SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown by sector of its low-carbon and renewable jobs figure of 58,000 and clarify which specific technologies are included in this figure.

Holding answer issued: 25 October 2017  

Paul Wheelhouse: The estimates for low carbon and renewable energy jobs in Scotland are not published by the Scottish Government, they are compiled and published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in their UK Environmental Accounts: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy Survey. The dataset and methodology, including breakdown by sector and technology, are available on the ONS website.

https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/finalesimates/2015results

https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/datasets/lowcarbonandrenewableenergyeconomyindirectestimatesdataset

Maree Todd (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it will undertake with (a) Kishorn Port Limited and (b) the project developer in light of the reported delays to the development of the Kincardine Offshore Windfarm.

(S5W-11885)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government, and its Enterprise Agencies, are working closely with the project developer to ensure Kishorn Port Ltd, and the wider Scottish supply chain, still benefit, as had been anticipated, from the Kincardine Floating Offshore Wind Project as it moves toward the September 2018 commissioning date.

Dean Lockhart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-10938 by Derek Mackay on 5 September 2017, by what date it expects the first business or organisation will receive support from the Scottish Growth Scheme.

(S5W-11916)

Derek Mackay: It is not possible to speculate on a precise date.

There are currently two distinct products under the Scottish Growth Scheme: the £200m Scottish-European Growth Co-investment Programme (SEGCP) launched on 16 June this year, aimed at companies seeking equity investment of £2m or above; and the new and additional funding to the SME Holding Fund under SGS (announced in Programme for Government 2017) to support equity funding up to £2m.

Work progresses with a number of companies seeking to access investment support under the SEGCP. At this stage, five companies have been referred to the European Investment Fund (EIF) to be considered for investment from EIF accredited Fund Managers. Scottish Enterprise is providing a package of support to help individual companies become investor ready and, alongside the EIF, introducing companies seeking investment to relevant Fund Managers.

Under the SME Holding Fund, it is anticipated that the additional investment could flow to relevant companies from the start of November 2017, with the resources being fully invested by December 2018.

Peter Chapman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many new entrants were accepted to the New Entrant SRDP Scheme in 2017.
**Fergus Ewing**: Three separate support schemes for new entrants are available under the SRDP 2014-20: Young Farmers Start-up Grant Scheme; New Entrants Start-up Grant Scheme and the New Entrants Capital Grant Scheme.

The New Entrants Capital Grant Scheme is open to applications on a continuous basis and a total of 133 applications have been approved to date in 2017.

However, both start-up schemes are competitive and subject to application windows. The 2017 application window opened on 1 April and closed on 30 September. A total of 187 applications have been submitted and assessment and scoring of these is underway with the expectation that this will be complete by the end of 2017.

**Peter Chapman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)**: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to reduce the number of unmetabolised livestock antibiotics entering water courses.

**Fergus Ewing**: The regulation of veterinary medicines, including antibiotics, is a reserved matter. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is the Competent Authority in the UK.

Nevertheless, the Scottish has signed up to the UK 5 Year Antimicrobial Strategy 2014-18, produced in collaboration with Public and Animal Health Authorities across the UK, and combining actions in the human and animal health sectors.

An objective of this Strategy is to work with the veterinary profession and the livestock industry to reduce the use of antimicrobials in food producing animals, therefore reducing the quantity of antibiotics in the environment.

**Richard Lochhead (Moray) (Scottish National Party)**: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the actions it is taking to deliver its target to meet 11% of non-electrical heat demand from renewable sources by 2020.


During the 2016 calendar year, an estimated 4.8 – 5.0% of Scotland’s non-electrical heat demand was supplied from renewable sources. Renewable heat capacity increased by 13% and renewable heat generation decreased by 11%, when compared with 2015. This reduction in output was primarily due to the closure of the Tullis Russell paper mill in Fife, a significant user of renewable heat. However, while figures for 2016 represent a decrease from 5.4% in 2015, had the Tullis Russell Site remained open and heat demand remained static, renewable heat generation would have increased. The Scottish Government remains committed to decarbonising our heat supply whilst maximising the benefits of doing so for Scotland. We continued to demonstrate leadership and ambition in terms of our specific policy interventions, for example, the development of regulations around Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategies and district heating and, more broadly, Scotland’s Energy Efficiency Programme.

