

Thursday 29 May 2014

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to ban the use of glue traps for catching rodents.

(S4W-21151)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government currently has no plans to ban glue traps for catching rodents although we do plan to review aspects of policy in relation to animal traps in the near future, consulting with the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime Scotland Legislation, Regulation and Guidance sub-group and other relevant stakeholders.

Finance

James Kelly (Rutherglen) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many public sector employees are paid the living wage, broken down by (a) public body and (b) job role.

(S4W-21213)

John Swinney: Since 2011, this Government has ensured all staff within our responsibility have been paid a living wage. We are committed to supporting the Scottish Living Wage for the duration of this Parliament, a decisive long-term commitment to those on the lowest incomes.

Whilst all public sector employees directly subject to our public sector pay policy (details available at www.scotland.gov.uk/publicsectorpay) are paid at least the living wage, there are just over 600 employees paid at the living wage rate. We are unable to provide the details by individual organisation. Due to the small numbers involved, there would be a risk of identifying individual employees.

In the white paper we have publicly stated our commitment for a sustainable and fairly rewarded employment with the living wage and minimum wage central to our employment policy.

We fully support the principles of the Scottish Living Wage campaign and recognise it aims to make a real difference to the people of Scotland, by encouraging employers to reward their staff fairly.

To help increase the number of employers paying the living wage across all sectors in Scotland, we are providing funding for the Poverty Alliance to promote take up of the living wage accreditation scheme in following the example we have set.

Governance and Communities

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20607 by John Swinney on 30 April 2014, how the Public Boards and Corporate Diversity Programme Board will ensure that the views of disabled people and staff are considered.

(S4W-21191)

John Swinney: The scope of the Public Boards and Corporate Diversity Programme Board encompasses diversity in its wider sense, and this includes disabled people. However, the primary focus will be on women in the early part of the programme, with the learning from improving the gender balance of boards being used to increase participation of disabled people and those with other protected characteristics.

The Scottish Government works with a range of key partners to ensure that the views of disabled people and staff are heard. Our focus is on working across the Scottish Government to develop a disability delivery plan which will contribute to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and our Shared Vision on Independent Living. Within the Scottish Government we ensure that the views and opinions of all our minority groups of staff, including our disabled staff, are considered by consulting regularly with our Staff Diversity Networks and our Diversity Champions.

Health and Social Care

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answers to questions S4W-19746 and S4W-19663 by Alex Neil on 3 and 4 March 2014 respectively, what recent discussions it has had with Lord Maclean regarding when the report of the inquiry will be published.

(S4W-21120)

Alex Neil: The inquiry has now received the last of the responses to warning letters, however, the report will not be finalised until the inquiry chairman has considered each of the responses and made any necessary amendments to the report.

As it is for the inquiry chairman to decide the timetable, as soon as this final stage has been reached the chairman has undertaken to inform me of the timetable for publication and I will inform Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-19746 by Alex Neil on 3 March 2014, whether it has completed its collation of the information that it holds on the costs of the inquiry and, if so, when it will publish this.

(S4W-21121)

Alex Neil: The information held on costs to date by the Scottish Government will be published shortly. I will write to the member as soon as the information is available and a copy will be placed in the Parliament's Reference Centre (Bib number 55691).

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-19628 by Alex Neil on 20 February 2014, whether it will provide an update on the progress of the publication of the report of the Scottish Public Inquiry into Hepatitis C/HIV.

(S4W-21124)

Alex Neil: Lord Penrose, Chairman of the Scottish Public Inquiry into Hepatitis C/HIV acquired infection from NHS treatment in Scotland with blood and blood products (The Penrose Inquiry) wrote to me on the 26 February 2014 updating me on the inquiry's progress.

The Penrose Inquiry is independent of Scottish Ministers and it is for the chairman to decide on the progress and timetabling of the inquiry.

The inquiry is currently in the process of issuing warning letters arising from the final report and the chairman has agreed to provide me with another progress report at the end of May 2014.

