

Thursday 20 September 2018

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Economy

**Ruth Maguire (Cunninghame South) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the Ayrshire Growth Deal.

(S50-02365)

**Michael Matheson:** I met with Ayrshire Growth Deal partners last month to reiterate the Scottish Government's commitment to agreeing a deal, with the aim of supporting investments that will boost inclusive economic growth.

I recognise the hard work that partners have put into developing deal proposals. My officials continue to engage with Ayrshire and UK Government colleagues to maintain collective pace and focus on reaching a heads of terms agreement as soon as possible.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it supports the use of rock armour to prevent erosion of beaches, and when and for what reason it took this position.

(S50-02386)

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The Scottish Government supports the use of rock armour in appropriate locations as one of a range of techniques to manage coastal erosion.

This is a longstanding position, which accepts that in certain circumstances the protection of coastal assets is necessary and in the public and private interest. However, there are locations and times where the use of hard defences may not be in the long-term interest of sustainable coastal management.

**Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government when the environment secretary last met representatives of Montrose Port Authority, and when she next plans to meet the authority.

(S50-02387)

**Roseanna Cunningham:** I met officials from Angus Council, The Montrose Golf Club and the Montrose Port Authority in August 2017. This gave me the opportunity to listen to their concerns.

Since then Angus Council has commissioned a flood study for Montrose to identify options to manage flooding and coastal erosion in a coordinated way.

The study will conclude in July 2019. It is important to learn from this study and not implement measures that might exacerbate erosion in the area. The Council is working with local stakeholders throughout this process.

The Scottish Government's Dynamic Coast project team will also work with stakeholders to develop a coastal adaptation plan for Montrose.

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on awarding grants or funding to organisations that have been found by an employment tribunal to have discriminated against, harassed, or victimised an employee due to the employee's gender.

**(S5W-18388)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** The Scottish Public Finance Manual provides guidance on accountability arrangements for the use of public resources, such as grant payments. It requires that certain conditions should be satisfied before grant funding is awarded, including the standing and relevant experience / expertise of the prospective recipient and any delivery partners.

The Manual sets out that; 'Grant funding provided by the SG must be subject to the lead business area being satisfied as to the standing and relevant experience / expertise of the recipient and any delivery partners.'

Workers have the right to attend their work without fear of harassment, bullying or physical harm, and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. Therefore, we would also expect any recipients of Scottish Government funding or grants to have in place robust governance processes that protect individuals' health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace.

We are fully committed to Fair Work and endorse the vision set by the Fair Work Convention for fair work to be embedded in all workplaces by 2025. To that end, we have committed to publishing a Fair Work Action Plan before the end of this year. Legislative powers of the labour market are reserved but the action plan will set out how we plan to use the levers we do have to deliver Fair Work in workplaces across Scotland.

**Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of research by the James Hutton Institute, which suggests that they are at risk of losing more than 25% of their population by 2046, what action it is taking to reduce population decline in rural areas.

**(S5W-18479)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government recognises that people are key to driving forward our rural communities and economies.

In order to retain and attract people, action is needed to grow the rural economy and to invest in the infrastructure that supports communities like broadband and housing. The Scottish Government has stepped in to provide 97% of the £600 million investment in the initial phase of the Reaching 100% programme to deliver superfast broadband for rural and island communities across Scotland. We are purposely prioritising this substantial public funding where it is needed most – in rural Scotland. This initial phase will extend a future-proofed, accessible fibre network into remote rural areas, providing the essential platform for delivering superfast broadband for all and for a variety of technologies.

On top of work to increase community ownership of land, the Scottish Government also announced the Rural Housing Fund in 2016, providing £25m over five years with the aim of increasing supply of long term affordable housing in rural Scotland with a complementary £5m Islands Housing Fund to focus on the housing needs of our island communities.

However the research by the James Hutton Institute illustrates the critical importance of a migration policy that increases Scotland’s population and grows the economy.

The dual threat of leaving the Single Market and Customs Union and the UK Government’s approach to immigration is risking Scotland’s future.

We need a tailored migration system which meets the needs of Scotland and the evidence is clear that the current system is not fit for purpose.

The case is overwhelming for the Scottish Government, accountable to the Scottish Parliament, to be able to set the rules for migration in a way that will attract and retain people with the skills we need to ensure the future sustainability and vitality of our rural communities.

**Peter Chapman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications for European Maritime and Fisheries Fund support it (a) received and (b) approved in 2017-18, broken down by region.

**(S5W-18481)**

**Fergus Ewing:**

Number of applications received and approved in financial year 2017-18 by local authority region:

Local Authority	Applications received	Applications approved
Aberdeen City	6	3
Aberdeenshire	146	46

Angus	15	3
Arygl & Bute	11	5
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	36	19
Dumfries & Galloway	21	9
Orkney	27	14
Perth & Kinross	3	1
Shetland	40	26
South Lanarkshire	2	0
Highland	75	29
Moray	33	10
Edinburgh	7	5
East Lothian	12	11
Fife	7	7
North Lanarkshire	2	2
North Ayrshire	1	0
Scottish Borders	6	0
South Ayrshire	1	0
Stirling	1	1
Dundee	1	0

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale)**

**(Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-08841 by Roseanna Cunningham on 3 May 2017, whether it has come to a view on the banning of the sale of puppies and kittens from pet shops following its review last year.

