

Tuesday 11 August 2020

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Economy

Tom Mason (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to additional support for the oil and gas sector, in light of low oil prices caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(S5W-30657)

Paul Wheelhouse: The oil and gas sector in Scotland continues to be significantly affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decrease in oil prices. The Scottish Government are working with a range of partners to consider how short, medium and long term needs can be addressed.

We have committed, in line with industry's asks of us, to invest £62 million in an Energy Transition Fund to support businesses in the oil, gas and energy sectors to grow and diversify and make significant progress on an energy transition as we move towards a net zero greenhouse gas emissions future. This fund will, we understand, potentially help lever in a total of more than £900 million investment, if the Sector Deal is supported by UK Ministers, as I anticipate it will be.

The investment will benefit the wider Scottish energy sector and broader supply chain, working with local businesses to maximise the economic benefits, support sustainable jobs and contribute to inclusive economic growth across the country. This fund was developed in consultation with the industry and we will continue to engage with the sector on projects as we go forward.

The Oil and Gas, and Energy Transition Strategic Leadership Group, which I chair, has also been refocused and is now meeting monthly and working with OGUK, OGA, trade unions and employers to identify practical actions to support the sector and its supply chain. In addition to an additional exceptional meeting held on 2nd of April, four subsequent meetings of the refocused group have now been held, which have focused on the retention of talent and skills in the sector as well as projects and actions to support the recovery of the sector and the energy transition. These discussions have helped to inform the development of the Energy Transition Fund. The most recent meeting focused on development of support packages for the supply chain.

The Scottish Government will continue to engage with the UK Government and key stakeholders to ensure there continues to be a tripartite approach to supporting the oil and gas sector, including on the delivery of a sector deal.

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

To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it has given to banks regarding safe opening as part of the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

(S5W-30875)

Jamie Hepburn: The financial sector is designated as a Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) sector, providing essential services for businesses and society. As such, the sector has continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 crisis, adjusting its operating practices to ensure continuity of service while protecting its staff and customers.

The financial sector has already made significant adjustments, for example allowing bank branches to remain open, while maintaining physical distancing and enabling large numbers of staff to work from home, ensuring the continued provision of services across banking, insurance and investment.

I convened a short life working group comprising representatives from the sector, unions, government and regulators to develop guidance for the sector. This guidance was published on 7 August 2020 and is available on the Scottish Government website.

Education, Communities and Justice

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to help tackle climate change through the retrofitting of educational buildings, with the aim of them having net-zero emissions by 2030.

(S5W-30543)

Paul Wheelhouse: Our Learning Estate Strategy sets out a range of outcomes for Scottish educational buildings, including an ambitious energy efficiency target to make learning environments greener and more sustainable, contributing to our commitment to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. We are also developing a benchmark standard for new public sector buildings that will ensure the heating systems of new educational buildings are renewable or zero carbon.

Support for Public and Third Sector organisations to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings is available through our Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework, which has been designed to support organisations procure Energy Efficiency retrofit work. Funding for these projects is available through Salix Finance interest free loans for up to 50% of eligible costs through the Scottish Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme (SEELS) funded by Scottish Government.

Higher Education Institutions in Scotland have also been able to access support and finance for carbon reduction projects through our Universities for

the Future: Decarbonising Scotland Fund and the £20 million University Carbon Reduction Fund, funded by our Scottish Funding Council, with both funds managed by Salix Finance.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that drug-related deaths have increased during the COVID-19 lockdown, and whether Police Scotland will publish this data.

Holding answer issued: 10 August 2020

(S5W-30667)

Humza Yousaf: A holding answer was provided.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many prison officers have been tested for COVID-19, and how many tested (a) positive, (b) negative and (c) inconclusive.

(S5W-30670)

Humza Yousaf: I have asked Teresa Medhurst, Interim Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), to respond. Her response is as follows:

Testing of Scottish Prison Service (SPS) staff with Covid-19 symptoms commenced on 5 April 2020.

Accurate as of 3 August 2020, a total of 353 tests have been carried out on SPS staff since testing commenced. Sixty-one (61) staff have tested positive, 283 tested negative, 8 staff were retested due to inconclusive initial test outcomes and one result remains outstanding.

