

Thursday 8 May 2014

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the implications of independence are for the oil and gas industry.

(S4O-3205)

John Swinney: Unlike successive UK Governments, an independent Scotland will provide industry with the necessary fiscal and regulatory stability and predictability for it to innovate and thrive in a globally competitive environment. With independence, Scotland would have the opportunity to put in place a regulatory and fiscal framework which supports and incentivises exploration and production and provides long term stability and certainty for the industry. More than half the value of North Sea oil remains, up to 24 billion barrels with a potential wholesale value of up to £1.5 trillion. We must not let Westminster continue to squander the remainder of this hugely valuable resource

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it plans to take in response to the illegal killing of birds of prey in addition to its consultation on the powers of the Scottish SPCA.

Holding answer issued: 7 May 2014

(S4W-20654)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government takes the view that the detection and prosecution of offenders is the best response to the illegal killing of birds of prey. To that end we will continue to work with Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to build and strengthen the enforcement effort in this area of the law. We will also work with other members of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime to raise awareness of the serious consequences of wildlife crime and the damaging effects on Scotland's reputation, environment and economy.

We aim to work with government and law enforcement partners to explore further options to detect and remove from the environment the dangerous poisons used to kill native wildlife. Officials are exploring options to build on an existing private sector chargeable pesticides disposal scheme ('Project RCD').

Additional measures to protect raptors were announced in July 2013:

Scottish Natural Heritage to restrict the use of general licences where they judge raptor persecution has taken place (there is now an enabling paragraph in the new General Licence for 2014).

A review of penalties for wildlife crime offences, which will report before the end of 2014.

A commitment from the Lord Advocate to encourage the full range of investigative techniques by the police against raptor crime.

The Scottish Government will continue to seek the full implementation and effectiveness of these measures.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what financial resources it is committing to improving air quality and how many civil servants are working on it.

Holding answer issued: 6 May 2014

(S4W-20793)

Paul Wheelhouse: Improving air quality in Scotland is a cross cutting issue. Policy leadership is provided by the Environmental Quality Division, which works closely with other business areas across the Scottish Government, particularly transport, climate change, health, planning and renewable energy, to support work to promote Scotland's air quality. This reflects that successful promotion of air quality improvements is generally achieved through mainstreaming its inclusion into other policy areas.

The Scottish Government also provides funding support to assist local authorities in undertaking their statutory air quality responsibilities. Currently we operate three specific funding schemes covering air quality monitoring and modelling (a total of £0.5 million available per year), vehicle emissions testing (£0.5 million) and air quality action planning (£1 million).

Other funding initiatives also support air quality improvements, notably low emissions vehicles (£5 million in 2014-15), sustainable active travel (also £5 million in 2014-15) and the Scottish Green Bus Fund which provides funding to encourage the use of and purchase of low carbon emission buses. The Scottish Government provided operators with funding of £2.4 million in the last financial year (2013-14) thereby assisting the purchase of 32 new low carbon emission buses. Ministers will shortly announce further funding of £4.75 million for a further round of funding which could see another 40 or more new low carbon emission buses joining the Scottish fleet.

In the context of non-transport related funding, since 2005 Forestry Commission Scotland, through their Woods In and Around Towns Programme, has invested over £60 million in urban woodlands. This investment has supported the reintroduction of management to over 11,500 hectares of neglected urban woods, created 1,600 hectares of new urban woods, equivalent to the area of all the woodland in the city of Glasgow and delivered an extensive programme of outreach work to encourage people living in urban Scotland to use and enjoy their local woods. This investment complements that of local authorities and partners in woodland investment e.g. in respect of Edinburgh, Lothians and Fife which is specifically targeted at improving air quality in urban areas.

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what information it holds regarding the membership of the Confederation of British Industry, broken down by (a) public bodies, (b) organisations receiving public funds and (c) other bodies.

(S4W-20837)

Fergus Ewing: Five Scottish public bodies were members of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI): Visit Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Scottish Qualifications Authority. All resigned following the registration of the CBI as a permitted participant in the upcoming referendum.

While Universities are not public bodies media reports suggest that Heriot-Watt, Highlands and Islands, Aberdeen, Glasgow Caledonian, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Strathclyde resigned their membership of the CBI. Media reports also indicate that The Law Society of Scotland, Aquamarine Power, the Balhousie Care Group and STV have also resigned. The BBC issued a statement confirming that it had suspended its membership during the registration period.

