

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON COVID-19 AND ANSWERS BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Thursday 14 May 2020

Written questions lodged on 14 May can be found on page 30 of this document.

Links to Virtual Questions on 14 May, many of which relate to COVID-19, are included at page 29.

Ministerial portfolio: Education and Skills

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many grocery boxes have been requested by people shielding from the COVID-19 outbreak in each local authority area, and how many have been delivered.

(S5W-28378)

John Swinney: By 24 April, 100,961 grocery boxes had been requested by people shielding. The following table provides an illustration of this broken down by local authority area.

Local Authority	Percentage of total boxes ordered
Aberdeen City	3.9
Aberdeenshire	3.4
Angus	2.1
Argyle and Bute	1.9
City of Edinburgh	5.0
Clackmannanshire	0.9
Dumfries and Galloway	2.6
Dundee City	2.6
East Ayrshire	2.9
East Dunbartonshire	1.4
East Lothian	1.7
East Renfrewshire	1.3
Falkirk	2.7
Fife	6.6
Glasgow City	12.2
Highland	3.3
Inverclyde	1.9
Midlothian	1.9
Moray	1.5
Na h-Eileanan Siar	0.3
North Ayrshire	3.2
North Lanarkshire	7.9

Orkney	0.4
Perth and Kinross	3.0
Renfrewshire	2.5
Scottish Borders	2.2
Shetland	0.3
South Ayrshire	2.3
South Lanarkshire	12.5
Stirling	1.0
West Dunbartonshire	1.9
West Lothian	3.0
Total	100

Brakes and Bidfood, who are contracted to fulfil the orders, reported that by 24 April 2020, 92,316 grocery boxes had been delivered.

On any given date, the number of grocery boxes requested includes all boxes due to be delivered over the following week. This means that the number of boxes requested will always be higher than the number already delivered. The exact day on which person's box will be delivered depends on which day of the week Brakes and Bidfood deliver to their postcode. Under the Scottish Government's agreement with Brakes and Bidfood, people who are shielding receive their first grocery box within 7 days of their request reaching Brakes and Bidfood. Thereafter they receive their box(es) once a week, until they cancel the deliveries.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, what discussions it has had since 23 March 2020 with (a) Who Cares? Scotland and (b) other care organisations that support young people living in care, and what additional support it is providing.

(S5W-28812)

Maree Todd: The Scottish Government are working collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders to consider how to meet the needs of all our children and young people during our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including those living in different care settings.

Since 23 March 2020 we have been having ongoing discussions with Who Cares? Scotland (WC?S) and other organisations that support children and young people living in care to discuss the response to COVID-19 and the lockdown. These discussions have focused on pressing issues arising for children, young people and their families, co-ordinating strategies and responses and considering funding support.

The Scottish Government has granted over £850,000 to key stakeholder organisations to help provide direct support to looked after children and young people, and Scotland's most vulnerable families, during the COVID-19

pandemic. These organisations are working collaboratively to maximise support across Scotland, and their work will include provision of food parcels, support to purchase essential goods, and increasing child protection capacity. In financial terms this includes:

- Up to £100,000 match funding for Aberlour's Urgent Investment Fund to assist with a range of needs, such as food, prepaid power cards, clothing, bedding or other essentials;
- Up to £375,00 to Who Cares? Scotland (£175k and £200k) for funding to support those in their reach – organising shopping (including delivery where necessary), and cash for electric, gas or mobile phone top ups. This includes additional mental health support in collaboration with BACP (counselling service);
- Up to £178,000 to Barnardo's – this has provided E vouchers, Food parcels, Assistance to use food banks, Direct payments to families/young people, Direct payments to staff/volunteers, Company credit cards;
- Up to £202,000 to Action for Children – this provided finance, food and welfare support to help alleviate financial hardship as well as the continuation and enhancement of Wellbeing, Safety and Safeguarding.

The Children and Families Directorate has also provided funding that will enable Children 1st and Aberlour to be part of the *Connecting Scotland* pilot, which will commence shortly. The pilot will provide laptops suitable for education purposes and 6 months data via a sim to families highlighted by Children 1st and Aberlour as being particularly in need.

