

Tuesday 26 January 2016

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Communities

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether, following its approach to the Women 50:50 campaign, it has considered setting targets or quotas for representation in elected office and on public boards for other groups with protected characteristics.

(S4W-29307)

**Roseanna Cunningham:** Our ambition to create a fairer Scotland goes hand in hand with our efforts to tackle inequality. We are determined to dismantle the barriers which prevent under-represented groups from participating fully in daily and public life.

Currently, the Scottish Parliament does not have the power to introduce mandatory targets or quotas to achieve increased diversity of political representation in Scotland.

Therefore we are working with representatives from the women's movement – including Women 50:50 – the disability movement, and minority ethnic and LGBTI communities to identify how we can address their under-representation in politics and in public life. An initial meeting took place in November 2015 and a second meeting is scheduled for February 2016.

We have provided funding from the Equality Fund and the Community Empowerment Fund to support disabled people to participate in politics. The Access to Politics for Disabled People project will offer a programme of direct, practical (non-financial) support to disabled candidates standing for any party or as independent in the 2016 election, to prospective candidates for the 2017 local government elections. The project will be run by Inclusion Scotland, on a pilot basis until March 2016.

This builds on previous work commissioned by the Scottish Government (both delivered by Inclusion Scotland) to explore barriers to elected office for disabled people, and how to address them. This included a pilot parliamentary internship scheme which aimed to open up access to politics for disabled people, and increase employability.

The Scottish Government is working in close partnership with Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights to develop a new race equality framework for Scotland, which will set out the government's approach to promoting race equality and tackling racism and inequality between 2016 and 2030.

The framework will set out how the Scottish Government will work in partnership with its agencies and other key stakeholders to address a wide range of opportunities for progress in six key areas of work, including participation and representation. The Scottish Government is considering a specific action to increase diversity of political representation for inclusion in the framework.

### Enterprise and Environment

**Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the comments by Aileen McLeod on 9 June 2015 that “the Cabinet has agreed to embed climate change in this autumn's budget process” (*Official Report*, c. 59) and 27 October 2015 that “we will ensure that climate change is a top priority through a Cabinet agreement to embed it in the autumn budget process”, (*Official Report*, c. 24), which spending commitments in the Draft Budget 2016-17 embed climate change.

**Holding answer issued: 25 January 2016**

(S4W-29235)

**Aileen McLeod:** The Draft Budget 2016-17 embeds climate change within relevant portfolios, including support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable travel, waste reduction and natural carbon capture. The principal spending commitments were published in *Draft Budget 2016-17: Details of funding for climate change mitigation measures*, available on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/climatechange/DraftBudget2016-17>. In addition, as highlighted in the *Infrastructure Investment Plan*, we are making significant multi-million pound investments in new and more energy efficient schools, colleges, health centres and hospitals.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of Scotland is covered by high-definition weather radar; how the coverage in rural areas

compares with the rest of the country, and whether it is increasing the coverage in rural areas to assist in flood prevention measures.

**Holding answer issued: 25 January 2016**

**(S4W-29254)**

**Aileen McLeod:** The whole of Scotland, except for Shetland, is covered by a radar network designed to support weather forecasting. Just over 50 per cent of Scotland is covered by rainfall radar that is capable of monitoring high-intensity rainfall events. The entire weather radar network across the UK is undergoing significant upgrading.

In 2014 the Met Office and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) carried out a study to assess the quality of the radar data across the country and found that the quality of radar data is impacted by several factors including terrain and distance from the radar. SEPA and the Met Office are working with the National Centre for Atmospheric Science to trial the use of a high resolution radar across Moray, Nairn and Inverness. The trial is to assess the potential value of this radar for flood forecasting and warning and runs for six months starting in February 2016.

**Stewart Maxwell (West Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to help Scotland play a leading role in ensuring that the EU birds and habitats directives are implemented better, and what the reason is for its position on this matter.

