SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Communities

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-05681 by Derek Mackay on 19 January 2017, what information it holds on the progress of human rights improvements in Scotland since 2007, and how this is measured.

Holding answer issued: 2 February 2017 (S5W-6349)

Angela Constance: Information on Scotland’s performance against the full spectrum of international human rights norms is available from a wide variety of sources. These include reports prepared by the Scottish Government, national human rights institutions and civil society under United Nations and Council of Europe treaties. Information from other sources is also relevant, including public attitudes surveys, parliamentary proceedings, impact assessments, the Equality Budget Statement and reports on the progress made by public authorities to achieve Equality Outcomes.

The Scottish Government is committed to further enhancing the National Performance Framework. Both human rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals are central to that work.

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it is issuing councils with budget settlements before the Parliament has considered the issue.

(S5W-6350)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government is required by statute to consult on the terms of the local government settlement before it can be approved by the Scottish Parliament. To allow councils sufficient time to complete their budgetary process it is necessary to carry out the local government settlement consultation process ahead of the final stages of the Scottish Budget Bill. This is normal practice and a feature of local government finance settlements over a number of years.

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many businesses in each (a) local authority area and (b) sector have paid the large business supplement each year, and how many will in 2017-18.

(S5W-6464)

Derek Mackay: The following tables show the number of properties potentially liable for the large business supplement split by Local Authority area and property class type. Data on number of businesses is not held.

However, not all properties that are potentially liable will actually pay the large business supplement. For example, the supplement will not be paid if a property is in receipt of 100% rates relief.

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<tr>
<th>Properties with RV &gt; £35,000 RV</th>
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### Properties with RV > £35,000 RV

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As at 1st April each year

Source: SAA Valuation Roll, where RV>£35k

### Property Classification

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<td>28,829</td>
<td>28,815</td>
<td>28,970</td>
<td>29,119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As at 1st April each year

Source: SAA Valuation Roll, where RV>£35k

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what impact the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) has had on self-invested personal pension holders.

(S5W-6474)

Derek Mackay: Information on this is not held centrally. There are no specific rules in place for self-invested personal pension holders in Land and Buildings Transaction Tax.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to recommendations 9 and 10 of the Scottish Fuel Poverty Strategic Working Group report, A Scotland without fuel poverty is a fairer Scotland, and by what date it will implement these.

(S5W-6495)

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government has welcomed publication of reports from both the Scottish Fuel Poverty Strategic Working Group and the Scottish Rural Fuel Poverty Task Force. Collectively, over 100 recommendations were made, many of which are complex and have wider implications that must be considered alongside other policies.

The Minister for Local Government and Housing attended a meeting of the Fuel Poverty Forum on 15 December to discuss the issues in more detail and we will publish our response in February 2017 to take on board their views.

Both reports are the first step in the development of our new fuel poverty strategy, which we will consult on later this year, and will inform our approach to improving the energy efficiency of people’s homes wherever they live in Scotland.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much the City of Edinburgh Council has already received in recognition of its capital city status in each year since this funding has been provided, and how much it will receive in 2017-18.

(S5W-6499)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government has provided the City of Edinburgh Council with extra funding in recognition of its position as capital city since the 2008-09 local government finance settlement. For each financial year between 2008-09 and 2010-11 the Council received £3.5 million each year. From 2011-12 to 2016-17 this was increased to £3.9 million each year. I can confirm that in 2017-18 they will, again, receive £3.9 million in recognition of the increased costs that are associated with Edinburgh being Scotland’s capital city.

Fulton MacGregor (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle hate crime in schools.

(S5W-6546)

Angela Constance: All forms of hate crime and prejudice are completely unacceptable. In schools, we want all children and young people to learn tolerance, respect, equality and good citizenship to address and prevent prejudice. Whilst not specifically about tackling hate crime, promoting positive attitudes amongst children and young people is key to long term prevention.
The Scottish Government takes bullying very seriously, and we are currently refreshing our national approach to anti-bullying (including prejudice based bullying). 'Respect for All' will help everyone involved in the lives of children and young people to identify and address bullying, including racist, homophobic and abusive behaviour whether it happens online or offline. Teachers, schools, local authorities, youth organisations and sports organisations will be able to draw on this advice when refreshing their anti-bullying policies. The guidance will be published later this year.

