

Thursday 21 December 2017

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answers to questions S5W-11879 and S5W-12280 by Keith Brown on 6 October and 31 October 2017 respectively, for what reason there was a delay between the finalisation and publication of the accounts for (a) Scottish Enterprise and (b) Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

(S5W-12966)

Keith Brown: Although the annual report and accounts for Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are signed off by their respective Accountable Officers during the summer, there are a number of internal processes that need to be followed before the accounts can be laid at Parliament.

These processes account for the time difference between the Accountable Officers signing off their accounts and the accounts being published.

The Scottish Government always ensures that the audited accounts for Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are laid and published as early as possible and within the statutory requirements set out.

Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the potential impact of future reductions in defence spending on (a) jobs and (b) the economy in Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 December 2017

(S5W-13090)

Keith Brown: The Scottish Government are determined to minimise any potential impact on the defence sector from UK funding cuts. The announcements made by MOD 12 months ago, including, for example, the closure of Glencorse, a location that has seen considerable investment and which remains fit for purpose, are ill conceived and I have made this point to the Defence Secretary and his Ministers on several occasions.

We will continue to strongly oppose any further base closures in Scotland. We are committed to engaging with the MOD and the Defence Secretary for assurance that Scotland's defence sector will not be further debilitated by UK Governments cuts.

Scottish defence industries are a key driver of innovation and boast highly skilled workforces. The Scottish government is committed to doing all we can to support the sector and the individuals within it. Through our enterprise agencies Scottish Enterprise (SE) and Highland and Island Enterprise (HIE) companies involved in the defence sector in Scotland can access a wide range of support including R&D support, leadership and workforce development, and support to diversify into new products and markets.

We have a long and proud shipbuilding history and our yards on the Clyde and at Rosyth have proven their ability time and again to deliver important contracts such as the construction of the QEC Aircraft Carriers. Whilst we are pleased to finally have confirmation that eight Type 26 frigates will be built on the Clyde, we would also expect Scottish yards to be given full opportunity to bid for forthcoming defence contracts, including the Type 31.

Johann Lamont (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the review of the Non-commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order 2011.

(S5W-13151)

Roseanna Cunningham: We advised you on 21 November 2017 that initial discussions on the consultation and review of the Non-commercial Movement of Pet Animals Order 2011 had already happened. No further discussion with either the UK or Welsh Government has taken place. We hope

that this review can be revisited early in the New Year, assuming of course that resources and priorities around Brexit allow.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has carried out or plans of the potential (a) ecosystem disruption, (b) spread of disease among native species, (c) flooding and adverse watercourse condition risk and (d) infrastructure damage as a result of the recent establishment of beaver populations.

(S5W-13153)

Roseanna Cunningham: Assessments have been carried out as follows.

Ecosystem disruption

To assess the potential disruption to the ecosystem by beavers, Scottish Natural Heritage assessed the potential interaction between beavers and ecosystems on Tayside and Knapdale and habitat which may be occupied by beavers in the future. This is reported in Chapters 3.4.1 to 3.4.10 of the Beaver in Scotland report published in June 2015 and available at the following link <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/research/Beavers%20in%20Scotland%20-%20Final%20-%2010%20June%202015.pdf>.

This assessment was further updated through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), published by the Scottish Government on 12 December 2017, which is available at this link <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/7354>. This assessed the likely impacts to protected habitats and species from the two current beaver populations as well as an element of range expansion.

These assessments looked at the potential for positive and negative effects, including whether and how mitigation could be used to avoid or minimise the potential for disruption to the ecological function of key habitats and their species.

Spread of disease among native species

SNH assessed the likely implications to public and animal health associated with the beaver populations at Knapdale and Tayside and considered any implications for wider expansion across Scotland. This is reported in Chapter 4.6 pages 142 -146 of the Beavers in Scotland report and in the SEA.

Flooding and adverse watercourse condition risk, and infrastructure damage as a result of the recent establishment of beaver populations

Chapter 4 of the Beaver in Scotland report assesses the likely flooding and adverse watercourse condition risk and infrastructure damage. This includes a summary of experience prior to 2015 of beaver and impacts on forestry, agriculture and infrastructure/general land use. Chapter 3.4.2 and 3.4.3 assessed potential for changes to water chemistry. The SEA and the Tayside Beaver Study Group final report (2015) updated this and included findings of recent cases where beavers had been cited as having an impact on material assets, flooding and arable farmland.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many beavers there are, and what methodology it uses to calculate the number.

(S5W-13154)

Roseanna Cunningham: A survey of the Tay and Earn undertaken in 2012 estimated that there were 38-39 groups of beavers present in the Tay catchment area, equating to approximately 146 individual beavers. This survey has been repeated in 2017, the results of which it is expected will be available early in 2018.

The survey methods used in the 2017 survey were the same as in 2012 to allow comparison. The 2017 survey was not a comprehensive survey of the entire catchment as this would have been prohibitively expensive. Rather, it relied on extending the search beyond the locations identified in 2012 and also surveying additional areas where beavers had been reported since 2012. Just prior to

the 2017 survey, SNH requested records of beaver presence from land managers to further inform the survey area.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support it has offered to landowners in the last year to mitigate damage caused by beavers to (a) farmland, (b) forestry and (c) waterways.

(S5W-13155)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has a dedicated web page and advisory service in place to give landowners advice and it also has a contract with a beaver expert who provides free advice on mitigation measures. In the last 12 months, SNH has offered specialist support 7 times which included the beaver expert visiting the landowners in question. Of these 7 cases, 3 were on farmland and none were for forestry, although a number were concerned about felling of mature trees on land beside lochs or rivers and 4 were associated with waterways, including 1 where the concern was associated with the impact on a fishery.

The Scottish Government will provide funding towards demonstration mitigation projects and SNH is actively seeking suggestions for demonstration sites from members of the Scottish Beaver Forum. So far, there is only one demonstration project on land near Alyth piloting solutions to erosion of soft banks. Funding for this is available from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Funding for adaptive management such as wetland creation/enhancement or woodland creation is also available through Scottish Rural Development programme or SEPA funding.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it will take in the event of any future unlicensed releases of beavers into the wild.