**Holding answer issued: 20  
September 2018**

**(S5W-18596)**

**Mairi Gougeon:** A holding answer was provided.

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale)**

**(Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the First Minister's statement on the Programme for Government on 4 September 2018, and in light of the Bonomy Review and recommendations of 2016 on the efficacy of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, whether it considers that the only solution is to ban fox hunting outright.

**Holding answer issued: 20  
September 2018**

**(S5W-18598)**

**Mairi Gougeon:** A holding answer was provided.

**Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its response to the paper,

*Recommendations from the Scottish Food Commission for the implementation of, and content for, the Scottish Good Food Nation Bill.*

**(S5W-18600)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy met with the Scottish Food Commission at their final meeting on 28 June 2018 and provided verbal feedback on their recommendations for the Good Food Nation Bill. The Commissioners were thanked for their work and deliberations and assured that full consideration would be given on how best to take forward their recommendations and to incorporate those proposals that were not already happening into the government's work to deliver our ambition to be a Good Food Nation.

**Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the long-term remit is of the Scottish Food Commission, and when it will next meet.

**(S5W-18601)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Food Commission held its final meeting on 28 June 2018.

**Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the closure of the New Entrants Capital Grant Scheme, whether applications from people who were in the process of making a submission and awaiting necessary paperwork, such as planning permission and building warrants, will be accepted with the accompanying paperwork once it is complete.

**(S5W-18628)**

**Fergus Ewing:** If an application was received on, or prior to, the scheme closing date (31 August 2018) a small amount of additional time, 10 working days, is allowed to give the applicant the opportunity to submit the final pieces of supporting documentation. However, if the required details are not forthcoming within that time, the application will be rejected. No new applications will be accepted after 31 August 2018, regardless of circumstances.

**Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the delivery of the stability plan for CAP payments in 2017, whether it will provide an update on the schedule for CAP payments, and when balance payments will be made.

**(S5W-18630)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Pillar One payments commenced in April and we achieved the target of making 95% of Pillar One payments by 30 June deadline. As in any year there are a number of complex cases that take longer than

anticipated to resolve and may require additional confirmation from the farmer or crofter. We aim to resolve these more complex cases as quickly as possible.

We started making payments for pillar two schemes in May and June this year, three months ahead of last year. We are making steady progress across the different schemes with the aim of making the vast majority of payments by the end of the year.

**Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much music tourism has contributed to the economy in each of the last five years.

**(S5W-18652)**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government does not hold this information.

UK Music Trust conducts an annual survey of the contribution of live music to the UK economy, including Scotland, in its “Wish you were here” survey. Surveys have been carried out from 2013-2017. Surveys are available through its website at <https://www.ukmusic.org/>.

Information held by VisitScotland for music tourists from outside Scotland to events which it has sponsored shows provides the following figures in each of the last financial years:

Financial Year	Net economic return from outside Scotland (£m)
2013-14	17.8
2014-15	32.1
2015-16	13.6
2016-17	7.0
2017-18	7.4

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the expected cost to it will be of SEPA’s plan to end exemptions for burning agricultural waste.

**(S5W-18680)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** We do not expect that there will be any additional financial costs to be borne by the Scottish Government as a result of the ban on the burning of most types of agricultural waste.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what infrastructure is in

place in remote areas to facilitate SEPA's plan to end exemptions for burning agricultural waste.

**(S5W-18681)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The ban does not extend to all types of agricultural waste. The burning on farms of some types of biomass waste and, under certain conditions, animal carcasses, will still be permitted. However, the burning of plastic waste on farms will be banned.

A list of plastic waste service providers is available on the Zero Waste Scotland website <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/resource-management/farm-plastic-recycling>. In addition, detailed advice for farmers is available on the SEPA website at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/waste/agricultural-waste/burning-on-farm-waste/>.

Recycling service providers already provide services to island communities, including Bute and Orkney and they have indicated that they plan to significantly extend their collection area to cover other areas as farmers and crofters move into compliance and start to demand their services. A transition period until 1 January 2019 has been agreed in order to allow this to happen. Initial feedback from providers following the recent announcement has shown a marked increase in interest in recycling services from farmers. SEPA is working closely with NFUS and local authorities to monitor the situation as the ban takes effect.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to put in place an uplift system to facilitate SEPA's plan to end exemptions for burning agricultural waste.

**(S5W-18682)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** As indicated in the reply to S5W-18681 on 20 September 2018, there are services in place in Scotland to allow farmers to arrange for the collection of their plastic waste. The burning of some types of biomass waste and, under certain conditions, animal carcasses, will still be permitted.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

**Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds on the number of used vehicle tyres exported in each of the last five years.

**(S5W-18686)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The majority of waste tyre exports are carried out under 'green list' controls which do not require application to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) but do require paperwork to be sent in which provides details on the waste type, quantity, date of shipment, recipient country and facility etc. The data below is therefore based on what has been submitted to SEPA.

