

Wednesday 28 January 2015

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has (a) introduced and (b) plans to ensure that the work being carried out to increase finfish production by 2020 does not impact on the marine environment; how often it measures the impact of this work and with what methodology.

(S4W-24024)

Aileen McLeod: Scotland has a regulatory framework in place, providing the right balance between growing aquaculture and protecting the marine environment on which farmed and wild fisheries depend. It was further enhanced by the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 to help meet the *National Marine Plan* objectives, ensuring that farmed and wild fisheries and their interactions continue to be managed effectively, maximising their combined contribution to supporting sustainable economic growth with due regard to the wider marine environment.

The Ministerial Group for Sustainable Aquaculture, which I chair, comprises the aquaculture industry, wild fish interests and other stakeholders, and was established to facilitate industry to achieve its 2020 sustainable growth targets with due regard to the marine environment. The group meets twice a year to review progress.

For any new fish farm or extension to an existing one, operators must apply for planning permission from the relevant local authority, which conducts a detailed assessment. This includes advice from Marine Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and local district salmon fishery boards on potential impacts on water quality, interactions with predators wild salmonids, species and habitats, conservation areas, landscape, marine cultural heritage, noise, and waste.

As with existing farms, operators must also apply to SEPA for a controlled activities regulation consent. SEPA then conducts a programme of monitoring and evaluation of the use of medicines at each fish farm, ensuring that consent conditions are not breached. Fish farming businesses are also authorised by Marine Scotland under the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009, and inspected regularly for disease control, containment measures and sea lice management.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many times the Finance Sector Jobs Taskforce met in (a) 2012, (b) 2013 and (c) 2014 and whether it will publish the agenda and minutes of each meeting, as was the practice for the meetings in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

(S4W-24031)

Fergus Ewing: The Finance Sector Jobs Taskforce engaged with and provided support to a broad range of employers during 2012, 2013 and 2014. The taskforce continues to engage with financial services companies as and when required and those discussions take place on a confidential basis.

The overseeing Finance Sector Jobs Taskforce Steering Group met twice in 2012 on 29 March and 27 September. The steering group did not meet in 2013, but met once on 30 January 2014. There are no formal minutes available for publication.

An update on taskforce activity is provided at each Financial Services Advisory Board (FiSAB) meeting. Minutes of FiSAB meetings are available on the Scottish Government website at the following address: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/finance/meetings>.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when the Finance Sector Jobs Taskforce will next meet and what issues will be on the agenda.

(S4W-24034)

Fergus Ewing: The Finance Sector Jobs Taskforce Steering Group will meet during the first quarter of 2015. The focus of the meeting will be to review 2014 activity and discuss key issues facing the sector and potential job implications.

The taskforce continues to engage with financial services companies as and when required and those discussions take place on a confidential basis.

Finance

Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-23841 by John Swinney on 14 January 2015, what level of breakdown it records for its expenditure on fuel.

(S4W-24015)

John Swinney: The level of breakdown that the Scottish Government records for fuel is detailed in the following table:

Purchasing Entity	Fuel Type
Marine Scotland	Marine gas oil (Marine fuel)
Scottish Government	Kerosene and gas oil A2 (Heating oil)
Scottish Government (Ministerial cars) – 1 of 2	Ultra-low sulphur diesel
Scottish Government (Ministerial cars) – 2 of 2	Ultra-low sulphur petrol
Scottish Government (Car hire fuel)	Ultra-low sulphur mixed fuels
Scottish Government (Pool car fuel) – 1 of 2	Ultra-low sulphur diesel
Scottish Government (Pool cars fuel) – 2 of 2	Ultra-low sulphur petrol

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it is its policy to seek full fiscal responsibility for the Scottish Parliament and that all tax revenues are retained in Scotland.

(S4W-24028)

John Swinney: In its submission to The Smith Commission, the Scottish Government outlined its proposals for 'more powers to the Scottish Parliament.' These proposals included full fiscal autonomy which, if implemented, would have led to all tax revenues being retained in Scotland. The Smith Commission published its recommendations on 27 November 2014, and subsequently the UK Government published an overview of its proposals on 22 January 2015. The Smith Commission did not recommend full fiscal autonomy, and currently there are no plans to legislate for full fiscal devolution to the Scottish Parliament. While The Smith Commission recommendations did not go as far as the Scottish Government recommended, and do not live up to the 'vow' made before the independence referendum, the Scottish Government welcomes further powers, and they must now be delivered. The Scottish Government is focused on making Scotland a more prosperous country, tackling inequality and protecting our public services, and the new powers being delivered must help deliver those goals.