(S5W-13156)

Roseanna Cunningham: I announced on 24 November 2016 that the Scottish Government was minded that the beaver populations in Knapdale in Argyll and in the Tay and Earn catchments could remain, and that their range can expand naturally. The Cabinet Secretary also stated that any further unauthorised releases or escapes of beavers would not be tolerated.

The precise response to any unauthorised release would be considered on a case-by-case basis, but it is expected that in most circumstances the Scottish Government would seek to remove the beavers in question.

Police Scotland would also be asked to investigate whether an offence had been committed under s14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The release of beavers into the wild without the necessary licence from Scottish Natural Heritage is an offence, punishable by up to 2 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the recovery of the oil and gas industry in Aberdeen and surrounding area.

(S5W-13243)

Paul Wheelhouse: While the regulatory fiscal and legislative process in respect of the industry are reserved to Westminster and UK Ministers, a recognition of the industry's importance to our energy mix and economy, The Scottish Government has strongly supported the sector during the recent period of challenging prices and the associated downturn in exploration and development work this has caused. Through the Energy Jobs Task Force we have developed a number of interventions to support the sector, augmenting the pre-existing work of the oil and gas team within Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. These interventions include support for workers, in the form of the Transition Training Fund, and we have provided a further £12.5 million to support innovation and business resilience; this specific support is available to business operating in the oil and gas sector across Scotland, including the North East. This included £10 million of SE funding to help firms take forward vital research & development to support innovation and improved productivity. To date around

111 innovation projects with a total project value of around £43 million have benefited from increased funding of around £16 million of SG support so far; we have also provided targeted support for business resilience reviews from industry experts, with over £2.5 million investment committed to this at the time of writing.

In addition, the Scottish Government and the UK Government have committed to investing on a 50:50 basis to support the development of an £180 million Oil & Gas Technology Centre (OGTC) through the £250 million Aberdeen City Region Deal. This is now underway and is making great progress on a path to become a new, world class centre to support innovation of the oil and gas industry in the North East, the rest of Scotland and across the whole of the UK.

The Autumn Budget included a commitment to make transferable tax histories available for North Sea Assets from November 2018 to facilitate the transfer of late life asset transfers, expanding access to decommissioning tax relief to new entrants. The Scottish Government has led the call for all UKCS fiscal reforms in recent years, including on this measure given that essential reforms have often lagged and delayed investment in the sector. While the transfer of tax histories is a positive step, we have been calling for this since the Autumn Statement 2015 and we remain of the view that Loan Guarantees commitments need to be fulfilled.

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason Aberdeen City reportedly experienced an almost £7 billion loss in revenue from sales in primary industries in 2016-17, in light of its news release of 13 September 2017 in which the Minister for Business, Innovation and Energy states that the approximate sales value of oil and gas in that financial year is estimated to be 15.2% higher than in 2015-16.

(S5W-13244)

Paul Wheelhouse: The £7 billion figure referred to in the question would appear to have been calculated using turnover data from the Scottish Government Business in Scotland 2017 publication. The primary purpose of this publication is to provide information about the number of enterprises operating in Scotland as at March each year. The Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) is the main data source for the publication. The IDBR is a database of all businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE, maintained by the Office for National Statistics.

The latest Businesses in Scotland 2017 publication is based on a snapshot of the IDBR as at March 2017. However, there are significant time lags associated with the IDBR employment and turnover data. On the IDBR, turnover for the majority of registered enterprises is based on VAT returns for a 12 month period. For 2017, these tend to relate to a 12 month period ending in December 2015, or January/February 2016, depending on the reporting pattern of the business. More information on this is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Business/Corporate/Methodology>

The latest Oil and Gas Production Statistics include the period 2016-17, which saw a year-on-year increase in the approximate sales value of oil and gas by 15.2%. This increase reversed four years of approximate sales value declines and was largely due to the increase in the wholesale price of oil across this period, complimented by small increases in production. This figure is more up to date than the turnover information provided in the Businesses in Scotland 2017 publication for the reasons listed above. More information on the Oil and Gas Production Statistics 2016-17 is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Economy/oilgas1617>

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government on what dates in each of the last three years it has met the Electronic Collar Manufacturers Association.

(S5W-13283)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government met with representatives of the Electronic Collar Manufacturers Association (ECMA) on 25 June 2015 and 27 October 2016. On 10 December 2015 ECMA representatives attended a Scottish Government stakeholder meeting involving trainers and animal welfare organisations.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support it offers to (a) farmers and (b) landowners to deal with waste illegally dumped on their land and whether it is considering providing additional assistance.

(S5W-13286)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government supports action to deter people from flytipping, regardless of whether it is on public or privately-owned land. SEPA and local authorities have powers to fine people who are caught flytipping, with a minimum fixed penalty of £200 up to a maximum fine of £40,000 if prosecuted.

Through Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS), we launched FlyMapper in March 2015 – a new system to record, manage and report flytipping, making it easier to catch offenders and to deal with illegal dumping sites. So far 27 Local Authorities have registered.

Private land owners, who often include farmers, are responsible for the removal of waste from their land. The guidance 'Flytipping in Scotland: A Guide To Prevention and Enforcement' is designed to support local authority and SEPA waste enforcement officers. The guidance recognises that the owners of flytipped land are often the victims of crime. It encourages local authorities and/or SEPA to investigate flytipping on public and private land and to offer assistance, which could include advice to prevent the problem in the future.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the article in The Scotsman on 8 December 2017, which suggests that the number of crimes involving hunting dogs has more than doubled in the last year.

(S5W-13423)

Roseanna Cunningham: The source of the statistic provided by The Scotsman article in question is the Scottish Government's 2016 Annual Report on Wildlife Crime in Scotland which is available via the following web link: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/7653>.

Hare coursing, an offence covered by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, accounted for 38 of the 44 offences involving hunting with dogs in 2015/16. A significant element of the increase in this crime is attributable to greater awareness of the offence and improved reporting of suspicious activity.