Approximate tonnages exported for the last 5 years from Scotland are as follows;

2014 - 1,696 Tonnes (212,000 car tyres)

2015 - 1,460 Tonnes (182,500 car tyres)

2016 - 2,236 Tonnes (279,500 car tyres)

2017 - 702 Tonnes (87,750 car tyres)

2018 - 780 Tonnes (97,500 car tyres)

The majority of the tyres captured in the data above have been sent to India. When SEPA becomes aware of shipment of tyres to countries such as India, the exporter is required to furnish SEPA with the details of the recipient recovery facility, including permit which allows for the acceptance of tyres and of the contracts which need to be in place as required by the Waste Shipment Regulations. Where possible SEPA will also try and make contact with the Environment Agencies of the recipient countries to ask them to verify the suitability of the receiving facilities.

**Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what processes are in place for the safe disposal of vehicles tyres.

**(S5W-18687)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** Within Scotland there are currently two authorised facilities that can use vehicle tyres as part of their feedstock for either energy or cement production. These are Levenseat Renewable Energy Limited by Forth, Lanarkshire and Tarmac Cement and Lime Limited at Dunbar, East Lothian. Use of waste tyres as cement kiln fuel is regulated under Industrial Emissions Directive which sets stringent conditions for co-incineration of waste.

Apart from these two operations, most of Scotland's tyres are stored and transported elsewhere for treatment. The transport of waste tyres should only be undertaken by registered waste carriers, their movement should be described on suitably completed controlled waste transfer notes and their storage or treatment should only take place at premises that have been appropriately authorised by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency

(SEPA). Every part of the supply chain from production through transport to final treatment should comply with the over-arching Duty of Care requirements ensuring that waste is managed safely.

**Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-18046 by Roseanna Cunningham on 28 August 2018, how much funding was provided to the four councils that ran the 2012-13 absorbent hygiene product collection pilot, and what the cost of the pilot was.

**(S5W-18767)**

**Roseanna Cunningham:**

The total cost of the 2012 - 2013 pilot for Absorbent Hygiene Products was £311,706, of which £172,929 was distributed to the four participating councils as follows:

Perth & Kinross	£104,734
Stirling	£37,995
North Lanarkshire	£6,508
Fife	£23,692
TOTAL	£172,929

The remainder of the funding was used to provide project management, technical advice and evaluation support for the pilot.

### **Education, Communities and Justice**

**Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Police Scotland response to sectarian hate crime.

**(S5O-02376)**

**Humza Yousaf:** Sectarian hate crime - like any hate crime - has a hugely damaging effect on victims and communities so it is important that everybody plays their part to challenge it. That is why we fully support Police Scotland in taking robust action to both tackle hate crime and increase the confidence of victims to report incidents either directly to them or to a Third Party reporting centre.

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the reported proposed disposal of 24 Police Scotland buildings, and whether there are plans to close any more.

**(S5O-02377)**

**Humza Yousaf:** As responsibility for the police estate sits with the Scottish Police Authority, the Authority considered and agreed to the disposal of 49 unused Police Scotland properties at a public Board meeting on 2 May 2018.

The Scottish Government understands that 31 unused Police Scotland properties are currently being marketed for sale. Consideration of future plans for the Police Scotland estate are for the Scottish Police Authority.

**David Torrance (Kirkcaldy) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what importance it places on community policing and how beneficial it considers it to be to communities.

**(S5O-02378)**

**Humza Yousaf:** This Government places the highest importance on community policing and welcomes the fact that the majority of people in our communities believe the police are doing a good or excellent job in their local area.

Localism is a key feature of the Scottish Government's Strategic Police Priorities, set by my predecessor in 2016 and due to be reviewed next year. I am pleased to say that these priorities are reflected strongly in Police Scotland and the SPA's ten year transformational strategy, Policing 2026 and in the implementation of that strategy. There is a great deal of work going on within Police Scotland to improve the service's responsiveness to local needs, ensuring that officers are visible within communities, working in partnership to keep people safe and support the most vulnerable members of our society. I believe Members should be very encouraged by the recent comments of the new Chief Constable regarding the importance of engagement with local communities and the empowerment of local police officers and staff across the country. I look forward to working with the Chief Constable and the SPA Chair to further build on the progress which is being made in this important area.

**Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with Police Scotland in response to figures showing that the number of grenades being seized in the UK has risen sharply, with the largest of the hauls in 2018 having taken place in Scotland.

**(S5W-18395)**

**Humza Yousaf:** Grenades are weapons with the potential to cause widespread harm and the removal of a number of devices from circulation will help keep our communities safe.

I plan to meet with senior representatives of Police Scotland, including the newly appointed Chief Constable, on a regular basis and to discuss a wide range of issues.

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when its proposal to implement Finn's Law, to establish a specific criminal offence of attacking or killing a service animal, will come into effect, and whether its plans for the legislation will (a) include treating these animals as sentient beings and (b) recognise the dangerous work that these animals can undertake.

