

Friday 9 May 2014

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise and Environment

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether there is sufficient evidence to assess the effectiveness of the new enforcement measures to tackle raptor persecution announced by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change on 1 July 2013.

(S4W-20748)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** There is not yet sufficient evidence to assess the effectiveness of the new measures announced on 1 July 2013. A report on the review of penalties is due by the end of the year and the changes to the general licences will be fully implemented by Scottish Natural Heritage over the next few months. The use by the police of the full range of investigative techniques in raptor persecution cases is an operational matter, however it is unlikely that results would be seen less than 12 months after the announcement of new measures.

### Governance and Communities

**Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many properties in each local authority area have been purchased under the mortgage to rent scheme.

(S4W-20711)

**Margaret Burgess:** Since February 2003, there have been 2,375 properties purchased under the mortgage to rent scheme.

From 2009, the mortgage to rent scheme was expanded to include mortgage to shared equity, becoming the Home Owner Support Fund. Table 1 illustrates the number of settled cases, by local authority, under the original scheme which ran from February 2003 until March 2009. Table 2 shows the number of settled cases by local authority, from April 2009 until present, as part of the Home Owner Support Fund.

Table 1: settled cases under the original mortgage to rent scheme (February 2003 until March 2009):

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Aberdeen City	2	9	11	8	2	5	37
Aberdeenshire	2	2	5	4	3	5	21
Angus	1	1	2	0	1	0	5
Argyll and Bute	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Clackmannanshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
Dumfries and Galloway	2	2	6	7	9	3	29
Dundee City	1	1	5	11	3	2	23
East Ayrshire	0	0	2	5	3	8	18
East Dunbartonshire	1	2	7	3	4	6	23
East Lothian	0	2	14	11	4	14	45
East Renfrewshire	0	1	1	1	3	4	10
City of Edinburgh	0	5	10	12	10	13	50
Falkirk	1	1	3	2	8	7	22
Fife	9	1	6	10	14	17	57
Glasgow City	0	4	8	18	15	27	72

	2003 -04	2004 -05	2005 -06	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	Total
Highland	4	3	4	4	2	3	20
Inverclyde	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
Midlothian	0	4	7	10	13	18	52
Moray	1	0	0	2	1	0	4
North Ayrshire	8	13	6	11	11	13	62
North Lanarkshire	2	14	18	14	10	10	68
Orkney Islands	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Perth and Kinross	1	2	6	3	4	2	18
Renfrewshire	0	3	4	3	5	7	22
Scottish Borders	0	1	0	0	1	2	4
Shetland Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Ayrshire	1	4	4	4	3	8	24
South Lanarkshire	7	13	11	3	9	30	73
Stirling	1	3	0	3	2	4	13
West Dunbartonshire	1	2	4	2	3	6	18
West Lothian	2	7	6	7	18	12	52
Total	48	103	152	160	163	229	855

Table 2: Settled mortgage to rent cases, under the Home Owner Support Fund (April 2009 until present:)

	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012- 13	2013- 14	Total
Aberdeen City	3	7	4	2	0	16
Aberdeenshire	4	3	4	1	0	12
Angus	4	4	2	1	1	12
Argyll and Bute	0	0	0	1	0	1
Clackmannanshire	1	0	2	0	1	4
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	0	0	0	0	1	1
Dumfries and Galloway	7	10	11	11	0	39
Dundee City	4	2	0	1	0	7
East Ayrshire	1	2	4	1	0	8
East Dunbartonshire	9	15	6	2	8	40
East Lothian	9	13	14	24	9	69
East Renfrewshire	4	1	4	4	1	14
City of Edinburgh	16	15	9	6	2	48
Falkirk	8	22	32	35	27	124
Fife	24	36	16	7	4	87

	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012- 13	2013- 14	Total
Glasgow City	26	25	27	35	23	136
Highland	12	15	7	5	11	50
Inverclyde	3	1	1	1	0	6
Midlothian	20	21	16	12	14	83
Moray	3	4	1	0	0	8
North Ayrshire	14	16	19	18	11	78
North Lanarkshire	24	26	35	23	24	132
Orkney Islands	0	1	0	0	0	1
Perth and Kinross	7	7	9	11	4	38
Renfrewshire	10	10	6	7	6	39
Scottish Borders	1	0	0	1	1	3
Shetland Islands	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Ayrshire	12	6	5	3	7	33
South Lanarkshire	35	31	29	25	25	145
Stirling	10	17	9	13	11	60
West Dunbartonshire	11	6	10	5	2	34
West Lothian	32	52	39	33	35	191
Total	314	368	322	288	228	1520

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many Gypsy/Traveller sites have been set up in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority.