Police Scotland recognises hare coursing as a Wildlife Crime Priority (noting that it is often linked with other types of rural crime) and is considering ways to further address it in 2018. Anyone witnessing suspicious activity should report it to Police Scotland by dialling 101 or 999 if a crime is in progress.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) the UK Government and (b) external organisations regarding continued membership of the European Environment Agency after the UK withdraws from the EU.

(S5W-13441)

Roseanna Cunningham: There have been no discussions with UK Government on future membership of the European Environment Agency. Continued participation in the work of the EEA would offer benefits in terms of continued access to long-term data sets, monitoring information and expertise, with benefits for Scottish organisations including our research institutions. I have not had specific discussions with other stakeholders on this issue.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) the UK Government and (b) external organisations regarding the creation of UK-wide standards in (i) agriculture, (ii) fisheries and (iii) the environment after the UK withdraws from the EU.

(S5W-13443)

Fergus Ewing: While the Scottish Government recognises that common UK approaches may be needed in some areas, areas of devolved competence currently exercised with reference to EU law

must revert to the Scottish Parliament, and the scope and content of any UK-wide frameworks agreed between the UK Government and the devolved administrations, rather than imposed.

On 16 October 2017, the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) agreed to a set of principles which would govern the consideration of where common framework may be needed. Work is now underway with the UK Government and the devolved administrations to apply these principles in a variety of policy areas, including relevant aspects of agriculture, fisheries and environment. This work was discussed at the last Defra and Devolved Administration Ministers meeting on 14 December.

In relation external organisations, we continue to hold regular discussions with stakeholders with an interest in agriculture, fisheries and the environment, including engagement with the Agriculture and Rural Development Stakeholder Group, the Marine and Seafood Stakeholder Group and the Roundtable on Environment and Climate Change.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) the UK Government and (b) external organisations regarding the environmental principles currently enshrined in EU treaties, and how these principles can continue to be followed after the UK withdraws from the EU.

(S5W-13445)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that the environmental principles currently enshrined in EU treaties continue to sit at the heart of Scotland's approach to environmental policy. I set out this position at meetings with the UK Government on 6 November 2017 and 14 December 2017. This position has also been discussed with a range of external organisations, including with the Roundtable on the Environment and Climate Change, as well as with stakeholders during the European Environmental Bureau Conference on 6 November.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is considering taking to respond to the environmental governance gap arising from the loss of functions carried out by EU bodies, including collating and publishing environmental data, after the UK withdraws from the EU.

(S5W-13447)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government is considering the nature of potential gaps in existing domestic monitoring, scrutiny and enforcement powers that would need to be addressed to ensure Scotland maintains its current high standards of environmental protection and accountability. To inform this view, I have asked the Roundtable on the Environment and Climate Change to provide advice to Ministers on future environmental governance arrangements in Scotland following the UK's Exit from the EU. This will involve identifying where gaps will emerge in existing powers to monitor and enforce environmental standards in Scotland, and setting out options for providing appropriate levels of scrutiny, reporting and accountability following the UK's Exit. The Scottish Government will make its views known in due course, once this advice has been considered.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is considering taking to respond to the environmental governance gap arising from the loss of functions carried out by the European Court of Justice after the UK withdraws from the EU.

(S5W-13448)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-13447 on 21 December 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>.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to recent statements made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in relation to the need to address the environmental governance gap and the loss of functions carried out by EU bodies, and what conclusions it has reached.

(S5W-13449)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-13447 on 21 December 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>.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its views regarding the measures needed to address the environmental governance gap and the loss of functions carried out by EU bodies, and whether it plans to make a statement.

(S5W-13450)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-13447 on 21 December 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>.

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on introducing legislation to reduce the use of plastic drinking straws in order to reduce environmental damage and waste.

(S5W-13453)

Roseanna Cunningham: We are committed to an ambitious target to reduce all waste by 15% by 2025. As announced in the Programme for Government, we will appoint an expert panel to advise on the use of charges for single-use items, similar to the successful plastic bag charge, with the goal of encouraging long-term and sustainable changes in consumer behaviour.

While we have no current plans to legislate to reduce the use of plastic drinking straws, we will, with the support of this panel, continue to consider the range of options available to us to reduce the use of single-use plastics that are littering our land and seas. We will also continue our work with Zero Waste Scotland to encourage businesses to reduce waste keep products and materials in high value use for as long as possible.

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it takes to expand support for employee ownership, and whether this includes promoting worker co-operative developments.

(S5W-13454)

Keith Brown: Support for employee ownership is delivered by Co-operative Development Scotland (CDS), who raise awareness of the value of co-operative and employee ownership models, and provide specialist advice. CDS currently supports 92 of these businesses, with approximately 7,000 employee-owners generating a combined turnover of £930 million. The most recent expansion to support this area is the 'Succession Expert Support' programme, delivered by Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. This is available to all Scottish businesses and is designed to assist with succession planning. Advice on employee ownership is part of this service. Other services CDS deliver to promote employee-ownership include the 'Successful Succession' promotion campaign and 'Employee Ownership Day' which aims to promote the values and benefits of employee ownership within the wider business community.

The Scottish Government supports and promotes all types of co-operatives through the work of CDS. This includes worker co-operatives where businesses are owned and managed by employees.

Education, Communities and Justice

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when the Family Nurse Partnership for first time mothers will be introduced nationwide; how much this will cost, and how many additional nurses will need to be recruited.

(S5W-13200)

Aileen Campbell: The Family Nurse Partnership will be rolled out to all mainland boards by the end of 2018. This expected cost will be around £16m per year. An additional 30 family nurses are expected to be recruited between now and the end of 2018.

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its plan is for responding to long-term population growth and the increased burden that this may have on (a) public services and (b) welfare.

(S5W-13245)

Keith Brown: The National Records of Scotland project that based on current trends, the population of Scotland will rise to 5.7 million by 2039, and that the population will age significantly, with the number of people aged 65 and over increasing by 53% between 2014 and 2039. The number of people of pensionable age per 1000 people of working age is projected to increase from 311 in 2015 to 397 in 2039. This will present a number of challenges in terms of both the structure of the economy, and the way we innovate to deliver public services to meet these demands.

