

Wednesday 21 August 2019

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken since the enactment of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 to monitor activities under S.14(2A) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended in Scotland, and what assessment it has made of (a) how many birds have been (i) released and (ii) subsequently killed by shooting and (b) the (i) fate and (ii) ecological impact of released birds that are not subsequently killed.

Holding answer issued: 21 August 2019

(S5W-24454)

Roseanna Cunningham: A holding answer was provided.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish a detailed report on graduate apprenticeships.

(S5W-24572)

Jamie Hepburn: Skills Development Scotland published a detailed report on Graduate Apprenticeships on Wednesday 14 August 2019. The report can be found here: <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/45882/ga-report-2019.pdf>

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the gender breakdown is for the 921 graduate apprenticeships starts in the recently published 2018-19 Skills Development Scotland figures.

(S5W-24573)

Jamie Hepburn: The gender breakdown of graduate apprenticeship starts for 2017-18 and 2018-19 can be found below:

Year	Total Starts	Male Starts	Female Starts	Male %	Female %
2017-18	278	227	49	82.8	17.8
2018-19	921	605	316	65.7	34.3

Graduate Apprenticeship numbers are still small and any conclusions drawn from the report need to be made with caution. However, Graduate Apprenticeship starts tripled to reach a total of 921 starts in 2018/19, which was accompanied by increased female representation from 17.8% of the starts in 2017-18 to 34.3% in 2018-19.

Given historic underrepresentation for females in STEM, the growth in representation is encouraging, as 10 out the 12 Graduate Apprenticeship frameworks offered in 2018-19 were in STEM subjects. We recognise that there is still work to be done in getting more women into Apprenticeship roles and Skills Development Scotland is working in partnership with a range of organisations to address gender imbalance in Apprenticeships.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the most frequent assistance provided through Fair Start Scotland is.

(S5W-24583)

Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government contracts Providers of Fair Start Scotland to take an individualised approach to participants' needs, giving them personalised help to find and stay in work.

A range of pre- and in-work support is available to people who participate in the service.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to streamline the Fair Start Scotland provider scheme.

(S5W-24586)

Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government contracted Fair Start Scotland Providers to deliver Fair Start Scotland for the duration of the service as set out in their bids and against key delivery indicators.

The Scottish Government is committed to continual improvement of our services and how they support people move towards and into employment.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the underspend or overspend was of the £96 million allocated to Fair Start Scotland in the period March 2018 to March 2019, broken down by local authority.

(S5W-24587)

Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government is investing up to £96m over the totality of the Fair Start Scotland service. Spend on Fair Start Scotland is determined by Fair Start Scotland Providers' performance in moving participants towards and into work. Financial expenditure data relating to Fair Start Scotland is broken down by individual Lot area rather than by Local Authority.

Forecasts of anticipated spend are regularly provided to the Scottish Fiscal Commission.

Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in addition to the 9,789 people referred between April and September 2018, and the 4,978 who started the programme in that period, how many people have (a) been referred to First Start Scotland and (b) started the programme since then, broken down by local authority.

(S5W-24588)

Jamie Hepburn: Statistics on Fair Start Scotland (FSS) and the other devolved employability services are published quarterly by Scottish Government. The latest release was on 29 May 2019, presenting statistics up to end March 2019 i.e. covering the first year of FSS. This included data on referrals and starts, by Local Authority area. The publication can be found on the Scottish Government website:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-devolved-employment-services-statistical-summary-2/>

The next release is due to be published on 28 August 2019, and will present statistics to end June 2019.

Education, Communities and Justice

Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its Funding Follows the Child approach having parental choice as a primary aim, what its response is to concerns that the closure of private, voluntary and independent sector nurseries might limit parental choice.

(S5W-24448)

Maree Todd: Quality is at the heart of the expansion in funded early learning and childcare entitlement. Funding Follows the Child, which will be introduced in August 2020, will be underpinned by a National Standard that all settings delivering the funded entitlement will have to meet. Central to the National Standard is a clear and consistent set of quality criteria, recognising that the ELC expansion is fundamentally about improving the early years' experience of our youngest children.

