

Thursday 22 May 2014

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what access an independent Scotland's fishing vessels would have to the waters of EU member states or other coastal states.

(S4W-21069)

Richard Lochhead: We expect member states to welcome Scotland's continuing EU membership, and under the existing rules of the Common Fisheries Policy we would expect no change to the access opportunities our vessels currently enjoy to the waters of EU member states or other coastal states, and vice versa

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what arrangements would be made for ownership of the seabed if Scotland became independent.

(S4W-21070)

Richard Lochhead: Virtually all of the seabed out to 12 nautical miles and Sovereign rights of the UK in the seabed and its resources (excluding hydrocarbons) beyond 12 nautical miles form part of the Crown Estate which is currently administered by the Crown Estate Commissioners. Scottish Ministers have a long standing policy of seeking control of the Crown Estate in Scotland. In our view the timescales for introducing new arrangements can be rapid, through for example the removal of the reservations in the Scotland Act 1998 relating to the management of the Crown Estate, but the timing for this amendment of the Scotland Act would be subject to negotiation with the UK Government.

On independence the Crown Estate will still be Crown property. How that property is managed will change. We are committed to the introduction of a leasing system for offshore renewables following independence to replace the functions of the Crown Estate Commissioners for Scotland's waters. Our current framework for considering licence applications for offshore renewables developments involves consultation and consideration of a range of issues including the potential impacts on other users of the sea and it would be a major improvement if Scottish Ministers had the responsibility for leasing decisions for renewables and other uses of the seabed currently administered by the Crown Estate Commissioners

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what weight would be given to fishing during EU entry negotiations for an independent Scotland and what it estimates the risk to be of a worse-than-now settlement.

(S4W-21071)

Richard Lochhead: These negotiations will be about continuation of membership, not new entry.

Notwithstanding this, we will give fisheries the priority they rightfully deserve as a key component of Scotland's economic, social and cultural identity. This administration will never use our fisheries as a bargaining chip to be traded away in negotiations. Our fishermen have had enough of that under numerous Westminster Governments down the decades. This Government will always champion the interests of Scotland's fishing industry, in stark contrast to previous UK administrations who are on record as describing Scotland's fishing industry as 'expendable'.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether the present EU fishing quota allocation regime for the UK would be the basis of allocations to an independent Scotland, decided by the rest of the UK and Scotland, or whether there would be one allocation for the rest of the UK and one for Scotland.

(S4W-21068)

Richard Lochhead: With regard to quota allocation within an independent Scotland, there is no difference between the current situation and that pertaining under independence, given that these

aspects of fisheries management are already devolved and subject to whichever decisions current or future Scottish administrations may wish to make in this area.

We expect the allocation of quota from the EU to Member States, which is on the basis of relative stability in line with EU arrangements, to remain the same and we will negotiate our share with the UK within this overall allocation. In these talks Scotland would be negotiating from a position of strength given the importance and value of our waters and the level of our fishing activity, ensuring Scotland's interests lay at the heart of any agreement on the division of shares.

Finance

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what methods have been used to advertise the tendering process for its publishing, print, design and associated services contract that was announced on 17 February 2014.

(S4W-21083)

John Swinney: The tendering process for the publishing, print, design and associated services framework was advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland tendering portal and also advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether its publishing, print, design and associated services contract that was announced on 17 February 2014 could be delivered by a single company and, if so, what information it has on how many Scotland-based companies could do so.

(S4W-21084)

John Swinney: Services for publishing, print and design will not be delivered by a single company because these services are included under a number of frameworks. Scottish Procurement advertised for a single supplier to deliver a fully managed service for publishing, print, design and associated services. This framework is required to meet the needs of both the Scottish Government and other organisations that have made an operational decision to manage their publishing, print and design services in this way. Organisations that do not require a fully managed service can use the print services framework, which has been advertised and will have up to 17 print suppliers, or the design services lot of the current marketing services framework which has five design suppliers.