The CBI news release of 25 April 2014, which confirmed that it has asked the Electoral Commission to nullify its registration, also states that it has 190,000 members across the UK of which 1,200 are registered and operating in Scotland. No further information is held about the membership of the .

Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether the UK Government's proposed Infrastructure Bill, which is to include provision aimed at allowing companies to run shale gas pipelines under private land, will apply to Scotland and, if so, what the Scottish Government's position would be on legislative consent for devolved aspects.

(S4W-20876)

Fergus Ewing: While the licensing of onshore oil and gas is generally a reserved matter for the UK Government, we understand that the Infrastructure Bill has not yet been introduced to the UK Parliament. Therefore, the Scottish Government will not be able come to a definitive view on reserved or devolved aspects until we have had sight of the draft provisions contained therein.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20802 by John Swinney on 30 April 2014, whether it will provide the information requested regarding how many years the financial projections will cover.

(S4W-20955)

John Swinney: As announced in the parliamentary debate on the 26 March 2014 (Official Report, c. 29404), the Scottish Government will extend this analysis in the coming weeks to cover a number of years, building on the analysis in the white paper and its central conclusion that Scotland is a wealthy country that will start life as an independent nation with great economic prospects.

Governance and Communities

Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with (a) local authorities and (b) COSLA regarding current council tax bands.

(S4W-20729)

Derek Mackay: No recent discussions have been held with local authorities or COSLA regarding current council tax bands.

However, Scottish Ministers consider the current council tax system as a whole to be unfair and are committed to consulting with others to develop options for a fairer and more progressive local tax, based on ability to pay, later in this Parliament. All potential alternative proposals which meet this criteria will be considered.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-06481 by John Swinney on 17 April 2012, whether it remains committed to introducing a local income tax or whether it is now considering other options to replace the council tax.

(S4W-20904)

John Swinney: This Government is committed to consult with others to develop options for a fairer and more progressive local tax, based on the ability to pay, later in this Parliament. All potential alternative proposals that meet the criteria will be considered.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-06481 by John Swinney on 17 April 2012, whom it has consulted regarding a fairer local tax and what potential alternative approaches to the council tax it has considered.

(S4W-20905)

John Swinney: This government is committed to consult with others to develop options for a fairer and more progressive local tax later in this Parliament. All potential alternative approaches that met this criteria will be considered as this work is progressed.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its policy is on the development of new hill tracks.

(S4W-20922)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government recognises the importance of tracks for rural businesses and the need to balance this with impact on the environment and visual amenity.

Currently tracks for agricultural or forestry uses can be constructed without the need for a full planning application, provided they meet certain strict criteria. Additionally, if an Environmental Impact Assessment is required then a full planning application is also required. Tracks for any other purposes always require a full planning application.

Following a consultation on permitted development rights in 2012, the Scottish Government is keeping the current arrangements under review and considering whether they are fit for purpose.

The Scottish Government is working with Scottish Natural Heritage and landowners to promote good practice in the design and construction of tracks.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to the supplementary to question S4O-02927 by Derek Mackay on 26 February 2014 (Official Report, c. 28179), when in the current parliamentary session it plans to produce a consultation on replacement of the council tax.

(S4W-20925)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government will consult with others to produce a fairer local tax based on ability to pay later in this Parliament.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to the third supplementary to question S4T-00474 by John Swinney on 8 October 2013 (Official Report, c. 23382), whether it plans to open up discussion on local taxation beyond local income tax.

(S4W-20926)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20904 on 8 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>.

Health and Social Care

Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what legacy it expects the Commonwealth Games to have in Edinburgh.

(S4O-3204)

Shona Robison: In Edinburgh:

Local businesses are benefitting: 19 have won Games-related contracts and there have been 52 modern apprentice starts through the Legacy 2014 Employer Recruitment Incentive scheme

12 projects have been awarded funding totalling over £632,000 through the Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund: complementing the six Community Sports Hubs operating across the city

BIG 2014 Communities programme has awarded over £250,000 to 160 local community projects

The Sports Relief Home & Away Programme has supported four local projects covering issues from mental health to support for the elderly.

This is a small selection of legacy activity taking place in the capital. I would encourage Mr Biagi, and other members, to visit the Legacy 2014 website where there is an interactive map detailing legacy activity across the country.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many patients are receiving compulsory treatment under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, broken down by NHS board.