4 SPS staff are currently absent with COVID-19 symptoms, 6 are self-isolating (4 due to caring responsibilities and 2 due to foreign travel quarantine) and 45 are physically distancing.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to tackle the consumption of unauthorised substances in prisons, which reportedly tripled between 2017-18 and 2018-19.

(S5W-30671)

Humza Yousaf: I have asked Teresa Medhurst, Interim Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), to respond. Her response is as follows:

The SPS deploys a variety of strategic, tactical and technological responses to reduce drug use in Scotland's prisons and has invested in the development of new technology to detect, deter and reduce the availability and supply of

illegal substances. Such security measures include a range of tactical options supported by x-ray machines and body scanners. Rapiscan Itemiser machines are now deployed in every establishment. These machines are effective in the identification of illicit substances, particularly psychoactive substances.

We have an established Technical Support Unit which is resourced to provide technical support to national search operations including specialised equipment to support overt and covert search operations. The SPS works in partnership with Police Scotland to seek prosecutions for any individual seeking to breach security processes and disrupt the good order of establishments.

In 2016-17, the drugs portfolio was transferred from Scottish Government's Justice Directorate to the Health Directorate, ensuring that problem drug use is viewed through a public health lens. SPS similarly has adopted a dual approach to reducing drug use in prisons, focussing on both health and security measures.

SPS' Substance Misuse Strategy reflects the aims and objectives of Scottish Government's National Alcohol and Drug Treatment Strategy – Rights, Respect and Recovery. The strategy focuses on robust security systems to divert, disrupt, detect and deter the supply of illicit substances, in addition to the provision of treatment services to encourage prisoners to reject illegal drug culture and support recovery from problematic drug use.

Some prison sites, such as HMP Shotts, have developed peer led Recovery Cafes. These cafes allow people in custody to offer their knowledge and support others in order to identify and challenge their substance misuse problems.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of statistics that show 1,757 incidents of assault were recorded in prisons in 2018-19, an increase of 45% compared with 2017-18, how it plans to tackle this growing problem of prisoner violence.

(S5W-30673)

Humza Yousaf: I have asked Teresa Medhurst, Interim Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), to respond. Her response is as follows:

The SPS has a zero tolerance approach towards violence. SPS staff are trained to recognise and respond to the precursors of violence and manage any incidents when they do occur.

SPS continues to seek to understand the changing nature of the prison population profile and the subsequent impact on violence, particularly in relation to serious organised crime. SPS implements measures to prevent

individuals identified as enemies from being located within the same residential areas. There has been a 2400 % increase in the number of Serious and Organised Crime Group (SOCG) Principals in custody between 2015 and 2019, as well as a significant increase in the number of intervals arrested and then convicted as a result of SOCG.

Violence Reduction meetings take place on a monthly basis across Scottish Prisons to discuss all notable incidents, trends and preventative actions.

CCTV cameras operate within all Scottish prisons to deter violent incidents and assist in any post-incident investigations. Violent incidents are always reported to Police Scotland.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to introduce a grant scheme to increase energy efficiency in the homes of employed people.

(S5W-31012)

Kevin Stewart: The Scottish Government is committed to helping households in Scotland to have more energy efficient and affordable to heat homes, and we have a long-standing range of funding and support schemes available.

For homeowners, interest-free loan schemes covering up to 100% of the cost of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures are available, including cashback grants on some measures for example: Loft, floor or cavity wall insulation: up to £1,000 (£750 loan plus £250 cashback); Solid wall insulation: up to £10,000 (£7,500 loan plus £2,500 cashback) and Heating system (warm air units or high heat retention electric storage heaters): up to £5,000 (£4,600 plus £400 cashback).

The maximum amount that can be borrowed is £15,000 (including a maximum cashback amount of £3,750).

Some householders may also be eligible for funded support through the Scottish Government's national Warmer Homes Scotland scheme or through local authority-led Area Based Schemes. These programmes are focused on individuals in fuel poverty and areas with a high proportion of fuel poor households respectively. Eligibility criteria apply, but employment status is not directly a criteria.

