Written Answers Relating to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee Remit

Thursday 24 September

James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it defines "regulated venue" as set out in its COVID-19 restrictions regarding weddings. S5W-31821

Fergus Ewing: A regulated venue is a venue that complies with the following guidance and restrictions:

- The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020;
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): tourism and hospitality sector guidance;
- COVID-19: Guidance for small marriages and civil partnerships (if the venue where the reception is taking place is also hosting the ceremony);

A regulated venue would therefore not be a private dwelling which would need to comply both with any regional guidance (in which some instances visits to others' houses are not permissible) and the current guidance on meeting other households (which is currently limited to no more than 6 people from 2 households).

Tuesday 22 September

Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the scientific evidence used to inform its decision to restrict the playing of background music in hospitality venues. S5W-31763

Fergus Ewing: Factors such as background sound that may lead to raised voices or cause people to lean-in close to others to be heard are a risk factor in the transmission of coronavirus. This is recognised by a wide body of scientific evidence in relation to the role of aerosols in the transmission of viruses. The current position of no background sound, including low level music and audio from television, is a measured and cautious approach to reduce risk. It is being kept under review and government continues to work with industry experts to consider how guidance can be developed to allow low level background sound to be managed safely.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-31438 by Fiona Hyslop on 3 September 2020, how many awards from the culture and heritage support package in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have been allocated in each local authority area toward each of the 13 purposes set out in the response, also broken down by the (a) largest, (b) smallest and (c) average size of award. S5W-31673
Fiona Hyslop: The funding for the purposes set out in my answer to question S5W-31438 is mostly being distributed through open funds which have been recently, are currently, or will soon be, open for applications.

£2.5 million from the £97 million was added to our £10 million Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund. On 5th August, Creative Scotland announced how the first £7.5 million of this Fund would be allocated to performing arts venues in Scotland already in receipt of its Regular Funding. The full list of awards is available on Creative Scotland’s website.

Funding was provided to 20 institutions in twelve of Scotland’s 32 local authorities. The largest awards were for £750,000, received by Aberdeen Performing Arts in Aberdeen, Eden Court Theatre and Cinema in Highland, and the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company in Edinburgh. The smallest award was £75,400 to Platform (Glasgow East Arts Company) in Glasgow. The average award was just under £373,000. Decisions on the remaining £5 million in the Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund are due to be made by 24th September.

The £6 million Events Industry Support Fund which is part of the £10 million support for event organisers and their supply chains, closed to applications on 14th September. VisitScotland is currently assessing applications. Details on further funding support for the events sector will be available shortly.

The Grassroots Music Venue Stabilisation Fund was announced on 10th July. The deadline for applications was the 3rd September and the assessment panel was due to meet on 18th September to consider the applications. Applicants will be notified of decisions on the 22nd September.

Funding for Historic Environment Scotland including the £5.9 million to secure committed grants to heritage organisations, and the National Trust for Scotland will deliver benefits across Scotland. It is not possible to provide specific allocations for each local authority area.

The £270,000 awarded to the New Lanark Trust to help secure the future of the New Lanark World Heritage Site is targeted funding within the South Lanarkshire Council local authority area.

Friday 18 September

Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recent announcement that the culture and heritage sectors are to receive a £59 million funding package to protect jobs and help the industry weather the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, when access to this funding package will be available; how this is being communicated to local cultural organisations; whether individuals can apply to the fund; how the fund will be disbursed; who will consider the bids, and how it will ensure the equanimity of awards so that all cultural communities will benefit. S5W-31693
Fiona Hyslop: The £59 million funding package for the culture and heritage sectors comprises a number of different funds which have been designed to support parts of the culture and creative sectors which we know have been badly impacted by COVID-19.

The funding is being delivered through Creative Scotland and key updates are being published regularly on its website: https://www.creativescotland.com/funding.

Funds are open to individuals, groups or organisations to apply for and will support a wide range of activity in the arts, screen and creative industries.

The funds include: the £15 million Culture Organisations and Venues Recovery Fund which is open to applications from 17 September; £3.5 million Independent Cinemas Recovery and Resilience Fund which opened to applications on 14 September; £5 million Creative Freelancer Hardship Fund for which Creative Scotland issued an open call for partner organisations to help with distribution on 11 September; £3.5 million Sustaining Creative Practice funding which has been added to Creative Scotland’s existing Open Fund and is open for applications from individuals now; and a £3 million Youth Arts Fund for which details are being finalised and are due to be announced this week.

The eligibility and assessment criteria will be designed to meet the aims of each fund and Creative Scotland will be responsible for assessing the applications and ensuring that awards are distributed fairly.

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-31328 by Fiona Hyslop on 28 August 2020, where COVID-related guidance can be found specifically for indoor one-to-one, face-to-face voice tuition.

Fiona Hyslop: As referenced in the reply to the member’s question S5W-31515 on 15 September 2020, there is a range of guidance currently available depending on the circumstances of the voice tuition. Further guidance on music education in schools is currently being considered by Education Scotland. The Covid-19 guidance for the performing arts and venues sector includes guidance for professionals working in the performing arts and those in formal training for associated professional careers. The advice on mitigating the risks of virus transmission in indoor musical activities is to avoid playing or singing face to face. 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.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider removing the reference to events described as a “lumiere/lighted walk” in its COVID-19 events sector.
guidance in order to allow organisers of such events to risk-assess capacity and potentially allow more than 200 attendees at any one time. S5W-31559

**Fiona Hyslop:** Following engagement with the sector and further consideration of the transmission risks associated with this type of activity, the Scottish Government’s Events Sector Guidance was updated on 4 September to remove the reference to lumiere/lighted walks as outdoor open space events. These should now be considered as visitor attractions. Operators of these walks have welcomed this change.

**Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it expects to update the guidance for hospitality venues regarding the playing of background music. S5W-31762

**Fergus Ewing:** As announced by the First Minister on 14 August the current position of no background sound, including music, in hospitality is being kept under review. This work is currently being taken forward by an expert group comprising government, industry experts and environmental health representatives. The outcome of the review will be announced soon.

**Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government on what basis it decided to restrict the playing of background music in hospitality venues, specifically where this music may not affect ambient noise levels. S5W-31761

**Fergus Ewing:** Factors such as background sound that may lead to raised voices or cause people to lean-in close to others to be heard are a risk factor in the transmission of coronavirus. The current position of no background sound in hospitality, including low level music and audio from television, is a measured and cautious approach to reduce risk. It is being kept under review and government continues to work with industry experts to consider how guidance can be developed to allow low level background sound to be managed safely.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many grants have been approved through the Coronavirus Support Scheme for Self-Catering Businesses administered by VisitScotland, and how many appeals in relation to the scheme have been upheld. S5W-31645

**Fergus Ewing:** The Coronavirus Support Scheme for Self-Catering Businesses was put in place to provide help to those businesses who were ineligible for the various funding packages made available at the start of the pandemic. This additional self-catering fund has made 100 one-off grant awards of £10,000 each available to eligible businesses. Of this £1 million fund, a total of 97 Grants have already been allocated and 3 appeals have been upheld, shortly to be issued. A number of those who applied were rejected for not meeting the key eligibility criteria. This additional support will help enable tourism recovery, focused on greatest need.

**Thursday 17 September**
Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it is making the same type of interest-free loan that it has provided to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe available to other cultural venues or events and, if so, whether it will provide further information regarding this. S5W-31633

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government has, as of 16 September, not received requests from other cultural venues or events for the provision of loans and has no current plans to make such loans available.

Wednesday 16 September

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what role the National Partnership for Culture has had in allocating the £97 million in Barnett consequentials that arose in July 2020, which it has confirmed will be issued to the arts, culture and heritage sector. S5W-31570

Fiona Hyslop: The National Partnership for Culture has had no role in allocating funds from the £97m in Barnett consequentials.

However, at its second meeting on 23 July, which was attended by Scottish Government officials, the National Partnership for Culture discussed the £97 million support for the arts, culture and heritage sector, reaching the consensus that this funding should prioritise the ongoing creation of work and creative activities and noted the importance of embedding equality and diversity into decision-making.

These principles are reflected in important elements of the funding package recently announced by Creative Scotland, for example the £5m Sustaining Creative Practice Fund, which will support artists to continue developing new creative work.

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on discussions with the licensed trade sector regarding the development of more nuanced guidance for music in restaurants and hospitality settings. S5W-31647

Fergus Ewing: As announced by the First Minister on 14 August the current position of no background sound, including music, in hospitality is being kept under review. This work is currently being taken forward by an expert group comprising government, industry experts and environmental health representatives. The outcome of the review will be announced soon.

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to introduce the mandatory wearing of face coverings in hospitality venues. S5W-31680

Fergus Ewing: Face coverings for staff and customers in hospitality, with existing exemptions, are mandatory from 14 September 2020. They must be
worn when entering, leaving and moving around a hospitality premises, such as using toilet facilities etc.

**Tuesday 15 September**

**James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason COVID-19 restrictions in Glasgow do not extend to the hospitality sector. **S5W-31650**

**Fergus Ewing:** There is no one clear driver to the outbreak in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area. Instead there are some significant factors that were found to be common to many of the cases.

It is important that local interventions are targeted to the nature and extent of the public health risk with due regard to the four harms set out in our COVID-19 framework for decision making. Any restrictions need to be proportionate, necessary and driven by the evidence. Restrictions are kept under constant review to ensure they are not in place any longer than is absolutely necessary.


This includes the requirement, from 10 September, for customers within hospitality settings to wear a face covering in the queue and inside premises, except when eating and drinking.

The number of households who can come together in any social setting – indoors or outdoors – has been reduced from 3 to 2 with the maximum number of people in any gathering reduced to 6.

We all need to abide by public health guidance and FACTS helps us remember the key measures we need to comply with.

**Thursday 10 September**

**Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether traders and crafters have been excluded from the criteria that would allow them to access COVID-19 events sector funding. **S5W-31536**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government has put in place over £2.3 billion of support for Scottish businesses across a wide range of sectors to support them during the pandemic.

The Events Industry Support Fund is in place to provide support to businesses or individuals who organise, stage and deliver events. Eligibility was developed with input from the events sector. Where a trader or crafter can demonstrate
that they meet the eligibility criteria then would be able to apply for support on the same basis as other businesses or individuals in the events sector.

If a trader or crafter is not eligible for this particular fund then they may wish to consult [https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/](https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/) to see whether they are eligible for any other sources of support.

**Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to ensure that COVID-19 events sector funding has been rural-proofed. **S5W-31535**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government considered a range of factors when developing the criteria for the Events Industry Support Fund. This included online forums that EventScotland hosted with geographical and sub-sectoral representation from across the events sector; an events supply chain survey; and with input from the Event Industry Advisory Group, which includes representation from rural events.

**James Kelly (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will review the current ban on music in the hospitality industry. **S5W-31512**

**Fergus Ewing:** As announced by the First Minister on 14 August the current position of no background sound, including music, in hospitality is being kept under review. This work is currently being taken forward by an expert group comprising government, industry experts and environmental health representatives. The outcome of the review will be announced soon.

**Thursday 3 September**

**Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of how the £97 million of consequentials from the UK Government's culture and heritage support package has been spent in Scotland. **S5W-31438**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Following my announcement on 28 August of a new £59 million package of support for the culture and heritage sectors in Scotland, the total announcements arising from the £97 million consequentials is now £81.47 million.

A breakdown of this funding is as follows:
On top of this, £10 million had already been allocated to the Performing Arts Venues Fund before the UK Government funding was announced.

The remaining funds will be allocated to top-up pressure on funds already announced and for other proposals still being discussed with the sector.