Funding Follows the Child is provider neutral and will empower parents to choose from a range of high quality ELC providers across the private, public and third sectors, including childminders.

A key aspect of Funding Follows the Child is ensuring financially sustainable provision across the ELC sector. To support this the landmark multi-year

funding package agreed by the Scottish Government and COSLA will enable the payment of sustainable rates to funded providers delivering the funded entitlement – including funding to enable payment of at least the real Living Wage to all childcare workers delivering the funded entitlement.

Local authorities are already utilising additional funding for the expansion to 1140 hours to increase their hourly funding rates to providers in order to support them in the transition period to August 2020. For example, in June 2019 we published details of changes in the hourly rates that local authorities pay to funded providers over the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 (bib number 60909). This highlighted that the average hourly rate for delivering 600 hours for 3 and 4 year olds increased by 26% between 2017-18 and 2019-20.

Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to increase the uptake of eligible two-year-olds accessing funded childcare, in light of its paper, *Early learning and childcare expansion: EQIA*, recording that around 40% are currently receiving this.

(S5W-24449)

Maree Todd: The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the uptake of the two year old offer nationally by enhancing the offer of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) provided to two year olds as part of delivery of the expanded entitlement.

We are working with the UK Government and UK Parliament to secure a legal gateway and data sharing agreement that will provide local authorities in Scotland access to accurate information on their eligible population. A similar data-sharing legal gateway is already in place for English local authorities and the Department for Education links the introduction of data-sharing with a significant increase in uptake.

We are improving the information available to parents and carers to increase awareness and help them to make informed decisions about ELC, in particular through our new ELC pages on Parent Club. The language and messages have been informed by focus groups and message testing with parents of eligible 2 year olds, and focus on the benefits of ELC for the child. Our future marketing strategy is also being designed with the parents of eligible 2 year olds as the key audience. This will include leaflets, posters and targeted social media.

We are continually looking for opportunities to promote the offer through other services such as Health Visiting Pathway and Financial Health Check. We are also working internally across Government to make best use of new systems and capabilities, such as Best Start Grant, to identify opportunities for shared

communication where we can deliver key messages about ELC and particularly the 2 year old provision.

The Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative is also supporting 9 multi-agency Local Authority teams who are looking at how to increase awareness and uptake of the 2 year old entitlement in their areas, using improvement methodology. Their findings will be shared with all Local Authorities later this year.

Alison Harris (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it expects to meet its target of recruiting 11,000 additional early learning and childcare staff by August 2020 and, if not, how many additional staff it estimates will be in place by that date.

(S5W-24450)

Maree Todd: The Scottish Government is working closely with local authorities to ensure that arrangements are in place to deliver the commitment to expanding Early Learning and Childcare from August 2020, including the recruitment of additional staff.

Local Authorities are currently revising their forecasts of how many additional local authority staff are required, and this information will be published in the autumn. The Scottish Government remains confident that all local authorities will deliver the commitment from August next year.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government who will be on its working group to consider further raising the age of criminal responsibility, and on what date the group will first meet.

(S5W-24458)

Maree Todd: An Advisory Group will be established to consider the implementation of the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Act 2019 and potential future ages of criminal responsibility, and invitations have been issued. The Group will meet for the first time on 26 August. Care and justice organisations represented previously on the 2015-16 Advisory Group have again been invited to contribute, with the addition of Children's Hearings Scotland and the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service. At its first meeting, the Group will consider whether other experts, interests and organisations should be invited to join them.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what actions it plans in light of the findings of the paper, *Review of Tenancy Deposit Schemes in Scotland*.

(S5W-24607)

Kevin Stewart: The review of the tenancy deposit schemes concludes that there is a broad consensus that the Regulations continue to provide a robust regulatory framework for the protection of tenants' deposits and the conditions for the operation of the schemes.

Scottish Ministers developed The Tenancy Deposit Schemes (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2019 to respond directly to minor issues raised in the review and update the regulatory framework to bring it into line with recent private rented sector reforms. These draft regulations are due to come into force on 1 November, following affirmative scrutiny by the Scottish Parliament.

The tenancy deposit schemes are required to provide revised operating procedures for approval by Ministers.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to work with tenancy deposit schemes to deal with unclaimed deposits.

