SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Communities

Jenny Gilruth (Mid Fife and Glenrothes) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it is marking Inter Faith Week 2016.

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is pleased to support Scottish Interfaith Week and is providing £145,000 to Interfaith Scotland in 2016-17 to help support its work to develop interfaith dialogue.

The First Minister hosted the second Interfaith Summit on 8 November 2016. The Summit brought together faith leaders and interfaith workers to discuss how interfaith work can help to build good relations, understanding and co-operation between different faith communities. This year the discussion had a particular focus on interfaith work by young people; support by faith communities for refugees and asylum seekers; and community support following the EU Referendum.

As well as attending the Interfaith Summit, I will also be speaking at the launch of the Food for Justice Declaration at the Interfaith Food Justice Network on 17 November.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the Violence Against Women and Girls Joint Strategic Board last met and what matters were discussed.

Angela Constance: The Violence against Women and Girls Joint Strategic Board last met on 10 November 2016. The Board discussed an early draft of a delivery plan for Equally Safe, and received a presentation from David Mandel of the Safe and Together Institute on domestic abuse and child protection.

Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to expediting the roll-out of superfast broadband to residents in areas with a commercial presence but whose individual premises are considered not commercially viable for delivery due to being too far from cabinets, and whether such residents can expect interim support prior to the implementation of the new Open Market Review.

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is committed to extending superfast broadband access to all premises in Scotland that will not be served commercially. The Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme is currently delivering investment to improve coverage in non-commercial areas. In parallel, we continue to encourage suppliers to invest more commercially in order to push coverage further.

The forthcoming Open Market Review is a consultation with broadband suppliers to determine their commercial investment plans over the next 3 years. This is a key state aid requirement ahead of any large-scale public investment programme in broadband. This will help Scottish Government determine a new intervention area, ahead of new procurement activity to begin next year.

Economy

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether introducing a requirement for fair work practice for Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise account-managed businesses is being considered as a condition of support.

Holding answer issued: 2 November 2016

Keith Brown: As part of Phase 2 of the enterprise and skills review, we will explore the feasibility of introducing a requirement for fair work practice for Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise account-managed businesses.
Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government in which countries Scottish Development International has had a permanent base in each year since 2011-12.

Holding answer issued: 7 November 2016  
(S5W-3967)

Keith Brown: Details of Scottish Development International’s office locations in each year since 2011-12 to 2016-17 can be found in the following table:

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<td><strong>Field Ops - Americas</strong></td>
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Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on removing the fixed reference year requirement for applications to the Beef Efficiency Scheme to open it up for expanding and new herds.

Holding answer issued: 10 November 2016  
(S5W-4103)

Fergus Ewing: The intention of the Beef Efficiency Scheme (BES) is to help the beef sector during a period of challenging transition to lower levels of support in the new CAP, and, crucially, to reduce carbon emissions from the sector. As a decoupled scheme, the European Commission has been clear that BES cannot be used to encourage increases in production, hence the need for a fixed reference year.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has carried out of investor confidence in the energy market following the Brexit vote.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2016  
(S5W-4291)
Keith Brown: Since the EU referendum, we have been engaging regularly with energy stakeholders to understand the implications of the vote, including the impact on investor confidence.

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy has had a series of one-to-one meetings with senior representatives of the energy sector to understand their concerns, and he and the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe jointly hosted an event in Edinburgh for energy stakeholders on 21 September 2016 to hear the sector’s views on the challenges, opportunities and way forward following the EU referendum.

At the 17th meeting of the National Economic Forum on 26 October 2016, the First Minister spoke to around 150 business and public sector leaders - including representatives from the energy sector - about the impact of Brexit on Scottish businesses.

Energy stakeholders have highlighted that investor confidence was already low in the renewable energy sector as a result of recent UK Government policy changes, and prolonged uncertainty may see existing or planned energy investments stall. EY’s latest Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index, published in October 2016, saw the UK fall to 14th place - its lowest position yet in the rankings.