**Wednesday 2 September**

Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) *(Scottish National Party)*: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide the scientific evidence that restricts distancing in bingo halls to two metres but to one metre in public houses and restaurants. *S5W-31415*

Fiona Hyslop: Scottish Government advice is to stay two metres away from other people. On 9 July the First Minister advised Parliament that in a limited number of sectors, we will allow an exception to be made to the requirement for two metre physical distancing. However that will be subject to strict conditions that are tailored to the circumstances of each sector. With every restriction that we lift, the risk increases, especially as we start to permit more indoor activity.

There is a process in place to consider any requests for an exemption to be made, with an assessment against the four harms including, broader health, economic and social effects. Officials have discussed this process with the Bingo Association. Exemptions are considered by the First Minister who also considers the need to manage the risk of cumulative exceptions eroding the general requirement of two metres, with a consequential increased risk of transmission more generally.

**Tuesday 1 September**

Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) *(Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)*: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-
31154 by Fiona Hyslop on 19 August 2020, whether the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture will meet with the member and representatives of these events. S5W-31326

**Fiona Hyslop:** As I said in my reply to question S5W-31154 on 19 August 2020 I encourage the Member and these bodies to contact EventScotland regarding the £10m support package for Events and to meet with the UK Government to encourage them to sign up to the UNESCO convention for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage which is how the Lowland Common Ridings and the Riding of the Marches could be recognised as culturally significant events as also detailed in that reply.

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it is providing to hospitality venues regarding collecting contact details for COVID-19 testing, including those whose patrons do not have a smartphone with which to scan a QR code. S5W-31340

**Fiona Hyslop:** Guidance has been updated for the tourism and hospitality sector which sets out how premises covered by regulations can keep a record of customer and visitor contact details safely and securely, ensuring data protection principles are upheld. That guidance is available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-tourism-and-hospitality-sector-guidance/pages/collection-of-contact-details/

The section entitled ‘How to collect data’ outlines steps to take to utilise existing booking systems, implement digital solutions, or keep a paper record of visitor contact details.

In addition, the Scottish Government has published a template privacy notice alongside this guidance, setting out the terms of how data should be gathered, stored, used and disposed of. The privacy notice can be viewed online, downloaded and made available in each establishment.

**Monday 31 August**

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish guidance on when community choirs can resume rehearsing. S5W-31352

**Fiona Hyslop:** Scottish Government guidance for the safe re-opening of performing arts was published on 21 August and is available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-performing-arts-and-venues-sector/pages/overview/. Non-professional singers should only sing in groups outdoors, not indoors. Outdoor activities, including rehearsals and seated live events, have been allowed to re-commence from 24 August in accordance with physical distancing and hygiene guidance for events – available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-events-sector-guidance/.
The remaining restrictions on groups’ indoor singing will be kept under review as the scientific evidence about the risks of virus transmission from singing is developed.

Mike Rumbles (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the Honk for Hope event that took place in Edinburgh on 6 August 2020, and the reported challenges facing the coach sector during the COVID-19 outbreak, whether it will respond to the proposal for support set out by the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK. S5W-31237

Fergus Ewing: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-31225 on 27 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

Friday 28 August

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what specific steps it will take as part of its Economic Recovery Implementation Plan to strengthen Scotland’s brand value across the UK internal market to support both inward investment and exports to the rest of the UK. S5W-31256

Ivan McKee: The Brand Scotland collaboration supports the Scottish Government and key partners in presenting Scotland as the best place to live/work, study, visit and do business. The collaboration builds Scotland’s brand value by promoting our strengths with a clear, consistent narrative and suite of marketing collateral.

Brand Scotland’s business pillar partners use the marketing collateral to support both inward investment and international exports, particularly to our top 15 priority markets as outlined in A Trading Nation, including our trade with the rest of the UK. Business pillar partners are currently developing fresh campaign material and a toolkit of sector specific collateral that will give our network of offices outside of Scotland access to the materials they need to promote Scotland’s trade and investment capacity. This campaign and toolkit will be launched to further help promote Scotland’s key business sectors as part of the Economic Recovery. This is aimed at building brand value internationally and across the rest of the UK.

The Scottish Government's enterprise agencies are implementing economic recovery plans with significant programmes of support aimed at supporting Scottish exporters and attracting inward investment from across the UK. This includes ensuring optimal coordination of support, working with external stakeholders and partners (including Department of International Trade, CBI, Business Gateway, Scottish Chambers and Scottish Universities) both nationally, regionally and globally. This helps ensure the export support
available to businesses in Scotland is co-ordinated with each stakeholder and partner playing a clear and well-defined role.

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when (a) voice tuition and (b) professional and recreational activities involving singing will be allowed to recommence. S5W-31328

Fiona Hyslop: Scottish Government guidance for the safe re-opening of performing arts was published on 21 August and is available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-performing-arts-and-venues-sector/pages/overview/. Although venues remain closed to the public for the time being, the guidance - including important steps to take on physical distancing and hygiene - can now be used by professionals, and by people training for associated professional careers, for a range of activities so long as they do not involve a public audience indoors. Non-professional singers should only sing in groups outdoors, not indoors. Outdoor activities, including rehearsals and seated live events, have been allowed to recommence from 24 August in accordance with physical distancing and hygiene guidance for events – available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-events-sector-guidance/. The remaining restrictions on groups’ indoor singing will be kept under review as the scientific evidence about the risks of virus transmission from singing is developed.

Thursday 27 August

Graham Simpson (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has conducted of the long-term effect on the night-time economy of the ongoing closure of nightclubs and similar venues in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. S5W-31324

Jamie Hepburn: While there are no specific Scottish Government statistics for nightclubs or the night-time economy more widely (as it is a wide descriptive term that covers tourism, hospitality, transportation and cultural activities), we do recognise their importance to supporting a vibrant nightlife across Scotland, attracting visitors and supporting Scotland’s electronic dance music industry.

The Scottish Government acknowledges the Night Time Industries Association Scotland’s (NTIAS) recent survey of its members (https://www.ntia.co.uk/financial-armageddon-to-hit-scotlands-night-time-economy-with-83-of-businesses-set-to-make-staff-redundant-in-a-matter-of-weeks/) which indicated the number of jobs potentially at risk and the survival rate for businesses.

A SPICe spotlight from June 2020 (https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/06/16/scotlands-night-time-economy-and-coronavirus-covid-19/#:~:text=The%20night-time%20economy%20is%20an%20important%20driver%20of,%E2%80%93%2020with%20a%20heavy%20weighting%20towards%20the%20weekends.)
examined the night-time economy, including challenges it faced both pre and post lockdown. It notes a figure of 550 nightclubs in Scotland, but focuses on the night-time economy more generally across Scotland’s four biggest cities, estimating that this sector, in its wider sense, employs 7-9% of all employment within these urban areas.

We fully recognise the need for support for this sector. As well as funding provided to businesses through our in excess of £2.3 billion financial package, from which NTIAS members have benefitted, we have also cautiously lifted restrictions on sectors where the evidence shows that it is safe to do so. While our latest route map Phase 3 update, published 20 August, excludes nightclubs at present due to the higher virus transmission risk, we will ensure that these businesses can reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. We also continue to push the UK Government for additional support, especially a continuation of the furlough scheme, which they are set to withdraw in October, putting many jobs in this sector at risk.

**Tuesday 25 August**

**Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what meetings it has had with the pipe and silver band community regarding the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. S5W-31176

**Fiona Hyslop:** Scottish Government officials held discussions with the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association on 29 July and 6 August. Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director, along with other Scottish Government officials held discussions with a representative of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) on 29 July 2020 and officials met with that representative again on 6th August 2020.

**Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason a pipe or silver band cannot practise outside while social distancing under the current COVID-19 restrictions. S5W-31174

**Fiona Hyslop:** The decisions announced on 20 August as part of updates to Phase 3 of the route map allow such outdoor activities to re-commence from 24 August.

**Michelle Ballantyne (South Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when the COVID-19 restrictions on pipe and silver bands (a) practising and (b) performing will be lifted. S5W-31175

**Fiona Hyslop:** Outdoor activities, including rehearsals and seated live events, are allowed to re-commence from 24 August in accordance with physical distancing and hygiene guidance for events – available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-events-sector-guidance/ - and for performing arts, available at:
Professional band players only may now rehearse indoors following the performing arts guidance. There is an indicative date of 14 September for indoor performances to recommence and this, along with the continuing restrictions on non-professional playing indoors, will be reviewed next on 10 September.

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an indicative timeline for resumption of (a) outdoor and (b) indoor pipe band practice. **S5W-31229**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Outdoor activities, including rehearsals and seated live events, are allowed to re-commence from 24 August in accordance with physical distancing and hygiene guidance for events – available at: [https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-events-sector-guidance/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-events-sector-guidance/)


Professional band players only may now rehearse indoors following the performing arts guidance. The restrictions on non-professional playing indoors will be reviewed next on 10 September.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support is available to nightclubs that remain closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. **S5W-31144**

**Jamie Hepburn:** The Scottish Government fully recognises the value of nightclubs to Scotland’s night time economy, and acknowledges that their exclusion from the phase three route map update announcement will have been disappointing for the sector. However given the increased risk both of importing the virus and of transmission following our easing of restrictions during July, our focus is on ensuring continued suppression of the virus.

Ministers appreciate the continuing difficulties that this will mean for nightclub owners and operators and we continue to explore what support we can give to businesses to both survive and to aid recovery. We have provided a package to support in excess of £2.3bn to businesses to support them through this pandemic and have been clear that we do not want any business to stay closed longer than is necessary and that we will move to reopen Scotland’s nightclubs as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Scottish Government will continue to press the UK Government for additional funding, such as the continuation of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which will be crucial for the sector’s long term recovery.

**Monday 24 August**
Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the hospitality sector should invest in temperature screening devices to tackle COVID-19 and support the reopening of businesses. S5W-31121

Fergus Ewing: Guidance for the hospitality sector requires businesses to undertake a risk assessment to determine what measures are required to operate safely and ensure physical distancing is observed along with high standards of cleaning and hygiene. It does not stipulate whether businesses should use temperature screening devices but if risk assessments determine this to be a reasonable measure to reduce risk then that is acceptable.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance and advice it has issued to the hospitality sector regarding the use of temperature screening measures to tackle the spread of COVID-19. S5W-31122

Fergus Ewing: Guidance for the hospitality sector requires businesses to undertake a risk assessment to determine what measures are required to operate safely and ensure physical distancing is observed along with high standards of cleaning and hygiene. It does not stipulate whether businesses should use temperature screening measures.

Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what further support it has considered for the wedding industry in (a) Gretna and Gretna Green and (b) Scotland. S5W-30931

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government recognises the importance of marriage and civil partnership to couples and to society more widely. Whilst our priority is public health, we know that the sector has been hit hard and we do not underestimate the crisis created by the pandemic.

The Scottish Government continues to listen to concerns from businesses as we explore how to continue to help during this unprecedented economic crisis. Officials met with representatives from the Association of British Wedding Businesses on 4 August 2020 to hear their concerns and we will consider next steps.

Our total package of support now totals over £2.3 billion.

Depending on the specific business type within the weddings sector, there have been a range of support mechanisms available. Businesses in this sector may have already been able to benefit from:

- Rates relief
- Associated grants of £10k or £25k.
- £30 million Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Fund
- £120 million Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund
- Bounce back loan scheme
- CoronaVirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme
- Job Retention Scheme

The Scottish Government will explore options for further support for sectors that have not to date been able to access sufficient support, for whatever reason. This includes continuing to press the UK Government on this matter.