Health and Social Care

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much of the recent Barnett consequentials that arose from additional health expenditure in England has yet to be allocated, and how it plans to use this.

(S4W-24039)

Shona Robison: The Deputy First Minister has confirmed that all of the £127.4 million of consequentials will be utilised for health.

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made as to NHS workforce planning to ensure an adequate capacity.

(S4W-24040)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government provides the policies, frameworks and resources for high quality healthcare in Scotland and it is for each NHS board to decide how best to deliver those services to meet the needs of the population. This includes how best to utilise funding, facilities and staff, while taking account of national and local priorities, to meet local health needs. We expect NHS boards to have robust processes in place to ensure the provision of safe, effective and high quality patient care, delivered by the right professional at the right time.

We have invited patients, families, clinicians, politicians and other stakeholders to work with us in shaping the long term future of NHSScotland, signifying a genuinely new relationship between the Scottish Government and local health and social partnerships. We want to reach consensus about improving services for people across Scotland, and an important component of this involves ensuring our workforce continues to deliver the best possible care as part of our refreshed long-term vision for Scotland's NHS. Alongside those stakeholders, the professional bodies and Royal Colleges will be key to informing that work.

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how large the NHS maintenance backlog is and how much is classified as a (a) high risk and (b) significant clinical backlog.

(S4W-24048)

Shona Robison: *The State of the Estate Report 2013* (published in February 2014) identified backlog maintenance of £858 million of which 11% was classified as high risk (£96 million) and 32% as significant risk (£275 million), of which £209 million is clinical space.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of NHS Fife's Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Intensive Therapy Service, and what recent discussions it has had with the other NHS boards about this service.

(S4W-24083)

Jamie Hepburn: Clinical activity and outcome data is collated on a four monthly basis as part of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) South East Tier 4 Consortium. This information is collated in the context of the three regional intensive therapy services and inpatient service that makes up the South East Tier 4 Consortium. The information is then presented to and escalated by the South East and Tayside regional planning group to the Scottish Government.

We have recently developed a data set with partners which NHS National Services Scotland (Information Services Division Scotland) will be starting to collect data in 2015 to track progress in developing intensive community treatment teams and other tier 4 CAMHS activity and how the adolescent inpatient units are working. This should provide us with a comprehensive picture of how services are functioning nationally. This data is currently only available at a regional level used for managing and planning services locally.

Bob Doris (Glasgow) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many inpatients waited more than 12 weeks for treatment in (a) 2005-06 and (b) 2006-07.

(S4W-24086)

Shona Robison: The number of patients who waited over 12 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment was 138,288 in 2005-06 and 129,062 in 2006-07.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which hospitals were placed on red alert between 1 December 2014 and 15 January 2015 and for how long; how many beds were available during the red alert period, and how this compared with demand.

(S4W-24095)

Shona Robison: While hospitals have experienced pressures this winter, none has needed to declare a major incident because of the demands that it was facing. Boards have been keeping the Scottish Government informed daily about the pressures that they face and the actions that are being taken to address them. Additional support has been provided to the boards when required.

Official statistics on hospital activity and beds relating to the quarters ending December 2014 and March 2015 will be published in March 2015 and June 2015 respectively.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which (a) local authority and (b) private care homes in each local authority area are subject to admission restrictions set by the Care Inspectorate, and how long these have been in place.

(S4W-24096)

Shona Robison: The Care Inspectorate has a restriction in place in Marine House Care Home in Forfar at present. This restriction is to limit admissions to no more than one older person every 14 days up to a maximum of 45 older people. This restriction came into effect on 28 August 2014 and is still in place.

Although it is uncommon for the Care Inspectorate to place such restrictions, it works closely with local authorities who may cease admissions to services with poor grades until quality improves. This is currently the case in Marine House Care Home as well as in other services across Scotland. The Care Inspectorate works closely with local authorities to keep them informed of its findings and with care services to ensure they can achieve sustainable improvements to their service. In some cases, services themselves may voluntarily stop or restrict admissions for a range of reasons such as refurbishment, staff recruitment issues or whilst they make improvements.

Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many post-mortems have been supported by each NHS board in each year since 2007.

(S4W-24157)

Maureen Watt: The information requested is not held centrally.

Learning and Justice

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to implement the recommendations of Jackie Brock's report on safeguarding vulnerable children.

(S4O-3958)

Fiona McLeod: In November 2014 when the Brock report was published the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning acted decisively accepting its recommendations in full. The report is one strand of a wider improvement programme to ensure Scotland's approach to safeguarding children and young people is as robust as possible. We are already taking forward key recommendations in the report. For example, the first cross-sector National Strategic Leadership Summit on Child Wellbeing will take place in February 2015.

Stewart Stevenson (Banffshire and Buchan Coast) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress North East Scotland College has made following the recent merger.

(S4O-3959)

Angela Constance: The college has made excellent progress and is a great example of what can be achieved by regional colleges of scale.

For instance, as an early adopter of the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce programme, the college is at forefront of developing new vocational pathways for school pupils focussed on STEM provision.

Moreover, the college plans to fund a new state of the art centre for oil and gas at the Fraserburgh campus. Investment in Fraserburgh of this scale would simply not have been feasible for the much smaller and financially restricted Banff and Buchan College.

Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress the SQA has made on the development of the Scottish Baccalaureate qualification.

(S4O-3960)

Alasdair Allan: The Scottish Baccalaureate is fully developed and was first made available to centres on 1 August 2009 in the disciplines of science and languages. The range of Scottish Baccalaureate disciplines was expanded on 1 August 2012 to include expressive arts and social sciences.

Education Scotland is providing support materials for all courses included with the Scottish Baccalaureate.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20677 by Kenny MacAskill on 2 May 2014, what progress it has made on establishing the Scottish sentencing council.

(S4W-24006)

Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government is working, in dialogue with senior judiciary, to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place with a view to the Scottish sentencing council being established before the end of end of 2015.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will announce the names of the (a) judicial, (b) legal and (c) lay members of the Scottish sentencing council.

(S4W-24007)

Michael Matheson: Schedule 1 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 provides for the membership and procedures for appointment to the Scottish sentencing council. The council will be chaired by the Lord Justice Clerk. The appointment of other members will take place in due course.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much money was allocated initially to the 2014-15 Adopt an Apprentice programme, and how much had been committed prior to 14 January 2015.

(S4W-24010)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government allocates funding to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on an annual basis for delivery of employability and training support, including the Adopt an Apprentice programme. It is up to SDS to determine how to allocate this funding between activities. As Adopt an Apprentice is demand-led it is the level of demand which will dictate SDS expenditure on Adopt an Apprentice in current and future years.

The amount committed to Adopt an Apprentice in the current financial year to 14 January 2015 is an operational matter for SDS. I will ask the Chief Executive to write to you with this information.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many times financial incentives have been paid to companies in the oil and gas sector each year under the Adopt an Apprentice programme, and to how many different companies.

(S4W-24011)

Roseanna Cunningham: This is an operational matter for Skills Development Scotland (SDS). I will ask the Chief Executive of SDS to write to you with the information you have requested.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much additional money will be allocated to the Adopt an Apprentice programme in relation to the oil and gas sector in 2014-15 in order to meet the First Minister's commitment in the news release of 14 January 2015, Taskforce set up to support oil & gas jobs.

(S4W-24012)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Adopt an Apprentice programme is demand-led. As such, it is the level of demand which will dictate the value of Skills Development Scotland (SDS) expenditure on Adopt an Apprentice. The need for additional funding will be monitored through existing SDS sponsorship arrangements.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much money was allocated initially to the 2015-16 Adopt an Apprentice programme, and how much additional funding will be allocated in light of the First Minister's commitment in the news release of 14 January 2015, Taskforce set up to support oil & gas jobs.

(S4W-24013)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government allocates funding to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on an annual basis for delivery of employability and training support, including Adopt an Apprentice. It is up to SDS to determine how to allocate this funding between activities.

