

Wednesday 4 September 2013

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Bob Doris (Glasgow) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the impact on the Scottish economy will be of the recently reported record investment in the North Sea.

(S4O-2338)

John Swinney: Oil and Gas UK expect capital investment in the North Sea to reach an all-time record of £13.5 billion this year.

This will bring a significant boost to the Scottish economy. In 2012, oil and gas production was estimated to have contributed around £22 billion to Scottish GDP and approximately 225,000 people across Scotland are estimated to be employed directly or indirectly in the sector. It is therefore clear that the industry will continue to make an important contribution to the Scottish economy for years to come.

Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the performance of the construction sector over the last 12 months.

(S4O-2339)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government is working hard to support the construction sector by continuing to invest in Scotland's infrastructure, our schools, roads and hospitals. Investment between 2012-13 and 2014-15 will total more than £10 billion. We are also continuing to engage with the sector to ensure we understand the issues they face, with a further construction summit planned to take place in Glasgow on 25 September 2013.

The Scottish Government's quarterly Scottish GDP Index, shows that the construction sector in Scotland contracted by 2.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2013. On an annual basis, comparing the latest quarter with the same quarter of the previous year (2012 Quarter 1), the sector contracted by 6.3 per cent. However, the Scottish Construction Monitor reports a slight rise in confidence in 2013 Quarter 1, compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the debt interest payments of an independent Scotland.

(S4O-2340)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government believes any apportionment of the UK national debt and associated interest payments should take into consideration, the historic balance of expenditures and revenues in Scotland relative to the UK as a whole.

Recent analysis in the *Scotland's Balance Sheet* publication found that over the period 1980-81 to 2011-12 as a whole, Scotland's cumulative net fiscal deficit was equivalent to 5.1% of the UK total, considerably smaller than Scotland's share of the UK population. On this basis, Scotland's historic share of UK debt interest payments in 2011-12 would have been worth around £2.5 billion, compared to total UK debt interest payments of £48.6 billion.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what support it is providing to the owners of the former Kishorn oil yard in Wester Ross to regenerate the facility.

(S4O-2341)

Derek Mackay: Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Kishorn Port Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding in January 2013. HIE has agreed to contribute up to £106,500 towards the cost of Kishorn Port's masterplanning process. Kishorn Port is seeking permission from Highland Council to develop the site as a fabrication and assembly hub for the offshore energy sector.

This is in addition to the previous work HIE has undertaken, which includes a socio economic review and financial assistance towards an assessment of engineering feasibility. HIE has also recently commissioned a shipping and logistics study and a market assessment into the potential of the dry dock.

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many companies in the oil and gas sector have been account-managed by its enterprise agencies in each of the last five years.

Holding answer issued: 23 August 2013

(S4W-16528)

John Swinney: Scottish Enterprise (SE) account-managed 291 oil and gas companies in April 2013. As part of Scotland's oil and gas strategy, SE are aiming to engage with an additional 100 oil and gas companies over the period 2012-15.

The following table shows the breakdown of the number of Scottish Enterprise account managed companies. Until 2012, SE's information recording system was for energy as a whole and it is not possible to assess the oil and gas split before that time.

Date	Oil and Gas
April 2013	291
June 2012	249
April 2011	324*
April 2010	312*
April 2009	231*

Note: *These figures represent total number of energy companies supported, SE did not have a separate classification for oil and gas companies before 2012 and it is therefore not possible to assess the oil and gas split before that time.

HIE does not have a specific oil and gas classification. The numbers in the following table represent the companies HIE has account-managed in each of the last five years which has been assessed as engaging in oil and gas activities but which may generate a proportion of their turnover from other activity:

Financial Year	Number of HIE account-managed companies engaged in oil and gas activities
2008-09	25
2009-10	41
2010-11	51
2011-12	59
2012-13	72

Governance and Communities

John Wilson (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with COSLA regarding the settlement of single status and equal pay claims.