We are determined to do everything we can to mitigate the impact of Brexit on the energy industry in Scotland and we will use all the powers and influence available to us to provide the stability that the industry and consumers need.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the removal of the EU regulations on food and plant safety.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2016 (S5W-4292)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government will do all it can to protect Scotland’s interests; I met Angela Leadsom on 3 November in Edinburgh and George Eustace on 8 November in Cardiff to emphasise the importance of maintaining appropriate regulations that bring benefits including product value and trade access.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of employees in the food and drink sector in Scotland are (a) UK citizens, (b) EU citizens and (c) from elsewhere.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2016 (S5W-4319)

Fergus Ewing: We estimate that there are 116,000 people employed in the food and drink sector in Scotland. By applying ONS estimates which determine that approximately 30% of the wider UK food and drink sector are other EU citizens then we estimate that a figure of around 35,000 of those are other EU Citizens working in the sector.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which countries have been the largest investors in Scotland in each year since 2011-12.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2016 (S5W-4401)

Keith Brown: The Ernst & Young (EY) Attractiveness Surveys provide data on the number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects by country of origin. Table 1 provides detail on the top 5 countries in terms of the number of FDI projects into Scotland for 2012 to 2015.

Table 1: Top 5 countries of origin for FDI projects into Scotland, 2012 to 2015

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<td>43%</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>France</td>
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Table 1: Top sectors for FDI projects into Scotland, 2012 to 2015

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project Share</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Project Share</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Business Services</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Software</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Business Services</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Software</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Other Transport Services</td>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>Electrical</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Scientific Research</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>Financial Intermediation</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Electrical</td>
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Source: Ernst & Young Attractiveness Surveys

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which sectors have seen the highest levels of direct foreign investment in each year since 2011-12.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2016 (S5W-4402)

Keith Brown: The Ernst & Young (EY) Attractiveness Surveys provide data on the number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects by sector. Table 1 provides detail on the top sectors in terms of the number of FDI projects into Scotland for 2012 to 2015. Information is provided for all sectors that had 5 or more projects in the year.

Table 1: Top sectors for FDI projects into Scotland, 2012 to 2015

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<td>Business Services</td>
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<td>Machinery &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>Electrical</td>
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Source: Ernst & Young Attractiveness Surveys

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-02561 by Paul Wheelhouse on 21 September 2016, whether it will provide an update on the progress that it is making on establishing the ministerial trade board; what the board’s (a) budget, (b) remit and (c) membership will be, and when it will first meet.

(S5W-4573)

Keith Brown: Plans to establish a ministerial trade board are currently being developed and details will be made available in due course.

Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of concerns about antisocial behaviour, what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding introducing a ban on fireworks unless used by a professional licensed company, and what action it can take to control the supply of fireworks.

(S5W-4586)

Keith Brown: The UK Government regulates the sale and supply of fireworks. In response to concerns about the antisocial use of fireworks, the Scottish Government introduced the Fireworks (Scotland) Regulations 2004 which restrict when fireworks can be set off. We have no plans at present to review existing regulations but we will continue to monitor complaints.
Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase (a) employment opportunities and (b) the provision of specialist mental health care for veterans.

(S5W-4627)

Keith Brown: There are a number of initiatives across the Scottish Government relating to employment opportunities for veterans. These include encouraging the private sector Scotland-wide to consider employing Service leavers and veterans; help for Early Service leavers; and assistance to veterans to establish their own businesses.

The Supporting Veterans into Employment initiative which I launched on 24 October, encourages businesses of all sizes and sectors proactively to recruit and benefit from employing veterans in the civilian workforce and will be delivered by Business in the Community, with funding from the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government has provided funding up to £6.1m in 2016-17 to support 700 Community Jobs Scotland (CJS) jobs lasting up to 12 months for vulnerable 16-29 year olds, including disabled people and armed forces early service leavers. Early service leavers and veterans, as well as the partners of current or former armed forces personnel, who are aged between 16-29, are also amongst the eligible groups for support through Scotland’s Employer Recruitment Incentive (SERI).

