

Thursday 07 March 2019

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Constitution and External Affairs

Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what further information it can provide regarding the First Minister's recent visit to North America.

(S5W-21951)

Fiona Hyslop: The First Minister travelled to the US and Canada from 3 to 8 February. The programme focussed on key areas including trade and investment as well as promotion of key Scottish Government policies including climate change/ green energy, human rights, gender equality and social enterprise. In addition the First Minister addressed ongoing issues related to Brexit and reiterated Scotland's strengths as a place to invest, live, work and study.

The relationships between Scotland, the US and Canada are extremely important, reflected by strong economic, cultural and policy links. The US is Scotland's top export partner with Scottish exports to the US estimated to be worth £5.545 billion in 2017 (17.1% of all international exports). Over the same time period Scottish exports to Canada were estimated to be worth £580 million.

The First Minister's visit covered five key cities over five days.

In Washington DC, the First Minister met with Verdant Power, Marriott International, and American technology company Leidos – all businesses with key investment and employer interests in Scotland. The First Minister also delivered a speech at Georgetown University that focussed on Scotland's place in the world. The First Minister met with members of Global WIN, an organisation focussed on promoting progression towards gender equality in enterprise.

In Trenton, New Jersey, the First Minister met with Governor Phil Murphy where a document of joint working in climate change was signed between Scotland and New Jersey focussing on three key pillars: to share experience and best practices on tackling climate change; to work with like-minded countries, states and regions to increase ambition on climate change; and to promote business and economic opportunities created by the transition to a low carbon economy. The conversation also covered shared values around social policy, including the living wage and access to education. There has already been immediate follow up with the New Jersey Government at official level to build on the relationship and take forward shared working.

In New York City, building on her visit from 2017 the First Minister met with UN Women Executive Director, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucuka, where she was

appointed the inaugural #HeForShe Global Advocate by UN Women, with the Scottish Government becoming signatories to the UN Women's global solidarity movement for gender equality. The First Minister also announced that a Scottish Government funded partnership with UN Women, through the International Development Fund, is providing £113,000 in 2018-19 so that young women and girls in Malawi can participate in an innovative new pilot project that aims to reduce rates of early and child marriage in rural areas.

From there the First Minister participated in a roundtable discussion at the UN with Andrew Gilmour, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights focussing on Scotland's Human Rights agenda.

She attended a Scotland Is Now investor lunch, hosted by IBM, where she addressed an audience of around 50 senior business people about Scotland's strengths and assets as an investment location and trading partner. The First Minister met with Conway, Inc. and was a signatory confirming that Scotland will host the FDI World forum in 2022.

The First Minister also visited Morgan Stanley's Fusion Center which helps firms improve their cybersecurity resilience and met senior members of their technology innovation and cyber-resilience teams. She discussed current and future collaborative projects at Morgan Stanley's Centre of Excellence in Scotland. The company employs 1,550 people in Scotland and is a key part of Scotland's financial services industry.

The First Minister then visited Canada's capital city Ottawa where she undertook a social enterprise roundtable with the members from the social enterprise world forum and representatives from both provincial and federal governments.

In the evening the First Minister hosted a Scotland is Now reception to officially open the Scottish Government's new Ottawa office and to launch the global marketing campaign to a Canadian audience for the first time. The new Ottawa office is headed up by Catriona Little, who moved out to Ottawa in mid-September 2018. Catriona joined the Scottish Government from the Department for International Trade (DIT), where she worked for two industry sector teams, initially leading on trade and investment and high value campaigns for the education sector in the Middle East and North Africa and most recently as Chief Operating Officer for the UK Life Sciences Organisation in DIT.

The launch reception also celebrated the wide range of Scottish produce in Canada, and the First Minister was joined by Scotland's national chef Gary Maclean and GlobalScot chef John Higgins who cooked a range of dishes to showcase Scottish food and drink. In her comments at the reception, the First Minister took the opportunity to promote cultural links between Scotland and Canada, announcing the Scottish Government's £80,000 support for the

Scottish International Storytelling Festival in their 'Canada – Scotland: Coast to Coast' international programme.

Toronto was the destination for the final day of the First Minister's North America programme and began with a meeting with the CEO and senior management team of the Toronto Region Board of Trade and World Trade Center, Toronto to discuss and promote trade opportunities, particularly in the digital, data and fintech sectors.