In addition, Relationships sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum in Scotland. In 2014 we published guidance on RSHP education in schools that clearly states how important it is that RSHP education addresses diversity and reflects issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people or children with LGBTI parents, such as same sex marriage and hate crime.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it produces to officials regarding keeping records of meetings, and under what circumstances it considers that a meeting will require (a) a formal minute, (b) an informal minute, (c) a formal note, (d) an informal note and (e) no formal or informal record to be taken.

(S5W-6653)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government Intranet contains useful guidance and a template on how to structure formal/informal minutes.

Responsibility for what minutes, notes or recording, if any, should be taken at a meeting will be made at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting.

The chair is also responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the minutes and that they are circulated and or stored as appropriate.

Economy

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will issue the Environmental Co-operation Action Fund (ECAF) contracts that were due in July 2016.

Holding answer issued: 27 January 2017

(S5W-6040)

Fergus Ewing: The Environmental Co-operation Action Fund as originally designed cannot now be taken forward. Applicant organisations are being contacted to inform them of this decision and to encourage them to apply when the scheme is re-launched. Work will be undertaken with a view to revising and re-launching the scheme later this year for contracts to be awarded for expenditure in 2018-19.

It is intended to redeploy the £1.8 million of EU and Scottish Government funding for ECAF for 2017-18 to support restoration of native woodland under the Forestry Grant Scheme of the Scottish Rural Development Programme; Scottish Natural Heritage Projects promoting sustainable management of deer, geese and sea eagles; and the Croft House Grant Scheme.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has had any further discussions with SinoFortone regarding inward investment opportunities and, if so, when these took place and who was involved.

(S5W-6486)

Keith Brown: The Scottish Government has had no further discussions with SinoFortone. On 15 December 2016, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work had a telephone discussion with Roddy Gow, Chairman of the Asia Scotland Institute, regarding approaches to attracting Asian investment to Scotland.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it carried out due diligence after signing the memorandum of understanding with SinoFortone.

(S5W-6487)
Keith Brown: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-01412 on 9 August 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

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the timetable is for creating low-emission zones across the country.

(S5W-6502)

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government is engaging with local authorities and other key stakeholders to identify an early adopter to apply an interim National Low Emission Framework (NLEF) approach to put in place Scotland’s first low-emission zone by 2018. A number of local authorities have already expressed an interest in their Local Air Quality Management 2016 report to explore the feasibility of a low-emission zone.

The Scottish Government provided funding to collect National Modelling Framework (NMF) traffic data for Glasgow and Edinburgh in 2016, with similar data to be collected for Aberdeen and Dundee in early 2017. Informed by the NMF outputs, local authorities will use the final NLEF appraisal process during late 2017 to both identify the most appropriate location(s) for a LEZ, and underpin a Traffic Regulation Order to support LEZ enforcement.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government which local authorities have expressed an interest in creating low-emission zones in their areas.

(S5W-6503)

Humza Yousaf: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-06502 on 6 February 2017. 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

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support it will provide to local authorities as they establish low-emission zones.

(S5W-6504)

Humza Yousaf: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-06502 on 6 February 2017. 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

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government where the pilot areas will be for low-emission zones.

(S5W-6505)

Humza Yousaf: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-06502 on 6 February 2017. 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

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has carried out of the impact on Scotland of the proposals in the UK Government Green Paper, Building our Industrial Strategy.

