

Tuesday 20 May 2014

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise & Environment

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what issues arise from the import of smolts to Shetland waters from Norway.

**Holding answer issued: 16 May 2014**

**(S4W-20965)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** Whilst Norway is a country of overall lower fish health status than the UK, it has approved zones and compartments which are of equivalent or higher status than the UK. Smolts from these areas can be legally imported into the UK, as was the case with the recent import from Norway to Shetland.

The importation of smolts from Norway was carried out in compliance with the legislative requirements. The smolts were certified as free from the listed diseases viral haemorrhagic septicemia, infectious haematopoietic necrosis, infectious salmon anaemia, gyrodactylus salaris and bacterial kidney disease.

While there is no statutory requirement to quarantine legally imported smolts from Norway into the UK, the industry's Code of Good Practice does stipulate this as a requirement. The Scottish Government strongly encourages compliance with the Code which is overseen by the Code of Good Practice Management Group. The deliberate non-compliance with the Code resulting from the import of live fish without quarantine was, therefore, particularly disappointing.

The Scottish Government notes that, as a consequence of Hjatland Seafarms refusal to comply with the requirements of the Code in respect of quarantine of imported smolts, Hjatland Seafarms have been expelled from the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) by the membership of the SSPO.

The Scottish Government is now considering whether there are any broader, future implications arising from the import of smolts to Shetland from Norway.

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the quote by Greig Seafood Hjaltdland that the freshwater smolts imported from its partners in Norway to Shetland waters have "the same health status or even better than the Scottish fish".

**Holding answer issued: 16 May 2014**

**(S4W-20966)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20965 on 20 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>

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the consequences are of importing smolts from Norway into Shetland waters without quarantine.

**Holding answer issued: 16 May 2014**

**(S4W-20967)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20965 on 20 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>

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the implications are for the Code of Good Practice for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture of importing smolts to Shetland waters from Norway.

**Holding answer issued: 16 May 2014**

**(S4W-20968)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20965 on 20 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>

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many new business start-ups there were in (a) Aberdeen and (b) Aberdeenshire in (i) 2012 and (ii) 2013.

**(S4W-21026)**

**Fergus Ewing:** New business start-ups are measured using new business VAT/PAYE registration figures. In 2012, there were 1,285 new business start-ups in the Aberdeen City local authority area and 1,205 new business start-ups in the Aberdeenshire local authority area. Estimates of start-ups for 2013 are expected to be published by the Office for National Statistics in November 2014.

#### **Governance and Communities**

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the Scottish Welfare Fund will be ringfenced.

**(S4W-21004)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Welfare Fund guidance sets out the ringfencing arrangements for the Fund. The Scottish Welfare Fund guidance can be found on the Scottish Government website at: <http://scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/welfarereform/scottishwelfarefund/scottishwelfarefundguidance>

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill will be introduced.

**(S4W-21005)**

**Margaret Burgess:** I wrote to the Welfare Reform Committee on 2 May 2014 to advise them of our intention to introduce the Welfare Funds (Scotland) Bill in June 2014. A copy of the letter is available at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_Welfare\\_Reform\\_Committee/20140502\\_MB-MM\\_Scottish\\_Welfare\\_Fund.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Welfare_Reform_Committee/20140502_MB-MM_Scottish_Welfare_Fund.pdf)

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what further mechanisms there are, other than through local authorities, that allow for second tier reviews of claims to the Scottish Welfare Fund.

**(S4W-21006)**

**Margaret Burgess:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17591 on 29 October 2013. 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>

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what recent assessment it has made of the cost of private-rented accommodation in Aberdeen.

**(S4W-21027)**

**Margaret Burgess:** Rent Service Scotland collects market information on a representative sample of private sector rents by Broad Rental Market Areas. Information on the 30th percentile of private sector rents, by bedroom size, is published on the Scottish Government website, alongside corresponding information on Local Housing Allowance rates.

