

Friday 17 January 2014

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise and Environment

**Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the financial security of companies involved in the opencast mining sector.

(S4W-19027)

**Fergus Ewing:** Under the existing legal framework the Scottish Government does not have any role or duty to make assessment of the financial security of companies involved in the open cast mining sector.

Financial clearance and financial appraisal is one of the aspects taken into account by the UK Coal Authority in the awarding of coaling leases and licences to coal operators. The issuing of coaling licences is a reserved matter.

**Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with companies involved in opencast mining about their financial status.

(S4W-19028)

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government does not, under the existing legal framework, applicable to open cast mining, have any legal duty to carry out any analysis of the financial status of companies.

Financial clearance and financial appraisal is, however, one of the aspects taken into account by the UK Coal Authority in the awarding of coaling leases and licences to coal operators. The issuing of coaling licences is a reserved matter.

**Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it had with Scottish Coal in the year before it went into liquidation.

(S4W-19029)

**Fergus Ewing:** Scottish Coal (also known as Scottish Resources Group SRG) went into liquidation in April 2013. In the year prior to that Scottish Government officials met with SRG and other coal operators on a regular basis to discuss general issues relevant to the coal industry such as the carbon reduction commitment policy and the increases to rail freight charges proposed by the Office of Rail Regulation which were the most pressing issues of concern for the sector at that time.

The Scottish Government also held a coal summit in September 2012 which was chaired by myself and the Environment Minister Mr Wheelhouse. The summit was attended by SRG along with other coal operators, land owners, local authorities, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Scottish Government officials and discussions centred on the issues affecting the sector.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government which areas of Dumfries and Galloway receive a full flood warning service from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and whether it plans to fund an increase in the provision of this service.

(S4W-19083)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government has continuously funded improvements to Flood Warning in Scotland including providing the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) with £8.6 million to enhance their flood warning service by implementing Floodline's Direct Warning Service, and establishing the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service (a partnership between SEPA and the Met Office to provide early warning to local authorities, emergency services and other partners in Scotland through a daily flood guidance statement) at an annual cost of around £560,000. We have also committed to continue to fund the implementation of SEPA's Flood Warning Strategy and have provided £189,000 for improvements to flood warning in 2013-14.

SEPA's current service in Dumfries and Galloway includes flood alerts, which cover the whole region and are issued when SEPA forecasts that 'flooding is possible' anywhere in the region. It is an early alert to help people prepare for dealing with the possibility of flooding, generally issued up to 24 hours in advance. However it is not a targeted flood warning at community level.

SEPA offers more specific targeted flood warnings at about 250 locations in Scotland where there are a network of rain gauges and flow gauges sufficient to forecast flooding conditions with more accuracy. In Dumfries and Galloway, SEPA currently provides such a flood warning service for the River Nith in Dumfries, Whitesands.

In 2014, SEPA will extend the River Nith flood forecasting model upstream of Dumfries. The initial plans were for one additional flood warning location immediately upstream of Dumfries, however, following the flood event of 30 December 2013, SEPA is currently considering the feasibility of extending the model further upstream to include Kirkconnel.

As published in the *2012-2016 Flood Warning Strategy*, SEPA is also planning to develop a new coastal flood warning scheme for the Solway Firth in 2015. The communities which will benefit from this new warning scheme will be defined in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and will take full account of the recent flood impacts.

We are also in early discussions with SEPA about extending the warning service in other areas recently affected by flooding in Dumfries and Galloway; such developments require detailed feasibility and cost assessments which will be undertaken in 2014-15.

In addition, the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service can also provide partners with specific advice on areas not covered by formal flood warning schemes, such as estimates of rainfall totals for specific areas and communities which may be impacted. Dumfries and Galloway receives the full benefit of this service.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the impact was of opening the sluice gates on Loch Doon on 30 December 2013 on flooding in (a) Moniaive and (b) other areas of Dumfries and Galloway.

**(S4W-19084)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** Reservoir operators are required to manage reservoir levels in such a way as to protect the operational integrity of the dam and the integrity of the surrounding area.