The Scottish Government 's Economic Strategy (2015) sets out our approach to ensuring that our labour market, our public services and welfare system are resilient and successful both now and in the future. In turn, Scotland's Labour Market Strategy (2016) builds on the Economic Strategy and highlights the link between employment and improving outcomes across a number of dimensions of Scotland's social and economic performance. Taking account of changing demographics and ensuring our labour market is able to respond to new demand on both public services and welfare is a key part of this co-ordinated response.

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to reduce the local authority revenue budget in (a) cash and (b) real terms.

(S5W-13246)

Derek Mackay: As I announced on 14 December, the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2018-19 protects local government day to day spending for local services in cash terms, and delivers an increase in capital spending of £89.9m.

Taken together with the additional spending power that comes with the flexibility to increase Council Tax by up to 3 per cent (worth around £77 million) this means that the total funding available next year will deliver an increase in the overall resources to support services of 1.6 per cent in cash terms and a real terms increase of 0.2 per cent.

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason Aberdeen City reportedly receives the lowest funding per head from the General Revenue Grant of all local authorities.

(S5W-13247)

Derek Mackay: Local authority funding is allocated using a needs-based formula which is kept under constant review and agreed each year with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).As a result of Aberdeen City Council having the lowest relative need they receive the lowest funding per head but because of this they will receive an extra £10 million in 2017-18 and an extra £8.7 million in 2018-19, over and above their needs-based formula share as a result of the 85% funding floor introduced by the Scottish Government in 2012.

Since the introduction of the 85% funding floor Aberdeen City Council has been allocated more than £50 million over and above their needs-based formula funding allocations.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Barclay Review's recommendation regarding charitable rates relief for golf clubs.

(S5W-13270)

Derek Mackay: As set out in an implementation plan in response to the Barclay review, published on 14 December 2017, the Scottish Government has accepted Barclay's recommendation to review sports club relief to ensure it supports affordable community-based facilities.

We will further engage sector stakeholders to inform how best to specify any change. In particular, we will ensure that local community facilities continue to be duly supported, meaning that this change will not affect the vast majority of current recipients of this relief. We intend to bring forward primary legislation to deliver this by 2020.

Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) people and (b) families in each local authority area in each of the last five years registered as homeless, also broken down by how many (i) asked for and (ii) were given emergency accommodation.

(S5W-13277)

Kevin Stewart: Tables (a) and (b) provide the number of (a) people and (b) families in each of the last five years that had a homelessness assessment, by local authority area.

The Scottish Government does not currently collect data on how many of these people and families (i) asked for or (ii) were given emergency accommodation. The Scottish Government collects and publishes information on the number of households in Temporary Accommodation, and the number of households with dependent children or a pregnant member in Temporary Accommodation, at the end of each quarter. This is collected from local authorities in the HL2 form which provides information, on a snapshot basis. Table (c) provides the number of households and table (d) provides the number of households with children or a pregnant member in Temporary Accommodation at 31 March each year over the last five years.

a) Number of people in households who had a homelessness assessment, by local authority area, 2012-13 to 2016-17

	Total number of people				
	Financial year of assessment				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Aberdeen City	2,039	1,555	2,162	1,637	1,598
Aberdeenshire	2,452	2,018	1,870	1,774	1,526
Angus	1,356	1,197	997	1,244	1,083
Argyll & Bute	800	772	714	652	703
Clackmannanshire	793	718	696	638	678
Dumfries & Galloway	1,316	1,181	804	784	956
Dundee City	2,421	2,047	2,007	2,087	1,752
East Ayrshire	744	401	658	688	824
East Dunbartonshire	950	1,009	980	853	862
East Lothian	1,063	1,037	1,130	1,056	1,156
East Renfrewshire	460	588	563	439	464
Edinburgh	6,710	5,886	5,393	4,699	4,375
Eilean Siar	274	209	239	196	197
Falkirk	1,729	1,626	1,760	1,584	1,501
Fife	4,825	4,189	3,551	3,672	3,758
Glasgow City	12,866	9,224	8,093	7,851	7,115
Highland	1,695	1,786	1,650	1,612	1,550
Inverclyde	444	376	260	277	269
Midlothian	1,228	1,311	1,001	869	908
Moray	914	883	897	838	794
North Ayrshire	858	933	955	804	912
North Lanarkshire	3,816	3,129	3,134	2,725	2,822
Orkney	176	155	97	143	159
Perth & Kinross	1,662	1,531	1,329	1,544	1,394
Renfrewshire	1,470	1,115	915	846	783

	Total number of people				
	Financial year of assessment				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Scottish Borders	1,068	1,029	1,014	970	1,099
Shetland	231	210	199	170	152
South Ayrshire	1,283	953	895	956	898
South Lanarkshire	3,552	3,511	3,224	2,876	3,131
Stirling	497	540	664	823	838
West Dunbartonshire	2,151	1,762	1,504	1,280	1,360
West Lothian	2,401	2,127	2,177	2,080	2,022
Total (ALL)	64,244	55,008	51,532	48,667	47,639

1. Source: HL1 dataset at 23 May 2017

2. Figures are based on unique households only, as published in Housing Options (PREVENT1) Statistics in Scotland: 2016-17, Figure 1 (i.e. households have been counted only once if there was more than one application in a single year).

b) Number of families (households with children) that had a homelessness assessment, by local authority area, 2012-13 to 2016-17