(S4W-20758)

Michael Matheson: This information is not held centrally, however, it is published by the Mental Welfare Commission through their annual monitoring reports. The reports are available online at:

<http://www.mwscot.org.uk/publications/statistical-monitoring-reports/>

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to improve nail cutting services for older people with diabetes.

(S4W-20917)

Michael Matheson: Everyone diagnosed with diabetes should be screened/assessed using the traffic light foot risk stratification and triage system, which identifies and defines those patients who are at risk of developing a foot problem due to their diabetes. This system aids in identifying those who can and can't self-manage their foot care, including nail cutting.

Those who can self-manage will be given advice on how best to look after their feet. Those who are at risk or unable to self-manage should receive a suitable level of podiatric care and advice as part of their management/treatment plan.

This system ensures that valuable podiatry resources are used more effectively by focussing on giving the best possible appropriate care, to those who need it.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people are diagnosed as having type (a) 1 and (b) 2 diabetes, broken down by NHS board.

(S4W-20918)

Michael Matheson: Information on the total number of people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes in Scotland is set out in the following table:

Number of people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes in each NHS board in 2012:

NHS Board	Type 1	Type 2	Total
Ayrshire and Arran	2,212	18,799	21,073
Borders	626	5,160	5,831
Dumfries and Galloway	889	7,528	8,484
Fife	1,986	17,030	19,097
Forth Valley	1,648	13,091	14,850
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	6,366	52,236	59,121
Grampian	3,129	22,037	25,275
Highlands	1,793	13,190	15,130
Lanarkshire	3,585	26,527	30,299
Lothian	4,282	30,735	35,288
Orkney	119	877	996
Shetland	128	881	1,024
Tayside	1,901	18,806	20,843
Western Isles	185	1,070	1,259
Total	28,849	227,967	258,570

Information on the number of people with diabetes is published annually within the Scottish Diabetes Survey. The most recent report containing data from 2012 can be accessed at:

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

The next report is due to be published later this year.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people are estimated to have undiagnosed type 2 diabetes, broken down by NHS board, and what strategy it has in place for dealing with this.

(S4W-20919)

Michael Matheson: Estimates of undiagnosed diabetes in Scotland were included in the 2011 Scottish Diabetes Survey based on data from 2010. These estimates were based on the Association of Public Health Observatories prevalence model and are attached in the following table.

Estimated number of people with undiagnosed diabetes in each NHS board in 2010:

Health board	Estimated Number of undiagnosed diabetes cases (2010)
Ayrshire and Arran	3,234
Borders	1,168
Dumfries and Galloway	2,316
Fife	2,556
Forth Valley	1,933
Grampian	4,507
Greater Glasgow	11,007
Highland	5,929
Lanarkshire	4,470
Lothian	7,586
Orkney	264

Health board	Estimated Number of undiagnosed diabetes cases (2010)
Shetland	416
Tayside	3,528
Western Isles	698
SCOTLAND	48,844

The Scottish Diabetes Group are currently considering the most appropriate approach for identifying people who have undiagnosed diabetes.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which NHS boards did not meet the 2013-14 target for the provision of insulin pumps for (a) children and (b) adults.

(S4W-20924)

Michael Matheson: NHS Fife, NHS Forth Valley, NHS Grampian, NHS Highlands and NHS Lanarkshire did not meet the ministerial commitment to ensure 25% of under 18s with type 1 diabetes are on an insulin pump by March 2014.

Our insulin pump improvement team will continue to support these boards to meet the commitment in the shortest possible, clinically safe timescale.

The adult ministerial commitment deadline is March 2015 and boards are working hard to ensure that this rightly ambitious commitment is met.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) males and (b) females have been detained in hospital under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 or Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 by means of (i) an assessment order, (ii) a compulsion order, (iii) a compulsory treatment order, (iv) an emergency detention certificate, (v) a hospital direction, (vi) an interim compulsion order, (vii) an interim compulsory treatment order, (viii) a compulsion order with restriction order, (ix) a short-term detention certificate, (x) a transfer for treatment direction or (xi) a treatment order, in each of the last three years.

(S4W-20930)

Michael Matheson: The Mental Welfare Commission publish statistics of number of civil and forensic mental health orders in their annual monitoring reports. The reports are available online at: <http://www.mwscot.org.uk/publications/statistical-monitoring-reports/>

This information is not broken down by gender.