Home Energy Scotland, which is funded by the Scottish Government, acts as our gateway to all of the Scottish Government's energy efficiency schemes. They also offer all callers free and impartial energy efficiency advice and advice on how to keep the home warmer and more affordable to heat.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has for expanding the use of virtual custody cases.

(S5W-31032)

Humza Yousaf: This question relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of the Scottish Court and Tribunals Service (SCTS) corporate body. The question has been passed to the Chief Executive of the SCTS who will reply in writing within 20 days.

Health and Social Care

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what accommodation has been provided for NHS staff during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-29618)

Jeane Freeman: 467 members of staff from Health Boards were placed in temporary accommodation, organised by the Health Boards, between the start of lockdown and 1 July 2020.

The accommodation provided to staff included hotels, self-catering accommodation and residences. Two Health Board used their own, vacant student accommodation on an as-needed basis. One Health Board does not hold data on how many staff have accessed this accommodation due to reasons pertaining to Covid-19.

All Health Boards put in place their own policies and processes for organising accommodation for member of staff who needed to stay away from their main home to protect themselves, their family or the public. We have received assurance that these policies included protecting the emotional and physical wellbeing of staff, and only using accommodation where infection control procedures could be put in place.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of Quebec's college of physicians recommending that mesh injured women are reimbursed by the province's health insurance board for mesh removal surgery undertaken in the United States, whether it will reimburse women in Scotland in the same circumstances.

(S5W-30013)

Jeane Freeman: Health Boards may seek out-of-area treatments for patients where considered necessary and appropriate. Precise detail of the process will differ between Health Boards but, typically, a patient would firstly be expected to discuss any such referral with their clinician. If agreed, an individual patient treatment request will then be referred to the Health Board for consideration. The Health Board will review the application and in doing so

considering whether the treatment requested can reasonably be provided in Scotland, and in due course will inform the clinician and patient whether the request is accepted.

If a patient makes a personal decision to seek private treatment without liaising with the Health Board, we would not ordinarily expect that patient to be reimbursed. However, it would ultimately be a matter for the Health Board concerned.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many tests for COVID-19 were carried out by each NHS board in each month between November 2019 and February 2020, also broken down by the number of positive test results.

(S5W-30213)

Jeane Freeman:

| | Covid-19 Testing by Board (Nov 19-Feb 20) | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|-----|-------|-------------------------|
| | Dec | Jan | Feb | Total | Includes positive (Feb) |
| NHS Ayrshire and Arran | | | 30 | 30 | |
| NHS Borders | | | 27 | 27 | |
| NHS Dumfries and Galloway | | | 26 | 26 | |
| NHS Fife | | 2 | 68 | 70 | |
| NHS Forth Valley | | | 69 | 69 | |
| NHS Grampian | | | 90 | 90 | |
| NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde | | | 138 | 138 | |
| NHS Highland | | | 36 | 36 | |
| NHS Lanarkshire | | 1 | 62 | 63 | |
| NHS Lothian | 1 | 3 | 186 | 190 | |
| NHS Orkney | | | 7 | 7 | |
| NHS Shetland | | | 0 | 0 | |
| NHS Tayside | | | 80 | 80 | 1 |
| NHS Western Isles | | | 2 | 2 | |
| NULL | | 1 | 37 | 38 | |
| | 1 | 7 | 858 | 866 | 1 |

There were no tests conducted in November

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether its COVID-19 daily testing statistics include the number of home test kits sent out or of tests completed and returned.

(S5W-30659)

Jeane Freeman: The number of home tests carried out was not reported via Scottish Government data until the 8 July. Up until this point the number of home tests was reported in data from the Department of Health and Social Care at the UK level. From the 8 July all testing carried out for residents in Scotland, including the number of home kits ordered (or simply home kits) are now included in the data reported daily in the Scottish Government website.

The data provided by Public Health Scotland is for home tests that have produced a valid laboratory result, not the number of kits sent out.

More information can be found here :

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland>. Definitions are available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-data-definitions-and-sources>.