Whilst Moniaive did experience flooding on 30 December 2013, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has advised that this was not as a result of hydro scheme operations but rather as a result of heavy rainfall within the Cairn Water catchment (noting that Loch Doon is not part of the Cairn Water catchment) which resulted in several watercourses breaking their banks and impacting on properties in the area. SEPA rain gauges in the area recorded 80mm of rain, which equates to a 1 in 33 year return period rainfall event.

Throughout the event, Scottish Power informed SEPA, the local authority and the Police of their sluice gates operation at Loch Doon.

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much new woodland has been established in each year since 2007.

**(S4W-19117)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The amount of new woodland established in each year since 2007 is shown in the following table:

Year	Conifer (ha)	Broadleaved (ha)	Total (ha)
2007-08	700	3,400	4,100
2008-09	1,200	2,300	3,500
2009-10	500	2,200	2,700
2010-11	1,500	3,600	5,100
2011-12	3,300	5,700	9,000
2012-13	1,700	5,300	7,000

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what areas of coniferous woodland have been planted on areas of deep peat and whether such areas will be restocked or whether compensation planting will be sought elsewhere.

**(S4W-19118)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government does not have reliable figures for the overall area of coniferous woodland that has been planted on deep peat.

Forestry Commission Scotland will shortly issue guidance on the future management of forestry on peatland habitats. The guidance will provide options to forest managers so that they can assess the carbon retention implications of different land uses, including woodland creation and restocking, which can be considered alongside other priorities such as biodiversity and landscape. The Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy makes clear the circumstances under which compensatory planting will be required if woodland is permanently removed.

### Governance and Communities

**Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of private tenancy deposits has been paid into a protected deposit scheme.

**(S4W-19100)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The information requested is not held centrally by the Scottish Government.

**Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people on average per month reported sleeping rough the night before making a homelessness application in each year since 2006-07.

**(S4W-19103)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The following table shows the average number of homeless applications per month where any member of the household slept rough on the night immediately preceding the date of application:

Year	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
Monthly Average	323	286	275	229	210	163	145

A further breakdown of the number of people within each application who slept rough on the night before making the application is not held centrally.

Source: HL1 Dataset 10 January 2014. Further information on homelessness statistics are available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/homelessstats>.

**Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to tackle overcrowding in the private rented housing sector.

**(S4W-19174)**

**Margaret Burgess:** Local authorities are responsible for managing issues of overcrowding in the private rented sector. The Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 gives local authorities powers to licence Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO). Local authorities are responsible for licensing and inspecting the homes under the licensing regime and for applying appropriate conditions to an HMO licence to ensure that the property is suitable for the number and type of persons intending to occupy it. Unless the HMO is exempt, it is a criminal offence for the owner of an HMO to operate without a licence, or to breach any HMO licence condition.

The Scottish Government intends to bring forward provisions at Stage 2 of the Housing Bill 2013 for additional discretionary powers for local authorities. Under these provisions, a local authority would be required to apply to the Scottish Ministers for an enhanced enforcement area designation. This would provide additional enforcement powers for a specified geographic area characterised by poor private

rented housing conditions. It is intended that these additional powers would be for a specified time, and would include powers of entry to and inspection of, private rented properties for the purposes of checking that statutory housing standards are being met.

**Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking against landlords who permit multiple occupancy of their accommodation by families.

**(S4W-19175)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 gives local authorities powers to act where landlords permit multiple occupancy by three or more persons from three or more families. In such cases of homes in multiple occupation (HMOs), local authorities are responsible for licensing and inspecting the homes under the licensing regime and for applying appropriate conditions to an HMO licence to ensure that the property is suitable for the number and type of persons intending to occupy it. Unless the HMO is exempt, it is a criminal offence for the owner of an HMO to operate without a licence, or to breach any HMO licence condition.

### **Health and Social Care**

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many NHS facilities provide onsite rest facilities for on-call staff.

**Holding answer issued: 9 January 2014**

**(S4W-18870)**

**Alex Neil:** There are 50 facilities with onsite rest facilities for on-call staff. In some facilities, if required, additional or adhoc rest rooms are also available for residential on-call staff.