The most recent information relating to the report can be found on the Inquiry's website at: <http://www.penroseinquiry.org.uk/>

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4T-00695 by Michael Matheson on 13 May 2014 (Official Report, c.30814), when it sent the request to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for a meeting; when it expects the meeting will take place, and who will attend.

(S4W-21133)

Alex Neil: An informal meeting with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has already taken place on 7 May 2014 and a more formal, larger meeting is being organised and will be attended by officials from the Health and Social Care Directorate in the Scottish Government.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on GP dispensing practices; whether this reflects a change in policy, and, if so, when the policy was changed and for what reason.

(S4W-21182)

Alex Neil: The Scottish Government recognises that GP dispensing practices play an essential role in the dispensing and supply of medicines to patients in remote and rural areas who do not have access to a community pharmacy.

Following our review and consultation earlier this year on the control of entry arrangements and dispensing GP practices, we have laid amended regulations before Parliament, coming into force by the summer recess (2014). These amendments will introduce a revised regulatory framework which we believe will best meet the needs of local communities throughout Scotland. The amended regulations will introduce additional tests to be considered by NHS boards when applications to open a pharmacy are made in areas where patients have their prescribed medicines supplied by a GP dispensing practice.

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on the (a) dates, (b) times, (c) locations and (d) attendees of each meeting of the (i) Project Liaison Committee and (ii) Performance Review Committee referenced in the *Key Terms of the project agreement for the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh*, dated 20 August 1998, for each year since its inception and what matters were discussed.

(S4W-21193)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21192 on 28 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's web site, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has received copies of the (a) minutes and (b) agenda of each of the meetings of the (i) Project Liaison Committee and (ii) Performance Review Committee referenced in the *Key Terms of the project agreement for the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh*, dated 20 August 1998, and, if so, whether it will place copies of these in SPICe.

(S4W-21194)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21192 on 28 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's web site, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what reporting mechanism is in place to ensure that it is appraised of the outcomes of the meetings of the (a) Project Liaison Committee and (b) Performance Review Committee referenced in the *Key Terms of the project agreement for the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh*, dated 20 August 1998.

(S4W-21195)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21192 on 28 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's web site, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on the membership of the (a) Project Liaison Committee and (b) Performance Review Committee referenced in the *Key Terms of the project agreement for the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh*, dated 20 August 1988, for each year and whether it will publish the names of the committee members, their roles in NHS Lothian or its contractual partners and their remuneration.

(S4W-21196)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21192 on 28 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's web site, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-03227 by Alex Neil on 15 May 2014 (Official Report, c. 31054), whether it will provide a breakdown by NHS board of the (a) £215 million paid in unitary charges and (b) £86 million paid in service charges for each of the 28 historical PFI agreements for each year of the contract.

(S4W-21199)

Alex Neil: The unitary charges and service charges can be analysed between NHS boards as follows:

NHS Board	Total Unitary Payments (£m)	Service Charge Element (£m)
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	4.9	2.6
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	1.7	1.5
NHS Fife	19.7	4.0
NHS Forth Valley	38.6	19.7
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	27.9	5.4
NHS Highland	6.6	3.8
NHS Lanarkshire	50.2	27.9
NHS Lothian	53.3	19.1
NHS Tayside	12.3	2.6
Total	215.1	86.6

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-03227 by Alex Neil on 15 May 2014 (Official Report, c. 31054), whether it will provide a breakdown by NHS board of the £1.3 million in annual savings for each of the 28 historical PFI agreements.

(S4W-21200)

Alex Neil: All of the £1.3 million annual saving identified in 2013-14 relates to NHS Lothian's contract for the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-03227 by Alex Neil on 15 May 2014 (Official Report, c. 31054), how much of the projected £26 million in savings from Private Finance Initiative contracts will come from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh contract.

(S4W-21201)

Alex Neil: Of the estimated £26 million in savings achieved over the life of Private Finance Initiative contracts as a result of savings identified by the end of 2014-15, £20 million relates to NHS Lothian's Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh contract.

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-03227 by Alex Neil on 15 May 2014 (Official Report, c. 31054), how much of the £1.3 million in annual savings from PFI contracts has come from the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh contract.