All of the above investment is part of the Scottish Government's wider £350 million Communities Funding to help those most affected by the pandemic.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-28306 by John Swinney on 29 April 2020, what percentage of the relevant school and early years population are vulnerable children, who can attend critical provision during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28820)

John Swinney: We do not hold this information centrally. However, we estimate that there are 97,000 children with multi agency plans led by a professional in education, health or social work.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-28306 by John Swinney on 29 April 2020, what percentage of the relevant school and early years population are attending critical provision during the COVID-19 outbreak, broken down by reason.

(S5W-28821)

John Swinney: Last week (4 May – 7 May) on average 0.9% of the school and early years population attended local authority hubs. Of these, 79% were children of key workers and 21% were vulnerable children.

A further 168,000 were given support to access a school meal (e.g. via vouchers, direct payments, home deliveries or attending a local authority setting).

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will issue guidance to local authorities and private providers in receipt of public funds to clarify what their approach should be to childcare facilities charging full or part fees to parents as a retainer fee for childcare places while these facilities are either closed or open only to key workers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28823)

Maree Todd: While charging policies are a matter for individual businesses, the Scottish Government is encouraging all childcare providers to be reasonable and balanced in their dealings with parents, recognising the unprecedented situation in which we all find ourselves. It is of particular importance that providers are sensitive to families' financial situations when considering their charging policies.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people who have been asked to shield at home from the COVID-19 outbreak have (a) had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the last six months and (b) are taking immunosuppression drugs following a bone marrow or stem cell transplant carried out more than six months ago.

(S5W-28918)

John Swinney: It is not possible to provide information on the exact reasons why individuals have been asked to shield within each specific shielding group as this is not recorded in the list of people who have been asked to shield.

The following table provides information on the number of individuals who have been asked to shield categorised by shielding group. Individuals who fall within more than one shielding group are counted under each group but only once in the overall total.

Number of individuals on the Shielding list by shielding group (as at 11 May 2020)

Shielding group	On shielding list
1 (Transplant)	6635
2 (Cancer)	20984

3 (Respiratory)	79708
4 (Rare disease)	10553
5 (Immunosuppression)	38153
6 (Pregnant with heart disease)	56
7 (Individual clinician judgment)	41704
Total (number of individuals)	174937

Source: Public Health Scotland

Notes:

The same individual may be counted in one or more of the shielding groups.

There may be variation, across Health Boards, in the way that patients in group 7 are identified.

Individuals are categorised as group 7 if no other group is specified.

Group 7 also includes patients who are receiving renal dialysis treatment.

Figures exclude individuals with an unknown area of residence and those recorded as outwith Scotland.

Figures exclude individuals who have died and those flagged for removal from the shielding list. Individuals may be flagged for removal for a number of reasons including false positive identification, having moved away or no longer requiring to shield following discussion with a clinician.

It is not possible to provide information on the exact reasons why individuals have been asked to shield within each specific shielding group as this is not recorded in the list of people who have been asked to shield.

The following table provides information on the number of individuals who have been asked to shield categorised by shielding group. Individuals who fall within more than one shielding group are counted under each group but only once in the overall total.

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Individuals are categorised as group 7 if no other group is specified.
Group 7 also includes patients who are receiving renal dialysis treatment.

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Figures exclude individuals who have died and those flagged for removal from the shielding list. Individuals may be flagged for removal for a number of reasons including false positive identification, having moved away or no longer requiring to shield following discussion with a clinician.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people who have been asked to shield at home from the COVID-19 outbreak have inborn errors of metabolism that might significantly increase the risk of infection, broken down by type.

(S5W-28921)

John Swinney: It is not possible to provide information on the exact reasons why individuals have been asked to shield within each specific shielding group as this is not recorded in the list of people who have been asked to shield.

The following table provides information on the number of individuals who have been asked to shield categorised by shielding group. Individuals who fall within more than one shielding group are counted under each group but only once in the overall total.

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Individuals are categorised as group 7 if no other group is specified.

Group 7 also includes patients who are receiving renal dialysis treatment.

Figures exclude individuals with an unknown area of residence and those recorded as outwith Scotland.

Figures exclude individuals who have died and those flagged for removal from the shielding list. Individuals may be flagged for removal for a number of reasons including false positive identification, having moved away or no longer requiring to shield following discussion with a clinician.”

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Individuals are categorised as group 7 if no other group is specified.

Group 7 also includes patients who are receiving renal dialysis treatment.

Figures exclude individuals with an unknown area of residence and those recorded as outwith Scotland.