**Friday 21 August**

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support (a) it and (b) Creative Scotland has provided since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown to people who work as comedians. S5W-31093

**Fiona Hyslop:** Comedy venues and those working in comedy have been eligible for Scottish Government support. Comedy businesses received support through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and some venues that offer comedy as part of a wider programme, for example along with theatre and music, have also been supported. People who work in venues that offer comedy as part of their programme have received support through our freelance schemes Several recipients of Creative Scotland’s Bridging Bursary and Open Project Fund awards made reference to comedy as part of their application. Creative Scotland made 2,293 awards totalling £4.3m from the Bridging Bursaries (Arts, Creative & Screen). The Arts & Creative Bridging Bursaries ran from 30 March to 2 April and 20-25 April and the Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary ran from 30 March to 20 May. The Open Project Fund for Creative Development budget is £7.5m and as at 3 July Creative Scotland had received 247 applications from individuals with a total ask of £2.9m and 75 applications from organisations, with a total ask of £1.4m. This fund remains open.

We continue to work with the Independent Comedy Association to understand the challenges faced by the sector and to consider how best to provide support. The Scottish Government has made available £2.3 billion from the Business Support Fund to support those affected by the coronavirus. The £185 million fund for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises has supported many in the cultural industries across Scotland. This includes through the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund, the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund which are now closed. Further details of the Scottish Government’s Covid19 hardship and resilience awards including their geographical spread are provided in the following link: [https://gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-hardship-and-resilience-funds-statistics/](https://gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-hardship-and-resilience-funds-statistics/)

**Thursday 20 August**

**Richard Lyle (Uddingston and Bellshill) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the advice issued on 14 July 2020 that funfair operators could re-open their funfairs on 15 July, which it rescinded shortly afterwards, when operators will be given permission to reopen, and what urgent financial support it will provide to showpeople, who are self-employed,
have not earned in four months, and whose businesses are being impacted by the current pandemic. **S5W-30891**

**Fergus Ewing:** As we continue to ease lockdown measures, it is imperative that the changes we make continue to suppress the virus. Throughout the process, we have been clear that not all changes in each phase will be implemented at once, however we will not keep anything closed for longer than is absolutely necessary. The First Minister confirmed in her update of 20 August, following guidance, that funfairs can open from 24 August. This applies to all funfairs, both travelling and static, indoor and outdoor, as per the regulations.

We do not underestimate the difficulty the virus and restrictions have caused for the sector which is why we have worked hard to provide a support package for businesses and the self-employed valued at over £2.3 billion. This has included the £30m Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund. Funfair and fairground ride operators were eligible to apply for this fund which closed for new applications on 18 May.

Whilst it will not be possible to offer funding to everyone affected by the impacts of COVID-19, we will continue to consider what more support can be offered to businesses in Scotland.

**Wednesday 19 August**

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government which bodies have received financial support from Creative Scotland during the COVID-19 lockdown and, in light of reports that it is taking Creative Scotland the same length of time to process these grants as it did pre-pandemic, what action it can take to speed this up. **S5W-31090**

**Fiona Hyslop:** All recipients of Creative Scotland funds are published at the following link on their website: [https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/latest-information/awards-listings](https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/latest-information/awards-listings).  

As well as developing and delivering new funds at speed and with increased volumes of applications across its funds, Creative Scotland have largely delivered to the timescales in their published guidelines. For example, for the two phases of the new Bridging Bursaries (Arts and Screen) Creative Scotland estimate that around 95% of applications were processed within the published timeline which stated that applicants would receive payments – decisions and in accounts - within 4 weeks. The new Open Fund operates to a 5 week timescale which allows an extra week for contracts to be exchanged compared with the 4 week timescale which applied to the old Open Project Fund. From April to July 2020 there were nearly 4 times more applications to the Broadcast Content Fund and over twice the number of applications for the Film Development and Production Funds compared to 2019.
**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how often Creative Scotland has met the trade unions representing workers in the cultural sector since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown. S5W-31091

**Fiona Hyslop:** I am advised that staff at Creative Scotland have met with the trade unions representing workers in the cultural sector regularly since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown.

I have asked the Chief Executive of Creative Scotland to respond to the Member on this question directly as the information requested is not held centrally.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how Creative Scotland has supported the arts during the COVID-19 lockdown. S5W-31089

**Fiona Hyslop:** From the outset of the pandemic Creative Scotland acted swiftly in putting measures in place to support the sector.

Creative Scotland honoured the existing funding agreements with the cohort of 121 Regularly Funded Organisations with whom they already had a funding relationship.

They designed and introduced the Bridging Bursary programme which delivered more than £4.3m in emergency funding support to people working in the culture sector (supported by Scottish Government, the National Lottery and the Freelands Foundation).

Creative Scotland also adapted £8.5m of existing funds to continue to support the development of work by individuals, including the creation of new work, and Screen development.

Creative Scotland also continue to work closely with the Scottish Government on the significant new funding recently announced from the Scottish Government.

Developed in consultation with the Federation of Scottish Theatre and run by Creative Scotland, the Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund (£12.5 million) is specifically designed to deliver relief funding to the many performing arts venues across Scotland which are also registered charities and for whom public funding is already a significant contributor to their ongoing viability.

Within a week of opening on 30 July, the Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund has already supported twenty regularly funded venues across Scotland. Those venues have received a total of £7.5m from the first strand of the fund. The remaining £5m is open to non-regularly funded organisations.

On 10 July the Scottish Government also announced £2.2 million of support to grassroots music venues. This will be delivered by Creative Scotland. The scheme is currently being developed with advice from the Music Venue Trust.
Further details of Creative Scotland’s support during the pandemic can be found on their website at the following link: https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2020/02/coronavirus-advice#cs-support.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that the trade unions representing workers in the cultural sector are involved in decisions regarding the distribution of funding for that sector that has been allocated in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. S5W-31087

Fiona Hyslop: Since the pandemic began, Scottish Government officials have spoken regularly to relevant trade unions, both directly and as part of wider meetings with the STUC. Trade union representatives have also been involved in meetings with particular sectors. This has enabled trade unions to contribute to decisions about support for the culture sector on an ongoing basis.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many times the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture has met trade unions representing workers in the cultural sector since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown. S5W-31086

Fiona Hyslop: On 18 August, I met with representatives of the STUC, Prospect/Bectu, Equity, the Musicians’ Union, the Scottish Artists Union, the National Union of Journalists, the Scottish Society of Playwrights and the Writers’ Guild.

Myself and the Minister for Fair Work have met with the STUC on a number of occasions to help manage the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on workers and in workplaces, and affiliate unions representative of the cultural sector have participated in these meetings. From 11 March to 14 August, 20 of 37 meetings were chaired by myself. Over the summer period this engagement has been chaired by the Minister.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that the funding that it is providing in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is distributed fairly and that workers from the cultural sector who have been ineligible for funding to date are provided with appropriate support. S5W-31088

Fiona Hyslop: Since the start of the pandemic, the Scottish Government has been working closely with a wide range of businesses, organisations and stakeholders, as well as with relevant trade unions, to identify where support is needed. We will continue with this engagement so that decisions about funding reflect the needs of the sector and the Scottish Government's commitment to fair work.

Monday 17 August

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish
Government what discussions it had with the (a) UK Government and (b) other devolved administrations ahead of the decision to delay the census until 2022.

S5W-31003

**Fiona Hyslop:** Throughout consideration of the options for Scotland’s Census, National Records of Scotland (NRS) engaged with colleagues in the Office of National Statistics (ONS) who are responsible for conducting the England and Wales Census, and with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) who are responsible for conducting the census in Northern Ireland. Each of the census authorities have had to consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their plans for their respective censuses.

The UK Government and devolved administrations were informed of the decision to move Scotland’s Census to 2022 by myself on 17 July 2020.

**Wednesday 12 August**

**Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answers to questions S5W-29857 and 30290 by Fiona Hyslop on 22 June and 13 July 2020 respectively, what direct support it is providing to prevent the job losses at National Trust for Scotland properties in the Galloway and West Dumfries constituency. S5W-30933

**Fiona Hyslop:** As the member is aware from the answers to questions S5W-30290 and S5W-29857, the Scottish Government is still actively engaged in pursuing the available options to deliver the best support that we can for the future of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) aiming wherever possible to protect jobs and re-open sites.

Until the discussions between the team I formed from across Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise, and the NTS have reached a conclusion, I am unable to confirm details of any specific support for any specific sites.

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](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx)

**Tuesday 4 August**

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when the National Partnership for Culture will report to it on how to respond to challenges facing the culture sector arising from COVID-19. S5W-30599

**Fiona Hyslop:** The National Partnership for Culture, chaired by Joanna Baker CBE, had its inaugural meeting on 24 June 2020. It had its second meeting on 23 July, at which it confirmed its terms of reference, which have now been published on the Scottish Government website.
The Chair contributed to the preparation of the Advisory Group for Economic Recovery report and recommendations on culture in June 2020.

The Partnership has contributed thinking on priorities for use of the £97m of consequentials from the UK Government for the recovery and renewal of the culture sector, and has convened a working group to further consider specific responses to the challenges facing the sector as a result of the pandemic. The Partnership will update the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture on this work in August and expects to publish its first annual report on its work in January 2021.

Monday 27 July

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to its announcement of a £10 million Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund, when funding will be made available; what criteria will be used to determine its allocation; what checks will be in place to ensure a fair distribution of funding by geographical location, size and type of organisation; how many organisations are expected to receive funding, and whether any restrictions will apply to funding eligibility, for example if an organisation makes staff redundant. S5W-30634

Jamie Hepburn: The Fund aims to remove the threat of insolvency prior to the end of March 2021; allow for specialist/core staff to return from furlough or avoid redundancy to work on future sustainability plans; and increase the opportunities for commissioning and employment of freelance artists and creative practitioners. Details of how the fund will operate will be published by Creative Scotland and funding made available as soon as practicable.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it will provide details on how arts and culture in Scotland will be supported by the £97 million of extra funding announced by the UK Government. S5W-30652

Jamie Hepburn: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-30635 on 26 July 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

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what resources will be made available for community theatre to support restarting productions and ensure long-term viability for community groups and venues. S5W-30651

Jamie Hepburn: Our community theatres and performing arts venues and organisations, their staff and the talented freelancers and volunteers who work with them are an essential part of the fabric of Scotland’s culture and communities and we are determined that they will survive and be able to thrive again.
On 3 July, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture announced the new Scottish Government £10 million Performing Arts Venues Fund which will support theatres, who were among the first to close and will be among the last to reopen. The Fund aims to remove the threat of insolvency prior to the end of March 2021; allow for specialist/core staff to return from furlough or avoid redundancy to work on future sustainability plans; and increase the opportunities for commissioning and employment of freelance artists and creative practitioners. Details of how the fund will operate will be published by Creative Scotland and funding made available as soon as practicable.

A number of community theatres have benefitted from the Third Sector Resilience Fund to date including Aberdeen Performing Arts, Alhambra Theatre and Eden Court.

As of 10 July 2020 our total investment in the third sector has helped save organisations that have a collective annual turnover of £0.5bn with over 14,000 jobs saved. Grants totalling £21.68 million have been made to over 1293 organisations, including over £2.3 million to over 118 organisations within the creative industries. In addition seven other theatres have benefitted from the Wellbeing Fund including Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Koyos) and Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. We also recognise that there will be a need for further support for the third sector and we are considering this as part of our approach to Recovery. This will include the consideration of the impact of different phases of lockdown. Details will be announced in due course.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications have been made to the (a) Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund and (b) Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund by organisations in the music sector, and how many were successful. **S5W-30600**

**Jamie Hepburn:** The Scottish Government continues to support Scotland’s businesses by passing on every penny we receive from the UK Government for this purpose, and more, directly to businesses. Our approach to supporting businesses is tailored to Scotland’s economic needs and we have developed a package of measures that reflects that Scotland’s economy and consequentially we are providing support which is unavailable elsewhere in the UK.

On the 30 April, the Scottish Government announced the Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund. This scheme is being managed by the Enterprise Agencies with support from Creative Scotland and VisitScotland and the criteria for the scheme are published on the findbusinesssupport.gov.scot website.

