

Thursday 22 January 2015

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Communities

John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what guidelines there are regarding the proximity of wind turbines to public roads, and whether it plans to review these in light of reports that, following storms, part of a turbine was found by a roadside near Stow.

(S4W-24023)

Alex Neil: Paragraph 169 of *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)* indicates that proposals for energy infrastructure developments should consider impacts on trunk roads and road traffic.

Scottish Government on-line planning advice for onshore wind turbines last updated in December 2013 states:

'Road Traffic Impacts: In siting wind turbines close to major roads, pre-application discussions are advisable with Transport Scotland's Trunk Roads Network Management (TRNM). This is particularly important for the movement of large components (abnormal load routing) during the construction period, periodic maintenance and for decommissioning. Although wind turbines erected in accordance with best engineering practice should be stable structures, it may be advisable to achieve a set back from roads and railways of at least the height of the turbine proposed, to assure safety. Driver distraction may in some circumstances, be a consideration.'

There are no plans to review Scottish Planning Policy or these guidelines.

Enterprise and Environment

Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it supports the principles of the Domestic Workers Convention.

(S4O-3940)

Roseanna Cunningham: This is a matter which is reserved to the UK Government. However the Scottish Government is committed to a fairer and more prosperous Scotland, recognises the vital importance of employment rights, and broadly supports the principles which underpin the convention.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) co-operative and (b) employee-owned businesses there are; how many have been established in each year since 2007, and what (i) financial and (ii) other support it provides to them.

(S4W-23942)

Fergus Ewing: There are 663 co-operatives in Scotland of which 73 are employee owned/ worker co-operatives. Co-operative Development Scotland (CDS) has supported the establishment of:

	Co-operatives	Employee Owned
2006-08	27	
2008-09	15	
2009-10	16	2
2010-11	30	2
2011-12	27	4
2012-13	29	3
2013-14	30	6
2014-15	31	7

Advisory services are delivered by CDS staff and its specialist advisory framework, which are experts in co-operative models. Clients may receive up to three days advisory support fully funded. In addition, businesses wishing to adopt an employee ownership structure may be eligible for up to 30% of eligible implementation costs.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on introducing a ban on single-use Styrofoam products.

(S4W-23978)

Richard Lochhead: The Scottish Government is considering a number of options in line with the commitment in the national litter strategy to influence product design of frequently littered items to reduce their environmental impact. This could include looking at whether changes in materials used would be viable and offer environmental benefits without unintended consequences. However, we note a number of US cities have introduced bans on Styrofoam products, most recently New York City. We are keen to learn from these cities' experience of introducing and implementing such bans.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it has requested additional submissions on wild land issues for certain applications for consent for wind turbine developments on areas of designated wild land and not others.

(S4W-23984)

Fergus Ewing: No two wind farm applications are the same. The Scottish Government will request submission of further information or seek further views of interested parties only where that is required to help ministers come to a properly informed decision.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its policy is on dealing with applications for wind turbine developments on areas designated as wild land submitted prior to the adoption of the *National Planning Framework 3* and the new *Scottish Planning Policy*.

(S4W-23985)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government's policy for wind turbine developments on areas of wild land is primarily set out in the *2014 Scottish Planning Policy*. Decisions will consider the up-to-date policy which is in place at the point of decision, not that which is in place at the point of submission.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it considers to be a reasonable timescale for the determination of applications to the Energy Consents Unit for wind turbine developments.

(S4W-23986)

Fergus Ewing: The Energy Consents and Deployment Unit have an aspirational target of nine months from the point of application for ministers' determination of wind farm applications where there is no public inquiry or the need for submission of further environmental information, i.e. addenda to the application. However, applications vary in complexity and some require considerably more time.

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-23683 by Richard Lochhead on 9 January 2015, for what reason it plans to wait until 2016 before announcing the next steps in relation to the introduction of the compulsory microchipping of dogs.

(S4W-23987)

Richard Lochhead: Due to an error for which we apologise the answer to S4W-23683 was drafted in 2014 but not released until 9 January 2015. 'Early next year' was intended to refer to 2015.

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the Smith Commission's recommendation that onshore oil and gas licensing be devolved, what its role will be with the 14th Landward Licensing Round.