(S4W-21202)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21200 on 29 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's web site, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many vacancies there are on the board of NHS Dumfries and Galloway and when these will be filled.

(S4W-21214)

Alex Neil: There are no vacancies on the board of NHS Dumfries and Galloway. Philip Jones, the newly appointed chair of the board and four new non-executive directors: Laura Douglas; Gillian Stanyard; Robert Allan; and Penny Halliday begin their appointments on 2 June 2014.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the new chair of NHS Dumfries and Galloway will be appointed.

(S4W-21215)

Alex Neil: Philip Jones, the new Chair of NHS Dumfries and Galloway begins his term of appointment on 2 June 2014.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what additional resources will be provided to each NHS (a) hospital and (b) board that will establish a specialist trauma centre.

(S4W-21247)

Alex Neil: NHS boards are currently scoping the work required to enhance major trauma services across Scotland, including the resource implications.

The National Planning Forum and board of Chief Executives will identify any additional resources required as part of this work, and will keep Scottish Ministers apprised of their plans to ensure that the major trauma quality framework is implemented.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure the operational effectiveness of the new trauma centre at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and whether NHS Lothian will receive additional resources to help it ensure that all treatment time guarantees continue to be achieved.

(S4W-21248)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21247 on 29 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's web site, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

Implementation of the major trauma quality framework will help NHSScotland (including NHS Lothian), to ensure definitive trauma care is provided across Scotland and importantly, better outcomes for people who experience major trauma.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland was to leave the UK, what impact this would have on the budget of NHS National Services Division up to 2020.

(S4W-21262)

Alex Neil: In Scotland highly specialised health services are commissioned through the National Services Division of NHS National Services Scotland.

Funds are top sliced from NHS boards to provide a fund for the procurement of the highly specialised services needed by residents of Scotland from hospitals in Scotland, England and in very rare cases, abroad.

There will be no impact on the budget of NHS National Specialist Services and Screening Division following independence.

After independence Scotland will maintain a very strong relationship with the other countries of the UK. Scotland will continue to work with other parts of the UK to provide services where this provides access to the highest quality of care and delivers the best outcomes. There are already effective cross-border working arrangements in place which will provide a strong foundation for continued cooperation.

Learning and Justice

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what priority it places on tackling racism and sectarianism, in light of the reduction in Show Racism the Red Card's budget.

(S4O-3294)

Shona Robison: The Scottish Government is committed to tackling all forms of discrimination and promoting a multi-faith and multi-cultural society.

That is why we are providing £60 million of funding for a range of equality projects between 2012 and 2015, which is more than double the £28 million that the previous administration provided between 2004 and 2007. This funding includes more than £8 million that we are using to support 40 local and national organisations in their work to tackle racism and break down barriers to race equality.

We are also investing a total of £9 million to tackle sectarianism in 2012-15.

Full feedback on the reasons for the levels of grant funding, which were appropriate for the outcomes to be delivered, was provided to Show Racism the Red Card at the time. From 2011 to 2015 Show Racism the Red Card and Show Bigotry the Red Card will receive £310k funding to deliver jointly agreed outcomes. As budgets are finite, any increase in funding for Show Racism the Red Card would mean less would be available for other organisations doing valuable work on race equality and sectarianism.

Aileen McLeod (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what actions it has taken to support greater female employment.

(S4O-3295)

Angela Constance: The Scottish Government has taken a range of actions within our powers to support greater female employment which include:-

The delivery of increased and more flexible early learning and childcare through the Children and Young People Act;

Awarding £100,000 to Working Families in partnership with Parenting across Scotland, which will support a family friendly Scotland in employment;

Awarding £250,000 to fund Careerwise to encourage girls and young women to consider careers in science, engineering and technology; and

Funding Equate Scotland (£601,000 between 2012-15) to support recruitment, retention and success of women where they are significantly under-represented.

The Labour Force Survey for January to March 2014 shows that female employment rose by 38,000 to 1,238,000. At 69.4%, the employment rate in Scotland is higher than the UK rate of 67.7% and is the highest across the four nations, but we cannot be complacent.

