

Wednesday 22 May 2019

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its response to the goose policy review that it received from SNH in March 2018.

(S5W-22583)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government will publish its response to the goose policy review in due course.

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what advice Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has received regarding the legality of the 2019 general licences for birds, in the light of the acceptance by Natural England that a similar clause in its licences, which put the onus on operators of the licence to ensure that they were satisfied non-lethal methods of control, was unlawful, and how it would respond if a similar legal challenge was lodged against SNH.

(S5W-22990)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Natural Heritage is carefully reviewing developments on licensing in England. If it is concluded that General Licences in Scotland require revision, SNH has made public its intention to work collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure there is an effective and proportionate approach in Scotland that complies fully with the law. In view of the legal challenge in England, SNH has decided to bring forward its consultation on General Licences planned for 2020 to this year.

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it expects to be in a position to analyse and communicate the results of the Missing Salmon Project, which is tagging smolts in the Moray Firth.

(S5W-23047)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Missing Salmon Project is led by The Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) and information is available at <https://www.atlanticsalmontrust.org/themissingsalmonproject/>. A Marine Scotland Science representative is a member of the Project Steering Committee. However, it is the responsibility of the AST (and its contractors) to analyse and communicate the results. Marine Scotland awaits the outcome of this interesting project with interest.

Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to save rare flora and fauna from extinction.

(S5W-23048)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government's strategy to protect and restore biodiversity and save rare flora and fauna from extinction is based on the three pillar approach of species conservation, site protection and wider environmental policies and measures.

Taking each of these in turn, a number of projects for rare and threatened species are underway across Scotland. These include targeted action for Scottish wildcats, red squirrels, golden eagles, hen harriers, farmland waders, sea birds and freshwater pearl mussels. In addition, the Scottish Parliament recently agreed to grant European Protected Species status to the Eurasian beaver in Scotland.

We are also continuing to take action against wildlife crime. To-date, this has included the introduction of a new vicarious liability provision, restrictions on the use of General Licences where wildlife crime is suspected, setting up a poisons disposal scheme, providing additional resources for Police Scotland, setting up an independent group to consider options for regulating grouse moor management, and working to implement increases to penalties.

Invasive non-native species pose one of the biggest threats to Scotland's flora and fauna and we are working with partners across Scotland to tackle this major risk. This includes the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) which is a four year project to specifically tackle invasive non-native species alongside rivers and watercourses in northern Scotland.

Scotland's new Forestry Strategy supports the restoration of our native woodlands, which support over 1,000 species including 172 protected species such as twinflower and black grouse, and the UK Forestry Standard and associated Biodiversity Guidelines provide a benchmark to ensure that all our woodlands are sustainably managed for our flora and fauna.

These examples of more targeted action sit alongside the designation, protection and management support for Scotland's extensive network of protected areas with approximately 15% of our land mass and over 22% of our seas protected under statute for our most important species and habitats. Focussing on the marine environment, steps are being taken to develop a UK Dolphin and Porpoise Strategy, a Scottish Seabird Conservation Strategy and review the protection afforded to vulnerable species and habitats outside of the MPA network.

We provide funding support for Scotland's flora and fauna under a suite of measures including the new Biodiversity Challenge Fund (£2 million over two years), the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (£167 million committed since 2015 to fund a range of agri-environment and organic activities that help to

maintain and enhance our rich and varied natural environment), the Forestry Grant Scheme (£20 million committed in 2019-2020 for woodland creation and management benefitting biodiversity), the Water Environment Fund (£5 million per annum to improve the physical condition of water bodies that have been damaged by historical activities including the removal or easement of barriers to fish migration) and Peatland Action (£3 million committed so far this financial year). We have also committed £10 million over 5 years to restore open cast coal mining impacts on the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Special Protection Area.

The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy provides the strategic focus for all of this work, setting out the major steps we need to take in order to halt the loss of biodiversity and improve the state of nature in Scotland. It is also the primary vehicle for delivering the Aichi targets set internationally by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The First Minister recently outlined that we are considering carefully the findings of the recent report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This report identified climate change as one of the top three causes of damage to global biodiversity; Scotland has declared a climate emergency and we are looking across the full range of our policies to identify areas where we can go further and faster in making the necessary transformational changes.