In addition, the Energy Saving Trust have published today the report Renewable Heat in Scotland 2016, which provides further details on these figures. The Energy Saving Trust report is now available at http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/renewable-heat-in-scotland2016.

**Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour)**: To ask the Scottish what steps it is taking to ensure that Scotland's Kurdish community feels safe, supported and welcome.

**Holding answer issued: 29 September 2017**
Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is clear that there is absolutely no place for discrimination and prejudice in Scotland and that any form of hate crime is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. As a nation, we have a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities and faiths, and we are committed to supporting their integration into our communities.

On 13 June 2017, we published an ambitious programme of work to take forward the recommendations made by the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion. This includes a commitment to deliver a public campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of hate crime which will be launched next month.

We will publish a refreshed version of New Scots, our strategy for integrating asylum seekers and refugees into Scotland’s communities, in January 2018. We have carried out a wide ranging programme of engagement in order to ensure the views and experiences of as many new Scots as possible are included.

We are determined to show leadership in advancing race equality in Scotland. The Race Equality Framework was developed to advance race equality and address the barriers that prevent people from minority ethnic communities from realising their potential.

We will publish an Action Plan in October 2017 setting out the key actions, including actions on Community Cohesion and Safety, we will take over this Parliamentary session to drive positive change for minority ethnic communities.

Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that a parent from England or Wales suspected of child abduction could not be prosecuted if it was established that they departed from Scotland; what information it has regarding whether any such departures have been recorded at Scotland’s (a) airports and (b) ports in each year since 2007, and what discussions it has had with UK Government regarding this matter.

(S5W-11741)

Michael Matheson: Depending on the circumstances of the case, someone suspected of child abduction could be charged with an offence under section 6 of the Child Abduction Act 1984 or the common law offences of Abduction or Plagium.

Information regarding departures from airports and ports is a matter for the UK Border Force. Scottish Government and Home Office officials both attend meetings of the Child Abduction Co-ordination Group.

Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many cases of international parental child abduction have been reported in each year since 2007.

(S5W-11742)

Michael Matheson: These data are not held centrally. The Scottish Government does published annual statistics on abduction recorded by the police as part of the Recorded Crime in Scotland bulletin (the statistics for 2016-17 are available here: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/09/3075), however we do not hold this data for specific victim ages, perpetrator or the location to which they were abducted.

The figures in the following table are based on the cases handled by the Central Authority for Scotland (part of the Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government) under the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 ‘on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction’, including cases involving EU Member States dealt with under Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 ‘concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility’. ‘Incoming’ cases are those involving children in Scotland while ‘Outgoing’ cases involve children outwith Scotland. The table below breaks these data down per calendar year.

### Yearly Entitlement and Receipt of Healthy Start Vouchers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Incoming</th>
<th>Outgoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Central Authority for Scotland.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many households have (a) been entitled to and (b) received healthy start vouchers in 2016-17.

(S5W-11760)

**Aileen Campbell:** The Healthy Start Scheme is administered by the Department of Health. Information in the following table was provided by the Healthy Start Issuing Unit (HSIU) and outlines the households entitled and receiving Healthy Start vouchers in Scotland in the financial year 2016-17.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households receiving</td>
<td>23064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households entitled</td>
<td>34187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uptake is variable across Scotland. We are, therefore, supporting a number of areas to run quality improvement projects to increase uptake of the Healthy Start Scheme including Fife, Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will work with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to market the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit to a wider catchment area, specifically Clydebank.

(S5W-11765)

**Aileen Campbell:** The decision on how to make most effective use of each maternity setting within an area is the responsibility of the NHS Board.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the birthing service will remain at the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit during the pilot scheme for the Best Start strategy.

(S5W-11766)

**Aileen Campbell:** As an Early Adopter Board, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will be undertaking detailed planning for implementation of the recommendations in Clyde, and this will include consideration of services within the two Community Maternity Units in Inverclyde Royal Hospital and the Vale of Leven hospital.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the pilot scheme for the Best Start strategy will start at the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit and for how long it will run.