With full powers in an independent Scotland, more action could be taken to address the barriers women continue to face in the labour market.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, following the reported call by the Solicitor General for the law on domestic abuse to be strengthened, what steps it will take to look at introducing a new domestic abuse offence into criminal law; what the timetable will be, and what discussions it has had with stakeholders.

(S4W-21130)

Kenny MacAskill: Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for Scottish Ministers and for Scotland's justice system. In addition to increased investment in initiatives to tackle domestic abuse, we took swift action in 2010 to close a loophole in the criminal law to ensure cases of domestic abuse could continue to be dealt with under a new threatening or abusive behaviour criminal offence.

We are giving the proposals for a specific domestic abuse offence, and a separate domestic abuse aggravator, careful consideration. This will include engaging with justice agencies and key stakeholders, including Scottish Women's Aid and ASSIST, to hear their views and these discussions will inform consideration of next steps. This forms part of our wider work to address the causes and consequences of violence against women and girls and other forms of threat and violence.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many injuries have been sustained by (a) staff and (b) prisoners at Low Moss prison since it was opened.

(S4W-21145)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

"The following table provides the total number of recorded injuries on staff and prisoners since HM Prison Low Moss became operational on 12 March 2012 to 19 May 2014.

	Totals
Staff	89
Prisoners	143
Total	232

Ninety-one of these injuries were a result of accidents."

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many incidents have been recorded at (a) Low Moss and (b) Grampian prison since it was opened.

(S4W-21146)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

"Incidents within Scottish prisons are assessed into three categories:

Category 1: Incidents that are minor in nature and managed within normal arrangements.

Category 2: Incidents that present more complex challenges and require distinct management and decision-making arrangements to be put in place, but still at local level.

Category 3: Most serious, complex and high incidents that require national management and oversight and potentially, the deployment of resources from other parts of the organisation and/or support that requires national co-ordination.

HM Prison Low Moss opened in March 2012 (2011-12). There were seven category 1 incidents during its first full year of operation in 2012-13, followed by one category 2 incident in 2013-14. There are no incidents to report in 2014-15 at HM Prison Low Moss.

HM Prison and Young Offenders Institute Grampian opened in March 2014. Since opening, there have been two category 1 incidents, three category 2 incidents and one category 3 incident."

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many injuries have been sustained by (a) staff and (b) prisoners at Grampian prison since it was opened.

(S4W-21147)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

“The following table provides the total number of recorded injuries on staff and prisoners since HM Prison and Young Offenders Institute Grampian became operational on 3 March 2014 to 19 May 2014.

	Totals
Staff	7
Prisoners	13
Total	20

Eight of these injuries were a result of accidents.”

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration was given to the management of incidents of disorder in the design of (a) Low Moss and (b) Grampian prison and what conclusions were reached.

(S4W-21148)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

“The evolution of design and general operational principles for HM Prisons Low Moss and Grampian was led by a dedicated group, the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) New Prisons Team. This group of highly experienced prison managers worked with SPS colleagues in the Estates team and specialist architects to develop custodial environments which are safe for both prisoners and staff in normal operation; and which facilitate appropriate incident management during times of unrest.

The prisons are built to design standards that both meet statutory regulations and support the delivery of operational requirements, including the maintenance of custody and order.

Evolving design ideas were tested with field based colleagues and discussed with trades union representatives. Specialists with policy/training responsibility for incident management were also closely consulted and prior to the opening of both prisons, significant incident management training including simulated incidents took place.

It is a common feature of all prisons that they maintain a local response capability of staff trained to deal with disorder over a range of scenarios and have plans, regularly reviewed, to deal with such eventualities. These take into account individual prison geography.”

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to relocate Inverness Sheriff Court from Inverness Castle to a purpose-built facility and, if so, what budget will be set aside for this.