	Total number of families (households with children)				
	Financial year of assessment				
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Aberdeen City	325	259	418	280	269
Aberdeenshire	461	386	349	313	266
Angus	249	228	154	196	168
Argyll & Bute	155	121	122	100	125
Clackmannanshire	118	107	113	101	99
Dumfries & Galloway	180	169	110	103	155
Dundee City	500	339	350	394	325
East Ayrshire	111	48	90	110	137
East Dunbartonshire	217	211	215	195	178
East Lothian	184	185	202	188	214
East Renfrewshire	83	97	101	79	83
Edinburgh	1,173	1,035	926	792	773
Eilean Siar	44	34	42	26	34
Falkirk	336	306	351	296	237
Fife	982	819	699	733	773
Glasgow City	2,112	1,438	1,278	1,262	1,139
Highland	315	352	327	313	310
Inverclyde	60	51	29	33	42
Midlothian	268	273	213	191	211
Moray	164	170	172	155	151
North Ayrshire	99	103	110	89	116
North Lanarkshire	812	621	615	515	561
Orkney	30	29	15	28	31
Perth & Kinross	362	318	263	337	296
Renfrewshire	202	127	115	104	109
Scottish Borders	176	158	186	166	196
Shetland	35	31	27	23	17
South Ayrshire	192	129	142	168	176
South Lanarkshire	804	757	721	649	684
Stirling	75	105	122	147	144
West Dunbartonshire	448	299	229	191	216
West Lothian	462	372	384	355	375
Total (ALL)	11,734	9,677	9,190	8,632	8,610

1. Source: HL1 dataset at 23 May 2017

2. Figures are based on unique households only, as published in Housing Options (PREVENT1) Statistics in Scotland: 2016-17, Figure 1 (i.e. households have been counted only once if there was more than one application in a single year)

c) Number of households in Temporary Accommodation, by local authority area, at 31 March each year since 2013

	Total number of households in Temporary Accommodation				
	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014	As at 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2017
Aberdeen City	324	362	456	462	447
Aberdeenshire	447	398	419	407	367
Angus	139	126	122	121	132
Argyll & Bute	138	129	116	109	116
Clackmannanshire	130	133	119	131	101
Dumfries & Galloway	273	274	273	240	199
Dundee City	317	285	279	283	252
East Ayrshire	28	40	31	49	73
East Dunbartonshire	161	144	153	169	210
East Lothian	300	319	366	410	440
East Renfrewshire	36	41	50	55	55
Edinburgh, City of	840	972	943	1,026	1,246
Eilean Siar	72	75	71	71	65
Falkirk	335	288	334	186	195
Fife	565	565	525	502	515
Glasgow City	1,814	1,738	1,831	2,010	2,071
Highland	477	458	626	541	658
Inverclyde	72	72	56	51	46
Midlothian	522	514	491	527	467
Moray	131	133	145	159	165
North Ayrshire	190	196	186	218	214
North Lanarkshire	525	555	568	553	570
Orkney	33	37	27	23	37
Perth & Kinross	406	334	333	240	118
Renfrewshire	205	179	176	173	197
Scottish Borders, The	89	94	82	82	87
Shetland	131	125	146	132	119
South Ayrshire	298	266	243	188	191
South Lanarkshire	654	654	671	640	651
Stirling	216	222	197	187	208
West Dunbartonshire	283	221	215	243	248
West Lothian	320	332	317	355	413
Scotland	10,471	10,281	10,567	10,543	10,873

Source: HL2 dataset at 23 May 2017

d) Number of households with children or a pregnant member in Temporary Accommodation, by local authority area, at 31 March each year since 2013

	Total number of households with children or a pregnant member in Temporary Accommodation				
	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014	As at 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2017
Aberdeen City	56	54	79	44	74
Aberdeenshire	192	151	147	139	98
Angus	3	5	7	10	5
Argyll & Bute	44	38	33	30	25
Clackmannanshire	23	20	11	20	35

	Total number of households with children or a pregnant member in Temporary Accommodation				
	As at 31 March 2013	As at 31 March 2014	As at 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2017
Dumfries & Galloway	54	43	43	48	26
Dundee City	69	49	46	59	64
East Ayrshire	4	2	3	6	10
East					
Dunbartonshire	49	33	45	57	71
East Lothian	75	87	107	140	156
East Renfrewshire	6	9	11	13	14
Edinburgh, City of	238	224	254	295	436
Eilean Siar	22	16	14	12	14
Falkirk	83	68	49	51	48
Fife	219	150	156	162	175
Glasgow City	656	537	608	697	740
Highland	103	81	101	102	142
Inverclyde	12	8	8	8	13
Midlothian	188	152	149	136	190
Moray	34	37	46	46	42
North Ayrshire	27	34	26	25	17
North Lanarkshire	120	120	136	151	166
Orkney	3	4	5	7	4
Perth & Kinross	118	75	51	45	21
Renfrewshire	22	15	15	22	27
Scottish Borders	26	25	21	20	16
Shetland	15	17	30	29	23
South Ayrshire	53	47	47	36	38
South Lanarkshire	229	205	232	254	284
Stirling	37	48	43	42	39
West					
Dunbartonshire	33	28	34	30	37
West Lothian	123	97	118	147	200
Scotland	2,936	2,479	2,675	2,883	3,250

Source: HL2 Dataset at 23 May 2017

Graham Simpson (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-11112 by Kevin Stewart on 21 September 2017, whether the refreshed strategy has been launched and, if not, by what date it will be.

(S5W-13289)

Kevin Stewart: Our aim is to launch a refreshed housing strategy for older people by Spring 2018.

Graham Simpson (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-09054 by Kevin Stewart on 29 September 2017, in light of its aim to eradicate rough sleeping, for what reason it does not collect this data, and whether it will consider doing so to assist in determining where the strains are for each local authority.

(S5W-13290)

Kevin Stewart: Question S5W-09054 asked the Scottish Government how many homeless people have been housed by a local authority in accommodation outside of its area in each of the last three years, and the answer stated that Scottish Government do not collect data on the geographical location of where homeless people have been housed by a local authority.

Section 9.79 of the Code of Guidance on Homelessness 2005 states that as a general rule a local authority should always rehouse a homeless household within its own area, particularly where temporary accommodation is being provided. However that in rare cases, such as those involving domestic abuse, external violence or where there is for example local hostility to an ex-prisoner, the local authority may need to consider placing homeless people in another area, although this should only be done with the household's consent, and the local authority should retain responsibility for such outplacements. In some cases such an outplacement may be nearer to the applicant's home area than a placement elsewhere in the local authority's area, and may provide suitable accommodation or access to healthcare which is not currently available in the placing local authority's area.