The Scottish Government will be publishing information on this scheme in the coming weeks which will provide the number of applications and a breakdown of successful applications by sector.
The Creative Scotland Bridging Bursaries for the Arts and Creative Sector were designed for individuals rather than organisations. The Bursaries ran from 30 March to 2 April and from 20 to 25 April. They were aimed at supporting freelance artists and freelance creative practitioners working in the not-for-profit sector in Scotland who were experiencing immediate financial difficulty due to the loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund offered a one-off bursary to provide a financial bridge for those people in Scotland most deeply impacted and disadvantaged by the cancellation of work as a result of the emergency situation.

Of all Bridging Bursary applications from individuals, 548 applicants came from the music industry and 458 of those were approved. They received £871,427 in awards from a total of £2.9m across all art forms. This represents 29% of all Bridging Bursary awards. Music was the largest category of awards by art form.

Further information is available at the following link: https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/archive/bridging-bursary.

**Thursday 23 July**

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met representatives from the music sector to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on it. **S5W-30598**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government last met representatives of the music sector to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on 22 July.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Scottish Government has been in continued contact with the music sector and will continue to do so as we work towards recovery.

**Wednesday 22 July**

**Annie Wells (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the National Trust for Scotland regarding (a) preventing staff redundancies and (b) reopening its venues, and what progress has been made. **S5W-30540**

**Fiona Hyslop:** I refer the member to the answers to questions S5W-29857 on 22 June 2020 and S5W-30290 on 13 July 2020 and. 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

**Tuesday 21 July**

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support orchestras, choirs and other musical organisations to meet the challenges that the music sector faces from COVID-19 **S5W-30597**
**Fiona Hyslop:** We are determined to do all we can to help the culture sector recover so that it continues to make a vibrant and rich contribution to Scotland, recognising that it is likely to be amongst the last to return to sustainable operations.

In addition to the measures we put in place as an immediate response to support the sector, I announced on 3 July a £10 million fund to support Scotland’s performing arts venues to be administered by Creative Scotland. On 5 July, the UK Government announced a £1.57 billion support package, with £97 million for Scotland which the First Minister has confirmed will be used for the arts, culture and heritage. On 10 July the Scottish Government also announced a £2.2 million fund for grassroots music venues. Following ongoing discussions with the Music Venues Trust, full details of the support package will be released.

We continue discussions with our National Performing Companies – including the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Opera and Scottish Chamber Orchestra – and we are honouring our funding commitments to them, regardless of activity being cancelled or rescheduled.

The Scottish Government also remains committed to supporting youth music, such as through our Youth Music Initiative (YMI) and our support for Sistema Scotland.

We are working with the performing arts sector and relevant trade unions to develop guidance for safe working, which will be published shortly.

**Thursday 16 July**

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of it making an interest free loan available to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, whether it will make similar loans available to all theatre groups in (a) the north east and (b) Scotland, and, if so, what the eligibility criteria are. S5W-30291

**Fiona Hyslop:** I announced on 3 July that the Scottish Government is establishing the Performing Arts Venues Relief fund – a £10 million fund to support Scotland’s performing arts venues to be administered by Creative Scotland so that organisations across Scotland are able to access this much-needed money as quickly as possible. On 5th of July, the UK Government announced a £1.57 billion support package, with £97 million for Scotland which the First Minister has confirmed will be used for the arts, culture and heritage.

We welcome this announcement and we are pleased that the UK Government has listened to our calls for significant funding for the arts, culture and heritage sectors and is using its borrowing powers, which we don’t have, to deliver this level of support. The Scottish Government is currently establishing the best means and the criteria to provide additional support to those in the arts, culture and heritage sectors who have been so badly affected by Covid19.
Edward Mountain (Highland and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether (a) Scottish Enterprise, (b) Highlands and Islands Enterprise and (c) South of Scotland Enterprise outsourced the scoring of applications to the (i) Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprise Hardship Fund and the (ii) Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund; what the total cost of outsourcing was by each agency, and which companies were chosen to complete the outsourcing work, also broken down by the awarding agency. S5W-30418

Fiona Hyslop: Through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund, we are providing support to pivotal SMEs which is unavailable elsewhere in the UK. Due to significant demand, we doubled the Fund to £90m and have since further increased it to £120m. Similarly we have increased our Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund by £10m to £30m.

Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and South of Scotland Enterprise were asked to develop and implement a full, systematic and shared approach to enable the appraisal of a high volume of applications for these funds. Given the immediacy of the situation, they secured external support to build at pace a technical platform for the two new funds and to support part of the appraisal process.

All decisions on awards were made by the agencies themselves, with expert advice from delivery partners VisitScotland and Creative Scotland. WeareUMi is the delivery partner for the agencies and the final cost of the contract is still to be confirmed as work relating to the funds is ongoing.

Edward Mountain (Highland and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the remit is of the Scottish Tourism Recovery Task Force; who its members are; on what dates it will meet, and when it will publish its initial recommendations. S5W-30052

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Tourism Recovery Task Force was set up to have advise on and have strategic oversight of recovery plans in response to the Covid-19 impact on Scottish tourism and hospitality. The Taskforce will look to ensure that the tourism recovery plan is fully coordinated with wider Scottish Government and other relevant sectoral recovery plans, and with our tourism strategy Scotland Outlook 2030. I intend that the Taskforce will have a report ready to be published in early September.

The group has had two plenary sessions, on 25th June and 10th July. Papers and minutes from those meetings, along with a list of the taskforce members, will be published on the Scottish Government website very shortly.

Monday 13 July

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to calls by the Music Venues Alliance and by owners and operators of grassroots music venues for immediate support
of £3.4 million to cover the losses venues will face between July and September 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak. **S5W-30357**

**Fiona Hyslop:** On 10 July the Scottish Government announced a £2.2m fund to help grassroots music venues with fixed costs while venues remain closed. This fund, including its £2.2m value, has been agreed with the Music Venue Trust. We will continue to discuss with the Music Venue Trust and other stakeholders in the music industry what additional support grassroots music venues might need.

**Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-29857 by Fiona Hyslop on 22 June 2020, what work it is doing to help the National Trust for Scotland and what assistance was requested. **S5W-30290**

**Fiona Hyslop:** As set out in my answer to S5W-29857, the National Trust for Scotland has committed to providing us with a turnaround plan setting out its strategy for recovery to accompany a revised case for support which is focused on reopening properties and protecting jobs. This follows the previous request to the Scottish Government for assistance in order for the Trust to continue its current operations.

Scottish Enterprise met with NTS representatives on 29 June to discuss progress and I understand the Trust has indicated that a revised business plan will be completed shortly.

**Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications have been made to the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund, and how many have been successful, broken down by postcode area. **S5W-30132**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund, we are providing support to pivotal SMEs which is unavailable elsewhere in the UK. Due to significant demand, we doubled the Fund to £90m and have since further increased it to £120m.

We will publish the number of applications and a list of all awards through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund shortly broken down by Local Authority area. Our Enterprise Agencies are currently processing appeals and following this stage of the process, we will publish the details in the coming weeks.

**Wednesday 8 July**

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what health and safety guidance will be provided for accommodation providers ahead of the proposed reopening of the tourism sector on 15 July 2020, and by what date this will be published. **S5W-30087**
**Fergus Ewing:** Scottish Government sector guidance for tourism and hospitality, published on 18 June, has been developed in partnership with industry, unions and regulatory bodies. Businesses should refer to the ‘assessing risk’ section of the guidance for advice on managing risk and how to comply with health and safety requirements. We also published advice and guidance on ‘customer and public toilets’, with infection protection control advice, for a wide range of circumstances. This was published on 27 June. Taken together, these two key sources of guidance will provide essential advice to enable Scotland’s accommodation providers to reopen safely.  


**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, following the reopening of the tourism sector, what action accommodation providers should take where a guest shows symptoms of COVID19; what requirement there will be for (a) that guest and (b) other customers to prolong their stay in order to self-isolate and, if a prolonged stay is required, whether the business will be compensated.  
*S5W-30088*

**Fergus Ewing:** If a guest develops symptoms, they should book a test through NHS inform. People with symptoms must self-isolate along with everyone in their household. If the test is negative, everyone can end isolation. If positive, isolation should continue. If guests who are isolating can travel home safely to isolate, they should do so, avoiding the use of public transport. Where this is not possible, they should discuss the safest option with the NHS Test and Protect team. There are no plans at present to compensate businesses in the case of imposed self-isolation within premises.  

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when owners of self-catering businesses will be able to visit their properties to conduct essential maintenance and to prepare for reopening.  
*S5W-29929*

**Fergus Ewing:** From 29 June 2020 owners of self-catering businesses have been able to travel to their second homes to ensure that it is secure and in good condition. This guidance was published on 22 June, which outlined how Scotland’s route map for easing out of lockdown restrictions applies to second homes. Self-catering accommodation and second homes (without shared facilities and entranceways) were permitted to open on 3 July.  

**Monday 6 July**
Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has had contact with Creative Scotland, in the Year of Coast and Waters, regarding increasing the number of job opportunities it offers outside Edinburgh and Glasgow. S5W-30127

Fiona Hyslop: Through the work of the EventScotland Year of Coasts and Waters Steering and Working Groups, the Scottish Government has maintained close contact with a range of public, private and third sector stakeholders, including Creative Scotland, regarding the opportunities offered by the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 to the tourism, creative and event sectors in all parts of Scotland.

The plans for the Year have been heavily impacted by the Covid restrictions but would have brought benefit to many areas outside Edinburgh and Glasgow. For example, Vision Mechanics received funding from, inter alia, Creative Scotland to create Storm, a 10m giant puppet which had a programme of appearances planned across Scotland, bringing an environmental message to a wide audience. Other Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 supported events were to be the RSPB DolphinFest in Aberdeen, Portsoy Traditional Boat Festival and concerts by the Nevis Ensemble in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Due to the necessary cancellation of most of the original planned schedule, consideration is being given to the potential rollover of the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 programme through to 2021. EventScotland is currently undertaking feasibility work on the reshaped events programme with funded events partners.

In the meantime VisitScotland’s marketing campaign continues to harness the power of Scotland’s coastal landscapes and inland waters in celebration of the Year of Coasts and Waters. As the campaign currently draws on the planned re-opening of our tourism and hospitality sectors and the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, visitors will be inspired to responsibly and safely enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of being close to Scotland’s ‘blue’ spaces, right across Scotland.

Friday 3 July

Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it will further support performing arts venues in Scotland that have been seriously affected by COVID-19. S5W-30455

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government today is announcing a new £10m fund to support not-for-profit venues in the performing arts sector who are experiencing significant difficulties from the impact of Covid-19. The fund adds to measures introduced for the culture sector and creative industries who were amongst those affected by closures in the very early stages of the pandemic. The £10 million will be aimed at organisations that cannot yet open because of physical distancing restrictions, but whose return to creative production is key
to Scotland’s vibrant arts scene. Creative Scotland will manage the Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund and will be publishing further details shortly.

**Bill Bowman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has had any discussions with the BBC in Scotland about its local democracy reporter scheme, with respect to the viability of weekly newspapers. **S5W-30126**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government has regular discussions with BBC Scotland on a number of topics and the BBC has informed the Scottish Government about the development of the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

The Scottish Government has provided a range of business support to the Scottish newspaper industry and media outlets during the covid-19 pandemic. Businesses were able to access the business support set out in find business support website at https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/

In addition to this support, on 14 May 2020 the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced that the Scottish Government will invest £3 million in additional marketing activity with Scottish newspapers across the rest of the year. This is on top of the additional £440,000 it has already invested in increasing marketing of public health messages. On 20 May 2020 the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament, including an amendment that gives the newspaper industry 100% rates relief for a year by placing them in the same category as the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

**Tuesday 30 June**

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) (i) local, (ii) regional and (iii) national newspapers and (b) media outlets have ceased operation in the last 12 months; what analysis it has carried out of the impact that the COVID-19 outbreak has had on these publications, and what support it has provided to them to prevent them from collapse during the pandemic. **S5W-29963**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government does not hold detailed statistics on (a)(i), (ii) and (iii). However, data on the number of businesses registered for VAT and/or PAYE is available from the Office for National Statistics Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). Data from the IDBR show that the number of businesses in the newspaper sector has remained steady between March 2018 and March 2019, at 120 businesses. The newspaper sector has been defined here to include: printing and publishing of newspapers, pre-press and pre-media services and news agency activities.

