

Tuesday 04 December 2018

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what actions it is taking to deliver a stock recovery plan for herring in the West of Scotland, in response to the recommended advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES).

(S5W-20065)

Fergus Ewing: Scottish Government scientists have been working with scientists from Ireland and the Netherlands to improve the analysis of the survey that informs the scientific advice for West of Scotland herring. It is expected that this work will provide greater confidence on the stock status and any impacts recent conservation measures have had on stock recovery.

We have also been collaborating with the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association and representatives of other European pelagic industry bodies to support a ground-breaking industry-science herring survey since its inception in 2016. This survey provides important information on the distribution of the West of Scotland component of the stock and it will feed also into a genetic study which aims to deliver a method of assigning catches to specific spawning components, enabling more appropriate management and contributing to stock recovery.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) female and (b) male retail apprenticeships there have been in each of the last five years.

(S5W-20080)

Jamie Hepburn: The number of (a) female and (b) male retail apprenticeships over each of the last five years are detailed in the following table:

Year	Female	Male	Total
2017-18	906	750	1,656
2016-17	1,078	940	2,018
2015-16	1,139	892	2,031
2014-15	1,094	909	2,003
2013-14	1,115	827	1,942

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much the Accountant in Bankruptcy has charged in fees in each of the last five years.

(S5W-20129)

Jamie Hepburn: The amounts are set out in the following table.

Year	Amount (£m)
2017-18	12.3
2016-17	12.5
2015-16	12.7
2014-15	13.4
2013-14	11.7

A detailed breakdown of the Agency's income is publicly available in the annual reports published by Accountant in Bankruptcy on its web-site – www.aib.gov.uk. From this it can be seen that the largest element of the above are costs involved in the administration of individual cases, reclaimed from those cases.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many staff the Accountant in Bankruptcy (a) currently employs and (b) has employed in each of the last five years, broken down by salary banding.

(S5W-20130)

Jamie Hepburn: FTE Staff Numbers are provided in the annual reports published by Accountant in Bankruptcy on its web-site – www.aib.gov.uk

For ease of reference, the collated information is set out in the following table - the numbers quoted relate to the position as at 31 March.

Year	Pay band A	Pay band B	Pay band C	Contingent	SCS	Head-Count	Full time equivalent
2017-18	44	78	6	2	1	131	113.6*
2016-17	50	84	5	5	1	145	124.4*
2015-16	52	86	6	8	2	154	127.3
2014-15	55	88	7	13	2	165	133.6
2013-14	67	65	7	4	2	145	133.4

*includes one inward loan which is paid through AiB payroll.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many debt cases the Accountant in Bankruptcy has dealt with for (a) businesses and (b) individuals in each of the last five years.

(S5W-20134)

Jamie Hepburn: Corporate insolvency is largely reserved – although the Agency records numbers of receiverships and liquidations, the Agency does not deal with such cases itself.

Personal insolvency debt cases include the three statutory debt management and debt relief options - bankruptcy, Protected Trust Deeds (PTDs) and the Debt Arrangement Scheme (DAS). These cases generally relate to individuals, but include certain trading entities including unincorporated bodies, partnerships and sole traders. Details on case volumes is provided in the Agency's Annual Report available on its website - www.aib.gov.uk.

For ease, summarised data on the numbers of new cases beginning in each year is set out in the following table:

Year	Bankruptcies awarded	PTDs	DPPs approved	Total
2017-18	4,644	5,958	2,318	13,766
2016-17	4,562	5,470	2,233	13,167
2015-16	3,765	4,709	2,041	11,416
2014-15	6,730	4,437	4,156	16,172
2013-14	7,112	6,681	4,580	17,926

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many individual cases the Accountant in Bankruptcy has dealt with in each of the last five years, broken down by type of debt action, such as bankruptcy or protected trust deeds.

(S5W-20135)

Jamie Hepburn: I refer the member to answer to question S5W-20134 on 4 December 2018. 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>.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what value of debts has been repaid to the Accountant in Bankruptcy by (a) businesses and (b) individuals in each of the last five years.

(S5W-20136)

Jamie Hepburn: Corporate insolvency is largely reserved – although the Agency records numbers of receiverships and liquidations, the Agency does not deal with such cases itself.