30th percentile figures, derived from 12 months of letting information up to the end of September 2013 are available for the Aberdeen and Shire Broad Rental Market Area at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/privaterent/tenants/Local-Housing-Allowance/figures>

30th percentile figures, derived from 12 months of letting information up to the end of September 2012 are available for the Aberdeen and Shire Broad Rental Market Area at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/privaterent/tenants/money/localhousingallowance/Figures-1/2013>

Local and planning authorities are required to examine local rent levels as part of their Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs) which are then appraised by the Scottish Government. Information about the price of private rents in Aberdeen is available in the Aberdeen City and Shire HNDA (2010) and the 2011 HNDA update. Links are as follows.

2010 HNDA:

<http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/AboutUs/HNDA.asp>

2011 HNDA update:

<http://www.aberdeencityandshire-sdpa.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=898&SID=38>

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much was provided by the (a) UK Government and (b) Scottish Government when responsibility was devolved for (i) the Scottish Welfare Fund, (ii) information and advice provision on recent welfare changes and (iii) the council tax reduction scheme.

(S4W-21029)

**Margaret Burgess:** (i) The UK Government provided £23.8 million for 2013-14 and 2014-15 to the Scottish Government for the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF).

Scottish Ministers decided to use the full allocation from the UK Government to provide local welfare assistance and provided an additional £9.2 million of funding for both of these years. The total funding available for the SWF in each of these years is £33 million.

The UK Government also transferred funding for administration costs of just over £5 million in 2013-14, falling to just over £4.6 million in 2014-15, while the Scottish Government has again provided additional funding to match the previous £5 million total.

Set-up costs in the region of £2 million were transferred from the UK Government in 2013-14 for the SWF.

(ii) Responsibility for information and advice provision rests with both the UK and the Scottish Government. There has been not been any transfer of responsibility in this regard in relation to the recent welfare changes.

(iii) The programme budget transfer from the UK Government was £328 million for 2013-14 and £320 million for 2014-15. The Scottish Government provided an additional £23 million in both 2013-14 and 2014-15 to assist with mitigating the 10% funding gap local authorities faced.

The Scottish Government provided a one-off sum of £4.156 million to local authorities in 2013-14 for the set-up costs of the new Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme.

The UK Government's funding for local authorities' administrative costs for 2013-14 (details can be found at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/226452/s5-2012.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226452/s5-2012.pdf))

was maintained as a single subsidy for both Housing Benefit and CTR, but was partially disaggregated for CTR only cases from 2014-15 with a transfer of £7.05 million to the Scottish Government. The UK Government continues to provide funding towards local authorities' administration costs, but this is provided direct to local authorities and it is not possible to disaggregate to identify CTR separately.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of the funding that it has allocated for advice services set up following recent welfare changes will support (a) existing services and (b) the development of new projects.

(S4W-21035)

**Margaret Burgess:** As set out in the Scottish Budget, the Scottish Government will invest £7 million in each of the three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16 in a range of welfare reform mitigation measures such as for advice and support services. The most recent announcement on 24 April 2014 is for the Tackling Money Worries Programme which is to be administered by the Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB).

The Scottish Government has approved that SLAB can spend up to £2.4 million on new projects focussing on supporting the outcomes of the revised Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland by connecting low income families with children to debt advice and to help them manage their money better at times where they are more vulnerable to debt.

The application period for the programme opened on 6 May 2014 and will close on 15 June 2014 after which SLAB will assess the proposals submitted. Once the bids have been assessed and applicants notified the list of successful projects will be published on the SLAB website.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much has been distributed by the Scottish Welfare Fund, broken down by local authority area.

**(S4W-21036)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Welfare Fund comprises of Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants.

For Community Care Grants, £14.3 million was distributed between 1 April 2013 and 31 December 2013. Information on the distribution by local authority is published in Table 15 at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/swf/AprilDec2013>

For Crisis Grants, £3.7 million was distributed between 1 April 2013 and 31 December 2013. Information on the distribution by local authority is published in Table 16 of the publication.

