

Friday 02 August 2019

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what action has been taken as part of its Marine Litter Strategy to tackle marine litter in Scotland's waters by 2020.

(S5W-24262)

Roseanna Cunningham: The many actions under our Marine Litter Strategy, published in 2014, support our obligations for OSPAR and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive to achieve Good Environmental Status. These include;

Strategic Direction 1 – Improve public and business attitudes and behaviours around marine and coastal litter, in co-ordination with the national litter strategy.

The Scottish Government is working to promote marine litter education within schools and the fishing industry, and I was delighted to host the British-Irish Council (BIC) Marine Litter Symposium in February to encourage other administrations to commit to the same ambition.

We are also encouraging behaviour change through participatory projects focused on marine litter removal, such as:

- KIMO's Fishing for Litter scheme, which involves over 300 Scottish vessels, who have landed over 1400 tonnes of waste since 2005.
- Local Coastal Partnerships with funding around our coastline to promote beach cleans and other initiatives to reduce marine litter.
- SCRAPbook, to map the litter hot spots round Scotland's mainland coastline and support their clean-ups.

In addition we have committed to run a campaign in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland to promote the use of reusable sanitary products in an effort to reduce marine litter, help address social inequality and work towards Scotland's vision for a low carbon economy.

Strategic Direction 2 – Reduce marine and coastal based sources of litter, in coordination with land sourced litter being reduce by the national litter strategy.

We are the first UK administration to commit to establishing a deposit return scheme which is expected to reduce littering, and also to introducing legislation to ban plastic-stemmed cotton buds which we expect to come into

force later this year. Furthermore, in June 2018 we introduced legislation to ban the use of plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care products.

We are taking action on nurdles, which are small pieces of pre-production pellets, flakes and powders that enter water ways when accidental spills are not cleared up sufficiently. We are working with the plastics industry and other relevant parties including SEPA to expand on the industry's Operation Clean Sweep initiative of best handling practice guidance. We are taking a fully transparent supply chain approach to ensure nurdle loss is minimised in the future, developing a system for auditing that can be applied across industries.

We have also pledged our support of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative to ensure that the issue of loss or abandoned fishing gear, often made of plastic is addressed around the world.

Strategic Direction 3 – Contribute to a low carbon economy by treating 'waste as a resource' and seizing the economic and environmental opportunities associated with the Zero Waste Plan.

As well as our Marine Litter Strategy and National Litter Strategy, we also have a Circular Economy Strategy to keep our resources in high value use as long as possible, and help cut both waste and carbon emissions.

Our deposit return scheme is envisaged to increase recycling rates, reduce littering, and will cut an estimated 160,000 tonnes from Scotland's carbon footprint. This is expected to become operational in 2021-2022. We have also set up an Expert Panel to advise on environmental charges or other measures to tackle our throwaway culture and the impact of single-use items.

In addition to this work, Marine Scotland partnered with Zero Waste Scotland last year to provide up to £1m funding for innovative solutions to minimise, remove and recycle marine plastics from litter sink areas, creating a use and value for marine litter. Applications are currently being processed. We have also committed, with BIC administrations, to improving recycling routes for End of Life fishing gear.

Strategic Direction 4 – Improve monitoring at a Scottish scale and develop measures for strategy evaluation.

Work continues under the 2017-18 Programme for Government commitment to begin to address litter sinks. Arrochar shore is monitored as a case study to better understand the concept of litter sinks. The area has been maintained with debris removal and analysis in 2018 of 185 tonnes, and in 2019, 220 tonnes.

Furthermore, Marine Scotland Science has modelled marine litter deposition and developed Pilot Scottish Beach Litter Performance Indicators using data

collected within Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch programme, which continues to monitor beach litter around Scotland's coastline.

Strategic Direction 5 – Maintain and strengthen stakeholder co-ordination at the UK, EU and international scales.