**Holding answer issued: 20  
September 2018**

**(S5W-18576)**

**Mairi Gougeon:** A holding answer was provided.

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the consultants that it engaged to advise on the BTP merger with Police Scotland were contracted on a (a) time and line or (b) fixed fee basis, and, in light of the merger no longer proceeding, what the cost will be of settling their fees.

**(S5W-18579)**

**Humza Yousaf:** Consultancy fees are a matter for Police Scotland who ran a competitive tendering process to engage professional services support for the proposed merger of British Transport Police in Scotland with Police Scotland.

The Scottish Government made use of the Interim Manager Framework arrangements to secure services to support the delivery of the BTP Integration Programme. This arrangement is on a week to week basis and will have no settlement costs.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the vote in the Parliament on 29 March 2017 on motion S5M-04920 (*Official Report*, c.80), for what reason it has not separated the curriculum and inspection functions of Education Scotland.

**(S5W-18584)**

**John Swinney:** Education Scotland continues to play a vital role in ensuring that standards are understood and maintained at all levels of the Scottish education system.

Its ability to perform this function would be significantly diminished were it not to be able to draw on first hand observation and evaluation of practice. Its dual role in supporting development of the curriculum and providing independent evaluation of its implementation ensures a continuous cycle of

improvement across the system. Its status as an Executive Agency and its governance arrangements enable it to operate independently and impartially.

Education Scotland's approach to inspection focuses on working with establishments or services to enable them to develop an ability to evaluate themselves and to use those findings to take forward their plans for improvement.

Education Scotland is currently making the transition to a regional delivery model, with a collective and collaborative approach to improving education at national, regional and local levels. Its school inspection activity, its thematic inspections and its development of a local authority self-evaluation framework will all provide valuable insight into the empowerment of schools and impact of our education reforms.

**Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the estimated 1,800 children in East Lothian who have been identified by health and social care officials as living with a parent who has a drink problem.

**(S5W-18627)**

**Maree Todd:** The Scottish Government recognise that children who live with a parent who have problematic substance use are among the most vulnerable in society. It is vital they are well supported, but we also want to prevent the damage occurring in the first place. That's why tackling problem substance and alcohol use continues to be a priority for this Government.

Funding of £600,000 per year is provided to the CORRA Foundation who support Scottish voluntary organisations to deliver vital on the ground support to children and families across Scotland affected by substance and alcohol use.

The CORRA Foundation have also received a further £160,000 for the delivery of the recommendations contained in "Everyone Has A Story", an action learning project that aims to hear the voices and experiences of children and young people whose parents are in recovery from drugs and alcohol.

Funding of £280,000 (for 2018-19) has been provided to Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD) to support families across Scotland affected by a loved one's substance and/or alcohol use.

Work is currently underway on the new alcohol and drug strategy which will ensure that health and social needs are taken into account as part of people's treatment and also those more widely affected, including children and families. In addition to the investment of over £746 million since 2008 to tackle

substance use, the new strategy is being backed with funding of an additional £20 million per annum.

Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP) work with a number of services in the area to support children affected by parental substance use. Relevant training is provided to all services, which raises awareness of the impact substance use has on a child and also helps improved identification of, and support for, children affected by parental substance use.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to renew the Islands Housing Fund after 2019.

**(S5W-18655)**

**Kevin Stewart:** The Scottish Government has previously confirmed the Islands Housing Fund will be available until March 2021. Given the long lead-in times for housing delivery, we have already started work on developing our approach to housing beyond 2021, an important component of which will be the ways we might support housing delivery for our island communities in future.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications have been received each year for the Islands Housing Fund, and how many were approved.

**(S5W-18656)**

**Kevin Stewart:**

The following table provides detail of the number of applications received each year for the Islands Housing Fund and how many were approved.

Year	Feasibility Fund – Number of Applications Received	Feasibility Fund – Number of Applications Approved	Main Fund – Number of Applications Received	Main Fund – Number of Applications Approved
2016-17	5	4	3	2
2017-18	8	7	0	0
2018-19	6	5	3	3

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government where it has advertised the Islands Housing Fund.

**(S5W-18657)**

**Kevin Stewart:** Following the announcement on the Islands Housing Fund, the Scottish Government issued a news release in September 2016 to confirm availability of the Fund. Information on the Fund is also available on the Scottish Government website. Presentations have been made by the Scottish Government at relevant rural housing events, including the RIHAF conference in October 2016 and the Rural Housing Scotland conference in February 2017. The Stakeholder Group for the development of our Rural Housing Fund, which comprises a wide range of stakeholders representing the housing sector, have also promoted the availability of the Fund.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government how much of the Islands Housing Fund's ring-fenced £5 million has been spent.

**(S5W-18658)**

**Kevin Stewart:** £238,000 of the Islands Housing Fund has been spent to date.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government how many affordable homes (a) have been and (b) are being built with support from the Islands Housing Fund, and where these are located.

**(S5W-18659)**

**Kevin Stewart:** Four affordable homes have been completed with support from the Islands Housing Fund. These are located on the Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute and Isle of Scalpay, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Four affordable homes are being built or refurbished with support from the Islands Housing Fund. These are located on the Isle of Skye, Highland and North Ronaldsay, Orkney Islands.

**Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to figures showing that incidents of financial crime have risen by almost one third in the first quarter of 2018 compared to last year, including a rise of 40.7% in Edinburgh, and how it plans to tackle this rise.

**(S5W-18661)**

**Humza Yousaf:** Police Scotland have noted that there has been an increase in online fraud and crimes involving contactless payments. While an operational matter for Police Scotland, I understand that they have made clear that they are investing in resources and equipping officers with the necessary skills to help tackle this growing area of criminality, and working more closely with banks to protect those vulnerable to financial crime.

The Scottish Government continues to support Police Scotland in keeping our communities safe from harm and are protecting the police resource budget in real terms in every year of this Parliament - a boost of £100 million by 2021. We support Police Scotland and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC) to work directly with the financial industry to support customer needs and to continually review how to promote secure online banking and effective anti-fraud messaging.

It should be noted that Police Scotland's management information report makes clear these are provisional statistics drawn from a live operational database - they are not validated National Statistics on recorded crime. The Scottish Government will published the validated 2017-18 National Statistics on 25 September 2018. The full year figures for 2018-19 will follow one year later.

**Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-10525 by John Swinney on 16 August 2017, whether the independent research into additional support for learning has been completed, and whether it will publish its findings.

**(S5W-18679)**

**John Swinney:** The independent research into additional support for learning has been completed. The research is going through quality assurance and clearance processes and will be published in October.

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding is provided to local authorities to resettle and provide translation/interpreter services to Syrian refugees; how this is calculated; whether this is ring-fenced, and how much has been allocated to Scottish Borders Council in each year that funding has been provided.

**(S5W-18707)**

**Aileen Campbell:** Asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Government. This includes the design, operation and funding of UK refugee resettlement programmes.

The Home Office provides funding to local authorities receiving refugees under the Syrian Resettlement Programme and has set minimum requirements for their participation. However, Local Authorities are free to determine best use of funding to support refugees in their area.

The Scottish Government does not hold information on the calculation of funding or on the allocation of funding by the Home Office to Scottish Borders Council.

**Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on making the Hunterston industrial site an area for regeneration.

**(S5W-18740)**

**Kevin Stewart:** Scotland's third National Planning Framework, published in 2014, recognises Hunterston as an area of co-ordinated action and sets out a range of uses that may be appropriate to make best use of its assets. We will look again at this and other strategic sites when we take forward the review of the National Planning Framework, following the Planning Bill.

### **Health and Social Care**

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the quality of the engagement with patients by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde regarding the development of proposals to centralise breast cancer services away from the Vale of Leven Hospital to the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

**(S5O-02388)**

**Jeane Freeman:** Firstly, it is important to note that this review is still underway and that no service change decisions have been made.

The Government has been consistently clear that the development of formal proposals must be informed by meaningful engagement with local stakeholders. The Health Board has assured us that it will work closely with the Scottish Health Council to take this forward, in line with national guidance.

**Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many patients were referred for homeopathic treatments in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS board area.

**Holding answer issued: 20  
September 2018**

**(S5W-18309)**

**Jeane Freeman:** A holding answer was provided.

**Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many of the 800 additional mental health workers that it committed to recruiting in its mental health strategy have been appointed.

**(S5W-18352)**

**Clare Haughey:** We are currently working with the Chief Officers of Integration Authorities on the development of this commitment. This includes obtaining detailed workforce plans which provide information on workforce allocation, location of workforce for 2018-19, and details on the trajectory

toward the 800 total by 2021-22. We expect to receive these plans for further analysis by the October recess.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how the survival rate from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Scotland compares with the rest of the UK; what steps it is taking to improve survival rates, and, in light of its current strategy on this issue ending in 2020, what (a) plans it has for future public engagement and (b) approach it will take post-2020.

**(S5W-18439)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** The Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) Data Linkage project report published on 13 March 2018 shows the 30 day survival rate from OHCA in Scotland rose from 6.2% in 2011 – 2014-15 to 8.3% in 2016-17. This is similar to that of 7.8% in England for data published in 2016.

The OHCA Reference and Delivery Groups will consider what steps to take regarding future public engagement and approach beyond 2020.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making towards the target set out in *Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest: A Strategy for Scotland* of having "500,000 people equipped with CPR skills".

**(S5W-18440)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Since the launch of the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) Strategy for Scotland (2015), the Save A Life for Scotland (SALFS) partnership has made significant progress in equipping people with CPR skills, with more than 260,000 people recorded having learned CPR since then.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it has provided to the British Heart Foundation's campaign to make CPR training mandatory on the school curriculum in each local authority.

**(S5W-18442)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** The Scottish Government supports Save A Life for Scotland (SALFS) as the partnership for the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy (OHCA) for Scotland (2015), working to encourage people to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and raise awareness of OHCA. Working with schools to support CPR learning is a priority for SALFS. It is up to individual schools and local authorities to decide if and how best to deliver this. In many schools across Scotland CPR learning is already embedded with support from SALFS partners.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is taking to tackle the socio-economic inequalities that impact on out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rates.