As regards other media outlets in (b), which include magazines, radio and tv, the IDBR shows that the number of businesses in these sectors increased from 525 in March 2018 to 540 in March 2019.
During the covid-19 pandemic the Scottish Government has published an experimental Monthly Business Turnover Index which gives an early indicator of business activity using the survey data held by the Scottish Government. It reports the net balance of firms reporting increasing or decreasing turnover, in real terms, compared to 12 months ago. Values above 50 indicate more companies are showing increased turnover than decreased turnover. The latest results show that in April 2020, the net balance for Transport, Storage and Communication (which includes newspapers and other media outlets) was 24.2, indicating more companies (a majority) were showing reduced turnover than increasing. It is available here: [https://www.gov.scot/publications/monthly-business-turnover-index-april-2020/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/monthly-business-turnover-index-april-2020/).

The Scottish Government has also published experimental Monthly GDP Estimates that are available here: [https://www.gov.scot/publications/monthly-gdp-april-2020/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/monthly-gdp-april-2020/). The Scottish Government has also been in close contact with the newspaper sector in Scotland and is aware of the issues that it is currently facing.

The Scottish Government has provided a range of business support to the Scottish newspaper industry and media outlets during the covid-19 pandemic. Businesses were able to access the business support set out in find business support website at [https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/](https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/).

In addition to this support, on 14 May the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced that the Scottish Government will invest £3 million in additional marketing activity with Scottish newspapers across the rest of the year. This is on top of the additional £440,000 it has already invested in increasing marketing of public health messages. On 20 May the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No. 2) Bill passed in the Scottish Parliament includes an amendment that gives the newspaper industry 100% rates relief for a year, by placing them in the same category as the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

**Thursday 25 June**

**Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will support the promotion of local and day-trip tourism in its work as part of its domestic visitor marketing campaign. **S5W-29845**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government recognises the vital role domestic tourism will play in the recovery of the sector. To support this, an indicative reopening date of 15 July was announced in Parliament on 10 June. VisitScotland, as the national tourism agency, will be promoting local and day trip tourism and working with communities and destination organisations to provide reassurance on the safety of reopening of tourism. Their new marketing strategy will focus on remining Scots that there is a lot to discover close to home and will take a phased approach to ensure that businesses and communities benefit from tourism re-opening but are not overwhelmed by a sudden influx of visitors.

**Wednesday 24 June**
Edward Mountain (Highland and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether there will be a limit on the number of families that will be allowed to stay in self-catering accommodation when they become available to access on 15 July 2020. S5W-29844

Fergus Ewing: No. Subject to phase 3 of the route map commencing, it will be possible to meet with people from more than one household indoors with physical distancing and hygiene measures. This will apply to self-catering accommodation also.

Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, to help boost their local economies and further develop civic pride, what action it will take to encourage people to support their local hospitality providers, tourism sites and cultural attractions in the coming months as the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions are relaxed. S5W-29846

Fergus Ewing: VisitScotland will launch a domestic marketing campaign, specifically aimed at driving local tourism and encouraging people to undertake activities and see the sights in their local area once tourism can safely reopen for business. Our date for reopening will be 15th July, subject to the health and science advice demonstrating that we have made sufficient progress in tackling the coronavirus. The Scottish Government will publish guidance on what businesses must do to prepare to reopen safely and comply with regulations.

Tuesday 23 June

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had place with (a) the Association of Scotland’s Self-Caterers, (b) the Scottish Tourism Alliance and (c) holiday and caravan park representatives regarding when it will be safe to restart businesses. S5W-29761

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has worked in partnership with the tourism industry and with unions to develop guidance for the safe reopening of the tourism and hospitality sector. This has been done through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group, which includes the Association of Scotland’s Self-caterers and the Scottish Tourism Alliance, which in turn also represents the interests of the caravan and holiday parks sector. I have also had numerous calls with sectoral bodies and businesses throughout the Covid 19 crisis, including those mentioned above, in which these issues have been regularly discussed.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to a zonal approach to accommodation providers in regard to businesses reopening. S5W-29764

Fergus Ewing: Lifting of restrictions will be informed by the scientific and public health evidence available at each review point. The Scottish Government will consider the implications of this for our phased approach to opening up the
economy through the route-map and will keep all options open while we deal with defeating COVID-19.

**Monday 22 June**

**Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the timeline is for further talks between it, the National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Enterprise, following the meeting on 26 May 2020. **S5W-29857**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Following the meeting on 26 May 2020 between Scottish Enterprise (SE), the Scottish Government and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Scottish Enterprise wrote to the NTS on 27 May suggesting that it produce a turnaround plan outlining its strategy for recovery including the costs and timings of reopening its properties, resuming activities and associated resourcing.

This Plan will be used as the basis for future discussions and enable the team to assess what specific support measures may be required to get the organisation to that point while minimising job losses and property closures. The NTS acknowledged that email on 29th May and said that it would seek to provide a turnaround plan in 2-3 weeks. Once officials and SE have received this information, they will meet again with the NTS to discuss it and explore the options available.

Following discussions with Prospect, I have also written to the NTS encouraging it to apply Fair Work Principles and to involve the unions in its forward planning.

**Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what immediate support it can provide to properties owned by the National Trust for Scotland that are unable to support social distancing regulations, while the talks over longterm assistance are ongoing. **S5W-29858**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government is currently working with stakeholders, including the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), to produce reopening guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions to advise how best to implement appropriate measures which ensure their ongoing compliance with the physical distancing rules, which are necessary and proportionate to the scale of the threat we are experiencing. The guidance will be published shortly.

As I have indicated in response to the Member’s question S5W-29857 on 22 June 2020, a team from the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise is currently exploring, with the NTS, options for support and has asked NTS for further details.
Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which tourist attractions it considers will not be allowed to reopen at phase 3 of its COVID-19 route map. **S5W-29760**

Fergus Ewing: As announced on 10 June, it is hoped the tourism and hospitality sector, including visitor attractions and accommodation providers, can start to reopen on 15 July, subject to the criteria being met for phase 3 of the route map to commence. Businesses must implement a risk based approach to ensure they are compliant with guidance, which will be kept under regular review. This will determine the readiness of businesses across the sector to be able to open safely in phase 3. More detail on the lifting of restrictions will be given at each review point.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to a phased approach to reopening accommodation providers. **S5W-29762**

Fergus Ewing: In line with the Route-map 'through and out of the crisis' published on 21 May, it has been assessed that restrictions on all accommodation providers will be eased in phase 3. We understand some sectors, such as self-catering, may be able to operate social distancing more easily than others, however safe reopening of the sector is dependent on other factors besides the facilities they provide, such as the lifting of travel restrictions, and this must be done in a holistic way to ensure it is safe and compliant with wider efforts to protect public health.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it distinguishes between accommodation providers that have shared facilities and those that do not in terms of its COVID-19 route map, and, if so, whether they will be considered at different phases. **S5W-29763**

Fergus Ewing: In line with the Route-map 'through and out of the crisis' published on 21 May, it has been assessed that restrictions on all accommodation providers will be eased in phase 3. We understand some sectors, such as self-catering, may be able to operate social distancing more easily than others, however safe reopening of the sector is dependent on other factors besides the facilities they provide, such as the lifting of travel restrictions, and this must be done in a holistic way to ensure it is safe and compliant with wider efforts to protect public health.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it will provide to businesses and tourist attractions that are allowed to reopen at phase 3 of its COVID-19 route map. **S5W-29767**
Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government will publish safe workplace guidance for the tourism and hospitality sector soon. This has been developed in partnership with industry and unions in line with our Fair Work principles.

Thursday 18 June

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what restrictions will be put in place at phase 3 of its COVID-19 route map in respect of "live events permitted with restricted numbers and physical distancing restrictions". S5W-29766

Fiona Hyslop: The events sector provides a significant contribution to Scotland’s cultural life and to our economy. We are determined that it will rebound strongly from the current crisis and a return for live events with restrictions in place during phase 3 will support this.

The restrictions that will be in place during phase 3 are being developed, informed by public health advice and views of the sector. Details of these restrictions will be published when this process is complete.

The Scottish Government is currently engaging with event organisers, their supply chain, trade unions, local authorities, the Health and Safety Executive and others with an interest on development of sectoral guidance for events. This will help to ensure that events can restart safely.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with local authorities regarding plans to allow self-catering accommodation businesses to trade again when it is safe to do so. S5W-29684

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government will publish sector guidance for Tourism & Hospitality shortly to ensure all businesses are able to operate safe and compliant workplaces. This has been developed in partnership with industry and unions through a sub-group of the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with local authorities regarding plans to allow self-catering accommodation businesses to trade again when it is safe to do so. S5W-29685

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group was established at the beginning of the crisis on 17 March, and has meet weekly since then. It is chaired by VisitScotland, and contains members from the enterprise agencies, and the Scottish Tourism Alliance as well as CoSLA who provide a voice for Local Authorities.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with the Association of Scotland’s Self-Caterers regarding plans to allow self-
catering accommodation businesses to trade again when it is safe to do so. 
S5W-29686

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government’s sector guidance for Tourism & Hospitality has been developed in partnership with industry and unions through a sub-group of the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group, of which the Association of Scotland’s Self-caterers (ASSC) is a member. I have also engaged in a number of helpful conference calls with the ASSC to discuss the specific concerns and requirements of the self-catering sector.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has an indicative date for (a) certain types of and (b) all self-catering accommodation to trade again. S5W-29687

Fergus Ewing: The route map shows how and when we will carefully seek to lift current restrictions beyond phase 1. Future phases are based on meeting particular criteria, including those set by the World Health Organisation. The Scottish Government is proposing a provisional timeframe of the week of 15 July for the opening of the tourism sector. In line with Phase 3 of the Rutemap, this will be conditional on the scientific and public health evidence supporting the move at the time and compliance with sector and public health guidance. The indicative date will include all accommodation providers.

Tuesday 16 June

Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship fund have been (a) approved and (b) rejected, and how many payments have been made. S5W-29571

Fiona Hyslop: I refer the member to the answers to questions S5W-29499 and S5W-29501 on 11 June 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

Monday 15 June

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what mechanisms are in place to enable Historic Environment Scotland to progress current projects while staff are furloughed. S5W-29591

Fiona Hyslop: I am advised by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) that as its revenue comes largely from non-Government sources it is eligible for the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and thus HES has appropriately claimed CJRS in accordance with UK Government guidance, and that it has proportionately furloughed staff according to the reduced level of commercial income impacted.
HES states that with the remaining staff it is continuing to deliver its core functions and is reallocating staffing and resource as needed. Given the necessary restrictions that are currently in place, there are activities where HES is not able to continue to provide normal service. HES is working to minimise the impact of this on core activities as well as ensuring plans and resources are in place to allow it to reopen properties and resume activities as quickly as possible and in the most appropriate manner as COVID-19 restrictions are eased.


The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with HES to look at the resources needed to support its resumption plans and organisational priorities for the remainder of 2020-21.

Dean Lockhart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what additional support it will provide to the coach industry in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in light of reports that a number of businesses are facing permanent closure, which could impact on jobs and the tourism sector. S5W-29581

Fergus Ewing: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28998 on 27 May 2020 which is available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/ormain.aspx

Friday 12 June

Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the proposals from representatives of caravan park owners regarding the safe re-opening of sites, which have been closed because of the COVID-19 outbreak. (S5W-29469)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government fully recognises the value to our visitor economy of the holiday and caravan park sector and continues to engage with it through the relevant industry associations, including the British Holiday & Home Parks Association (BH&HPA).