Learning and Justice

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government which security contractors have been appointed to the 2014 Commonwealth Games contract and what aspect of security each contractor will undertake.

Holding answer issued: 6 May 2014

(S4W-20671)

Shona Robison: The following companies have been appointed to a framework for the purpose of providing security services: Allander Group; Controlled Event Solutions; Corps of Commissionaires Management Limited; Kingdom Security Limited; Securigroup Services Limited; Servoca Plc; Show and Event Security Limited; Sword Event Guard Limited; The Protector Group; Total Security Services; Vigilant Security; Wilson James.

The following companies have been appointed to a framework for the purpose of providing stewarding services: AP Security (APS) Limited; Garrion Security Services Limited; G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Limited; Protectevent; The Protector Group; Securigroup Services Limited; Show and Event Security Limited; Stadium Traffic Management Limited; Sword Event Guard Limited.

Most of the above companies for security and stewarding services have now been awarded work orders.

In general, companies are undertaking essentially the same tasks at the various venues. Those companies involved in stewarding will work only at Commonwealth Games sporting venues. Their role essentially involves the safe ingress and egress of spectators, their continuing safety inside a venue and evacuation procedures.

Those companies engaged in security will work at Commonwealth Games sporting venues but also at a range of other games venues, such as the athletes' village or logistics depots. Their role is concerned with perimeter guarding and ancillary functions such as CCTV monitoring. At the athletes' village, Wilson James will undertake pedestrian screening duties.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much has been allocated for the accommodation costs of security staff at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Holding answer issued: 6 May 2014

(S4W-20673)

Shona Robison: Final financial negotiations continue, however, current allocation is assessed at £896,000

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of reported sexual assaults has resulted in a conviction in each year since 2007, broken down by region.

(S4W-20703)

Kenny MacAskill: The following table provides information on the number of sexual assaults recorded by the police for 2006-07 to 2012-13, by legacy police force area.

Sexual assaults recorded by the police, 2006-07 to 2012-13, by legacy police force area:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Central	244	298	203	246	230	217	162
Dumfries and Galloway	73	63	73	43	40	67	44
Fife	274	353	288	378	341	284	236
Grampian	415	473	389	390	445	383	352
Lothian and Borders	610	605	617	652	499	577	540
Northern	264	221	277	170	230	137	220
Strathclyde	1,255	1,236	1,248	1,295	1,216	1,039	1,251
Tayside	317	253	202	238	219	204	203
Scotland	3,452	3,502	3,297	3,412	3,220	2,908	3,008

Note that the implementation of the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009 on 1 December 2010, will have an effect on the comparability of the breakdown of sexual offences over time. Comparisons of the statistics over time should therefore be treated with caution.

Classification of crime, including sexual offences, is available from Note 8 of the *Recorded Crime in Scotland 2012-13* publication:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00427834.pdf>

Information held centrally on recorded crime is based on an aggregated count of crimes and offences recorded and cleared up by the police. Individual level crime data is not held centrally and it is not possible to track the outcome of individual crimes.

The number of convictions for sexual assault for 2006-07 to 2012-13, by legacy police force area is publicly available in Table 4a of the Criminal Proceedings additional datasets, which can be accessed via the following web link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsCrimProc/crimprocpfa201213>

Please note however that statistics dealing with recorded crime and court proceedings are not directly comparable as a person may be proceeded against for more than one crime involving more than one victim and there is the possibility that the crime recorded by the police may be altered in the course of judicial proceedings. In addition, a crime may be recorded by the police in one year and court proceedings concluded in a subsequent year.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how Police Scotland tackles the barriers that might prevent people from underrepresented groups from joining the force.

(S4W-20708)

Kenny MacAskill: The recruitment of police officers is a matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

Police Scotland has set out in its recently published *Corporate Strategy*, plans to diversify its workforce through the promotion of attractive, inclusive and responsible practices including exploring alternative, flexible recruitment options to build a more diverse workforce. Police Scotland also set out in its *2013 Equality and Diversity Report*, that Police Scotland will continue its commitment to the principles of positive action in respect to recruitment, retention, progression and development in order to achieve an equitable work environment.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how Police Scotland encourages officers from underrepresented groups to remain in the force.