After opening the Toronto Stock Exchange with Steve Dunlop, Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise and Gillian Docherty, CEO of The Data Lab, the First Minister visited the MaRS Center and the Vector Institute in Toronto's Discovery District, where she met MaRS CEO and senior team to discuss opportunities in data science and artificial intelligence.

The First Minister had bilateral calls with Canada's federal Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna MP and Canada's federal Minister of Science and Sport, Kirsty Duncan MP - helping open the door to establishing a more formalised partnership between Scotland and Canada in these policy areas.

The First Minister finished her time in Canada at a community organisation in downtown Toronto where she announced a three-year international agreement to grow and sustain social enterprises in Scotland and Canada, alongside Scotland's Social Enterprise Academy and their local partner.

In addition to the above engagements, the First Minister also undertook a series of interviews including The Washington Post Editorial Board, Amanpour and Co., PBS News hour, CBC, BNN Bloomberg and the National Post.

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath in 2020.

(S5W-21755)

Fiona Hyslop: The National Records of Scotland have convened interested parties all working to put together events to mark the 700th of the Declaration of Arbroath in 2020, these include Historic Environment Scotland, VisitScotland, the National Library of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and Angus Council.

Economy

Maurice Corry (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress it has made in developing a rural economy action plan.

(S5O-02961)

Fergus Ewing: The Rural Economy Action Plan is incorporated in and fully integrated with the Economic Action Plan published in October 2018.

Brian Whittle (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to ensure that Scottish suppliers have access to public procurement contracts for food.

(S5O-02962)

Fergus Ewing: We remain committed to getting more local produce served in our schools, hospitals and prisons and facilitate this through a range of measures such as the Supplier Accreditation Programme, Regional Showcasing, and the expansion of the Food For Life programme. Through this work we have seen most recently Downies of Whitehill securing the contract for fish across schools in Scotland, McWilliams butchers in Aberdeen supplying the NHS Contract for meat in Grampian and Stoats introducing a healthy bar for use within the NHS.

Maureen Watt (Aberdeen South and North Kincardine) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has reached a decision on when it will publish its principles of charging and objectives for the water industry's 2021 to 2027 price control period, and whether it will alter the single person discount for water charges.

(S5W-21944)

Roseanna Cunningham: I have carefully considered the feedback received from customers and stakeholders during the recent consultation process as well as the comments received from representatives subsequently. I have also considered the impact of amending discounts during the transition to Universal Credit, the consequential impact on the effectiveness of Water Direct and the continued scrutiny of local taxation following the Barclay Review.

I will publish the final Principles of Charging and Ministerial Objectives as soon as they are complete and no later than June 2020, the date set out in the industry timetable. As I continue to refine that document I can confirm that I have concluded that the single person discount should not be amended for the period 2021-27. My officials will continue to work with industry stakeholders to determine how the Scottish Government can continue to keep customer charges as low as practicable and provide support for those members of society that are least able to afford those payments. I have further concluded that vacant domestic properties will, subject to further detailed implementation details being agreed, fall into charge in the period. I will continue to consider other changes including developer charging

arrangements, improving rural supplies and supporting innovation to best drive sustainable economic growth.

John Scott (Ayr) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what technical measures have been put in place to prevent incorrect letters from being issued again to participants in the Beef Efficiency Scheme.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21496)

Fergus Ewing: A holding answer was provided.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the home page of the Saltire Prize website continues to state that “the competition guidelines are currently under review”.

(S5W-21625)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Saltire Tidal Energy Challenge Fund was launched on 10 February 2019 and so the website could not be updated before this date. The Saltire Prize website was subsequently updated on 12 February 2019 to provide details of the new fund.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much the Scottish Government has spent on the Saltire Prize in each year since it was launched, broken down by the costs for its (a) launch, (b) events, (c) administration, (d) rebranding, (e) rescoping, (f) staffing, (g) expenses and (h) other functions.

(S5W-21626)

Paul Wheelhouse: Whilst our aim is to provide the information requested whenever possible, unfortunately in this instance the Scottish Government does not have all of the information you have requested. This is because the Scottish Government Enterprise Accounting System (SEAS) only has details of payments from 2012/13 onwards.

