it is measuring the specific impact of recession on the Gypsy/Traveller communities.

**(S4W-1577)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Executive is not specifically measuring the impact of the recession on the Gypsy/Traveller communities.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what funding it is providing to Gypsy/Traveller organisations.

**(S4W-1584)**

**Michael Matheson:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-01570 on 27 July 2011. All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/MAQASearch/QAndMSearch.aspx>.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it is promoting the history, traditions and culture of the Gypsy/Traveller communities.

**(S4W-1586)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Article 12 project funded by the Scottish Government aims to enable a cohort of young Gypsies/Travellers to engage in a positive messages campaign. The project is also developing a still images exhibition of positive images of Gypsy/Traveller life, which will be available on line.

Our One Scotland campaign continues to promote the culture of Gypsy/Traveller communities, on the website as well as in the newly produced toolkit, both of which include case studies of Gypsies/Travellers' experiences of growing up and living in Scotland. The toolkit is a free resource which we provide to stakeholders, grass-roots organisations and communities to deliver anti-racism messages as part of their own education programmes.

The Scottish Traveller Education Programme (STEP) which is funded by the Scottish Government, sets out on its website detailed information about the importance and significance of Gypsy/Traveller culture, particularly for teachers and staff employed in schools.

The Scottish Government delivered in-house seminars for Scottish Government officials in June, with speakers from the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller community. The discussion raised awareness of the Gypsy/Traveller experience in Scotland, and attempted to dispel the myths which surround the community.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what it is doing to promote better community relations between the settled communities and Gypsy/Travellers.

**(S4W-1588)**

**Michael Matheson:** In accordance with the Scottish Government's overarching approach and our Race Equality Statement, we place significant importance on ensuring that good relationships exist between settled communities and the Gypsy/Traveller community. To this end, the previous Minister for Housing and Communities, Alex Neil MSP, chaired a working party which aimed to foster good relations between both communities in the north east of Scotland where tensions were particularly acute. In March the resulting strategy was published: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/16342/management/gt/wpstrategy>.

One commitment which underpins the potential success of the strategy is to develop an improved understanding amongst the settled community of Gypsy/Traveller culture, partly by increasing engagement between the two communities but also by promoting positive images and messages. We understand that media liaison arrangements are being reviewed and their effectiveness considered currently.

We are also funding Article 12, an organisation which up-skills young Gypsies/Travellers regarding issues relating to prejudice and discrimination. Article 12's work in 2011-12 will focus on improving relations between Gypsies/Travellers and the settled community.

#### **Office of the First Minister**

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what funding is being provided to EventScotland for the second Homecoming in 2014.

**Holding answer issued: 20 July 2011**

**(S4W-1104)**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The total budget for Scotland's second Year of Homecoming in 2014 will be determined as part of the forthcoming Spending Review. In this financial year a total of up to £200,000 will be made available to VisitScotland for activity in relation to Homecoming Scotland 2014.

*The following question received a holding answer:*

S4W-00959