The report is a significant step on the way to the Conference of Parties to the CBD to be held in China in late 2020, where governments will agree their response to the new evidence. Scotland is playing a role in the development of that response and we have agreed with the CBD that a key conference of regional governments, which will help develop the response, will be held in Scotland early in 2020 in the lead up to the China Conference of Parties.

Dean Lockhart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many hectares of trees were planted in (a) 2017 and (b) 2018 in respect of its 2017 commitment to raise tree-planting rates over time from 10,000 to 15,000 hectares a year by 2025.

(S5W-23061)

Fergus Ewing: We have seen significantly increased levels of applications for tree planting approvals in the past year and are confident that this will translate into higher planting rates.

Published figures show that for the 2017 planting year we delivered 7,100 hectares of new planting in Scotland.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its paper, *Investing in and paying for your water services from 2021, Summary of Responses*, recording 107 responses to the consultation, what its response is to concerns that this is an inadequate level of response to determine the charging principles for 2021-27.

(S5W-23062)

Roseanna Cunningham: The consultation paper “Investing in and paying for your water services from 2021” outlined the Scottish Government’s broad charging principles for the 2021-27 regulatory period. As previously explained, any significant changes to the current principles, such as amending discounts, would be subject to additional consultation before implementation.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what correlation there is between property values and the supply and removal of water by Scottish Water from eligible properties.

(S5W-23063)

Roseanna Cunningham: In Scotland, non-domestic water and sewerage charges are made up of 6 elements: a fixed charge for water, a volumetric charge for water, a fixed charge for wastewater, a volumetric charge for wastewater, property drainage and roads drainage. Property and roads drainage charges are calculated based on the rateable value of a property.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason owner-occupiers in multi-storey properties reportedly pay more for the removal of the same volume of roof water as owners of single-storey ground properties with similar carbon footprints.

(S5W-23064)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-23063 on 22 May 2019. Property drainage charges are calculated by reference to the rateable value a property, not volume of water. Properties with higher rateable values will also have a higher bill. 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 its position is on asking Scottish Water to advise customers of forthcoming or ongoing consultations by enclosing information about these to water bills, in light of its paper, *Investing in and paying for your water services from 2021, Summary of Responses*, recording 107 responses only to that consultation, 87 of which were from members of the public.

(S5W-23067)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government contacts key stakeholders directly to notify them of consultations and encourages them to assist in raising awareness. Scottish Water does not bill households directly as water and sewerage charges are included within the yearly council tax bill. The Scottish Government is always happy to have input into ways of raising awareness of consultations.

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much of the £500,000 fund for the Action on Plastic Zero Waste Towns initiative has been allocated to date.

(S5W-23085)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-23086 on 22 May 2019. 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>.

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many communities have applied for funds through the Action on Plastic Zero Waste Towns initiative.

(S5W-23086)

Roseanna Cunningham: To date, 92 groups including 71 local community groups/not-for-profit organisations, 2 schools, 2 universities, 1 college, 3 local authorities and 13 individuals have registered their interest in the Plastic Zero Waste Towns Initiative with Zero Waste Scotland. Applications will be invited once registration is closed, currently anticipated to be in September 2019, and funding will be allocated based on an assessment of those applications.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many incidents of non-target capture were reported to Scottish Natural Heritage in 2018 by operators using meat bait in Larsen mate and Larsen pod traps under the terms of General Licences 01, 02 and 03.

(S5W-23114)

Roseanna Cunningham: A total of 5 incidents of non-target capture were reported to Scottish Natural Heritage in 2018 by operators using meat bait in Larsen mate and Larsen pod traps under the terms of General Licences 01, 02 and 03.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the use of General

Licences 01, 02 and 03 for birds, including the number of birds taken or killed and compliance with the requirement that there is no other satisfactory solution.

(S5W-23116)

Roseanna Cunningham: As this is a delegated matter, this responsibility lies with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). SNH requires users of these general licences to report on the numbers of birds killed or taken for those species which may have suffered notable declines in number or range. SNH is satisfied that the use of General Licences is not causing any such declines.