Figures exclude individuals who have died and those flagged for removal from the shielding list. Individuals may be flagged for removal for a number of reasons including false positive identification, having moved away or no longer requiring to shield following discussion with a clinician.”

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people who have been asked to shield at home from the COVID-19 outbreak have rare diseases, broken down by type.

(S5W-28920)

John Swinney: It is not possible to provide information on the exact reasons why individuals have been asked to shield within each specific shielding group as this is not recorded in the list of people who have been asked to shield.

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Group 7 also includes patients who are receiving renal dialysis treatment.

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Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many people who have been asked to shield at home from the COVID-19 outbreak have severe respiratory conditions, broken down by type.

(S5W-28919)

John Swinney: It is not possible to provide information on the exact reasons why individuals have been asked to shield within each specific shielding group as this is not recorded in the list of people who have been asked to shield.

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Figures exclude individuals who have died and those flagged for removal from the shielding list. Individuals may be flagged for removal for a number of reasons including false positive identification, having moved away or no longer requiring to shield following discussion with a clinician.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what financial guarantees it will provide to colleges, in light of the sector expecting to lose approximately £40 million in the current academic year and between £70 and £80 million in the next academic year as a result of COVID-19.

(S5W-28781)

Richard Lochhead: Work around the financial impact of Covid-19 on colleges continues to be progressed as a priority and at pace by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council. We are working closely with our colleges and other stakeholders through the Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group, as well as with the College Principals Group, College Chairs and Unions, to build an understanding of the immediate and longer term impacts across teaching, staff, and student issues and how to support colleges now and when the current lockdown measures are lifted.

SFC analysis has established colleges will face a loss of £25 million in the current academic year and a more severe loss in 2020-21. SFC have guaranteed to continue with scheduled payments to colleges and is engaging directly with each institution to understand challenges, support business continuity development and to signpost to guidance. We are also discussing additional financial support needs with the UK Government.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether Barnett consequential from the UK Department for Education's investment in colleges will be passed onto colleges in Scotland.

(S5W-28782)

Richard Lochhead: No consequentials deriving from DfE investment in colleges in response to Covid-19 have yet been received.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether the college sector will receive any funding from Barnett consequentials intended for Higher Education in Scotland, in light of colleges delivering 26% of this.

(S5W-28783)

Richard Lochhead: Any decision on detailed allocation of such consequentials would only be taken once the exact purpose of the consequentials is known.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assurances it can provide that the Scottish Funding Council will take a flexible approach regarding financing for colleges in relation to the sector's activity and its 116,000 FTE target.

(S5W-28784)

Richard Lochhead: Work around the financial impact of Covid-19 on colleges continues to be progressed as a priority and at pace by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council. We are working closely with our colleges and other stakeholders through the Further and Higher Education Covid-19 Ministerial Leadership Group, as well as with the College Principals Group, College Chairs and Unions, to build an understanding of the immediate and longer term impacts across teaching, staff, and student issues and how to support colleges now and when the current lockdown measures are lifted.

SFC are continuing with scheduled payments to colleges and is engaging directly with each institution to understand challenges, support business continuity development and to signpost to guidance. SFC have committed to colleges that they will not be recovering funding if targets are not met in the current academic year due to Covid-19 reasons.

Ministerial Portfolio: Health and Sport

Alex Rowley (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of Scotland's established life sciences sector, for

what reason it is not making greater use of the expertise in university and research institute labs throughout the country to increase the testing capacity for COVID-19.

(S5W-28407)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its publication, Trends in daily COVID-19 data, for 15 April 2020, for what reason NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has been unable to provide an estimate for the number of patients in hospital suspected of having COVID-19.

(S5W-28408)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will roll out community testing for COVID-19.

(S5W-28410)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are currently reserved specifically for care homes by the NHS National Distribution Centre, and how this compares with the figure when the COVID-19 outbreak began.

(S5W-28411)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many items of personal protective equipment (PPE) have been distributed to care homes by the NHS National Distribution Centre since the COVID-19 outbreak began.

(S5W-28413)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many enquiries from care home staff have been received by the email address that it has set up for people to contact if they consider that they do have sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, and how many of these have been resolved.

(S5W-28414)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when home carers represented by the Scottish Personal Assistant Employers Network or other similar bodies will be able to access personal protective equipment (PPE).