(S5W-6565)

Keith Brown: The UK Government published their 132-page consultation document on 23 January 2017. The consultation is grouped around ten ‘pillars’: investing in science, research & innovation; upgrading infrastructure; improving procurement; delivering affordable energy & clean growth; driving growth across the whole country; developing skills; supporting businesses to start & grow; encouraging trade & inward investment; cultivating world-leading sectors; and creating the right local
institutions. We are currently working through the detail of the paper to see where the proposals can be strengthened to benefit the Scottish economy.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government by what date the next Scottish Natural Heritage site-condition monitoring report on amphibians will be published.

(S5W-6595)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Natural Heritage currently has no plans to publish a report on the cycle of site-condition monitoring on amphibians which is due to end in 2018.

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential for blue carbon habitats to store and sequester carbon, for what reason the protection and restoration of these habitats is not included in the draft Climate Change Plan.

(S5W-6640)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) have been working to assess the extent and potential of blue carbon in Scotland. In 2014 SNH published an initial assessment of blue carbon stores in Scotland’s coastal and marine environment, and further research to estimate the blue carbon resources in Scotland’s inshore marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was published on 3 February. See http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=2176 and www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/957.pdf for details.

This latest ground-breaking research provides much greater insight into the potential stocks of blue carbon in Scotland’s marine environment. Nevertheless further research is required to provide credible estimates of the sequestration provided by blue carbon across the entirety of Scotland’s Seas, which is why there aren’t detailed policies and proposals within the draft Climate Change Plan. The Scottish Government is now considering further research and survey opportunities to develop our understanding of blue carbon, and will include an update of this work in the Final Climate Change Plan.

Since the publication of the Second report on Policies and Proposals (RPP2), the key inshore blue carbon habitats have been listed as Priority Marine Features in 2014, and given protection by General policy 9 of the National Marine Plan, which was adopted in March 2015. These blue carbon habitats are also well represented in the MPA network. The development of the MPA network required survey effort which has improved our knowledge of blue carbon habitat distribution around Scotland. Work is continuing to complete the MPA network and put in place to management measures to safeguard these important habitats. As knowledge evolves, marine policies that protect blue carbon habitats may be adapted to enhance that protection.

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what work it has done since the second Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP2) to increase understanding of the distribution of blue carbon habitats, their condition and potential contribution to emission reductions.

(S5W-6641)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-06640 on 6 February 2017. 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

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what work has been done since the second Report on Proposals and Policies (RRP2) to review and develop policies on blue carbon and consider proposals to capture their potential.

(S5W-6642)
Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-06640 on 6 February 2017. 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

Health and Social Care

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many reports have been commissioned from Deloitte by NHS Scotland in each year since 2010 and at what cost, also broken down by NHS board.

**Holding answer issued: 16 January 2017**

Shona Robison: This information is not held centrally.

**S5W-5509**

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many private consultancy reports have been commissioned by NHS Scotland in each year since 2010, broken down by (a) cost per report and (b) NHS board.

**Holding answer issued: 16 January 2017**

Shona Robison: This information is not held centrally.

**S5W-5510**

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many private audit reports have been commissioned by NHS Scotland in each year since 2010, broken down by (a) cost per report and (b) NHS board.

**Holding answer issued: 16 January 2017**

Shona Robison: This information is not held centrally.

**S5W-5511**

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether Deloitte has been commissioned to undertake a report on NHS general practice and, if so, (a) when it was commissioned, (b) at what cost and (c) when it will be published.

**Holding answer issued: 16 January 2017**

Shona Robison: Deloitte were commissioned to undertake an Analysis of General Practice Systems and Processes, to inform the work carried out under the Primary Care Digital Services Delivery Fund for prioritisation of funding for digital services and infrastructure, both locally and nationally. The work was commissioned on 16 June 2016 and the funds payable to Deloitte for the work they undertook was £148,202 (excluding VAT).

Deloitte were also commissioned to undertake a review of the Scottish Allocation Formula (SAF), which weights general practice funding by various factors that affect workload, including deprivation, rurality and age. The work was commissioned in two parts, the first on 18 December 2015 and the funds payable to Deloitte for the work they undertook was £41,450, and the second on 14 April 2016 and the funds payable to Deloitte for the work they undertook was £36,450 (excluding VAT).