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

To ask the Scottish Government, following the agreement between Vertex Pharmaceuticals and NHS England to make the cystic fibrosis drug, Kaftrio (trikafta), available in England, what discussions it has had with Vertex on making the drug available in Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 10 August 2020

(S5W-30660)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):

To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the data it is using to commence quarantine checks for international arrivals in Scotland was not considered to be of sufficient quality on 22 June 2020.

Holding answer issued: 10 August 2020

(S5W-30668)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to put in place a system to recompense mesh-injured women who have had to pay for private surgery to remove a mesh implant originally implanted by the NHS, given that full mesh removal by the NHS is not available in Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 10 August 2020

(S5W-30691)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will establish a third sector recovery and renewal fund for third sector health and care organisations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holding answer issued: 10 August 2020

(S5W-30695)

Jeane Freeman: A holding answer was provided.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the particular challenges that children and young people with additional support needs face during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may require a multi-agency response, what plans it has to support the development of a digital platform that would allow secure case discussions and information exchange between NHS and local authority children's services.

(S5W-30706)

Maree Todd: Health Boards and Local Authorities are using established multi agency relationships and systems to continue and adapt GIRFEC approaches to support children and families including maintaining contact, assessing and planning for individual children.

We published our Digital Health and Care Strategy in 2018, this provided a strong foundation for us to scale up our digital response to Covid-19, building on initiatives that were already underway, using tried and tested, and readily available technologies.

Our digital response to Covid-19 has included the roll-out of Microsoft Teams across our entire NHS estate which has allowed for greater collaboration across organisations including Local Authorities by providing a platform for secure communication where required across multi-disciplinary teams.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether research into regional variations of COVID-19 death rates has established for what reasons Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire have reported death rates above the national average and, if so, what the conclusions were.

(S5W-30733)

Jeane Freeman: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-30732 on 6 August 2020. 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>

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support people with diabetes who are at increased risk from COVID-19, and whether it is considering any additional protections on their returning to work, as well as on the return of other groups of people who are shielding.

(S5W-30739)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government appreciates returning to work will be a worrying time for people living with an underlying health condition, such as diabetes.

The health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and the economy is the priority of the Scottish Government. All employers in Scotland should follow the existing Scottish guidance, support workers to follow health protection advice and have a statutory duty to ensure that workers' health and safety is protected. This includes undertaking risk assessments of their work activity, assessing the risk from Covid-19 spread in the workplace, and putting in place appropriate mitigating measures.

We published guidance for employers and employees to support people who considered themselves at higher risk of contracting Covid-19 on 30 July 2020. This provides practical measures which should be taken, including risk assessments and prioritising their needs in planning phased returns to physical workplaces. This guidance can be found by following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-shielding/pages/returning-to-work/>

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it has provided to NHS boards to restart musculoskeletal condition services and all surgeries.

(S5W-30767)

Joe FitzPatrick: Throughout our response to the pandemic, where an urgent clinical need has existed Essential Musculoskeletal services, which includes first contact practitioners, have continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic using telephone, Near me and in person if required.

On 31 May we published the "Re-mobilise, Recover, Re-design: the framework for NHS Scotland" that supports Health Boards to plan the phased restoration of postponed NHS services. A Mobilisation Recovery Group, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, has been established to advise Government.

Initial plans for the period ending July 2020 have been received and a [summary of services being resumed broken down by territorial Health Board](#) was published on 19 June. This shows the safe and phased re-start of many

hospital elective and primary care services (in line with the above Framework, clinical guidance and according to local circumstances).

The next iteration of plans for the period ending March 2021 have been requested and these will be analysed in early August. Any issues with plans are being addressed directly with Health Boards as part of the iterative planning process.

Most Health Boards have provided urgent orthopaedic/ rheumatology care during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and are resuming outpatient clinics utilising virtual or telephone consultations where it is clinically appropriate.

Nationally we have worked with third sector organisations such as Versus Arthritis to publish tailored advice and guidance about specific long term conditions and COVID-19, to signpost people to resources and different ways to access support to self-manage their condition.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it will monitor, report on and ensure that NHS board remobilisation plans, including services used by people with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, are restarted in a timely and safe manner.

(S5W-30768)

Joe FitzPatrick: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-30767 on 11 August 2020. 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 how many NHS boards have plans in place to restart musculoskeletal conditions services.

