

Wednesday 10 July 2019

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22282 by Mairi Gougeon on 3 April 2019, how many animals were licenced to be killed, broken down by species for which licences were issued in 2018.

(S5W-23423)

Mairi Gougeon: The following table provides a breakdown of the number of licences issued by Scottish Natural Heritage in 2018.

Species	Unit Description	Number of Licences Issued that Form the Total
Barnacle Goose	Birds	38
Blackbird	Birds	3
Blackbird	Birds	3
Black-headed Gull	Birds	1
Blue Tit	Birds	1
Buzzard	Birds	1
Buzzard	Birds	6
Canada Goose	Birds	2
Carrion crow	Birds	2
Chaffinch	Birds	1
Collared Dove	Birds	1
Common Gull	Birds	5
Common Teal	Birds	1
Cormorant	Birds	35
Cormorant	Birds	1
Feral pigeon	Birds	2
Golden Plover	Birds	1
Goosander	Birds	28
Greater Black-backed Gull	Birds	1
Grey Heron	Birds	2
Grey Heron	Birds	2
Grey Partridge	Birds	2
Greylag Goose	Birds	128
Greylag Goose	Birds	1
Herring Gull	Birds	1
House Martin	Birds	1
House Sparrow	Birds	6
House Sparrow	Birds	2

Lesser Black-backed Gull	Birds	1
Magpie	Birds	2
Magpie	Birds	1
Meadow Pipit	Birds	1
Mute Swan	Birds	1
Oystercatcher	Birds	1
Pheasant	Birds	1
Pheasant	Birds	3
Pied Wagtail	Birds	1
Pink-footed Goose	Birds	39
Pink-footed Goose	Birds	3
Raven	Birds	138
Red-breasted Merganser	Birds	13
Ringed Plover	Birds	1
Robin	Birds	6
Robin	Birds	2
Rook	Birds	1
Skylark	Birds	1
Skylark	Birds	1
Song Thrush	Birds	1
Sparrowhawk	Birds	1
Starling	Birds	10
Starling	Birds	3
Swallow	Birds	3
Swallow	Birds	3
Swift	Birds	3
Woodpigeon	Birds	2
Brown Hare	Individuals	22
Brown Hare	Individuals	2
Mountain Hare	Individuals	10
Common Lizard	Individuals	1
Powan	Individuals	1
Deer (Night Shooting)	Individuals	330
Deer (Out of Season)	Individuals	248
Deer Out of Season (Females only)	Individuals	1
Deer (General)	Individuals	1

Where more than one entry for a species of bird is listed in the table it is to distinguish between a licence which has been issued that restricts how many birds can be killed and a licence which enables the licensee to take as many birds as is necessary.

The two licences for brown hares that were issued for “As many as required” were related to airport safety.

The licences that were issued for powan and common lizard were for the purpose of science, research and education.

Education, Communities and Justice

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government (a) how many and (b) what percentage of probationer teachers are to be allocated to island and rural communities in 2019-20.

(S5W-23809)

John Swinney: A high proportion of local authorities have rural communities. The following table provides information on (a) how many and (b) what percentage of probationer teachers are allocated to each Local Authority for the 2019-20 Teacher Induction Scheme.

Local Authority	Total probationers allocated @ 27-6-2019	%
ABERDEEN, CITY OF	103	3.05%
ABERDEENSHIRE	148	4.39%
ANGUS	60	1.78%
ARGYLL & BUTE	26	0.77%
CLACKMANNANSHIRE	34	1.01%
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	93	2.76%
DUNDEE, CITY OF	85	2.52%
EAST AYRSHIRE	87	2.58%
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE	112	3.32%
EAST LOTHIAN	81	2.40%
EAST RENFREWSHIRE	162	4.80%
EDINBURGH, CITY OF	227	6.73%
EILEAN SIAR	16	0.47%
FALKIRK	121	3.59%
FIFE	293	8.68%
GLASGOW, CITY OF	365	10.81%
HIGHLAND	122	3.61%
INVERCLYDE	47	1.39%
JORDANHILL SCHOOL	2	0.06%
MIDLOTHIAN	64	1.90%
MORAY	37	1.10%
NORTH AYRSHIRE	61	1.81%
NORTH LANARKSHIRE	236	6.99%
ORKNEY ISLANDS	8	0.24%
PERTH & KINROSS	56	1.66%

RENFREWSHIRE	95	2.81%
SCOTTISH BORDERS	36	1.07%
SHETLAND ISLANDS	4	0.12%
SOUTH AYRSHIRE	68	2.01%
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE	216	6.40%
STIRLING	83	2.46%
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE	91	2.70%
WEST LoTHIAN	136	4.03%
(Totals)	3375	100.00%

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how it encourages probationer teachers to consider teaching in islands and rural communities.