(S4O-2337)

Derek Mackay: We are continuing to monitor the position on the settlement of single status and equal pay claims. This includes obtaining regular updates on the number of outstanding cases.

While the settlement of single status and equal pay claims for local government are matters for individual councils, we are keen to see outstanding claims resolved as soon as possible.

Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what information it will issue to residents of park homes regarding the changes to their rights arising from the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (Amendment of Schedule1) (Scotland) Order 2013.

(S4W-16774)

Margaret Burgess: We have produced a leaflet giving permanent park home residents information about their new and existing rights and responsibilities. This is being distributed to all affected residents and sites for which we have addresses. We are also writing to site owners and local authorities, and have contacted relevant advice organisations to make them aware of the changes. In addition the leaflet is available on the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/9282>.

Mark McDonald (Aberdeen Donside) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it will announce the outcome of its consultation on business rates reform, *Supporting Business - Promoting Growth*.

(S4W-16952)

Derek Mackay: The Scottish Government is committed to making Scotland the most attractive place to do business in Europe and, as part of that, is committed to ensuring the business rates system supports and encourages businesses to set up and prosper in Scotland.

Today the Scottish Government published its response to “*Supporting Business Promoting Growth*”, along with independent analysis of the consultation responses. The reforms outlined in that response will support Scottish businesses through a range of actions, including improving transparency, creating a more consistent approach, more local flexibility and a separate review of the valuation appeals system.

Copies of both the independent analysis and SG response have been placed in SPICe. “*Supporting Business, Promoting Growth*” Scottish Government Response (Bib. number 55189) and “*Supporting Business, Promoting Growth*” Independent Analysis of Consultation responses (Bib number 55190).

Health and Social Care

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many patients have registered with a community pharmacy to use the Minor Ailment Service in each of the last three years, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16625)

Alex Neil: The following table provides data on Minor Ailment Service (MAS) registrations for the last three years broken down by NHS board area:

NHS Board	Registrations		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	73,220	77,083	82,140
NHS Borders	17,851	19,858	20,136
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	20,377	20,723	20,689
NHS Fife	52,340	57,425	58,356
NHS Forth Valley	40,966	42,610	45,086
NHS Grampian	60,953	70,059	77,640
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	212,890	226,236	238,207
NHS Highland	35,045	36,613	39,302
NHS Lanarkshire	100,447	105,986	110,700
NHS Lothian	120,217	125,558	132,192
NHS Orkney	2,110	2,597	2,472
NHS Shetland	1,867	2,311	2,370
NHS Tayside	51,638	56,941	63,330
NHS Western Isles	588	843	776
Scotland Total	790,509	844,843	893,396

Data source: Prescribing Information System, ISD Scotland.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many patients have used the Minor Ailment Service provided by community pharmacists in each of the last three years, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16626)

Alex Neil: The number of people who access the Minor Ailment Service (MAS) is not available centrally, however, the number of treatments provided can be found in the following table.

NHS Board	Treatments		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	165,582	178,095	186,502
NHS Borders	38,068	42,162	47,156
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	37,436	37,232	37,547
NHS Fife	86,238	96,540	108,367
NHS Forth Valley	84,930	89,314	91,246
NHS Grampian	115,350	134,660	150,208
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	517,090	579,074	627,443
NHS Highland	71,650	77,776	83,578
NHS Lanarkshire	237,228	268,530	295,547
NHS Lothian	227,600	250,888	267,728
NHS Orkney	5,546	5,802	6,451
NHS Shetland	4,235	5,883	6,072
NHS Tayside	98,941	113,627	126,040
NHS Western Isles	1,304	2,051	1,675
Scotland Total	1,691,198	1,881,634	2,035,560

Data source: Prescribing Information System, ISD Scotland.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what the cost is of providing the Minor Ailment Service, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16627)

