

Wednesday 7 May 2014

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Crown Office

Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-15853 by Frank Mulholland on 6 September 2013, how many people have been prosecuted for police assault since 2007.

(S4W-20678)

Frank Mulholland: The following figures reflect the number of charges since 2007 of assaults committed against Police Officers, in terms of section 41(1)(a) of the Police (Scotland) Act 1967, section 89(1) of the Police Act 1996 and section 90(1) of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, which have resulted in court proceedings being initiated by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS).

The figures relate to assaults on police officers as opposed to resisting, obstructing, molesting or hindering police officers:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
5,650	5,515	4,937	4,808	5,429	5,118	5,186

The information has been extracted from the COPFS case management database. The database is a live, operational database used to manage the processing of reports submitted to Procurators Fiscal by the Police and other reporting agencies. The database is charge-based. The figures quoted therefore relate to the number of charges rather than the number of individuals charged or the number of incidents that gave rise to such charges.

Enterprise and Environment

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions the (a) Cabinet Secretary for Justice and (b) Minister for Environment and Climate Change has had with the Chief Constable regarding resources and training for wildlife crime officers.

(S4W-20656)

Kenny MacAskill: There have been no discussions between the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and the Chief Constable regarding resources and training for wildlife crime officers.

The resources deployed and the training of wildlife crime officers are matters solely for the Chief Constable. It is not appropriate for Scottish Ministers to seek to intervene on operational policing matters. I can advise however, that since Police Scotland came into being on 1 April 2013, there have been significant changes to the structure and training for wildlife crime officers.

The strategic lead for wildlife crime which sits in the Specialist Crime Division is held by the Assistant Chief Constable. A detective chief superintendent holds the portfolio lead and the post provides essential direction and governance around strategic issues relating to wildlife crime prevention and investigation.

A full time national wildlife crime coordinator at detective sergeant level provides engagement with national issues relating to coordination, policy, performance and training, and supports the detective chief superintendent.

In each of the 14 territorial divisions there are wildlife crime liaison officers who are supported by a superintendent (or above). Wildlife crime officer posts can be either full or part-time and deal with crime prevention and investigation when required for operational policing issues.

It is important to highlight that the investigation of wildlife crime is not the exclusive preserve of dedicated staff, and a variety of investigative and intelligence resources and tactics are brought to bear on such matters, from local and national policing.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what meetings (a) ministers and (b) officials have had with representatives of Portfolio Recovery Associates UK since 2011; who was present at each meeting, and what was discussed.

(S4W-20687)

John Swinney: Portfolio Recovery Associates, Inc acquired the Kilmarnock based business of MacKenzie Hall Ltd in January 2012, accordingly no meetings took place in 2011.

Scottish Development International (SDI) met with PRA UK on 6 November 2012 at the company's offices in Kilmarnock. In attendance at that meeting were Peter Fee, PRA UK - Financial Controller; and officials from SDI.

The meeting was a discussion about the acquisition of MacKenzie Hall Ltd by the Portfolio Group, what the group's plans were for the Kilmarnock office and how Scottish Enterprise could potentially use Regional Selective Assistance to support significant job creation in Kilmarnock.

Ongoing written communication between PRA UK and Scottish Enterprise/Scottish Development International, has taken place to support the account managed relationship and to facilitate the development of funding to secure employment in Kilmarnock.

On 7 April 2014 the First Minister met with Steve Frederickson, Chairman, President and CEO and Donald Redmond, Vice President, Government Relations (PRA) along with Lena Wilson, CEO Scottish Enterprise, Nathan Elia, Senior Vice President, SDI Americas and Mike McArthur, Vice President, SDI East Region to discuss PRA's creation of 400 jobs in Kilmarnock, as announced by the First Minister as part of this year's Scotland Week.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what debt recovery agencies it, or its agencies, contracts; what the value is of each contract, and how much cash each has retrieved in the last year for which information is available.

(S4W-20694)

Nicola Sturgeon: Morton Fraser and Harper MacLeod are the firms of solicitors who currently provide legal services for debt recovery under the Legal Services Framework Agreement. This framework agreement is available for use by the Scottish Government and its agencies. In the last financial year the fees paid to each firm, exclusive of VAT, are: Morton Fraser: £212,437; and Harper MacLeod: £2,258. We do not hold a central record of the cash retrieved in the last year for Morton Fraser. Harper MacLeod have recovered £13,086.04 in the last financial year.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken in relation to e-skills since the publication of Skills requirements for e-commerce and their provision in Scotland in 2011.