(S5W-28415)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what guidance has been given to care homes regarding limiting the transmission of COVID-19 in addition to that published by Health Protection Scotland on personal protective equipment (PPE).

(S5W-28416)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what correspondence the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has had with representatives of independent care homes since the COVID-19 outbreak began.

(S5W-28417)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reported concerns regarding the accuracy of some of the COVID-19 testing kits that it has procured from overseas, and how it ensures that all such kits fully comply with safety standards.

(S5W-28773)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the comments by the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs regarding social care assessments during the ministerial statement on 28 April 2020 (Official Report, c. 14), how many care packages have been (a) withdrawn or (b) reduced since the commencement of emergency legislation in response to COVID-19; how many new care assessments have been carried out during the same period, and how this compares with the average number of assessments carried out prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28775)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) anaesthetists and (b) other NHS staff have been redeployed since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28776)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government (a) how many and (b) what proportion of anaesthetists in each NHS board have been absent from work due to suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

(S5W-28777)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many anaesthetists have been tested for COVID-19, and how many have tested positive.

(S5W-28778)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to address potential shortages of anaesthetic drugs.

(S5W-28779)

Jeane Freeman:

I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to protect pregnant NHS employees during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28753)

Clare Haughey: The Scottish Government has collated verified guidance for use by NHSScotland to support its workforce during the Covid 19 outbreak. This includes advice about protection for pregnant employees. This resource is kept up to date with the latest advice from our scientific and clinical advisers and directs employers and staff to verified up-to-date sources of information including the guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>.

Published guidance is held centrally and can be accessed at: <https://www.staffgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/guidance/>. This informs a standard approach to occupational health that all NHSScotland Boards are expected to follow. It is recognised, however, where there are individual circumstances, these should always be considered on a case by case basis.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government at what point in their pregnancy should women not work in a public-facing role during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28754)

Clare Haughey: As advised in my response to S5W-28753 on 14 May 2020 the published guidance directs staff to verified up-to-date sources of information including the guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>.

Guidance clearly places the emphasis on employers undertaking a risk assessment and involving occupational health, to determine whether women who are under 28 weeks pregnant can continue working in public-facing roles. Pregnant women can only continue working where the risk assessment supports this. Over 28 weeks pregnant should work from home where

possible, avoid contact with anyone with symptoms of coronavirus, and significantly reduce unnecessary social contact.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its advice is to pregnant women regarding work during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28755)

Clare Haughey: As advised in my response to S5W-28753 on 14 May 2020, the published guidance directs staff to verified up-to-date sources of information including the guidance from the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>.

This reflects existing health and safety legislation advising that a risk assessment should be undertaken for every pregnant worker. The guidance places the emphasis on employers undertaking a risk assessment, and involving occupational health, to determine whether women who are under 28 weeks pregnant can continue working in public-facing roles. Pregnant women can only continue working where the risk assessment supports this.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the daily absence rate of NHS staff has been each day in April 2020 for (a) COVID-19 and (b) non-COVID-19 reasons.

(S5W-28627)

Clare Haughey: The daily absence rate of NHS staff for each day in April 2020 for (a) COVID-19 and (b) non-COVID-19 reasons can be found on the following table:

Date	COVID-19 Absence rate	Non-COVID-19 Absence rate
01-Apr	6.1%	8.4%
02-Apr	6.3%	8.7%
03-Apr	6.3%	9.2%

04-Apr	5.9%	7.9%
05-Apr	5.8%	7.9%
06-Apr	4.5%	11.3%
07-Apr	4.8%	10.1%
08-Apr	5.3%	11.1%
09-Apr	5.0%	11.4%
10-Apr	4.6%	31.2%
11-Apr	4.5%	9.8%
12-Apr	4.4%	9.8%
13-Apr	3.8%	31.4%
14-Apr	4.3%	11.0%
15-Apr	4.4%	11.2%
16-Apr	4.6%	11.5%
17-Apr	4.8%	11.9%
18-Apr	4.4%	8.6%
19-Apr	4.5%	8.9%
20-Apr	4.2%	9.0%
21-Apr	4.3%	9.1%
22-Apr	4.4%	9.5%
23-Apr	4.6%	9.9%
24-Apr	4.6%	10.8%
25-Apr	4.3%	8.1%
26-Apr	4.3%	8.3%