Details of the returns to creditors from the statutory debt management and relief products overseen by the Agency are set out in the Agency's Annual Report available on its website at www.aib.gov.uk. These cases generally relate to individuals, but include certain trading entities including

unincorporated bodies, partnerships and sole traders. Comparable data is not available before 2015-16.

Year	Amount (£m)
2017-18	74.0
2016-17	83.7
2015-16	83.7

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how its economic strategy and other economic development initiatives will support high-skill, high-wage employment at Hunterston in North Ayrshire.

(S5W-20151)

Derek Mackay: Scotland's Economic Strategy sets out the framework for delivering inclusive growth via boosting competitiveness and tackling inequality. At a national level, the Economic Action Plan - published in October of this year - sets out the wide range of actions that we are taking to deliver on our ambitions, including measures focused on place as well as increasing job creation and promoting fair work.

At a local and regional level, the Scottish Government has been working with North Ayrshire Council to undertake an inclusive growth diagnostic exercise to understand the barriers and opportunities for unlocking inclusive economic growth in the area.

We have also been working closely with North Ayrshire Council, and their sister councils in East and South Ayrshire, to develop the Ayrshire Growth Deal. Officials have supported the development and refinement of proposals: with several in North Ayrshire. We hope that the deal will bring significant investment to the region and be key to driving inclusive economic growth over the coming years. Our ambition is to be able to agree that deal, in partnership with the local authorities and the UK Government, in early 2019.

The collaborative working behind the growth deal extends to the Regional Economic Partnership which the Local Authorities have agreed to create: working with our enterprise and skills agencies, academia, the third sector and the private sector in order to ensure that resources and priorities are aligned in order to generate the best possible outcomes for the region. The authorities agreed an outline structure for this in October and November this year, and will be drafting a regional economic plan in consultation with the partners. I look forward to seeing the impact that this partnership can have on driving inclusive growth in Ayrshire.

Johann Lamont (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it plans to introduce a consumer protection bill.

(S5W-20163)

Jamie Hepburn: "Delivering for today, investing for tomorrow: the Government's programme for Scotland 2018-2019" confirmed that the Consumer Protection (Scotland) Bill will be brought before Parliament in the coming year.

The full document can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/programme-for-government/>.

Education, Communities and Justice

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether its funding for violence against women specifically requires organisations and projects to be trans inclusive and, if so, where this requirement is stated.

(S5W-19971)

Christina McKelvie: Applicants to the Equally Safe Violence Against Women and Girls fund are required to provide their LGBTI Inclusion plan (or an LGBTI plan for organisations providing direct support to men) as part of their application. Applicants without these plans in place are not considered.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what information regarding (a) incontinence and (b) pelvic floor exercises is included in Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) lessons for secondary school pupils.

(S5W-20003)

John Swinney: Curriculum for Excellence is the national approach to learning and teaching for young people aged 3 to 18 in Scotland. It provides significant flexibility, within broad national guidelines, for teachers to develop lessons which best meet the needs of individual learners. The Scottish Government will shortly publish the outcome of the review into personal and social education which will include recommendations that continue to allow teachers flexibility to tailor learning for specific issues, such as lessons about incontinence and the importance of pelvic floor exercises. Teachers, head teachers and other professional educational practitioners are best placed to decide what is taught in Scotland's schools.

Through Curriculum for Excellence, education practitioners have an important role in equipping all children and young people with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to keep themselves and others fit and healthy.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to make a submission to the UK Government regarding the consultation on the restriction of the sale of fireworks, and what information it has regarding the timeline of the consultation.

(S5W-20044)

Ash Denham: In September I wrote to the UK Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility to request an update on any actions being taken on Fireworks at Westminster. I was advised that while the Office for Product Safety and Standards are reviewing the guidance material available to consumers on the safe and responsible use of fireworks, no changes to legislation at a UK level are being considered at this time.

I have recently confirmed that the Scottish Government will undertake a consultation on the use and regulations of fireworks in Scotland. This consultation will take place early next year. I will write again to the UK Government to inform them of the details of the consultation in due course.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it plans to publish its review into the presumption of mainstreaming in schools.

(S5W-20098)

John Swinney: As set out in my letter of 30 October to the Education and Skills Committee, I have paused the publication of the revised presumption of mainstreaming guidance and research into the experiences of children receiving additional support for learning. I have taken this step to enable further reflection following the recent publication of the report Not Included, Not Engaged, Not Involved: A report on the experiences of autistic children missing school. As set out in my letter, I will write to the Committee in due course with plans for publication of the guidance and the research.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to expand teacher training capacity following the reported over-subscription for STEM teacher training places in higher education institutions.