(S4W-20716)

John Swinney: Skills Development Scotland has recently published a *Skills Investment Plan for the ICT and Digital Technologies Sector*. This plan was developed in conjunction with a range of statutory and industry partners, including Scottish Enterprise, ScotlandIS, e-skills UK, Lockheed Martin, Skyscanner, JP Morgan, Smarter Grid Solutions and Amazon.

The plan focuses primarily on the ICT and digital technology skills that are required across the Scottish economy. These include computer science, software development, open source software development and web development. However along with some other areas, e-commerce has been identified a skills issue for the sector, particularly when it comes to upskilling the current workforce. This should be addressed by actions within the plan designed to recruit ICT and digital technology skills development advisers, map and promote online training interventions and establish an ICT and digital technology skills development fund for small and medium-sized enterprises. The action plan may also address e-commerce skills through other actions such as the use of graduate placements in businesses and the development of the industry-led talent academy.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many courses focused on e-commerce there are in Scotland.

(S4W-20717)

John Swinney: The cross-disciplinary nature of e-commerce means that the many courses in computing, business, marketing and web design will contribute to the skills pool supporting e-

commerce. However the granularity of available data does not allow for the relevance of specific programmes contributing to e-commerce to be confirmed with any certainty. It is also not typical for e-commerce to be demanded by businesses, or supplied by educational institutions, as a standalone discipline. The number of privately run training courses is unknown at this time.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to the supplementary to question S4O-03010 by John Swinney on 13 March 2014 (Official Report, c. 28895), whether it can provide a breakdown of the £31 billion e-commerce sales figure.

(S4W-20718)

John Swinney: The indicative estimate of Scottish e-commerce sales in 2010 by sector is as follows:

Sector	Scottish e-Commerce Sales (£billion)
Manufacturing	8.89
Utilities	1.87
Construction	0.47
Wholesale	11.95
Retail	1.46
Transport and Storage	2.86
Accommodation and Food Services	0.48
Information and Communication	1.46
Other Services	1.57
TOTAL	31.01

Around £8 billion of e-commerce sales were generated via websites. The remaining £23 billion was via other information and communication technologies.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what work it (a) has done since 2011 and (b) plans to do on producing an e-commerce strategy.

(S4W-20719)

John Swinney: *Scotland's Digital Future: A Strategy for Scotland* was published on 3 March 2011 and sets out the ambition for Scotland to be at the forefront of the digital economy. This theme was taken up and developed with the publication of *Scotland's Digital Future – Supporting the Transition to a World-leading Digital Economy* published in April 2013 which set out actions designed to ensure that all businesses in Scotland have the confidence, capability and skills to take full advantage of the benefits that the internet can bring.

This strategy recommended that Scotland's enterprise and skills agencies work collaboratively to deliver business support on digital issues and led to the formation of a business excellence partnership, backed by an additional £7 million of Scottish Government funding. Initial projects being progressed by the partnership include a new Digital Voucher Scheme, with e-commerce as an eligible theme and the Supplier Development Programme which is focused on supporting the use of e-procurement.

The Scottish Government has no current plans to produce a specific e-commerce strategy. However, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Development International and ScotlandIS developed and launched a two year e-Commerce Scotland Programme in October 2013, with a specific focus on international e-commerce. The first phase was completed in March 2014 and included a series of industry master-classes, sector leadership briefings, a competition to recognise Scottish e-commerce best practice and the inaugural *e-Commerce Scotland Forum* where over 220 delegates heard more about using e-commerce techniques to reach new export markets.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the value of e-commerce sales in Scotland was in (a) 2009, (b) 2010, (c) 2011, (d) 2012 and (e) 2013.

(S4W-20721)

John Swinney: The indicative estimate of e-commerce sales in Scotland in 2010 was £31 billion. This estimate was derived from the *Office of National Statistics (ONS) Statistical Bulletin 'E-commerce and ICT Activity 2010'* published in December 2011.

Scottish Enterprise intends to derive a Scottish estimate on a biennial basis using ONS data. The latest estimate will be produced in May/June 2014 and will be based on 2012 ONS data published in December 2013. No Scottish e-commerce sales estimates were produced for 2009 or 2011.