SOURCE: SSTS (Scottish Standard Time System)

This data is provided each day by NHS National Services Scotland on behalf of 21 NHS Boards, and by the Scottish Ambulance Service separately. It covers hospitals and community health services, and excludes those working in general practice. Accuracy and completeness is dependent on frontline services and administrators inputting absence data into the NHS Scotland national time and attendance system (SSTS). The figures cover all staff recorded as absent on the system, irrespective of whether they were due to be at work on that particular day. Recording processes vary between Boards and service areas. In particular, the timing of absence recording will vary, and some absences may not be recorded timeously.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether NHS staff who undertake overtime during the COVID-19 outbreak will be paid for the additional hours or be expected to take the time back in lieu.

(S5W-28631)

Clare Haughey: All staff who work overtime should have the choice to take this as extra payment or time off in lieu, or a combination of both. This is a decision taken at local level, and in making this decision consideration should

be given to both the needs of the staff member and the needs of the service. We have ongoing regular engagement with Trade Union partners where issues related to pay and terms and conditions are discussed.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people who died on each day since 1 February 2020 and who tested positive for COVID-19 (a) had and (b) had not been hospitalised on the suspicion that they had the virus.

(S5W-28643)

Clare Haughey: This information is not held centrally. It may be available on request from individual health boards.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have died on each day since 1 February 2020, and how this compares with each of the last five years.

(S5W-28641)

Clare Haughey: Number of deaths which occurred in Scotland, day by day between 1 February and 19 April

		Year					
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Month Died	Day Died						
Feb	1	170	160	188	158	192	166
	2	193	154	205	161	166	151
	3	213	172	172	168	179	191
	4	207	163	176	196	157	143
	5	180	188	167	166	181	171
	6	188	173	175	171	181	172
	7	200	173	174	191	173	174
	8	200	189	158	177	160	157
	9	198	195	165	173	173	176
	10	193	136	170	207	172	174
	11	202	173	181	195	182	169
	12	179	170	178	176	176	149
	13	213	183	184	177	174	159
	14	181	148	172	180	168	169
	15	190	192	207	196	163	166
	16	192	152	179	168	203	182
	17	184	191	152	169	168	163
	18	161	184	166	172	166	171
	19	191	175	183	175	170	170
	20	179	202	162	194	164	179
	21	177	185	171	169	192	177

	22	188	182	157	167	161	162
	23	189	155	167	176	148	157
	24	180	162	166	167	166	169
	25	170	148	156	178	156	174
	26	201	169	181	175	161	160
	27	157	177	196	189	155	153
	28	172	154	159	173	161	157
	29	.	169	.	.	.	182
Mar	1	188	160	170	176	158	199
	2	176	158	155	218	168	154
	3	166	160	152	178	156	187
	4	148	185	168	186	154	148
	5	183	170	193	186	173	153
	6	178	174	152	190	176	166
	7	165	174	160	195	150	165
	8	170	171	169	157	187	176
	9	154	160	163	170	158	158
	10	172	172	154	147	140	171
	11	153	178	176	159	157	164
	12	161	167	174	161	157	189
	13	195	173	145	187	153	146
	14	166	158	168	169	176	186
	15	156	173	166	186	175	169
	16	159	184	151	162	139	173
	17	179	169	188	186	147	164
	18	164	163	153	160	167	183
	19	170	163	187	140	164	172
	20	169	163	135	163	162	166
	21	172	159	162	152	139	164
	22	149	161	154	187	134	194
	23	175	176	152	176	171	190
	24	173	160	183	151	150	196
	25	163	160	143	141	166	198
	26	151	157	150	143	166	184
	27	156	145	150	195	144	189
	28	170	175	190	171	141	203
	29	171	145	141	155	142	206
	30	166	152	159	160	133	263
	31	169	160	151	146	125	223
Apr	1	178	183	140	178	148	257
	2	171	151	163	159	147	244
	3	181	157	181	172	161	249
	4	176	156	160	175	138	255
	5	154	165	165	154	155	264
	6	144	156	148	172	149	303
	7	144	162	151	174	149	251
	8	171	144	152	157	168	270
	9	147	138	146	156	152	281

