

Wednesday 20 January 2016

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Communities

Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much regeneration funding has been made available to local authorities in each year since 1999 and what the projected spend for each local authority is for (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17.

(S4W-29222)

Alex Neil: It is the responsibility of councils and their respective community planning partnerships (CPPs) to support local regeneration activity, based on their understanding of local needs and circumstances, from their local government settlement.

The Scottish Government has, in addition, established a number of different funds which address specific areas of regeneration activity. Whilst not all regeneration budgets are provided directly to local authorities, all the funding contributes to local regeneration in local authority areas.

For example, the six Urban Regeneration Companies (URCs) have received in excess of £250 million since their inception. The 2009-10 £60 million Town Centre Regeneration Fund benefited 66 projects in every local authority area with 89 town centres receiving funding for new build and renovation of key building for a variety of business and community uses, cosmetic improvements to high street frontages and walkways as well as other public realm works and the People and Communities Fund has supported more than 350 community projects across Scotland.

But note, it is not possible to attribute all regeneration spend directly to a specific regeneration budget. Some regeneration occurred due to other policy interventions, whilst others may have occurred due to activities in neighbouring areas. Also, activity that is later identified as a regeneration project may not have been recorded as such initially.

Detailed information is available on a number of regeneration funds with local authority recipients:

1. The Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) announced by the Scottish Government in January 2008 and worth £145 million per annum over 2008-11.

It merged the following seven previous funding streams:

Community Regeneration Fund
Working for Families
Changing Children's Services Fund ("social inclusion" element)
Community Voices Fund
Financial Inclusion Fund
Workforce Plus (including the New Futures Fund)
More Choices, More Chances

The purpose of the fund was to enable local authorities and CPPs to tackle area based disadvantage; individual poverty; and help more people to access and sustain employment opportunities.

The FSF was ring fenced for the first two years to allow all community planning partners to play a part in driving strategic investment of this resource. In 2010-11 the ring fencing was removed and resources awarded to local authorities as part of their block allocations in acknowledgement of their responsibility for local economic development and regeneration.

2. The Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, established in 2004 with the aim of tackling long-term vacant and derelict land in Scotland. The fund is one of the few remaining ring-fenced funds in the local government settlement. The objectives of the fund are to tackle long term vacant/derelict land; stimulate economic growth and job creation; develop a diverse sustainable environment with a focus on temporary and permanent greening; support communities to flourish and tackle inequalities.

Spend to date is £130 million, with five local authorities sharing c. £10 million of funding each year, reflecting the extent of vacant and derelict land in these areas and levels of deprivation. Due to re-profiling the fund will be £7.835 million in 2016-17.

3. The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) is a £25 million joint local authority/Scottish Government fund, which was made available to local authorities from 2014-15 onwards (previously

used to support Urban Regeneration Companies) and is expected to deliver the holistic outcomes set out in the regeneration strategy.

The fund supports large scale regeneration projects which have the potential to demonstrate wider impact as well as delivering strong physical, social and economic outcomes; and potentially leverage other funding and investment.

The fund is open to all 32 local authorities, URCs and other local authority regeneration special purpose vehicles. It is open to both rural as well as urban areas and primarily supports areas which suffer from high levels of deprivation and disadvantage.

Two rounds of funding have now been completed with recommendations on 40 projects agreed, representing projects from across the country, encompassing both urban and rural areas. Full details of the recipient local authorities/URCs are available on the Scottish Government website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/investment/capitalgrants/rcgf>.

The independent RCGF panel will meet in February 2016 to assess second stage applications submitted for a share of the £25 million fund in 2016-17.

Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to update the Town Centre Action Plan and, if so, when.

(S4W-29225)

Alex Neil: We will publish the second update on the Town Centre Action Plan in the spring of 2016.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of households served by the telephone exchange in (a) Falkland, (b) Letham, (c) Newburgh, (d) Gauldry, (e) Balmullo, (f) Tayport, (g) Newport on Tay, (h) Leuchars, (i) Cupar, (j) Ceres, (k) Strathkinness, (l) St Andrews, (m) Peat Inn, (n) Colinsburgh, (o) Elie, (p) St Monans, (q) Anstruther and (r) Crail in Fife is able to connect to fibre broadband.

