

Friday 30 May 2014

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise and Environment

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government when the implementing regulations for the discards ban affecting the Scottish fishing industry will be published and whether they will be subject to public consultation.

**(S4W-21094)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Common Fisheries Policy (EU Regulation 1380/2013), published on 11 December 2013, describes the landing obligation and how it will be implemented through regionalisation. The Scottish Government is working with Member States in regional groups to develop discard plans, which will detail the scope of the landing obligation and any derogations or exemptions from it. The discard plans for the pelagic landing obligation are expected to be agreed by the end of June 2014 and will then be submitted to the European Commission to be implemented by the Commission as a delegated act, and therefore open for comments by the European Parliament. It is expected that this delegated act will be published by the end of 2014. Discard plans for the demersal landing obligation are expected to be submitted to the Commission in the summer of 2015 and again in 2018, ahead of the final phase of implementation.

The regional groups are currently consulting on the implementation of the pelagic discard ban with the relevant advisory councils (comprising representatives from the fishing industry and from non-governmental organisations), as stipulated in Article 18(2) of the Common Fisheries Policy. In addition, Marine Scotland is engaging with Scottish stakeholders on the development of the discard plans through the Scottish Discards Steering Group.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether specific officials in area Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate offices have been allocated responsibility to scrutinise and inspect Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) 1:2500 maps on a field by field basis so as to assess the permanent grassland classification.

**(S4W-21095)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate's professional and technical staff carry out all IACS inspections. In order to minimise the impact on farmers, the Rural Payment and Inspections Directorate's policy is to undertake 'whole farm' reviews rather than to undertake separate types of inspections for any particular land use. Inspectors in the Rural Payments and Inspections Division, therefore, could be said to be 'multi-functional' i.e. they carry out inspections on farms, for various schemes implemented by the Rural Payment and Inspections Directorate, meeting the minimum inspection levels laid down by EU regulations. The regulations for the Common Agricultural Policy schemes are very detailed and specific. The on-the-spot controls, however, do include the verification of land claimed by farmers (and delineated on maps supplied by them) as to the eligibility for the support schemes applied for.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish the risk assessment carried out in relation to the implementation of the electronic identification (EID) of sheep.

**(S4W-21096)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Veterinary Risk Assessment which is being carried out by our Centre of Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreaks into the non-EID tagging of home bred replacement animals is in the final stages of being completed. A meeting will be held with the representatives of the National Sheep Association Scotland and National Farmers Union Scotland in early June 2014 to discuss the findings. Once finalised and agreed it will be published on the Scottish Government website.

**Annabel Goldie (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the previous programme ending in February 2014, when it will introduce a new water and sewerage charge exemption scheme for small third sector organisations, and whether it will increase the £4 million annual cap to protect these organisations from being financially prejudiced if other bodies join.

(S4W-21259)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The current exemption scheme ends on 31 March 2015. I want to make sure some of the inconsistencies inherent in the current scheme are removed, in particular, so that smaller charities, which are currently ineligible, can become exempt. I am giving consideration to a new scheme to be implemented from 1 April 2015. I expect to announce my decision before the end of July 2014 in the context of decisions that I will reach on the priorities for Scottish Water's investment programme and the principles that will underpin customer charges for the next regulatory period 2015-21.

### Governance and Communities

**Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking as a result of the UK Government's requirement on landlords to check the immigration status of prospective tenants.

(S4W-21198)

**Margaret Burgess:** Immigration is a reserved matter. However, these provisions, through their impact on private landlords and registered social landlords (RSLs), will have a significant impact on housing policy, which is devolved.

The Scottish Government has no evidence of difficulties with illegal migrants accessing rented accommodation from private landlords or RSLs. It believes that the provisions will place an unnecessary burden on private landlords and RSLs and, on several occasions, has made this point to the UK Government. It will continue to engage with the UK Government on this and to work with stakeholders in Scotland to ensure that their views on these provisions are made clear.

Section 35(3) of the Immigration Act confers a power on the Secretary of State so that different commencement days may be appointed for different purposes or areas. The Scottish Government understands that the UK Government intends to pilot these provisions in an area in England before taking decisions about further implementation in 2015. I have asked the UK Government to ensure that the Scottish Government is given time to conduct a full consultation with housing and other relevant stakeholders before it implements the provisions in Scotland.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the average cost is of private rented accommodation, broken down by city.