	10	134	113	178	183	145	271
	11	175	151	155	157	145	257
	12	143	144	165	167	136	250
	13	161	169	162	135	135	250
	14	160	154	165	160	143	247
	15	149	172	164	156	134	268
	16	144	142	136	161	137	268
	17	156	150	136	166	148	235
	18	158	165	133	148	171	249
	19	159	150	151	141	162	243
Total		13440	13021	12832	13288	12419	15354

NB: these figures were produced by National Records of Scotland on 28 April. There may be slight under-counts for some of the later dates in 2020 due to a few

deaths not being registered in time to be included in NRS's statistical data on 28 April

Based on date of occurrence

Data for 2019 and 2020 are provisional and subject to change.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many excess deaths there have been on each day since 1 February 2020, and how this compares with what would normally have been expected based on the last 20 years of data.

(S5W-28644)

Clare Haughey: Number of "excess" deaths which occurred by day between 1 February and 19 April compared with "what would normally have been expected" based on the previous 20 years.

		Deaths in 2020	Annual average deaths from 2000 to 2019	Difference: "excess" deaths on this basis
Month Died	Day Died			
Feb	1	166	169	-3
	2	151	171	-20
	3	191	165	26
	4	143	170	-27
	5	171	163	8
	6	172	170	2
	7	174	169	5
	8	157	166	-9
	9	176	166	10
	10	174	165	9

	11	169	171	-2
	12	149	166	-17
	13	159	167	-8
	14	169	163	6
	15	166	170	-4
	16	182	169	13
	17	163	164	-1
	18	171	164	7
	19	170	165	5
	20	179	164	15
	21	177	170	7
	22	162	163	-1
	23	157	160	-3
	24	169	164	5
	25	174	160	14
	26	160	160	0
	27	153	167	-14
	28	157	165	-8
	29	182	161	21
Mar	1	199	161	38
	2	154	164	-10
	3	187	160	27
	4	148	161	-13
	5	153	165	-12
	6	166	166	0
	7	165	162	3
	8	176	166	10
	9	158	163	-5
	10	171	160	11
	11	164	160	4
	12	189	160	29
	13	146	166	-20
	14	186	159	27
	15	169	156	13
	16	173	155	18
	17	164	162	2
	18	183	155	28
	19	172	161	11
	20	166	156	10
	21	164	159	5
	22	194	159	35
	23	190	162	28
	24	196	157	39
	25	198	154	44
	26	184	154	30
	27	189	156	33

	28	203	160	43
	29	206	154	52
	30	263	156	107
	31	223	159	64
Apr	1	257	157	100
	2	244	158	86
	3	249	158	91
	4	255	158	97
	5	264	158	106
	6	303	159	144
	7	251	153	98
	8	270	158	113
	9	281	153	128
	10	271	154	117
	11	257	150	107
	12	250	153	97
	13	250	153	97
	14	247	156	91
	15	268	153	115
	16	268	152	116
	17	235	153	82
	18	249	153	96
	19	243	157	86

Total 1 Feb
to 19 Apr

NB: these figures were produced by National records of Scotland on 28 April.

There may be slight under-counts for some of the later dates in 2020 due to a few deaths not being registered in time to be included in NRS's statistical data on 28 April.

The average figure for each day in 2000 to 2019 has been used as a proxy for "what would normally have been expected" for 2020 as a definition was not provided by the requester.

The 20-year average is not the standard measure of excess deaths which is included in weekly NRS publication, such as 'Deaths involving coronavirus (COVID-19) in Scotland, week 17, which was published on the 29th April 2020. This report looks at the 5-year average.

Some days have a negative number of "excess" deaths, because there were fewer in 2020 than the average for the previous 20 years.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that all personal protective equipment (PPE) being used by female health and social care staff fits

properly, in light of concerns that some PPE may be designed for male sizes only.

(S5W-28680)

Clare Haughey: It is important that frontline staff receive the protective equipment they require and NHS National Services Scotland, with the support of Scottish Government and other national agencies are working hard to ensure a continued supply of the right equipment across a range of sizes.

NHS NSS are also providing additional support to NHS Boards in relation to fit-testing capacity for FFP3 respirators. This is to ensure staff requiring these are fitted correctly before performing their crucial roles.

Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what additional messaging it plans to help reduce the level of COVID-19-related deaths among the older population, in light of reports that 74% of such deaths are among people over 75.