On 10 June, the Scottish Government announced its proposals for a provisional timeframe of the week of 15 July for the opening of the tourism and hospitality sector, including caravan park owners, in line with Phase 3 of the Route-map. This reopening is conditional on the scientific and public health evidence supporting the move at the time. The BH&HPA have played a part in its
development, as well as developing their own, sector specific guidance that will align to the wider guidance.

To aid the sector and its customers, the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning and the Chief Planner jointly wrote to local authorities allowing for and encouraging temporary relaxations in planning measures and to apply discretion in granting licenses, including the closed periods for holiday parks.

**Alasdair Allan (Na h-Eileanan an Iar) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when the report from the recent consultation into the replacement of European structural and investment funds in Scotland post-EU exit will be published. *(S5W-29849)*

Ivan McKee: I am delighted to inform you that the consultation report has been published today and is available online at http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781839608087

**Thursday 11 June**

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide the New Lanark Trust with emergency funding to cope with its loss of income due to the COVID-19 outbreak and in order to avoid its potential closure. *S5W-29544*

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government recognises the importance of New Lanark as one of Scotland’s six World Heritage Sites, and we are committed to doing everything we can to ensure it can continue to thrive.

My officials attended two online meetings on Friday 29th May, hosted by Aileen Campbell MSP as the local Clydesdale constituency MSP, to discuss its situation including concerns surrounding the recent potential redundancy announcements, and its financial situation. We have offered the Scottish Government’s full support to work alongside the Trust and other partners to address these issues including consideration of specific short-term funding needs.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES), our lead public body for the historic environment, and Scottish Enterprise are also supporting the New Lanark Trust to conduct a strategic review of its business operations which is designed to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of this important asset.

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to provide long-term support to local media outlets. *S5W-29622*

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government has made available an additional £3 million marketing spend in Scottish newspapers across the rest of the year. This will be targeted where it is most needed, including local newspapers, to support them during the COVID-19 crisis.
We recognise the importance of local newspapers and other local media outlets and will consider how best to support their long-term future as part of the recovery process.

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) average and (b) total amount of funding paid out to date is as part of the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, broken down by local authority area. **S5W-29501**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support, unavailable elsewhere in the UK, for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently processing applications. The fund is now closed.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies, consulting and working together with Creative Scotland and Visit Scotland. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for CTHEHF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

Our targeted support funds to the creative, tourism and hospitality sector, along with support to SMEs who are vulnerable but vital to their local economies, and the newly self-employed have resulted in awards totalling £104m as of 2nd June; that is grant offers to over 2500 businesses and 4160 self-employed people to date.

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (a) were (i) received, (ii) accepted and (iii) rejected and (b) are still awaiting processing, broken down by local authority area. **S5W-29499**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support, unavailable elsewhere in the UK, for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently processing applications. The fund is now closed.
Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies, consulting and working together with Creative Scotland and Visit Scotland. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for CTHEHF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (a) were (i) received, (ii) accepted and (iii) rejected and (b) are still awaiting processing, broken down by local authority area. S5W-29495

Fiona Hyslop: Through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF), we are providing support unavailable elsewhere in the UK. Due to significant demand, we doubled the Fund to £90m and have since further increased it to £120m. The fund has now closed.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies, consulting and working together with Creative Scotland and Visit Scotland. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for PERF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) average and (b) total amount of funding paid out to date is as part of the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund, broken down by local authority area. S5W-29497

Fiona Hyslop: Through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF), we are providing support unavailable elsewhere in the UK. Due to significant demand, we doubled the Fund to £90m and have since further increased it to £120m. The fund has now closed.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies, consulting and working together with Creative Scotland and Visit Scotland. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.
Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for PERF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

As of 2nd June, our targeted support funds to the creative, tourism and hospitality sector, along with support to SMEs who are vulnerable but vital to their local economies, and the newly self-employed have resulted in awards totalling £104m; that is grant offers to over 2500 businesses and 4160 self-employed people to date.

**Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the proposals from representatives of caravan park owners regarding the safe re-opening of sites, which have been closed because of the COVID-19 outbreak. S5W-29469

**Fergus Ewing:** I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

**Wednesday 10 June**

**Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what 35 assessment it has made of UK Hospitality’s protocols on the opening of tourism and hospitality businesses. S5W-29392

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has received copies of UK Hospitality’s draft protocols. We welcome the work that has been done across the tourism and hospitality sector to develop guidance for safe workplaces once restrictions are lifted. We are working in partnership with UK Hospitality and other stakeholders on the issue of guidance through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group and will be publishing Scottish Government guidance for the sector soon to assist stakeholders to finalise comprehensive and compliant guidance.

**Tuesday 9 June**

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications it has received from people in the cultural sector for support from the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund; what the total value of the funding requested was; how many of those applications were approved, and what the total value of the awards made was. S5W-29226

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF) provides grants for businesses, unavailable elsewhere in the UK, which:

- support Scotland’s productive capacity;
- are of local or national economic importance;
- impact the wider business community;
- are a supplier or potential supplier to NHS or other COVID-19 vital services;
- are a supplier to other essential businesses, or
• demonstrate a need to rapidly scale up or diversify due to COVID-19.

Due to significant demand, we doubled the PERF to £90m and have further increased it to £120m. The fund has now closed.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies, consulting and working together with Creative Scotland and Visit Scotland. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for PERF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

As of 2nd June, our targeted support funds to the creative, tourism and hospitality sector, along with support to SMEs who are vulnerable but vital to their local economies, and the newly self-employed have resulted in awards totalling £104m; that is grant offers to over 2500 businesses and 4160 self-employed people to date.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to raise awareness of the (a) Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and (b) Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Fund. S5W-29228

Fiona Hyslop: The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Fund provide support to our businesses not available elsewhere in the UK. They were both heavily promoted through multiple statements to the media, including numerous Scottish Government Ministerial statements. This was amplified by our delivery partners across a 3 wide range of communication channels owned by the enterprise agencies, VisitScotland, Creative Scotland, and Business Gateway. This included social media campaigns and extensive stakeholder communications, which reached out to elected members and key affected industries.

In addition the key business support website FindBusinessSupport.gov was regularly updated to promote the funds and make available key information about the application process. Our approach resulted in significant volumes of applications.

As of 2 June, our targeted support funds to the creative, tourism and hospitality sector, along with support to SMEs who are vulnerable but vital to their local economies, and the newly self-employed have resulted in awards totalling £104m; that is grant offers to over 2500 businesses and 4160 self-employed people to date. Both funds are now closed.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many applications for support from the Creative, Tourism and
Hospitality Enterprises Fund it has received; what the total value of funding requested was; how many applications were approved, and what the total value of the awards made was, also broken down by the (a) creative and cultural, (b) tourism and (c) hospitality sector. S5W-29227

Fiona Hyslop: The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support, unavailable elsewhere in the UK, for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund is now closed.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for CTHEHF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

As of 2 June, our targeted support funds to the creative, tourism and hospitality sector, along with support to SMEs who are vulnerable but vital to their local economies, and the newly self-employed have resulted in awards totalling £104m; that is grant offers to over 2500 businesses and 4160 self-employed people to date.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful applications have been made by sporting businesses to the Creative or Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, also broken down by local authority area. S5W-29221

Fiona Hyslop: The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support, not available elsewhere in the UK, for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund is now closed.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you this month as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.
Once all applications have been appraised and funding distributed, the intention is to publish information relating to the demand for CTHEHF and our other business support funds, including volume and value of applications.

Our targeted support funds to the creative, tourism and hospitality sector, along with support to SMEs who are vulnerable but vital to their local economies, and the newly self-employed have resulted in awards totalling £104m as of 2 June; that is grant offers to over 2500 businesses and 4160 self-employed people to date.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of UK Hospitality’s protocols on the opening of tourism and hospitality businesses. S5W-29392

Fergus Ewing: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monday 8 June

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to implement recommendations from the various meetings of the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group. S5W-29387

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group published the final elements of its National Action Plan on 26 May on the VisitScotland website, VisitScotland.org. The Scottish Government continues to work with all members of the Group, including VisitScotland, the enterprise agencies, CoSLA and the Scottish Tourism Alliance, to deliver the Action Plan to ensure a safe and strong recovery for Scottish tourism as soon as it is possible to do so.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure tourism and hospitality businesses that have not been eligible for the Tourism Hardship Fund and the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund grant can receive funding to assist them through the COVID19 pandemic. S5W-29388

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government appreciates the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on Scotland's tourism and hospitality businesses and has worked hard to put in place a significant package of support for the sector. We have also listened closely where it has become apparent that needs are not being met - the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Hardship Fund is a specific example of this. We will continue to work with the Scottish Tourism Alliance, and other sector representatives, to ensure that Scottish tourism is supported towards recovery. The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Tourism has written to the UK Minister for Tourism on these issues, and on and will continue to press the UK Government to do the same.
Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has carried out research with the tourism industry on how best to implement a phased approach to reopening businesses in line with seasonality. S5W-29390

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is working in partnership with the tourism and hospitality industry on safe re-opening of the sector through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group. The timing of lifting of restrictions will be guided by the science and health evidence, but we continue to work with stakeholders in line with the Route-map to ensure a phased and safe return of Scotland’s tourism industry when it is safe to do so.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it plans to take on additional support for tourism businesses following meetings of the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group. S5W-29391

Fergus Ewing: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-29387 on 8 June 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](http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx)

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on bed and breakfast businesses. S5W-29393

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government recognises that the bed and breakfast sector, along with all of Scotland's tourism accommodation providers, has been severely impacted by COVID-19. It continues to work closely with the Scottish Tourism Alliance and other industry bodies, including those representing the bed and breakfast sector, to monitor the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on Scotland's tourism industry, both through data insights and through written and verbal communications and to work to address these.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what financial support is on offer to help bed and breakfasts tackle the impact on them of the COVID-19 pandemic. S5W-29394

Fergus Ewing: Scotland’s bed and breakfast businesses have been eligible to apply for all appropriate funding schemes that the Scottish Government has made available to the sector, including non-domestic rates relief, business grants and the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Hardship Fund, where they meet the criteria to do so.
assessment it has carried of the potential overall financial impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the tourism industry in 2020-21. S5W-29395

Fergus Ewing: Scottish Ministers recognise the exceptionally difficult circumstances being experienced by the tourism sector as a result of COVID19, and the challenges these have created. We have significant and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders from the tourism sector including through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group and the Scottish Tourism Alliance, which have been key in identifying and addressing many of the challenges faced by businesses, employees and the self-employed in Scottish tourism.

We have put in place a substantial package worth over £2.3 billion for businesses in Scotland, with particular focus on the tourism and hospitality. This includes the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, and the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund.