Statistics on the Scottish Welfare Fund can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/swf>

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund have been (a) approved and (b) rejected, broken down by (i) gender of the applicant and (ii) local authority area.

**(S4W-21037)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Welfare Fund comprises of Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants.

The number of applications that were accepted and rejected by gender was previously answered in S4W-20605 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>

The following tables show the number of applications which were accepted and rejected by gender of the main applicant and by local authority. Tables are provided separately for Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants.

Table 1: Community Care Grant Decisions by Gender of Main Applicant and Local Authority.

	Gender of Main Applicant						All	
	Not Recorded		Male		Female			
	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted
Aberdeen City	-	-	145	180	115	205	260	390
Aberdeenshire	-	-	150	65	125	85	270	150
Angus	-	-	160	120	200	165	360	285

	Gender of Main Applicant						All	
	Not Recorded		Male		Female			
	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted
Argyll & Bute	-	-	75	125	85	150	160	275
Clackmannan-shire	-	-	70	90	55	115	125	205
Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	380	235	390	270	770	505
Dundee City	-	-	485	560	480	645	965	1,205
East Ayrshire	-	-	215	300	175	305	390	605
East Dunbartonshire	-	-	40	50	35	85	75	135
East Lothian	-	-	40	115	40	140	75	250
East Renfrewshire	-	-	15	50	30	55	45	105
Edinburgh	-	-	495	865	405	1,010	900	1,875
Eilean Siar	-	-	5	15	10	20	15	35
Falkirk	-	-	305	285	265	385	570	670
Fife	-	-	260	405	225	580	485	985
Glasgow City	-	-	840	2,280	865	2,835	1,710	5,115
Highland	-	-	105	180	115	195	220	380
Inverclyde	-	-	160	255	190	330	350	580
Midlothian	-	-	80	125	125	175	210	300
Moray	-	-	75	135	95	155	175	290
North Ayrshire	-	-	230	285	275	280	500	565
North Lanarkshire	-	-	290	430	280	565	570	1,000
Orkney	-	-	10	20	10	20	20	40
Perth & Kinross	-	-	55	150	55	185	110	335
Renfrewshire	-	-	225	405	205	490	430	895
Scottish Borders	-	-	155	145	145	165	300	310
Shetland	-	-	10	10	5	10	15	25
South Ayrshire	-	-	75	190	65	215	140	405

	Gender of Main Applicant						All	
	Not Recorded		Male		Female			
	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted
South Lanarkshire	-	-	365	845	300	1,330	665	2,170
Stirling	-	-	50	160	50	165	100	325
West Dunbartonshire	-	-	340	415	340	710	680	1,125
West Lothian	-	-	155	355	240	475	400	830
Scotland	-	5	6,060	9,850	6,000	12,505	12,060	22,360

Note: All figures have been rounded to the nearest five applications.

Table 2: Crisis Grant Decisions by Gender of Main Applicant and Local Authority.

	Gender of Main Applicant						All	
	Not Recorded		Male		Female			
	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted
Aberdeen City	-	-	1,015	1,585	530	1,105	1,545	2,690
Aberdeenshire	-	-	310	600	190	435	500	1,035
Angus	-	-	595	650	385	565	980	1,215
Argyll & Bute	-	-	180	470	130	345	310	820
Clackmannanshire	-	-	195	240	125	200	320	440
Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	540	820	410	635	950	1,450
Dundee City	-	-	940	1,355	625	1,390	1,560	2,740
East Ayrshire	-	-	545	1,195	435	1,045	980	2,240
East Dunbartonshire	-	-	95	185	65	140	160	325
East Lothian	-	-	230	295	170	285	400	585
East Renfrewshire	-	-	30	75	35	65	65	140
Edinburgh	-	-	595	1,685	350	1,290	950	2,980
Eilean Siar	-	-	5	40	5	20	15	60
Falkirk	-	-	710	915	470	735	1,175	1,645
Fife	-	-	655	1,420	415	1,220	1,070	2,645