### **Learning and Justice**

**Annabelle Ewing (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what review it has carried out of trafficking legislation in Scotland.

**(S4W-19026)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government keeps human trafficking legislation under regular review in dialogue with key stakeholders, in particular police and prosecutors. Trafficking is an international and cross border crime and a partnership approach is the most effective way to tackle it. In December 2013, the UK Government published a *Draft Modern Slavery Bill* and we are working with them to explore the potential for that Bill to cover Scottish interests. We have encouraged relevant Scottish organisations to consider and comment on the Bill. In addition, we have brought forward provisions for a human trafficking statutory aggravation, which are contained in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning was aware on 22 August 2012 that a young student with a residual household income of £15,000 would receive almost £900 less in bursary each year as a result of the changes announced on that date.

**(S4W-19042)**

**Michael Russell:** A key aim of the Post 16 Education Reform Programme was to simplify the main student support system. Analysis of the impact of changes announced on 22 August 2012 was geared to ensuring maximum benefit for all undergraduate students.

Introduction of the new support package in 2013, means that undergraduate students benefit from access to increased financial support. An annual minimum income of £7,250 is now guaranteed for students with a family income of less than £17,000.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning was aware on 22 August 2012 that a young student with a residual household income of £18,000 would receive over £1,600 less in bursary each year as a result of the changes announced on that date.

**(S4W-19043)**

**Michael Russell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-19042 on 17 January 2014. 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/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning was aware on 22 August 2012 that a young student with a household income of £24,000 would receive over £1,300 less in bursary each year as a result of the changes announced on that date.

**(S4W-19044)**

**Michael Russell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-19042 on 17 January 2014. 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/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning was aware on 22 August 2012 that an independent student with a household income of £18,000 would receive £1,000 less in bursary each year as a result of the changes announced on that date.

**(S4W-19045)**

**Michael Russell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-19042 on 17 January 2014. 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/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning was aware that the figures published by the Student Loans Company quoted in the answer were for the average final debt of students who had completed their higher education in different parts of the UK in the year prior to April 2013.

**(S4W-19046)**

**Michael Russell:** The figures included in the answer to S4W-17799, were published by the Student Loans Company in June 2013. They show the average debt of those borrowers who became eligible to repay in April 2013 (the 2013 cohort). Borrowers become eligible to repay their loans in the April after they graduate or otherwise leave their course. These are the most up to date comparative figures currently available.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, for what reason it used figures for end-of-course debt for previous years in England and Wales to inform its assessment of the impact on low-income students of changes coming into effect in Scotland in 2013-14.

**(S4W-19047)**

**Michael Russell:** In framing the new student support package from 2013-14, a range of evidence was examined by the Scottish Government.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, over what period of years the debt figures quoted had been accrued in each case.

**(S4W-19048)**

**Michael Russell:** The figures quoted in the answer to S4W-17799 show the average debt of those borrowers who became eligible to repay in April 2013 (the 2013 cohort). Borrowers become eligible to repay their loans in the April after they graduate or otherwise leave their course.

The figures represent the average debt accrued by Scottish, English and Welsh students who became eligible to repay their loans in 2013. This is the most up to date comparison available of debt levels for recent graduates.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, what the (a) lowest and (b) highest amount of student loan available was in 2012-13 for a young student living (i) away from home and (ii) in the family home with a household income below £30,000.

**(S4W-19049)**

**Michael Russell:** The new simplified student support package replaced a more complex system in operation prior to 2013. Under the previous system, a number of factors determined loan entitlement, these included: Household Income, the length of the course, where the student lived while studying, the year of the course (the final year loan was at a lower level) and if other members of the family were in higher or further education.

As a result, there was no typical amount of loan that young students from a household with an income of under £30,000 would be entitled to. For illustrative purposes, assuming a household income of £25,000 the amount of loan available to a young student for a standard 30 week course in 2012-13 would have been:

Living away from home: £940 the lowest loan and £3813 the highest loan.  
At home: £620 lowest loan and £2828 highest loan.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17799 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, what the (a) lowest and (b) highest amount of student loan available was in 2012-13 for an independent student living (a) away from home and (b) in the family home with a household income below £30,000.