Historically, the fully managed service has been provided by a single supplier with extensive use of sub-contractors. The current supplier, APS Group (Scotland) Ltd is a registered Scottish company, who have an office and business premises in Leith where they employ 91 staff. APS have put in place an extensive supply chain and have awarded business to 154 Scottish small and medium enterprises (SMEs) over the past four years. The previous supplier of a fully managed service for design, print, publishing and associated services was RR Donnelly who are also based in Edinburgh.

Our past experience and recent market engagement suggests a number of potential providers are based in Scotland. In addition, as has been proven to date, the requirement lends itself to an extensive delivery strategy which enables Scottish based suppliers and SMEs to be awarded business through supply chain activity. The invitation to tender also made it clear that Scottish Procurement would consider single bids, consortia bids and the use of sub-contractors for delivery.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether the tendering process for its publishing, print, design and associated services contract that was announced on 17 February 2014 is a new approach to such services and, if so, for what reason it was introduced.

(S4W-21085)

John Swinney: The approach to the delivery of such services has varied slightly in that the requirement now includes provision of promotional items, display materials and DVD duplication. The provision of a fully managed service for publishing, print, design and associated services has been contracted out to a single supplier, with significant use of sub-contractors, since 1994. The current framework is open to the central government sector including the core Scottish Government, Scottish Government agencies, non-departmental public bodies, health boards and other organisations funded

through Scottish Ministers. The new framework will be open to all Scottish public sector bodies. Use of the framework is not mandated.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it gave to the economic impact on (a) communities and (b) Scotland-based businesses of the tendering process for its publishing, print, design and associated services contract that was announced on 17 February 2014.

(S4W-21087)

John Swinney: Historical management information confirms that the strategy adopted for publishing, print, design and associated services allows for extensive supply chain activity through sub-contracting routes with a range of local economic impacts. The current supplier has awarded business to 154 Scottish small and medium enterprises over the past four years.

As is the case with the current framework, the new supplier will also be required to incorporate Community Benefits into their service delivery. Community Benefits achievements to date on the current framework have included apprenticeships and skills development (e.g. training) through the Tomorrow's People initiative, and working closely to support local schools e.g. printing service and paper provision.

Contracting opportunities were also made available to suppliers through the print services framework which will include up to 17 print suppliers or the design services lot of the marketing services framework which was awarded to five suppliers in June 2013.

Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to ensure that Scotland-based businesses can bid for its publishing, print, design and associated services contract that was announced on 17 February 2014.

(S4W-21088)

John Swinney: The publishing, print, design and associated services requirement was advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland portal, which is the main portal for contracting opportunities throughout Scotland. It is free for suppliers to register on the portal should they wish to be alerted to advertisements for contracting opportunities. The advertisement was also made available throughout the EU via an Official Journal of the European Union notice.

Our stakeholder consultation exercise included the British Print Industry Federation (BPIF), who recognised that customers are increasingly requiring multi-media campaigns and internet-based communications rather than just print per se, and recommended the procurement model needed to reflect choice and flexibility to address certain, specific needs of individual end user organisations. BPIF also recommended that a supply base with broad service coverage, improved service quality, financial viability, and added value to end-users was required. The strategy to procure both a publishing, print, design and associated services and a print services framework has sought to act upon these recommendations. BPIF also confirmed they would be pleased to assist consortia of SMEs coming forward as potential suppliers by working with Scottish Procurement to provide a suitable template to enable this. The invitation to tender therefore made it clear that Scottish Procurement would consider consortia bids.

Health and Social Care

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what scientific evidence has been used to support the vaccination of primary school children with the nasally ingested Fluenz drug.

Holding answer issued: 21 May 2014

(S4W-21057)

Michael Matheson: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation recommended that the live attenuated intranasal influenza vaccine Fluenz should be the vaccine of choice for the childhood flu immunisation programme. Arrangements are in place to offer alternative authorised vaccines for the small number of children who are unable to receive the Fluenz vaccine.