You can view the draft budget, including the anticipated SDS budget, for 2015-16 at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/10/2706>.

This remains subject to parliamentary approval.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government on what date it will publish the criteria for employers in the oil and gas sector to obtain the additional assistance under the Adopt an Apprentice programme that the First Minister committed to offer in the news release of 14 January 2015, Taskforce set up to support oil & gas jobs.

(S4W-24014)

Roseanna Cunningham: The programme guidelines for Adopt an Apprentice, including details of how to apply are available on the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) website at:

<http://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk/funding-for-skills/adopt-an-apprentice/>.

We are working with SDS to develop the formal criteria for the additional assistance to be made available under the Adopt an Apprentice programme, announced as part of this government's guarantee that any modern apprentices in Scotland's oil and gas sector faced with redundancy will be offered alternative employment or continued off the job training pending alternative employment.

As part of our commitment to working with partners across the energy sector to maintain jobs, including modern apprenticeships, and to mitigate the potential impact of any losses, we will seek to agree the criteria with the energy jobs taskforce.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) setup and (b) running costs of the Scottish sentencing council will be.

(S4W-24017)

Michael Matheson: The Financial Memorandum to the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill estimated that the setup cost of the sentencing council would be £450,000 and the annual running costs would be £1-£1.1 million.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has (a) identified and (b) acquired accommodation for the Scottish sentencing council.

(S4W-24018)

Michael Matheson: We are working, in dialogue with the senior judiciary, with a view to setting up the sentencing council before the end of 2015 and this includes discussion regarding accommodation needs of the sentencing council.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether secondary legislation is required to enable the establishment of the Scottish sentencing council and, if so, how long it will take to introduce it.

(S4W-24019)

Michael Matheson: There are provisions in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 which will require to be commenced to establish the sentencing council. These are sections 1 to 13 and schedule 1 of the 2010 Act. In addition there is a requirement to bring forward secondary legislation relating to the appointment process of members.

Strategy and External Affairs

Michael Russell (Argyll and Bute) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on progress made in relation to the Malawi Development Programme funding round 2015-18 and on its response to the recent floods in Malawi.

(S4W-24183)

Humza Yousaf: I am pleased to announce that funding from our Malawi Development Programme amounting to a total of £9,245,384 over three years will be provided to 20 projects during the period 2015-18.

The Scottish Government responded to the recent floods in Malawi on 21 January 2015 by making £150,000 available to work to tackle the current humanitarian crisis there. £30,000 of that £150,000 donation has been awarded to member organisations of the Scotland Malawi Partnership who are working locally in the affected areas to deliver aid to local communities. The remaining £120,000 has been awarded to UNICEF for its Malawi flood appeal, to assist wider humanitarian efforts. Following this immediate response, we will of course also continue to work with organisations on the ground to assess the longer term impacts of this crisis.

Transport Scotland

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many crossings on the Lochboisdale – Mallaig ferry service in each month since November 2013 have been (a) scheduled and (b) cancelled, and what the reason was for each cancellation.

(S4W-24069)

Derek Mackay: Details of the number of Lochboisdale to Mallaig a) scheduled and b) cancelled sailings each month since November 2013 to date, and the reason for the cancellation are set out in the following table:

Year/Month	Scheduled Sailings	Weather cancellations	Technical cancellations	Other cancellations*
2013-14				
November	24	8	0	4
December	36	25	0	0
January	24	10	2	0
February	12	8	0	0
March	36	10	0	0
April	4	0	0	0
2014-15				
November	4	0	4	0
December	36	16	4	0

*Ship out of position

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on extending the Lochboisdale – Mallaig ferry service to include summer crossings.

(S4W-24070)

Derek Mackay: Current vessel deployment considerations mean that it is not possible to introduce a summer Lochboisdale to Mallaig ferry service at this stage, as this would impact on existing services elsewhere on the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services network. The winter pilot service will be evaluated over the full three year pilot period before decisions about the way forward are taken. The evaluation will take into account the severe weather disruptions experienced on the route.

Costs to operate a year round Lochboisdale to Mallaig ferry service have not therefore been considered.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much it would cost to operate a year round Lochboisdale – Mallaig ferry service.

(S4W-24071)

Derek Mackay: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-24070 on 28 January 2015. 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>.