Given the different potential reasons for housing households outwith local authority areas, for example cases that may involve domestic violence issues or local hostility, it is unlikely that a count of the number of cases housed outwith authority areas would be suitable to be used on its own as a direct indicator of strains on local authority service provision.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group has been set up to lead on change and to identify the actions, services and any legislative changes required to end rough sleeping and to transform the use of temporary accommodation. As part of this work the group will be considering the evidence and sets of data that will be required to be able to assess particular issues and to measure progress and impact going forward. We expect the group to conclude their work by late Spring 2018.

Graham Simpson (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-09061 by Kevin Stewart on 9 May 2017, whether the 2017 data has now been published and, if not, by what date it will be.

(S5W-13293)

Kevin Stewart: Question S5W-09061 asked the Scottish Government how many homeless people have used temporary accommodation in each year since 2012. The answer stated that data on the number of people using temporary accommodation in each year is currently unavailable, however a link was provided to published figures from the HL2 collection, which provides snapshot information on the number of households living in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter.

The Scottish Government are working with local authorities to develop and quality assure the HL3 data return, a new placement level homelessness data collection on temporary accommodation, which will enable analysis of the total number of people living in this type of accommodation throughout a given period of time. Some authorities are still to provide a fully accurate and usable set of data. Once these data issues have been fully investigated and resolved, the HL3 data will be used to monitor and publish more in-depth information on the use of temporary accommodation.

The Scottish Government will take stock of the status and quality of HL3 data provided by Local Authorities at the Annual Homelessness Statistics User Group meeting on 20th February 2018 and discuss any outstanding actions required before plans can be developed to publish analysis and statistics from this data source.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support it can provide to local authorities that face difficulties in service repayment of their debt because of interest rate increases.

(S5W-13295)

Derek Mackay: We have treated local government very fairly despite the cuts to the Scottish Budget from the UK Government. The overall increase in spending power to support local authority services this year amounts to £383 million or 3.7 per cent compared to 2016-17.

The 2018-19 local government finance settlement foresees an increase both in revenue and capital (11 per cent) investment as part of a wider package of measures. Together with the additional power to increase Council Tax by up to 3 per cent (worth around £77 million), this will generate an increase of 1.6 per cent in the overall resources to support services next year.

Decisions on the use of reserves are rightly the responsibility of individual local authorities to take where it is prudent and sustainable to do so.

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of affordable housing in each local authority area is currently occupied by people over 60, also broken down by the category of housing.

(S5W-13322)

Kevin Stewart: Information on the current characteristics and composition of households in properties provided through particular affordable housing supply programmes is not held centrally. However information on the current age profile of all social rented households in Scotland is available and is published in section 3.2 of the statistical publication 'Social Tenants in Scotland 2015', available at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/02/8350>. This is based on an analysis of Scottish Household Survey data and shows that in the year 2015 an estimated 33 per cent of all social rented households were aged 60 or over, based on the age of the highest-income householder within the property.

The Scottish Household Survey is a face-to-face survey of a sample of people in private residences in Scotland, and so does not cover communal residences such as care homes. In addition the survey does not collect information on categories of affordable housing.

The following table provides estimates at a local authority area level of the proportion of social rented households with a highest income householder aged 60 years or over. Scottish Household Survey data has been combined across the three years 2013 to 2015 to provide more robust estimates at a local authority level.

Social rented households by local authority area, 2013 to 2015 - estimated percentages of households aged 60 years or over, based on the age of the highest income householder:

Local Authority	% Aged 60 years or over
Aberdeen City	37
Aberdeenshire	39
Angus	41
Argyll & Bute	37
Clackmannanshire	38
Dumfries & Galloway	33
Dundee City	34
East Ayrshire	35
East Dunbartonshire	36
East Lothian	39
East Renfrewshire	38
Edinburgh, City of	35
Eilean Siar	30
Falkirk	30
Fife	33
Glasgow City	31
Highland	36
Inverclyde	40
Midlothian	30
Moray	31
North Ayrshire	32
North Lanarkshire	33
Orkney Islands	41
Perth & Kinross	49
Renfrewshire	35
Scottish Borders	35
Shetland Islands	29
South Ayrshire	34
South Lanarkshire	40
Stirling	33
West Dunbartonshire	35

Local Authority	% Aged 60 years or over
West Lothian	30
Scotland	35
Sample size:	7,360

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2013 to 2015

Note that the Scottish Household Survey is a sample survey and therefore the results provided are subject to a margin of error, and should be considered to be approximate estimates and not exact values. The margins of error for the local authority figures presented in this table range from +/- 2% in Glasgow (where the figure of 31% provided is estimated to be between 29% and 33%), up to +/- 4% in East Ayrshire (where the figure of 35% provided is estimated to be between 31% and 39%).

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it will support local authorities in mitigating the effect of reports of rising rents in some inner city areas on low-income workers.

(S5W-13327)

Kevin Stewart: Tackling poverty and inequality is a key priority for this government which is why we are investing over £100 million this year to help relieve the impact of UK Government cuts and support those on low incomes. This includes providing £60 million to Local Authorities for Discretionary Housing Payments, which help those who require further assistance with their housing costs and are also used to mitigate the bedroom tax for over 70,000 households.

The Private Housing Tenancies (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on 1 December 2017. From that date, local authorities can apply to Scottish Ministers to have an area designated as a Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ) where an authority can demonstrate that private rents in that area are rising too much, causing undue hardship to tenants and having a detrimental impact on the authority's broader housing services. If Minister's designate an RPZ, rents increases for current tenants with a private residential tenancy will be capped. The cap will be least the Consumer Price Index (CPI) + 1% and can last for up to 5 years.

Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it will take to improve teacher recruitment and retention in Glasgow, in light of reports that the children in one class at Thornwood Primary School have had 20 different teachers since starting school.

(S5W-13345)

John Swinney: I am aware of the situation at Thornwood Primary school and the Director of Education has plans in place to address this, to ensure continuity of children's learning is maintained.

I know that recruitment of teachers is currently a challenge for some local authorities and the Scottish Government is taking a range of actions.