(S5W-20153)

John Swinney: Each year, the Scottish Government conducts a national teacher workforce planning exercise in partnership with other educational stakeholders. This annual exercise determines the requirement for newly qualified teachers and provides guidance to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) who are responsible for setting intake targets for initial teacher education (ITE) courses. This process takes into account intakes to ITE courses.

The teacher workforce planning exercise for 2019-20 commenced in Autumn 2018 with the aim of SFC agreeing student intake targets with universities by the end of February 2019.

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much has been spent by schools on (a) professional learning and (b) professional learning on additional support needs in each of the last five years.

(S5W-20157)

John Swinney: Information on how much has been spent by schools on (a) professional learning and (b) professional learning on additional support for learning is not held centrally.

Health and Social Care

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that (a) day cases or inpatients and (b) outpatients at NHS Borders are treated within 12 weeks, and how the board's current performance compares with the national standard.

(S5W-19872)

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government are committed to ensuring all patients have swift and safe access to NHS services but we recognise that some aspects of NHS Borders' performance is below the level required. That is why we made an additional £50 million available to NHS Boards during this financial year to improve waiting times. NHS Borders have received £1.052 million of this funding to improve waiting times in the key specialties of general surgery and orthopaedics.

In addition, we launched the Waiting Times Improvement Plan in October. This Plan will ensure that all patients have swift and safe access to the full range of services from NHSScotland. The Plan will direct investment of more than £850 million to substantially and sustainably improve waiting times in the face of rising demand for services. Officials are working with all territorial Health Boards to ensure that they have appropriate plans in place to support the implementation of the Improvement Plan.

The latest published data for the quarter ending September, shows that in NHS Borders there were 2,072 inpatient or daycase patients who waited less than 12 weeks and 467 patients who had waited over 12 weeks (77.5% seen within 12 weeks). For outpatients, 5,262 were waiting within 12 weeks and 639 patients were waiting over 12 weeks (87.9% waiting less than 12 weeks).

This compares to the national position of 72.9% for inpatient/daycases and 70.5% for outpatients at the end of September.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether NHS Borders is meeting the national 18-week Referral to Treatment standard and, if not, what action is taking to ensure that it does.

(S5W-19878)

Jeane Freeman: NHS Borders' current (September 2018) 18 week Referral to Treatment time is 90% Which meets the national Standard that 90% of planned / elective patients commence treatment within 18 weeks of referral.

Officials are working closely with NHS Borders to support them to implement sustainable improvements with a focus on a number of key specialities including general surgery and orthopaedics. In addition robust winter planning will support the treatment standard as any significant changes in referral patterns can have a significant impact on the delivery of local services.

To support their waiting times improvement activities, NHS Borders have received £1.052m additional non-recurring funding from the Scottish Government in 2018-19. This will help to achieve all waiting times targets and standards.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people it expects to be vaccinated in the 2018-19 flu season, and by what date the programme will be completed.

(S5W-20011)

Joe FitzPatrick: The seasonal and childhood flu vaccination programmes run from October to March with free flu vaccination being offered to over 2 million people.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-19483 by Joe FitzPatrick on 6 November 2018, how much flu vaccine has been purchased using the additional funding and when this will be made available for use.

(S5W-20012)

Joe FitzPatrick: In order to meet increased early demand for quadrivalent vaccine, recommended for patients in the 18-64 age group an additional 101,500 doses were ordered which have already been made available to GPs.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) people over 65, (b) two- to five-year-old children and (c) people with an eligible health condition (i) have received and (ii) are yet to receive the 2018-19 flu vaccine.

(S5W-20013)

Joe FitzPatrick: The most recent Scottish data available on uptake of flu vaccination is available at

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resp/influenzareports.aspx>

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-19483 by Joe FitzPatrick on 6 November 2018, how much vaccine will be provided for the 2018-19 flu season.

(S5W-20027)

Joe FitzPatrick: Over 1.6 million vaccines have been procured for this year's seasonal flu programme – 200,000 additional flu vaccines more than last year. This is enough vaccine for 80% of all eligible age groups.

Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many operations have been cancelled by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde since the temporary closure of the Cowllairs decontamination unit in Springburn.