The relevant information will be published at an appropriate time following the successful conclusion of General Medical Services (GMS) contract negotiations.

**S5W-5512**

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what safeguards there are for people under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, if correct procedures are not followed during the detention process.

**S5W-6488**

Maureen Watt: The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 provides that a person with a mental disorder can only be detained if their decision-making ability with regard to medical treatment for that mental disorder is significantly impaired and there would be a significant risk to the health, safety or welfare of the patient or to the safety of another person if the patient were not detained in hospital.
Service providers have a duty to inform the independent Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) if someone has been detained. The MWC has a statutory duty to ensure that the care, treatment and support for people with mental illness is lawful. Section 11 of the 2003 Act gives the MWC the power to carry out investigations in a number of specific circumstances, including unlawful detention.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to address the reported decline in cervical screening coverage.

(S5W-6518)

Shona Robison: Increasing coverage in the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme is a key objective for the Scottish Government and work continues on helping address the fall in cervical screening uptake rates.

It is disappointing that uptake is dropping however on the 8th of February 2017 we will launch a new hard-hitting campaign on cervical screening to raise awareness of the benefits of having a smear test and to encourage women to attend when invited.

We are also responding with £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy being invested in our screening programmes including cervical screening to reduce inequalities and improve uptake, particularly amongst those less likely to participate in screening.

Officials are currently working to establish a network, involving clinical and academic experts from across Scotland as well as organisations such as Cancer Research UK and Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust to identify new activities, learning from local practice and innovation, to help improve screening coverage.

Furthermore, Scottish Government officials meet cervical screening coordinators from all NHS Boards on a quarterly basis to discuss a range of issues relating to the national screening programme, including promoting screening services and initiatives to improve uptake. NHS Boards have responsibility for publicising screening within their local area and for working closely with their communities to increase screening uptake.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to address the reported increase in cervical cancer mortality.

(S5W-6519)

Shona Robison: Cervical Screening is offered to women aged between 25 and 64 and we encourage all eligible women to take up their invitation. Cervical screening can reduce cases of cervical cancer and death. It saves around 5,000 lives in the UK every year and prevents eight out of 10 cervical cancers from developing.

We also now know that almost all cervical cancer is caused by HPV. Uptake rates for the HPV vaccination programme in Scotland remain high and exceed 80%. We will continue our efforts to ensure that Scottish girls benefit from this vaccine, which will save lives.

Whilst the HPV vaccine offers protection against the most common causes of cervical cancer it does not protect against all other types of HPV that cause cancer. Therefore, the combination of the vaccination and attending cervical screening from 25 years of age will offer the best possible protection against cervical cancer

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support it provided to Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2017.

(S5W-6520)

Shona Robison: We fully support the aims of Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2017 and congratulate Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust in leading this initiative highlighting the importance of cervical screening and its role in preventing cervical cancer. We work closely with Jo’s to help address the fall in cervical screening uptake rates in Scotland. This work includes the promotion of their
#SmearForSmear campaign on our wee C social media page and encouraging all Health Boards to support the campaign and Cervical Cancer Prevention Week.

We have also been liaising closely with Jo's Trust on developing a new cervical screening campaign. This will launch on 8 February 2017 to raise awareness of the benefits of having a smear test and to encourage women to attend when invited.

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what steps it is taking to increase cervical screening coverage for (a) black and minority ethnic women and (b) women (i) from disadvantaged backgrounds and (ii) with learning disabilities.

**Shona Robison:** Scottish Government officials work closely with Cervical Screening Coordinators from all NHS Boards to develop initiatives to improve uptake for all women and to promote cervical screening services by communicating effectively with a range of audiences. Recent local initiatives to increase cervical screening coverage include running cervical screening awareness workshops to tackle the cultural differences that can cause barriers to attending for cervical screening, drop in clinics for women from disadvantaged backgrounds and dedicated staff working with women with learning difficulties to facilitate cervical screening and assist during appointments.