**Holding answer issued: 25 January 2016**

**(S4W-29255)**

**Aileen McLeod:** Scotland provides the largest component of the UK's contribution to the European Union's Natura 2000 network. The Scottish Government is continuing to participate in the European Commission's "fitness check" of the EU birds and habitats directives, the conclusions of which have yet to be determined. Like the UK Government (as outlined by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Council of the EU Environment Council meeting on 16 December 2015), we do not wish to seek the renegotiation of the directives.

**Alex Salmond (Aberdeenshire East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will seek discussions with the insurance industry to ensure that those people and businesses affected by flood damage receive any payments as soon as possible.

**(S4W-29279)**

**Aileen McLeod:** I have the utmost sympathy for those who have been affected by the recent flooding, having seen for myself in my own constituency the devastation that flood water can wreak. The First Minister and Deputy First Minister have also visited flood affected areas, and we have seen the work that is being done by local authorities, the Scottish Flood Forum and others to help in the aftermath of the floods. Our impression from speaking to householders and businesses is that insurance companies have generally acted promptly and helpfully. It is too soon after the event to determine whether there have been any delays in paying insurance claims, and we are not aware of any concerns that have been raised about insurance payments. However, I would be more than happy to take up any specific concerns with the insurance industry.

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what progress there has been in establishing a management committee for the Sound of Barra Special Area of Conservation; whether the committee is in place, and, if so, (a) what the membership is, (b) what decisions it has made and (c) how much funding it has received.

**(S4W-29286)**

**Aileen McLeod:** There is no management committee in place at present. A local charity, Voluntary Action Barra and Vatersay, was given a grant in 2013-14 and 2014-15 to develop options for a community-led approach to managing the Sound of Barra Special Area of Conservation. A report is currently being finalised and will be published in due course.

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what compensation and support it will provide to farms bordering the River Dee that have been flooded.

(S4W-29333)

**Aileen McLeod:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-29332 on 22 January 2016. 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>.

**Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will announce the new chairperson of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

(S4W-29350)

**Aileen McLeod:** Ministers confirmed formally the appointment of Bob Downes as Chair of the Board of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and of Martin Hill as a board member, on 15 January 2016. Further details are available at <http://www.appointed-for-scotland.org/news>.

#### Health and Social Care

**Alex Salmond (Aberdeenshire East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the number of GPs being recruited in Aberdeenshire East to address the impact of GPs retiring, and what action it is taking to increase the number of medical graduates taking up these posts.

(S4W-29269)

**Shona Robison:** Information regarding GP retirements is not published by Information Services Division Scotland or recorded by NHS boards in a standardised way. NHS Grampian is however actively assisting local GP practices to recruit qualified GPs to replace those who are retiring and are undertaking a number of actions to facilitate improved recruitment. This includes a "career start" scheme which gives newly qualified GPs the chance to work for one to two years in a practice which continues to provide mentoring and training beyond the mandatory three year training scheme, as well as developing a number of opportunities for GPs to develop their careers through a programme of training GPs with special interests. NHS Grampian is also working to deliver more sustainable services by training advanced nurse practitioners, physicians, assistants and pharmacists to assist GPs in managing the clinical workload in practices.

Whilst the number of GP's in NHS Grampian has increased by 9.6% between September 2006 and September 2015, in comparison with the 7.4% Scotland wide increase, the Scottish Government is fully aware that there are ongoing challenges around recruiting and retaining GPs. We are undertaking a number of initiatives that aim to make general practice a more attractive career option; this includes ways to support reducing work load; making returning to GP practice easier; a redesign of how community services are delivered; testing mentor support models and considering how we might improve undergraduate medical teaching to provide increased exposure to working experiences and learning opportunities within primary care.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-28956 by Shona Robison on 6 January 2016, if none of the additional £41.6 million being spent on the procurement of the new IT system is as a result of the system failure in October 2015, (a) what the reason is for the additional expenditure and (b) whether it will provide a breakdown of what the additional money is being spent on.