(S4W-24008)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is supportive of the devolution of these energy powers to Scotland and we will work jointly with the UK Government to take forward The Smith Commission recommendations in full and as quickly as possible. However, onshore oil and gas licensing is currently a matter reserved to the UK Parliament and the Scottish Government has had no role in the 14th Landward Licensing Round.

Finance

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the Scottish Fiscal Commission's budget is and what reports (a) it has produced and (b) are planned.

(S4W-23937)

John Swinney: The Scottish Fiscal Commission has been allocated an indicative annual operating budget of £20,000. The Scottish Government will however ensure that the commission has access to the necessary resources to enable it to fulfil its functions.

The Scottish Fiscal Commission published its first report on the Scottish Government's forecasts of devolved tax revenues and on the economic determinants which underpin the Scottish Government's forecasts of non-domestic rate income on 9 October 2014. The commission's report can be accessed at: <http://www.scottishfiscalcommission.org/>

The Scottish Fiscal Commission will be required to report on any future devolved tax forecasts published by the Scottish Government.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on (a) public sector and (b) private employers publishing details of their pay ratios.

(S4W-23965)

John Swinney: In the private sector, the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 require that the directors' remuneration policy of large and medium-sized UK companies must contain a statement of consideration of employment conditions elsewhere in the company and group where relevant. Specifically, this must set out 'whether any remuneration comparison measurements were used and if so, what they were, and how that information was taken into account'. Such comparison measurements could include the use of pay ratios or similar.

In relation to the public sector, the UK Government's Financial Reporting Manual requires central government bodies to disclose the ratio between the median remuneration of the public body's staff and the mid-point of the banded remuneration of the highest paid executive director. The Scottish Government and health boards disclose this information in the accounts published annually.

Pay for local government employees is a matter for local authorities. The regulations for the remuneration reports for local authorities are set out in the Local Government Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985 (as amended by the Local Authority (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2011). We believe it would be beneficial for pay ratios to be published.

Health and Social Care

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government in which NHS boards mental health first aid training took place in (a) 2012-13 and (b) 2013-14.

(S4W-23925)

Jamie Hepburn: Scottish Mental Health First Aid courses are run by partners from across public services on behalf of NHS Health Scotland. The number of courses ran during 2012-13 and 2013-14 classed in each health board is as follows:

Board Area	2012-13	2013-14
Ayrshire and Arran	8	10

Board Area	2012-13	2013-14
Dumfries and Galloway	5	11
Fife	21	25
Forth Valley	25	34
Grampian	17	17
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	77	85
Highland	9	13
Lanarkshire	26	14
Lothian	49	42
Orkney	0	0
Scottish Borders	2	2
Shetland	2	3
Tayside	25	26
Western Isles	1	1

Learning and Justice

Gordon MacDonald (Edinburgh Pentlands) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to address barriers to employment faced by black and ethnic minority women.

(S4O-3939)

Annabelle Ewing: The Scottish Government recognises the particular barriers to employment often faced by black and ethnic minority women. For new Scots, this often includes language difficulties and a lack of understanding of the skills required for particular jobs.

That is why last week I announced that the Scottish Government is funding the Women Into Sustainable Employment programme, a joint delivery and knowledge exchange venture between Bridges Programmes, Glasgow City College and the Dundee International Women's Centre.

Over a year, the programme will provide vocational English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) training to 105 women in total – 75 in Glasgow and 30 in Dundee in growth sectors including early years education; bio-science; hospitality/tourism; finance; and customer service. We are hopeful that if successful, the learning from this sector specific approach can become a feature of future ESOL delivery in Scotland.

Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people under 25 have not been in education, employment or training in each year since 2007.

(S4W-23916)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Annual Population Survey provides the preferred measure for not in education, employment or training (NEET) for the population in Scotland. The latest headline NEET

estimates are published annually by the Scottish Government and cover the period from January to December 2013.

The following table provides the number of people not in education, employment or training for 16 to 24 year olds in Scotland from 2007 to 2013.

Levels of 16 to 24 year olds not in education, employment or training, Scotland, 2007-2013:

Year	NEET level
2007	84,000
2008	88,000
2009	98,000
2010	104,000
2011	95,000
2012	90,000
2013	93,000

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2013, Office for National Statistics.