(S5W-30769)

Joe FitzPatrick: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-30767 on 11 August 2020. 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>

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it anticipates equestrian competitions will be permitted to resume.

(S5W-30787)

Joe FitzPatrick: The Scottish Government and sport scotland have been working with partners on a range of sports and activities on the way they can resume in a safe way. All sports and activities pose different challenges,

which can impact on the timing of resumption of certain disciplines. In terms of Equestrian, we have engaged with HorseScotland to work towards a timely return of both grassroots activity and competition.

HorseScotland is a key member of the COVID-19 response group which has been set up by sport scotland to consider the conditions required for the return of outdoor sport. HorseScotland have recently published phase 3 guidance on their [website](#). This guidance indicates that at present, to restrict the possible spread of the virus, competition should only be undertaken locally and informally. Ministers will review this regularly with a view to permitting competition as soon as possible.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason equestrian competitions have not been permitted to resume, in light of other outdoor-based sports being able to.

(S5W-30788)

Joe FitzPatrick: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-30787 on 11 August 2020. 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>

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it anticipates providers of acupuncture treatment will be permitted to return to work.

(S5W-30789)

Joe FitzPatrick: Following a clinical assessment, personal retail services, including Complementary and Alternative Medicine services (CAMs) and massage therapy, were advised that they could resume services as of 22 July 2020, where the service is carried out in a therapist's own premises (i.e. not a mobile therapist, who provides treatment in a patient's home), and the [close contact retail guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this.

The Scottish Government are undertaking further clinical assessment of the risk of transmission of COVID-19 for mobile massage and CAM services, and are considering whether further guidance is required for these.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason acupuncturists and providers of other health services have not been permitted to return to work, in light of hairdressers being permitted to do so on 15 July 2020.

(S5W-30790)

Joe FitzPatrick: Following a clinical assessment, personal retail services, including Complementary and Alternative Medicine services (CAMs) and massage therapy, were advised that they could resume services as of 22 July 2020, where the service is carried out in a therapist's own premises (i.e. not a mobile therapist, who provides treatment in a patient's home), and the [close contact retail guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this.

The Scottish Government are undertaking further clinical assessment of the risk of transmission of COVID-19 for mobile massage and CAM services, and are considering whether further guidance is required for these.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it expects professional providers of complementary, natural and alternative medicines to be permitted to reopen their practices.

(S5W-30810)

Joe FitzPatrick: Following a clinical assessment, personal retail services, including Complementary and Alternative Medicine services (CAMs) and massage therapy, were advised that they could resume services as of 22 July 2020, where the service is carried out in a therapist's own premises (i.e. not a mobile therapist, who provides treatment in a patient's home), and the [close contact retail guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this.

The Scottish Government are undertaking further clinical assessment of the risk of transmission of COVID-19 for mobile massage and CAM services, and are considering whether further guidance is required for these.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it expects (a) swimming pools to reopen and (b) competitive swimming to restart, and what its response is to suggestions that swimming can be restarted safely with appropriate measures.

(S5W-30811)

Joe FitzPatrick: The indicative date for the reopening of indoor sport and leisure facilities including swimming pools is 14 September. However the Scottish Government will continue to review the situation to see if earlier reopening is possible, with the intention to provide a further update on 20 August.

In terms of competitive swimming our performance swimmers have already been given permission to start training and careful consideration is being given to indoor competitive sports – including swimming.

We have been working with the sector to develop robust guidance and protocols that will allow necessary preparation for reopening indoor facilities

and swimming pools and provide confidence for the public and members and staff to return with physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measures.

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

To ask the Scottish Government when it expects to allow personal trainers to begin teaching classes of up to 30 people from different households on an (a) outdoor and (b) indoor basis, as is currently the case in England.

(S5W-30812)

Joe FitzPatrick: Following the First Minister's statement on 30 July 2020, from 3 August coaches are permitted to work with more than four households outdoors in a day, subject to sport scotland guidance. We will also be looking to make changes to allow coaches to work with larger groups outdoors and will provide further details on when this can resume in due course.