The Scottish Government also continues to work with a number of organisations including, Scottish Business Resilience Centre, the Federation of Small Businesses and CAN DO Places to develop the Veteran portfolio by promoting and developing CAN DO spaces that can assist veterans and their spouses in becoming entrepreneurs in a supportive environment.

In relation to specialist mental health care for veterans, the Scottish Government sets national direction of policy on mental health and provides funding to agencies to support implementation of policy.

The management of local actions in implementing national policy, and decisions on local service provision and spending priorities are the responsibility of relevant local agencies. It is therefore the responsibility of Integration Authorities, NHS Boards and Local Authorities to work with their partners and regularly review spending decisions to ensure they deliver fit for purpose services which respond to the needs of their local population. This includes ensuring the specialist mental health needs of veterans are assessed and met as appropriate.

The Scottish Government continues to fund the provision of specialist mental health services for veterans resident in Scotland at £1.2m per year, through arrangements with Combat Stress and NHS Scotland; and intends to publish its new Mental Health Strategy later this year. That will set out a 10 year vision for transforming and improving mental health services across Scotland.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish details of any business deals that it has with Qatari companies.

(S5W-4639)

Keith Brown: The Scottish Government has no business deals with Qatari companies.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to participate in mediation with tenant farmers and landowners who face eviction as a result of the outcome of the Salvesen v Riddell case.

(S5W-4652)

Fergus Ewing: The service established and funded by the Scottish Government provides for mediation between those tenant farmers and landlords affected by the outcome of the Salvesen v Riddell case and who are presently involved in litigation.

Mediation is a private matter between parties and is an entirely confidential process. While the Scottish Government will pay for the costs of the parties, up to set limits, it is neither a party to the mediation nor privy to it, therefore will not have any knowledge of the details of any mediation, including any outcome.
**Health and Social Care**

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the budget line for sport was in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15, also broken down by spend area.

**Holding answer issued: 26 September 2016**  
(S5W-2189)

**Aileen Campbell:** The following table provides a consolidated response to S5W-02189, S5W-02190 and S5W-02191 answered on 21 November 2016. The increased capital budget in 2015-16 reflects the budget profile for the now completed National Sports Performance Centre, Oriam, at Heriot Watt University.

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<td>2013-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>sportscotland - Resource</td>
<td>34.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Scotland and Commonwealth Games Legacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Sport and Active Resource</td>
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<td>Provision for depreciation</td>
<td>1.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>sportscotland - Capital</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Sport and Active Capital</td>
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<td>Total Sport budget (Level 3)</td>
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**Sportscotland – National Lottery**  
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31.7
31.3
33.7

All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament’s website, the search facility for which can be found at [http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx)

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what (a) revenue and (b) capital grants sportscotland has received in each year since 2013.

**Holding answer issued: 26 September 2016**  
(S5W-2190)

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the Member to the answer for question S5W-02189 on 21 November 2016. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament’s website, the search facility for which can be found at [http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx)

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the sport and legacy budget line is for (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17, also broken down by spend area.

**Holding answer issued: 26 September 2016**  
(S5W-2191)

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the Member to the answer for question S5W-02189 on 21 November 2016. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament’s website, the search facility for which can be found at [http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx)

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to raise awareness of people’s legal right to challenge decisions about their care if they deem the quality unacceptable.

**Shona Robison:** The Care Inspectorate, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, operates a formal complaints procedure for anyone who is unhappy about a registered care service. This procedure explains people’s right to receipt of high quality services and what steps they can take if they feel this is not being met. Details of how people can register a complaint is well publicised on the Care Inspectorate’s website [http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/82/Procedure%20for%20handling%20complaints%20-%20Jul%202014.pdf](http://www.careinspectorate.com/images/documents/82/Procedure%20for%20handling%20complaints%20-%20Jul%202014.pdf)

Additionally National Care Standards stipulate that service providers must make available to service users and their families details of their complaint handling procedures. This information is provided to
everyone receiving a registered care service and ensures they are fully familiar with their rights and expectations from the outset.