In view of the legal challenge in England, SNH is consulting with legal advisers and will consider if any changes may be required to its licences. SNH has also decided to bring forward its consultation on general licensing, originally planned for 2020, to later this year.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many operators making use of General Licences 01, 02 and 03 for birds in 2018 notified Scottish Natural Heritage of their intention to use meat-based baits in Larsen mate or Larsen pod traps and were permitted to do so by acknowledgement of the information.

(S5W-23118)

Roseanna Cunningham: There were 21 operators making use of General Licences 01, 02 and 03 for birds in 2018 who notified Scottish Natural Heritage of their intention to use meat-based baits in Larsen mate or Larsen pod traps, and all 21 were permitted to use meat bait.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much funding it provides to coastal local authorities for economic and land development, and from what budget line this is drawn.

(S5W-23137)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has provided substantial funding to local coastal authorities through various funding schemes including the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and Coastal Communities Fund. In particular, the Coastal Communities Fund has funded, on average, £152,000 per year to local authorities since the CCF was agreed in 2012.

Part of the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is allocated to 8 Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG's) around Scotland, these are all run by local authorities. £6.5m (£4.8m EU & 1.7m SG) is allocated to this, FLAGs set their own local priorities & consider applications. Local authorities themselves can make applications to this funding stream.

The Scottish Government is delivering a funding package of £11.2 billion for local authorities in 2019-20, a real terms increase of £310 million or 2.9 per cent for essential public services in Scotland.

However, the Scottish Government's policy towards local authorities' spending is to allow local authorities the financial freedom to operate independently. As such, the vast majority of the revenue funding is provided by means of a block grant to each local authority. It is the responsibility of individual local authorities to manage their own budgets and to allocate the total financial resources available to them, on the basis of local needs and priorities, having first fulfilled their statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent each year in raising awareness among local authorities about the Coastal Communities Fund.

(S5W-23140)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has delegated decision making and communication activity for the Coastal Communities Fund to the National Lottery Community Fund (NCLF) which includes an agreed fee for administration, including communications activity. The amount spent on raising awareness is decided by the NCLF.

The NCLF promote the CCF on their website and via social media and when a project that is currently being funded in round 4 has a significant event, the NCLF promote the events on social media.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/coastal-communities-fund>.

The NCLF is delivering the Coastal Communities Fund on behalf of the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations. We are committed to supporting the current Coastal Communities Fund projects in Scotland through to completion.

Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support is being offered to former employees of Hutchinson Networks in Danderhall who have been made redundant following the company entering administration.

(S5W-23152)

Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government is saddened to learn that Hutchison Networks, based in Danderhall, entered administration on 13 May and that 94 of the 109 employees have been made redundant with immediate

effect. I know this will be a very difficult time for the staff, their families and the local area which will be affected by this decision.

It is within our objective to ensure our agencies and partners are able to provide skills development and employability support, and in this way PACE aims to minimise the time people affected by redundancy are out of work.

The local Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) team was in attendance to offer advice and support to those affected by this announcement and in addition all employees at the meeting were provided with a PACE Facing Redundancy Guide.

All employees who were unable to attend the announcement meeting have been sent the PACE Facing Redundancy Guide by KPMG and the PACE team were planning to hold an event this week for redundant employees to provide further information and advice. However, feedback from KPMG suggests that a large number of staff have secured work.

Many of the employees appear to have been in job roles where there are skills shortages and will likely be of interest to a number of other employers. To that end the PACE team have canvassed employers for vacancies and will send these out, by letter, through KPMG.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to answers to questions S5W-22038 and S5W-22039 by Roseanna Cunningham on 20 March 2019, how many water charge payers in each local authority area it estimates are paying more than 3% of their income on water charges, after housing costs, and how (a) West Dunbartonshire and (b) Argyll and Bute Council compares with the national average.

(S5W-23176)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government does not hold this data.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the debt arising from past capital spending it estimates Scottish Water will have in 2036-37.

(S5W-23177)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government is unable to estimate the level of debt Scottish Water will have accumulated by 2036-37. The level of borrowing made available to Scottish Water will depend on future Scottish Government budgets that have yet to be determined.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much debt arising from past capital spending Scottish Water has, and how much it has repaid in each of the last 10 years.