	Gender of Main Applicant						All	
	Not Recorded		Male		Female			
	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted	Rejected	Accepted
Glasgow City	-	-	1,350	2,800	1,090	2,525	2,440	5,325
Highland	-	-	250	565	165	450	415	1,015
Inverclyde	-	-	250	450	185	355	435	805
Midlothian	-	-	415	525	255	530	670	1,055
Moray	-	-	235	535	160	440	395	975
North Ayrshire	-	-	480	1,045	390	815	870	1,855
North Lanarkshire	-	-	315	1,260	215	1,195	530	2,455
Orkney	-	-	5	15	-	10	5	25
Perth & Kinross	-	-	50	725	45	525	90	1,250
Renfrewshire	-	-	475	2,290	285	1,715	760	4,005
Scottish Borders	-	-	220	785	100	555	325	1,340
Shetland	-	-	10	30	5	20	15	55
South Ayrshire	-	-	215	755	130	630	345	1,385
South Lanarkshire	-	-	875	2,430	675	2,480	1,550	4,910
Stirling	-	-	120	325	85	290	205	615
West Dunbartonshire	-	-	585	2,370	430	1,800	1,015	4,170
West Lothian	5	5	635	765	555	715	1,195	1,485
Scotland	10	10	13,125	29,195	9,115	24,530	22,245	53,735

Note: All figures have been rounded to the nearest five applications.

Further statistics on the Scottish Welfare Fund can be found at:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/swf>

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much has been spent on advertising the Scottish Welfare Fund; what methods of advertising have been used, and with what frequency.

**(S4W-21038)**

**Margaret Burgess:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20200 on 31 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>

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund there have been because of benefit sanctions and how many have been (a) approved and (b) rejected.

**(S4W-21039)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Welfare Fund comprises of Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants.

The table below shows how many applications contained someone on a sanctioned benefit during the period 1 April to 31 December 2013.

For Community Care Grants, 31 applications in total contained someone who had been sanctioned. Of these 31, 12 applications were successful in receiving a Community Care Grant.

For Crisis Grants, 400 applications in total contained someone who had been sanctioned. Of these 400, 165 applications were successful in receiving a Crisis Grant.

	Rejected	Accepted	Total
Community Care Grants			
Not Sanctioned	12,043	22,346	34,389
Sanctioned	19	12	31
Total	12,062	22,358	34,420
Crisis Grants			
Not Sanctioned	22,010	53,571	75,581
Sanctioned	235	165	400
Total	22,245	53,736	75,981

The Scottish Welfare Fund guidance regarding sanctions changed in April 2014. The data in the above analysis pre-dates this change.

Statistics on the Scottish Welfare Fund can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Social-Welfare/swf>

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the expected demand is for support from the Scottish Welfare Fund in (a) 2014-15 and (b) 2015-16, and how this has been calculated.

**(S4W-21040)**



**Margaret Burgess:** Funding levels for the Scottish Welfare Fund are based on historical spend by the Department for Work and Pensions. The budget for 2014-15 is detailed in the *Supporting Document to the Budget (Scotland) Bill 2014-15* which was approved by Parliament on 5 February 2014. The planned budget for 2015-16 will be published in the Draft Budget 2015-16 in the autumn.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it expects to be given the authority to lift the cap on discretionary housing payments.

**(S4W-21043)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland wrote to the Deputy First Minister on 2 May 2014 to offer to provide Scottish Ministers with a power to set the statutory cap on discretionary housing payments in Scotland using section 63 of the Scotland Act 1998. The Scottish Government has accepted this offer. At their meeting on 8 May 2014, the Deputy First Minister and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland agreed to prioritise the progress of the section 63 order. The order will need to be agreed by both the Scottish and UK Governments before it is laid before both Houses of the Westminster Parliament and the Scottish Parliament. It will then go before the Privy Council. The Deputy First Minister will update the Scottish Parliament once a timescale has been agreed with the Scotland Office.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that local authorities should now be making full discretionary housing payments to people affected by the so-called bedroom tax.