We have:

committed £88m this year to make sure every school has access to the right number of teachers with the right skills;

provided support to universities in developing new innovative routes into teaching;

recently announced STEM bursaries of £20,000 for career changers to train to become teachers of priority STEM subjects, which includes maths, starting in August 2018;

launched the second phase of our "Teaching Makes People" recruitment campaign on 30 August and created a new route into teaching specifically designed to attract high quality graduates in priority areas and subjects. The tender exercise for this closed on 16 November and the evaluation process will commence shortly.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the average class size is in Aberdeen City Council primary schools.

(S5W-13347)

John Swinney: The average class size across Aberdeen City Council primary schools is available on the Scottish Government website in the pupil census supplementary data (Table 6.6):

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/dspupcensus>

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the average (a) S1, (b) S2, (c) S3 and (d) S4 class size is in (i) English and (ii) Maths in Aberdeen City Council schools.

(S5W-13348)

John Swinney: Statistics on class sizes at secondary schools are not collected centrally by the Scottish Government.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many rough sleepers there are in each local authority area.

(S5W-13358)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government collects information from local authorities on the number of homelessness applicants who have slept rough a) the night before; and b) in the three months previous to their application.

This information is provided by local authority area in the following table:

Homelessness applications where the applicant slept rough:

	2016-17	
	At least once during the last 3 months	The night before
Scotland	2,620	1,500
Aberdeen City	120	70
Aberdeenshire	105	40
Angus	50	25
Argyll & Bute	45	20
Clackmannanshire	25	10
Dumfries & Galloway	105	50
Dundee City	185	105
East Ayrshire	75	40
East Dunbartonshire	20	10
East Lothian	25	15
East Renfrewshire	30	15
Edinburgh, City of	235	115
Eilean Siar	15	10
Falkirk	10	5
Fife	230	220
Glasgow City	425	400
Highland	125	70
Inverclyde	30	20
Midlothian	50	35
Moray	80	35
North Ayrshire	35	30
North Lanarkshire	90	5
Orkney	10	5
Perth & Kinross	40	25
Renfrewshire	65	25
Scottish Borders	35	10
Shetland	5	5
South Ayrshire	30	0
South Lanarkshire	120	15

	2016-17	
	At least once during the last 3 months	The night before
Stirling	35	20
West Dunbartonshire	105	50
West Lothian	65	0

Source: HL1 dataset at 23 May 2017

Note: All figures are rounded to 5 for disclosure purposes

This information is published in the Annual Homelessness in Scotland 2016-17 publication and is available at this link:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/8907/downloads>

Dean Lockhart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Department of Health regarding guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools.

(S5W-13363)

John Swinney: Scottish Government officials participated in a virtual guidance development working group, convened by the Department of Health, to advise on the formulation of their guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools. The working group also held a tele-conference in July, at which Scottish Government officials were present. The Department of Health's guidance is available through the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/using-emergency-adrenaline-auto-injectors-in-schools/>

On 20 December, the Scottish Government published its guidance on Supporting Children and Young People with Healthcare Needs in Schools, which replaces the existing guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Schools. Relevant guidance from The Department of Health's guidance has been incorporated into the Supporting Children and Young People with Healthcare Needs in Schools guidance which is available from following link: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/3694>.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5T-00813 by Michael Matheson on 12 December 2017 (Official Report, c. 8), on what date it received the Audit Scotland report.

(S5W-13367)

Michael Matheson: Audit Scotland sent an electronic copy of the Auditor General for Scotland's section 22 report on the 2016-17 Audit of the Scottish Police Authority, to the Scottish Government on 1 December 2017. The hard copy of the report was received from Audit Scotland on 4 December 2017.

The Auditor General's report and the SPA Annual Report and Accounts 2016-17 were laid before Parliament on Friday 8 December, well within the statutory deadline.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it will be taking to tackle the reported increasing amount of disruption in secondary schools that is attributed to the use of mobile phones in class, as highlighted in its report, Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research 2016.

(S5W-13376)

John Swinney: Behaviour in Scottish Schools Research 2016 shows that the vast majority of pupils in our schools are well behaved. With regard to mobile phones, we urge schools and local authorities to think carefully about how they can be used to enhance the learning experience, whilst also educating learners about appropriate use.

The Scottish Government will discuss the findings from the research with key stakeholders, including the Scottish Advisory Group on Relationships and Behaviour in Schools, and present an agreed plan of action to ensure that continued improvements in behaviour can be realised.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to reports that there is an infestation of bed bugs in the Govanhill area of Glasgow.

(S5W-13420)

Kevin Stewart: Across Scotland, environmental protection - including pest control and nuisance - is the responsibility of the environmental health department of the relevant local authority.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether Dundee City Council reportedly having the lowest level of usable reserves in Scotland, as a percentage of income, is detrimental to the long-term financial stability of the council.

(S5W-13455)

Derek Mackay: Scottish Government's policy towards local authorities' spending is to allow local authorities the financial freedom to operate independently. It is the responsibility of individual local authorities to manage their own budgets and the level of usable reserves. Decisions on the use of reserves are rightly the responsibility of individual local authorities to take where it is prudent and sustainable to do so.

Dundee City Council have an extra £18.9 million to support services in 2017-18 which equates to an additional 6.3 per cent on 2016-17.

Health and Social Care

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport will next visit Stranraer.

(S5O-1611)

Shona Robison: I am happy to confirm that I plan to visit Stranraer in the New Year.

James Dornan (Glasgow Cathcart) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it last met the SFA and what was discussed.

(S5O-1612)

Aileen Campbell: I last met the Scottish FA on 5 December, when we discussed a range of issues.

Edward Mountain (Highland and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to ensure that patients who require prosthetic limb replacements are treated locally.

(S5O-1613)

Shona Robison: Prosthetic limb replacements are fitted in one of 5 mobility centres in Scotland – in Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. These assess and fit patients with a range of standard limbs and in most cases will offer every support that the patient needs to ensure mobility is maximised, this includes support at home if the patient's circumstances indicate this is required.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on NHS Lothian no longer having a specialist headache centre, in light of it previously having one in Edinburgh, and what discussions it has had with NHS Lothian on this issue.