(S5W-23178)

Roseanna Cunningham: At 31 March 2019, Scottish Water's total debt was £3.754 billion. The total value of repayments are provided in the following table.

Year	Repaid (£m)
2009-10	72.42
2010-11	72.95
2011-12	95.96
2012-13	107.61
2013-14	110.36
2014-15	115.47
2015-16	119.52
2016-17	118.90
2017-18	122.65
2018-19	122.95

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much Scottish Water has repaid in interest on the money that it has borrowed in each of the last 10 years, and to which bodies.

(S5W-23179)

Roseanna Cunningham: Interest repaid by Scottish Water is detailed in the following table.

Year	Scottish Consolidated Fund (£m)	National Loans Fund (£m)	Public Works Loan Board (£m)	European Investment Bank (£m)	Mortgage (£m)	Total Repaid (£m)
2009-10	79.6	51.6	22.7	0.7	0.1	154.71
2010-11	84.8	50.5	20.9	0.5	0.1	156.76
2011-12	91.1	50.0	17.5	0.5	0.1	159.13
2012-13	89.9	48.8	16.3	0.2	0.1	155.30
2013-14	93.6	46.3	15.6	0.1	0.1	155.74
2014-15	99.3	45.8	13.2	0.0	0.1	158.42
2015-16	98.0	45.3	10.1	0.0	0.1	153.43
2016-17	97.5	44.5	9.7	0.0	0.1	151.78
2017-18	100.5	43.3	5.5	0.0	0.1	149.28
2018-19	102.9	41.1	4.0	0.0	0.1	148.08

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of Scottish Water's spending on capital investment has been financed by borrowing in each of the last 10 years.

(S5W-23180)

Roseanna Cunningham: The proportion is provided in the following table.

Year	Lending (£m)	Investment (£m)	Proportion
2009-10	218.8	648.3	34%
2010-11	106	443	24%
2011-12	50	491	10%
2012-13	100	487	21%
2013-14	26.5	475	6%
2014-15	70	470	15%
2015-16	0	479	0%
2016-17	0	626	0%
2017-18	120	628	19%
2018-19	210	700	30%

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government from which bodies Scottish Water borrows to finance capital spending.

(S5W-23181)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Water borrows from the Scottish Government.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the Water Industry Commission for Scotland will confirm its decision in its *2018 Decision Paper 8: Prospects for prices*, that water charges will rise above the inflation rate over a transition period of up to 15 years; how the increases being considered compare with the range set out in *Initial Decision Paper 2: Prospects for prices*, and what the impact of these increases will be on charges by 2036-37, including the number of people that year paying more than 3% of their income on these after housing costs.

(S5W-23182)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Commission will provide an updated decision paper during Summer 2019. That decision paper will allow comparisons to be drawn with previous papers.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has commissioned any research on the

impact of wildfires in relation to meeting carbon emissions reduction targets and, if so, what the findings are.

(S5W-23257)

Roseanna Cunningham: Emissions associated with wildfires are captured as part of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory, reported annually in the Scottish Greenhouse Gas statistics publication and are therefore included in the emissions used to evaluate Scotland's performance against its statutory emissions targets. Wildfires represent a minor component of total greenhouse gas emissions; contributing less than 0.1 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions on average over the last 10 years.

Table 1: Scottish wildfire emissions (1990-2016) in Kilotonnes of CO2 equivalent.