The Scottish Government, in collaboration with the enterprise and business support agencies, will undertake a comprehensive digital economy business survey in June 2014. This will include e-commerce questions to help capture both the proportion and value of Scottish online sales.

In addition, Scottish Enterprise has also recently introduced e-commerce into its quarterly survey of Account Managed Companies. This will capture the proportion of overall sales conducted electronically by Scotland's growth companies allowing quarterly trend patterns to emerge.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what methodology it applies when estimating the value of e-commerce sales.

(S4W-20726)

John Swinney: A methodology for estimating the value of e-commerce sales in Scotland was developed by SQW Ltd, on behalf of Scottish Enterprise, during a commission entitled 'Scottish e-Commerce Study' in May 2012. This presented a number of challenges, including the absence of any official Scotland-level statistics on e-commerce and the lack of a universally accepted definition for the term 'e-commerce'.

SQW adopted the Office for National Statistics (ONS) definition for e-commerce and used the UK e-commerce sales data in the *ONS Statistical Bulletin 'E-commerce and ICT Activity 2010'* (Dec 2011) as a basis for the Scottish estimate. In deriving the estimate, SQW applied the following methodology: Use 2010 ONS data capturing value of UK e-commerce sales by sector as basis for derivation.

Apply Scotland's overall share of employment in each sector to estimate equivalent Scottish e-commerce sales.

Consider an adjustment for Scotland's relative position in e-commerce versus the UK average.

Adjust sales estimates to account for e-commerce activity of firms with fewer than 10 employees (not included in the ONS data).

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it can provide a list of the 20 companies in Scotland with the largest e-commerce sales.

(S4W-20727)

John Swinney: The most commonly used definition is that developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and used by the Office for National Statistics. This defines an e-commerce transaction as 'the sale or purchase of goods or services, conducted over computer networks by methods specifically designed for the purpose of receiving or placing of orders'.

There is currently no available research that identifies the top 20 companies in Scotland by value of e-commerce sales using this definition.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland became independent, how much it would cost to (a) set up and (b) operate annually its proposed (i) national regulatory authority for energy, (ii) fair work commission, (iii) financial regulator, (iv) independent fiscal commission, (v) energy fund, (vi) motor services agency, (vii) pensions regulator, (viii) regulator for postal services, (ix) security and intelligence agency, (x) defence headquarters, (xi) asylum agency and (xii) borders and migration service.

(S4W-20884)

John Swinney: The transition to independence provides a significant opportunity to improve and invest in public service delivery in Scotland.

Scottish taxpayers already contribute to UK expenditure on reserved functions. The elected government of an independent Scotland will have control over all public expenditure in Scotland and will be able to take spending decisions which reflect the priorities, needs and wishes of the Scottish people.

The size of the one-off investment in systems and processes as a result of the transition to independence will be a small proportion of an independent Scotland's total budget. Further information is available on page 345 of *Scotland's Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many construction workers were employed in (a) Aberdeen and (b) Aberdeenshire in (i) 2012 and (ii) 2013.

(S4W-20908)

John Swinney: The preferred source for employment estimates by industry at local authority level is the Business Register Employment Survey. The latest available data are for 2012.

In 2012, there were 5,600 people working in the construction sector in Aberdeen City and 8,800 in Aberdeenshire. These data are rounded to the nearest hundred. Estimates include all employee jobs within VAT/PAYE registered enterprises, and also working owners of VAT/PAYE registered enterprises.

Note that there are construction jobs out-with registered enterprises, in the smallest enterprises that are not registered for VAT/PAYE (so called "unregistered" enterprises). The latest data from *Businesses in Scotland 2013*, show that 21% of all construction employment in Scotland is in unregistered enterprises, these 'unregistered' jobs would include, for example, self-employed plumbers, electricians, joiners etc. Estimates of employment in unregistered construction enterprises are not available by local authority area.

Finance

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland became independent, what tax reliefs it would need to abolish to raise the "target revenue gain of £250 million a year by the end of the first term" set out on page xiii of *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

(S4W-20878)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4O-02678 on 5 December 2013. The answer to the oral parliamentary question is available on the Parliaments website, the official report can be viewed at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8681>.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland became independent, other than the shares for rights scheme and married couple's tax allowance, what tax reliefs it would streamline.