(S4W-21155)

Kenny MacAskill: This question relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service (SCS) corporate body. The question has been passed to the Chief Executive of the SCS who will reply in writing.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what systematic monitoring and evaluation of national policies it carries out to assess the contribution that they make to closing the attainment gap of pupils from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

(S4W-21171)

Michael Russell: Education Scotland's Corporate Plan 2013-16 sets out actions which aim to bring a step change in the quality and equity of Scottish education. The strategic objectives and commitment for action over the next three years are focussed on the areas which will have a positive impact on all our learners, including the key educational goal of eradicating inequity in educational outcomes. Under each strategic objective Education Scotland have set out a range of sources of evidence which will be used to judge success. The first annual report will be produced later this year and the corporate plan gives a commitment to publishing a review and summary report by the end of 2016.

Furthermore, the Scottish Government has asked the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which aims to help improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world, to carry out a review of the curriculum in 2015, alongside the Royal Society of Edinburgh Education Committee, to ensure the new curriculum is making a positive impact for all our children and young people.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the work of the Improving Performance to Raise Attainment policy group.

(S4W-21172)

Michael Russell: The 'Improving Performance to Raise Attainment policy group' (now known as the Raising Attainment and Governance Unit) is an internal policy unit within the Scottish Government Learning Directorate.

The Scottish Government are taking forward a number of activities to support raising attainment and closing the inequity gap including: the implementation of Teaching Scotland's Future; establishing a Scottish College for Educational Leadership; encouraging collaboration and continuous self-improvement through our Self-Improving Schools Partnership Programme (led by Education Scotland); the Pathfinder Schools programme; the establishment of literacy and numeracy hubs across Scotland to facilitate sharing of best practice; funding for the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre; and the development of 'Insight' which will help local authorities and secondary schools to analyse strengths and areas for improvement. We are also providing accessible information for parents and carers through a refreshed Parentzone website and are working with schools and the third sector to explore effective links and share ideas.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many times a request has been made by each prison in the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) estate seeking (a) authorisation and (b) an extension for an order to remove a prisoner from association with other inmates in accordance with section 95 of the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011 in each of the last three years, broken down by gender; how many requests were (i) declined, and for what reason and (ii) authorised by (A) ministers, and (B) SPS officials, broken down by position.

(S4W-21187)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

"Rule 95(1) is applied locally by Governors and it permits a prisoner to be removed from association for a period of up to 72 hours. Extensions to this period for up to one month require authorisation by a senior manager in the Scottish Prison Service Headquarters who exercises this power on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Any application of Rule 95(1) or its extension is recorded in the individual records of the prisoner concerned. Regrettably, this information is not readily accessible by the electronic prisoner records system. Consequently a manual search of every record would be required to provide the information you request.

However, the prisoner records system does record the number of occasions when Rule 95(1) has been applied. These figures are as follows.

	Male	Female
2011-12	499	44*
2012-13	1238	130
2013-14	1785	144**

(*Rule 95 removal from association commenced on 1 November 2011 with the commencement of the Prisoners and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011.

** The figures record the number of occasions that Rule 95 has been applied, so the same individual may be recorded on a number of occasions.)

In addition, where a prisoner has been removed from association for three months or more, their case must also be referred to the Prisoner Monitoring and Assurance Group which may provide advice on additional strategies which could be adopted to assist with the reintegration of the prisoner into the mainstream.

The Operations Directorate of the Scottish Prison Service also provides information to the Chief Executive on a bi-monthly basis detailing all prisoners removed from association for a period of three months or more.

The Scottish Prison Service regrets that the detail you request is not available. In light of this, work has been commissioned to bring forward an update to our prisoner records system.”

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many times an order to remove a prisoner from association with other inmates in accordance with section 95 of the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011 has been revoked by a governor on the advice of a registered medical practitioner in each of the last three years, broken down by (a) gender and (b) prison.

(S4W-21188)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

“I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21187 on 29 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>”

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many times a prisoner has made representations to a governor prior to being served with an order for removal from association with other inmates in accordance with section 95 of the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011 in each of the last three years, broken down by (a) gender and (b) prison.

(S4W-21189)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

“The Scottish Prison Service does not record this information in the manner requested. When a prisoner makes representation this is recorded within their case management record, a copy of which is made available.”