(S4W-21208)

**Margaret Burgess:** Rent Service Scotland collects market information on a representative sample of private sector rents by Broad Rental Market Areas, to meet the UK Government requirements related to Local Housing Allowance. This sample has not been designed to produce reliable rents broken down by individual cities. 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 (LHA) Rates.

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

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

Local and planning authorities are required to examine local rent levels as part of their Housing Need and Demand Assessments which are then appraised by the Scottish Government.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much Housing Association Grant was awarded to each registered social landlord in (a) Aberdeenshire and (b) Aberdeen City in (i) 2012-13 and (ii) 2013-14.

(S4W-21209)

**Margaret Burgess:** The amount of Affordable Housing Supply Programme funding paid to individual registered social landlords was:

Housing Association Grant (HA) (£ millions) – Aberdeenshire

Grant Recipient	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Aberdeenshire Council	2.105	0	1.392
Castlehill HA	0.542	0	0
Cornerstone Community Care	0.230	0.073	0
Grampian HA	0.937	1.738	0
Langstane HA	0.146	0	0
Total	3.961	1.812	1.392

\*spend so far in 2014-15

Housing Association Grant (£ millions) – Aberdeen

Grant Recipient	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Aberdeen City Council	0.848	0.044	0.555
Castlehill HA	0	0.251	0.178
Tenants 1 <sup>st</sup> HA	2.362	3.114	0
Grampian HA	0	0	0.862
Langstane HA	0.491	0.627	0
Total	3.702	4.037	1.596

\*spend so far in 2014-15

### Health and Social Care

**Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to combat childhood obesity.

(S4W-21153)

**Shona Robison:** The Government commitment to tackling obesity is set out in our Prevention of Obesity Route Map, one of a coherent group of policy frameworks and guidance which include, *Improving Maternal and Infant Nutrition: A Framework for Action; Better Eating, Better Learning – A New Context For School Food; Recipe for Success; and Giving Children and Young People a Sporting Chance* that the Government has put in place and continues to update to support the necessary action across a broad front so Scotland's children become more active and enjoy a healthy balanced diet.

In tackling this complex problem we have pursued a multifaceted approach including funding the NHS to carry out child healthy weight interventions, the continued regulation of school food environment, advice through the National Parenting Strategy, projects which teach both children and their families cooking skills, engagement with producers and retailers to promote healthy food options and food reformation. In encouraging physical activity we have invested in active schools programmes are developing 150 community sports hubs and supporting the minimum two hours of PE in schools. Together with the wider community action of promoting active travel and our Commonwealth Games legacy programme.

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the recently-published research in the Journal of Molecular and Genetic Medicine, which suggests a connection between increasing levels of childhood vaccination and (a) type 1 diabetes and (b) autism.

(S4W-21238)

**Michael Matheson:** The paper in the Journal of Molecular and Genetic Medicine is authored by a private individual who has no wider organisational affiliation. The paper reviews a selection of previous

publications, many of which are by the same author. The paper does not publish any new findings and does not present any new evidence.

The alleged associations between vaccination and autism and type 1 diabetes have been extensively researched through population studies, and there is no evidence linking vaccination to increases in type 1 diabetes or autism. The World Health Organisation's Global Advisory Committee on vaccine safety supports this view.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many patients from Scotland have made use of ataxia centres in England in each of the last 10 years.

**(S4W-21319)**

**Michael Matheson:** This information is not held centrally for all forms of ataxia.

NHS National Services Scotland's National Services Division (NSD) commission a highly specialist service from NHS England for the rare condition ataxia telangiectasia.

NSD holds information on the number of patients from Scotland referred to the ataxia telangiectasia service in Nottingham, however it would not be appropriate to share this information, in the interest of maintaining patient confidentiality, as the numbers are less than five.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many infants from Scotland have been sent for retinoblastoma screening at (a) Birmingham Children's Hospital and (b) the Royal London Hospital in each of the last 10 years.