**(S4W-19050)**

**Michael Russell:** The new simplified student support package replaced a more complex system in operation prior to 2013. Under the previous system, a number of factors determined loan entitlement.

These included: Household Income, the length of the course, where the student lived while studying, the year of the course (the final year loan was at a lower level) and if other members of the family where in higher or further education.

As a result, there was no typical amount of loan that independent students from a household with an income of under £30,000 would be entitled to. For illustrative purposes, assuming a household income of £25,000 the amount of loan available to an independent student for a standard 30 week course in 2012-13 would have been:

Living away from home: £940 the lowest loan and £4952 the highest loan.  
At home: £620 lowest loan and £3967 highest loan.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-18332 by Michael Russell on 28 November 2013, what estimates for the value of non-repayable forms of higher education student support, including bursaries, were used to

inform the figures for (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15 in the “Student Support and Tuition Fee Payments” line in Table 5.07 in the draft Scottish budget 2014-15.

**(S4W-19051)**

**Michael Russell:** The student support and tuition fee payments line is made up of tuition fees and bursaries. This line assumes that the student population is maintained at the current levels. The budget line in 2013-14 allows for £220 million in tuition fees and £82.4 million in bursaries whilst the 2014-15 line allows for £223 million in tuition fees and £83 million in bursaries.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17797 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether it will provide figures for the value of the total maintenance package provided in 2013-14 for students living away from home (but not in London) from (a) Scotland, (b) England and (c) Wales at residual incomes of (i) £17,000, (ii) £20,000 and (iii) incomes in increments of £5,000 thereafter up to and including £50,000.

**(S4W-19052)**

**Michael Russell:** The following tables provide the maintenance package available to dependent and independent students in Scotland in 2013-14, who are living away from home.

Dependent students:

Household income	Bursary	Loan	Total
£0 to £16,999	£1,750	£5,500	£7,250
£17,000 to £23,999	£1,000	£5,500	£6,500
£24,000 to £33,999	£500	£5,500	£6,000
£34,000 and above	£0	£4,500	£4,500

Independent students:

Household income	Bursary	Loan	Total
£0 to £16,999	£750	£6,500	£7,250
£17,000 to £23,999	£0	£6,500	£6,500
£24,000 to £33,999	£0	£6,000	£6,000
£34,000 and above	£0	£4,500	£4,500

We do not hold information on support available to students from elsewhere in the UK. From academic year 2013-14, support is assessed using household income bandings in the tables above. It is no longer assessed on income increments

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17797 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether it remains its position, as noted in Supporting a Smarter Scotland: A consultation on supporting learners in higher education, that students who stay away from home while at university “are likely to face greater financial pressures from a number of areas including rent and rising food and fuel costs” compared with those who live at home.

**(S4W-19053)**

**Michael Russell:** The Scottish Government recognises the impact of increases in the cost of living for students. A key aim of the Post 16 Education Reform Programme is to simplify the main student support system whilst ensuring maximum benefit for all students.

On top of important benefits such as free tuition, the new package includes an annual minimum income of £7,250, through a combination of bursaries and loans, for students with a family income of less than £17,000. All students, irrespective of circumstances, are eligible for a student loan of £4,500 a year.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17797 by Michael Russell on 8 November 2013, whether it remains its position, as noted in Supporting a Smarter Scotland: A consultation on supporting learners in higher

education, that “younger students staying in the parental home tended to have the lowest incomes and expenditure” compared with those who live away from home.

**(S4W-19054)**

**Michael Russell:** The Scottish Government recognises the diversity in the circumstances of students. A key aim of the Post 16 Education Reform Programme is to simplify the main student support system whilst ensuring maximum benefit for all students.