GHG emissions (KtCO 2 e)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cropland remaining Cropland - Biomass Burning - Wildfires</u>	<u>Forest Land remaining Forest Land - Biomass Burning - Wildfires</u>	<u>Grassland remaining Grassland - Biomass Burning - Wildfires</u>	<u>All Wildfires (total)</u>	<u>wildfires emissions as a percentage of total GHG emissions</u>
1990	0.0	11.0	7.4	18.5	0.02%
1995	0.0	87.6	7.4	95.0	0.13%
1998	0.0	35.4	7.4	42.8	0.06%
1999	0.0	5.5	7.4	12.9	0.02%
2000	0.0	21.2	7.4	28.7	0.04%
2001	0.0	25.0	3.4	28.4	0.04%
2002	0.0	20.6	4.7	25.3	0.04%
2003	0.0	22.7	24.6	47.3	0.07%
2004	0.0	23.6	3.7	27.4	0.04%
2005	0.0	51.2	4.5	55.7	0.09%
2006	0.0	56.3	5.8	62.1	0.10%
2007	0.0	47.1	11.0	58.1	0.10%
2008	0.0	45.3	2.8	48.2	0.08%
2009	0.0	38.9	6.1	45.0	0.08%
2010	0.0	0.0	5.1	5.1	0.01%
2011	0.0	35.5	5.1	40.6	0.08%
2012	0.0	45.0	20.9	65.9	0.13%
2013	0.0	69.0	2.7	71.7	0.15%
2014	0.0	11.3	4.2	15.6	0.04%
2015	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.6	0.00%
2016	0.0	0.0	3.7	3.7	0.01%

Source: Scottish greenhouse gas emissions 2016;
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2016/>.

Education, Communities and Justice

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22756 by Ash Denham on 7 May 2019, in light of the confirmation that the Scottish Prison Service has the capacity to use mobile phone detection technology that can pinpoint phone signals to specific cells, whether it will confirm if it uses this and, if so, how often it is deployed; what proportion of the prison estate uses it and what analysis it has carried out of its effectiveness.

(S5W-23059)

Humza Yousaf: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), to respond. His response is as follows:

SPS has the capability to deploy mobile detection technology across all Scottish prisons in order to identify the illicit use of personal communication devices. To specify details on the frequency or locations of deployment would not be in the interests of security.

SPS Security & Technology Group meet on a quarterly basis to review all security equipment and to ensure continued effectiveness. This group also considers the suitability of any emerging technology available elsewhere.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how it supports local authorities in taking action to make people feel safer when walking at night.

(S5W-23111)

Ash Denham: We know from Scottish Household Survey and Scottish Crime and Justice Survey data that the majority of people in Edinburgh, and across Scotland, feel safe in their local area and around their home at night; and that the proportion of adults in Scotland feeling safe has increased in the last decade.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey shows that in 2017-18, the vast majority of adults in Scotland (77%) felt very or fairly safe walking alone in their local area after dark and that 96% of adults felt very or fairly safe alone in their home at night. On both counts demonstrating an increase in feeling safe within Scotland's communities since 2008-09.

The Scottish Government supports the Scottish Community Safety Network to champion community safety across all 32 local authorities in Scotland. This

includes providing advice and support, networking and training events for local practitioners.

The Scottish Government also supports and works with a number of partner agencies who are engaged at the local level, including Neighbourhood Watch Scotland (NWS), Crimestoppers, the Violence Reduction Unit and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre who play an important role in offering reassurance to local communities, sharing messages on potential criminal activities, offering advice on keeping safe and encouraging communities to look out for one another.

Health and Social Care

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve access to (a) breast augmentation, (b) facial feminisation surgery and (c) other treatments at gender identity clinics.

(S5W-22611)

Jeane Freeman: NHS National Services Scotland's National Services Division (NSD) commission and manage National Managed Clinical Networks (NMCNs) in Scotland, which aim to foster improved standards and quality in healthcare.

These NMCNs include the National Gender Identity Clinical Network Scotland (NGICNS), a network of clinicians and others with an interest in the treatment and support offered to trans people and those distressed or concerned about their experience of their gender, including clarifying issues around access to surgery for trans people.

The NGICNS work with the Scottish Gender Reassignment Protocol and have requested that this be reviewed in light of a Scottish Public Health Network publication on the topic and changes to international standards due in 2020, and this request is now being taken forward.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many non-disclosure agreements have been agreed by each NHS board in each year since 1999.

(S5W-22837)

Jeane Freeman: This information is not collected or held centrally.

In February 2014, following concerns around the use of confidentiality clauses in settlement agreements, Scottish Ministers announced the expectation of a presumption against the use of any confidentiality clauses in NHS Scotland settlement agreements, unless there were clear and transparent reasons for inclusion. Any confidentiality clause which seeks to prevent an individual from

raising a protected whistleblowing disclosure is illegal, under the Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA) 1998, and would make any agreement unenforceable.