(S4W-20879)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4O-02678 on 5 December 2013. The answer to the oral parliamentary question is available on the Parliaments website, the official report can be viewed at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8681>.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland became independent, what measures it would introduce to tackle tax avoidance, and how much additional revenue these would raise.

(S4W-20880)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government plans to introduce a simple and transparent tax system after independence designed to minimise the opportunities for tax avoidance that have been exposed in the UK system, which mean that too many individual and corporate taxpayers do not pay their fair share of taxes. As set out on page 121 of *Scotland's Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*, over the course of the first independent parliament, the Scottish Government and Revenue Scotland will work together to simplify the tax system to reduce compliance costs, streamline reliefs and help to reduce tax avoidance, with a target revenue gain of £250 million a year by the end of the first term.

The Scottish Government is determined to act decisively on avoidance of devolved taxes. The Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Bill which is currently before Parliament contains powers which will enable Revenue Scotland to take robust action to counteract tax avoidance, including the introduction of a general anti-avoidance rule for the devolved taxes. The Scottish Government will seek to replicate this approach in developing a Scottish tax system following independence.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of how it calculated the "target revenue gain of £250 million a year by the end of the first term" set out on page xiii of *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

(S4W-20881)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4O-02678 on 5 December 2013. The answer to the oral parliamentary question is available on the Parliaments website, the official report can be viewed at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8681>.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland became independent, at what rate it would set married couple's tax allowance; how many couples would benefit, and what the average annual benefit would be.

(S4W-20882)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20019 on 13 March 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

Governance and Communities

Annabelle Ewing (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to increased recourse to foodbanks.

(S4O-3185)

Margaret Burgess: First of all, we recognise that there is a problem. The Trussell Trust reports that there is a fivefold increase in people who use foodbanks, compared with the previous year and we know from the report that we published in December 2013 that benefit changes and delays are a major cause of this increase.

It is simply unacceptable that so many people should have to rely on emergency food provision in our rich country. The Scottish Government announced £1 million for an emergency food action plan to help combat food poverty. This includes £500,000 for a new Emergency Food Aid Grant Fund.

We will, as a government, continue to help the most vulnerable where we can but it is only with the full powers of independence that we can build a fairer welfare system and properly tackle complex issues such as food poverty.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what power planning applicants have to instruct a government reporter's inquiry regarding what information is made public and the format in which it is produced.

(S4W-20701)

Derek Mackay: Hearings or inquiries take place in public and anyone is free to attend and to report on the evidence. Reporters from the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA), who handle cases on behalf of Scottish Ministers, are responsible for the conduct of these sessions and will not place any restrictions on the reporting of a case. Planning appeals, unlike court proceedings, are held in local venues and there is no system for recording proceedings or providing an official transcript of the evidence.

In respect of recent inquiry and hearing sessions relating to appeals by Dart Energy, one of the parties involved in the appeals asked to be allowed to make an audio recording of the witnesses for Dart Energy. This was a private recording made to send to their own witnesses in Australia who were not able to attend the inquiry in person. The reporters have not been provided with a copy of the tapes, which are, it is understood, incomplete. An unofficial transcript of these tapes has been made but its accuracy is in dispute. The reporters determining this case will rely on their own notes of the evidence given. All inquiry documents are published to DPEA's own case website.

Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to increase the availability of adult changing places since 2011.

(S4W-20805)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the availability of changing places in buildings with public access. The Scottish Government's new strategy for learning disability *The keys to life* recommends that 100 Changing Places be available by June 2015 and PAMIS has been commissioned to help make this happen. Since *The Keys to life* was published in June 2013 the number of changing places has increased from 85 to 92 in Scotland and there are a number waiting to be registered.

Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it provides subsidies to bodies looking to install adult changing places.

(S4W-20806)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government does not provide such support.

Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has given consideration to making provision of adult changing places a requirement of large developments or transport hubs.

(S4W-20807)

John Swinney: There is a need for a national spread of changing places in public places in Scotland. Focusing on large developments is not the best way to achieve this. In the amended October 2013 *Building Standards Technical Handbook – Non Domestic – Section 3.12*, it acknowledges changing places as best practice and recommends a network of these facilities.

Kevin Stewart (Aberdeen Central) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many of its agencies provide adult changing places.

(S4W-20808)

John Swinney: No Scottish Government agencies provide changing places. The aim is to develop a network of changing places in buildings which the public have routine access to. There is little benefit of changing places being located in office buildings where the public have no access.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-17748 by Nicola Sturgeon on 1 November 2013, whether it will publish the (a) monthly and (a) quarterly data collected by the local authorities.