I refer the member to the Freedom of Information request FoI/18/01056 from last year. This provides a breakdown of all payments from 12 April 2012 until 15 March 2018. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-18-01056/>

There have been no staff working exclusively on the Saltire Prize and Scottish Government resourcing of the prize has been done alongside our work across the marine energy sector.

Since the 15 March 2018 the Scottish Government have spent a further £56 on the Saltire prize in relation to the domain renewal for the Saltire Prize Website.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government on what date funds from the Saltire Fund will be distributed.

(S5W-21627)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Saltire Tidal Energy Challenge Fund is open for applications until 06 December 2019 or until the fund is exhausted. A total of up to £10 million is available through the fund.

Individual applications are invited for funding of up to £5 million which must be match funded and successful projects must be deployed in Scottish Waters and funding drawn down no later than March 2020.

Further information on the fund is available at

<https://www.gov.scot/news/saltire-tidal-energy-challenge-fund/>

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its commitment in the Scottish Energy Strategy, by what date it will make its first annual energy statement.

(S5W-21716)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government plans to publish its first Annual Energy Statement before the summer recess, subject to agreement by the parliamentary business.

Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what meetings it had with businesses and sectoral interests to discuss trade promotion opportunities in relation to the First Minister's recent visit to North America.

(S5W-21754)

Ivan McKee: The First Minister engaged in a number meetings with businesses to discuss trade promotion during her visit to North America. Opportunities across a range of key sectors were discussed, including Technology, Financial Services, Tourism, Renewable Energy and Food & Drink.

In New York, at a Scotland is Now investor lunch, hosted by IBM, First Minister reinforced Scotland's strengths and assets as a trading partner and investment location to around 50 leading business people. In Ottawa, First Minister hosted an 85 person event to launch the Scotland is Now campaign

promoting food and drink exports, promoting Scotland as a great place to work, study, invest, visit and live.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether there are any plans for Social Security Scotland's involvement in making referrals to the Work Able Scotland programme.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21762)

Jamie Hepburn: A holding answer was provided.

Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress is being made in delivering the Scottish national investment bank.

(S5W-21855)

Derek Mackay: A Bill to underpin the establishment and capitalisation of the Scottish National Investment Bank was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 27 February 2019. The Bill will place a duty on Scottish Ministers to establish the Bank as a public limited company and give the necessary powers to capitalise it. The Scottish Government has committed to investing £2 billion over 10 years to capitalise the Bank, making it a cornerstone of Scotland's economy. Ministers will also be given the power to set the strategic direction of the Bank by the setting of Missions that will address socio-economic challenges.

The Bill and its accompanying documents are [published on the Scottish Parliament website](#).

Gordon MacDonald (Edinburgh Pentlands) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what impact a no deal Brexit could have on Scotland's economy.

(S5W-21857)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government's Chief Economist published analysis on 21 February indicating that a No Deal Brexit could be expected to push the Scottish economy into recession during 2019. The analysis indicated that there is the potential for the economy to contract by between 2.5%-7% depending on the way in which a No Deal Brexit evolves.

Education, Communities and Justice

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support and expand housing co-operatives.

(S5O-02972)

Aileen Campbell: Housing co-operatives form a distinct and valued part of the social housing sector in Scotland. The Scottish Government and the Scottish Housing Regulator provide a legal, regulatory and financial framework within which housing co-operatives can operate and grow. The Scottish Government do not promote any particular constitutional model over another, this is a matter for each individual organisation. The role of promotion is one better undertaken by the co-operative movement itself.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-17457 by John Swinney on 17 July 2018, whether it will provide the same information for 2017-18.

(S5W-21526)

Richard Lochhead: The number of Scottish domiciled enrolments at Scottish Higher Education Institutions studying various health professional courses in 2017-18 is as follows.

Scottish domiciled enrolments at Scottish HEIs, 2017-18

Subject areas	2017-18
Pre-clinical medicine	1,150
Clinical medicine	2,100
Nursing	15,030
Subjects allied to medicine (excluding Nursing)	8,370

Source: HESA student data

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Enrolments cover all years of study.

Subjects are based on JACS codes and numbers are full person equivalents.