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many times ministers have received (a) notification, (b) details and (c) copies of representations made by a prisoner to assist with the consideration of whether to grant or extend an order to remove that prisoner from association with other inmates in accordance with section 95 of the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011 in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) gender and (ii) prison.

(S4W-21190)

Kenny MacAskill: I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

“Ministers are not provided with notification, details or copies of representations made by a prisoner in consideration as whether to grant or extend an order to remove an offender from association with other offenders in accordance with Rule 95 of the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011.

The Scottish Prison Service, as an executive agency of the Scottish Government, exercises these statutory functions on behalf of Scottish Ministers in relation to Rule 95 of the Prison and Young Offenders Institutions (Scotland) Rules 2011. In practical terms a senior manager of the Scottish Prison Service Operations Directorate is responsible for approving Rule 95(11) or (12) extension applications on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

However, as Accountable Officer for the Scottish Prison Service, I am ultimately responsible for all aspects relating to operational effectiveness.”

Transport Scotland

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consultations it has held with employees of Caledonian MacBrayne ahead of the tendering of the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract and whether it plans to consult employees after the tender documents are published.

(S4W-21136)

Keith Brown: Transport Scotland has had previous engagement on ferries matters with the Scottish Trades Union Congress and the relevant trades unions, representing the employees of David MacBrayne Limited, and would expect that engagement to continue in future.

The Scottish Government has not yet consulted with them on the future tendering of the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract, but intend to do so in due course.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consultations Caledonian MacBrayne has held with its employees ahead of the tendering of the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract and whether it plans to consult employees after the tender documents are published.

(S4W-21137)

Keith Brown: CalMac will engage with its staff as appropriate throughout the bid submission process. This is already underway through established internal communications channels.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what Caledonian MacBrayne's expenditure on external consultants has been in each year since 2009 and for which projects.

(S4W-21138)

Keith Brown: Expenditure on consultancy is published on the David MacBrayne Ltd website in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Reform (Scotland) Act 2010:
<http://www.david-macbrayne.co.uk/reports/>

Any further breakdown of this information is considered commercially sensitive.

Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government whether the Road Traffic Act 1960 has been repealed in whole or in part and, if so, by what Act, and when the repeal provision came into force.

(S4W-21139)

Keith Brown: Information regarding the status of the Road Traffic Act 1960 is in the public domain and can be obtained through the National Archives website at:
www.legislation.gov.uk

Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20567 by Keith Brown on 22 April 2014, whether a special road scheme raised under section 7 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 is itself a legislative instrument when it prescribes a route to be a special road and the types of traffic that may or may not use that route.

(S4W-21140)

Keith Brown: A scheme made under section 7 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 is a Scottish statutory instrument and is subordinate legislation.

Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20903 by Keith Brown on 12 May 2014, for what reasons an alternative route certificate was not required.

(S4W-21141)

Keith Brown: No existing road was included in the A87 Skye crossing, therefore there was no alternative route and a certificate was not required.

A certificate would only be produced in certain circumstances. Firstly, the special road scheme for the A87 Skye crossing would have to include not just the new road to be constructed but also incorporate part of an existing trunk or local road into the route.

Secondly, if part of an existing road was included in the line of the special road, the toll order would need to authorise the charging of tolls over that existing road or part of it.

If both of these circumstances occurred, the toll order would have to be subject to special Parliamentary procedure before it was made, unless there was another reasonably convenient route free of toll that was available or was going to be provided and the Secretary of State certified accordingly.

Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much it estimates (a) Transport Scotland and (b) Caledonian MacBrayne will spend on the tendering process, including design of the tender documents, for the 2016-22 Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract.

(S4W-21149)

Keith Brown: The anticipated spend by Transport Scotland on the tendering process, including design of the tender documents by Transport Scotland for the future Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract, from 2016 onwards, has not yet been estimated.

The anticipated spend by David MacBrayne Limited on their bid for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract is considered to be commercially sensitive by David MacBrayne Limited.

Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many Caledonian MacBrayne employees will work on preparing the company's bid for the 2016-22 Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract.

(S4W-21150)

Keith Brown: This is a commercial matter for David MacBrayne Limited.