The indicative date for the reopening of indoor leisure facilities is 14 September with physical distancing and enhanced hygiene measures in place. The Scottish Government will keep this under review to consider whether an earlier re-opening date is feasible.

Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government for what reasons acupuncture cannot take place at present, and when such services can restart.

(S5W-30817)

Joe FitzPatrick: Following a clinical assessment, personal retail services, including Complementary and Alternative Medicine services (CAMs) and massage therapy, were advised that they could resume services as of 22 July 2020, where the service is carried out in a therapist's own premises (i.e. not a mobile therapist, who provides treatment in a patient's home), and the [close contact retail guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this.

The Scottish Government are undertaking further clinical assessment of the risk of transmission of COVID-19 for mobile massage and CAM services, and are considering whether further guidance is required for these.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the provision of wheelchair services and loan stores, and when and how will services be resumed.

(S5W-30858)

Jeane Freeman: Regional Wheelchair and Seating Services Centres had to limit or temporarily pause some out-patient services during the lockdown period. Some staff were redeployed to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic

response, and are now returning to their roles. The centres have used video-conferencing, telephone reviews and home delivery services where possible.

All other equipment stores have remained operational during the pandemic. All emergency work, including hospital discharges, care home admissions and end of life care, continued throughout the pandemic.

Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on reporting cases of COVID-19 by postcode, and not by region.

(S5W-30864)

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring information on the Covid-19 epidemic in Scotland is available to the public. Information cannot be released if it is potentially disclosive – that is, if there is a risk that individuals could be identified. Therefore, the geographies at which we report must represent a large enough population that individuals cannot be identified.

Public Health Scotland released a dashboard on 29 July 2020 that shows information at the level of local authority. The dashboard can be accessed at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/phs.covid.19#!/>

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what action it takes to ensure that best practice guidance will be adhered to when joint replacement surgery resumes following the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown, and how people with arthritis will be involved in informing and shaping any proposed changes to trauma and orthopaedic waiting times performance standards.

(S5W-30895)

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government are working to ensure that high quality care is available for Trauma and Orthopaedic patients, and discussions on the resumption of Orthopaedic services have taken place with Mr Alastair Murray, Chair of the Scottish Committee of Orthopaedic and Trauma.

In relation to best practice guidance for joint replacement surgery, Trauma and Orthopaedic services across Scotland are ensuring they adhere to the existing standards for pre-assessment, admission and surgery that were in place before the Covid pandemic. Care is being taken to ensure that patients are segregated to minimise risk of nosocomial wound and prosthetic infection.

Follow up post-surgery will be in line with the current standard practice and will often be carried out via the telephone or through the use of “Near Me”, with patient initiated reviews being offered so that individuals can contact the service for advice if any problems/concerns arise. In addition the Scottish

Arthroplasty Project continues to collect data on this patient group to monitor clinical outcomes.

Mr Murray and the Scottish Government Muscular Skeletal (MSK) Access Team and the Quality Improvement Team are keen to work with patient groups to help inform any proposed changes to waiting list priority in MSK and have already been involved with the cross party group on MSK chaired by Brian Whittle MSP, as well as Versus Arthritis.

Richard Leonard (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which steps it has taken to ensure that the NHS is prepared for a possible second wave of the COVID-19 virus, and what is being done to reduce the impact of this on other services.

(S5W-30908)

Jeane Freeman: [Re-mobilise, Recover, Re-design, The Framework for NHS Scotland](#) sets out how Health Boards will safely and gradually prioritise the resumption of paused services whilst continuing to protect emergency, urgent and maternity care, as well as retaining sufficient capacity for COVID-19. The reality is COVID-19 is likely to be with us for some time to come, and so the framework seeks to ensure that the successful steps taken to maintain services during the pandemic are learnt from and built upon. This includes the significant innovations introduced across the NHS to assess patients using digital technology. Many changes made in the coming weeks and months have to be measured against the need to keep the virus under control, continuing to protect the NHS and save lives.