**(S5W-18444)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Reducing inequalities in survival is a priority aim for the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy (OHCA) for Scotland (2015).

Bystander cardiopulmonary (CPR) is where maximum impact on survival will be achieved. That is why Save A Life for Scotland was launched in 2015 to encourage people to learn CPR and raise awareness of OHCA. Save A Life for Scotland partners are working with multiply deprived communities across Scotland to increase CPR learning.

Incidence of OHCA is related to income inequalities and population health. That is why the Scottish Government is taking action focussing on addressing the underlying causes of inequalities: ending poverty, fair wages, supporting families, and improving our physical and social environments and to support people to live healthier lives.

**Anas Sarwar (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with experts who have developed strategies in other countries that have improved survival rates from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

**(S5W-18445)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Scotland's Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) Strategy draws on learning from international experience to address challenges and improve outcomes. Partners in the strategy have led and been involved in a number of events for knowledge exchange and research projects in collaboration with international experts.

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reported concerns about the impact on health of traces of glyphosate being found in food products.

**(S5W-18457)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** I am advised on food safety matters by Food Standards Scotland. FSS considers that current levels of pesticide residues in food, including glyphosate levels do not provide concern for food safety based on current information.

**Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it promotes access to welfare rights support as a form of social prescribing, and which NHS boards and GP practices are leading this work.

**(S5W-18461)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Scottish Government support for advice services is intended to maximise household resources and ensure people understand their statutory rights and have recourse to redress if those rights are not upheld.

The Scottish Government is funding a part-time welfare advice service facilitator in 2018-19 to support the embedding of Welfare Advice Services in Health and Social Care settings, with a particular focus on general practice and early years.

Provision of welfare advice is a matter for individual NHS Boards and general practices and we do not hold information centrally on where advisers are located.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-18009 by Clare Haughey on 29 August 2018, how many of the 800 additional mental health workers will be allocated to (a) prisons and (b) the police.

**(S5W-18480)**

**Clare Haughey:** We are currently working with the Chief Officers of Integration Authorities on the development of this commitment. This includes obtaining detailed workforce plans which provide information on workforce allocation, location of workforce (which will include the settings of prisons and police custody suites) for 2018-19 and details on the trajectory toward the 800 total by 2021-22. We expect to receive these plans for further analysis by the October recess.

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-12099 by Maureen Watt on 26 October 2017, what its response is to the recommendation in the recent report by the Children's Society that all secondary schools should have access to a counsellor, and whether it will take action to implement school-based counselling.

**(S5W-18508)**

**Clare Haughey:** We have made absolutely clear the commitment of this government to promoting children's health and wellbeing.

This year's Programme for Government includes a commitment to invest in school counselling services across in Scotland. This will create around 350 counsellors, ensuring that every secondary school has access to counselling services, whilst also improving the ability of local primary and special schools to access counselling.

We will begin to work to implement this commitment quickly in partnership with local government. We intend to build from the work already in place in schools, and to enable those who already have arrangements in place to benefit from this commitment also.

**Bob Doris (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish National Party):**

To ask the Scottish Government how it will mark Organ Donation Week.

**(S5W-18548)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** I launched the start of Organ Donation Week 2018 on 3 September at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh where I spoke to patients about their experience of islet cell transplants.

During the week TV advertisements ran at prime spots during the day and evening to encourage people to join the Organ Donor Register. Case studies and press releases were issued and social media channels utilised every day of the week to promote deceased donation.

St Andrew's House and a range of other prominent landmarks and buildings lit up in the 'We Need Everybody' campaign green colour to highlight the importance of organ donation to saving lives.

An organ and tissue donation email newsletter was issued to 11,000 subscribers which outlined the activities for the week and encouraged them to get involved. In addition, the Scottish Government worked closely with NHS Blood and Transplant and the Specialist Nurses for Organ Donation in each mainland NHS Board area who ran local events and activities during the week.

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action has been taken to improve uptake of cervical screening in the most deprived areas of Scotland.

**(S5W-18582)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** We are investing up to £5 million from the Cancer Strategy to tackle inequalities in access to screening, including cervical screening. The funds will support new activities, sharing of learning from local practice and innovation, to improve uptake of screening programmes, particularly amongst those least likely to participate.

We are supporting the work of charities like Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to increase awareness and address some of the barriers to participation. To enable the charity to expand their reach we are funding their innovative new outreach service targeting women less likely to attend. We also supported their first ever Scottish roadshow providing information and support about

cervical screening and cervical cancer to high streets and retail parks across Scotland.

Officials continue to work closely with Cervical Screening Coordinators from all NHS Boards to develop local level initiatives to improve uptake for all women and to promote cervical screening services by communicating effectively with a range of audiences.

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action has been taken to improve uptake of cervical screening among women under the age of 30.

**(S5W-18583)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Increasing participation in the Scottish Cervical Screening Programme is a key objective for the Scottish Government and we are continuing to carry out a range of work to encourage women to attend their screening appointments. This includes a series of national marketing campaigns – the most recent of which particularly targeted younger women, where we know uptake is lower.