(S5W-28863)

Clare Haughey: People who are at increased risk of severe illness, which includes people over 70, have been advised to strictly follow physical distancing measures. Where individuals are over 70 and have a health condition that puts them at the highest risk of severe illness, our advice remains that they should be shielding.

The Chief Medical Officer has written to those who are being advised to shield with guidance on what to do to keep themselves safe.

The Scottish Government has also undertaken a number of important health campaigns targeting the whole population on specific instructions to protect themselves including Handwashing, Household Isolation and Physical Distancing.

Three specific TV campaigns have to date focused on an older audience – the most recent has provided clarity of advice around going out – as some people may have been self-isolating when they do not need to. Previous campaign messages advised older people how to stay mentally and physically well under the stay at home restrictions and this campaign signposted Age Scotland for advice and support. The current helpline campaign also targets messaging to this group. This approach has also been complemented with the national door drop leaflet which included signposting for information and support including to the national helpline and Age Scotland. We have also encouraged people to look out for older people or other neighbours who may be more at risk, through our community and volunteering campaign.

Our current NHS is Open campaign also encourages those requiring urgent medical attention, or with concerns that are not related to Coronavirus, to continue to seek help via their GP or hospital.

Going forward, Scottish Government marketing activity will continue to raise awareness of the risks and to motivate and support people to comply with guidance, seeking advice from key stakeholders such as Age Scotland to ensure the clarity of our messaging.

The lockdown restrictions in Scotland remain in place to ensure we are protecting people from Covid-19. As restrictions potentially ease and/or change in the future, we acknowledge that advice may not be the same across all groups. We will continue to communicate with older people and those more at risk groups specifically to ensure that our messaging remains clear and unambiguous, to help people follow the correct measures.

Ministerial portfolio: Rural Affairs and Tourism

Peter Chapman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much of the £16.4 million funding allocated to it in October 2019 to replace money from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund will be available to those involved in the fishing industry in Scotland once the COVID-19 crisis is over.

(S5W-28403)

Fergus Ewing: The additional allocation is not a replacement for EMFF, which is still to be delivered by the UKG. It is unclear at this point when the impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic will abate for the seafood sector in Scotland, and therefore what funding may or may not be unallocated.

Peter Chapman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much of the money it has announced to support the fishing industry during the COVID-19 outbreak is from the £16.4 million that it received from the Treasury in October 2019 to replace money from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund.

(S5W-28405)

Fergus Ewing: Up to £7m will be available from the 2020-21 financial years allocation.

Peter Chapman (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether the £10 million announced on 14 April 2020 for the Scottish Seafood Resilience Fund includes, or is in addition to, the £5 million that it previously stated it was spending on helping the fishing industry during the COVID-19 crisis.

(S5W-28404)

Fergus Ewing: The £10m funding for the Scottish Seafood Resilience Fund is in addition to the £5m assistance announced for vessels 12 meters and under.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with (a) Dairy UK, (b) the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) and (c) other rural stakeholders in Scotland regarding assisting the dairy industry during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28765)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has been in almost daily contact with AHDB, Dairy UK and the wider dairy sector in Scotland throughout the covid 19 outbreak to help assess the situation. In particular the recent relaxation of competition rules has enabled the Industry to share more information with each other and allow the sector to work collectively to address issues being faced.

Separately, we continue to monitor the situation through the Farm Business Survey and provide Scotland's farmers and crofters with guidance through the Farm Advisory Service on optimising feed for livestock.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of current milk prices, and whether it will adjust relevant funding to respond to the needs of the industry.

(S5W-28767)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government, along with all other administrations, have been independently and collectively monitoring and assessing both the current milk prices and markets both before and during the Covid 19 outbreak to determine appropriate support for the sector. We will continue to monitor the situation and consider any adjustments to funding as appropriate.

Rachael Hamilton (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had with the UK Government regarding the decision to temporarily relax UK competition law to support the dairy industry during the COVID-19 outbreak.

(S5W-28764)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has been in regular contact with UK Government and has both promoted and supported the relaxation of UK competition law. It is imperative that all UK administrations work collectively together to help the industry minimise the disruption in the market and support those most in need.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much financial support in relation to COVID-19 is available to (a) the shellfish sector, (b) the creel fishing sector, (c) fish farm producers, (d) the inshore fishing sector, (e) the offshore fishing sector and (f) onshore fish processors.