We recently commissioned NHS Health Scotland to review the cervical screening public information. The results of this work included a new patient information leaflet "A smear test could save your life" which was launched last summer. This recently received one of the 2016 Plain English Awards and will help ensure we communicate the benefits of cervical screening effectively.

All communication materials are available in number of languages and other translations can be requested, ensuring that women from black and ethnic minority groups have equitable access to communication materials in order to make an informed decision on participating in the programme cervical screening.

Two easy-to-read leaflets in NHS Health Scotland’s ‘Keep Yourself Healthy’ series are available for cervical screening and support people with learning difficulties to make an informed choice. NHS Boards are encouraged to make use of the materials available to them when discussing cervical screening with women who have learning difficulties.

Furthermore, we are investing £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy in our screening programmes to reduce inequalities in access to screening in Scotland. Officials are currently working to establish a network, involving clinical and academic experts from across Scotland as well as organisations such as Cancer Research UK and Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust to identify new activities, learning from local practice and innovation to improve uptake of screening programmes, particularly amongst those less likely to participate in screening.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to address the reported continued decline in cervical screening coverage.

**Shona Robison:** Increasing coverage in the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme is a key objective for the Scottish Government and work continues on helping address the fall in cervical screening uptake rates.

It is disappointing that uptake is dropping however on the 8th of February 2017 we will launch a new hard-hitting campaign on cervical screening to raise awareness of the benefits of having a smear test and to encourage women to attend when invited.

We are also responding with £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy being invested in our screening programmes including cervical screening to reduce inequalities and improve uptake, particularly amongst those less likely to participate in screening.

Officials are currently working to establish a network, involving clinical and academic experts from across Scotland as well as organisations such as Cancer Research UK and Jo’s Cervical Cancer
Trust to identify new activities, learning from local practice and innovation, to help improve screening coverage.

Furthermore, Scottish Government officials meet cervical screening coordinators from all NHS Boards on a quarterly basis to discuss a range of issues relating to the national screening programme, including promoting screening services and initiatives to improve uptake. NHS Boards have responsibility for publicising screening within their local area and for working closely with their communities to increase screening uptake.

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to address the reported increase in cervical cancer mortality.

(S5W-6525)

Shona Robison: Cervical Screening is offered to women aged between 25 and 64 and we encourage all eligible women to take up their invitation. Cervical screening can reduce cases of cervical cancer and death. It saves around 5,000 lives in the UK every year and prevents eight out of 10 cervical cancers from developing.

We also now know that almost all cervical cancer is caused by HPV. Uptake rates for the HPV vaccination programme in Scotland remain high and exceed 80%. We will continue our efforts to ensure that Scottish girls benefit from this vaccine, which will save lives.

Whilst the HPV vaccine offers protection against the most common causes of cervical cancer it does not protect against all other types of HPV that cause cancer. Therefore, the combination of the vaccination and attending cervical screening from 25 years of age will offer the best possible protection against cervical cancer.

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions have taken place regarding plans to increase cervical screening coverage among women from disadvantaged backgrounds.

(S5W-6527)

Shona Robison: On 8 February 2017 we will launch a new, hard-hitting awareness raising campaign on cervical screening targeted at 25-35 year old women living in Scotland from lower socio economic groups as we know they are less likely to attend.

Officials work closely with Health Boards to develop initiatives to improve uptake for women from disadvantaged backgrounds within the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme. Recent local initiatives include regular drop in screening sessions for women from disadvantaged backgrounds and clinics engaging with homeless women and those seeking help for drug and alcohol use.

We recently commissioned research with women from disadvantaged backgrounds into the reasons for non-uptake of the screening invitation. The results of this work will inform our engagement and communications strategy to support the programme and encourage participation in cervical screening particularly amongst those less likely to attend when invited.

Furthermore, we are investing £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy in our screening programmes to reduce inequalities in access to screening in Scotland.

Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to improve cervical screening coverage among (a) black and minority ethnic women and (b) women with learning disabilities.

(S5W-6528)

Shona Robison: Scottish Government officials work closely with Cervical Screening Coordinators from all NHS Boards to develop initiatives to improve uptake for all women and to promote cervical screening services by communicating effectively with a range of audiences. Recent local initiatives to increase cervical screening coverage include running cervical screening awareness workshops to tackle the cultural differences that can cause barriers to attending for cervical screening and dedicated
staff working with women with learning difficulties to facilitate cervical screening and assist during appointments.

We recently commissioned NHS Health Scotland to review the cervical screening public information. The results of this work included a new patient information leaflet "A smear test could save your life" which was launched last summer. This recently received one of the 2016 Plain English Awards and will help ensure we communicate the benefits of cervical screening effectively.

All communication materials are available in number of languages and other translations can be requested, ensuring that women from black and ethnic minority groups have equitable access to communication materials in order to make an informed decision on participating in the programme cervical screening.

Two easy-to-read leaflets in NHS Health Scotland’s ‘Keep Yourself Healthy’ series are available for cervical screening and support people with learning difficulties to make an informed choice. NHS Boards are encouraged to make use of the materials available to them when discussing cervical screening with women who have learning difficulties.

Furthermore, we are investing £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy in our screening programmes to reduce inequalities in access to screening in Scotland. Officials are currently working to establish a network, involving clinical and academic experts from across Scotland as well as organisations such as Cancer Research UK and Jo’s Cervical Cancer Trust to identify new activities, learning from local practice and innovation to improve uptake of screening programmes, particularly amongst those less likely to participate in screening.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to roll out HPV primary screening.

*(S5W-6530)*

**Shona Robison:** A Business Case on the introduction of HPV primary screening has been submitted to the Scottish Screening Committee. This Business Case is being carefully considered by the Committee who will advise Scottish Ministers on the future use of HPV testing in the programme.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to make cervical screening more accessible in order to increase coverage.

*(S5W-6531)*

**Shona Robison:** We are investing £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy 'Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action' to reduce inequalities in access to screening in Scotland. Funding will be allocated over the next 5 years to support new activities which identify, address and reduce inequalities of access to screening services in Scotland.

Officials are currently working to establish a NHS Scotland network, including stakeholders and experts from across NHS Scotland, which will develop and share new ways of working.

Pilot activities with the ability to improve access to screening will be considered by Scottish Government and if approved will be subject to evaluation. If successful they will be carefully considered for wider roll out.

**Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people have been registered with an NHS dentist in the NHS Ayrshire and Arran area in each year since 2007.

*(S5W-6541)*

**Shona Robison:** The following table shows the number of people registered with an NHS dentist in NHS Ayrshire and Arran in each year since 2007.

Number of registrations in NHS Ayrshire and Arran in each year² since 2007.
### Table: Number of Registrations by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHS Board</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Registrations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>214,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>244,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>266,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>281,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>296,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>312,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>323,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>332,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>338,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayrshire and Arran</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>347,118</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Background notes


Statistics provided at a snapshot date of 30 September for each year.

#### Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party):

To ask the Scottish Government what the target for the treatment of hepatitis C is for 2017-18, also broken down by the target for each NHS board, and how much it will make available to (a) the NHS and (b) each board to help achieve this.

(S5W-6547)

#### Shona Robison:

The National target for 2017-18 has not yet been finalised. NHS Boards will be advised of the target for 2017-18 before the start of the new financial year.

The hepatitis C treatment target is a national minimum target for the whole of Scotland and there are no local NHS Board targets. The incidence and prevalence of hepatitis C varies across Scotland, as does the distribution of genotypes of the disease. This means the scale and nature of hepatitis C infection in different Boards can necessitate a different response and targets for each NHS Boards are not appropriate.

Funding for the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Framework is now included in the £161m Outcomes Framework budget. Boards have flexibility to allocate funding from that budget towards hepatitis C treatment appropriate to their local needs.

#### Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):

To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on reports of a six-week waiting time for some non-emergency appointments in the north east and what action it is taking to minimise waiting times at GP surgeries in the area.

(S5W-6555)

#### Shona Robison:

The Scottish Government is fully committed to supporting primary care, including GPs, and ensuring that all communities in Scotland, including remote and rural, receive safe, reliable and sustainable health care services.

Over three years, the Scottish Government is investing £85 million, as part of the Primary Care Fund. As part of this, over £2million will be invested in work to explore with key stakeholders the issues surrounding GP recruitment and retention which can be particularly challenging in remote and rural areas. This will support a range of initiatives over the next two years including the establishment of a Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative in eight health boards, including NHS Grampian and NHS Highland. This initiative will bring together recruitment strategies and support networks for GPs working in remote and rural areas.

We have committed to increasing the NHS revenue budget by £500 million more than inflation over the next five years and will, in every year of this parliament, increase the share of the NHS budget that goes to primary care.
Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to ensure that there is a wide representation of people with autistic spectrum disorders on (a) the Scottish Strategy for Autism Governance Group and (b) similar groups.

(S5W-6558)

Maureen Watt: The Scottish Government is committed to improving services so that people with autism can live healthier lives, have choice and control over the services they use, and be active and independent citizens. The Strategy's aim is that people with autism should be afforded the same rights as all citizens to contribute to a fair, equal and prosperous Scotland.

The Scottish Government works closely with people with autism to ensure the Scottish Strategy for Autism is fully implemented. Membership of the Strategy's Governance and Working Groups includes people with autism, and the Government will continue to ensure autistic people's voices are heard.

The National Co-ordination Project team will continue to work with local authorities to ensure people with autism are fully engaged with, and involved in, the development and implementation of local autism strategies, ensuring the needs of autistic people are reflected in local policies and plans.

Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish the third national dementia strategy.

(S5W-6583)


Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how the (a) provision and (b) performance of post-diagnostic support for people with dementia is monitored.

(S5W-6584)

Maureen Watt: Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) are responsible for commissioning dementia services, including post-diagnostic services, in their area and will monitor their effectiveness. Responsibility for the delivery of post-diagnostic services remains with the statutory body tasked with leading the service in each IJB area and this is determined locally.

On performance, the first round of annual national performance data was published in January 2017, relating to the 2014-15 beneficiary group. Work is in train to publish subsequent annual data at IJB level.

National support for post-diagnostic services is in place in areas such as supporting service quality and consistency, education, training and staff development, data analysis and improvement methodologies. As part of that activity, there is on-going engagement on the challenges and benefits around providing post-diagnostic support.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of what walking aids are provided by the NHS.

(S5W-6614)

Shona Robison: This is a matter for individual Health Boards. The information requested is not held centrally.

The Scottish Government issued guidance on the Provision of Community Equipment and Adaptations (CCD 5/2009) in 2009. This guidance placed the responsibility for the provision of community equipment, including walking aids, with individual health and social care partnerships and the Scottish Government does not collect information on individual items issued by the NHS, local authorities or Integration Authorities.
Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many four-wheeled rollator walking frames were made available by each NHS board in the last year, also broken down by the (a) number and (b) type of alternative devices that were provided.

(S5W-6639)

Shona Robison: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-06614 on 6 February 2017. 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.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when in 2017 the updated suicide prevention strategy will be published.

(S5W-6706)

Maureen Watt: In Spring 2017 we will begin engagement with stakeholders regarding possible content of a future Suicide Prevention Strategy or Action Plan. This engagement will build on the engagement we undertook on the forthcoming Mental Health Strategy, and on engagement already undertaken with stakeholders e.g. in academia, in the NHS and in the Third Sector who have a specific interest in suicide prevention. We aim to publish a new Suicide Prevention Strategy or Action Plan in late 2017 or early 2018.