The new childhood vaccination programme was introduced in October 2013, and will be rolled out over the next few years on a phased basis, offering protection to those aged 2-17. Advice from Health

Protection Scotland was that maximal public health benefit was anticipated through introducing the programme in the youngest age groups initially and progressively rolling the programme out to older children over coming seasons. The rationale for this choice reflects the maximal risk from influenza and its complications arising in the youngest children. It additionally takes into account the maximal anticipated impact on lowering transmission of influenza in the community by vaccination of the youngest children and as a consequence indirectly protecting other unvaccinated children and adults.

Vaccination is voluntary, and it is always our aim to ensure that people are able to make informed choices about whether or not to accept the offer of vaccination for themselves or those for whom they make decisions. The Scottish Government will raise awareness of the childhood flu vaccination programme to inform and educate parents, children, healthcare professionals and others about the programme.

Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent on bulk purchasing flu vaccines in the last five years and how much it has saved by entering into joint-procurement contracts with the rest of the UK.

(S4W-21082)

Michael Matheson: A new childhood influenza vaccination programme was introduced in October 2013, which is being rolled out over the next few years on a phased basis, offering protection to those aged 2-17 years. The new nasal vaccine being used for the childhood programme is purchased centrally by Public Health England under a UK contract for all four countries including Scotland. The contract price is confidential.

The Scottish Government spend on the new immunisation programmes in 2013-14 was around £10 million (this includes vaccine and central costs such as surveillance, lab costs etc.). This will rise to around £16 million in 2014-15. This incorporates costs of the rotavirus, shingles and childhood flu programmes.

Seasonal flu vaccines are purchased in Scotland by community pharmacies on behalf of individual GP practices and this has been the case for many years, including the last five years.

However, this winter, the Scottish Government will be purchasing centrally all injectable flu vaccines required for children. Those vaccines are for the small number of children for whom the live attenuated vaccine is not suitable. Community pharmacies will still purchase adult flu vaccines on behalf of GP practices. The Scottish Government also buys a small contingency stock of vaccines centrally each year. The cost of this is around £150,000.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government which NHS boards can guarantee that there is always an out-of-hours GP available on call.

(S4W-21183)

Alex Neil: From 1 April 2004, the Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a duty on the 14 territorial NHS boards to provide 'primary medical services' for everyone living in the NHS board area. These are the services GP practices provide to patients registered with them.

During the out-of-hours periods NHS boards generally provide these services for their populations at out-of-hours centres (often co-located with accident and emergency departments) or, where the patient is so unwell that they cannot travel or there are other factors which may prevent them from travelling, by arranging for a home visit by a doctor or other member of the clinical team. These services are GP led and delivered directly by NHS boards who are expected to determine the appropriate configuration and staffing mix (which will typically include nurse practitioners and other healthcare professionals working in support of GPs) to meet the needs of their patients.

These services play a vital role in caring for communities, and we understand the challenges these services can face, particularly in relation to the availability of GPs. That's why our £50 million unscheduled care action plan includes out-of-hours primary medical care alongside every element of unscheduled care in Scotland. As part of this, we expect all NHS boards to work with their local medical committees and other partners to ensure they are delivering GP out-of-hours services that are safe, effective, sustainable and meet the needs of their local communities.

If, due to exceptional circumstances, any NHS board found they had no GPs available during an out-of-hours period, it would be expected that service continuity plans would be implemented so that patient care would continue to be provided by an appropriate alternative clinician.

Learning and Justice

Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason money seized under the proceeds of crime legislation has been allocated to support the budget of (a) Police Scotland and (b) the Scottish Police Authority, and how much will be allocated in (i) 2014-15 and (ii) 2015-16.

(S4W-21076)

Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government wrote to the Scottish Police Authority on 13 March 2014 to confirm that they were content for budgetary planning purposes for policing to include estimates of anticipated receipts from the proceeds of crime within revenue budgets for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The Scottish Government has not currently allocated any money seized under the proceeds of crime legislation to support the budget of Police Scotland or the Scottish Police Authority in 2014-15 or 2015-16.