(S5W-11767)

**Aileen Campbell:** The successful Early Adopter Boards were announced on 27 September and will begin planning for implementation. We expect that Early Adopter Boards will
begin to implement the new model of care in late 2018. Learning from the Early Adopters will be shared to inform the roll out across Scotland.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that the pilot scheme of the Best Start strategy at the Vale of Leven Community Maternity Unit is independently evaluated.

(S5W-11768)

**Aileen Campbell:** A mechanism for evaluation of the package of recommendations that will be led by the Early Adopter Boards will be developed over the coming months by The Best Start Implementation Programme Board.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Education Scotland (a) is removing public access to inspection reports more than five years old and (b) has deleted inspection data from before April 2008, and on what date ministers were advised of this policy.

(S5W-11798)

**John Swinney:** a) The public will continue to be able to access these inspection reports by requesting a copy from Education Scotland. Inspection reports more than five years old will no longer be available via Education Scotland’s website.

b) Education Scotland has not deleted all inspection records from before April 2008 - it holds the most recent inspection report for each school which has been inspected. Centrally-held lists of which individual schools were inspected prior to 2008 had been deleted. Education Scotland has now reconstructed these lists using the range of records they retain.

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on trialling a so-called one-sheriff system across civil and criminal proceedings with regard to domestic abuse, and what its position is on whether such a system could lead to survivors being spared unnecessary trauma.

(S5W-11850)

**Michael Matheson:** Part 1 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, as amended, requires that courts should have regard to domestic abuse when considering civil court orders relating to parental responsibilities and rights. The Scottish Government is reviewing part 1 of the 1995 Act and preparing a Family Justice Modernisation Strategy and will carry out a public consultation on this next year.

This consultation will cover issues in relation to domestic abuse, including, for example, options to prevent direct cross-examination of victims of domestic abuse by their alleged abusers in child contact cases before the civil courts. We will engage with the courts and others on issues arising from the consultation responses.

**Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what arms-length external organisations it has met and had discussions with ahead of deciding whether or not to action certain recommendations of the Barclay review of non-domestic rates.

(S5W-11864)

**Derek Mackay:** The Scottish Government will engage further with a range of arms-length external organisations (ALEOs) ahead of confirming its position on the Barclay recommendation to remove eligibility for charity relief. Engagement is currently on-going and the Scottish Government will confirm its position later this year.
Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what calculation it has made of the economic effects on arms-length external organisations if rates relief is removed.

(S5W-11865)

Derek Mackay: On 12 September, I confirmed that 22 of the 30 Barclay recommendations were accepted and six required further consideration and engagement before the Scottish Government confirms its position, including consideration of the wider impacts. Our position, informed by that engagement, will be confirmed by the end of this year.

Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether the removal of rates relief from arms-length external organisations is consistent with the policy in its Programme for Government to work with local authorities to support people to live an active lifestyle through access to walking, cycling and places to participate in physical activity.

(S5W-11866)

Derek Mackay: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-11865 on 31 October 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

Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what value of rates relief has been given to arms-length external organisations in each of the last five years.

(S5W-11867)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government does not hold data on the amount of relief provided to Arm’s Length External Organisations (ALEOs) for the past five years. Analysis undertaken for the Barclay Review of Non-Domestic Rates indicated ALEOs received around £45m of relief in 2015-16.

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5O-00714 by Michael Matheson on 1 March 2017 (Official Report, c.16), what progress it is making with the implementation of section 179 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 regarding disabled access.

(S5W-11876)

Michael Matheson: Work continues to draft amending regulations to include a prescribed statement form in The Premises Licence (Scotland) Regulations 2007. Guidance is also being developed to help those applying for an alcohol premises licence to prepare their statement and to assist Licensing Boards in assessing that statement.

Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps are in place to ensure that Syrian refugees are receiving the necessary support as set out in its strategy, New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland’s Communities, and whether there has been any review or assessment of how support from the assigned integration support teams is meeting their needs.

(S5W-11883)

Angela Constance: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-11743 on 12 October 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.

Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many complaints against a sheriff (a) overall and (b) in the Sherifffdom of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway have been (i) lodged, (ii) concluded and (iii) upheld in each year since 2011, broken down by (A) court and (B) the proportion of total caseload that these represent, and how many were
judicial complaints lodged by (1) out-of-town solicitors and (2) clients of out-of-town solicitors where decisions went against them.