In February the Scottish Government was proud to hold Scotland's first ever Marine Conference focussing on marine conservation and marine litter with speakers and delegates from around the world. Sessions encouraged transboundary understanding of marine litter issues, with discussions led by experts from Scotland to South Africa. Conference proceedings can be viewed at <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/litter/marineconference2019>.

I hosted the BIC Marine Litter Symposium the day after the conference. Here, Environment Ministers and senior officials from the BIC region agreed a number of commitments to tackle marine litter and agreed to register these as a joint voluntary pledge in the UN Communities of Ocean Action registry of voluntary commitments, for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

The Scottish Government is represented internationally on the OSPAR Intercessional Correspondence Group for Marine Litter (ICG-ML). The work of Marine Scotland in partnership with the plastics industry will inform work under the OSPAR convention on marine protection and future actions by the European Commission. Marine Scotland's work to address fishing sector waste also informs participants of the OSPAR ICG-ML, and we continue to feedback monitoring data for Scotland's marine litter to this group.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to tackle all types of microplastics in Scotland's waters, including microbeads and secondary microplastics.

(S5W-24263)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has taken action on primary microplastic pollution. In June 2018 we introduced legislation to ban the manufacture and sale of plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care products which passed through water treatment systems and entered our waters directly. We are also working in partnership with industry to build on their best practice guidance in Operation Clean Sweep to ensure pellet loss is minimised in the future.

Secondary microplastics, resulting from the degradation of macroplastics, are best reduced by taking action at source. As part of the Scottish Government focus to grow our circular economy, there are many actions in the Marine Litter Strategy and National Litter Strategy to lower the amount of plastic that enters our waters. We are the first UK administration to commit to establishing

a deposit return scheme, and to introducing legislation to ban plastic-stemmed cotton buds, which is expected to come into force this year.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to prevent all types of microplastics in Scotland's waters, including microbeads and secondary microplastics, from entering the food supply chain.

(S5W-24264)

Roseanna Cunningham: Microplastics are present nearly everywhere in modern life; in the air we breathe and in the water environment. They have been found in fish, shellfish, table salt, beer, honey and chicken, and have been intentionally used in goods such as toothpaste and chewing gum. The best way of reducing their unintended ingress into the food supply chain is to reduce their source.

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Ruth Maguire (Cunninghame South) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle plastic pollution and its prevention, including microplastics in Scottish waterways.

(S5W-24269)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has a number of projects designed to tackle plastic pollution in Scotland's waterways. We are committed to tackling Scotland's throw-away culture and to matching the pace envisioned by the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive. We are already leading by example, and were the first country in the UK to announce our ambitious design for Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme. Our Expert Panel is considering measures to tackle difficult to recycle items, such as single use beverage cups. We have committed to increase the single use carrier bag charge to 10p and to legislating against plastic cotton buds. We are also part

of a UK-wide consultation on reform of packaging producer responsibility arrangements.

Work is underway to reduce plastic pollution from drainage. We are currently working with the plastics industry and other relevant parties including SEPA to expand on the industry's Operation Clean to provide a transparent, supply-chain approach to ensure pellet loss is minimised in the future. We also support Scottish Water's efforts to reduce plastic pollution from combined sewer overflows, reducing the amount of sewage related debris reaching our waterways.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether physical and online retailers will be paid the same handling fee per container as part of the proposed deposit return scheme.

(S5W-24273)

Roseanna Cunningham: It is the intention that all business acting as return points be reimbursed reasonable costs associated with the collection and storage of material captured through deposit return. The final structure of fees will be set out in due course as part of work on implementing the scheme.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with online retailers regarding the potential impact on them of cost pressures specifically related to collecting containers as part of a deposit return scheme.

(S5W-24274)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has engaged with a broad range of stakeholders who will be involved in deposit return, including retailers that offer online sales. That engagement will continue as work to implement the scheme progresses, supported by the DRS Implementation Advisory Group.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what criteria must be met for membership of the Implementation Advisory Group for the proposed deposit return scheme.

