

*Tuesday 11 September 2012*

## **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

### **Enterprise and Environment**

**Aileen McLeod (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Executive what research has been done into introducing oil stamp saving schemes in Scotland.

**Holding answer issued: 31 May 2012**

**(S4W-07278)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Last year Alex Neil, Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Capital Investment, invited the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum to undertake an independent review of the Scottish Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy, to ensure that we are best able to assist fuel poor households in Scotland.

The review is ongoing and I will ask the Cabinet Secretary if this initiative can be looked at as part of the forum's work in considering future options for tackling fuel poverty.

The Scottish Government has funded the setting up and running of the Energy Savings Trust, an advice network agency which provides advice to consumers on ways to save money and to improve efficiency of energy use in domestic homes.

The Energy Savings Trust provides free and independent advice on how to save money on energy bills in people's homes and businesses. The service covers all the changes you can make in your home and business, from simple tips for saving water, to advice about new energy-efficient boilers, to detailed information about insulation and about availability of grants, loans and schemes which can all contribute to increased energy efficiency and lower energy bills.

**Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Executive what its position is on the need to increase the efficiency of biomass power plants.

**Holding answer issued: 6 July 2012**

**(S4W-08214)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Because of the multiple energy uses to which biomass can be put, the limits to supply, and the competition for that supply from other non-energy sectors, we need to encourage the most efficient and beneficial use of the available biomass resource. The Scottish Government would prefer to see biomass used in heat-only or combined heat and power (CHP) schemes, off gas-grid, and at a scale appropriate to make best use of both the available heat, and of local supply. That is one of the reasons why we have consulted on potential changes in this area under the Renewables Obligation (Scotland).

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it has given to Eden Springs Ltd and for what reason it provided this.

**(S4W-09324)**

**John Swinney:** The financial assistance paid to Eden Springs UK from Scottish Enterprise since 2010 has totalled £173,397.59 of a maximum of £200,000 payable over three years.

This has encompassed a number of grants providing assistance towards: training needs analysis; director team development; sales training; HR systems support; market development; e-business development; mergers and acquisitions support and supply chain development.

This support is helping to safeguard jobs at the firm's Blantyre facility, and forms part of Scottish Development International and Scottish Enterprise's vital work to drive forward sustainable economic growth across Scotland's business community.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government under what circumstances an individual may declare themselves to be bankrupt.

**(S4W-09344)**

**John Swinney:** In Scotland, an individual may apply to the Accountant in Bankruptcy for an award of their bankruptcy if they: are Apparently Insolvent; or have signed a trust deed which failed to become protected; or have a Certificate for Sequestration. The individual must also owe a total debt of £1,500 or more, be living in Scotland or have lived in Scotland sometime during the last year, have not been made bankrupt in the last five years and pay the application fee of £200.

If these circumstances are met, the individual may then complete a debtor application form and submit along with their fee to the Accountant in Bankruptcy for an award decision to be made.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether being in receipt of an income would prevent an individual from declaring themselves bankrupt.

**(S4W-09345)**

**John Swinney:** In Scotland all debtor applications for an award of bankruptcy are made by the Accountant in Bankruptcy. Section 5(2) of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 (as amended) prescribes the conditions and criteria that must be met in order for an individual to apply for an award of bankruptcy. The income of an individual is not a condition or criteria listed in this section of the act, therefore an individual in receipt of an income is not prevented from applying for an award of bankruptcy.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether a creditor has the right of appeal when an individual declares themselves bankrupt and, if so, how an appeal may be lodged.

**(S4W-09346)**

**John Swinney:** An individual cannot declare themselves bankrupt. A creditor has no right of appeal against a decision to award bankruptcy to an individual, irrespective of whether the award is made by a court following a creditor petition or by the Accountant in Bankruptcy following a debtor's application for bankruptcy.

Should any creditor believe that a debtor fails to meet the criteria for the award of bankruptcy or considers that due process has not been followed, he may present this information to the Accountant in Bankruptcy or to the court as appropriate.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what legislation regulates the declaration of bankruptcy by individuals.

**(S4W-09347)**

**John Swinney:** In Scotland, the legislation that applies to the bankruptcy of an individual is the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 (as amended) (the Act). The Act sets out the criteria by which creditors may petition for the bankruptcy of an individual, and those that an individual must meet in order to apply for bankruptcy in Scotland.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has assessed the impact of the increase in the number of pay day loans on its debt advice services.

**(S4W-09389)**

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government has assessed the impact of the economic downturn and the impact on its advice service. The Scottish Government and the Money Advice Service have granted funding to go towards a programme managed by the Scottish Legal Aid Board to help Scots resolve their financial problems.

The Scottish Government is also providing funding for the National Debtline and for the training of advisers, who offer advice online, by telephone, and face to face at Citizens Advice Bureaux and local authorities. We have assessed the National Debtline's increase in calls for help with payday loans, which has increased 61 per cent more than the previous six months.

We are also looking at plans for bankruptcy law reform which will deliver a 'Financial Health Service' for Scotland. This service would provide debt advice and education, debt management and debt relief for those struggling with debts, whatever their financial circumstances.