(S5W-11891)

Michael Matheson: This question relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of the Scottish Court and Tribunals Service (SCTS) corporate body. The question has been passed to the Chief Executive of the SCTS who reply in writing within 20 days.

Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many judicial recusals there have been (a) overall and (b) in the Sherifdom of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway in each year since 2011, broken down by (i) court and (ii) the proportion of total caseload that these represented.

(S5W-11893)

Michael Matheson: This question relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of the Scottish Court and Tribunals Service (SCTS) corporate body. The question has been passed to the Chief Executive of the SCTS who reply in writing within 20 days.

Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken in response to the findings of the its reports, Evidence Assessment of the Impacts of the Criminalisation of the Purchase of Sex: A Review and Exploring available knowledge and evidence on prostitution in Scotland via practitioner-based interviews, and what plans it has to announce updated proposals for addressing prostitution.

(S5W-11898)

Annabelle Ewing: The Scottish Government is committed to addressing the harm associated with prostitution and supports a range of measures that can help reduce the harm caused and is committed to considering other support that could be provided in this area.

The research published in February this year did not provide any conclusive evidence that changes to the law would reduce the overall harm associated with prostitution. Feedback from stakeholders on the research was invited and 19 responses were received which are currently being considered.

The Scottish Government believes it is important and necessary to listen to the views and understand the experiences of those with direct experience. We have engaged with a number of individuals who either are or have been engaged in prostitution to understand their real life experiences. Full consideration of these discussions as well as the outcome of research reports and the feedback thereto will help inform consideration of future prostitution policy in Scotland.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what meetings it has held with the Scottish Council of Independent Schools in the last 12 months and what was discussed.

(S5W-12004)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government engages with the Scottish Council of Independent Schools regularly, to discuss a range of issues relating to the provision of education in Scotland.

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to implement the Fairer Scotland Action Plan (a) overall and (b) with regard to the improvement of temporary accommodation.

(S5W-12043)

Angela Constance: At the parliamentary debate on the Fairer Scotland Action Plan on 25 October 2016, a commitment was made to publish an annual report detailing how the action plan was being implemented. The first progress report is due for publication shortly.
With regard to temporary accommodation, a short-life Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group to make recommendations has now been established. One of its four key objectives will be transforming the use of temporary accommodation. This work will be supported by a £50 million Ending Homelessness Together fund, available over 5 years. We have also introduced a cap of 7 days (from 14 days) for families with children and pregnant women in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that Bield Housing Association is withdrawing from the care home sector; when it was first advised of this; what discussions it has had with Bield regarding the decision; what information it has regarding the reason for the withdrawal; how many residents will be affected, and what discussions it has had with other care home providers about rehousing them.

**Shona Robison:** The Scottish Government recognises that this will be an unsettling time for all residents, families and employees affected by the announcement by Bield Housing and Care. Our priority is to ensure continuity of service for residents with no compromise in the quality of their care.

Since being alerted to Bield's decision on 7th September 2017, officials have engaged with Bield, the Care Inspectorate and Chief Officers of Integration Authorities to ensure plans are put in place for residents. This is to ensure that residents’ care needs are a priority and that they will continue to be met in an appropriate setting. The Scottish Government is actively working with key stakeholders and this engagement will continue. Bield has indicated that there are ongoing talks with other providers that could mean a small number of homes remain open.

We understand that Bield has taken this decision because of the long term unsustainable nature of their business model.

The National Contingency Planning Group, which includes representatives from Scottish Government, COSLA, Care Inspectorate, Integration Authorities, trade unions, Bield Housing and Care and provider organisations, met on 19th October. This group considered how national and local partners can manage the impact of this decision particularly in respect of residents, their families and the workforce. Approximately 160 residents will be affected by this decision.

**Johann Lamont (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on Glasgow City Council issuing advice to head teachers to use the Pupil Equity Fund to pay for janitorial services; whether the local authority sought advice from it regarding this and, if so, what advice it provided.

**John Swinney:** Pupil Equity Funding provides £120m of additional support to thousands of schools across Scotland to be spent at the discretion of teachers and school leaders.