We are also investing up to £5m of funding from the Cancer Strategy 'Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action' 2016 in our screening programmes, including cervical screening, to reduce inequalities and encourage participation, especially amongst those least likely to participate.

Scottish Government officials meet cervical screening coordinators from all NHS Boards on a quarterly basis to discuss a range of issues relating to the national screening programme, including promoting screening services and initiatives to improve uptake.

**Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the average rate paid for locums filling GP vacancies was in each NHS board area in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016, (e) 2017 and (f) 2018 to date.

**(S5W-18585)**

**Jeane Freeman:** The majority of Scotland's GP practices (94%) are run by independent contractors. As such it is for practices to agree terms and conditions with the locums whom they engage, and so information on average GP locum rates is not held by the Scottish Government.

However, under the 2018 GP Contract GP Practices will provide more data on their practice workforce and related expenses, which will allow more transparency on GP locum use in the future.

**Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it last audited the rates that can be charged by locums providing GP cover and how they compare with GP salaries.

**(S5W-18588)**

**Jeane Freeman:** The majority of Scotland's GP practices (94%) are run by independent contractors. As such it is for practices to agree terms and conditions with the locums who they engage. However, the Scottish Government is committed to greater transparency on how investment works in general practice and that is why under the 2018 GP Contract all GP practices are now required to provide data on their practice workforce and related expenses. This will allow more transparency on GP locum use in the future.

**Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-17786 by Derek Mackay on 3 August 2018, and, in light of its reference to the June Panelbase poll referred to in the question as being "one of a succession of polls" showing a "wider public acceptance" of Scottish Government policy, what action it is taking on responses to other poll questions on (a) charging people for missing NHS appointments and (b) the removal of certain cosmetic treatments on the NHS, which received a larger share of support than the issue referred to in the answer.

**(S5W-18595)**

**Jeane Freeman:** The Scottish Government policy is not to charge patients who miss an appointment or to remove cosmetic procedures from NHS treatment. The poll referred to by the member was on our changes to income tax policy which showed support for the changes.

**Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will implement each of the recommendations in the paper, *Clinical Review of the Impacts of Hepatitis C: Short Life Working Group Report for the Scottish Government*.

**(S5W-18607)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** I will soon be meeting Haemophilia Scotland and the Scottish Infected Blood Forum to discuss the clinical review group's recommendations. Some of the group's recommendations are already implemented, but, for those which are not yet implemented, if the Scottish Government agrees to take them forward in full, they will be implemented by the Scottish Infected Blood Support Scheme, managed by NHS National Services Scotland.

**Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government to what extent it will direct local authorities

regarding the mental health first aid training for teachers that was announced in its Programme for Government.

**(S5W-18618)**

**Clare Haughey:** We will work with our partners in local government to deliver the commitment set out in this year's Programme for Government. All local authorities will be offered the training which will complement the range of mental health strategies that are already in place within schools and local authorities.

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the level of statin use is, and what information it has regarding how this compares with the rest of the UK.

**(S5W-18653)**

**Jeane Freeman:** In Scotland, the Dispenser Payments and Prescription Cost Analysis report provides (on an annual basis), information on the volume of drugs prescribed in the community. The report is published on the National Services Scotland Information Services Division website:- [www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-Medicines/Community-Dispensing/Dispenser-Remuneration/](http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-Medicines/Community-Dispensing/Dispenser-Remuneration/)

In addition, ISD Scotland also publish the following Cardiovascular publishing data: [https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Heart-Disease/Publications/2018-01-30/DDD\\_cost\\_number\\_prescriptions\\_Board\\_G2.xlsx](https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Heart-Disease/Publications/2018-01-30/DDD_cost_number_prescriptions_Board_G2.xlsx)

These reports show that for the year ending [31st March 2017](#) , there were 303,551,535 Defined Daily Doses of Statins issued within the community in Scotland. For the year ending [31 st March 2016](#) , there were 300,009,193 DDD.

A Defined Daily Dose (DDD) is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as “the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used on its main indications in adults”. DDDs are commonly used as a proxy measure of how many patients in the population are taking a particular drug and this allows for some comparison between Health Boards.

NHS England publish figures on prescribing in the community at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/prescription-cost-analysis-england-2017>

NHS Wales publishes figures on prescribing in the community at: <http://www.primarycareservices.wales.nhs.uk/data-publications>

NHS Northern Ireland publishes figures on prescribing in the community at: <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/2930.htm>

The figures published in each of the UK nations use different timeframes and datasets and are therefore not comparable.

## Organisational Development and Operations

**Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports in the *Press and Journal* on 16 August 2018 that 4G coverage is poor for many households in the Highlands and Islands, whether it will provide a schedule of works planned to improve coverage across Scotland.

(S5W-18253)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** Telecoms is a reserved issue and Ofcom and the UK Government are responsible for setting national mobile coverage targets and the coverage obligations imposed on mobile network operators. No 100% coverage targets have been set by the UK Government or regulator for either (a) indoor or (b) outdoor coverage. However, Ofcom earlier this year reported that each mobile network operator's 2017 geographic coverage to reach 90% UK landmass for voice coverage and O2's 4G licence obligation (98% 4G premises coverage UK, 95% in Scotland) had been met.