(S5W-24295)

Roseanna Cunningham: Representative bodies of those sectors who will be directly involved in operating the deposit return scheme were invited to sit on the Implementation Advisory Group. Further detail on the Group can be found on the Scottish Government website: <https://www.gov.scot/groups/deposit-return-scheme-implementation-advisory-group/>.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many local authorities are in discussion with Zero Waste Scotland regarding support for waste collection service changes as a result of the introduction of a deposit return scheme.

(S5W-24317)

Roseanna Cunningham: No local authorities have approached Zero Waste Scotland for support in implementing waste collection service changes as a result of the introduction of a deposit return scheme.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress is being made with its plan to introduce a ban on the manufacture and sale of plastic-stemmed cotton buds, and what information it has regarding the numbers and level of use of such buds, including whether there has been a decline.

(S5W-24319)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Government was the first in the UK to propose introducing legislation on single-use plastic-stemmed cotton buds in 2018. We are delighted that the UK Government has followed our lead and that the EU Single-Use Plastic Directive published this summer also includes action on these products. Our Regulations are expected to be laid in Parliament following recess, and come into force 40 days later.

The Marine Conservation Society has consistently reported plastic-stem cotton buds amongst the top 10 items found in Beachwatch surveys of litter of Scottish beaches. While the impact of this legislation will take time to materialise due to residual plastic-stemmed cotton buds remaining both in homes and in the ocean, the proposal has encouraged businesses to switch products and we are pleased that now all major retailers sell plastic free alternatives.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with fishing sector and coastal communities to develop proposals to tackle the issue of fishing litter and lost gear.

(S5W-24323)

Roseanna Cunningham: Marine Scotland regularly engages with fishing industry representatives through the Marine Litter Strategy Steering Group which is currently working on a review of the Marine Litter Strategy.

Reflecting the importance of the issue of fishing litter and lost gear, a dedicated session on marine industry waste was included at the International

Marine Conference, 21 February 2019 in Glasgow. Attendees included those from industry, academics, coastal communities, policy and NGOs.

On 22 February, I chaired the first British-Irish Council Marine Litter Symposium. Invited experts from across the region's fishing sectors discussed how best to establish a recycling system for end of life fishing gear. A second expert group considered how to improve marine litter education within the industry. We are working with representatives from industry and the BIC administrations to take a number of recommendations forward.

In addition, Marine Scotland has hosted multiple industry workshops around the coast to inform policy development following publication of the Future of Fisheries Management discussion paper in March 2019. This paper included reference to exploring mechanisms under which we will establish it is an offence to throw overboard any type of litter whilst at sea.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making in meeting the Aichi 2020 biodiversity targets.

(S5W-24325)

Roseanna Cunningham: On 22 May 2018, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) published the report 'Scotland's Biodiversity - Progress to 2020 Aichi Targets', which found that Scotland was on track to meet seven of the Aichi targets and had made progress towards 12 targets; we do not assess ourselves against Aichi target 18. A further progress report is due to be published this year.

Since the last report, the work being led and coordinated by SNH with a range of public, private and third sector partners has continued to focus on achieving the Aichi targets as part of delivering Scotland's biodiversity strategy as set out in the '2020 Challenge for Biodiversity' published in June 2013.

There are a number of areas where Scotland is progressing well with mainstreaming biodiversity (Aichi targets 1 – 4), including work to increase public awareness and engagement and embedding biodiversity values through the development of policy and practice on natural capital. Our partnership working is delivering real benefits, with improvements to our marine environment, peatlands, rivers and woodlands over the last few years.

In our 2018 Programme for Government, we established the Biodiversity Challenge Fund of up to £2 million over two years to focus further effort on delivering the 2020 Challenge and the Aichi targets. SNH recently announced that £1.8 million will be shared between 14 projects across Scotland through the Biodiversity Challenge Fund over the course of this year and next. These are large scale projects that aim to deliver rapid change on the ground to our most at-risk habitats and species, including mammals and birds, to improve ecological connectivity and tackle invasive species. The Biodiversity

Challenge Fund focuses in particular on projects which will help meet Aichi targets 5, 7, 9 and 10, which were assessed in the published progress report as progressing but at an insufficient rate.

The Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention helps Scotland work towards meeting Aichi targets 1, 2 and 14, by increasing and enhancing greenspace in our towns and cities, especially close to areas of multiple deprivation. SNH is currently delivering seven projects across Scotland that improve or create at least 140 hectares of urban green infrastructure. They are also delivering nine smaller community engagement projects where the focus is on working with people to help them make the most of their local greenspace. Projects like this use infrastructure to benefit biodiversity by providing new habitats and connecting existing ones while tackling physical problems such as flooding or lack of opportunities for walking and cycling.

There has also been good progress made in safeguarding biodiversity (Aichi targets 11 – 13) with the designation of marine and terrestrial protected areas now exceeding the international target. The development of Scotland's National Marine Plan and the reformed Common Fisheries Policy along with the Marine Strategy Framework are all helping to focus efforts towards sustainable management in the marine environment. Work will continue to 2020 to ensure management, representativeness, integration, and connectivity is improved. Further work is required to identify additional actions for certain species, including seabirds, waders, upland birds and specialist butterflies. The development of a Scotland priority species indicator and metrics for genetic diversity will contribute to this work.

Scotland recently established the United Kingdom's first Gene Conservation Unit at Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve. The work is part of a wider effort to conserve genetic diversity in Scotland's wild species, and is helping Scotland to be on track to achieve Aichi Target 13, which is to drive to preserve and develop the world's biological diversity.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to improve compliance by public bodies with their duty to enhance biodiversity.

(S5W-24326)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Parliament's Public Audit and Post-legislative Scrutiny Committee made several recommendations to the Scottish Government in their 2018 report on Biodiversity and Biodiversity Reporting Duties. The Scottish Government has committed to taking forward these recommendations and, in a letter to the Committee on 26 February 2019, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform outlined the steps we are taking in response. The letter is available at:

https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Public_Audit/General%20Documents/20190226_Letter_from_Cabinet_Secretary.pdf

Scottish Government officials are continuing to work with Scottish Natural Heritage to implement recommended changes to the reporting duty guidance, with the aim of making the process easier for public bodies and improving compliance. We plan to have these changes published by the end of 2019.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government by what date it will launch the Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

(S5W-24327)

Roseanna Cunningham: The current Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme was published in May 2014. Scottish Ministers have reported on progress in May each year and we commissioned independent assessments of the Programme from the Adaptation Committee of the Committee on Climate Change in 2016 and 2019. In developing the new outcomes-based Programme we have conducted digital engagement sessions, stakeholder workshops, climate conversations, and a full public consultation. Scottish Ministers' Programme for Government 2018 committed to publish the new Adaptation Programme in 2019.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many water bottle refill points there are in public spaces.

(S5W-24329)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scottish Water currently has 10 refill points across Scotland with plans to deliver up to 70. Further information on the rollout of refill points is available at <https://www.yourwateryourlife.co.uk/>. Other refill points are available in public spaces, such as railway stations, but the Scottish Government does not hold a record of these locations.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government which organisations will be represented on the Animal Welfare Commission; when it will first meet, and what issues it will be considering in its first year.

(S5W-24339)

Mairi Gougeon: I refer the member to the answer to S5W-24152 on 31 July 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>.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how the amount awarded from the next round of Coastal Communities Fund awards will compare with the previous levels.

(S5W-24341)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has provided funding through the Coastal Communities Fund since it was established in 2012. Since 2017, when responsibility for the Coastal Communities Fund was devolved to the Scottish Government, Scottish Ministers have allocated £3.4 million to Coastal Communities Fund projects in Scotland.

I shall make an announcement on future funding for coastal community benefit in Scotland in the near future.

Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government on what date applications will be open for the next round of Coastal Communities Fund awards.

(S5W-24342)

Roseanna Cunningham: I shall make an announcement on future funding for coastal community benefit in Scotland in the near future.