Any school staying open beyond school hours for attainment-related purposes would require to have the appropriate in staff support in place. As outlined in the Pupil Equity Fund national operational guidance, any school plans for using Pupil Equity Funding must be grounded in evidence of what is known to be effective at closing the poverty related attainment gap. Local authorities can also issue complementary guidance about how the funding will operate locally. Glasgow City Council have not sought advice from the Scottish Government on this issue.

**Jenny Gilruth (Mid Fife and Glenrothes) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to strengthen quality in early learning and childcare.

**Mark McDonald:** Quality is already and will continue to be at the very heart of our commitment to near double the funded provision of early learning and childcare. Actions already underway include:
Our commitment to provide an additional graduate in nurseries in Scotland’s most deprived areas, by August 2018,

Increasing access to outdoor learning through publication of ‘My World Outdoors’ and ‘Space to Grow’.

Strengthening access to professional development for childminders through launch of ‘My Childminding Journey: A Professional Development Resource’.

Creating a fund that enables staff to support children with additional support needs or disabilities.

Encouraging and supporting the changes we want to see in the national practice guidance – Building the Ambition which was published in 2014.


Today I have launched the Quality Action Plan which sets out the steps we will take over the next three years to ensure that the expansion to 1140 hours delivers a high quality experience for all eligible children.

This action plan reflects what the international research evidence and experience tell us are the key drivers of quality in early learning and childcare. It also sets out 15 new actions to strengthen quality and improve longer-term outcomes for children, including new professional learning resources for staff, further strengthening outdoor learning and increased support for family learning so that this is embedded in the ELC offer for those who will benefit the most.

The plan can be accessed at: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/10/9506

Health and Social Care

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle the assumption that mothers expecting a baby with a disability will want an abortion, in light of the private availability of new non-invasive pregnancy testing, which is set to detect higher numbers of babies with trisomy 13, 18 and 21.

(S5W-11812)

Aileen Campbell: Within the NHS there is absolutely no assumption that mothers expecting a disabled child will want to terminate the pregnancy.

The Scottish Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme aims to ensure that women and couples are provided with high quality information so that they can make an informed choice about their screening options and pregnancy choices.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that pharmacies are adequately stocked with prescription medicines; what discussions it has with NHS boards about this, and what its response to reports from GPs that some pharmacies in the NHS Lothian area are unable to supply commonly-prescribed items, such as epipens, MST tablets and morphine, and are having to offer less effective alternatives.

(S5W-11911)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government is aware of disruptions in the supply chain for some commonly-used generic medicines. This is not a Scotland-only issue, but is experienced across the UK.

The NHS Prescribing Advisers Network routinely monitors and reports weekly on such disruptions across all Health Boards, so that action can be taken locally to advise GPs and other prescribers of clinically appropriate alternatives where this may be necessary to support continuity of care.
Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it supports the retention of cottage hospitals in Dumfries and Galloway.

(S5W-11951)

Shona Robison: Decisions around the future of community hospitals are for the local Health and Social Care Partnership to take. Health & social care facilities must be fit for purpose, meet the needs of the local community and sit within the wider strategic direction of local health and social care delivery.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the importance of cottage hospitals in the transitional period from acute hospital to home.

(S5W-11952)

Shona Robison: Community (Cottage) Hospitals deliver valuable services in many local communities. They can be an important part of providing people with the care and support they need closer to home and also help to reduce unnecessary admissions to acute hospitals. In addition, they can act as step down facilities allowing earlier discharge from acute hospitals and be part of a community hub of local services.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what the vacancy rate is for radiologists, also broken down by NHS board, and what information it has regarding how this compares with the rest of the UK.

(S5W-12000)

Shona Robison: Information on vacancies for consultants with a specialty of clinical radiology is published by ISD Scotland and is available at the following web link:-

https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Workforce/Publications/2017-03-07/Consultant_Vacancies_D2016.xls

Information on consultant vacancies outwith NHSScotland is not held centrally.

Dean Lockhart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has received from NHS Fife about its work on reducing waiting times, and how effective it has been.

(S5W-12032)

Shona Robison: NHS Fife has undertaken some very robust work in relation to improving both demand and capacity planning and their local management processes. They have put in place clinical and theatre monitoring which has led to more robust job planning processes to ensure all capacity is fully utilised. This has led to NHS Fife having one of the best of the mainland Board's performance on both outpatient and inpatient and day case waiting times in Scotland.