(S5W-28426)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has provided £22.5m in immediate hardship payments to the seafood industry. These funds act as a temporary support measure to offer immediate hardship payments to businesses that cannot access the UK business grant scheme for land based operators and to take them to a point thereafter where they should begin to be in receipt of the self-employed payments expected in June.

The financial support consists of:

- Up to £3.5m to the over-12m shellfish sector;
- Up to £6m to the under-12m shellfish sector;
- Up to £3m to trout and shellfish aquaculture; and
- Up to £10m to the onshore fish processing sector.

Though creel and inshore boats are predominantly under-12m vessels there are a number of over-12m vessels which fish for shellfish in the inshore. The offshore fishing sector is primarily, although not exclusively, made up of vessels fishing for whitefish or pelagic species. Unlike the shellfish sector which has seen near total market collapse, this part of the sector continues to operate, although at reduced levels, and is not in immediate need of hardship funding. The whitefish and pelagic sectors will also be able to access these self-employed payments from June.

This forms part of our total package for businesses which now totals £2.3bn – £43 million more than the consequentials we received from the UK Government.

Details of the support available for all businesses, including seafood businesses, can be found at the Find Business Support website, which is frequently updated with the latest information. I encourage all businesses to review this regularly and to consider what support may be available to them.

Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with leaders in the fishing industry in relation to funding support for businesses affected by COVID-19, and whether it plans to allocate further funding to the fishing industry beyond what it has already announced.

(S5W-28428)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has been in frequent and intensive contact with leaders in the fishing industry in order to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 on their sectors and to discuss what support the Scottish Government can offer them. The most recent round of funding provided to businesses operating vessels over 12 metres finalises the relief we can offer to the sea fishing sectors. Together these funds act as a temporary support measure to offer immediate hardship payments to businesses that cannot access the UK business grant scheme for land based operators and to take them to a point thereafter where they should begin to be in receipt of the self-employed payments, expected in June.

Virtual Questions

Virtual Questions and oral answers provided on 14 May can be found in the Official Report of proceedings [here](#).

Written questions lodged on 14 May 2020
(Expected answer date: 29 May 2020)

S5W-29051 Brian Whittle: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to provide treatment for people with pre-existing cardiovascular conditions during the COVID-19 lockdown.

S5W-29052 Brian Whittle: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that people with severe heart valve disease have access to minimally-invasive treatment that can reduce time spent in hospitals to help reduce their exposure to COVID-19 and its subsequent potential complications.

S5W-29054 Brian Whittle: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to make an assessment of the reported increase in number of deaths from non-COVID-19-related diseases during the lockdown period.

S5W-29055 Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government how many care home (a) staff and (b) residents in the (i) local authority, (ii) charitable and (iii) independent sector have been tested for COVID-19.

S5W-29056 Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government how many meetings Ministers held to discuss the Silver Swan pandemic meeting in 2015.

S5W-29057 Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government how much additional funding to tackle COVID-19 has been given to each NHS board.

S5W-29058 Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government what clinical guidance has been issued to NHS boards on the admittance of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 into hospital.

S5W-29059 Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government what information has been recorded regarding the length of time between a patient first presenting with suspected COVID-19 and them being admitted to hospital.

S5W-29060 Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish figures on deaths from COVID-19 broken down by ethnicity.

S5W-29061 Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how many venues in the entertainment sector are at risk of permanent closure because of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29062 Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government what the net annual economic worth is of the (a) winter festival and (b) pantomime season; how many jobs are dependent on it; what impact the COVID-19 outbreak could have on it in 2020, including what the risk is of the season not going ahead, and what (i) financial and (ii) other support it will provide to the (A) venues and (B) staff affected by any closures.

S5W-29068 Keith Brown: To ask the Scottish Government what support and guidance it is providing to ensure that contact between children and any parent they are not resident with is being maintained throughout the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure relationships are sustained and nurtured.

S5W-29069 Keith Brown: To ask the Scottish Government what support and guidance it is providing to ensure contact between children in care and their parents and siblings continues throughout the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure relationships are sustained and nurtured.

Searching for questions and motions

While this report contains only questions and answers relating to COVID-19, answers to all parliamentary questions can be found in daily written answer reports, which are published [here](#).

All parliamentary questions and answers can also be searched for by keyword, MSP asking, Scottish Government Minister answering, as well as by date and other filters, through the advanced search function on the Parliament's website [here](#).