Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its most recent estimate is of the cost of hate crime to the economy.

(S4W-28400)

Alex Neil: The Scottish Government has not estimated the cost of hate crime to the economy. We are clear that there is no excuse for any form of hate crime – it is simply not acceptable and will not be tolerated. We are committed to continuing to work closely with public and third sector organisations to address the causes and consequences of hate crime.

Enterprise and Environment

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to maintain the status of Forestry Commission Scotland as a non-departmental public body.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2015 (S4W-28238)

Richard Lochhead: Forestry Commission Scotland provides advice and support to Scottish ministers and is part of the Scottish Government’s Environment and Forestry Directorate. Although forestry was devolved under the 1998 Scotland Act and forestry policy in Scotland is determined by Scottish ministers, Forestry Commission Scotland is still part of the cross-border Forestry Commission, with the powers and duties in relation to the exercise of a range of forestry functions in Scotland, and the management of Scotland’s National Forest Estate, resting with the forestry commissioners.

The Scottish Government announced in June 2015 that it is time to complete the devolution of the arrangements for the management of forestry in Scotland, by working with the UK Government to agree a transfer of forestry commissioners’ powers and duties, as they relate to Scotland, to Scottish ministers. We are working jointly with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to consider options for taking forward this work.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2015 (S4W-28239)

Richard Lochhead: Powers to regulate the felling of trees are held by the forestry commissioners under the UK Forestry Act 1967. The Scottish Government announced in June 2015 that it is time to complete the devolution of the arrangements for the management of forestry in Scotland, by working with the UK Government to agree a transfer of forestry commissioners’ powers and duties, as they relate to Scotland, to Scottish ministers. We are working jointly with the Department for Food and Rural Affairs to consider options for taking forward this work.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2015 (S4W-28240)

Richard Lochhead: There are no plans to establish an agency in Scotland similar to Natural Resources Wales.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what financial support it provides to crofting communities in the Highlands and Islands that are affected by extreme weather, and what plans it has to introduce additional measures.

Holding answer issued: 16 November 2015 (S4W-28244)
Richard Lochhead: The Scottish Government understands that weather conditions experienced during the spring and early summer of 2015 were challenging for some crofters and farmers. In order to get a better understanding of the issue and to see what might be done assist, a wet weather working group, jointly chaired by the Scottish Government and NFU Scotland, was established. This group’s membership comprised representatives from the sector, including the Scottish Crofting Federation.

To provide assistance in the short term, on 11 August 2015, the Scottish Government announced a £50,000 donation to RSABI, a charity that provides financial assistance and support to those people who have worked in Scotland in land-based occupations and who are suffering hardship.

In the longer term, the Scottish Government will continue to engage with the industry and other stakeholders to promote participation in national discussions about the future of Scottish agriculture which will include, amongst other things, discussion on the sector’s resilience to shocks and future challenges.

Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-27874 by Richard Lochhead on 28 October 2015, what further action it is taking in light of recent reports that Volkswagen Automobile Group also falsified CO2 emission details.

(S4W-28293)

Richard Lochhead: The Scottish Government is acting in a number of ways to address the Volkswagen scandal and wider air quality issues. We are engaging with other devolved administrations on how best to respond to the Volkswagen scandal. We have supported the UK Government's representations to the EU on Real Driving Emissions testing. And on 4 November 2015 we launched the Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy, which sets out how the Scottish Government and partner organisations propose to deliver further reductions in air pollution. We will continue to explore options to ensure that actions in response to the Volkswagen scandal address broader environmental concerns and the needs of individual consumers.

Health and Social Care

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

(S4O-4810)

Maureen Watt: The Scottish Government regularly meets with the Scottish FA to discuss a range of issues.

Christian Allard (North East Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether the NHS in Scotland could find it more difficult to recruit from overseas as a result of the UK Government's proposed change to immigration rules.

(S4O-4811)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government does not support the UK Government's planned changes to immigration rules which could harm our NHS and have an adverse effect on staffing and patient care.

I wrote to the UK Immigration Minister on 23 June 2015 to ask that they think again about new visa rules on salary thresholds that meant boards would struggle to recruit junior doctors and nursing staff and potentially have a significant impact on NHSScotland, our ability to attract and retain staff and to deliver healthcare services.

I am pleased that the Home Secretary wrote to the Migration Advisory Committee on 25 October 2015 and her commissioning letter noted in view of the risks associated with high vacancy rates and the fast approaching winter period which can expect the NHS to be under particular pressure, she has exceptionally agreed to place nurses on the shortage occupation list on a temporary basis.

Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what recent communication it has had with NHS Forth Valley about GP services in the Stirling constituency area.
Shona Robison: The Scottish Government keeps in regular contact with NHS Forth Valley about GP services. NHS Forth Valley is working with GPs to look at new and innovative ways to deliver services to patients in order to meet their healthcare needs.

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action NHS Grampian is taking to tackle drug-related deaths in Aberdeen.

Maureen Watt: The Scottish Government has asked all Alcohol and Drug Partnerships in Scotland to make the reduction of drug deaths a continued priority in 2015-16. NHS Grampian has a drug related deaths monitoring group to investigate and learn from the circumstances of each death in order that services can continue to improve. NHS Grampian has also been engaged in wider improvement work offered by the Scottish Government, including a recent improvement event in HMP Grampian.

George Adam (Paisley) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it promotes a healthy work-life balance.

Maureen Watt: We recognise the great importance that achieving a healthy work-life balance has for a great many people in Scotland.

Although the legal powers governing flexible working are currently reserved to Westminster, the Scottish Government recognises it has an important role to play in helping people manage the twin responsibilities of work and family.

We fund and are an active partner in the Family Friendly Working Scotland partnership. Through this partnership, established in 2014, we work with Working Families (a leading UK work-life balance organisation), Parenting Across Scotland and Fathers Network Scotland to support and promote the development of family-friendly working across Scotland.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has taken steps to integrate the different IT systems used by GP surgeries to allow for easier transfer of patient information.

Shona Robison: NHS National Services Scotland is preparing for the introduction of GP2GP, which will enable patients' electronic health records to be transferred directly and securely between GP practices. It will enable GPs to have full and detailed medical records available for each patient's first appointment on joining the practice. There are approximately 485,000 patient transfers in Scotland each year.

Development of the GP2GP functionality is nearing completion. User acceptance testing will commence in late November 2015, with a three month pilot planned to commence in April 2016.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many patients the NHS has reimbursed for travel outwith (a) Scotland and (b) the UK for (i) cancer and (ii) prostate cancer treatments.

Shona Robison: This information is not held centrally. Travel costs are either paid for, or reimbursed, by NHS boards.
Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many UK residents residing in Scotland have sought treatment for cancer outwith the UK in each year since 2006-07; how many of them applied for cost reimbursement from the NHS, and at what cost.

(S4W-28344)

Shona Robison: This information is not held centrally. Decisions on applications to travel for treatment outwith the UK are matters for the patient’s local NHS board.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what advice it provides to pregnant mothers regarding the possible side effects of using sodium valproate for treating epilepsy.

(S4W-28353)

Shona Robison: Within the UK, it is the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) who has responsibility for the safety of medicines. The Scottish Government received an update from the MHRA concerning the dangers of prescribing sodium valproate to women of child bearing age on 21 January 2015 and this was forwarded on to NHSScotland the same day.

Michael Russell (Argyll and Bute) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people in Scotland have vibroacoustic disease, broken down by (a) local authority area, (b) age and (c) sex.

(S4W-28383)

Maureen Watt: Information on how many people in Scotland have vibroacoustic disease is not collected centrally.

Michael Russell (Argyll and Bute) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that (a) the NHS is fully aware of and (b) suitable treatment is provided to people diagnosed with vibroacoustic disease.

(S4W-28384)

Maureen Watt: In 2010 the independent Advisory Group on Non-Ionising Radiation considered the issue of health effects of exposure to ultrasound and infrasound. The group found that there was no evidence that infrasound levels normally encountered in the environment would lead to vibroacoustic disease, and also found that the suggested disease itself had not gained clinical recognition.

Peer-reviewed evidence published since the group’s report does not alter that report’s conclusions. Individuals who are concerned about their symptoms should consult their GP.

Learning and Justice

Stuart McMillan (West Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the impact of gambling on communities, what its position is on whether licensed betting shops should be included in the updated EU money laundering directive, and what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding this matter.

(S4W-28115)

Michael Matheson: Gambling is a reserved matter and it is therefore for the UK Government to consider the regulation of betting shops. The Scottish Government would like to see substantive devolution of powers over gambling in order that it can regulate the industry effectively.

We have had no specific discussions with the UK Government on this matter.

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on (a) limiting the number of and (b) setting the maximum stake to £10 for fixed-odds betting terminals when the power to do so is devolved.

(S4W-28311)
Michael Matheson: As currently drafted in the Scotland Bill, the power to limit the number of fixed odds betting terminals will relate only to new applications for betting premises. The large number of machines already in existence will not be affected nor will those machines in gambling premises other than betting shops. Clause 45 of the Scotland Bill does not devolve the power to set a maximum stake.