I have made an additional £50 million to help Boards improve waiting times of which NHS Fife has received £3.4 million. This additional funding should improve waiting time performance between now and the end of March 2018. In addition, I have set up an expert group to reduce waiting times and improve the way elective care services are managed across all Boards. The Group will be led by Paul Hawkins, Chief Executive of NHS Fife, and the Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Professor David Bell.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that (a) it, (b) its officials, (c) Healthcare Improvement Scotland, (d) the Healthcare Environment Inspectorate and (e) the rest of the NHS implements its responsibilities under the (i) Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, (ii) Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and (iii) Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations with regard to (A)
ensuring patient safety and (B) tackling healthcare associated infections, and what analysis it has carried out of the standards of compliance.

(S5W-12049)

Shona Robison: Health and Safety is a reserved matter under the terms of the Scotland Act (1998). The duty holders in NHSScotland under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA) and relevant regulations, are NHS Boards, as they are separate legal entities to the Scottish Government. Individual NHS Boards are responsible for Health and Safety within their own areas.

Through Healthcare Improvement Scotland and NHS Boards the Scottish Government and its officials ensure that the HSAW act is adhered to. In addition, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) can and does enforce health and safety legislation within NHS Boards in accordance with its policy on patient safety.

HSE’s role in patient health and safety is explained in the Letter of Understanding between Health and Safety Executive and Healthcare Improvement Scotland and is available at http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/howwework/framework/letter-of-understanding-his.pdf

Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) is a key priority for the Scottish Government. Health Protection Scotland provide the Scottish Government with quarterly and annual reports, which are used to measure the progress in tackling HCAI across NHSScotland. The information also highlights areas of good practice, which is shared across all Health Boards to ensure they continue to drive forward improvements in this area.

Organisational Development and Operations

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-11582 by Derek Mackay on 5 October 2017, what plans it has to phase-out fossil fuel vehicles used in (a) the ministerial car pool, (b) Transport Scotland, and (c) other areas of the Government Car Service.

(S5W-11968)

Derek Mackay: Our Programme for Government sets out that we will take the lead in promoting the use of ultralow emission vehicles (ULEVs) and phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032, well ahead of the 2040 target recently announced by the UK Government.

The Scottish Government’s fleet replacement policy is to consider a replacement when a vehicle has reached 80,000 miles or six years. The final decision will also depend on the condition and history of the vehicle.

When considering vehicles for the fleet, the replacement will be fit for purpose, be ultra-low emission (where practicable) or offer significantly lower emissions (where practicable) than the vehicle being replaced, whilst ensuring best value for money.

This current strategy will allow us to phase out fossil fuelled vehicles as and when vehicles come to the end of their operational life and suitable replacements are available.

Scottish Exchequer

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of a similar provision being available in the rest of the UK, what its position is on introducing relief from the Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) for companies that are required to provide share pledges to banks.

(S5W-11819)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that Scotland remains an attractive location for investment. We are currently considering a number of proposals around Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, including share pledges within group relief, as part of the Scottish Government’s overall approach to the planning and management of the devolved taxes.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of a similar provision being available in the rest of the UK, what its position is on ensuring that no Land and Buildings Transaction Tax (LBTT) charge is imposed when
(a) pension funds holding Scottish property are transferred and (b) self-invested personal pension plan providers change.

(S5W-11820)

Derek Mackay The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that Scotland remains an attractive location for investment. We are currently considering a number of proposals around Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, including transfers of property assets between pension funds and changes in provider as part of the Scottish Government's overall approach to the planning and management of the devolved taxes.

Transport Scotland

John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) Orkney Ferries and (b) trade unions regarding the future funding and provision of inter-island ferry services on the Orkney Isles.

(S5W-11060)

Humza Yousaf: The Ferries Plan 2013-22 committed that the Scottish Government is willing to consider taking on responsibility for local authority lifeline ferry services, and set out the principles involved for such a transfer to move forward. The Plan indicated that assessment would be made on a case-by-case basis and that ultimately it may not always be agreed that a transfer of responsibility goes ahead. The Plan also indicated that the Scottish Government could not guarantee to be in a position to provide any additional funding.