On top of important benefits such as free tuition, the new package includes an annual minimum income of £7,250, through a combination of bursaries and loans, for students with a family income of less than £17,000. All students, irrespective of circumstances, are eligible for a student loan of £4,500 a year.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of Scotland-domiciled full-time undergraduate students supported by the Students Awards Agency for Scotland lived away from home in the most recent year for which information is available, also broken down by (a) young and (b) independent students.

**(S4W-19055)**

**Michael Russell:** In 2012-13, 56% of Scottish-domiciled full-time undergraduate students supported by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland lived away from the parental home.

Half (50%) of young Scottish-domiciled full-time undergraduate students lived away from the parental home. Over four-fifths (83%) of independent Scottish-domiciled full-time undergraduate students lived away from the parental home.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many recommendations by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner, following reviews of complaints about the Police by members of the public, have (a) been enacted and (b) rejected by (i) Police Scotland and (ii) its predecessor Central Scotland Police since May 2011.

**(S4W-19061)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Between May 2011 and April 2013, the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner made 14 recommendations to Central Scotland Police, 13 of which were implemented. Following further submissions by Central Scotland Police in respect of the remaining recommendation, the commissioner did not consider it necessary that the recommendation be implemented.

From April 2013, the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner have issued 129 recommendations to Police Scotland, 69 of which have been implemented. So far, Police Scotland has decided not to implement 2 of the commissioner’s recommendations. The remaining 58 recommendations are still under consideration.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the average cost has been of investigating each case reviewed by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner in each year since 2007.

**(S4W-19063)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** This information is not held.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government (a) how often and (b) when members of the Scottish Police Authority have visited the Police Scotland control room in Dumfries.

**(S4W-19085)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government does not hold this information. This is a matter for the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). You may contact the Interim Chief Executive of SPA, John Foley, at: Scottish Police Authority, Elphinstone House, 65 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2AF.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government (a) how often and (b) when Scottish Fire and Rescue Service board members have visited the service's control room in Dumfries.

**(S4W-19086)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This is a matter for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The information requested is not held centrally.

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will commence Part 3, Chapter 1 of the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010.

**(S4W-19101)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The Scottish Government is implementing the Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2010 in a phased manner and commencement of Part 3 will be considered following the approval of a regulator of new licensed legal services providers as set out in Part 2.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-18805 by Michael Russell on 7 January 2014, whether it will address the issue raised in the question.

**(S4W-19104)**

**Michael Russell:** The answer to S4W-18805 addressed the member's question about 'regional college boards', which she repeats in this question. It may be that the member has in mind safeguarding against profligacy on the part of regional strategic bodies, in which case, the following measures may be pertinent:

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) will have power to impose terms and conditions on grants made to regional strategic bodies. Regional strategic bodies will have a duty when making plans to have regard to ensuring that the funds it receives from the SFC are used as economically, efficiently and effectively as possible.

Regional strategic bodies will have a duty to have regard to the desirability of preventing unnecessary duplication with actions by Scottish Ministers or the SFC in relation to monitoring college performance. Where relevant, it would be for the SFC to identify whether minimising overheads was reflected in any principles of governance that regional strategic bodies would be required to comply.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the governance structure is of each college and who the (a) chair is and (b) board members are.

**(S4W-19120)**

**Michael Russell:** The governance arrangements of colleges differ depending on their legal status. Further information about the different status and arrangements is set out in the draft summary guide *College Reforms and the Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013*, available on the Scottish Government's website.

All colleges should list their chair and board members on their website. However, a key part of our college reforms are new and more rigorous arrangements for making appointments to the position of regional college and regional board chairs. These posts are regulated public appointments. This appointment process is underway and should conclude next month.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it gives colleges regarding paid board memberships.

**(S4W-19121)**

**Michael Russell:** The Post-16 Education (Scotland) Act 2013 provides that the chair of a regional college can be remunerated. This will come into force in March 2014. Beyond this, incorporated colleges will remain, as now, unable to remunerate individuals for their role as a member of their boards of management.

*The following questions received holding answers:*

S4W-19012  
S4W-19013  
S4W-19014  
S4W-19015  
S4W-19016  
S4W-19038  
S4W-19039  
S4W-19040