From 2014, NHS Boards have been required to provide settlement agreement information for a Report to the Public Audit Committee. This material is only compiled in summary form, at national level, not by individual Health Boards. From this data, we can ascertain that the number of confidentiality clauses, or non-disclosure agreements, employed in NHS Board settlement agreements has been falling since 2014.

Pre-2014 Position:

Information on the pre-2014 position is not gathered centrally. However, from records available between 2007-08 and 2013-14, 315 settlement agreements containing confidentiality clauses were agreed. This information is at national not health board level, and is given in the following table:

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14*	Total
Number nationally	18	36	47	46	56	63	49	315

*to 21-03-14

Post-2014 Position

The following table indicates the total number of confidentiality clauses in settlement agreements notified to Scottish Government for each of the reported years since 2014.

Financial Year	Number of settlement agreements containing confidentiality clauses
2014-15	13
2015-16	1
2016-17	2
2017-18	3

As regards severance arrangements, these are matters between the Health Boards as individual employers and their NHS employees, and we do not collect data centrally.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether the Parliament will be asked to approve its choice of the chair of the review of mental health and incapacity legislation.

(S5W-23054)

Clare Haughey: I refer to member to the answer to question S5W-23287 on 20 May 2019 and announced the appointment of John Scott QC as Chair of this independent review. 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>.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to implement each of the proposals set out in the paper, *Review of the arrangements for investigating the deaths of patients being treated for mental disorder*.

(S5W-23125)

Clare Haughey: The Ministerial review report sets out a series of detailed actions which the Scottish Government has committed to. These will make important changes to the way we investigate and learn from deaths of people being treated for mental disorder. Planning for implementation of these actions is already underway and an implementation oversight group will shortly be established to monitor progress on these actions. The membership of this group will have equal representation from carers and families.

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland will take forward the work to develop and implement the new system to investigate the deaths of all patients, who at the time of death, were subject to an order under mental health or criminal procedure legislation. The Commission plans to recruit additional staff to support this work. This work will include direct engagement with staff and people with lived experience.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people who are on the sex offenders register are employed by the NHS in each of Scotland's health boards.

(S5W-23237)

Jeane Freeman: This information is not held centrally. It is for Boards, as employers to undertake relevant checks applicable to the job roles in accordance with the Safer Pre and Post Employment Checks Partnership Information Network (PIN) Policy, which includes guidance on criminal record checks.

Brian Whittle (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the news of the

forthcoming appointment of a special adviser on stroke to the Chief Medical Officer, whether this will lead to a review of how stroke services are delivered.

(S5W-23259)

Jeane Freeman: The Chief Medical Officer is currently seeking to appoint a specialty adviser on stroke. Once an appointment has been made, decisions on the specific remit of that adviser will be taken by the Chief Medical Officer, in consultation with myself. The Chief Medical Officer has a number of specialty advisers and their main remit is to provide her with specialist knowledge in relation to specific clinical areas.

Organisational Development and Operations

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-21291 by Aileen Campbell on 18 February 2019, whether the topic of an income supplement has been (a) discussed at and (b) included on the agenda of any meetings of the Joint Ministerial Working Group on Welfare, and, if (i) so, on what dates and what the outcome was and (ii) not, whether it will consider raising the issue at future meetings.

(S5W-23020)

Aileen Campbell: To date, discussions on the development of the income supplement have taken place at an official level and these are ongoing as the policy continues to be developed.

Scottish Ministers have regular discussions with UK counterparts, including through the Joint Ministerial Working Group on Welfare, and we will engage with them where necessary on the income supplement through the appropriate forums as this work develops.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it considers “significant environmental effects” to be when referring to strategic environmental assessments carried out by SEPA.

(S5W-23023)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government does not usually have a role in considering what is a significant environmental effect for strategic environmental assessments carried out by other Responsible Authorities. Where SEPA is carrying out a strategic environmental assessment, they are required to: reach their own view whether environmental effects are likely to be significant and whether therefore an SEA is required; seek the opinions of the two other Consultation Authorities (SNH and Historic Environment Scotland) on that view; and undertake public consultation on their Environmental Report where appropriate.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it measures compliance with general evaluations of strategic environmental assessments carried out by SEPA.