(S4W-29272)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government's Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme is aiming to deliver fibre broadband to 95% of all homes and businesses in Scotland by the end of March 2018.

To date, over 16,600 homes and businesses in the areas requested have been enabled for fibre broadband.

In addition there are homes and businesses in these areas enabled for fibre via commercial programmes that are not part of this programme. Detailed information about commercial deployment in Scotland is not available to the Scottish Government.

The latest available verified figures correct to the end of September 2015 by area are detailed in the following table:

Question letter	Area	Number of homes or businesses enabled
a	Falkland	1,225
b	Letham	0
c	Newburgh	350
d	Gauldry	390
e	Balmullo	1,044
f	Tayport	1,980
g	Newport on Tay	1,580
h	Leuchars	1,444
i	Cupar	328
j	Ceres	807
k	Strathkinness	510
l	St Andrews	6,422
m	Peat Inn	146
n	Colinsburgh	0

Question letter	Area	Number of homes or businesses enabled
o	Elie	0
p	St Monans	0
q	Anstruther	465
r	Crail	0

Crown Office

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what procedures are in place to assist victims of hate crimes in monitoring the progress of their case.

(S4W-29261)

Frank Mulholland QC: All victims have a right to request and be told about progress of a case following the coming into force of the Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014. The recently published *Victims' Code for Scotland* and *Standards of Service for Victims and Witnesses*, agreed and published by the agencies involved in the criminal justice system, set out what victims can expect and who to contact for further information about the case. Victims are entitled to information about their case from Police Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service. Information can be requested throughout criminal investigation and proceedings.

In certain categories of cases the COPFS Victim and Information Advice (VIA) service will proactively keep victims advised without the victim having to request such information. One of these categories is all cases involving hate crime. In addition the COPFS VIA service can facilitate referral to other agencies for specialist support and counselling as required.

Enterprise and Environment

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-02112 by Humza Yousaf on 15 May 2013 (*Official Report*, c. 19792), which Scottish Government economic development plans have included reference to Iraqi Kurdistan since that date.

(S4W-29172)

Humza Yousaf: None of the Scottish Government economic strategies since 2013 have included specific reference to Iraqi Kurdistan.

John Wilson (Central Scotland) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government how it will conduct the pre-consultation public engagement exercise on unconventional gas and oil.

(S4W-29191)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government is committed to engaging widely on the issue of unconventional oil and gas. For example, the research projects that we announced on 8 October 2015 include opportunities for a range of stakeholders to input their views at the outset of the process. This participative approach forms the cornerstone of our plans for engaging with community, industry and environmental stakeholders both in the run up to, and during, the formal consultation.

John Wilson (Central Scotland) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government (a) what the timescales are and (b) how many responses it has received for the tender processes for the research projects, (i) Transport Impacts, (ii) Decommissioning and Aftercare and (iii) Seismic Activity and Monitoring, which are part of its consultation on unconventional oil and gas.

(S4W-29192)

Fergus Ewing: The three research projects are currently out to tender. Responses to the tenders are due on 22 January 2016 for the transport and decommissioning projects and 29 January 2016 for the seismic activity project.

Finance

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has received the Barnett consequential arising from the flood relief funding announced by the UK

Government for damage caused by Storm (a) Desmond, (b) Eva and (c) Frank and, if so, how much it has received and when.

(S4W-29243)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government received confirmation of Barnett resource consequentials of £3.94 million in respect of the flood relief funding for damage caused by Storm Desmond on 9 December 2015. Notification of consequentials arising from storms Eva and Frank was received from HM Treasury on 18 January 2016 indicating that the Scottish Government will receive £14.578 million of resource in 2015-16.

Health and Social Care

Duncan McNeil (Greenock and Inverclyde) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of how the Scottish Football Association has spent the funding that it has received under the proceeds of crime legislation in each year since 2008-09.