**(S4W-21044)**

**Margaret Burgess:** Yes, the Scottish Government expects everyone affected by the bedroom tax who applies for a discretionary housing payment to be awarded one.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what arrangements are in place for local authorities to contact people affected by the so-called bedroom tax in order to make discretionary housing payments.

**(S4W-21045)**

**Margaret Burgess:** Communication with social tenants about their rent or housing benefit is the responsibility of local authorities and housing associations.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much will be allocated to mitigate the so-called bedroom tax, broken down by local authority, and what formula will be used to calculate this.

**(S4W-21047)**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government is allocating £35 million in 2014-15 to mitigate the impact of the bedroom tax in Scotland. This is in addition to the £15 million funding for discretionary housing payments made available by the Department for Work and Pensions. The breakdown by local authority of the initial £20 million from the Scottish Government is described in *Local Government Finance Circular 2014 No 2*, available on the Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/17999/11203>

The breakdown of funding from the Department for Work and Pensions is contained in their Housing Benefit Circulars *HB S1/2014* and *HB S2/2014*.

The remaining £15 million of Scottish Government funding will be allocated to the 20 local authorities that still have insufficient funds to fully mitigate the bedroom tax. The distribution will be agreed with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide funding to cancel debt that has arisen because of the so-called bedroom tax.

(S4W-21048)

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government has no capacity to provide funding over and above the £55 million provided in the years 2013-15. The lifting of the cap on funding for discretionary housing payments (DHPs) will create additional flexibility for local authorities to supplement their DHP funds to meet any additional local priorities.

#### Health and Social Care

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps the NHS has taken to contact each of the women implanted with the Johnson & Johnson Ethicon TVT-O implant to advise them that the implant is defective and investigate whether their health has been affected.

(S4W-20952)

**Alex Neil:** Any woman who is worried, or is experiencing adverse side effects, should contact their surgeon or GP for advice.

An expert group is developing a revised patient information and consent leaflet that will go into use in NHSScotland and new care pathways for those women who decide to go ahead with a mesh procedure and for those who have suffered complications.

The Chief Medical Officer wrote to all GPs, through Medical Directors, on 11 July 2013 and 20 December 2013 regarding the investigation and management of patients being treated for urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse, including the management of patients with vaginal mesh and tape products. The Scottish Government will be writing again to Medical Directors once the expert group has concluded its work developing the documents and new care pathways.

The Scottish Government will write to NHS Inform following the publication of these documents. NHS Inform provides a health information service and is able to respond to enquiries regarding transvaginal mesh surgery. They can be contacted online at [www.nhsinform.co.uk](http://www.nhsinform.co.uk) or by using their helpline number: 0800224488.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has been notified by NHS Forth Valley that the correct figure for waiting times for pain psychology are 124 weeks, and not 64, as previously stated in the Health Improvement Scotland report, *Chronic Pain in Scotland: Where are we now?*

(S4W-21021)

**Michael Matheson:** This is a matter for Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS).

I am advised that HIS have published a correction to the report and the local report compendium. This can be accessed via the HIS website:

[http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our\\_work/long\\_term\\_conditions/chronic\\_pain/where\\_a\\_re\\_we\\_now.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/long_term_conditions/chronic_pain/where_a_re_we_now.aspx)

#### Strategy and External Affairs

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether civil servants attending public engagement events relating to its white paper on independence receive guidance on how to deal with discussion concerning matters that would be subject to the outcome of the 2016 election in the event of a Yes vote.