**Holding answer issued: 04
December 2018**

(S5W-20037)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Organisational Development and Operations

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will ensure that the provision of electricity to public bodies comes from energy companies that generate their electricity from 100% renewable energy, and what its reasons are for its position on this matter.

(S5W-20102)

Derek Mackay: All major electricity suppliers can access renewable power at scale, either directly via their own generation or via third parties. The new national electricity contract contains provision for the supply of electricity from 100% renewable sources. As there are additional costs involved compared to baseline contract costs, public bodies can choose whether they wish to avail themselves of this option.

The new national electricity contract makes provision to support public bodies generating their own power including exporting any excess to the National Grid, as well as supporting them to buy directly from renewable sources through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to support companies whose electricity production comes from 100% renewable sources to bid for the public contract to deliver electricity to public sector organisations.

(S5W-20103)

Derek Mackay: The tender competitions have always been open to bids from any company that has a licence to supply electricity in the UK; this includes companies that generate electricity from 100% renewable sources. The Scottish Government provides comprehensive support to companies interested in bidding for its contracts, including the Supplier Journey and through funding of the Supplier Development Programme.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what risks or issues senior responsible and accountable officers on the social security programme board have escalated to (a) the relevant corporate board or executive team and (b) ministers, and what the outcome of each of these was.

(S5W-20121)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: To date no risks or issues have been escalated by the responsible and accountable officers on the Social Security Programme Board to the Scottish Government Corporate Board, Executive Team or Ministers. We can confirm that the Social Security Programme has well established and robust governance structures, processes and mechanisms in place which will facilitate the escalation of risks and issues to corporate and ministerial level as and when appropriate.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it has not commenced sections 77 and 78 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 in respect of carer's and funeral expense assistance.

(S5W-20141)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: Sections 77 and 78 relate to uprating of devolved social security assistance.

Carer's Allowance will be uprated (in line with inflation) this coming spring, and we intend to lay the necessary legislation early in the new year. This is unrelated to sections 77 and 78 of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.

Carer's Allowance Supplement will also be uprated in spring and the mechanism for that is set out in section 81 of the Act.

Draft regulations for Funeral Expense Assistance will be brought forward next year for Parliamentary approval, and until payments of this assistance have begun to be made, commencement of sections 77 and 78 of the Act would serve no purpose.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it defines inflation for the purposes of section 81(4) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018.

(S5W-20142)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: Under section 81(5)(b) of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018, Scottish Ministers must publish a statement explaining how they have calculated inflation. In line with our commitment to annually uprate the Carer's Allowance Supplement we will publish the statement before the start of the new tax year.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-19205 by Shirley-Anne Somerville on 23 November 2018, how the enquiries and complaints were categorised, and how many enquiries and complaints were in each of these categories.

(S5W-20164)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The categorised numbers of enquiries and complaints received in relation to Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS) are detailed in the following tables.

Enquiries

General advice on CAS	8193
Requests for progress on CAS payments	1411
Signpost to DWP	611
Total	10266

Complaints

Service provision	13
Policy	11
Administrative process	7
Website	2

Transport Scotland

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what highest level of swell the MV Loch Seaforth can sail in legally; how this compares with the highest level it can technically operate in, and what other maritime restrictions are placed on the craft.

(S5W-20030)

Paul Wheelhouse: Vessel stability is assessed to a standard known as the 'Stockholm Agreement'. That standard assesses stability in sea and swell conditions of up to 4 metres. In relation to certification, 4 metres is not an upper limit as there is effectively no regulatory limitation on sea and swell conditions that a vessel can sail in. The decisions as to whether a vessel sails, given prevailing conditions, are taken by the Ship's Master and cannot be challenged by CalMac Management or Ministers.

MV Loch Seaforth's certification restrictions allow her to serve solely between Stornoway and Ullapool.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many sailings of the MV Loch Seaforth have been cancelled since January 2018 due to mechanical defect, broken down by type of defect.

(S5W-20033)

Paul Wheelhouse: Since 1 January 2018 to 31 October 2018, four of 1,649 (0.2%) sailings scheduled by the MV Loch Seaforth have been cancelled due to mechanical problems. Two of these cancellations were due to issues with the bow doors, one an issue with the engine cooling system, and the other was a failure of the port main engine, linked to the earlier failure of the engine cooling system. These four sailings made up two cancelled return journeys between Stornoway and Ullapool.