(S5W-23024)

Roseanna Cunningham: It is for a Responsible Authority, which can include SEPA when assessing their own plans, to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it will monitor and report on the cost of fully implementing all devolved welfare benefits, and how it will inform the Parliament regarding progress with this.

(S5W-23206)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Social Security Finance team is embedded within the Social Security Programme to ensure robust financial management, monitoring and reporting are in place. Financial management, monitoring and reporting are integral to the programme governance structure and costs are reported to and scrutinised by the Financial Reporting Board.

Budgets and costs will be presented to the Scottish Parliament as part of the usual budget processes.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that the Executive Advisory Board of Social Security Scotland is fully included in the decision-making process.

(S5W-23209)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The role of the Executive Advisory Body is to provide the Chief Executive of Social Security Scotland and the senior leadership team with strategic advice and constructive challenge. The Chief Executive is the Accountable Officer. The Executive Advisory Body has no decision-making authority in respect of the activities of Social Security Scotland.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to reduce the number of temporary contractors working on the social security programme in favour of permanent staff.

(S5W-23214)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Programme's use of contractors is in line with expectations for a programme of this size and stage. The Programme will

continue to utilise a mix of permanent, seconded and contractor staff across grades, since a number of posts will not be required on a permanent basis or beyond the life of the Programme.

The Programme has required to date, and will continue to require, specialist resources that are not currently available in the Scottish Government, and where external skills are in short supply across the UK, for example digital, technical and architecture skills.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of how the £308 million that is to be spent up to April 2023 on the social security programme will be allocated, including how this will link to (a) programme plans, (b) delivery timescales, (c) the award of contracts and (d) other key programme decisions, and what account this takes of the cost of the use of contractors.

(S5W-23216)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Financial Memorandum made it clear that the £308 million was an initial estimate for a four year programme. The estimates included staffing costs in the region of £104 million, IT development costs of £190 million and set up costs for Social Security Scotland in the region of £14 million.

The programme level business case is currently being reviewed.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that the delivery of digital infrastructure for the social security programme represents good value for money.

(S5W-23220)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The social security programme has well established governance procedures in place to ensure that affordability and value for money are key considerations throughout the decision making process.

The Social Security Finance team is embedded within the Social Security Programme to ensure robust financial management, monitoring and reporting are in place and that the decision making process is rooted in sound financial advice. Financial management, monitoring and reporting are integral to the programme Governance Structure. Costs are reported to and scrutinised by the Financial Reporting Board before going to the Programme where spending decisions are made.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many finance-related positions in the social security programme are vacant.

(S5W-23222)

Shirley-Anne Somerville: There are currently no vacancies within the Social Security Programme Finance team.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many times (a) the First Minister, (b) cabinet secretaries and (c) ministers have visited London on official business by (i) aeroplane, (ii) train and (iii) car in each year since 2007.

(S5W-23250)

Graeme Dey: Ministerial engagements, overseas visits and travel are proactively published on the Scottish Government website. This can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/?term=travel&publicationTypes=transparency-data&page=1>.

Transport Scotland

John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government who the members are of its recently-established ferry industry advisory board; when they were appointed, and whether they served on the Expert Ferry Group.

(S5W-22846)

Paul Wheelhouse: The decision to change the name of the group from the 'Expert Ferry Group' to the 'Ferry Industry Advisory Group' was taken in order to better reflect the remit and role of the group.

At the present time, there is no change to the remit or function of the Group and after consideration it has been decided to continue, for the foreseeable future, with the current membership.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many train stations are fully accessible for disabled people.

(S5W-23049)

Michael Matheson: There are 257 stations which are wheelchair accessible in Scotland from one or more platforms. Further detail regarding the extent of accessibility at each of Scotland's railway stations is available from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Bib number 60684).

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-23019 by Paul Wheelhouse on 8 May 2019, whether it will make an announcement regarding the successful tender bidder before the summer recess.

(S5W-23068)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Northern Isles Ferry Services tender evaluation will not be concluded before the summer recess begins. The current timeline anticipates that the new contract will not be awarded before the end of July 2019, with a formal announcement being made in August.