**Holding answer issued: 16 May 2014**

(S4W-20754)

**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 white paper with the public. The events present the public with the opportunity to ask Ministers any questions about *Scotland's Future* including questions on Government policies following the 2016 election as set out in the white paper. In accordance with the Civil Service Code, civil servants will describe government policy and provide details of where the public can access further information on the content of government policy.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether limits are placed on the tasks that civil servants attending public engagement events relating to its white paper on independence can perform in order to prevent the use of public money for party political purposes.

**(S4W-20755)**

**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. The purpose of the events is to allow members of the public to ask questions of Government Ministers. Civil servants attending each event have a clear role in either providing logistical support for the event or introducing Government Ministers. In any discussion they have with members of the public, civil servants will describe government policy and provide details of where the public can access further information.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether a civil servant attends each public engagement event relating to its white paper on independence with the task of ensuring that there is no discussion of matters that would be subject to the outcome of the 2016 election in the event of a Yes vote.

**Holding answer issued: 16 May 2014**

**(S4W-20756)**

**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 white paper with the public. Civil servants attend each event to support Ministers in their role. The events present the public with the opportunity to ask Ministers any questions about *Scotland's Future* including questions on Government policies following the 2016 election as set out in the white paper.

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what historic buildings it (a) owns and (b) is responsible for maintaining under guardianship agreements in the West Scotland region.

**(S4W-21050)**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government and associated public bodies either own, lease or maintain under a guardianship agreement, a number of properties in the West Scotland region and these can be broken down into two broad categories: properties in care – managed by Historic Scotland; and heritable property otherwise owned/occupied by Scottish Government (including public bodies).

Properties in care – managed by Historic Scotland:

Historic Scotland currently cares for 345 ancient monuments on behalf of Scottish Ministers. They are referred to collectively as the Properties in Care and have been taken into state care due to their historical, archaeological, architectural or cultural significance or interest. There are 17 such Properties in Care in West Scotland region.

Properties in Care are held either by guardianship (by far the majority), ownership (around a fifth of the estate), or a small number by lease or other agreements. Guardianship gives Ministers powers to manage the property and requires them to comply with a range of obligations, rights and constraints arising principally from the legislation or from the terms of the specific deed of guardianship or leasehold.

Name of Property in Care	Ownership/guardianship /lease
Antonine Wall, Bar Hill, rampart, ditch, fort and Military Way	Ownership
Castle Semple Collegiate Church	Ownership
Dumbarton Castle	Ownership
Kilwinning Abbey	Ownership
Bearsden Station, Roman bath-house	Ownership
Auchengallon, cairn	Guardianship
Barochan Cross	Guardianship

Carn Ban, chambered cairn, Arran	Guardianship
Kilpatrick, dun, enclosure, hut circles, cairn and field system 1km	Guardianship
Lochranza Castle, Arran	Guardianship
Moss Farm, Machrie Moor, stone circles, cairns, hut-circles	Guardianship
Moss Farm, cairn	Guardianship
Newark Castle	Guardianship
Skelmorlie Aisle and Largs Old Parish Church	Guardianship
Torr a'Chaisteal, dun, Arran	Guardianship
Torrylin, chambered long cairn	Guardianship
Antonine Wall, N of Whitehill Avenue, Hillhead, Kirkintilloch	Guardianship

Other Heritable Property owned or occupied by Scottish Government (including public bodies):

There are no properties owned or occupied by the core Scottish Government in this Region.

The following table includes property owned or occupied by public bodies. Where known, whether or not each is listed is noted. A comprehensive list has been provided, in recognition that some of these properties may be regarded locally as of historical interest even though they are not listed buildings or Properties in Care.