(S4W-20845)

Nicola Sturgeon: Data collected from local authorities on a monthly and quarterly basis is used to monitor HEEPS: ABS delivery by Scottish Government officials. This monitoring process provides assurances that projects are proceeding on the basis agreed between the Scottish Government and local authorities. In the event that projects run into difficulties, that funding can be quickly re-allocated between projects or across local authorities.

Given the flexible nature of HEEPS projects we do not publish monthly or quarterly progress data. In May 2013 we advised local authorities that HEEPS: ABS funding for 2013-14 did not need to be spent by local authorities until the end of September 2014, in line with standard financial practice with projects of this nature. This means that full details on what have been delivered via HEEPS: ABS funding will not be known until after the end of September 2014. The publication of final outcomes for 2013-14 will then follow.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to change its definition of fuel poverty.

(S4W-20846)

Nicola Sturgeon: There are no plans to change the definition of fuel poverty in Scotland. In its final report on the Scottish Government's fuel poverty strategy, published in March 2014, the independent Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum recommended "that the definition currently used in Scotland is still relevant, but that it needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect a more accurate assessment of the energy demands with in homes in a modern age."

Research into the robustness of the assumptions underpinning the current definition of fuel poverty was commissioned by the Scottish Government on behalf of the Fuel Poverty Forum and members of the forum are currently considering the results of this research and will make recommendations to Scottish Ministers in due course. The four assumptions being considered are the heating regime, the definition of vulnerability, the treatment of under-occupancy and the definition of household income.

The forum led on the research and is responsible for the final report.

Health and Social Care

Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what recent action it has taken to encourage NHS boards to ensure that GPs reduce unnecessary waste of prescribed drugs.

(S4W-20681)

Alex Neil: The Scottish Government recognises the importance of reducing medicines wastage and all NHS boards have strategies in place to help improve the quality, clinical and cost effectiveness of prescribing. These include GP and pharmacist medicines reviews and reviews of repeat prescribing supported by local and national publicity campaigns.

The "Let's Talk Medicine" campaign, which commenced 22 April 2014, is aimed at getting the public to think differently about the medicines prescribed to them by empowering and encouraging them to, for example, discuss with their GP the medicines they are taking, why they are taking them and whether they still need to take them; take more personal ownership for their medicines and health; be more thoughtful when ordering repeat prescriptions; and avoid medicines 'stockpiling'.

Through the national prescribing programme, significant progress is being made in the development of the Scottish therapeutics utility. This computer software will assist general practices to identify areas of potential medicines waste within their repeat prescribing systems. The software is currently being piloted in four NHS boards, with rollout to all health board areas by the end of 2014 into 2015.

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people under 18 are awaiting an organ transplant and what the average waiting time is, broken down by NHS board.

(S4W-20713)

Michael Matheson: The information requested is available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) by quoting BIB number 55835.

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people are awaiting an organ transplant in each NHS board area.

(S4W-20714)

Michael Matheson: The information requested is available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) by quoting BIB number 55835.

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have died in each NHS board area in each year since 2007 while awaiting an organ transplant.

(S4W-20715)

Michael Matheson: The information requested is available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) by quoting BIB number 55835.

Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to amend the guidance for the management of influenza pandemics, in light of the recent review by the Cochrane Collaboration on the effectiveness of Tamiflu and Relenza.

(S4W-20776)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20794 on 6 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

Learning and Justice

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the number of security staff needed for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Holding answer issued: 6 May 2014

(S4W-20670)

Shona Robison: Police Scotland is the lead agency for the delivery of safety and security at the Games. It is Police Scotland policy, supported by the Scottish Government, not to divulge any information which may benefit those who wish harm to the Commonwealth Games. This includes the number of personnel engaged in the safety and security operation.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government where security staff for the 2014 Commonwealth Games will be housed during the games.

Holding answer issued: 6 May 2014

(S4W-20672)

Shona Robison: Security and stewarding staff, who require accommodation, will be housed in various venues throughout west and central Scotland.

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many reports of racial abuse there have been by people from the Roma community in each year since 2007, broken down by region.