The Scottish Government has recently awarded the contract for the Scottish 4G Infill (S4GI) Programme in recognition of the failure of the UK-wide regulations model to deliver 4G services across much of Scotland. Backed by to £25 million of Scottish Government and public funding, S4GI will deliver future-proofed, 4G infrastructure to selected mobile 'not-spots' across Scotland over the four years to 2021/22. A deployment plan is being developed in conjunction with the supplier and this information will be made available as soon as possible.

While the Scottish Government is intervening on economic development grounds to increase 4G access through our £25 million S4GI Programme, the most effective means of improving geographic coverage of 4G services would be for Ofcom to ensure any future spectrum auctions are better designed in future to ensure coverage is maximised through ambitious coverage obligations that ensure that rural Scotland is not left behind.

**Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports in the *Press and Journal* on 16 August 2018 that 4G coverage is poor for many households in the Highlands and Islands, when it expects to reach 100% coverage of 4G (a) indoors and (b) outdoors across the whole of Scotland.

(S5W-18256)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** Telecoms is a reserved issue and Ofcom and the UK Government are responsible for setting national mobile coverage targets and the coverage obligations imposed on mobile network operators. No 100% coverage targets have been set by the UK Government or regulator for either (a) indoor or (b) outdoor coverage. However, Ofcom earlier this year reported that each mobile network operator's 2017 geographic coverage to reach 90%

UK landmass for voice coverage and O2's 4G licence obligation (98% 4G premises coverage UK, 95% in Scotland) had been met.

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**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide the information that it holds on how many complaints it has received relating to sexual assault or sexual harassment by (a) Ministers, (b) Special Advisers and (c) its staff since 1999; how many complaints have been upheld; how many cases have been referred to the police, and whether anyone has been disciplined or dismissed following these complaints.

**(S5W-18396)**

**Graeme Dey:** As an employer, the Scottish Government does not make determinations about whether the nature of a complaint constitutes a sexual assault as that is rightly a matter for Police Scotland to determine. We do not therefore have a record of any complaints that have been recorded as "sexual assault".

In response to part (a) between 1999 and the end of 2017 the Scottish Government holds no recorded complaints of this nature against Ministers.

In January 2018, the Scottish Government received two harassment complaints relating to the former First Minister, Alex Salmond. These complaints were considered under a Scottish Government procedure for Handling Harassment Complaints Involving Current or Former Ministers <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/handling-of-harassment-complaints-involving-current-or-former-ministers/>. For legal reasons the Scottish Government cannot provide further information.

In response to part (b) a system to report aggregated data about formal employee relations cases and complaints was introduced in 2007. The

Scottish Government has no recorded complaints in relation to Special Advisers in the period from 2007 to the present.

In response to part (c) a system to report aggregated data about complaints recorded against employees was introduced in 2007. Since 2007, a total of 11 formal complaints of this nature have been received by the Scottish Government. Given the statistically low number, the supplementary information requested cannot be provided as this may risk disclosing personal information. However we can confirm that these cases were dealt with in line with the relevant internal procedures.

Note:

This covers staff employed on Scottish Government Main and Scottish Government Marine terms and conditions of employment and senior civil servants in the following areas:

- Scottish Government Core Directorates
- Accountancy in Bankruptcy
- Disclosure Scotland
- Education Scotland
- National Records of Scotland
- Office of Scottish Charity Regulator
- Scottish Housing Regulator
- Transport Scotland

### **Transport Scotland**

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when Transport Scotland will announce its preferred route for the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing section of the soon-to-be dualled A9.

**(S5O-02366)**

**Michael Matheson:** Transport Scotland has been working closely with the local community since Autumn 2016 as part of a co-creative process to identify a preferred option for the Pass of Birnam to Tay Crossing section of the A9 Dualling.

Transport Scotland is currently taking forward further design and assessment work on the recently identified community preferred route. This will create an opportunity to further develop those proposals with a view towards identifying a preferred route option by the end of the year.

**Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its

response is to the recommendations regarding the A1 in the Jacobs report, *Borders Transport Corridors*.

**(S5O-02367)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government recognises the important role the A1 plays in providing access to key markets, jobs and services between the south east of Scotland and north east England and beyond. The recommendation in respect of the A1, one of 21 emerging options from the study, is welcomed and will be considered within the second Strategic Transport Projects Review. STPR2 is the opportunity to consider at a national level the important contribution that transport infrastructure projects will play in enabling and sustaining Scotland's economic growth.

**Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has carried out of traffic flows on the Queensferry Crossing since it opened.

**(S5O-02368)**

**Michael Matheson:** Transport Scotland will be undertaking an evaluation of the Forth Replacement Crossing Project, one, three and five years after opening in line with Scottish Trunk Road Infrastructure Project Evaluation, against both the transport planning objectives and wider evaluation criteria. In addition, Transport Scotland is undertaking an evaluation of performance one month after motorway regulations came into effect and will undertake additional evaluation once the Intelligent Transport Systems measures are in operation. These evaluations will consider pre-opening and post-opening traffic data.