Together these easily accessible information ensures service users are made aware of what to do should they wish to complain about a care service, or challenge the findings of any such investigations.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to review and evaluate the impact of health and social care integration on people using care services.

(S5W-4530)

Shona Robison: Each of the Health and Social Care Partnerships will publish an annual Performance Report for 2016-17 by the end of July 2017. These reports will set out an assessment of performance in relation to the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes, which focus on the experiences and quality of services for people using those services, carers and their families. The Scottish Government will work closely with Partnerships to learn from the findings of these reports and how this can be shared more widely.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address child dental health inequality, in light of the results in the National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP) 2016.

(S5W-4531)

Shona Robison: The NDIP 2016 Report shows a reduction in oral health inequalities in primary 1 children across a range of inequality measures.

The Scottish Government is committed to continuing to tackle oral health inequalities in children. This is why in the recently published Fairer Scotland Action Plan, we have included a commitment to extend supervised toothbrushing and fluoride varnish application for nursery and primary 1 and 2 children in even more comparatively deprived communities. Currently this preventive treatment is available under our flagship Childsmile programme to the 20 per cent most deprived communities within each NHS Board area. This will now be extended to those communities who fall within the most 20 per cent deprived measured on a Scotland-wide basis.

Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many GPs are registered but not practising.

(S5W-4540)

Shona Robison: This information is not held centrally by the Scottish Government:

Between the GMC and the health board performers list it would be possible to gather some information on who is registered with the GMC but not on a performers list. It would be very difficult to collect accurate data as a GP could be on the performers list but not actually working or they might have allowed their GMC registration to lapse.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government which prisons have an opt-out approach to blood-borne virus testing.

(S5W-4546)

Aileen Campbell: Opt-out blood borne virus testing for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV is available for all new prisoners at HMP Castle Huntly, Cornton Vale, Glenochil, Grampian, Kilmarnock, Perth, Polmont and Shotts, while Barlinne, Greenock and Low Moss have an opt-out approach for Hepatitis C and HIV. We are working with NHS boards to deliver the service in the remaining prisons.
Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what training in end of life care is given to mental health practitioners.

(S5W-4555)

Shona Robison: All health professionals are expected to demonstrate through both work based learning and self-directed learning, the knowledge and skills in end of life care to satisfy the core competencies of their profession.

The requirements and content of training curricula is a matter for the Royal Colleges and is approved by the General Medical Council as regulator of the medical profession.

All Healthcare professionals including mental health practitioners are expected to assess and address their learning needs to deliver the high quality services required by their local population; this includes end of life/palliative considerations.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason there has been a delay in establishing the Scottish Centre for Deep Brain Stimulation.

(S5W-4565)

Shona Robison: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-03333 on 27 October 2016. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx.

As previously advised in that answer, the service is expected to be up and running by Spring 2017. I can confirm that the recruitment process for the specialist clinical posts, including relevant neurosurgeons, is currently underway, as is equipment procurement.

I can also confirm that, pending the start of the new service, we continue to ensure that everyone in Scotland who is considered clinically suitable for Deep Brain Stimulation has access to it.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionists Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on 2 November 2016 (Official Report, c. 65) that "at least half of front-line NHS spending is being invested outwith acute hospitals", whether it will provide the front-line spending figures to which she was referring.

(S5W-4579)

Shona Robison: Front-line NHS spending represents investment in NHS Territorial Boards, and Special Boards which deliver front-line services. It is the Scottish Government's assessment that, by 2021-22, half of this spending will be incurred in the community and outwith acute hospitals.