### Finance

**Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-08425 by John Swinney on 7 August 2012, what marginal movement in terms of timescales was experienced by the (a) Forth Replacement Crossing, (b) Victoria and Albert waterfront project, (c) Port Edgar project and (d) Stromness Harbour extension project in 2011-12 and what the financial implication of this was.

**(S4W-09198)**

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government budget is managed flexibly across all projects and portfolios to ensure the spend achieves the maximum benefit for the Scottish people. Within the overall budget, the only financial implication of marginal movements in timescales for individual projects of a number of weeks, is to shift an element of the cashflow required into the next financial year, in this case, from 2011-12 into 2012-13.

### Health and Social Care

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) full-time and (b) full-time equivalent school nurses there have been in each year since 2007, broken down by NHS board.

**(S4W-09032)**

**Michael Matheson:** Published information on (a) full-time and (b) full-time equivalent school nurses there have been in each year since 2007, broken down by NHS board can be found at:

[http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/2012-08-28/Nursing\\_and\\_Midwifery\\_SIP\\_J2012.xls](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/2012-08-28/Nursing_and_Midwifery_SIP_J2012.xls).

The nursing workforce working in schools goes beyond school nurses. The figures for Public Health Nurses and Health Visitors should also be taken into account. Public Health Nurses include School Nurses, Health Visitors and those who have a dual role.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-08829 by Nicola Sturgeon on 20 August 2012, how Rural-track GP Specialty Training has been promoted and how many GPs have recently (a) expressed an interest in and (b) signed-up for this.

**(S4W-09253)**

**Alex Neil:** The Rural-track GP Specialty Training (GPST) option was offered as one of 18 GPST programmes in Scotland from the 2012 recruitment round.

It was promoted through the Scottish Medical Training website and was featured in an edition of "BMJ Careers" in January 2012 entitled "Training the rural GPs of the future"

[http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/media/570062/general\\_practice\\_rural\\_track\\_2012.pdf](http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/media/570062/general_practice_rural_track_2012.pdf).

<http://www.mmc.scot.nhs.uk/living-and-working-in-scotland/remote-and-rural.aspx>.

<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20006803>.

Every opportunity is also taken by the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) GP team and the wider deanery team in the North of Scotland to promote this training opportunity to individuals and groups of young doctors who are at the stage of considering options for specialty training.

The first cohort was recruited in August 2012. Five posts were filled; two in Western Isles and one in each of Shetland, Orkney and Caithness, although the Caithness based trainee has since resigned.

NES has reported that it has received significant informal interest from trainees for the 2013 recruitment round which opens on 12 November 2012.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-08829 by Nicola Sturgeon on 20 August 2012, how many (a) surgeries and (b) other NHS establishments in Shetland are involved in the rurally-based training option offered to junior doctors.

**(S4W-09254)**

**Alex Neil:** The provision of the GP component of the training programme is through two NHS Education for Scotland (NES) approved training practices in the Hillswick and Lerwick Health Centres.

The Gilbert Bain Hospital provides the majority of the hospital experience that forms a part of the training programme, complemented by more specialist hospital experience in Aberdeen that cannot be gained on Shetland.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the evaluation of directly elected NHS boards will be completed and made public.

**(S4W-09288)**

**Alex Neil:** The London School of Economics in association with the University of St Andrews is conducting the independent evaluation of the pilot health board elections. Their report is due to be completed and laid before the Parliament during the autumn of 2012.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the benchmarking audit of pain services (a) was carried out and (b) will be published.

**(S4W-09291)**

**Michael Matheson:** Dr. Gilbert, our National Lead Clinician for Chronic Pain and the project management team in Healthcare Improvement Scotland conducted an audit of Pain Management Services and the numbers of patients seen by these services for the period 1 April 2010 to March 2011. It is anticipated that the report will be published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland by the end of September 2012.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the benchmarking audit of pain services, which was due to be published in June 2012, has been delayed.

**(S4W-09292)**

**Michael Matheson:** The change of publishing date is due to additional factual accuracy checks being undertaken. This is important to ensure the report is accurate and can be used to inform planning.

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-08596 by Michael Matheson on 6 August 2012, which senior medical officers have observational status and what powers this gives them.

**(S4W-09296)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Senior Medical Officer within the Scottish Government with responsibility for vaccination and immunisation routinely attends meetings of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) as an observer. Dr Nicola Steedman is the current Senior Medical Officer with this portfolio. Other officials of the Scottish Government, or representatives of Health Protection Scotland, may also attend in an observer capacity, on occasion. The minutes of all JCVI meetings, including details of who attended each meeting, are available on the JCVI website.

The JCVI Code of Practice sets out that observers from the UK Governments/Administrations will attend all JCVI meetings (and meetings of its sub-committees), be party to all communication between the secretariat and the whole committee and that they will receive committee papers as they are circulated to the committee itself.

The JCVI Terms of Reference sets out that the committee may provide advice to Scottish Ministers. Historically, the Scottish Government would seek any advice from the JCVI through its observers on the committee.