Alex Neil: The following table provides data on the total remuneration and reimbursement costs relating to the Minor Ailment Service (MAS) broken down by NHS board area for 2012-13:

NHS Board	Cost (£s)
	2012-13
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	1,612,123
NHS Borders	437,629
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	464,581
NHS Fife	1,245,004
NHS Forth Valley	1,004,592
NHS Grampian	1,735,082
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	5,041,747
NHS Highland	981,105

NHS Board	Cost (£s)
NHS Lanarkshire	2,249,549
NHS Lothian	2,792,165
NHS Orkney	58,918
NHS Shetland	59,962
NHS Tayside	1,359,239
NHS Western Isles	30,950
Scotland Total	19,072,653

Data source: Prescribing Information System, ISD Scotland.

Note: Total costs comprise the paid gross ingredient cost and capitation payments including adjustments.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much has been spent on promoting the Minor Ailment Service, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16628)

Alex Neil: This information is not held centrally.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many patients have registered with a community pharmacy for the Chronic Medication Service in each of the last three years, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16629)

Alex Neil: The following table provides data on the number of patients who have registered with a community pharmacy for the Chronic Medication Service (CMS) in the last three years, broken down by NHS board area:

NHS Board	CMS Registrations		
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	4,570	7,109	14,773
NHS Borders	989	2,761	2,549
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	1,502	3,088	4,547
NHS Fife	5,609	4,660	9,825
NHS Forth Valley	3,931	4,371	8,101
NHS Grampian	8,059	11,614	14,040
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	16,202	20,111	42,098
NHS Highland	4,432	5,267	7,111
NHS Lanarkshire	7,453	11,409	18,834
NHS Lothian	9,673	11,051	19,624
NHS Orkney	58	267	195
NHS Shetland	75	208	152
NHS Tayside	5,071	8,051	10,258
NHS Western Isles	69	157	232
Scotland Total	67,693	90,124	152,339

Data source: NSS: Practitioner Services Division.

Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much has been spent on promoting the Chronic Medication Service, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16631)

Alex Neil: This information is not held centrally.

Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many stillborn births there were in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13, broken down by NHS board area.

(S4W-16710)

Michael Matheson: Information on stillborn births for 2011, broken down by NHS board area is contained in the *Scottish Perinatal and Infant Mortality and Morbidity Report*, published by NHS Information Services Division (ISD) in March 2013 and available at:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Maternity-and-Births/Publications/2013-03-26/2013-03-26-SPIMMR2011-report.pdf>.

Information on stillborn births during 2011-12, broken down by NHS board area, is contained in *Births in Scottish Hospitals*, published by ISD on 27 August 2013 and available at:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Maternity-and-Births/>.

Information on stillborn births during 2012, broken down by NHS board area, is contained in *2012 Births, Deaths and Other Vital Events - Preliminary Annual Figures*, published by the National Records of Scotland on 14 March 2013 and available at:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/theme/vital-events/general/bmd-preliminary/2012.html>.

Information on stillborn births during 2012-13, broken down by NHS Board area, is not yet available.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to raise awareness of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning

(S4W-16711)

Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government is committed to raising awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide and issues advice to doctors and health professionals to help raise awareness of the risks associated with carbon monoxide, seeking greater vigilance of the signs and symptoms of exposure in their patients.

The Scottish Government will issue health advice for the public to coincide with the onset of winter when fires and central heating boilers are being switched on.

The Scottish Government has also worked with Health Protection Scotland to produce a carbon monoxide factsheet aimed at the general public, available at:

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/enviro/nonhpspublicationsdetail.aspx?id=39585>.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what support is available to people experiencing long-term chronic health problems as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning

(S4W-16712)

Michael Matheson: Exposure to carbon monoxide, a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas can be fatal. Early symptoms and signs are non-specific and can be mistaken for common viral illnesses or food poisoning. Early symptoms include headache, dizziness, lethargy and nausea. Higher level exposures can cause symptoms such as confusion, breathlessness, chest pain, drowsiness, collapse, loss of consciousness and seizures.