(S5W-24608)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government continues to monitor the performance of the tenancy deposit schemes to ensure that the original objectives are achieved -

- to reduce the number of unfairly withheld tenancy deposits;
- ensure that deposits are safeguarded throughout the duration of the tenancy;
- ensure that deposits are returned quickly and fairly, particularly where there is a dispute over the return of the deposit, or proportion of it, to tenant or landlord.

The Scottish Government meets regularly with each scheme and receives formal interval reports which provides assurance that each scheme continues with efforts to minimise the number of unclaimed deposits.

Unclaimed deposits must continue to be reserved in the designated accounts of each scheme.

S5W-24609 answered on 21 August 2019 provides further information on unclaimed deposits.

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>

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to work with colleges and universities to ensure that students, including those from overseas, claim back any deposits from private-rented tenancies.

(S5W-24609)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government remains committed to ensure that the tenancy deposit schemes aim to reduce the number of unclaimed deposits.

The Schemes target students at peak times with marketing and awareness campaigns including social media and local events at educational establishments. The schemes continue to contact tenants at the end of their tenancy to return deposits but this becomes more difficult with overseas students post-graduation.

Given the recent legislative changes within the sector, we are currently exploring ways to continue to increase tenants' awareness of their new rights. This will include targeted awareness raising with students in relation to unclaimed deposits.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to address the findings in the paper, *Review of Tenancy Deposit Schemes in Scotland*, that nearly half of landlords did not know about letting agent registration or the letting agent code of practices, and that over 60% did not know about the First-Tier Tribunal for Scotland.

(S5W-24610)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government will continue to work with the tenancy deposit schemes and other key stakeholders such as local authorities to raise awareness of matters affecting private landlords, including on letting agent regulation. This will supplement the landlord specific guide on letting agent regulation that has already been published.

Information on the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland is widely available. In addition the Easy Read Notes that must accompany every private residential tenancy include wide-ranging information about the First-Tier Tribunal for Scotland. As private residential tenancies increase in number and tenancies from the old tenancy regime diminish awareness amongst landlords and tenants is expected to improve significantly.

The First-tier Tribunal has recently reported in its annual report 2018-19 that 353 applications were received over the last year for an order for payment of a sanction where the landlord has failed to comply with the duty to pay a tenancy deposit into an approved scheme. It also reports a dramatic increase in access to justice since the dispute resolution for deposit protection cases transferred from the sheriff court.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to ensure that (a) tenants and (b) landlords are better informed about the rights of private-rented sector tenants.

(S5W-24611)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government continue to work with a range of stakeholders in order to raise awareness of rights and responsibilities within the private rented sector. Most recently we have:

- undertaken a social media campaign and developed a website of private renting resources, in partnership with Young Scot, specifically targeted at young renters aged 16-24; and
- issued a comprehensive summary of renters new rights and responsibilities via all three of the tenancy deposit schemes, reaching a potential target audience of just under 65,000 landlords, around 4,000 letting agents and all their respective tenants.

We will continue to explore new opportunities to raise awareness levels amongst both tenants and landlords.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it will work with tenancy deposit schemes to ensure that all tenants receive their deposits back on time, in light of the finding in the paper, *Review of Tenancy Deposit Schemes in Scotland*, that one-third did not.

(S5W-24612)

Kevin Stewart: The Review of Tenancy Deposit Schemes in Scotland shows that one-fifth of tenants did not receive their deposits back on time. However, this figure is likely to be affected by the significant nonresponse bias for the review. Key performance indicator reports provided by the tenancy deposit schemes to the Scottish Government each month show that most deposits are returned on time.

Andy Wightman (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it can do to support tenancy deposit schemes whose account surpluses might be affected by the impact of low interest rates.

(S5W-24613)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government has regular communications with the tenancy deposit schemes and receives formal interval performance reports and audited accounts. The low interest rates have not affected the ability of the schemes to operate within the regulatory framework and continue to achieve the original objectives as outlined in the answer to question S5W-24609 on 21 August 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>.