**(S4W-20821)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government does not collect specific information on the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites set up each year since 1999. However from 1998 to 2009 the Scottish Government collected twice yearly data on the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites, their occupancy levels, and other related information. The following table shows the total number local authority Gypsy/Traveller sites in Scotland for each year from 1999 to 2009 (when the last count was carried out):

Year	Total number of Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller sites*
1999	35
2000	35
2001	35
2002	33
2003	34
2004	34
2005	33
2006	31

Year	Total number of Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller sites*
2007	32
2008	32
2009	31

\* Please note that local authority and Registered Social Landlord sites were counted together from 2007, and these numbers are those provided in the summer data collection for each year.

While the information we hold gives a snapshot of the number of local authority Gypsy/Traveller sites each year, it does not provide figures on the number of new Gypsy/Traveller sites established by each local authority each year.

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many by-laws regarding camping in public places have been introduced in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority.

**(S4W-20822)**

**Margaret Burgess:** Informal camping is a legitimate activity wherever statutory access rights apply, subject to responsible behaviour and any restrictions resulting from other legislation, including byelaws. Byelaws can also be used to restrict access rights in specific areas. This has happened in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park where the East Loch Lomond Camping Byelaws were introduced in 2011, and apply to areas on the eastern shores of Loch Lomond. The Scottish Government is not aware of the introduction of any other byelaws regarding camping in public places.

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what advice it provides to local authorities regarding the setting up of Gypsy/Traveller sites.

**(S4W-20823)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The most recent guidance on establishing Gypsy/Traveller sites is set out in the *Guidance Notes on Site Provision for Travelling People*, issued in 1997 by the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Scotland Travelling People. A copy of the guidance notes has been placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Bib number 55850.

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many Gypsy/Traveller sites it estimates are needed, broken down by local authority area.

**(S4W-20824)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government does not estimate the number of Gypsy/Traveller sites to be provided by local authorities. However Scottish Planning Policy requires local authorities to consider the accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers through their, Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA). A local authority should consider the results of their HNDA when preparing the development plan and local housing strategy for their area.

#### Learning and Justice

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the modelling for its childcare policy in an independent Scotland does not differentiate between gender and, in light of women having both lower average pay and working fewer hours per week, whether it will carry out further modelling based solely on the impact on women.

**(S4W-20860)**

**Angela Constance:** The Scottish Government modelled the impacts of increased female participation using a detailed Computable General Equilibrium model of the Scottish economy. CGE models are widely used for dynamic policy modelling by many national governments and international organisations.

Many women work less hours and earn less than men precisely because of current or previous childcare commitments. This only reinforces the argument for the transformational change in the provision of childcare proposed in Scotland's Future. When fully implemented, universal childcare entitlement would represent a fundamental change in the choices and opportunities women with young children face in the labour market, providing clear social and economic benefits.

Changes in the labour market have the potential to happen relatively quickly. The latest available breakdown of the employment figures by the working pattern shows that over the year between October to December 2013, the number of women in full-time employment rose by 48,000 whilst part-time employment increased by 17,000.

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) briefing 14/26, Early Learning and Childcare, that its proposal to provide 1,140 hours of childcare per year to all pre-school children in an independent Scotland would cost approximately £1.2 billion.

**(S4W-20861)**

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20630 on 2 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>.

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much it estimates its proposal to provide 1,140 hours of childcare per year to all pre-school children in an independent Scotland would cost, and when it last calculated this figure.

**(S4W-20862)**

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20629 on 2 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>.

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-03099 by Angela Constance on 2 April 2014, whether it has carried out economic modelling on providing 1,140 hours of childcare for (a) half of two-year-olds and all three and four-year-olds and (b) all children aged one to four, and, if so, whether it will publish this.

**(S4W-20868)**

**Aileen Campbell:** By the end of the first Parliament, vulnerable two years olds and all three and four years olds will be entitled to 1,140 hours of childcare a year. In the longer term, the Scottish Government plans to provide 1,140 hours of childcare a year to all children from age one until they start school. Once fully operational, the Scottish Government estimates that around 240,000 children and 212,000 families will benefit.

### **Transport Scotland**

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20524 by Keith Brown on 22 April 2014, for what reason the costs for the Argyll Ferries Ltd public service contract have risen compared with the figures provided in response to question S4W-08559 in 2012.

**(S4W-20838)**

**Keith Brown:** A number of revisions have been made to the financial base case of the contract with Argyll Ferries Ltd. These changes are all in accordance with the provisions of that contract:

SPT have reduced the level of grant payable for the carriage of concessionary card holders.

Funding was provided for training to meet the requirements of the EU regulation on maritime passenger rights.

A bus replacement service has been introduced to improve the resilience of the service when it is affected by bad weather.

The MV Argyll Flyer has been made the lead vessel, again in order to improve the resilience of the service;

Passenger numbers have fallen against the forecasts underpinning Argyll Ferries' initial basecase.

Additional services have been provided on the Saturday of the Cowal Games.