Following publication of the Ferries Plan, Transport Scotland has been in discussion with a number of local authorities regarding their internal ferry services.

Responsibility for Orkney Islands Council's internal ferries remains with the local authority, but our pledge of further dialogue on this issue shows we remain committed to the principle of fair funding in the provision of ferry services and ferry infrastructure. Orkney Islands Council has submitted a funding request for 2018-19 and this will be considered as part of the on-going Spending Review. Scottish Government funding for Orkney's internal ferry services is not in our budget plans at present. However, we would welcome further engagement with the Council as the priorities of the Spending Review are finalised.

The Scottish Government is not in direct contact with the Council's ferry operating company, or the trade unions.

John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of Orkney Ferries’ funding was met by (a) local government and (b) Transport Scotland in each year since 2010-11, also broken down by how much funding was provided.

(S5W-11063)

Humza Yousaf: Responsibility for Orkney's internal ferry services rests with Orkney Islands Council. Orkney Ferries is owned by Orkney Islands Council.

Funding provided by the Scottish Government to local authorities is allocated using a needs-based formula. There is no separately identifiable allocation of funding for individual services, such as ferry services.

Included with the funding allocations for Orkney Islands Council is a supplement, known as Special Islands Needs Allowance (SINA) which is added to the core local government finance settlement to reflect the additional costs of a local authority servicing its island communities. Orkney Islands Council’s SINA allocation in the current year (2017-18) amounts to £5.8 million (or £269 per head) in 2017-18. This is equivalent to over 28 per cent of the Scotland-wide SINA total.

Orkney Islands Council would be best placed to advise on its allocation of the total financial resources available to it, including funding of its internal ferry services. It is the responsibility of all local authorities to allocate their resources on the basis of local needs and priorities having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities including the Scottish Government’s key strategic objectives and manifesto commitments.
Transport Scotland has not provided any funding towards the operation of Orkney's internal ferry services.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what the total weekly (a) car and (b) passenger capacity of the timetabled CalMac ferry services between (i) Oban, (ii) Mallaig, (iii) Uig and (iv) Ullapool and the Western Isles was in summer (A) 2007 and (B) 2017, and what the capacity will be when the ferry under construction is introduced to services from Uig.

(S5W-11888)

**Humza Yousaf:** The requested information is provided in the following table. In 2007 there were no services between Mallaig and the Western Isles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Passengers</th>
<th>Cars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Oban</td>
<td>9836</td>
<td>1202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uig</td>
<td>25704</td>
<td>3780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ullapool</td>
<td>28000</td>
<td>2828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Oban</td>
<td>9920</td>
<td>1468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mallaig</td>
<td>7084</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uig</td>
<td>28152</td>
<td>4140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ullapool</td>
<td>19600</td>
<td>3640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post New Uig Vessel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallaig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ullapool</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many hard copies of its Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices were issued, to whom and when.

(S5W-11922)

**Humza Yousaf:** To date, just under 100 hard copies have been sent on request to individuals throughout Scotland since the consultation was launched on 25 August.

We will continue to issue hard copies on request.

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason there is no freepost option to respond to the Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices.

(S5W-11923)
Humza Yousaf: The vast majority of responses to Scottish Government consultations are made through our online portal Citizen Space, which can be accessed for free through most local libraries in Scotland for those without access to a computer. In addition, there are facilities to respond by email or letter.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consultation events it has held as part of its Consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices, and how many of these were (a) with seniors forums (b) held in areas of multiple deprivation.

(S5W-11925)

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government has undertaken a number of meetings with stakeholders as part of its consultation on Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices.

These include a number of groups representing older people across Scotland, including Age Scotland, the Scottish Seniors Alliance, the Scottish Pensioners Forum and the Scottish Older Peoples Assembly. The locations of these meetings were chosen on the basis of convenience for those attending. Two of them took place in Government offices located in an area of social deprivation.

In addition discussions were held with representatives from various groups including Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI), the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers (ATCO), Bus Users Scotland (BUS), the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA), Skills Development Scotland, Young Scot, ENABLE Scotland, the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS) and Regional Transport Partnerships.

The following questions received holding answers:

S5W-11704
S5W-11740
S5W-11769
S5W-11776
S5W-11781
S5W-11789
S5W-11790