Health and Social Care

Brian Whittle (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-23920 by Jeane Freeman on 9 July 2019, what its response is to the findings of the recent study, *Early Cancer detection Test – Lung cancer Scotland*, regarding screening for high-risk individuals.

(S5W-24413)

Jeane Freeman: Scottish Government officials met recently with the lead investigator of this study who presented some early findings in confidence. However, the results of the study have yet to be published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. Once the full results have been published, it is expected that the UK National Screening Committee will consider the data as a matter of course.

The Scottish Government has a clear commitment to increase early detection rates of lung cancer and a number of pieces of work are underway to ensure Scotland contributes to the emerging evidence base. While there are some potentially exciting developments for lung cancer in the pipeline, it's imperative that the time is taken now to carefully explore the best option(s) that match our unique circumstances in Scotland, to avoid creating further health disparities.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to implement the findings of its 2018 consultation regarding the promotion of junk food.

(S5W-24518)

Joe FitzPatrick: An analysis of responses to the Reducing Health Harms of Foods High in Fat, Sugar and Salt consultation will be published by the autumn.

The Scottish Government will reflect on the findings from the consultation in considering what actions to take going forward.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when the final neurological conditions national action plan 2019-2024 will be published, in light of the consultation period on the draft plan ending in February 2019.

(S5W-24536)

Joe FitzPatrick: We've been considering the consultation responses and engaging with stakeholders, and partners, to refine the National Action Plan on Neurological Conditions, which will be published in final form later this year.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the uptake for the influenza vaccine reportedly decreasing since 2013-14, how it plans to increase the uptake for (a) people aged 65 and over and (b) other at-risk groups during the 2018-19 vaccination programme.

(S5W-24540)

Joe FitzPatrick: Through research, Health Scotland have identified perceived barriers to vaccination for those 'vaccine hesitators' in key priority groups. The public awareness campaign for this coming season (2019-20) aims to challenge those misconceptions and offer reassurance with the aim of supporting increased uptake.

The annual Chief Medical Officer letter will also emphasise that the benefits of flu vaccination should be communicated and vaccination made as easily accessible as possible for eligible groups. The letter will also urge Health Boards and GPs to ensure resources are aligned to help support good uptake rates.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, what its response is to reports of high influenza activity early in the season in Australia and across the Southern Hemisphere; what impact this could have on influenza activity in Scotland, and what action it will take in response to this.

(S5W-24541)

Joe FitzPatrick: We are closely monitoring the current flu season in Australia and will use any transferrable evidence and learning from Australia to strengthen approaches for Scotland.

While evaluating the Southern Hemisphere's flu season is useful for our own planning it does not necessarily mean that the Northern Hemisphere will experience the same flu season next winter.

The best way for people to defend themselves from the flu is to be vaccinated. A new flu campaign for the 2019-20 Scottish season will launch in Autumn and work is underway to ensure effective planning is in place.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many residential rehabilitation and detox services have been registered in each year since 1999.

(S5W-24550)

Joe FitzPatrick: This information is not held centrally.

Between 2002 and 2011, the Care Commission had responsibility for the regulation and registration of care homes for people with alcohol and drug misuse problems. From 1 April 2011, this was the responsibility of the Care Inspectorate with Healthcare Improvement Scotland regulating independent healthcare services in Scotland.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to review breast screening for people aged over 80.

(S5W-24551)

Joe FitzPatrick: At the moment, there are no plans to extend the age range of women invited to take part in the Breast Screening Programme in Scotland. The Scottish Government is advised on all aspects of screening by the UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC), an independent expert group who assess screening programmes against a robust set of criteria, before advising the NHS and Ministers in the UK. The UKNSC continues to monitor and consider all available evidence and recommendations and this will include the results of the cluster-randomised trial currently underway in England, when these are published.

The Breast Screening Programme in England is currently running a cluster randomised trial which is looking to extend the age range to 47-73. The trial began in 2009 and is still recruiting women. The main results of this trial are expected in the 2020s.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much each integration joint board has allocated to (a) alcohol and drug partnerships and (b) other services in each year since 1999.