Once the power has been devolved then the Scottish Government will consider how best to use it and will consult before doing so.

Mark McDonald (Aberdeen Donside) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance is provided to NHS boards on providing appropriate training to enable doctors and midwives to support parents affected by miscarriage or stillbirth.

(S4W-28335)

Maureen Watt: We fully expect health professionals to provide tailored care and support to people who have sadly experienced miscarriage or stillbirth and there are a number of measures in place to help boards provide appropriate training to enable doctors and midwives to support parents at this vulnerable time. All medical professionals receive formal training to enable them to support parents affected by miscarriage or stillbirth. In addition there are a number of resources for continued professional development in this area including:

1. Specialist training by the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (Sands);
2. The bereavement hub on the NHS Education Scotland website, which provides health professionals across Scotland with a range of e-learning resources on bereavement care, including a new e-learning resource on bereavement in maternity care.
3. Following the success of the joint Scottish Government and Sands Scottish Stillbirth Seminar held in June 2013, a further event took place over two days in June 2015, which comprised a bereavement care day followed by a stillbirth day. Around 400 delegates heard about the latest research, evidence and audit from experts on stillbirth reduction, and about best practice when supporting bereaved parents.

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it takes to ensure that local authority licensing boards (a) adopt the same approach nationally, (b) share best practice and training support and (c) monitor the challenges each faces.

(S4W-28370)

Michael Matheson: It is for licensing boards to determine their own procedures in compliance with the legislation. Boards have wide discretion to determine appropriate licensing arrangements according to local needs and circumstances, and their own legal advice.

As they are independent bodies, licensing boards do not formally report to Scottish ministers or to local authorities.

There is national mandatory training for licensing board members, and Licensing Standards Officers, as well as for personal licence holders. We will look to update the guidance for licensing boards as soon as is practicable.

The Scottish Government engages regularly with the full range of relevant stakeholders to maintain an awareness of the issues they face.

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many alcohol treatment requirement orders have been issued in each year since 2003.

(S4W-28371)

Michael Matheson: Prior to the introduction of community payback orders (CPOs) on 1 February 2011, alcohol treatment/education conditions were imposed as part of probation orders.

The number of these conditions imposed for the year 2003-04 can be found in Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics, 2003-04 (Table 25). This publication is available online on the Scottish Government website at: http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/35596/0029083.pdf.
Numbers for the years 2004-05 to 2011-12 can be found in the crime and justice statistics datasets (worksheet “POs-conditions”). These are available online on the Scottish Government website at: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/POs

The number of Alcohol Treatment Requirements that have been imposed as part of CPOs in 2011-12 and 2013-14 can be found in the *Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics in Scotland, 2013-14* statistical bulletin (Table 10). This publication is available online on the Scottish Government website at: http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0047/00474323.pdf. This is the most up to date information currently available.

It is important to note that Alcohol Treatment Requirements are not the only mechanism for individuals to receive support for alcohol problems under a CPO. The annual CPO reports received from local authorities highlight that alcohol misuse issues are often addressed under the offender supervision, conduct or other activity requirements.

Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many compensation orders have been imposed by court service in each year since 2011, also broken down by the (a) average time between the imposition of an order and payment and (b) number and (c) total value of orders that were (i) paid on time, (ii) paid late and (iii) not paid.

(S4W-28413)

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

Strategy and External Affairs

Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much money it has provided to the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland in each of the last seven years.

(F4W-28263)

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government supports the traditional music sector through Creative Scotland, which disburses nearly two million pounds each year to organisations directly forming part of the traditional music sector.

Creative Scotland awards have been for £50,000 in 2011-12, £10,000 in 2012-13 and £5,000 in 2014-15 to the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland (TMSA).

Creative Scotland has also devolved £35k funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver the Traditional Arts Small Grants Fund which offers grants of up of £1,000 to organisations and individuals involved in Scottish traditional arts to support them to create, perform, tour and showcase work.

In 2008-09, the then Scottish Arts Council (SAC) made three awards of £64,757 to the TMSA. In 2009-10, the SAC made six awards totalling £84,690 and in 2010-11, the SAC made three awards totalling £48,000.

In addition, VisitScotland funded the TMSA in 2014 as part of Homecoming Scotland 2014 and special Homecoming Scotland 2014 sessions with £15,000 to help with musician costs and marketing.

Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has a ringfenced traditional arts budget to fund Scottish music and song.