Informed by this framework, NHS Boards were commissioned to develop plans covering the period from August until next March. These plans incorporate the Boards' approach to planning for Winter 2020-21, including the potential for a second upsurge in Covid infections. We are currently reviewing these submissions to assess their efficacy and robustness and will work with Boards to improve their plans, recognising that while we remain on an emergency footing, implementation of the plans will be contingent on Ministers' approval. A [Mobilisation Recovery Group](#), chaired by the Health Secretary, has also begun work (first meeting was on 29 June) to advise on the best approach to take this important work forward, including longer term health and social care reform.

Richard Leonard (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many death in service payments have been made to the families of frontline (a) NHS and (b) social care workers who died as a result of COVID-19.

(S5W-30916)

Jeane Freeman: We have recently extended the death in service scheme in NHS Scotland to include a flat £60,000 payment to next of kin of all NHS staff who die in service where COVID-19 is a documented factor. There are four applicants to the NHS scheme, all currently being processed for payment, and Social Care are currently in touch with a further four applicants. We are working to identify everyone who is eligible to receive this payment, and would encourage all potential applicants to come forward.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether future guidance to NHS boards can include reference to the statutory duty to involve patients in service delivery.

(S5W-30948)

Jeane Freeman: There is already national guidance to support NHS Boards to fulfil their public involvement duties under the NHS Reform (Scotland) Act 2004.

The CEL 4 (2010) guidance to NHS Boards, “Informing, Engaging and Consulting People in Developing Health and Community Care Services”, which is available online at http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2010_04.pdf, sets out how NHS Boards should inform, engage with, and consult with patients and their local communities.

I wrote to all NHS Boards in June this year to remind them of their duties and the national guidance.

We are working jointly with COSLA to develop updated community engagement guidance which will apply across health and social care. This work was temporarily paused due to the pandemic and will restart when it is appropriate to do so.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what safeguards it is putting in place to ensure that NHS boards and integration authorities are involving people with arthritis as services are resumed, as per their statutory duties.

(S5W-30950)

Jeane Freeman: Robust arrangements for public engagement are in place for both NHS Boards and Integration Authorities.

Health Boards are subject to the public involvement duties set out in the NHS Reform (Scotland) Act 2004 and the national CEL 4 (2010) guidance on “Informing, engaging and consulting people in developing health and community care services”.

Integration Authorities have a range of duties conferred upon them through the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, which requires a comprehensive approach to engagement and participation with a range of key stakeholders.

We expect NHS Boards and Integration Authorities to apply the principles of early and meaningful engagement proportionately when making decisions regarding the delivery of arthritis services. Healthcare Improvement Scotland - Community Engagement have also developed guidance to support engagement during this time.

Transport Scotland

Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will list the monthly subsidy payments received by Serco NorthLink for the six-month extension to the Northern Isles Ferry Services contract, which was announced by Transport Scotland on 6 February 2020.

(S5W-30496)

Paul Wheelhouse: In order to complete the award process and allow an adequate mobilisation period, the Scottish Government announced on 6 February 2020 that the Northern Isles Ferry Services (NIFS) contract was to be extended by a period of up to six months to ensure continuity of services.

Following effective mobilisation the new contract commenced early on 30 June 2020.

The total amount of subsidy for the extension period has not been finalised given Covid-19 impacts and the contract expiring at the end of June 2020. It is anticipated that the finalised subsidy payments for the period requested will be available at the end of September 2020. As with the member's previous question on financial aspects of support on NIFS, reference (S5W-25115 on 17 September 2019) we will provide full costs for the extension period when these have been finalised and requested.

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>

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when it will introduce road equivalent tariff on ferry routes across the Pentland Firth.

(S5W-30650)

Paul Wheelhouse: As the member is aware, the implementation of our preferred ferry fares policy of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) on Northern Isles ferry services has not yet been possible because of a State aid complaint that was made to the European Commission.

The Scottish Government has engaged with the European Commission on the complaints and we will continue working to establish an agreed mechanism for delivering RET for Orkney and Shetland, although this work has been delayed due to resourcing issues relating to Covid 19.

In the meantime, islanders travelling on Aberdeen-Kirkwall-Lerwick routes have received a 20% reduction on cabin fares and a three-year freeze on passenger, non-commercial vehicle and cabin fares, which came into effect on 1 January 2020. This package of measures builds on the 30% discount already enjoyed by islanders.