

Monday 5 January 2015

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Communities

**Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment, what estimate it has made of how much statutory maternity pay would be in 2015-16 if it had been uprated by Consumer Price Index inflation since 2011-12 and how this compares with the actual amount.

(S4W-23525)

**Margaret Burgess:** The move to uprating by 1% means that in 2015-16 statutory maternity pay is estimated to be £139.56 per week. If statutory maternity pay had been uprated by Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation it is estimated that it would have been in the region of £144.73. By 2015-16 a mother claiming statutory maternity pay would therefore be approximately £170 worse off than if maternity pay had been uprated by the CPI measure of inflation.

**Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on the health of pregnant women, what estimate it has made of the financial impact of the discontinuation of the Health in Pregnancy Grant in 2011.

(S4W-23526)

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government analysis *Impact of the UK Welfare Reforms on families – Autumn 2014 update*, published on 13 October 2014, suggests that, if the Health in Pregnancy Grant had remained at its 2011-12 level, expectant mothers would be £190 worse off per pregnancy. This paper can be accessed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/welfarereform/analysis/Impactonfam2014>

### Crown Office

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-02812 by the Lord Advocate on 22 January 2014 (Official Report, c. 26845), what progress has been made by the investigation on the use of Scotland's airports for rendition flights and whether the terms of the investigation will be amended in light of the publication of the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report, *Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program*.

(S4W-23608)

**Frank Mulholland:** Since I last commented on the investigation on the use of Scotland's airports for rendition flights, I can confirm that an interim report has been provided by Police Scotland, outlining the information they have gathered to date in particular in relation to the rendition project's report. Further investigations have been instructed. This includes consideration of the recent findings from the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence *Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program*, the executive summary of which was published on 9 December 2014. This report includes reference to rendition flights and it is important to look at this source of information to check whether there is any evidence disclosed in the report of Scottish airports being used for such flights. This is a complex investigation and is international in scope which requires detailed and thorough investigation and consideration. Once the final report is submitted to the Crown it will be considered by Crown Counsel who will make any decision on criminal proceedings. Crown Counsel's decision will be made public.

### Enterprise and Environment

**Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-22402 by Paul Wheelhouse on 28 August 2014, whether it has now issued a consultation on its draft Low Emissions Strategy.

(S4W-23573)

**Aileen McLeod:** The Low Emissions Strategy consultation will be issued by late January 2015.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will allocate funding in the 2015-16 budget to its Low Emissions Strategy.

**(S4W-23574)**

**Aileen McLeod:** The Scottish Government is in regular dialogue with all UK administrations on air quality matters of mutual interest. The focus of work to develop the forthcoming Low Emissions Strategy, which will be the first Scottish air quality strategy, has been working with a wide range of Scottish stakeholders who can, and do, make a substantive contribution to promoting air quality across Scotland.

The Low Emissions Strategy is designed to support a wide range of partners in promoting air quality, e.g. guidance on low emission zones. One of the purposes of the forthcoming consultation will be to get feedback on that guidance.

The strategy will also highlight the range of actions that can support air quality, not all of which require funding. The Scottish Government will continue to support specific air quality monitoring and action projects. Air quality is a responsibility of local authorities who continue to be able to allocate funding according to local needs and priorities.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will support local authorities in introducing key measures to improve air quality, including low emission zones, and what funding will be involved.

**(S4W-23575)**

**Aileen McLeod:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-23574 on 5 January 2015. 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>

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding its Low Emissions Strategy.

**(S4W-23576)**

**Aileen McLeod:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-23574 on 5 January 2015. 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>

### **Learning and Justice**

**Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many motorists Police Scotland stopped in Crown Street in Glasgow during the drink driving exercise on 5 December 2014; how many were stopped while the Cabinet Secretary for Justice was present, and how many were charged with drink driving.

**(S4W-23564)**

**Michael Matheson:** Police Scotland has advised that they do not collate data on breath testing of motorists at the level of detail requested. They will however publish figures on a national basis on the Monday of each week throughout the festive period. In the first week of the festive anti-drink drive campaign, 71 drivers were caught for drink or drugs driving.

More generally, Police Scotland has advised that the annual festive safety campaign makes maximum use of road checks to ensure that Police Scotland officers engage with as many motorists as possible over the festive period. These checks take place in both urban and rural locations and have been a major feature of police activity around drink driving for more than 30 years.

**Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many motorists Police Scotland stopped across the country on 5 December 2014 in relation to its drink driving initiative between (a) midnight and 6.00am, (b) 6.00am and 9.00am and (c) 9.00am and midday.

**(S4W-23565)**

**Michael Matheson:** Police Scotland has advised that they do not collate data on breath testing of motorists at the level of detail requested. They will however publish figures on a national basis on the Monday of each week throughout the festive anti-drink drive campaign period. In the first week of the campaign (5 December to 12 December 2014), Police Scotland figures show that just under 5,000 drivers were breath tested and 71 drivers were caught for drink or drugs driving.

**Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the announcement that the UK Government will fund income-contingent loans of up to £10,000 for postgraduate students on taught masters courses from 2016-17, whether it will match per capita funding for postgraduate students in Scotland.

**(S4W-23566)**

**Angela Constance:** Prior to the UK Government's announcement in the Autumn Statement 2014, the Scottish Government announced the formation of a working group to review support for taught postgraduate education in Scotland. The group, to be chaired by Professor Bryan MacGregor, will consider the barriers to participation in taught postgraduate study by Scottish domiciled students and identify options for how these might be overcome. The group will produce a report by summer 2015.

From academic year 2012-13, all eligible Scottish domiciled and EU postgraduate students undertaking courses on a prescribed list have been able to apply for non means-tested fee loan funding of up to £3,400. From 2015-16, eligible Scottish domiciled students on an eligible taught postgraduate course can also apply for a maintenance support loan of up to £4,500.

There are no immediate plans to change this package of support for taught postgraduate students prior to the issue and consideration of the report from the working group.

*The following questions received holding answers:*

S4W-23563

S4W-23568

S4W-23569