Jackson Carlaw (Eastwood) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what NHS24's procedure is in situations where its helpline receives a call from someone resident in another part of the UK or abroad on behalf of someone living in Scotland who is in urgent need of medical advice from NHS Scotland.

(S5W-4589)

Shona Robison: If a caller in England or Wales dials 111, they will be automatically be connected to the local English 111 service, based on the caller's location at the time of the call. If it is determined they are calling for a relative / friend resident in Scotland, the caller will be transferred to NHS 24 using a pre-set telephony process. NHS 24 then capture the patients details and manage the call in the normal way. Once the call is completed, NHS 24 will attempt to contact the Scottish patient if contact details are available.

In life-threatening emergency situations, if a caller called 111 from anywhere in the UK on behalf of someone in Scotland, they would get appropriate assistance from the local Ambulance Service who would pass their call to colleagues in Scotland.
Callers from outside the UK or from Northern Ireland do not have direct access to 111 – any call would have to be made through a third party living in Scotland.

Jackson Carlaw (Eastwood) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what procedures are in place for situations when a person from Scotland phones the NHS24 helpline from another part of the UK or abroad to seek urgent medical advice from NHS Scotland.

(S5W-4590)

Shona Robison: It is not routinely possible for a Scottish resident outwith Scotland to contact NHS 24 as the caller protocols are set to only accept calls from within Scotland. If the Scottish patient requires urgent care in England or Wales, they would call 111 and be triaged by the local NHS trust.

If it is a life-threatening emergency, the call would be transferred from the 111 service to the appropriate ambulance service.

If the Scottish patient is abroad or in Northern Ireland and in need or urgent care, they would need to contact the local health service. If the patient is only looking for advice, they can visit NHS Inform at www.nhsinform.scot.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionists Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the review of the NHS resource allocation formula for general practice.

(S5W-4602)

Shona Robison: Tackling health inequalities is one of our primary care outcomes, as recently published in a joint memorandum with BMA [ http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/11/7258 ]. Adjusting the Scottish Allocation Formula (SAF), which weights general practice funding by various factors that affect workload, including deprivation, rurality and age, is one way that could help deliver that outcome. The formula has been reviewed, and we are currently considering the potential impact of implementing the review findings at individual GP practice level. We also need to look beyond the GP contract to other interventions and ways of supporting general practice in areas of high deprivation.

The Scottish Government and the BMA’s Scottish General Practitioners Committee agree, in principle, that we need better information and evidence to inform both accurate recoupment of expenses and options for the long term overall development of GP pay in Scotland. To this end, we have agreed jointly to commission a review of general practice funding, pay and expenses to provide a proper, robust evidence base for improved decision making. This will take place in 2017, and inform options from 2018.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to ensure that patients with advanced kidney cancer, who are not suitable for a TKI (tyrosine kinase inhibitor) therapy, or everolimus, can receive active treatment for their disease.

(S5W-4618)

Shona Robison: In Scotland we have a clear route for new drugs to be appraised through the long standing Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC).

Where SMC accept medicines for routine use in Scotland Health Boards are expected to make the medicine or its equivalent available to patients. Following an SMC decision not to accept a medicine, NHS Boards have systems in place which can provide access to newly licensed medicines on an individual patient basis and where the patient’s clinician considers this to be appropriate.

Decisions on whether to prescribe a medicine is a matter for the clinical judgement of the patient’s doctor, in consultation with the patient, informed by advice and guidance about the drug.
Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it will take to ensure that the Scottish Medicines Consortium adopts a pro-innovation outlook so that cancer patients can benefit from new and promising classes of therapy.

(S5W-4619)

Shona Robison: In recent years, the Scottish Government have made significant reforms and investment to improve access to newly licensed medicines. However, I do think that more can be done to build on the progress made to date which is why I asked Dr Brian Montgomery to conduct an independent review. I have received his report and I am considering his recommendations.