Allied health professional courses have been classified as 'subjects allied to medicine' courses excluding nursing.

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/support/documentation/jacs/jacs3-principal>

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how the reduction to its funding for the Scottish Legal Aid Board programme, Making Advice Work, supports its commitment to reducing child poverty.

(S5W-21559)

Jamie Hepburn: The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan was published in March 2018 and sets out cross-government action to contribute towards reductions in child poverty levels. The Plan, covering the period 2018-22, is backed by a multi-million pound package of investment, including a new £50 million Tackling Child Poverty Fund.

As part of our action to eradicate child poverty, on 2 November 2018 the Scottish Government launched the Financial Health Check service for low income families and older people. The service offers free personalised advice to ensure people can maximise their income and avoid paying the 'poverty premium', where the least well-off often pay more for basic goods and services. This new service is delivered by the Citizens Advice network in Scotland and backed by funding of £3.3 million over two years.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has carried out on the cost implications for local authorities of amendment 45 of the Planning (Scotland) Bill.

(S5W-21663)

Kevin Stewart: Amendment 45, now section 11B of the Planning (Scotland) Bill as amended, would require an application for planning permission to be made in all cases where a house or flat changes use from being a sole or main residence to being used for short-term holiday lets, except where it is also the landlord's sole or main residence. Drawing on the number of new "self-catering units" entered each year on the Scottish Assessor's Valuation Roll for non-domestic rates, and estimates of the number of new "entire home" lettings on AirBnB and similar websites, we consider that, at least in the short term, between 1,521 and 11,500 properties might require planning applications each year.

The fee for a planning application for change of use is currently £401, which would give a total cost to landlords of between £610,000 and £4.6 million per year. Figures published by the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2015 (Progressing performance: Investing in Scotland's Planning Service (Thomas Fleming) http://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1496196/performance_and_resources_-_final_-_october_2015.pdf) indicate that planning fees cover only 63% of the cost of processing applications, on average. It may therefore be assumed that, at least in the short term, the cost to planning authorities of these additional applications will be between £358,000 and £2.71m per year.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on Police Scotland staff pay negotiations, and whether it expects a deal to be agreed prior to the beginning of the financial year.

(S5W-21694)

Humza Yousaf: Trade Union members have recently voted in favour of a pay and reward harmonisation package for police staff, which will be implemented from 1 April. This will benefit more than 70% of police staff.

We expect unions will now work towards making a pay claim for the coming year, with negotiations with the Scottish Police Authority and Police Scotland likely to take place beyond the start of the new financial year.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) Colleges Scotland and (b) EIS-FELA on current pay talks for college lecturers.

(S5W-21788)

Richard Lochhead: National Bargaining is a voluntary arrangement between both sides. The Scottish Government are not at the negotiating table and industrial relations in the college sector are a matter for the Employers and the Unions to resolve voluntarily.

I will continue to urge both sides to resolve this dispute urgently as it's continuation is in no-one's interest, least of all our students.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether the current pay claim from lecturers is the same as that already agreed for non-lecturing staff in colleges.

(S5W-21789)

Richard Lochhead: Negotiations are ongoing. The Scottish Government are not at the negotiating table.

Both sides will meet again on 7 March 2019.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that the current pay claim by lecturers is in keeping with the current public sector pay policy and, if not, how it differs.

(S5W-21790)

Richard Lochhead: Negotiations are ongoing. The Scottish Government are not at the negotiating table.

Both sides will meet again on 7 March 2019.

Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the percentage change has been in the number of pupils presenting for National 5 qualifications in (a) Gaelic (learners) and (b) Gàidhlig in each year since 2012.

(S5W-21890)

John Swinney: National 5 qualifications were introduced in 2014. The number of National 5 entries in Gaelic (Learners) and Gidhlig since 2014 are included in Table 1.

Table 2 includes the number of entries in Gaelic (Learners) and Gidhlig at SCQF Level 3-5 in order to provide the percentage change since 2012, due to being unable to separate Standard Grade entries from 2012 into different levels.