In the meantime, whilst the timeframe of the existing Suicide Prevention Strategy (2013-16) has passed, its key themes (e.g. improving responses to distress; improving the NHS response to suicide; talking about suicide; and developing the evidence base) remain pertinent to continuing efforts to reduce the suicide rate; we will continue to work with stakeholders to implement the commitments under these themes.

Transport Scotland

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government on what date it will (a) launch the public consultation on future arrangements for the national concessionary travel scheme and (b) announce any proposed changes, and whether the public will be given an indication of its preferred model for the future prior to local elections in May 2017.

(S5W-6578)

Humza Yousaf: Over the coming months, we will be engaging with stakeholders across Scotland to listen carefully to their views so that we may understand the social, equality and other impacts of possible changes that might be made to the scheme.

This early period of engagement will lead to a more formal written consultation later in the year on ways in which we might help ensure the longer-term sustainability of concessionary travel.

Following the consultation, the Scottish Government will publish an analysis of the responses in the usual way and indicate its intentions including the timing of any changes. We do not want to pre-empt the outcome of the consultation process, though we can reconfirm that those already holding cards on the basis of the age will keep their bus passes and that there will be no reduction in eligibility for disabled people.

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have a free bus pass under the national concessionary travel scheme.

(S5W-6579)

Humza Yousaf: In December 2016 there were 1,310,803 cardholders under the National Concessionary Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons.

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many more people will become eligible for a free bus pass under the existing concessionary travel scheme on reaching 60 in each of the next five years.
Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government estimates that around 70,000 people will reach the age 60 and thus become eligible for a free bus pass under the existing concessionary travel scheme in 2017. This number is expected to rise in each subsequent year to around 76,000 people reaching the age of 60 in 2021.

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many young (a) modern apprentices and (b) recipients of employment grants it anticipates will be supported by its plans to extend the concessionary travel scheme each year; whether each person in these categories will be automatically eligible for free travel, and in what year the scheme will be extended to these groups.

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government anticipates that around 25,000 Modern Apprentices aged 16-20 and between 6,500 and 8,500 Job Grant recipients aged 16-24 could be supported by its plans to provide free bus travel to these groups. We will be discussing the necessary processes with key stakeholders, including Skills Development Scotland, local authorities, Regional Transport Partnerships and bus operators, to ensure that the offer of free bus travel to young Modern Apprentices and, later on, to the young recipients of job grants, can be easily accessed.

We are aiming to introduce free bus travel for Modern Apprentices in April 2018. Free travel for Job Grant recipients will come into force when the Job Grant itself becomes available.

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have participated in its concessionary travel scheme for people over 60 or with a disability in each year since it was established.

Humza Yousaf: The number of concessionary travel card holders under the National Concessionary Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons in each year since it was established are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of cardholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>984,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>1,091,001</td>
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<td>2009-10</td>
<td>1,122,846</td>
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<td>1,119,505</td>
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<td>1,265,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>1,275,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>1,309,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>1,343,015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alex Rowley (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether freight capacity of the Finlandia Seaways, operated by DFDS between Rosyth and Zeebrugge, has increased since August 2015, and what discussions it has had with (a) DFDS and (b) Forth Ports regarding future increases in freight capacity on the route.

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government does not hold details of the freight capacity of the vessel used on the route. There have not been any specific discussions with DFDS or Forth Ports regarding potential future increases in capacity although we continue encourage them to keep this under review and support them in their efforts to grow the volumes on the route.
Alex Rowley (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many roll-on, roll-off freight units were (a) imported and (b) exported on the Rosyth to Zeebrugge route in each year since 2009-10.

(S5W-6606)

Humza Yousaf: Data on the volume of freight transported on the Rosyth to Zeebrugge ferry is not retained in the format you request. The figures we receive from DfT Maritime Statistics are published in the Scottish Transport Statistics. The latest figures are at Table 9.13(b) in the report at:

The following questions received holding answers:
S5W-06389
S5W-06421
S5W-06422
S5W-06429