In Scotland, we have a clear and consistent route for new drugs to be appraised through the long standing independent Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC). There are a number of medicines which have been accepted by the SMC for routine use within the NHS in Scotland for the treatment of cancer.

Learning and Justice

Clare Adamson (Motherwell and Wishaw) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to encourage employers to pay at least the living wage.

(S5W-4580)

Keith Brown: On 12 March 2016, the First Minister set a new target of 1,000 Living Wage Accredited employers by Autumn 2017, we are supporting this by increasing funding for the Scottish Living Wage Accreditation Initiative to £300,000 and are working with the Poverty Alliance to support them in meeting this target.

Following on from Living Wage Week which began on 31 October the number of Living Wage Accredited employers in Scotland rose to 650. Scotland remains the best performing of all four UK countries with the highest proportion of employees paid the Living Wage or more (79.9%).

Transport Scotland

Richard Lyle (Uddingston and Bellshill) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the slip road exits from the A8/M8 to Maxim Park Eurocentral are closed, and when they will reopen.

(S5W-4442)

Keith Brown: The A8 eastbound exit and entry slip roads at Eurocentral are closed to facilitate the safe construction of significant improvement works forming the £500m M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project. The westbound exit slip remains open with the westbound entry slip to the A8 closed due to facilitate the A8 to A725 link road.

Scottish Roads Partnership, the project contractor, has confirmed that the slip roads at Eurocentral Junction will remain closed until Spring 2017, however, this will be reviewed as construction progresses.

Richard Lyle (Uddingston and Bellshill) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government when the Newhouse (a) off ramp and (b) on ramp on the A8/M8 will reopen.

(S5W-4444)

Keith Brown: Although the eastbound exit and entry slip roads remain open, the westbound exit slip road from the A8 to Newhouse is closed to facilitate the safe construction of the significant improvement works forming the £500m M8 M73 M74 Motorway Improvements Project. This slip road is currently planned to open in mid-December.

The westbound entry slip from Newhouse to the newly constructed A8 All-Purpose Road was opened on Monday 14 November 2016.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of research by the British Heart Foundation and the University of Edinburgh suggesting that there
is a correlation between air pollution and cardiovascular disease, whether it will provide an update on what progress it is making with the introduction of low-emission zones.  

Humza Yousaf: The implementation of low-emission zones is being taken forward as set out in the Programme for Government. The Scottish Government are preparing the National Low Emission Framework to offer guidelines for LEZ implementation, and are engaging with local authorities and other key stakeholders to help identify early adopters for Scotland’s first low-emission zone to be put in place by 2018. The most recent stakeholder meeting was the Cleaner Air for Scotland governance group which met on the 21 November in Dundee.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-03816 by Keith Brown on 9 November 2016, what financial contribution is made by (a) the MoD and (b) other countries in respect of military flights from other countries.  

Keith Brown: Glasgow Prestwick Airport operates on a wholly commercial basis and at arm’s length from the Scottish Government. As with any commercial airport, contracts and agreements between Prestwick Airport and the aircraft operators are commercially sensitive.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-03813 by Keith Brown on 9 November 2016, how many cargo flights there have been per day in each year since 2011.

Keith Brown: The Scottish Government does not hold this information broken down by day. However, since the Scottish Government took ownership of the airport in November 2013, the yearly figures for scheduled cargo, non-scheduled cargo and any freight diversions are:

- November – December 2013: 54
- 2014: 460
- 2015: 450

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-03813 by Keith Brown on 9 November 2016, what information it has on how many Ryanair passenger flights there have been per day in each year since 2011.

Keith Brown: The Scottish Government does not hold this information broken down by day. However, since the Scottish Government took ownership of the airport in November 2013, the yearly figures for the number of scheduled Ryanair flights are:

- November – December 2013: 809
- 2014: 5,815
- 2015: 3,434

The following questions received holding answers:

- SSW-04475
- SSW-04516
- SSW-04517
- SSW-04518
- SSW-04550
- SSW-04551