While official data on the financial impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector are not yet available for Scotland, the Scottish Government has published an experimental Monthly Business Turnover Index. These provide an early indicator of business activity using the survey data held by the Scottish Government. The index for March 2020 was published on 13 May, and indicates a considerable proportion of companies in Scotland’s Accommodation and Food Services sector has reported lower turnover in real terms than 12 months ago. This publication is available at:


The ONS has published initial UK-level data on the impact of COVID-19 by industry through its Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS). BICS includes data on responding firms’ trading status, and impacts on their recent turnover, for sectors including the Accommodation & Food Service sector. Data from ONS’s BICS is available at:

https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/businessimpactofcovid19surveybicsresults

Friday 5 June

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance was issued to local authorities on the allocation of funding to sporting businesses from the Creative or Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund. S5W-29220

Fiona Hyslop: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how
many (a) successful and (b) unsuccessful applications have been made by sporting businesses to the Creative or Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, also broken down by local authority area. S5W-29221

Fiona Hyslop: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many applications it has received from people in the cultural sector for support from the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund; what the total value of the funding requested was; how many of those applications were approved, and what the total value of the awards made was. S5W-29226

Fiona Hyslop: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many applications for support from the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Fund it has received; what the total value of funding requested was; how many applications were approved, and what the total value of the awards made was, also broken down by the (a) creative and cultural, (b) tourism and (c) hospitality sector. S5W-29227

Fiona Hyslop: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to raise awareness of the (a) Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and (b) Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Fund. S5W-29228

Fiona Hyslop: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monday 1 June

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much net income it estimates will be lost in the (a) arts and culture and (b) tourism sector in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and when it expects it to return to the 2019 level. S5W-29145

Fiona Hyslop: Scottish Ministers recognise the exceptional circumstances being experienced by the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19, and the challenges these have created. We have significant and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders from these sectors including through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group and Creative Scotland’s Covid-19 response group which has been key in identifying and addressing many of the challenges for businesses, employees and the self-employed.

We have put in place a substantial package worth over £2.3 billion for businesses in Scotland, which includes the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, and the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund. Creative Scotland is providing an expected total budget of £14 million of support in response to the COVID-19 situation including the Bridging Bursary Fund for
freelance creative professionals; the repurposed Open Project fund to help practitioners adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances; and one-off bursaries to film and TV sector workers.

Official data on the financial impact of COVID-19 on the arts, culture and tourism sectors are not yet available for Scotland.

In response to COVID-19, the Scottish Government has published an experimental Monthly Business Turnover Index. These provide an early indicator of business activity using the survey data held by the Scottish Government. The index for March 2020 was published on 13 May, and indicates a considerable proportion of companies in the Accommodation and Food Services and Culture, Recreation Other Services sectors Scotland have reported lower turnover in real terms than 12 months ago. This publication is available at:


The ONS has published initial UK-level data on the impact of COVID-19 by industry through its Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS). Data for Wave 4 of BICS (covering the period 20 April to 3 May) was published on 21 May, and includes data on the Accommodation & Food Service sector and the Arts, Education & Recreation sectors. This includes data on responding firms’ trading status, and impacts on their recent turnover. Data from ONS’s BICS is available at:

https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/businessimpactofcovid19surveybicsresults

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what communications it has had with the National Trust of Scotland regarding potential redundancies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what action it is taking to help save these jobs. S5W-29148

Fiona Hyslop: In response to a request from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) for support to continue its operations, I suggested that it worked with Scottish Enterprise on the details of the case for support and agreed to meet the Trust. NTS indicated on 8 May that it was preparing to announce potential redundancies. It wrote to the Scottish Government on 11 May confirming its decision to put 429 of its staff at risk of redundancy, and announced the decision publicly on the same day.

I met with the National Trust on 15 May to discuss the financial impacts of the Covid19 outbreak on its business, and the outcome of the early discussions with Scottish Enterprise on the case for Government support. In that meeting I questioned whether the Trust was making the maximum use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to mitigate redundancies. I also was clear that Scottish Government support would be difficult while the Trust was proposing to proceed with redundancy plans.
Following that meeting, a team from Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise has been asked to work with the NTS to explore its financial situation and provide recommendations which seek to ensure its long-term security while, as much as possible, protecting jobs and keeping properties open. This team held its first meeting with the NTS on 26 May.

We are committed to working with the Trust to explore the support measures necessary to ensure that it can carry on its valuable work, but are clear that any request for public funding needs to be focused on achieving maximum public value and must be accompanied by a clear case which demonstrates both the need for support and the public benefits that it will provide.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support it has made available to the National Trust of Scotland in each of the last five years, and whether additional funding will be provided over the next 12 months in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to help protect (a) jobs and (b) venues. **S5W-29149**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Public funding for the heritage sector is primarily distributed through Historic Environment Scotland’s (HES) grant programmes. Since 2015, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has been awarded two three-year Annual Maintenance Grants to support the conservation and repair of properties within its estate. The grant funding made available is set out in the following table alongside details of the amounts claimed by the NTS.

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In addition, between 2010 and 2017, the NTS received funding of £5,111,986 as targeted project funding to support the development of the Bannockburn Visitors’ Centre. £5 million of this funding was provided directly by the Scottish Government.

In the last five years, the NTS has also received over £2.1 million in funding distributed through Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Funding has been provided (a) through a funding agreement to support activity contributing to the delivery of SNH and SG priorities and commitments with respect to the natural environment, (b) to support projects to restore peatland or raise awareness about restoration, and (c) to support a programme of work to manage land on the Mar Lodge Estate, focusing on protected nature sites. Details of this funding is set out in the following table.
With regard to future funding, a team from Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise is working with the NTS to explore its financial situation and provide recommendations which seek to ensure its long-term security while, as much as possible, protecting jobs and keeping properties open. Any request for public funding will need to be focused on achieving maximum public value and must be accompanied by a clear case which demonstrates both the need for support and the public benefits that it will provide.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people in the creative industries it has identified as not being eligible for the (a) furlough and (b) self-employment income support scheme, and what alternative support is available to those individuals. S5W-29225

Fiona Hyslop: The Job Retention Scheme, which includes the furlough measure, and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme are both reserved to the UK Government under employment law.

There are a number of reasons why people may not be eligible for these schemes. Data on the uptake of the schemes, by different sectors including the creative industries, is a matter for the UK Government.

The Scottish Government is aware that the support packages available may not help with every individual circumstance. That is why we established the £30m Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, the £120m Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund and the £34m Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund.

Creative Scotland is also providing an expected total budget of £14 million of support through the Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund for freelance creative professionals; the repurposed Open Project fund to help practitioners adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances; and one-off bursaries to film and TV sector workers.

Information on all of the support schemes, including the general schemes, is available through the Find Business Support website at https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what COVID-19 funding support packages it has in place for people working in the cultural sector, and how many people have been supported to date. S5W-29229
Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government has made a number of grant schemes available specifically for the cultural sector as a result of COVID-19, and in addition cultural businesses are able to apply to a range of other COVID-19 business support schemes. These funds are supported via a mixture of additional budget allocations to the sector and through repurposing of existing funding streams.

Specific cultural support:

Creative Scotland is providing the following support in response to the COVID-19 situation.

The Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund for freelance creative professionals (£4.0m); As of Monday 25 May, 1596 arts and creative bursaries have been paid.

The repurposed Open Project fund to help practitioners adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances (£7.5m). As at 25 May, there have been 176 individual applications and 86 applications from organisations to the Open Fund. These will be assessed at the end of May.

One-off bursaries through Screen Scotland to film and TV sector workers (£1.5m). 519 have been paid as at 25 May. Screen Scotland has also announced that Scotland’s independent film and TV production companies are able to apply for newly ring-fenced development support fund of £1m for awards over the next 3-6 months to enable planning towards production when Government guidance allows.

Museums Galleries Scotland have formed the Urgent Response Fund (£700k) and the Digital Resilience Fund (£115k). As of 25 May 2020, 24 applications have been received for the Urgent Response Fund, with 20 assessed. Nine museums have been awarded funding, nine decisions have been deferred, two declined and four to be assessed. The Digital Resilience fund has received 46 applications, with 42 assessments and 40 awards having been made.

We are supporting the Edinburgh Fringe with a £500,000 initial package of support comprising a £400,000 interest-free loan from the Scottish Government and a £100,000 grant from the Council.

Wider funds which cultural organisations may be eligible to apply for include the £30 million Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, the £34 million Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund, the Third Sector Resilience Fund and the £120 million Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund.

Friday 29 May

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what funding it will make available to the arts and culture sector to
allow for adaptations to be implemented to allow social distancing to be observed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. **S5W-29147**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government in collaboration with Creative Scotland have acted very swiftly in putting measures in place to support the sector and we are looking ahead to its safe restart.

The arts and culture sector is exploring ways to bring people together whilst ensuring safety, artistic integrity and economic viability. Many things need to be considered – particularly how physical distancing can be accommodated by performing arts organisations and within venues. We will continue to discuss with the sector looking ahead to guidance on re-opening and will consider potential support measures. As I mentioned to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee on 21 May I cannot yet comment on what the measures and resources could be, but these will be kept under consideration.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what research it or its agencies have carried out into the potential change in audience behaviour in the arts and culture sector because of the COVID19 pandemic. **S5W-29146**

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government is currently working closely with partners, agencies and stakeholders to understand the long term impact of the pandemic on the sector, and to prepare guidance to support safe working when it is possible for the sector to reopen.

Creative Scotland is collating information on an ongoing basis on the potential implications of the pandemic. It is gathering data from funded organisations and drawing on consultation and research undertaken by sector partners with a more detailed analysis currently being compiled for the Scottish Government. It has also undertaken data modelling to help assess the risk and resource requirements for Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) and organisations consistently supported through Open Project Funding (OPF) or Targeted routes.

Furthermore, Creative Scotland will undertake research through 2020 to look at audience intentions to return to cultural activities, as well as monitoring the ongoing impact. This will seek to understand the demand to return to performance venues and events, and will explore the barriers and enablers to audiences returning including their expectations of hygiene, social distancing measures and transport.

The Scottish Government is also monitoring the Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre’s research into understanding the changes to the way we consume culture at home during Covid-19.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many grants from the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund have been awarded that are less than the amount applied for, also broken down by where
the award was (a) 75%, (b) 50%, (c) 25% and (d) 10% of the amount applied for. S5W-29108

**Fiona Hyslop**: The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)**: To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund has been awarded funding that is less than the amount applied for. S5W-29107

**Fiona Hyslop**: The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)**: To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund has been awarded the full amount applied for. S5W-29106

**Fiona Hyslop**: The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.
Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund’s performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

**Wednesday 27 May**

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the net annual economic worth is of the (a) winter festival and (b) pantomime season; how many jobs are dependent on it; what impact the COVID-19 outbreak could have on it in 2020, including what the risk is of the season not going ahead, and what (i) financial and (ii) other support it will provide to the (A) venues and (B) staff affected by any closures. **S5W-29062**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government does not hold details of the net annual economic worth and the jobs created by the pantomime season.

Similarly, the measurement of the impact of individual events outwith Scotland’s Winter Festivals programme is not a matter for the Scottish Government.

Scotland’s Winter Festivals 2018-19 was a great success delivering over 110 events and engaging 416,000 people across 17 Local Authorities and the Scottish Government is currently gathering information from delivery partner on the impacts of Scotland’s Winter Festivals 2019-20.

“Scotland’s route map through and out of the crisis” published on 21 May sets out how we will look at the cumulative and overall impact of those measures, and of ongoing restrictions. The route map provides an indication of the order in which the Scottish Government will carefully and gradually seek to lift current restrictions, but does not attempt to specify dates for all of the different phases. Rather as we move beyond the first phase, future phases will be based on meeting particular criteria.

In the meantime the Scottish Government moved swiftly to support (a) venues and (b) staff by investing £2.3 billion into support for businesses and employers, with hardship funds for self-employed people and the creative and tourism sectors plus funding has been made available for tourism, hospitality and creative industry businesses that are experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19 and are not eligible for other sources of support (except UK Job Retention Scheme).

Further information on the full package of UK and Scottish Government support to help events businesses through the coronavirus pandemic is provided at: [https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-yourbusiness/advice/coronavirus](https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-yourbusiness/advice/coronavirus).

**Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what specific action it is taking to support coach drivers and the coach holiday industry in Scotland during the COVID-19 outbreak. **S5W-28998**
**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government fully acknowledges the critical role that coaches play in supporting tourism, whether directly providing holidays, or taking passengers from cruise ships to visitor attractions.

We have engaged directly with the industry through the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, to both discuss its concerns and direct the sector to appropriate support.