Property	Property Centre/NDPB	Owned or Leased	Listed Building?	Date built
AIB Office, 1 Pennyburn Road Kilwinning, KA13 6SA	AIB	Leased	N/A	N/A
Unit 6, 12 Rivergate Centre, KA12 8EH	SDS	Leased	N/A	N/A
Rivergate House, KA12 8EH	SCRA	Leased	N/A	N/A
Brodick Vic, The Pier, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU	Visit Scotland	Owned	N/A	N/A
FC Arran Office, Auchrannie Road, Isle of Arran, KA27 8BZ	Forestry Commission	Owned	N/A	N/A
Scottish National Water Sport Centre, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0HQ	Sport Scotland	Owned	N/A	N/A
National Sports Centre Inverclyde, Burnside Road, Largs, KA30 8RW	Sport Scotland	Owned	N/A	N/A
1/3 Brisbane Street, Greenock, PA16 8LH	SCRA	Owned	N/A	N/A
Sheriff Court House, 1 Nelson Street, Greenock, PA15 1TR	SCS	Owned	N/A	N/A
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 112 West Blackhall Street, PA15 1XR	SDS	Leased	N/A	N/A
Victory Court, Arlsburn Maritime, Greenock, PA15 4RT	Crown Office And Procurator Fiscal	Leased	N/A	N/A
Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Helensburgh, The Pier, Helensburgh, G84 7NY	Visit Scotland	Owned	N/A	N/A
TIC Tarbet, Arrochar, G83 7DE	Visit Scotland	Owned	N/A	N/A
The Loch Lomond Park Centre, Alexandria, G83 8PA	Loch Lomond And Trossachs National Park Authority	Owned	N/A	N/A
Dumbarton Church Court, 55 Church Court, Dumbarton, G82 1SU	SCRA	Owned	N/A	N/A
Dumbarton Sheriff Court House, Church Street, Dumbarton, G82 1QR	SCS	Owned	N/A	N/A
32-36 High Street, Dumbarton, G82 1LL	SDS	Leased	N/A	N/A

Property	Property Centre/NDPB	Owned or Leased	Listed Building?	Date built
High Street 2a-2b, Dumbarton, G82 1LL	Crown Office And Procurator Fiscal	Leased	N/A	N/A
Dumbarton Castle Depot, Castle Road, Dumbarton, G82 1JJ	Historic Scotland	Owned	Y	
Duncan Mills Memorial Slipway, Pier Road, Alexandria, G83 8QX	Loch Lomond And Trossachs National Park Authority	Owned	N/A	N/A
Tourist Information Centre, The Old Station Building, Balloch, G83 8lq	Visit Scotland	Leased	N/A	N/A
20 Carrochan Road, Alexandria, G83 8EG	Loch Lomond And Trossachs National Park Authority	Owned	N/A	N/A
Tourist Information Centre, Dumbarton Road, Dumbarton, G82 2TZ	Visit Scotland	Leased	N/A	N/A
235 Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, G81 4XH	SCRA	Owned	N/A	N/A
SNH Clydebank Office, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank, G81 2NR	SNH	Leased	N/A	N/A
Ground Floor, Blair Court, North Avenue, Clydebank Ind Est, Clydebank, G81 2LA	Education Scotland	Leased	N/A	N/A
Spectrum House, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank, G81 2DR	Scottish Enterprise	Leased	N/A	N/A
Unit 5 Upper Level, Kilbowie Road, Clydebank, G81 2UA	SDS	Leased	N/A	N/A
Sheriff Court, St James Street, Paisley, PA3 2AW	SCS	Owned	Y	1885
Glen Lane, Paisley, PA3 2HU	SCRA	Owned	N/A	N/A
The Piazza, Smithhills Street, Paisley	Care Inspectorate (Social Care & Social Work Improvement Scotland)	Leased	N/A	N/A
27 Causeyside Street, Paisley, PA1 1UL	Scottish Enterprise	Leased	N/A	N/A
VW Office Paisley, 6 School Wynd, Paisley	SCS	Leased	N/A	N/A
Anchor Mills Paisley, Unit 5, PA1 1JR	Risk Management Authority	Leased	Y	1886