At the evidence session with the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee, Marine Scotland were asked to clarify the following points in writing:

The panel were asked about the value of the savings to the budget as a whole by reducing the retention allowance from £5000 per annum to £3000 per annum. A figure of £300,000 was suggested but Mr. Black undertook to confirm this and confirm whether that is an ongoing per annum saving?

An increased pay supplement of £3,400 (previously £2,000) was agreed for Marine offshore employees with an effective date of 1 November 2017. This is an increased annual pressure on Marine Scotland’s budget of almost £300,000 when based on the foregoing rate but represents a saving of more than £330,000 when compared against the rate in place (£5,000) when the recruitment and retention allowance was first introduced.

A staffing number of 635 was quoted. Can Marine Scotland confirm what this equates to in FTEs; what proportion of the FTEs are non UK EU nationals and what the split is between permanent and contract staff?

The rate that was quoted is the number of permanent employees that work for Marine Scotland and equates to 611 FTEs. There are an additional 84 (84 FTE) temporary members of staff, of which 21 are students, 40 are fixed term appointments and the balance contract staff. Whilst there are a number of non UK EU nationals employed by Marine Scotland our systems do not allow us to provide an exact figure.

Which EU funding streams Marine Scotland receive funding from?

Marine Scotland receives some EU funding through FP7, Interreg and Horizon 2020 projects, the principal funding source is the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). This is an EU funding scheme which provides matched funding for control and enforcement functions, the data control framework and the core grants programme. The fund is designed to help secure sustainable fishing, aquaculture and processing sectors, to implement CFP reform and promote and protect the marine environment and empower local fishery and rural communities to deliver their local strategies through Community Led Local Development.
How much funding is received from each; and to which specific projects/purposes is this funding allocated. We would also welcome annual figures (actual income) from 2013/14 to predicted figures based on current estimates (post EU exit) e.g. to 2020/21.

The following table provides a breakdown of actual and projected EU funding grouped by the funding source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2013–14 (£m)</th>
<th>2014-15 (£m)</th>
<th>2015-16 (£m)</th>
<th>2016-17 (£m)</th>
<th>2017-18 (£m)</th>
<th>2018-19 (£m)</th>
<th>2019-20 (£m)</th>
<th>2020-21 (£m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU projects</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control and Enforcement</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Framework</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFF / EMFF Core Grant</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During questions on Marine Protected Areas, the panel were asked about the areas SNH has also proposed for MPA designation which have not yet been designated. Michael McLeod suggested a budgetary decision between progressing management of existing MPAs and designating new ones had been taken, with the former being prioritised. The Committee asked what additional resource would be required to carry out both pieces of work simultaneously and the panel undertook to confirm this for the Committee. Can this be provided based on resource required within Marine Scotland and within SNH.

In terms of people resource, Marine Scotland would require an additional Policy Officer and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) would require an additional two Scientific Officers. These would need to be two year posts, with an estimated total cost (including overheads) of £150,000 per year. However it is not simply a case of recruiting someone to do that particular role because both Marine Scotland and SNH would wish to deploy experienced MPA staff on this task. This means that other high profile tasks would need to be shifted. Within Marine Scotland it would be necessary to shift the work to deliver protected areas for bird species, which are currently considered to be a greater necessity to complete the MPA network. For SNH, some important case work relating to renewable energy projects and aquaculture consents would have to be moved to the new staff.

A digital only public consultation would have little additional cost. A consultation with local public engagement events would cost around £50k to deliver, including the cost of advertising. To date local events have been undertaken for MPA related consultation because these provide people with the opportunity to discuss the proposals face-to-face with Marine Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.
The Committee was interested in the report commissioned on the social and economic impact of MPAs and the panel undertook to provide a copy to the Committee once this was completed.

The second socio-economic monitoring report is due to be completed in 2019 and a copy of the report will be made available to the Committee immediately prior to publication. The first socio-economic monitoring report is available [here](#).

The Committee was also interested to understand how Marine Scotland is prioritising marine litter - what action is underway or planned.

Marine Scotland (MS) is prioritising marine litter with one full-time member of staff as a policy lead, to be supported by a policy officer following the internal recruitment process. MS focus is on the commitments set out by the Programme for Government (PfG)

- Beginning the process of organising an international conference to be held on protecting the marine environment with a focus on marine litter, expected date spring 2019.

- Continuing work on litter sink issues, using Arrochar as a case study; identifying the process by which litter is gathering before reaching the shore in storm events, how to capture the litter ideally before it is mixed with seaweed and also how to disposal of the historic mixed litter. The case study is progressing using local knowledge from the community council and others, scientific expertise from Marine Scotland Science and others, and engineering expertise to consider practical options. Learning will inform our actions at other litter sinks and help with the wider issue of the removal of plastics in our waters.

- Working with Zero Waste Scotland to support the Deposit Return Scheme and an advisory group to consider fiscal and other measures to reduce the demand for single-use products.

Prior to the PfG, MS litter policy was framed solely by our Marine Litter Strategy. It has over 40 action points including introducing legislation, with the rest of the UK, to ban the manufacture and sale of toiletries containing plastic microbeads. The legislative process is underway and the bans are expected to be introduced 30 June 2018. The co-ordination of the work to deliver against the Strategy Actions points is driven by the Marine Litter Strategy Steering Group. Membership includes key marine stakeholders such as KIMO, Marine Conservation Society, Fidra, Scottish Water, Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF) and Zero Waste Scotland. The last meeting was held 7th September and the next will be 25th January 2018. These meetings are now held more frequently and with more focus on delivery than was previously possible with limited resources.

MS is working with partners to support joint funding applications for innovative projects to help tackle marine litter and to also identify new policy areas. The policy lead is also working with other countries to learn from their experiences, and share
Scotland’s and has secured a speaking session at the 6th International Marine Debris Conference in March 2018.

Graham Black
Director