This includes assistance through our £2.3 billion package of measures to support Scottish businesses during this difficult time, including access where applicable to business grants and through the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund.

We also continue to press the UK Government on the need to assist our tourism sector, and have specifically raised the needs of the coach industry to them, underlining the vital support that they provide.

The Confederation is also part of the Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA), who represent the tourism industry on the Scottish Government's Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group. Through this, coach interests have been taken into account in the delivery of the National Action Plan developed to respond to impacts on the sector.

**Tuesday 26 May**

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with independent performance venues across Scotland to ensure they have the capacity and cash flow to reopen when it is safe to do so. S5W-29001

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government has been having ongoing discussions with all parts of the culture sector through a variety of channels, including independent performance venues across a range of sectors such as theatre and live music. This has helped identify the scale of the impact COVID-19 has had on different parts of the sector and inform the support the Scottish Government has provided.

Through the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Fund we have made £40 million pounds available to small Scottish creative, tourism and hospitality businesses who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19. This fund recognises the importance of these sectors, and the specific challenges they face. In addition to this fund, there are a range of other support mechanisms open to independent performance venues, including rates relief for 2020-21, the Job Retention Scheme and access to the UK Government’s bounce back loans. Some may also have been eligible for the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund.
We continue to engage with the sector to monitor the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and to consider how such businesses will be able to reopen when they are able to do so.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many venues in the entertainment sector are at risk of permanent closure because of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. **S5W-29061**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government does not hold this information. However, we are in regular contact with the sector, as well as those who represent the sector, to monitor the ongoing impact of the current situation, which is changing quickly. We are also monitoring the uptake of the various support measures that are available. We will work with Creative Scotland and the enterprises agencies to understand how many venues applied for funding and how many were successful. We are aware that the impact on venues in the entertainment sector has been particularly challenging, and we will continue to work with the sector to respond to the long-term impact.

**Thursday 21 May**

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support it has made available to the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19; how many grants have been awarded, and how many applications were rejected. **S5W-29002**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government has made a number of grant schemes available specifically for the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19, and in addition arts, culture and tourism businesses are able to apply to a range of other COVID-19 business support schemes. These funds are supported via a mixture of additional budget allocations to the sector and through repurposing of existing funding streams. Specific arts, culture and tourism support:

- Creative Scotland is providing the following support in response to the COVID-19 situation.
- The Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund for freelance creative professionals (£4.0m). As of Monday 18 May, 1596 arts and creative bursaries have been paid, with 380 deemed ineligible.
- The repurposed Open Project fund to help practitioners adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances (£7.5m). As at 18 May, there have been 116 individual applications and 60 applications from organisations to the Open Fund. These will be assessed at the end of May.
- One-off bursaries through Screen Scotland to film and TV sector workers (£1.5m). 462 have been paid as at 18 May and 133 were deemed ineligible.
- Screen Scotland has also announced that Scotland’s independent film and TV production companies are able to apply for newly ring-fenced development support fund of £1m for awards over the next 3-6 months
to enable planning towards production when Government guidance allows.

- Museums Galleries Scotland have formed the Urgent Response Fund (£700k) and the Digital Resilience Fund (£115k). As of 18 May 2020 22 applications have been received for the Urgent Response Fund, with 16 assessed. Seven museums have been awarded funding, seven decisions have been deferred, one is pending decision with one decline. The Digital Resilience fund has received 40 applications, with 37 assessments and 35 awards having been made. • We are supporting the Edinburgh Fringe with a £500,000 initial package of support comprising a £400,000 interest-free loan from the Scottish Government and a £100,000 grant from the Council.

- VisitScotland has made available up to £400k from its 2020-21 budget to provide grants to destination management and sectoral membership organisations whose income from member businesses has dropped substantially in the current crisis. The fund remains open and around 40 applications have been received to date. VisitScotland has also waived fees for the c.4000 members of its Quality Assurance scheme, saving businesses around £1m in fees at this difficult time.

Wider funds which arts, culture and tourism organisations may be eligible to apply for include the Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund, the Third Sector Resilience Fund and the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund. There is not yet specific information for applications from arts, culture and tourism companies for the other funds.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many fewer tourists have visited Scotland from January to May 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. S5W-29003

Fiona Hyslop: At present, official data on numbers of domestic and international overnight visitors are not available for the period January – May 2020.

The ONS will publish estimated international overnight visitor numbers for 2019 from its Travel Trends publication on 22 May. These data will be available at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/traveltrends2019.

The latest data on domestic overnight visitors, published by VisitBritain, cover the period to December 2019. These data are available at: https://www.visitbritain.org/great-britain-tourism-survey-latest-monthlyovernight-data

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the number of jobs lost in the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19, also broken down by the number that it estimates could be lost in these sectors in 2020. S5W-29004
**Fiona Hyslop:** Official data on the impact of COVID-19 on those employed in the arts, culture and tourism sectors are not yet available for Scotland.

The ONS has published initial UK-level data on the impact of COVID-19 by industry through its Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS). Data for Wave 3 of BICS (covering the period 6 April to 19 April) was published on 7th May, and includes data on the Accommodation & Food Service sector and the Arts, Education & Recreation sectors. This publication also includes UK level data on responding firms' trading status, measures taken to respond to COVID-19, and the use of the UK Government’s Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Data from ONS’s BICS is available at: [https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/businessimpactofcovid19surveybicsresults](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/businessimpactofcovid19surveybicsresults)

The impact of COVID-19 of Scotland’s arts, culture and tourism sectors has been extremely challenging. The Scottish Government has significant and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders from these sectors including through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group and Creative Scotland’s Covid-19 response group, which have been key in identifying and addressing many of the challenges for businesses, employees and the self-employed. We have expanded our substantial package of support for businesses to include support for self-catering businesses and the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund and Self-Employed Hardship Fund will support many who have not been eligible for other forms of support. Creative Scotland is providing an expected total budget of £14 million of support in response to the COVID-19 situation including the Bridging Bursary Fund for freelance creative professionals; the repurposed Open Project fund to help practitioners adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances; and one-off bursaries to film and TV sector workers. The Scottish Government is also engaging with the UK Government to make the case that any changes to UK Government support schemes such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, reflect the circumstances faced by businesses within the arts, culture and tourism sectors.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what it estimates the financial loss will be to the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19. **S5W-29005**

Fiona Hyslop: Official data on the financial impact of COVID-19 on the arts, culture and tourism sectors are not yet available for Scotland.

The ONS has published initial UK-level data on the impact of COVID-19 by industry through its Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey (BICS). Data for Wave 3 of BICS (covering the period 6 April to 19 April) was published on 7th May, and includes data on the Accommodation & Food Service sector and the Arts, Education & Recreation sectors. This publication also includes UK level data on responding firms’ trading status and impacts on their recent turnover.

Data from ONS’s BICS is available at:
Scottish Ministers recognise the exceptional circumstances being experienced by the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19, and the challenges these have created. We have significant and ongoing engagement with key stakeholders from these sectors including through the Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group and Creative Scotland’s Covid-19 response group which has been key in identifying and addressing many of the challenges for businesses, employees and the self-employed. We have put in place a substantial package of support to address this, which includes the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, and the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund. Creative Scotland is providing an expected total budget of £14 million of support in response to the COVID-19 situation including the Bridging Bursary Fund for freelance creative professionals; the repurposed Open Project fund to help practitioners adapt and respond to the current changing circumstances; and one-off bursaries to film and TV sector workers.

**Tuesday 5 May**

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with creative sector leaders regarding COVID-19 funding for Creative Scotland, and whether it plans to allocate further funding to the creative sector beyond what it has already announced. (S5W-28434)

**Fiona Hyslop:** COVID-19 is the biggest challenge we have faced in our lifetimes and the measures we take to deal with it must reflect its magnitude.

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of the creative sector and is committed to doing everything we can to ensure our world-class culture can continue to thrive.

That is why we have taken decisive steps to address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on those working in the creative sector.

As part of the regular contact we have with creative sector leaders I led roundtable discussions with them in early April to understand the impacts and to consider possible solutions, including funding for Creative Scotland.

Our primary focus is to support the organisations we fund and other funders in order to keep funding flowing to individuals and organisations to enable them to sustain themselves through the immediate short-term impacts, while also keeping the medium to longer term recovery in view.

We continue to work hard and quickly to understand the different impacts on the various parts of the sectors as they become clear and we will use this information to identify new measures where we find that there are significant gaps in existing support provision.
We have moved quickly to introduce a range of schemes and measures to support businesses across the economy and welcome the initiatives being introduced by the UK Government.

The Scottish Government’s total business support package now totals £2.3 billion.

Creative Scotland is providing an expected total budget of £14 million of support in response to the COVID-19 situation. The Scottish Government will continue to work urgently with Creative Scotland and Screen Scotland to use existing and new funds to support the sector, including the Third Sector Resilience Fund for Scotland-based charities, social enterprises or voluntary organisations, or organisations delivering community services and activities.

The £14 million fund is available to support those – including freelance creative practitioners – whose work in the arts, screen and creative industries has been affected by the measures introduced to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes £1.1 million of repurposed grant in aid and a further £1 million to top up Creative Scotland’s Bridging Bursaries in the not-for-profit sector from the Scottish Government as well as National Lottery funds.

I have also announced that from the 30th April the newly self-employed suffering hardship, and small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in distress, can apply for help from a £100 million package of additional grant support.

This includes a £20 million Creative, Tourism & Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, managed by the Enterprise Agencies with support from Creative Scotland and VisitScotland for small and micro creative, tourism and hospitality companies not in receipt of business rates relief to access grants of up to £25K.

This funding is intended to relieve the hardship of individuals and smaller firms that are ineligible for support from the UK Government or are not in receipt yet of the funds they need to survive. Our hospitality, tourism and creative sectors have been decimated by this crisis and previously profitable businesses have seen demand dry up overnight.

However, because of the decisions the Scottish Government has taken, thousands more self-employed people and small businesses will be able to benefit from support compared with elsewhere, and we have been able to help sectors of the economy that are not being supported in other parts of the UK. Details of support for businesses are available at the Find Business Support website which is available at the following link: https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot. This is frequently updated with the latest information.

Fuller information about the broader support for the creative sector beyond that of Creative Scotland is set out in my letter to the Convener of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee of 24 April which is available at the following link:
Monday 4 May

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much it has allocated to Creative Scotland in relation to COVID-19 financial support. (S5W-28429)

Fiona Hyslop: As of 21 April the Scottish Government has allocated £1.1 million of repurposed grant in aid and a further £1 million to Creative Scotland in financial support relating to COVID-19.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much Creative Scotland has allocated to the (a) Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund and (b) Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund to support practitioners impacted by COVID-19. (S5W-28430)

Fiona Hyslop: (a) Creative Scotland allocated £4 million to the Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary (Arts and Creative) Fund. (b) Creative Scotland has allocated £1.5m to the Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund to support practitioners impacted by COVID-19.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government who has been awarded funding from the (a) Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund and (b) Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund, broken down by how much each was awarded. (S5W-28431)

Fiona Hyslop: As set out in the guidance supporting (a) the Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund and (b) the Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund, awards from these funds will be published as part of Creative Scotland’s monthly listings, published every month, one month in arrears, on their website at the following link: https://www.creativescotland.com/funding/latestinformation/awards-listings.

Thursday 30 April

Alasdair Allan (Na h-Eileanan an Iar) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what support it can offer to recreational boating companies impacted by COVID-19 that have no business premises. (S5W-28214)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is working with the sector, and all parts of the tourism industry to support them as best we can. There are a range of schemes that can be accessed at present such as furloughing or access to the Self-employment Income Support Scheme. On 15 April, I announced £220 million worth of further measures. This will make available grants for the recently self-employed, extend the Small Business Grant Scheme to include
applications for additional properties and establish a fund to support viable micro and SME businesses in distress due to COVID.