(S5W-23811)

John Swinney: Probationer teachers are allocated to local authorities through the Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS) primarily on the basis of student choice.

The TIS includes a Preference Waiver Payment (PWP) system whereby students taking up this option waive their right to express a preferred local authority and are prioritised for allocation to remote and rural authorities during their probationary year. Student who choose this option receive a payment of £8,000 if they are a secondary school teacher or £6,000 if they are a primary school teacher.

Islands and rural communities continue to receive the highest proportion of allocations of probationary teachers who have chosen the PWP option.

Health and Social Care

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether there is a link between the nitrites in processed meat and an increased risk of developing bowel cancer.

(S5W-23537)

Joe FitzPatrick: Like its policies on other food matters, the Scottish Government's position is informed by advice from Food Standards Scotland (FSS), which is in turn underpinned by scientific advice provided by the UK Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) and, in this instance, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Scottish Government recognises that there have been long standing concerns that the addition of nitrates and nitrites to food and subsequent production of nitrosamines could lead to an increased risk of cancer, particularly colorectal cancer. However, FSS advises that there are a number of other mechanisms

that could explain why processed meat consumption might promote carcinogenesis. For this reason, dietary advice relating to red and processed meat is based on limiting these foods in the diet for the purpose of reducing the risk of colorectal cancer and not specifically due to their nitrate or nitrite content.

Nitrites are important preservatives in certain meat products and their use in these products is regulated under EU food additives legislation which is reviewed regularly to ensure regulatory limits are at the lowest possible level to perform their required function. FSS considers that current evidence supports the safety of processed meat containing levels of nitrates and nitrites that comply with those regulatory limits.

The Scottish dietary goal for red and processed meat sets limits for the consumption of all red and processed meat for the purpose of reducing the risk to the population of colorectal cancer. In line with EFSA opinion and current scientific evidence, the position of the Scottish Government is that it is safe to eat processed meat containing nitrates and nitrites which comply with prescribed EU limits.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has carried out of the availability and cost of nitrite-free preservation/curing of products, such as bacon, by using fruit and spice extracts, and what its position is on rolling out such an approach to (a) school and (b) hospital settings.

(S5W-23764)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government is advised by Food Standards Scotland (FSS) on food safety and standards. Neither the Scottish Government nor FSS has undertaken any analysis on the availability and cost of nitrite-free preservation/curing of products, such as bacon, by using fruit and spice extracts.

All food additives including preservative factors extracted from fruits and spices require authorisation by the EU based on scientific evidence for their efficacy and safety. Plant-based preservatives may take a variety of different forms and some are essentially naturally derived nitrates which, when consumed in foods, can be converted to nitrites and nitrosamines in the same way as permitted sodium and potassium nitrates.

With regard to our position on nitrates and nitrites in food, I refer the member to the answers to questions S5W-23695 on 26 June 2019, S5W-23693 on 21 June 2019, S5W-23537 on 10 July 2019, S5W-23315 on 4 June 2019 and S5W-22368 on 18 April 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>.

In terms of school and hospital foods, procurement is a matter for local authorities and health boards respectively. The government's role is to set the required national standards. With regard to school food, Ministers recently published a report setting out the detail of changes to be made to the school food and drink regulations, including red and red processed meat. NHS Health Facilities Scotland published revised national standards for food, fluid and nutrition for hospitals in 2016 which take account of the latest scientific advice on the amount of red and red processed meat for a healthy, balanced diet.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve testing and treatment for Lyme disease and other tick-borne conditions.

(S5W-23821)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government, through HPS is committed to working with experts to keep evidence and guidance relating to the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease under constant review to ensure patients in Scotland receive care tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

The Scottish Lyme Disease and Tick-borne Infections Laboratory at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness has recently been granted Reference Laboratory status which will provide additional funding for research and development into new tests for tick borne diseases and will help improve our understanding of this complex infection.