Brian Whittle (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-21941 by Michael Matheson on 6 March 2019, whether it will provide the information that was requested regarding the date that the South West Scotland Transport Study will be published.

(S5W-23094)

Michael Matheson: Further to the answer to S5W-21941, Transport Scotland welcomes the high number of detailed responses to the engagement which has taken longer than anticipated to analyse, this process is nearing completion and the Draft Final report will be published as soon as possible in June. There will then be a period of up to 2 months for stakeholders and the public to review and comment on this before the final report, taking these views in to account, will be published. Transport Scotland continue to keep stakeholders updated via its website.

John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22841 by Paul Wheelhouse on 10 May 2019, whether it will consider reviewing the remit of the group so that it must consider and provide advice on aspects of the design and procurement of new ferries, including those serving Orkney and Shetland inter-island routes, and what the reasons are for its position on this matter.

(S5W-23119)

Paul Wheelhouse: As explained in the answer to the previous question S5W-22841, the Scottish Government will request advice from the Ferry Industry Advisory Group on key strategic issues affecting ferry services in Scotland. The Group will also have the ability to recommend other issues that it wishes to consider and provide advice on.

This may include aspects of the design and procurement of new ferries. Indeed the Expert Ferry Group has previously discussed these issues.

I am aware of the important work that both Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council are undertaking with respect to identifying future capital requirements and priorities. The Scottish Government and Transport

Scotland officials engage with both Councils regularly. That collaborative working and engagement will continue. The Ferry Industry Advisory Group is there to advise Ministers whereas Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council are currently responsible for investment decisions regarding their inter-island routes.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to introduce more cycle lanes.

(S5W-23131)

Michael Matheson: In 2018-19 the Scottish Government doubled its active travel budget to £80 million annually for the term of this Parliament to deliver an active nation and the vision that Scotland's communities are shaped around people, with walking or cycling the most popular choice for shorter everyday journeys.

The Scottish Government distributes this funding to active travel delivery partners to fund a variety of projects which support and encourage people to walk and cycle. The largest grant, £51 million in 2019-20, is given to Sustrans for its Places for Everyone Programme. This programme provides grants to public and third sector organisations of up to 50% of the total cost for the creation of high quality infrastructure that enables an increased number of trips made by bicycle for everyday journeys.

Places for Everyone brings together three formerly separate funds including Community Links PLUS, which was specifically to fund large projects with segregated cycle paths. The first of these projects to be completed will be the South City Way in Glasgow at the end of this year with five more projects underway. Ten more ambitious projects will be considered for approval over the summer.

In addition, the Scottish Government is also providing £3.5 million for maintaining and extending the National Cycle Network to create more traffic-free and quiet road routes.

Suitable provision for all users, including cyclists, is an important part of the trunk road projects being taken forward by the Scottish Government, including the A9 and A96 dualling programmes. As part of the A9 Dualling programme, 35 kilometres of new cycle lanes will be delivered. In addition, the A96 Dualling Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) proposals also include 30 kilometres of off-carriageway shared-use facilities which will improve safety for cyclists and walkers while also helping connect local communities along the route.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government on what dates the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity has met Hitachi regarding the late delivery of rolling stock for ScotRail.

(S5W-23149)

Michael Matheson: The last meeting between the Cabinet Secretary and the Managing Director of Hitachi Rail Europe, Karen Boswell, was on 12 March 2019. Transport Scotland officials are in regular contact with Hitachi regarding the Class 385 rollout programme.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many claims for compensation for journeys on the (a) Largs-Glasgow, (b) Edinburgh-Glasgow and (c) Edinburgh-Aberdeen route ScotRail received in each month between May 2016 and May 2019.

(S5W-23193)

Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government does not have Delay Repay information broken down by route.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many claims for compensation for journeys on the Borders Railway ScotRail received in each month between May 2016 and May 2019.

(S5W-23196)

Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government does not have Delay Repay information broken down by route.

Jamie Greene (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent on legal fees in relation to the procurement of ferry vessels 801 and 802.

(S5W-23202)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government has not spent any money on legal fees in relation to the procurement of vessels 801 and 802. Procurement of the vessels was undertaken by CMAL.