(S4W-29276)

**Shona Robison:** The delay of the implementation of the Future Programme from the original business case until October 2015 cost an additional £41.6 million which is broken down as follows:

Double running of legacy and new system	£11.7 million
Contract costs	£14.3 million
Implementation costs	£8 million
Scope and re-design costs	£7.6 million

Total additional costs	£41.6 million
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The delay from October 2015 until the summer of 2016 will add a further £7.6 million of costs to the project. The main reasons for this further increase is additional double running costs and the costs associated with preparing for the 2016 re-launch.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-28954 by Shona Robison on 8 January 2016, what the result was of the testing of the new NHS 24 IT system between March and September 2015, and what issues were identified during this.

(S4W-29277)

**Shona Robison:** NHS 24 have confirmed to Scottish Government that the testing programme for implementation of the new IT system in 2015 followed industry standard best practice. NHS 24 confirm that the programme took a phased approach and covered a wide range of phases designed to test system functionality and resilience.

NHS 24 are currently compiling an internal report of what went wrong during the implementation, which will set out lessons learnt and next steps to ensure successful implementation.

**Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve the future training of rehabilitation and habilitation workers.

(S4W-29284)

**Jamie Hepburn:** The Scottish Government's sensory impairment strategy recommends that the Scottish Government should work with the relevant education, training and qualification bodies to explore opportunities to increase awareness and expertise in the area of sensory impairment awareness.

Discussions are ongoing with various agencies and a rehabilitation training course will take place in the spring of 2016 for rehabilitation workers across various local authorities. This training course has been funded using sensory impairment strategy funding.

**Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to establish a statutory professional register for rehabilitation and habilitation workers.

(S4W-29285)

**Jamie Hepburn:** Registered professionals who deliver services relating to the habilitation and rehabilitation of people with sensory impairment are subject to statutory regulation by their own regulatory bodies.

Social service workers in the public, voluntary and private sectors in Scotland must register with the Scottish Social Services Council if they provide care services registered under the categories "care at home", "adult care homes" and "day care of children".

**Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the average waiting time is for people with dementia to receive the one year of post-diagnostic support outlined in the national dementia strategy.

(S4W-29302)

**Jamie Hepburn:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-29301 on 25 January 2016. 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>.

**Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the waiting time is in each NHS board for people with dementia to receive the one year of post-diagnostic support outlined in the national dementia strategy.

**(S4W-29303)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-29301 on 25 January 2016. 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>.

**Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to reports that more than 900 people were detained in 2015 under the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2003 without the consent of a mental health officer.

**(S4W-29359)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** Emergency detention under the 2003 Act is only permissible where it is necessary as a matter of urgency because of a significant risk to the health, safety or welfare of the patient or the safety of others. Medical practitioners are required to seek agreement from a mental health officer unless it is impractical for them to do so, for example where there is immediate, serious or life-threatening danger to the patient and/or others around the patient.

The Scottish Government is concerned by low levels of involvement by mental health officers in some areas. Consent by mental health officers is an important safeguard and it is essential that local authorities ensure they have the appropriate levels of staff in place to meet statutory duties.

As detailed in the answer by the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport to question S4T-01282 on 19 January 2015, the Mental Welfare Commission has been asked to undertake analysis of the reasons why the medical practitioner has reported it was impractical for them to consult a mental health officer. Separately, the Scottish Government's Chief Social Work Adviser has been asked to investigate issues about the shortfall in mental health officers in local authorities with Chief Social Work Officers and I expect him to report back by the end of April 2016.

All answers to topical parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website; the *Official Report* can be viewed at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10317&i=94911>

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what is being done to develop a range of quickly accessible mental health services with health and social care professionals and third sector partners.

**(S4W-29427)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** This £150 million will be used in its entirety to improve mental health services, care professionals and third sector partners playing an important role.

In 2015 I announced investment of £100 million to improve mental health services over the next five years. The Draft Budget 2016-17 provides an additional £50 million, resulting in a total package of £150 million.

On 12 January 2016 the First Minister announced that £54.1million – over one third – of that package will be invested over the next four years to improve access to services for people of all ages, including children and adolescents. £24.7 million will help NHS boards to increase their capacity so they can see more people more quickly; £4.8 million will help boards to re-design existing services and £24.6 million will be invested in new staff and training for existing staff.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what investment is planned to recruit more staff in mental health services.