(S4W-28264)

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government supports arts and culture primarily through Creative Scotland, and does not have its own ringfenced traditional arts budget. Creative Scotland and its predecessor body the Scottish Arts Council had a number of ringfenced funds for the traditional arts. Creative Scotland has now significantly simplified its funding model for applicants and all applicants apply directly to the regular or open funds, following feedback from the cultural sector. Since Open Project Funding was launched in October 2014, it has awarded £1.4 million to 156 individuals,
organisations and projects whose work falls within the traditional arts, including support for Gaelic and Scots.

This includes writers, musicians, theatre makers, festivals and creative organisations across Scotland, such as major events like Heb Celt Festival and the Celtic Media Festival, arts organisations such as Proiseact nan Ealan, through to musicians such as Ross Ainslie and Breabach.

Creative Scotland's portfolio of Regularly Funded Organisations, who receive funding over a period of three years, consists of many organisations who are active in the traditional arts, Gaelic and Scots or wholly focussed on this area of creative work. This includes Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland including the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Feisean nan Gaidheal, An Lanntair, Taigh Chearsabhagh Trust, The Gaelic Books Council, The National Piping Centre, Feis Rois, Celtic Connections, Hands up for Trad, the Scottish Poetry Library and other organisations whose work supports traditional artists working across Scotland.

Creative Scotland has also devolved £35k funding to Fèisean nan Gàidheal to deliver the Traditional Arts Small Grants Fund which offers grants of up of £1,000 to organisations and individuals involved in Scottish traditional arts to support them to create, perform, tour and showcase work.

Now that they are no longer limited to a ringfenced fund, our traditional arts compete very strongly and are able to access greater funding and are having greater success in securing funding from Creative Scotland.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much money it has provided to help fund the Royal National Mod in each of the last seven years.

(S4W-28265)

**Fiona Hyslop:** Since 2008, the Scottish Government has provided a total of £202,000 in direct funding towards the mod. The figures for each year are in the following table:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£36,000</td>
<td>£31,000</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
<td>£71,000</td>
<td>£11,000</td>
<td>£51,000</td>
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£27,280 has been awarded in 2015-16.

The following agencies have also provided a range of support to the mod.

VisitScotland has provided a total of £212,000 over the last seven years. The figures for each year are in the following table:

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<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>£30,000</td>
<td>£42,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
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£25,000 has been awarded in the 2015-16.

The Scottish Qualifications Authority, the Gaelic Books Trust and Education Scotland also offer support for the literature day at the mod.

Since 2010, Creative Scotland has provided £29,600 to the mod. A breakdown is included in the following table:

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<tr>
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<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>£4,600</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
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**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much money it has awarded for fringe events at the Royal National Mod in each year since 2008.

(S4W-28299)

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government funds the arts through Creative Scotland. Creative Scotland has not made any direct awards to fringe events at the mod but has awarded funding to artists to support their attendance.
Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much money it has awarded to the World Pipe Band Championships in each year since 2008.

(S4W-28300)

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government funds the World Pipe Band Championships through a number of public bodies.
Scottish Enterprise contributed £150,000 to the World Pipe Band Championships in 2010-11.
VisitScotland has provided a total of £437,000 over the last seven years for the World Pipe Band Championships. The figures for each year are set out in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount (£)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>£50,000</td>
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<td>2011-12</td>
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<td>£50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>£112,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>£100,000</td>
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Transport Scotland

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what (a) financial and (b) management obligations Network Rail has to maintain the rail network between Alloa and Dunfermline.

(S4W-28390)

Derek Mackay: Network Rail is obliged to maintain the rail network between Alloa and Dunfermline in accordance with the needs of operators using the route. Presently this involves ensuring appropriate capability to manage existing freight and occasional charter operations.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what (a) financial and (b) management obligations Network Rail would have if a train operating company requested to operate a service on the railway line between Alloa and Dunfermline.

(S4W-28391)

Derek Mackay: Network Rail’s obligations are limited to maintaining the current capability for freight and charter operations. If a passenger operator requests to run regular trains over the route, separate third party funding would be required to upgrade the route to make it fit for passenger operation and for a viable timetable to operate.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether Network Rail's obligations to maintain the railway line between Glenrothes with Thornton and Leven have been fully met since 2002.

(S4W-28392)

Derek Mackay: Network Rail's obligations to maintain the railway line between Glenrothes with Thornton and Leven have been fully met since 2002 with the required maintenance completed to keep it safe while it has been out of use.

The following questions received holding answers:
S4W-28095
S4W-28283
S4W-28284
S4W-28287
S4W-28301