(S5W-24553)

Joe FitzPatrick: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-24338 on 1 August 2019, from Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the total spend on alcohol and drug partnerships by integration authorities was in 2018-19.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website; the search facility for which can be found at: <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the average waiting time has been to access residential drug rehabilitation services in each year since 1999, broken down by alcohol and drug partnership.

(S5W-24560)

Joe FitzPatrick: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-21594 on 6 March 2019. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website; the search facility for which can be found at: <https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the average waiting time for an endoscopy has been in each year since 1999, broken down by NHS board.

(S5W-24566)

Jeane Freeman: ISD publish waiting times for endoscopies as part of the Diagnostics Waiting Times publication. The data published gives the number of people who are still waiting at the end of each month, and does not provide the completed waiting times for this test. Performance against the 6 week standard is only available from quarter ending June 2009.

All diagnostics data can be found on their website <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Waiting-Times/Publications/index.asp>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have been referred by each NHS board for an endoscopy in the independent sector in each year since 1999.

(S5W-24567)

Jeane Freeman: This information requested is not held centrally by the Scottish Government. The member may wish to consider contacting individual health boards to obtain this information.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-24070 by Joe FitzPatrick on 26 July 2019, whether it will provide the figures for the period broken down by year.

(S5W-24605)

Joe FitzPatrick: The following table shows laboratory confirmed reports in Scotland of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria which causes Lyme disease, reported to Health Protection Scotland (HPS) June 2014 to May 2019 in each NHS board area by year

NHS Board	2014 Jun-Dec	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 Jan- May	Laboratory reports June 2014- May 2019
Ayrshire & Arran	5	4	2	2	2	2	17
Borders	2		2	1	2	1	8
Dumfries & Galloway	1	9	6	4	7	1	28
Fife	4	5	3	3	2	1	18
Forth Valley				2	7	1	10
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	8	14	17	13	16	2	70
Grampian	26	34	23	31	19	7	140
Highland	70	95	75	71	123	35	469
Lanarkshire	5	3	3	3	11	1	26
Lothian	14	13	8	14	16	6	72
Orkney		1		1			2
Shetland							0
Tayside	10	14	21	17	24	4	90
Western Isles	8	7	10	5	9	2	41
Total	153	200	170	167	238	63	991

* data for 2018/2019 is still provisional

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to ensure that the general standards in neurological health services are implemented universally across NHS.

(S5W-24616)

Joe FitzPatrick: Organisations delivering services are responsible for implementing the standards at a local level, and local quality frameworks and procedures will assist them in monitoring progress.

As part of the draft National Action Plan, we have included a commitment to promote and support the implementation of the Healthcare Improvement Scotland General Standards for Neurological Care and Support 2018.

In developing the National Action Plan (on Neurological Conditions) we are actively considering national governance arrangements, which will include intelligence gathered on implementation of the HIS standards.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it takes to monitor the implementation of the general standards in neurological health services across NHS boards.

(S5W-24617)

Joe FitzPatrick: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-24616 on 21 August 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>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to increase the amount of training that infectious disease consultants receive on tick-borne diseases through the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Education Foundation (ILADEF) physician training programme.

(S5W-24691)

Joe FitzPatrick: Increasing awareness amongst healthcare professionals of the symptoms of Lyme disease is an on-going priority for the Lyme Borreliosis Group, which is part of the Scottish Health Protection Network (SHPN). The group has produced a suite of educational resources to aid healthcare professionals in the early detection and treatment of Lyme disease which can be accessed here: <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-theme-initiative/public-health/health-protection/gastrointestinal-infection-and-zoonoses/ticks-and-lyme-disease.aspx>

On 14 June 2019 the Chief Medical Officer wrote to all NHS Health Boards, including Infectious Disease Consultants and GP Practices highlighting the availability of these resources. The letter shares current sources of public facing advice and information on Lyme disease and provides links to current guidance on diagnosis and management.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-24139 by Jeane Freeman on 9 August 2019, when it expects the first Scottish mesh survivors to be treated by Dr Veronikis; for what reason it did not provide this information in its answer, and what progress it has made on this issue since the ministerial statement on 26 June 2019.

(S5W-24700)

Jeane Freeman: The member is referred to the answer given to S5W-24624 on 20 August 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>.