**(S4W-29429)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** NHS boards and local authorities will invest in staff to ensure an appropriately skilled workforce is in place to deliver efficient and high quality mental health services from the overall funding they receive from the Scottish Government.

We have made available an additional £150 million to 2020 to improve mental health services across Scotland. As part of this funding, we announced a £54.1 million package of support to improve access to mental health services for adults and children. This included £24.6 million to 2020 to support the development of the mental health workforce to enhance supply and training of staff to deliver evidence-based therapies, delivered by NHS Education for Scotland.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to help NHS boards meet their waiting times targets for psychological therapies.

**(S4W-29431)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** NHS boards and local authorities are responsible for working with their partners to provide care, services and support which meets the assessed needs of people living with mental health problems in line with their statutory obligations and Scottish Government policy.

Mental health services are a priority for this government; this priority has been further demonstrated through the additional £150 million funding which has been allocated to improve mental health services over the next five years. The investment in NHS boards is intended to increase capacity to deliver services.

As part of this funding, the First Minister announced a £54.1 million package of support to improve access to mental health services for adults and children on 12 January 2016. This investment includes £24.7 million to improve capacity to see more people more quickly, £4.8 million through Healthcare Improvement Scotland to help redesign local services to be more efficient, effective and sustainable and £24.6 million to improve workforce supply and train existing staff to deliver services for children and young people, as well as psychological therapies for all ages.

The £4.8 million through Healthcare Improvement Scotland will be used to establish a 'Mental Health Access Improvement Support Team' who will provide a comprehensive package of support to work in partnership with boards to improve access to mental health services, including psychological therapies.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what is being done to fund in-work support programmes to support people's mental health work.

**(S4W-29433)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** See Me is Scotland's national campaign to end mental health stigma and discrimination. Scottish Government provides £1 million per year in addition to £0.5 million from Comic Relief to support the See Me programme. See Me Workplace is part of the See Me anti stigma work to support the reduction of stigma and raise awareness in the workplace for people entering and retaining work in Scotland. See Me have recently launched a work programme which takes organisations through four specific steps from commitment and awareness through to practice transformation and becoming a See Me Work Partner. <https://www.seemescotland.org/workplace/see-me-in-work/>.

Fit for Work Scotland (FfWS) is a service recently established on a phased basis from December 2014, funded through the Department for Work and Pensions and delivered in Scotland by the Scottish Government. The service provides support for people in work to remain at work, or return to work following periods of long term sickness absence. It provides assessment and advice for employers and employees around interventions and actions which could facilitate a return to work. This service is not specifically for mental health and wellbeing, but incorporates it (<http://www.FitforWorkScotland.scot>).

Scottish Government provides funding to NHS Health Scotland to deliver the Healthy Working Lives Scotland service. This is a comprehensive service offering advice and support to employers and their employees around health, safety and wellbeing. This is facilitated through advice lines and award

schemes. The award schemes are from bronze to gold and the silver award specifically states the need to "Provide managers and supervisors with training to increase their knowledge and understanding of mental health, wellbeing and stress in the workplace. Ensure managers are aware of their responsibilities in relation to employee support." (<http://www.healthyworkinglives.com/>).

### Learning and Justice

**Cameron Buchanan (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether there are plans to set up specialist services for patients with prescribed drug dependence.

**Holding answer issued: 25 January 2016**

**(S4W-29242)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government recognises the impact on individuals of developing a dependency of this kind, and shares the desire to see them get the help they need to tackle their individual needs. We support Scotland's Alcohol and Drug Partnerships to consider the needs of their local area and to ensure that appropriate health care services are provided to meet the needs of their resident populations.

NHS Scotland published guidance in March 2015 on polypharmacy, providing guidance for all clinicians on the need to review the prescribing of long-term medicines and also the impact of withdrawing medicines such as benzodiazepines and addressing prescribing of antipsychotic medication. However, there are currently no plans to set up specialist services for patients with prescribed drug dependence.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many illegal drug seizures there were in prisons between 1999 and 2015, broken down by drug classification; how many were reported to the police, and how many convictions there were.