(S4W-20682)

Kenny MacAskill: Although it is possible to identify Gypsy or traveller victims and complainers in the racist incidents data collection, this ethnic classification was not separately identifiable until 2009-10 when a more detailed 21 group classification was introduced. However, not all legacy police forces

have been able to supply the data using this more detailed classification and we therefore do not have a complete Scottish figure for this ethnic group.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many foreign language assistants there have been in schools in each year since 2005.

(S4W-20816)

Alasdair Allan: Since 2005 there has been a total of 1553 language assistants in Scottish schools. A breakdown of this figure is provided in the following table by each academic year since 2005. This number includes both local authority and independent schools:

Year	Total
2005-2006	278
2006-2007	263
2007-2008	254
2008-2009	244
2009-2010	188
2010-2011	126
2011-2012	58
2012-2013	69
2013-2014	73
Total	1553

The data for 2014-15 is not yet confirmed but initial indications suggest the number of language assistants will be around 100.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) children and (b) adults have type (a) 1 and (b) 2 diabetes, and how many new cases have been diagnosed in each of the last four years, broken down by NHS board.

(S4W-20851)

Michael Matheson: Not all of the information requested in this question is held centrally.

Data on the number of new cases diagnosed in each of the last four years broken down by NHS board is published annually within the Scottish Diabetes Survey. The most recent report containing data from 2012 can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications.aspx?catId=3>

Information on the number of (a) children and (b) adults with type (a) 1 and type (b) 2 diabetes broken down by NHS board is not held centrally. However information on the total number of people (all ages combined) broken down by NHS board is available at the above link.

Strategy and External Affairs

Richard Lyle (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government when the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs last met Historic Scotland and what was discussed.

(S4O-3194)

Fiona Hyslop: I met Historic Scotland officials at Stirling Castle on 1 May 2014 as they finalised preparations for the Wallace, Bruce and Scotland's contested crown exhibition. I discussed the significance of 700 year-old letters relating to William Wallace and Robert the Bruce being exhibited together for the first time. The exhibition is being run by National Records of Scotland with support from Historic Scotland and is on display at Stirling Castle from 3 May 2014 until 1 June. 2014

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with representatives of the Roma community in Glasgow regarding financial support for cultural celebrations such as International Roma Day.

(S40-3195)

Humza Yousaf: The Scottish Government has had no discussions with representatives of the Roma community in Glasgow regarding financial support for cultural celebrations such as International Roma Day.

However, the Scottish Government does provide funding to a number of projects which support the Roma community in Glasgow.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) 16 and (b) 17-year-olds have registered to vote in the referendum on independence.

(S4W-20704)

Nicola Sturgeon: National Records for Scotland (NRS) published their annual statistics on electoral registration in Scotland – *Electoral Statistics for Scotland, 2014* on 1 May 2014. These can be accessed in full at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/electoral-stats/10-march-2014/index.html>

The NRS statistics show that 98,000 16 and 17 year olds had registered to vote by 10 March 2014. The deadline to register to vote in the referendum is 2 September 2014.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much Scotland spends annually on international development, expressed as a proportion of the UK's spend.

(S4W-20883)

Humza Yousaf: The UK Government has published figures for both Scottish Government and UK Government official development assistance over the last two years. These show the Scottish Government's spend as a proportion of the UK Government's and are available at the attached link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300084/Prov-ODA-GNI-2013a.pdf.

Transport Scotland

John Mason (Glasgow Shettleston) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to attract and encourage more boats to make use of the River Clyde.

(S40-3183)

Keith Brown: The Scottish Government recognises the value of the River Clyde to a wide range of commercial, business and leisure users and would welcome any initiative which encourages the growth and expansion of industry, tourism and transport services based around the use of the estuary.

This year, as part of the celebrations for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, VisitScotland, through Homecoming Scotland, is supporting The Homecoming Muster and The Commonwealth Flotilla. More than 250 vessels and crews have applied to take part in this spectacular opportunity to sail up the Clyde to the centre of Glasgow as part of the celebrations.

Paul Martin (Glasgow Provan) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that First Group provides an acceptable level of bus services in the Glasgow Provan constituency.

(S40-3184)

Keith Brown: The level of bus services provided by First Glasgow is primarily a commercial matter between the company and its customers, although Strathclyde Partnership for Transport has powers to support services to meet social needs where the commercial market is not doing so.

The following questions received holding answers:

S4W-20654
S4W-20676
S4W-20804
S4W-20820