(S4W-20709)

Kenny MacAskill: The retention of police officers is a matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

Police Scotland has set out in its recently published *Corporate Strategy*, plans to diversify its workforce through the promotion of attractive, inclusive and responsible practices. Police Scotland also set out in its *2013 Equality and Diversity Report*, that Police Scotland will continue its commitment to the principles of positive action in respect to recruitment, retention, progression and development in order to achieve an equitable work environment.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the comments in The Scotsman on 11 April 2014 by the former chair of the Scottish Women's Development Forum that Police Scotland's recruitment policy was "unfair and discriminatory" and that it "has created additional barriers to some underrepresented groups joining the service as well as those applying for promotion".

(S4W-20710)

Kenny MacAskill: The recruitment and promotion of police officers is an operational matter for Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority.

Police Scotland has set out in its recently published *Corporate Strategy*, plans to diversify its workforce through the promotion of attractive, inclusive and responsible practices including exploring alternative, flexible recruitment options to build a more diverse workforce. Police Scotland also set out in its *2013 Equality and Diversity Report*, that Police Scotland will continue its commitment to the principles of positive action in respect to recruitment, retention, progression and development in order to achieve an equitable work environment.

Ruth Davidson (Glasgow) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) children or young people and (b) adults have been reported to procurators fiscal under section 105 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 in each of the last three years, and how many were subsequently (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted.

Holding answer issued: 7 May 2014

(S4W-20820)

Kenny MacAskill: The information relating to charges reported has been provided by Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). There are many different forms of action that the Procurator Fiscal can take, including referral to the Children's Reporter, Fiscal Fines, the imposition of Fiscal Work Orders and other alternatives to prosecution in court. The percentage of charges in which action was taken overall in relation to charges reported is: in 2010-11: 82%, 2011-12: 82% and 2012-13: 78%.

Table 1. Number of charges reported¹ to COPFS under Section 105 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, by age of accused:

Age of accused	Financial Year reported		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1. Under 18	64	57	35
2. 18 to 20	149	132	74
3. 21 and over	162	154	144
Total	375	343	253

1. COPFS records the number of individual charges reported to it, not the numbers of cases containing a particular type of crime. A reported case can contain multiple charges of the same type against one or more offenders

Information in tables 2 and 3 relate to prosecutions and convictions and come from Scottish Government Criminal Proceedings Database.

Table 2. People prosecuted for offences under section 105 of Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005¹, by age of accused:

Age of accused ²	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1. under 18	1	2	1
2. 18 to 20	32	25	11
3. 21 and over	60	39	38
Total prosecuted ³	93	66	50

Table 3. People convicted of offences under section 105 of Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005¹, by age of accused:

Age of accused ²	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1. under 18	0	2	1
2. 18 to 20	30	24	11
3. 21 and over	59	35	38
Total convicted ³	89	61	50

1. Where main offence.

2. The age of each person is calculated as at the date of sentence or acquittal.

3. Court proceedings statistics are based on the year in which the person's case is disposed of. People are counted once for each occasion on which they are proceeded against. If a person is proceeded against more than once on the same day, each proceeding will be counted separately. Where a person is proceeded against for more than one crime or offence in a single proceeding, only the main charge is counted.

Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the Cabinet Secretary for Justice's assertion that the case has been made for the abolition of corroboration, for what reason the review group led by Lord Bonomy cannot be allowed to consider this case as part of its review into safeguards against miscarriages of justice.

(S4W-20897)

Kenny MacAskill: Parliament approved the general principles of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, including the removal of the corroboration requirement, at the Bill's Stage 1 on 27 February 2014.

In establishing Lord Bonomy's review on additional safeguards, and in agreeing to the proposal by opposition parties to begin Stage 2 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill after Lord Bonomy reports, the Government acknowledged the legitimate concerns raised about how the Scottish criminal justice system will work without the requirement. Lord Bonomy's work is specifically focused upon assessing

what additional safeguards and changes to Scots criminal law and practice may be needed following abolition of the corroboration requirement. A review of the role of the requirement has already been carried out by Lord Carloway.

The government continues to regard abolition of the requirement as the essential removal of a barrier to justice for many victims of crime, especially offences committed in private. It also considers that the experience of every other jurisdiction comparable to Scotland clearly demonstrates that a general requirement for corroboration is not an essential feature of a modern legal system.

The government considers that there is consequently no need to modify Lord Bonomy's remit.

Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that the review group led by Lord Bonomy has enough time to consider the abolition of corroboration as it is due to report in April 2015.

(S4W-20898)

Kenny MacAskill: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20897 on 8 May 2014. As Lord Bonomy's review will not be asked to consider the abolition of the general requirement for corroboration in Scots criminal law, the issue does not arise.

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>.

Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussion it has had with the review group led by Lord Bonomy regarding the possibility of extending its remit to consider the case for abolition of corroboration, and what effect this would have on the group's timetable.

(S4W-20899)

Kenny MacAskill: No discussion has occurred. I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20897 on 8 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>.

Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government on what date Lord Bonomy's review group on corroboration first met or will first meet.

(S4W-20971)

Kenny MacAskill: The first meeting of Lord Bonomy's Reference Group was on 7 April 2014.

Strategy and External Affairs

Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what events promoting the white paper on independence have taken place since November 2013, broken down by (a) parliamentary region and (b) minister and number of accompanying civil servants who attended.

(S4W-20705)

Nicola Sturgeon: The Scottish Government is holding a programme of activity to inform the people of Scotland about *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland* and to debate and discuss the issues in the referendum with the public. This incorporates the Scotland's Future launch event on 26 November 2013, the Stakeholder Event on 10 December 2013, and an ongoing programme of public Q&A events and public discussions following Cabinet meetings held outside Edinburgh.

The public Q&A events have been publicised on: www.scotreferendum.com and information about these events, including on location and Cabinet Secretary who hosted, is in the public domain and can be accessed via the above link.

In addition, the following table sets out ministers who attended the launch event on 26 November 2013 and the Stakeholder Event on 10 December 2013. It also sets out non-Cabinet ministers who have attended the public Q&A events to date and all ministers who have attended the public discussions following the Cabinet meetings held outside Edinburgh to date.

Scotland's Future Launch Event		
Event Location	Parliamentary Region	Minister
Glasgow	Glasgow	First Minister Deputy First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Cabinet Secretary for Justice Affairs and the Environment Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Minister for External Affairs and International Development Minister for Youth Employment

Stakeholder Event		
Event Location	Parliamentary Region	Minister
Edinburgh	Lothian	First Minister Deputy First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Minister for Youth Employment Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs Minister for Parliamentary Business

Public Q&A Events		
Event Location	Parliamentary Region	Minister
Falkirk	Central Scotland	Minister for Public Health Minister for Youth Employment
Dunblane	Mid-Scotland and Fife	Minister for Transport and Veterans
Dunfermline	Mid-Scotland and Fife	Minister for Youth Employment Minister for Children and Young People Minister for Learning, Science

Public Q&A Events		
Event Location	Parliamentary Region	Minister
		and Scotland's Languages
Montrose	North East Scotland	Minister for Local Government and Planning
Eyemouth	South Scotland	Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Blairgowrie	Mid-Scotland and Fife	Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Arran	West Scotland	Minister for Local Government and Planning
Kirkcaldy	Mid-Scotland and Fife	Minister for Children and Early Years

Public Discussions following Cabinets outside Edinburgh		
Event Location	Parliamentary region	Minister
Bathgate	Lothian	First Minister Deputy First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Cabinet Secretary for Justice Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Minister for Public Health Minister for Youth Employment Minister for Parliamentary Business
Portlethen	North East Scotland	First Minister Deputy First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Cabinet Secretary for Justice Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Minister for Youth Employment Minister for Parliamentary Business
Irvine	West Scotland	First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities Strategy Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs

Public Discussions following Cabinets outside Edinburgh		
Event Location	Parliamentary region	Minister
		Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Secretary for Justice Minister for Community Safety and legal Affairs Minister for Environment and Climate Change Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages Minister for Youth Employment Minister for Housing and Welfare Minister for Parliamentary Business
Stornoway	Highlands and Islands	First Minister Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure, Investment and Cities Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs Minister for Parliamentary Business Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport

Officials have provided support at these events in varying capacities, as required to facilitate the programme of engagement. Information on the numbers at each event is not held centrally.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20162 by John Swinney on 9 April 2014, when it will publish its 2013-14 expenditure on public engagement events relating to its white paper on independence and whether this will include a breakdown of the costs of each event.

(S4W-20706)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20162 on 9 April 2014. The Scottish Government will publish cost information on the public engagement programme when expenditure for 2013-14 is finalised.

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>.