Holding answer issued: 6 January 2016

(S4W-28923)

Jamie Hepburn: Details are provided in the following table. Information on each of the activities funded is available at

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/policies/community-engagement/cashback/CashBack-Initiatives>.

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16**
Soccer One/Two/Three	107,700	142,152	178,525	0	0	0	0	0
Street Football*	105,900	105,900	105,900	105,900	105,900	105,900	32,000	20,650
Midnight Leagues	103,000	103,000	103,000					
Girls and Women's	99,000	71,975	99,000	107,335	213,000	213,000	213,000	94,625
Volunteer Development	84,156	342,059	342,059	335,495	243,718	259,985	240,179	116,890
Football Equity	0	0	0	2,873	151,273	182,080	171,318	79,953
School of Football	10,475	62,236	173,860	99,698	42,550	112,461	274,576	58,771
CashBack 7's	0	0	0	0	32,525	32,012	32,000	8,000
Management	10,415	36,343	36,343	36,343	36,343	36,343	52,870	31,435

*From 2011-12 street football and midnight leagues strands are reported in one line.

**Figures for 2015-16 are for the six months April to September 2015.

Christina McKelvie (Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it can provide an update on how each NHS board is delivering the plan to increase motor neurone disease specialist nurses.

(S4W-29195)

Shona Robison: Funding to double the number of motor neurone disease clinical nurse specialists (MND CNS) was allocated to those NHS boards who have strong links with Scotland's neurological centres and who currently employ MND CNS i.e. NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Highland, NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside.

NHS Grampian will recruit one whole time equivalent (WTE) MND CNS by 31 March 2016. NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have appointed two new full time MND CNS who took up post on 18 January 2016. NHS Highland has increased the existing MND CNS's hours by 0.2WTE. The remaining 0.4WTE post has been advertised with interviews taking place in February 2016. NHS Lothian have increased the capacity of their existing MND CNSs to 1.6WTE and they will recruit an additional 0.25WTE post by March 2016. In addition, NHS Lothian have transferred a proportion of their funding to NHS Forth Valley who will employ one 0.75 WTE MND CNS to support patients with MND in NHS Forth Valley and NHS Fife. NHS Tayside has increased the WTE MND CNS complement to 1.6WTE by increasing the hours of the existing post-holder. Interim arrangements are in place using neurology specialist nurses to provide 2.0WTE specialist nurse support until a substantive appointment to the remaining 0.4WTE post is made.

The Scottish Government expects NHS boards to ensure that patients with MND have appropriate access to a range of professionals, including specialist nurses and allied health professionals, to ensure optimum management of their condition.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that 2,200 patients received mental health treatment outside their NHS board area in 2014-15.

(S4W-29220)

Jamie Hepburn: On occasion people will be treated outside their board areas where specialist or urgent care is required. Care and support is provided in the most appropriate environment, regardless of board boundaries, and is always dictated by clinical need and benefit to the patient.

Information Services Division have not yet published data for mental health patients treated outwith their NHS board area in 2014-15.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many mental health inpatient deaths there have been in each year since 2007.

(S4W-29232)

Jamie Hepburn: Psychiatric inpatient and day case discharges are recorded in Scottish morbidity record 04 (SMR04). Data on SMR04 is routinely published by financial year and 2013-14 is the latest year for which information is available. Inpatient deaths show a decline of 49.28% between 2006-07 and 2013-14.

Table 1: Number of mental health inpatient^{1,2} deaths³, 2006-07 to 2013-14.

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Deaths	830	801	678	603	560	478	480	421

1. Psychiatric inpatient and day case activity is recorded in Scottish morbidity record 04 (SMR04).
2. Data from the learning disability specialty have been excluded.
3. Patients were identified as having died if the 'discharge type' was recorded as 'death'. This includes patients who died while out on pass.

The majority of deaths of mental health inpatients occur amongst patients within the sub-specialty of psychiatry of old age. Of the inpatients who died, 85% were aged 70 and over.