Table 1 - Number of candidates entering into Gaelic (Learners) and Gidhlig National 5 qualification, by centre type, 2012 to 2018

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Centre type</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Percentage change 2012 to 2018</u>
Gaelic (Learners)	School	n/a	n/a	163	109	141	112	104	n/a
	Other 1	n/a	n/a	0	0	4	3	3	n/a
	All candidates	n/a	n/a	163	109	145	115	107	n/a
Gidhlig	School	n/a	n/a	175	167	158	151	183	n/a
	Other 1	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
	All candidates	n/a	n/a	175	167	158	151	183	n/a

Source: SQA (December post-review data)

1. Other includes: Further Education Colleges, and Other (which covers candidates outwith school or college, for example workplace candidates).

Table 2 - Number of candidates entering into Gaelic (Learners) and Gidhlig SCQF Level 3-5 qualifications 1, by centre type, 2012 to 2018

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Centre type</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Percentage change 2012 to 2018</u>
Gaelic (Learners)	School	369	370	294	155	207	152	156	-57.7
	Other 2	6	1	0	4	4	4	3	-50.0
	All candidates	375	371	294	159	211	156	159	-57.6
Gaidhlig	School	232	237	222	195	187	166	197	-15.1
	Other 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
	All candidates	232	237	222	195	187	166	197	-15.1

Source: SQA (December post-review data)

1. SCQF Level 3-5 includes: Standard Grades, Intermediate 1 and 2, National 3, National 4 and National 5

2. Other includes: Further Education Colleges, and Other (which covers candidates outwith school or college, for example workplace candidates).

Organisational Development and Operations

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of its employees by (a) nationality, (b) age and (c) gender.

(S5W-21785)

Derek Mackay: A breakdown of employee age and gender is regularly provided in our workforce information publication which is available here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/workforce-information/>.

We are unable to provide a breakdown of employee nationality as this information is not held. While nationality is collected to satisfy Civil Service nationality rules regarding eligibility for employment <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-rules>

it is subsequently destroyed in line with Data Protection Legislation as it is no longer required.

Transport Scotland

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney

on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), what (a) economic modelling and (b) impact assessment it will carry out on the possible impact of workplace parking levies.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21475)

Michael Matheson: A holding answer was provided.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), which organisations it has met to discuss workplace parking levies, and on what dates.

(S5W-21476)

Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government met with a number of organisations to discuss the principle of a Workplace Parking Levy following the commitment given at the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee to explore Local Authorities' appetite for these powers. These meetings were with COSLA on 8 and 23 January and 19 February; with Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) on 9 January; with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) on 6 January and with City of Edinburgh Council on 5 February. The Scottish Government met with the Federation of Small Business on 19 February. In addition, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, the Economy and Fair Work and the Minister for Public Finance and the Digital Economy met the main business representative organisations (Scottish Chambers of Commerce, CBI Scotland, FSB Scotland, IoD Scotland, SCDI and Scottish Financial Enterprise) to discuss the budget on 5 February where Workplace Parking Levies was one of the topics discussed.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), how many workplace parking spaces there are on its estate, broken down by local authority area; what the impact would be on its employees who use these spaces if a workplace parking levy similar to that used in Nottingham was introduced, and what information it has regarding the number of parking spaces in the estates of other public bodies and the impact on their employees.

(S5W-21477)

Michael Matheson: The breakdown of workplace parking spaces in the main buildings of the Scottish Government estate is as follows:

Local Authority Area	Parking spaces	Parking spaces less disabled parking, visitor parking etc.
Aberdeen City Council	128	119
City of Edinburgh Council	1,121	934

Glasgow City Council	65	54
Total	1,314	1,107

The Workplace Parking Levy will be a discretionary power for local authorities. Any impact on employees would depend on how a scheme is introduced at a local level by local authorities using these discretionary powers. The Scottish Government does not hold information on the parking spaces in the estates of other public bodies.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), how much each local authority could raise in the first full year of a workplace parking levy if a model similar to that used in Nottingham was introduced.