Education, Communities and Justice

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it does not record data on ethnicity in early learning and childcare statistics, and whether it plans to start recording such data.

(S5W-24125)

Maree Todd: The current Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) census is collected annually from centres delivering funded ELC in September. It was designed to capture the number of funded registrations with ELC providers, along with some additional breakdowns such as stage and additional support needs. The methodology makes it difficult to capture more detailed information at an aggregate level, such as ethnicity, without encountering quality issues and placing a significant burden of collection on providers.

It has been recognised for some time that the current ELC census is not sufficient to provide the information necessary to manage this growing sector, and so since 2015 we have been carrying out a development project to transform the ELC census to an individual level child census. The new census process will be based on extractions of data from management information systems, and will collect more information on the characteristics of children

registered for funded ELC, including ethnicity. Data from the new census will be available in 2021.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):

To ask the Scottish Government by what date the Child Poverty Delivery Fund will be launched, and how it will tackle inequality in BAME communities.

(S5W-24129)

Aileen Campbell: The Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan is backed by the £50 million Tackling Child Poverty Fund, as announced in Programme for Government 2017-18. Current investment is set out within the first annual progress report published in June 2019.

The Fund is supporting innovative projects to tackle and reduce levels of child poverty in Scotland so minority ethnic households will benefit from all of the programmes supported from the Fund.

In addition, we have outlined that the Fund will invest £500,000 (2020-22) to work directly with Gypsy/Traveller families and other partners on our community education programme.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):

To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the publication in 2018 of an equalities impact assessment of its policy to increase the number of Scotland-domiciled/EU students studying medicine at Scottish universities, whether it will provide further details on the results for the group "other sexual orientations".

(S5W-24202)

Richard Lochhead: I refer the member to Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) Bib number: 60845

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that access to public health or social services should ever be contingent on the use of long-acting reversible contraception.

(S5W-24238)

Maree Todd: The Scottish Government is committed to providing the right support at the right time, and creating equity of access to service provision, particularly for those most vulnerable in our society. We want to engage in an open discussion to ensure that any concerns relating to particular aspects of accessing programme provision are properly considered and discussed.

Where contraception is provided, provision should be made through local sexual health services to ensure that informed consent is sought and provided.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22716 by Humza Yousaf on 16 May 2019, which other stakeholders have had access to the data compiled by the SPFL on unacceptable conduct in Scottish football.

(S5W-24246)

Humza Yousaf: The SPFL also shared the data – with the same conditions attached – with the Scottish FA and Police Scotland.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22716 by Humza Yousaf on 16 May 2019, how many times it has (a) requested and (b) accessed the data compiled by the SPFL on unacceptable conduct in Scottish football.

(S5W-24247)

Humza Yousaf: Following the 2016 Scottish Cup Final, the SPFL agreed to our request to provide data on unacceptable conduct.

To date, we have only received in confidence data for the 2017-18 season. We do not have a record of how many times this document has been accessed.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22716 by Humza Yousaf on 16 May 2019, how many times it has met the SPFL in the last two years; what was discussed on each occasion, and whether the (a) agreement for confidentiality outlined in its answer and (b) data compiled by the SPFL on unacceptable conduct in Scottish football was discussed.

(S5W-24248)

Humza Yousaf: We meet the SPFL – and other stakeholders in Scottish football – regularly and therefore do not have a record of how many times we have met in the last two years.

Unacceptable conduct – and the data provided by the SPFL in confidence – was discussed at a number of these meetings.

I wrote to SPFL chief executive Neil Donaster on 18 June 2019, reiterating our view that the SPFL should publish the data.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22716 by Humza Yousaf on 16 May 2019, whether there is a contract relating to the agreement detailed in its answer; which minister approved this agreement, and whether it will place a copy of it in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

(S5W-24249)

Humza Yousaf: There is no contract.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recent publication by Barnardos, *Closing the poverty related attainment gap*, which states that "The attainment gap starts long before the school gates, therefore families should have access to support from birth and through the early years", how it plans to provide further and consistent support to these families through children's early years.