**(S4W-29270)**

**Michael Matheson:** I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), to respond. His response is as follows:

"The following table illustrates the number of drug finds recorded each financial year from April 2001; suspected substances recovered are believed to include: heroin, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine and miscellaneous tablets. However, all substances recovered within Scottish prisons are transferred to Police Scotland for further investigation or disposal as appropriate; the SPS are seldom made aware of any outcome. The SPS did not hold incident information prior to this date."

Year	Total Number of Drug Finds
2001-02	1,043
2002-03	1,109
2003-04	1,278
2004-05	1,520
2005-06	1,987
2006-07	1,768
2007-08	1,729
2008-09	1,814
2009-10	1,865
2010-11	2,062
2011-12	1,755
2012-13	1,702
2013-14	1,943
2014-15	1,784
2015-16	1,584

**Alex Rowley (Cowdenbeath) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding how the apprenticeship levy scheme that was announced in the 2015 Autumn Statement will apply to Scotland.

**(S4W-29352)**

**Annabelle Ewing:** The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the rate and scope of the UK apprenticeship levy that will be implemented from April 2017. The rate for the levy will be set at 0.5% of an employer's pay-bill. All employers will receive an allowance of £15,000 meaning that the levy will only be payable on pay-bill in excess of £3,000,000 per annum. It includes all employers in private, public and third sectors and will be collected via PAYE.

As greater clarity emerges from the UK Government on Scotland's share of the levy, we will work with employers and other stakeholders to explore how the introduction of the levy will align with Scotland's successful apprenticeship programme.

### **Transport Scotland**

**Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-29236 by Derek Mackay on 12 January 2016, what action it is taking to support commuters who will be affected by the closure of the high level tunnel at Glasgow Queen Street station.

**(S4W-29283)**

**Derek Mackay:** The ScotRail Alliance and industry partners have worked closely to ensure that rail passengers are supported during the Queen Street High Level tunnel closure.

The ScotRail Alliance has developed a fully coordinated timetable which will ensure that services are maintained and disruption is kept to a minimum during the Queen Street High Level Tunnel closure. This has been facilitated by infrastructure works completed in advance to enable high level services to be diverted to the Low Level station.

Working closely with bus operators and other stakeholders the ScotRail Alliance will also ensure passengers are fully informed of alternative travel choices, including bus and active travel options.

On 12 January 2016, the ScotRail Alliance launched a comprehensive communications campaign to fully inform passengers well in advance about the tunnel work and what it means for them.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether Transport Scotland will provide an update on its (a) summary of current position and (b) technical capability listed in its smart and integrated ticketing delivery strategy.

**(S4W-29314)**

**Derek Mackay:** The Scottish Government remains committed to its vision that all journeys on Scotland's bus, rail, ferry, subway and tram can be made using a single type of smart ticketing. Good progress is being made to deliver this vision, summarised by mode below.

Rail – We have made sure that the new franchise contract requires smart tickets to be rolled out across the whole network, for all types of ticket. ScotRail is delivering a significant programme to make this possible. For example, smart season tickets are to be available across the whole network in spring 2016. By 2018, more than 60% of ScotRail journeys must use smart tickets.

Subway – Smart tickets are already in use on the Glasgow Subway, and shortly it will be possible to use the same type of smart card on both the subway and ScotRail.

Ferries – We have already completed successful user trials. The next Clyde and Hebrides ferry contract will require smart tickets to be available for foot passengers.

Air – In June 2015, Orkney Islands Council introduced the first ITSO smart ticketing product for air travel in the UK permitting 12 free return journeys from either Pappa Westray or North Ronaldsay to Kirkwall Airport, for eligible residents.

Bus – More than 1.3 million smart concessionary travel cards have been issued which can be used across the two hundred and thirty bus operators in Scotland who participate in the free bus concessionary travel scheme.

Building on this investment, the main Scottish bus operators have agreed that they will work to help deliver the vision of compatible smart ticketing across all modes in Scotland with a programme that dovetail's with Scotrail's plans. New inter-operator smart bus ticketing schemes are to be introduced soon in Scotland's major city regions.