**(S4W-21320)**

**Michael Matheson:** Figures for referrals for retinoblastoma in children are available from 2007-08 and all were to Birmingham Children's Hospital. The referrals include for confirmation of diagnosis and treatment:

Financial Year	Number of referrals
2007-08	2
2008-09	3
2009-10	2
2010-11	1
2011-12	3
2012-13	2
2013-14	2

#### Learning and Justice

**Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding it has made available in each year since 1999 under the Scotland's Schools for the Future programme, broken down by local authority.

**(S4W-21142)**

**Michael Russell:** The Scotland's Schools for the Future Programme commenced in 2009. The first round of funding was paid in 2010-11. The Scotland's Schools for the Future Programme is taken forward through a phased development. All 32 local authorities have been offered funding for at least one project through the programme. Not all local authorities have received funding yet, as their projects are yet to begin.

The detail of the funding made available in each year through the programme, broken down by local authority, is as follows:

Local Authority	2010-11 (£)	2011-12 (£)	2012-13 (£)	2013-14 (£)	2014-15 (£) (As of end April 14)
Aberdeen City				2,124,509	
Aberdeenshire			7,308,550	17,568,289	

Clackmannanshire				4,335,585	
Dundee				5,138,110	680,000
E. Ayrshire	450,000	2,444,720	800,655		
E. Dunbartonshire				1,209,007	
East Lothian	61,231	2,214,606	2,632,644		
East Renfrewshire	506,568	5,500,000	10,918,198	489,018	
Falkirk	665,000	1,973,088			
Fife	725,000		18,085,647	391,586	
Glasgow				5,996,023	
Inverclyde	259,023		3,242,000	1,513,106	
Midlothian	858,358	5,275,204	14,576,620		
Perth and Kinross	190,865		2,276,048		
Renfrewshire			555,709	4,505,653	
Shetland				322,366	
South Lanarkshire			2,403,473		
Stirling			1,883,324		
W. Dunbartonshire	163,643		8,917,130	1,527,533	
Western Isles	141,845	2,235,180			
West Lothian	2,000,000	357,203		502,790	

**Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of (a) primary and (b) schools that will need to be replaced over the next 10 years, broken down by local authority.

(S4W-21143)

**Michael Russell:** An annual rating of all schools is provided to the Scottish Government by local authorities and each school is categorised by condition and suitability as 'good', 'satisfactory', 'poor', or 'bad'. This information is published each year as part of the Scottish School Estate Statistics publication. This can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/schoolestatestats>

Local authorities regularly develop and update capital investment programmes for their schools estates. This information is held by individual local authorities.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact of its Getting it right for every child approach on the educational outcomes of children from economically disadvantaged households.

(S4W-21165)

**Aileen Campbell:** The independent evaluation report by Edinburgh University in 2009 into the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) Highland Pathfinder (2006-9) showed improved outcomes for a majority of children, all of whom had complex needs.

There has been no specific assessment of the impact of the GIRFEC approach on educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged households.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it made of the evidence from education initiatives contained in its *2011 Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland* of what works for children from economically disadvantaged households before producing *Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland: Our Approach 2014-2017*.

(S4W-21166)

**Aileen Campbell:** During 2013 and early 2014 the Scottish Government developed a strategic approach with the Ministerial Advisory Group on Child Poverty and a full range of stakeholders across Scotland. A number of areas were identified as priorities for future work across a variety of policy areas, including education. There were also widespread calls for more robust reporting of the range of activity contributing to tackling child poverty in Scotland and of the impact of this activity. The

refreshed *Child Poverty Strategy* reflects the importance of these areas to our approach and describes the approach to reporting on relevant activity in the coming years.

The Government is currently developing, with the Ministerial Advisory Group, a measurement framework which will include indicators of relative attainment. This will be reported on annually, the first occasion being as part of the 2014 Annual Report, which will be published in summer 2014.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the educational impact of (a) *Achieving our Potential: A Framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland*, (b) *The Early Years Framework* and (c) *Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequality on the educational outcomes of pupils from economically disadvantaged households*.

(S4W-21167)

**Aileen Campbell:** *Achieving our Potential: A Framework to tackle poverty and income inequality in Scotland*, *The Early Years Framework* and *Equally Well: Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequality* did not in themselves set out to make an impact on the educational outcomes of pupils from economically disadvantaged households. They seek to highlight the potential for education initiatives to improve the wider outcomes of all children and young people, including those from disadvantaged households.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact of the Curriculum for Excellence on the educational outcomes of children living in poverty.