Notes: 1. Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have not been in education, employment or training in each year since 2007, broken down by age.

(S4W-23938)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Annual Population Survey provides the preferred measure for not in education, employment or training (NEET) for the population in Scotland. The latest headline NEET estimates are published annually by the Scottish Government and cover the period from January to December 2013.

The following table provides the number of people not in education, employment or training, broken down by the 16 to 24 year olds age group, in Scotland from 2007 to 2013.

Levels of 16 to 24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET), by year of age, Scotland, 2007-2013:

Year	16 year olds	17 year olds	18 year olds	19 year olds	16-19 year olds
2007	5,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	29,000
2008	5,000	6,000	11,000	9,000	30,000
2009	5,000	9,000	9,000	11,000	33,000
2010	6,000	7,000	11,000	12,000	36,000
2011	4,000	5,000	13,000	10,000	32,000
2012	5,000	5,000	11,000	12,000	33,000
2013	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	29,000

Year	20 year olds	21 year olds	22 year olds	23 year olds	24 year olds	20-24 year olds	16-24 year olds
2007	9,000	11,000	12,000	10,000	13,000	55,000	84,000
2008	10,000	12,000	13,000	13,000	10,000	59,000	88,000
2009	10,000	13,000	12,000	16,000	13,000	64,000	98,000
2010	11,000	13,000	16,000	13,000	15,000	68,000	104,000
2011	10,000	12,000	12,000	17,000	12,000	63,000	95,000
2012	10,000	10,000	13,000	10,000	15,000	57,000	90,000
2013	13,000	13,000	15,000	12,000	12,000	64,000	93,000

Source: Annual Population Survey, January to December 2007 to 2013, Office for National Statistics.

Notes: 1. Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people applied for a college course in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13 and (c) 2013-14 and how many were offered a place, broken down by course.

(S4W-23939)

Angela Constance: Data on college applications and offers are not held centrally.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have taken part in adult learning courses in each year since 2007.

(S4W-23967)

Angela Constance: Data on adult learning participation rates are collected by the National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education which has undertaken surveys since 1996 which include a Scottish sample. The 2014 survey is available at:

http://shop.niace.org.uk/media/catalog/product/2/0/2014_headline_findings_final_web_2.pdf

states that 35% of adults in Scotland have participated in learning. Although high by international standards engagement in learning is not evenly distributed across society. In 2014, as in all previous years since 1996, the survey clearly shows that participation in learning is determined by social class, employment status, age and prior learning.

The Scottish Government aims to improve rates of participation in adult learning by implementing the *Adult Learning Statement of Ambition*, which was published in May 2014.

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/AdultLearningStatementofAmbition_tcm4-826940.pdf.

The *Adult Learning Statement of Ambition* aims to increase engagement with adult learning across Scotland.

Strategy and External Affairs

Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what funding it has provided to each of the National Performing Companies for the purpose of maintenance and refurbishment of property in each year since 1999-00.

(S4W-23976)

Fiona Hyslop: Grant funding for the National Performing Companies is based on their delivering an agreed programme of artistic and educational activity and on meeting criteria for designation as National Performing Companies. The companies budget for routine maintenance and refurbishment from within the totality of Scottish Government and other income.

Capital grant funding allocated to the companies for investment in property is shown in the following table. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra does not own any buildings. It should be noted that prior to 2007-08, the companies received their core grant funding from the Scottish Arts Council:

Year	Scottish Ballet	Scottish Opera	Scottish Chamber Orchestra	National Theatre of Scotland	Royal Scottish National Orchestra
2006-07	£600,000	-	-	-	-
2007-08	£1,400,000	-	-	-	-
2008-09	-	-	-	£42,000	-
2009-10	-	£33,000	-	£4,000	-
2010-11	-	£320,000	-	£17,000	-
2011-12	-	£285,000	-	£26,000	£440,000
2012-13	-	£3,517,000	-	£12,000	£880,000
2013-14	£15,000	£935,000	-	£400,000	£7,320,000
2014-15	-	-	-	£132,000	£560,000