(S5W-21478)

Michael Matheson: The Workplace Parking Levy will be a discretionary power for local authorities. Any local authority revenue would depend on how the scheme is introduced at a local level by a local authority should it choose to use these discretionary powers.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), what information it has regarding how many employers in each local authority area provide 11 or more staff parking spaces for employees.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21479)

Michael Matheson: A holding answer was provided.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), what analysis it has carried out of the potential modal shift that could be achieved through workplace parking levies.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21480)

Michael Matheson: A holding answer was provided.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), how many public transport timetable changes would be required in travel-to-work areas to ensure that (a)

50, (b) 60, (c) 70, (d) 80, (e) 90 and (f) 100% of employees could travel to work without use of a private car in less than (i) one hour, (ii) two hours and (iii) three hours.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21481)

Michael Matheson: A holding answer was provided.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03037 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 9), which organisations are the 10 largest private employers in each parliamentary region, also broken down by which it has met to discuss (a) employee travel to work and (b) workplace parking levies.

Holding answer issued: 07 March 2019

(S5W-21482)

Michael Matheson: A holding answer was provided.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03042 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 22), for what reason it considers that all NHS workplaces should be exempt from workplace parking levies.

(S5W-21483)

Michael Matheson: The Workplace Parking Levy will be a discretionary power for local authorities. The exemption reflects the particular significance and circumstances of the NHS .

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-03042 by John Swinney on 7 February 2019 (*Official Report*, c. 22), what its response is to the call by the EIS for schools to be exempt from workplace parking levies.

(S5W-21484)

Michael Matheson: The Workplace Parking Levy will be a discretionary power for local authorities to implement should they wish to do so within the provisions set by the Transport (Scotland) Bill and Regulations. The detail on the framework for how Workplace Parking Levies will operate, including further exemption, will be the subject of consideration at Stage Two of the Transport (Scotland) Bill.

Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much grant-in-aid has been paid in each year since 2008-09

to (a) Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd and (b) local authorities for pier and harbour projects.

(S5W-21684)

Paul Wheelhouse:

The Scottish Government provides financial support to local authorities for piers and harbours as part of the annual local government finance settlement. Since the concordat with local government was established, there has been no separately identifiable ring-fenced funding allocation within the block grant and it is the responsibility of each individual local authority to allocate the resources available to them to individual services including support for piers and harbours.

In addition, the Scottish Government provides direct grants to owners of ports serving lifeline ferry services in support of major capital projects and, since 2014, through the Ferries Accessibility Fund.

The following table details the amount of grant paid to Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) and to local authorities for pier and harbour projects from 2008-09 until 2017-2018. We are currently in discussion with a number of local authorities regarding the funding of a number of proposed pier and harbour projects which support lifeline ferry services in Scotland.

	Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd	Argyll and Bute Council	The Highland Council	Orkney Islands Council (Orkney Ferries Ltd)	Shetland Islands Council	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
2008-09	4,200,000	3,106,625	246,630	562,499		
2009-10	1,817,154					
2010-11	17,782,373	182,084				
2011-12	9,481,818	22,500				
2012-13	879,679	336,336				
2013-14	3,974,179					
2014-15	2,075,929			*14,500		
2015-16	4,469,967			*9,215		
2016-17	15,966,085			*10,895	*11,000	*4,527
2017	6,069,610				*39,000	

*Grant provided via the Accessibility Fund.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what measures are in place to mitigate any conflict of interest in the tendering process for the Northern Isles Ferry Service.

(S5W-21828)

Paul Wheelhouse: We endeavour to make every effort to observe good practice in all procurement work undertaken by Transport Scotland. With this in mind, strict protocols are in place to mitigate any potential conflict of interest during this tendering processes. This includes clear protocols which create an “ethical wall” between Transport Scotland’s procurement team and other staff involved with ferries policy. As with other procurements, all procurement related information is treated as commercially sensitive and is not shared beyond those directly involved with the procurement.

As is standard in procurements of this nature, in order to participate in the process, bidders too will need to declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of scheduled departures were (a) delayed and (b) cancelled in each of the last three years on (i) Western Isles and (ii) Northern Isles ferry service routes.

(S5W-21829)

Paul Wheelhouse: Information on recent and historic passenger carryings for CalMac Ferries Ltd. and Serco NorthLink Ferries is published in the Scottish Government’s Scottish Transport Statistics publication. Table 9.17 on page 169 contains the requested information.

This information can be found following the following link:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/44025/scottish-transport-statistics-no-37-2018-edition.pdf>

In addition, CalMac Ferries Ltd and Serco NorthLink Ferries publish passenger carryings on their respective websites and is available by following the links:

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/corporate/carrying-statistics>

<https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/information/publications/statistics/>