(S4W-21168)

**Alasdair Allan:** There are a range of measures through which the impact of the Curriculum for Excellence on the educational outcomes for all children, including those living in poverty, can be assessed. These include the annual Scottish Qualifications Authority exam results and leaver destination data, the Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy, and the triennial Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) reports. The 2012 PISA study of fifteen year olds showed that Scotland has begun to make progress on reducing the attainment gap.

Through the inspection process, Education Scotland examines the nature and context of each school and considers its pupils' needs. Each inspection is supported by information on the social background and attainment of pupils using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and linked to comparator schools. Through this they have identified schools and authorities that appear to successfully tackle poverty pressures and they share the information with other schools in similar situations.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what ongoing assessment is in place to monitor the impact of the Curriculum for Excellence on the educational outcomes of pupils from economically disadvantaged households.

(S4W-21169)

**Alasdair Allan:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21168 on 30 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>

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what evidence there is that measures in the Curriculum for Excellence are helping to reduce the attainment gap of pupils from economically disadvantaged households in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools.

(S4W-21170)

**Michael Russell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-21168 on 30 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 (a) academic and (b) non-academic (i) managerial and (ii) other staff are employed at North East Scotland College.

**(S4W-21210)**

**Michael Russell:** Information on the number of staff employed in colleges and Universities is held by the Scottish Funding Council.

The latest information available is for 2012-13. It is not possible to provide the staff breakdown requested. Tables 1 and 2 contain headcount and full time equivalent information for teaching and non-teaching staff at Aberdeen and Banff and Buchan College; the two colleges that merged to form North East Scotland College in October 2013.

Table 1: Aberdeen College: Headcount and full-time equivalent staff employed by staff group.

	Staff Group	2012-13
Headcount	Teaching	256
Headcount	Non-Teaching	192
Full-time equivalents	Teaching	200
Full-time equivalents	Non-Teaching	157

Source: Scottish Funding Council

Table 2: Banff and Buchan College: Headcount and full-time equivalent staff employed by staff group.

	Staff Group	2012-13
Headcount	Teaching	180
Headcount	Non-Teaching	97
Full-time equivalents	Teaching	134
Full-time equivalents	Non-Teaching	77

Source: Scottish Funding Council

Note: these figures are not comparable to those provided in answers to previous parliamentary questions on staffing in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire due to a change in the methodology used by the Scottish Funding Council for its staffing survey, which was introduced in 2011-12.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making toward delivering each of the action points in *Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Action Plan*.

**(S4W-21225)**

**Aileen Campbell:** Progress is being made and a number of sector led, short-life Action Groups have been established to take forward priority activities. Progress is being monitored by the Play Strategy Implementation Group which is a multi-agency stakeholder group drawing its membership from health, the third sector, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and education.

We have recently awarded funding of £100k to a number of partners to help support implementation of the Action Plan.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to local authorities to develop play provision in the community.

**(S4W-21226)**

**Aileen Campbell:** As part of the implementation of Scotland's first national play strategy, the Scottish Government is working with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and other partners to develop and disseminate a guide for local authorities that will help to increase understanding of the importance of play.

#### **Strategy and External Affairs**

**Cameron Buchanan (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-20336 by Nicola Sturgeon on 9 April 2014, what criteria it used to determine the stakeholders who had an interest in the white paper.

**(S4W-21197)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Over 100,000 copies of *Scotland's Future* have been requested since its publication and we continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure that as many people as possible are able to engage in, and inform, the debate around Scotland's future as we approach the referendum.

Because the content of *Scotland's Future* is so wide-ranging and demand for information so high, it was appropriate to contact stakeholders engaged in every aspect of life in Scotland on launch day.

**Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it would seek to (a) establish a second chamber of the Parliament and (b) increase the number of MSPs in an independent Scotland.

**(S4W-21216)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** *Scotland's Future: your guide to an independent Scotland* sets out the Scottish Government's position on these issues at pages 572 and 619 respectively. Scotland's future can be accessed online at:

<http://www.scotreferendum.com/reports/scotlands-future-your-guide-to-an-independent-scotland/>