The criteria for allocation of money seized under proceeds of crime legislation were agreed by the Serious Organised Crime Task Force and are; (1) additional funding for CashBack for Communities; (2) funding to Police Scotland and the Crown Office for enhanced recovery of Proceeds of Crime Act receipts; and (3) other projects, which may include community projects.

The Task Force agreed that, should additional proceeds of crime funding become available, it will advise Scottish Ministers on the options of how to allocate the money; options may include proposals from Police Scotland and other stakeholders for community-based projects.

Strategy and External Affairs

Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the public information costs associated with *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

(S4W-21283)

Nicola Sturgeon: When *Scotland's Future* was published, I announced a budget of £450,000 to ensure the public were made aware of how to access information about the Scottish Government's proposals for independence.

Of this, £350,000 was spent in financial year 2013-14. The following table provides a breakdown of spend to date:

Description	Spend
Media including postcard production and delivery	£222,785.75
Creative and production fees	£126,501.45
Total	£349,287.20

Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the costs of events associated with *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

(S4W-21284)

Nicola Sturgeon: The *Scotland's Future* events programme began with the launch of this document on 26 November 2013 and includes a stakeholder event on 10 December 2013 and a programme of public Q&A events hosted across Scotland.

The following expenditure in relation to events associated with *Scotland's Future* has been made in financial year 2013-14:

Information on the costs of the launch event was published on 18 December 2013 in response to Parliamentary Question S4W-18195. The text of this response is available from: http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20131218.pdf

Stakeholder Event 10 December 2013

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£10,380.00
Transport	£180.00
Production of name badges and banners (banners reused at subsequent events)	£2,145.62
Technical Services – stage and AV costs	£15,445.20
Total	£28,150.82

Public Engagement Town Hall Events

Costs associated with equipment used at all town hall events

Description	Spend
Production	£379.00
Equipment	£7,128.14
Total	£7,507.14

Dingwall - 31 January 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£241.00
Technical Services	£540.00
Media Local Press	£540.12
Production	£170.00
Total	£1,491.12

Falkirk - 11 February 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£587.50
Total	£587.50

Stirling – 13 February 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£263.18
Media Local Press	£424.42
Production	£138.67
Total	£826.27

Dunblane - 17 February 2014

Description	Spend
Technical Services	£558.00
Media Local Press	£109.67
Production	£138.67
Total	£806.34

Coatbridge - 17 February 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£151.00
Technical	£313.20
Media Local Press	£246.76
Production	£138.67
Total	£849.63

Paisley – 19 February 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£234.00
Media Local Press	£265.95
Production	£138.67
Total	£638.62

Dunfermline – 25 February 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£61.15
Technical services	£547.20
Media Local Press	£842.98
Production	£138.67
Total	£1,590.00

Lochgilthead - 3 March 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£49.00
Media Local Press	£219.34
Production	£129.72
Total	£398.06

Dundee – 3 March 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire and catering	£494.60
Media Local Press	£622.37
Production	£129.72
Total	£1,246.69

Montrose – 5 March 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£230.00
Technical services	£583.20
Media Local Press	£191.92
Production	£129.72
Total	£1,134.84

Eyemouth – 5 March 2014

Description	Spend
Media Local Press	£246.76
Production	£138.67
Total	£385.43

East Kilbride – 17 March 2014

Description	Spend
Technical services	£219.00
Production	£84.72
Total	£303.72

Newtongrange – 18 March 2014

Description	Spend
Venue hire, catering and services	£300.00
Media Local Press	£268.69
Production	£129.72
Total	£698.41

Glasgow – 19 March 2014

Description	Spend
Media Local Press	£423.29
Production	£129.72
Total	£553.01

Aberdeen – 20 March 20 2014

Description	Spend
Media Local Press	£570.28
Production	£129.72
Total	£700.00

Blairgowrie – 26 March 2014

Description	Spend
Technical Services	£433.80
Media Local Press	£315.85
Production	£129.72
Total	£879.37

Arran – 30 March 2014

Description	Spend
Technical Services	£836.64
Media Local Press	£141.47
Production	£129.72
Total	£1,107.83

The following questions received holding answers:

S4W-21065

S4W-21072