(S5W-13166)

Aileen Campbell: It is the role of the Scottish Government to provide policies, frameworks and resources to NHS Boards so they can deliver services that meet the needs of their local populations. The provision of healthcare services is the responsibility of local Boards, taking into account national guidance, local service needs and priorities for investment.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether NHS Lothian patients who require specialist headache services are able to access the specialist headache centres in Glasgow and Aberdeen, and, if so, what its response is to concerns regarding the costs of travel to these centres from Lothian.

(S5W-13167)

Aileen Campbell: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-13166 on 21 December 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>

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason 61.5% of psychological therapy patients seen by doctors were treated within 18 weeks of referral in NHS Grampian in the quarter ending September 2017.

(S5W-13237)

Maureen Watt: The psychological therapies waiting times standard was introduced in 2014 as an improvement target and we have seen significant progress since then with much more robust and transparent data. The continued and substantial increase in demand for services clearly shows that in the past there were far too many people who were unseen, and whose need was unmet. As the capacity and provision of services have increased we have seen more people accessing treatment each quarter and this should be welcomed.

In order to meet the target, Boards will need to have in place services that meet the full range of people's needs, including lower-intensity interventions that can prevent people needing to access higher intensity treatments such as psychological therapies. It will also require all areas of mental health services to be working effectively together. We remain determined that we will hit our 90 per cent target and we will continue to work with Boards to make sure that happens right across Scotland.

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address the reported rise in the number of eating disorder cases in (a) Aberdeen City and (b) Scotland.

(S5W-13242)

Maureen Watt: The Scottish Government sets national direction of policy on mental health and provides funding to agencies, including NHS boards and local authorities, to support implementation of policy.

The management of local actions in implementing national policy, and decisions on local spending priorities are the responsibility of relevant local agencies. It is therefore the responsibility of NHS boards, local authorities and Integration Authorities to work with their partners and regularly review spending decisions to ensure they deliver fit for purpose services which respond to the needs of their local population, including for people living with an eating disorder.

Scottish Government actions to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Scotland's population are set out in the Mental Health Strategy 2017-2027. Delivery of these actions will impact positively either directly or indirectly on the care and treatment of those living with an eating disorder.

In the current Strategy we are committed to developing a digital tool to ensure young people with an eating disorder are able to access support in a way that reflects digital lifestyles. We are also committed to a number of actions around prevention and early intervention and improving access to treatment and joined up accessible services. For example we are working with partners to improve access to child and adolescent mental health services; to improve access to psychological therapies as an evidence based treatment for eating disorder and other mental health conditions; and to improve responses for those in distress.

Richard Lochhead (Moray) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the expected timeline is for the roll-out of tomography for breast screening in Scotland.

(S5W-13361)

Aileen Campbell: There is currently no plan to roll-out tomography for breast screening in Scotland.

Scottish Exchequer

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether off model adjustments are regarded as behavioural responses for the purposes of forecasting potential reactions to income tax changes.

(S5W-13261)

Derek Mackay: The Independent Scottish Fiscal Commission (SFC) are responsible for producing tax forecasts in Scotland. Last year, before taking on this statutory responsibility, the SFC concluded that the Scottish Government's income tax forecasts were reasonable. As the SFC's recent report points out: off model adjustments are used by forecasters because a single statistical model is unlikely to cover all the different elements impacting on income tax receipts. Therefore, a number of "off model" adjustments are applied to the income tax forecasts to account for issues, such as Gift Aid payments, Tax Motivated Incorporations and other behavioural responses to policy changes.

Transport Scotland

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with ScotRail regarding the use of agencies in employing staff.

(S5W-13160)

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government meets regularly with ScotRail to discuss a broad range of areas. I have raised my concerns directly with ScotRail regarding the use of agency staff to fulfil Franchise Services.

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which staff roles in ScotRail are outsourced to agencies.

(S5W-13161)

Humza Yousaf: The decision to use agency staff is a commercial decision for ScotRail. The Scottish Government does not hold details of which staff roles in ScotRail are outsourced to agencies.

The Scottish Government, however, recognises the importance of ScotRail to our national fabric as a key employer across the country. That is why we ensured that ScotRail committed to a guarantee of no compulsory redundancies throughout the life of the ScotRail franchise contract, and that ScotRail pay all its staff at least the living wage and to take reasonable endeavours to procure that all its contractors and suppliers in the UK also receive at least the living wage.

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of ScotRail on-board hospitality staff are employed through agencies.

(S5W-13162)

Humza Yousaf: The decision to use agency staff is a commercial decision for ScotRail. The Scottish Government does not hold details of what proportion of ScotRail on-board hospitality staff are employed through agencies.

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of on-board ScotRail hospitality staff who are employed through agencies are (a) paid at least the real living wage and (b) on zero-hours contracts.

(S5W-13163)

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government is a strong proponent of the living wage and is fully committed to all ScotRail employees and contractors receiving at least the living wage and that is why we have written it into the ScotRail franchise contract.

The ScotRail Franchise Agreement commits ScotRail to pay all its staff at least the living wage and to take reasonable endeavours to procure that all its contractors and suppliers in the UK also receive at least the living wage.

On 11 March 2016 ScotRail became the sixth largest organisation in Scotland to become a Living Wage Accredited Employer.

The decision to use agency staff is a commercial decision for ScotRail. The Scottish Government does not hold details on ScotRail hospitality staff employed through agencies.

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether ScotRail on-board hospitality staff are paid for the duration of their shift, excluding time between stations.

(S5W-13265)

Humza Yousaf: The terms of ScotRail's on-board hospitality staff hours and pay are a matter for ScotRail and the Scottish Government does not hold details of the pay for the duration of their shift.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what main environmental impacts of the A9 dualling project between Killiecrankie and Glen Garry were recorded in the recent assessment by Jacobs.

(S5W-13431)

Keith Brown: The Environmental Statement for the A9 Dualling Killiecrankie to Glen Garry project was published on 28 November 2017. This provides full details of the environmental impacts, mitigation and residual impacts associated with the project. It is publicly available and can be viewed on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a9-dualling-perth-to-inverness/a9-killiecrankie-to-glen-garry/>