(S5W-24258)

Aileen Campbell: The Scottish Government is already taking substantive steps to support families from before birth through the critical early years of a child's life.

We published our Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan – Year One Progress Report on 26 June which sets out actions we have taken over the past year to tackle child poverty. In this report we set out the support Scottish Government provides to children and families through the course of their lives.

This includes: the Universal Health Visiting Pathway; Best Start Grant payments, Best Start Food payments from August 2019; and the doubling of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours.

Moreover the recently announced Scottish Child Payment will provide further support of £10 per week, per child with no limit on the number of children families can receive support for. The benefit will be fully rolled out by 2022, with early-rollout available in 2021 for children under six. The benefit will mean that a family with two children will be more than £1000 better off each year.

All of these actions are taken as part of a wider, direct, investment of roughly £527 million specifically targeted at low income families with children, which does not include the universal investment which supports all families with children in Scotland.

Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the average daily population of HMP Castle Huntly has been in each year since 2010.

(S5W-24259)

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

The following table shows the average daily population of HMP Open Estate, Castle Huntly each year from 2010.

Year	Average Daily Population
2010	249
2011	265
2012	242
2013	232
2014	254
2015	238
2016	207
2017	188
2018	183
2019	188

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) rural and (b) urban state schools in each local authority area have closed and not reopened in another form in each year since 1999, also broken down by postcode area.

(S5W-24297)

John Swinney:

The Scottish Government is unable to identify all instances of schools that have “not reopened in another form” from the data it holds.

Therefore, information has been provided on all schools that closed between 1999 and 2018. Data for 2019 has not been provided as it is currently incomplete.

A proportion of the closures reflected in the data tables below have resulted from the mergers of two or more schools. Additionally, some closures may have resulted from the relocation of schools but these cannot be identified separately.

There are 16 closed schools for which no postcode data is recorded. These schools cannot, therefore, be given an urban/rural classification and have been excluded from these data tables on this basis.

Tables 1 and 2 show the number of rural schools which closed by local authority and postcode area, respectively.

Tables 3 and 4 show the number of urban schools which closed by local authority and postcode area, respectively.

Tables 1 to 4 have been placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre under bib reference number 60905.

Emma Harper (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have (a) enrolled on and (b) graduated from a postgraduate course at each higher education institution in each year since 2013-14, broken down by subject type.

(S5W-24306)

Richard Lochhead: I refer the member to Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) Bib number: 60867. Table A gives the numbers for question (a); Table B gives the numbers for question (b).

These figures are also published since academic year 2014-15 on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) website: for enrolments at <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-13>, and for qualifiers at <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-19>.

Health and Social Care

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions or correspondence the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has had since 26 June 2018 with (a) Integrated Health Solutions Lothian and (b) NHS Lothian regarding the opening date of the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

Holding answer issued: 02 August 2019

(S5W-24250)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions or correspondence the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has had since 26 June 2018 with (a) Integrated Health Solutions Lothian and (b) NHS Lothian regarding the ventilation system at the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh.

Holding answer issued: 02 August 2019

(S5W-24253)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Transport Scotland

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the airport being publicly-owned, whether it is has been made aware of the purposes of the 644 orders for fuelling from the US military at Glasgow Prestwick Airport and, if so, whether it will provide a breakdown of these, including how many were for frontline combat operations.

(S5W-24045)

Michael Matheson: Glasgow Prestwick Airport is operated on a commercial basis and at arm's length from the Scottish Government in compliance with European Union State Aid rules. The Scottish Government does not hold information on the purpose of any flight using Scottish airports. The UK Government is responsible for determining which airline or country is allowed to operate flights into the UK.

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much compensation, through the Delay Repay Scheme, ScotRail has paid to passengers travelling from Milngavie in each month since April 2018.

(S5W-24368)

Michael Matheson: I refer the member to Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) Bibliographic number: 60880