

Monday 23 February 2015

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Communities

Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of how the (a) recent and (b) upcoming changes to the Energy Company Obligation have or will impact on the (i) Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland scheme and (ii) the 2016 fuel poverty target.

(S4W-24395)

Margaret Burgess: At this stage there is uncertainty about the overall level of investment available due to UK Government changes to Energy Company Obligation (ECO). But we will continue to use our Home Energy Efficiency Programmes (HEEPS) funding to maximise leverage of private sector funding from the energy companies seeking to meet their obligations under ECO. Latest statistics from the UK Government, released in December 2014, show that between January 2013 to the end of September 2014, 11.7% of the total energy efficiency measures under ECO were delivered in Scotland - Scotland has 9.3% of households in Great Britain. These figures include ECO measures delivered in Scotland under HEEPS.

We have made very clear our commitment to improving energy efficiency to help address fuel poverty. We have allocated over half a billion pounds since 2009 on a raft of fuel poverty and energy efficiency programmes, and the recent announcement of extra funding for our fuel poverty programmes will increase funding for our energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes from £94 million in the current year to £114 million next. As the most recent Scottish House Condition Survey results show, our investment to improve domestic energy efficiency has helped mitigated against the 7% rise in fuel prices in the past year.

Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to record the number of people sleeping rough.

(S4W-24447)

Margaret Burgess: The Scottish Government asks local authorities to submit data on rough sleeping through the HL1 homelessness data collection. The HL1 data collection asks the following two questions on rough sleeping:

Has any member of the applicant household slept rough during the three months preceding their application?

Did any member of the applicant household sleep rough on the night immediately preceding the date of application?

Information on rough sleeping is published in the annual homelessness statistics. The most recent statistics on rough sleeping for 2013-14 are available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/06/3967/3>.

Enterprise and Environment

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the £384.7 million figure that it calculated for revenues lost as a result of a 3% reduction in corporation tax rates, as set out at Table 2 of The Impact of a Reduction in Corporation Tax on the Scottish Economy.

(S4W-24420)

John Swinney: The £384.7 million figure referred to in the question is an estimate of a direct static change in corporation tax revenues and does not take into account indirect impacts of the policy such as the broadening of the tax base.

For further detail, I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-15479 on 12 June 2013. 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>.

Finance

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it remains its position that it would lower the rate of corporation tax by 3p less than the rest of the UK.

(S4W-24418)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government is committed to using every lever possible to create long-term comparative advantage and genuine economic value.

With full responsibility for corporation tax, the Scottish Government would be able to target tax incentives carefully to encourage the rebalancing and reindustrialisation of the Scottish economy – for example, through more effective capital allowances or to encourage innovation and investment in research and development.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether its position of lowering the rate of corporation tax by 3p less than the rest of the UK would still apply in the context of full fiscal autonomy.

(S4W-24419)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-24418 on 23 February 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

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many students in 2013-14 in each of the lower income brackets claimed the relevant rate of Young Students Bursary, and how many claimed (a) the full and (b) a smaller amount of loan.

(S4W-24400)

Angela Constance: The following table shows how many students from each of the lower income brackets received the Young Students' Bursary (YSB) in 2013-14.

Full-time undergraduate students 2013-14 receiving YSB support	Number of students
All	32,930
No income or income not declared/required	655
Up to £16,999	16,675
£17,000 to £23,999	7,570
£24,000 to £33,9999	8,025

23,065 of these students were assessed for the a) maximum loan available with 1,775 claiming less than the b) maximum loan available to them. 8,090 of the students did not apply for any loan.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many students in 2013-14 received a total package of Young Students Bursary plus loan support worth £7,250.

(S4W-24401)

Angela Constance: There were 11,485 students in 2013-14 who received the maximum support package of Young Students Bursary plus loan worth £7,250. This was made up of a bursary of £1,750 and a student loan of £5,500.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many students in 2013-14 in each of the lower income brackets claimed the relevant rate of Independent Students Bursary, and how many claimed (a) the full and (b) a smaller amount of loan.

(S4W-24402)

Angela Constance: The following table shows how many students from each of the lower income brackets received the Independent Students' Bursary (ISB) in 2013-14.

Full-time undergraduate students 2013-14 receiving ISB support	Number of students
All	17,400
No income or income not declared/required	11,900
Up to £16,999	5,440
£17,000 to £23,999	45
£24,000 to £33,999	15

14,780 of these students were assessed for the a) maximum loan available with 300 claiming less than the b) maximum loan available to them. 2,620 of the students did not apply for any loan.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many students in 2013-14 received a total package of Independent Students Bursary plus loan support worth £7,250.

(S4W-24403)

Angela Constance: There were 13,645 students in 2013-14 who received the maximum support package of Independent Students Bursary plus loan worth £7,250. This was made up of a bursary of £750 and a student loan of £6,500.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the average claim for Independent Students Bursary in 2013-14 was lower than the flat-rate grant available.

(S4W-24404)

Angela Constance: The bursary entitlement is assessed using the household income. If final evidence shows a difference in the original income declared, this may lead to an original bursary entitlement having to be revised. Any additional paid amount a student was not entitled to may be recovered as an overpayment. This could result in more or less bursary.

If a student withdraws after the fee cut-off date, they will be entitled to a pro-rata amount of bursary for the time they were in attendance. If a student withdraws before the fee cut-off date and received a balance of bursary for their time in attendance, we may deduct the amount they received from any future bursary entitlement.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it calculated the figures set out at paragraph 108 of the Education and Culture Committee's report on the draft budget for 2013-14.

(S4W-24405)

Angela Constance: The table at paragraph 108 shows an estimate of the number of students who would be eligible for each level of bursary payment under the new student support system.

This was drawn from analysis conducted in 2011-12, which used Student Awards Agency Scotland data drawn from the application process showing students by status (e.g. young or independent); their household income levels and compared this to the proposed thresholds for different levels of bursary.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made with the establishing a management fee to be paid by non-UK EU students in Scotland.

(S4W-24406)

Angela Constance: Considerable discussion has taken place with EU representatives about the concept and application of management fees. As my predecessor, Michael Russell, made clear to the

Scottish Parliament on 5 December 2013, introduction of such a policy would need to meet with complex EU requirements and is therefore difficult to implement.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many college bursaries have been provided in each of the last eight years.

(S4W-24408)

Angela Constance: The following table shows a 10% increase in the number of students receiving college bursaries between 2006-07 and 2013-14.

Record further education student support funding of £104 million in 2014-15 means that students can now receive bursaries of up to £93.03 per week.

Year	Number of students who have received a further education bursary
2006-07	40,877
2007-08	41,513
2008-09	41,243
2009-10	44,829
2010-11	44,993
2011-12	45,328
2012-13	44,790
2013-14	44,810

Source: Scottish Funding Council
Figures not yet published for 2014-15

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of schools have provided free fruit for P1 and P2 pupils in each of the last eight years.

(S4W-24410)

Alasdair Allan: The Scottish Government does not hold this information.

Cara Hilton (Dunfermline) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many consensual stop and searches have been carried out in the Dunfermline area each month, broken down by the (a) age of the person searched, (b) number of times a person has been searched more than once and (c) outcome, including (i) how many subsequent (A) prosecutions and (B) convictions there were and (ii) details of what further action took place.

(S4W-24421)

Michael Matheson: The information requested is a matter for Police Scotland. I have alerted the Chief Constable to your question and I have asked him to reply to you direct.

The following questions received holding answers:

S4W-24382
S4W-24407
S4W-24409