Learning and Justice

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on each of the Scotland-specific recommendations made by the Arts and Humanities Research Council on Collective Worship in its report, *Collective Worship and Religious Observance in Schools: An Evaluation of Law and Policy in the UK*.

(S4W-29161)

Alasdair Allan: The Arts and Humanities Research Council published in November 2015 its report *Collective Worship and Religious Observance in Schools: An Evaluation of Law and Policy in the UK*. The Scotland-specific recommendations in the report are as follows:

- (a) It is recommended that Education Scotland provide clear guidance as to what constitutes religious observance and where worship is situated within that.
- (b) It is recommended, in line with Section 6 of the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000, that children are consulted on the day to day running of the school as set out in the school's development plan and that this should include consultation relating to religious observance.
- (c) It is recommended that the term 'Religious Observance' be formally changed to 'Time for Reflection' in order to be more inclusive."

In terms of advice available to schools, Education Scotland already provides clear guidance on religious observance/time for reflection which is the product of collaborative work with stakeholders – including Curriculum for Excellence Briefing Paper 16, which has been endorsed by Humanist Society Scotland. Education Scotland is working to develop exemplification of good practice in religious observance/time for reflection in different contexts. This includes the important principle that young people should be involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of it. Schools themselves can already decide whether to refer to these experiences as religious observance or time for reflection; no legal change is required to enable this.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the recommendation made by the Independent Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life in its report, *Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good*, that "the legal requirement for schools to hold acts of collective worship should be repealed, and replaced by a requirement to hold inclusive times for reflection".

(S4W-29162)

Alasdair Allan: The report of the Independent Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, *Living with Difference: Community, Diversity and the Common Good*, contains 12 recommendations about the place of religion in public life. These include the recommendation that:

"All pupils in state-funded schools should have a statutory entitlement to a curriculum about religion, philosophy and ethics that is relevant to today's society, and the broad framework of such a curriculum should be nationally agreed. The legal requirement for schools to hold acts of collective worship should be repealed, and replaced by a requirement to hold inclusive times for reflection."

There is no legal requirement in Scotland for schools to 'hold acts of collective worship'; instead the terms 'Religious Observance' or 'Time for Reflection' are used in statute and guidance. Education Scotland guidance on religious observance (time for reflection) addresses how effective religious observance may take a variety of forms.

Jackson Carlaw (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the outcome of Operation Alexander in December 2015, what plans it has in 2016 to prioritise the targeting of shops that sell new psychoactive substances.

(S4W-29186)

Paul Wheelhouse: Operation Alexander is a co-ordinated enforcement operation by local authority trading standards services against new psychoactive substance suppliers. Further action is a matter for local trading standards authorities.

The Scottish Government are working closely with the UK Government on the detail of the UK-wide psychoactive substances bill which is due to become law in April 2016. The legislation will make it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import and export psychoactive substances. The Bill will also create an offence for possession of psychoactive substances within a custodial setting.

Jackson Carlaw (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much funding it provided for Operation Alexander in December 2015, which targeted shops selling new psychoactive substances.

(S4W-29187)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government did not directly fund Operation Alexander. The Scottish Government provided funding of £21,450 to Trading Standards Scotland to assist in removing barriers in tackling new psychoactive substances (NPS). This included the development of an operational toolkit and guidance, as recommended by the expert review group. The funding has also been used to build a national intelligence picture of NPS suppliers. In addition, the funding helped meet the costs of the forensic analysis of seized products during Operation Alexander.

Jackson Carlaw (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has carried out the effectiveness of its strategy in dealing with new psychoactive substances.

(S4W-29188)

Paul Wheelhouse: The Scottish Government continues to engage with the sector to review a range of interventions to tackle new psychoactive substances (NPS) and the dangers they pose. The NPS Evidence Group is comprised of key stakeholders from a range of sectors including health, enforcement, academia, and the third sector, amongst others.

The Scottish Government established an expert review group in August 2014 to consider the powers available in Scotland to tackle the sale and supply of NPS. The group published its report on 26 February 2015. The report makes six recommendations which we are taking forward. The full report can be accessed via this link: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/3802>.

The Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, led a parliamentary debate on 29 September 2015, where an update was given on progress to implement the NPS Expert Review Group recommendations. Members supported the motion. The *Official Report* from the debate can be accessed via this link: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10118>.

A NPS cross party working group has been established and chaired by Paul Wheelhouse, MSP. The group have been asked to build upon the existing cross party census and to work together to address the challenges NPS present. The group are examining the current work underway and are contributing ideas to a range of themed work on NPS. The group are due to publish a report in February 2016.

Jackson Carlaw (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what action NHS boards take to collate data on hospital admissions caused by the ingesting, inhaling or injection of new psychoactive substances and what analysis it has carried out to determine whether this information has been recorded adequately.

(S4W-29189)

Paul Wheelhouse: NHS Scotland patient recording systems do not currently include a code to capture new psychoactive substance (NPS) use. Collection of data on NPS prevalence and harms within the NHS, therefore, is limited. These problems are not restricted to Scotland, but are common across Europe and internationally, where the systematic collection of data on NPS in healthcare settings is scarce.

The NPS Evidence Group have acknowledged the importance of data on NPS use from emergency departments. They are exploring options on how to improve the collection of NPS data within the NHS.

John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government, following publication of its statistical bulletin, *Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland, 2013-14*, whether it considers the merging of victim and complainer to be the most appropriate way of recording racist incidents and whether it will consider recording them separately in future.

(S4W-29230)

Michael Matheson: The *Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland* publication series has always followed the definition outlined by Sir William MacPherson in his 1999 report on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. This is that a racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. As such, victims/complainers of racist incidents may not necessarily be the person at whom the racially aggravated behaviour was targeted, and as the statistics currently stand the two cannot be distinguished.

The 2013-14 publication included information for users of these statistics on plans to scope out with Police Scotland the possibility of replacing the *Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police in Scotland* statistical series with a new and broader statistical product on police recorded hate crime (which would include a race element). This work will include investigation of whether any new product will have the ability to distinguish between victims and complainers of racist incidents (where the two are different people). Statistical users can be kept informed of developments in this area through registering with ScotStat: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/scotstat>.

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is taking to help improve the ethnic diversity of Police Scotland.

(S4W-29262)

Michael Matheson: Equality and diversity within Police Scotland is a matter for the Chief Constable and the Scottish Police Authority.

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to eliminate unconscious bias and institutional racism in Police Scotland.

(S4W-29263)

Michael Matheson: Equality and diversity within Police Scotland is a matter for the Chief Constable and the Scottish Police Authority.

Transport Scotland

Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it last met representatives of Transport Scotland.

(S4O-5273)

Derek Mackay: Transport Scotland is part of the Scottish Government and meetings with ministers occur regularly in the course of normal business.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government on how many of the 309 weekdays between 15 December 2014 and 12 December 2015 rail services on the Far North Line achieved 100% reliability.

(S4W-29164)

Derek Mackay: Of the 309 weekdays between 15 December 2014 and 12 December 2015, 100 percent reliability (that is, no full cancellations, part-cancellations, or incidents where a train failed to stop where it should have stopped) was achieved on 216 days.

Cara Hilton (Dunfermline) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, when awarding the contract for the construction of the bridge, whether it was aware that the steel for the Queensferry Crossing was to be sourced in China.

(S4W-29271)

Keith Brown: Both bidders for the principal contract for the Forth Replacement Crossing indicated that China was one of several possible sources being considered for the supply of steelwork as part of their bid. Once the principal contract was awarded the Scottish Government had no further involvement in the award of subcontracts by the contractor, Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors, but it is aware that no Scottish or UK based steel fabricators bid for the main cable stayed bridge deck fabrication subcontract. A further subcontract for the fabrication of the approach viaducts was awarded to Cleveland Bridge in Darlington, who indicated that they would use UK manufactured steel.

The following questions received holding answers:

S4W-29107

S4W-29174