Technical capability – ITSO is the ticketing system being used to ensure compatibility between operators and modes. In particular, ITSO version 2.1.4 has been agreed between operators as the appropriate standard. Some operators are also offering various phone based smart ticketing to customers. The potential in future to add contactless “EMV” bank card transactions to the capability of the Scottish system is also being explored.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-24147 by Derek Mackay on 5 February 2015, how much it has paid to each bus company through the (a) national concessionary travel schemes, (b) Bus Investment Fund and the (c) Scottish Green Bus Fund in each of the last five years, and what funding is included in the 2016-17 draft budget, also for the Bus Service Operators Grant.

**(S4W-29315)**

**Derek Mackay:** (a) In terms of the total reimbursement made to bus operators under the concessionary travel schemes, the following payments have been made:

	Older and Disabled Persons Scheme	Young Persons Concessionary Travel Scheme
2010-11	£174,713,261.43	£1,036,774.37
2011-12	£190,476,061.13	£1,241,527.38
2012-13	£197,140,584.76	£1,401,119.86
2013-14	£188,632,026.11	£1,445,770.10
2014-15	£189,355,647.92	£1,272,170.85

Transport Scotland actively publishes monthly details of all items of expenditure of a value of £25,000 or over. This information is available at [www.transportscotland.gov.uk/about-us/expenditure/reports](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/about-us/expenditure/reports).

Releasing detailed concessionary travel reimbursement payment information can in some cases disclose the financial and business viability of individual smaller bus operators which could subsequently be used unfairly by a competitor to its advantage. Taking this into consideration, we are unable to provide the level of detail requested.

(b) No bus company has received any funding directly through the Bus Investment Fund.

(c) In terms of the Scottish Green Bus Fund, a document showing payments to operators for the last five years has been placed in the Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (Bib. number 56719).

In relation to the level of funding included in the 2016-17 draft budget, I can confirm that £207.8 million has been allocated to the concessionary travel schemes, £50 million for the Bus Service Operators Grant with no specific funding having been allocated to the Bus Investment Fund. The Scottish Green Bus Fund comes from the Future Transport Fund (FTF), however the precise amounts available in 2016-17 for the different elements supported by the FTF have not yet been agreed.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much subsidy it has paid to each (a) ferry, (b) rail, (c) subway and (d) tram company in each of the last five years and what funding is included in the 2016-17 draft budget.

**(S4W-29316)**

**Derek Mackay:** The following shows how much subsidy the Scottish Government has paid in each of the last five years and the funding included in the 2016-17 draft budget for ferry, rail, subway and tram services.

(a) Ferry services

The following table provides details of the subsidy support from financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15 together with the latest forecast outturn figures, as at December 2015, for financial year 2015-16. The 2016-17 Draft Budget provides for £156.0 million subsidy in respect of support for ferry services.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (forecast) at December 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CalMac Ferries Ltd	71,640	71,339	89,617	106,105	123,357
Serco Northlink Ferries	42,344	41,253	37,507	35,974	32,075
Argyll Ferries Ltd	2,765	1,573	3,340	3,110	3,378
Argyll and Bute Council	-	-	40	40	40
Shetland Line	522	644	629	67	-
Kerrera Ferry Ltd	-	-	85	72	171
Cowal Ferries Ltd	771	-	-	-	-

(b) Rail

The following table provides details of the subsidy support from financial years 2011-12 to 2014-15 together with the latest forecast outturn figures, as at December 2015, for financial year 2015-16. The 2016-17 Draft Budget provides for £265.9 million subsidy in respect of support for rail services.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (forecast) at December 2015
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
First Scotrail	305,318	452,520	492,216	246,100	-
Serco Caledonian Sleeper	-	-	-	-	20,491
Abellio Scotrail	-	-	-	-	295,127

(c) Subway

The Scottish Government does not provide direct subsidy support for subway funding. The Scottish Government provides capital funding to Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) to deliver its capital programme and to assist with the maintenance of the Glasgow Subway. Since financial year 2011-12, SPT has been expected to use at least £6 million of this capital grant towards the subway modernisation programme each year.

The Scottish Government is also committed to provide up to £246 million in capital funding towards SPT's subway modernisation programme and in 2011-12, SPT was provided with £15 million towards the subway modernisation.