The Scottish Lyme Disease and Tick-borne Infections Laboratory will continue to work with experts at Public Health England and elsewhere to ensure that patients in Scotland have access to the most robust and scientifically justified testing regime available.

With regard to testing, it is acknowledged that there are gaps in the effectiveness of the tests which are currently available and work is underway to address the lack of sensitivity surrounding testing for the early stages of Lyme disease infection.

On 14 June 2019 the Chief Medical Officer wrote to all NHS Health Boards and GP practices highlighting the availability of a series of resources to staff. The letter shares current sources of public facing advice and information about Lyme disease as well as links to current guidance on diagnosis and management.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to raise public awareness of Lyme disease.

(S5W-23822)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government takes the issue of Lyme disease very seriously and together with Health Protection Scotland (HPS), is committed to raising awareness and supporting those affected with this complex disease.

The Lyme Borreliosis group, which is part of the Scottish Health Protection Network, is actively working to raise awareness of ticks and tick borne diseases amongst health care professionals in Scotland. It has produced a number of educational resources to support staff which can be accessed through the National Education for Scotland website.

On 14 June 2019 the Chief Medical Officer wrote to all NHS Health Boards and GP practices highlighting the availability of these resources to staff. The group is also working to raise the profile of ticks and Lyme disease with the public in Scotland.

They have developed a number of resources to explain the risks from ticks and tick borne diseases. The 'avoiding bugs and germs outdoors' webpage on NHS Inform brings together in one place comprehensive advice on how to avoid infection. The Scottish Government will continue to actively promote these materials.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what research it has carried out regarding the financial barriers to participation in sport and physical activity.

(S5W-23823)

Joe FitzPatrick: The National Agency for Sport, sport scotland, have undertaken various pieces of research over recent years to gain a better understanding of the barriers to participating in sport and physical activity. Whilst sport scotland have not commissioned research focussed solely on financial barriers, the range of commissioned research has collectively built-up a rounded understanding of the barriers and means of addressing these have informed their work.

Charges for Sports Facilities

Sport scotland produce an annual review of local authority charges for sports participation in Scotland. This research provides an overview of public sector charges for the use of indoor and outdoor facilities as well as swimming pools. It is based on a survey of the Scottish Local Authorities and Leisure Trusts, covering over 70 activities of facilities. More information on sport scotland's Charges for Sports Facilities can be found at:

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-publications/archive/charges-for-sports-facilities/>.

Wider Evaluations

During 2017-18, sport scotland commissioned three independent wider evaluations to look in depth at how their programmes deliver, alongside their partners, to support the sporting system. These evaluations covered coaches and coaching; schools and education; and clubs and communities. The wider evaluations helped sport scotland gain a better understanding what barriers to participation to sport and physical activity remain. Further information on these wider evaluations can be found at: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-publications/archive/wider-evaluations/>.

Equality and Sport Research

In 2016, sport scotland published its Equality and Sport Research, funded by the European Human Rights Commission. The report explores equality in sport in Scotland and helped improve work in Scotland in relation to advancing equality, eliminating discrimination and fostering good relations. The report looks at who currently participates in sport, the barriers to participation, and suggests potential solutions. A series of learning notes was developed based on findings from the research. This research involved a review of relevant literature, surveys and discussion groups with people working in the sporting system in Scotland, and discussions with people with protected characteristics.

Further information on the Equality and Research Report can be found here: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/equality-at-sportscotland/equality-and-sport-research/>.

Supplementary investment to Scottish Sporting Governing Bodies (SGBs)

In 2017, sport scotland commissioned an evaluation of the Scottish Government's £2m supplementary investment to SGBs aimed to expand their reach to the inactive and underrepresented in sport. It also looked to tackle inequality and discrimination in participation in sport and further enhance child protection measures. The evaluation identified barriers encountered and how SGBs are using a mix of approaches to break down barriers.

Further information on sport scotland's evaluation of the £2m supplementary investment to SGBs can be found here: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-publications/archive/evaluation-of-2m-supplementary-investment-to-sgbs/>.

Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (ASOF)

In August 2017 sport scotland commissioned research to evidence their contribution to the six outcomes in the ASOF. This work focused on their 'schools and education' and 'clubs and communities' portfolios. The research consisted of large scale surveys of school pupils and clubs members in

schools and clubs we support. This was supplemented by a small number of focus groups with pupils and club members.

The research gathered:

- survey responses from 3,000 club members;
- survey responses from 14,849 school pupils; and
- views of 77 young people and adults through focus group discussions.

Through the research sport scotland are able to evidence the wider impacts of our programmes on participants and members. The infographic gives the high level findings against each of the six outcomes. This includes the distribution of participation by SIMD (deprivation) quintile.

Further information on sport scotland's contribution to ASOF can be found here: <https://sportscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-publications/archive/asof-contribution/>.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to introduce a screening programme for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

(S5W-23826)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government, along with the rest of the UK is advised on all aspects of screening by the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) an independent expert advisory group. Using research evidence, pilot programmes and economic evaluation, it assesses the evidence for programmes against a set of internationally recognised criteria.

The UK NSC last reviewed screening for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in 2018 and did not recommend introducing a national screening programme. This is because current tests are not reliable in people who have no symptoms of COPD; and there is not enough evidence to understand whether medicines are effective for people with mild COPD which would be detected by screening.

Although the UK NSC does not currently recommend a national screening programme for COPD, all policies are reviewed regularly and screening for COPD will be reviewed again in 2021-22. Any change to the recommendation will be carefully considered by the Scottish Government.

Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made in increasing the availability of specialist thyroid nurses across the country.

(S5W-23875)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government has overall responsibility for health and social care policy in Scotland. However, the statutory responsibility for delivering or commissioning services at a local level lies with local authorities, NHS Boards and integrated health and social care partnerships.

From 2015 the Scottish Government provided additional financial support to enhance clinical nurse specialist provision and care. The report on the specialist nursing and care fund published in September 2017 can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/report-specialist-nursing-care-fund/>.

Operational decisions, including the care of people with thyroid and adrenal conditions and whether there is a need for additional thyroid specialist nurses, are therefore matters for these bodies.

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on offering blood tests to anyone considered to be at risk of having contracted Lyme disease.

(S5W-23908)

Joe FitzPatrick: Current guidelines state that Lyme disease should be diagnosed and treated based on clinical presentation or suspicion of the disease, supported where necessary by laboratory testing. It is not current practice to treat people for Lyme disease who do not have clinical symptoms. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of Lyme disease should consult their GP.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many alcohol-related hospital admissions there have been in each of the last five years, also broken down NHS board.

(S5W-23921)

Joe FitzPatrick: The information requested is provided in the table that follows.

Number of alcohol related hospital admissions (stays). Scotland and NHS Board, 2013-14 to 2017-18.

HEALTH BOARD	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	3,346	3,163	2,999	3,137	3,093
NHS Borders	682	545	525	555	514

NHS Dumfries & Galloway	870	709	751	712	731
NHS Fife	2,381	2,367	2,305	2,444	2,441
NHS Forth Valley	1,629	1,559	1,703	1,590	1,694
NHS Grampian	3,124	2,856	2,887	2,953	2,895
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	11,782	11,460	11,639	12,273	11,460
NHS Highland	2,380	2,391	2,348	2,210	2,162
NHS Lanarkshire	5,072	4,906	5,264	5,431	5,571
NHS Lothian	5,427	5,364	5,139	4,943	4,821
NHS Orkney	321	160	154	*	*
NHS Shetland	*	135	*	140	151
NHS Tayside	2,288	2,388	2,198	2,274	2,247
NHS Western Isles	*	*	213	*	202
SCOTLAND	39,718	38,186	38,278	39,023	38,153

Source: ISD (2019) Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics Scotland 2017-18

* Value has been suppressed due to potential risk of disclosure and to maintain patient confidentiality.

The information requested is publically available from ISD, via its annual Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics Scotland publication, which can be accessed via the following links:

- Alcohol-Related Hospital Statistics Scotland 2017-18:
<https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/2019-02-26/2019-02-26-ARHS-Report.pdf> .
- Excel workbook: <https://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/2019-02-26/2019-02-26-ARHS-Data.xlsx>