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what opportunity there is for the medical and life sciences industry to benefit from investment in the new South Glasgow Hospitals.

**(S4W-09351)**

**Alex Neil:** The new South Glasgow Hospitals will create a range of opportunities for the medical and life sciences industries.

For example, the planned construction of Clinical Research Facilities will provide a focus on clinical and translational research making them suited to the placement of commercial clinical trials by the pharmaceutical industry and Clinical Research Organisations.

To maximise such opportunities, Scottish Enterprise, in support of the Glasgow Economic Leadership Group's life sciences workstream, is undertaking an assessment of the wider life science infrastructure in the West of Scotland. As part of this work, there will be a specific focus on the opportunity for the life sciences industry that comes with the new South Glasgow Hospitals.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much each territorial and special NHS board has spent on legal fees in relation to compromise agreements and how many such agreements each board has reached.

**(S4W-09356)**

**Alex Neil:** This is a matter for NHS boards. The information sought is not held centrally by the Scottish Government.

#### **Learning and Justice**

**Roderick Campbell (North East Fife) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to develop the role of colleges in the activity agreements programme.

**(S4W-09195)**

**Angela Constance:** As activity agreements are focused on those young people not yet able or ready to access formal learning opportunities we would see college as a progression route for them upon completion of their activity agreement. Some young people will access college provision on a short-term or part-time basis, during their time on an activity agreement, as a taster to introduce them to this route to further learning.

**Roderick Campbell (North East Fife) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding North East Fife will receive as part of the activity agreements programme.

**(S4W-09196)**

**Angela Constance:** Fife Council has been allocated up to £244,733 to support the development of Activity Agreements in Fife for 2012-13. The use of this funding across the area is a matter for the council to decide.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-05880 by Kenny MacAskill on 5 March 2012, whether it will make an announcement on the introduction of such a service and, if so, (a) when it will be launched, (b) how much it will cost to (i) develop and (ii) operate, (c) who would run it, (d) how many new jobs would be created and where they will be located, (e) how many existing jobs would be lost and (f) whether call handlers would be able to (A) identify the location of callers and (B) patch callers through to the emergency services.

**(S4W-09256)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Consideration of the adoption of the “111” number for access to non-emergency healthcare services in Scotland is still ongoing; a decision will be made in due course. Should it be adopted, this number would replace the existing number for NHS 24 and therefore no new service would be set up. The Scottish Government has been in regular contact with the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament on this matter (PE1285 refers).

Chief Constable Kevin Smith, the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, announced the establishment of a single non-emergency number for the police, on 31 May at their annual conference. It is anticipated that the new number will become operational from 1 April 2013. However, specific information relating to the establishment of this number will be a matter for the new Chief Constable of the Police Service of Scotland.

In due course, we will seek to ensure that the issue is also considered by the new Fire and Rescue Service.

**Jenny Marra (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much was collected in fees for first instance cases in the Court of Session in (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10 and (c) 2010-11.

**(S4W-09363)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** This question relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service (SCS) corporate body. The question has been passed to the Chief Executive of the SCS who will reply in writing.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many convictions for the illegal (a) production and (b) sale of alcohol in each year since 2007 have led to the confiscation of criminal assets and how much of this was recovered has been used to support tackling alcohol-related problems.

**(S4W-09384)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** We do not hold information on the number of convictions for the illegal production and sale of alcohol since 2007 that have led to the confiscation of criminal assets.

However, since 2003, the use of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in Scotland has allowed over £60 million to be recovered from criminals. Since the inception of the CashBack for Communities programme in 2007, over £46 million of those monies recovered from that time, have been ploughed back into a wide range of sporting, cultural, educational and mentoring activities and facilities for children and young people and their communities. Over 600,000 young people across Scotland have benefited from CashBack activities and projects.

A number of CashBack partners across the CashBack for Communities programme have educational elements to support tackling alcohol-related problems within their activities by increasing awareness of health, alcohol issues and drugs misuse. Most of the educational elements and programme content are informed by and agreed with Alcohol Focus Scotland, Community Health partnerships and other specialized organisations.

**Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will ensure that those communities most blighted by crime benefit most from the CashBack for Communities scheme.

**(S4W-09440)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Since the inception of the highly successful CashBack for Communities programme in 2007, over £46 million recovered from the proceeds of crime has been invested throughout Scotland, directly benefitting over 600,000 young people and generating over 11,000 young person volunteers who are now putting something back into their communities.

Crime and antisocial behaviour afflict every community, but some are affected more than others which is why CashBack focuses on the areas that need it most. Of course, it is not just hard-hit communities that lack facilities and opportunities for our young people. The Scottish Government

believes that all young people are entitled to have the opportunity to be all they can be and to have access to the benefits CashBack projects offer which is why we rightly ensure that money recovered from proceeds of crime is used to benefit children and young people, regardless of where they happen to live in Scotland.

*The following questions received holding answers:*

S4W-09069

S4W-09092

S4W-09093

S4W-09094

S4W-09095

S4W-09096