The 2016-17 Draft Budget provides for £20 million capital funding towards SPT's subway modernisation programme.

(d) Trams

The Scottish Government does not provide subsidy funding to any tram company. The Scottish Government did however provide £500 million capital funding contribution to City of Edinburgh Council towards the Edinburgh Tram Project from the date of its commencement to 31 March 2014.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what progress (a) First, (b) Stagecoach, (c) Lothian Buses, (d) McGills and (e) National Express Dundee has reported to Transport Scotland in developing new smart and integrated ticketing.

**(S4W-29317)**

**Derek Mackay:** All bus operators in Scotland accept the National Entitlement Card on a smart basis in order to deliver the Scottish Government's concessionary travel schemes.

Specifically, in conjunction with the Confederation of Passenger Transport, the five major operators (as detailed above) have committed to work to achieve ITSO standard 2.1.4 capable smart ticketing equipment during the course of 2016.

This latest ITSO standard provides the building block that allows integrated smart ticketing on a single card. The five operators listed have committed to a phased roll out of integrated smart ticketing in Scotland's major city regions starting with Aberdeen, followed with Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh.

More details are available in the *National Transport Strategy Refresh* document which was published on 21 January 2016 and there will be further operator specific press releases during 2016.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support it has provided to (a) First, (b) Stagecoach, (c) Lothian Buses, (d) McGills and (e) National Express Dundee for the development of new smart and integrated ticketing.

**(S4W-29318)**

**Derek Mackay:** In order to support smart and integrated ticketing, all Scottish bus operators were provided with ITSO compliant Electronic Ticketing Machines during the initial roll out which was started in 2006 and completed in August 2010. The total cost associated with this roll out was £40.79 million for all operators including First, Stagecoach, Lothian Buses, McGills and National Express Dundee.

In relation to the bus operators listed in the question, Transport Scotland has since provided grant aid funding support to McGill's Bus Service Limited for the Glasgow to Largs (via Greenock) corridor to use upgraded smart ticketing machines. That grant aid funding amounted to £64,368. Transport Scotland is also in the process of providing support to McGills to enable a commercial smart ticketing project. The cost of this is a contribution worth approximately £200 in respect of a supply of smartcards.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much it has (a) committed and (b) spent to develop the saltire card in each of the last five years and what funding is included in the 2016-17 draft budget, broken down by budget line.

**(S4W-29319)**

**Derek Mackay:** The National Entitlement Card (NEC), sometimes referred to as the Saltire Card includes the Young Scot Card and other service brands. The NEC has had the capability of holding smart tickets from its inception.

The following table represents grant figures awarded by the Scottish Government in respect of on-going card management support services:

Year	Grant
2011-12	£1,443,647.00
2012-13	£1,388,600.00
2013-14	£1,388,600.00
2014-15	£1,799,510.00
2015-16	£2,144,500.00

A budget of £2.8 million in 2016-17 is available for the development of the Scottish smart and integrated ticketing system which will make use of the NEC.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the findings are of the annual review of road equivalent tariff fares since 2012.

**(S4W-29320)**

**Derek Mackay:** In 2012, following a review by Transport Scotland, and based on independent contemporary research, the variable element of the road equivalent tariff (RET) car formula, the rate per mile, was updated to £0.80 per mile. A comparable increase was made to the variable element of the RET formula for foot passengers, which was updated to £0.13 per mile. The comparable figures in the original RET formula applied in 2008 were £0.60 per mile for cars and £0.10 per mile for passengers. The fixed elements of the original RET formula, £5.00 for cars and £2.00 for passenger, were not increased in 2012.

Since 2012, Transport Scotland has been annually reviewing the RET formula. There have been no changes made to the RET formula since that date. However, modest increases in line with inflation have been applied to RET fares on an annual basis. On 6 October 2015 I announced a freeze for all ferry fares for 2016-17.

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the maintenance budget has been for each vessel in the CalMac fleet in each year since 2006.

**(S4W-29331)**

**Derek Mackay:** The Scottish Government does not hold this information.