

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

Wednesday 7 October 2020

Written questions lodged on 7 October can be found on page 3 of this document.

Links to Portfolio Questions, and an Urgent Question relating to COVID-19 on 7 October, are included at page 2.

ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS (Received on 7 October)

Ministerial portfolio: Health and Sport

Johann Lamont (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will introduce a bereavement support bubble policy, which would enable grieving households of any size to come together and form a support bubble with one other household, in the event of further local or national lockdowns and restrictions.

S5W-32000

Jeane Freeman: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Johann Lamont (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to upscale and make more readily available bereavement support of all types, both formal and informal, to people who are grieving (a) during and (b) after the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-31999

Jeane Freeman: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what measures are in place to support early diagnosis of prostate cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

S5W-31991

Jeane Freeman: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

Portfolio Questions

The following questions were asked:

Rural Economy and Tourism

1. Willie Coffey: To ask the Scottish Government how it will take forward a tourism recovery plan for Ayrshire, and what role it believes digital technology can play in assisting with this. ([S5O-04657](#))

6. Kenneth Gibson: To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the Fraser of Allander Institute report, *The Impact of Covid-19 on the Arran economy*, including its comments on how this has affected tourism. ([S5O-04662](#))

8. Rachael Hamilton: To ask the Scottish Government what financial analysis it has carried out of the impact that restrictions on the hospitality sector will have on the wider supply chain. ([S5O-04664](#))

Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity

4. Johann Lamont: To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with transport operators in Glasgow regarding compliance with the wearing of face coverings on public transport. ([S5O-04668](#))

Answers to these, and other Portfolio Questions, can be found [here](#).

Urgent Question

Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 at the Redmill and Milford House care homes in Lothian.

The answer to this question can be found [here](#)

Written questions lodged on 07 October 2020

[S5W-32349](#) Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the work of its Rehabilitation Framework and the role this has had in responding to the COVID-19, what plans it has to expand and develop the allied health professional workforce, and what funding it will allocate to (a) local authorities, (b) NHS boards and (c) third sector service providers to assist with this.

[S5W-32350](#) Edward Mountain: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-31963 by Fergus Ewing on 6 October 2020, by what date the report of the Scottish Tourism Recovery Task Force will be published.

[S5W-32352](#) Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government, in the event that a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, whether it will be offered to everyone in Scotland and, if not, what percentage of the population will be offered it, and what criteria will be used to determine who is offered it.

[S5W-32353](#) Alexander Stewart: To ask the Scottish Government how many flu vaccinations there are in stocks to cover the NHS (a) Forth Valley, (b) Fife and (c) Tayside area, and whether these stocks are sufficient to provide a flu vaccination to everyone living in these areas who meets the necessary criteria.

[S5W-32354](#) Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government for what reason some teachers and school staff who were previously shielding are reportedly being permitted to work outside of a classroom environment in some local authorities while in others they are being required to work in the classroom.

[S5W-32355](#) Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether teachers who were previously shielding should be working in classrooms in (a) Glasgow and (b) Scotland, in light of Glasgow City Council's Executive Director of Education writing to schools to highlight an "extraordinary number of cases where teachers have tested positive for COVID-19".

[S5W-32356](#) Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to review the guidance for schools that currently states that teachers who were previously shielding should attend work in the classroom.

[S5W-32357](#) Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether teachers have adequate time to provide pupils who are self-isolating with consistent support and materials as well as fulfilling their obligations to other pupils who are in school.

[S5W-32358](#) Patrick Harvie: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether physical distancing is possible in all schools that are operating at full capacity.

[S5W-32366](#) Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government what rate of cycles Scotland's polymerase chain reaction tests for COVID-19 are being run at, and for what reason they are being run at this rate.

[S5W-32372](#) Liam Kerr: To ask the Scottish Government what guidelines have been issued around the fitting and procurement of masks to NHS dentists.

[S5W-32383](#) Alex Cole-Hamilton: To ask the Scottish Government whether non-cohabiting couples who live with other people are required to form an extended household in order to meet.

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](#).