People affected by high level exposures are admitted for urgent hospital treatment. Patients who are exposed to low level carbon monoxide are generally managed in primary care, with the exception of pregnant women who are advised to undergo assessment in hospital. In addition, those with pre-

existing cardiac or respiratory conditions, anaemia and children and the elderly may benefit from assessment in hospital.

Clinicians follow best practice professional guidance for the management of carbon monoxide poisoning. Survivors of carbon monoxide poisoning may experience long term chronic symptoms such as balance problems or memory loss. Such patients are referred on for specialist follow up in appropriate clinics. Services for people experiencing long-term chronic health problems that may be a result of carbon monoxide poisoning are managed through existing general medical services, with appropriate treatment guided by best practice.

It is important to re-emphasise the need for prevention of carbon monoxide exposure through raising awareness, advising appliance checks, installing carbon monoxide alarms and ensuring people are removed from the exposure to prevent further harm.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have (a) been affected by and (b) died from carbon monoxide poisoning in each year since 2008.

(S4W-16713)

Michael Matheson: The total number of people that have (a) been affected by carbon monoxide poisoning in each year since 2008 is not available from ISD. The number of emergency hospital admissions in Scotland with "Toxic effect of carbon monoxide" recorded as main or other diagnosis for 2008-11 is provided in Table 1. The data represent admissions and not patients and therefore a patient could be counted more than once if they have had more than one admission in a calendar year.

Table 1. Emergency hospital admissions with "Toxic effect of carbon monoxide" as "Main" or "Other" diagnosis, Scotland, 2008-11:

Calendar Year*	Number of Hospital Admissions
2008	55
2009	34
2010	46
2011	42

Source: ISD Scotland

Note: * data for 2012 not yet available

The number of people that have (b) died from carbon monoxide poisoning is available from the National Records of Scotland:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files2/stats/ve-reftables-2011/ve-ref-tables-2011-section6.xls#6.12!A1.>)

Some cases resulting in death due to carbon monoxide poisoning will have involved a hospital admission. These cases will appear in both the data for admissions in addition to the data for deaths.

Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what GP referral guidelines for melanoma services there are and when these were last updated.

(S4W-16733)

Alex Neil: To support GPs in Scotland to refer patients with suspected cancer as early as possible, the Scottish Government published referral guidance in 2007 *Scottish Executive Health Department Letter (2007) 9: Scottish Referral Guidelines for Suspected Cancer*.

This guidance includes referral for suspected melanoma. In early 2009, the guidelines were shortened into a user-friendly version for quick reference. All GPs across NHS Scotland were sent a copy of this guidance, which is also available on the Scottish Government website:

www.scotland.gov.uk/quickreferenceguide/suspectedcancer

The guidance is currently being refreshed as part of the Detect Cancer Early Programme.

Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on EU rules due to come into force that will impose limits on how long agricultural workers can be exposed to vibrations from tractors.

(S4W-16858)

Michael Matheson: Health and safety regulation is a matter reserved to the UK Government. The Scottish Government believes that while regulation of health and safety should not present an unnecessary burden on Scottish business, protecting the health and safety of workers should remain paramount.

Learning and Justice

Patricia Ferguson (Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it will take to assist employees of Railcare in Springburn who are made redundant.

Holding answer issued: 2 September 2013

(S4W-16584)

John Swinney: When Railcare was placed into administration on 31 July 2013, through our Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE) initiative, we immediately contacted the administrators BDO to offer support for any employees who may be facing redundancy at the Springburn site.

BDO made 33 employees redundant at the Springburn site on 2 August 2013. PACE representatives were on site that morning to offer support to affected employees and all employees being made redundant received information on PACE. 23 employees also took advantage of the offer of a one to one interview with a PACE Adviser.

Unite the Union held a "Railcare Back to Work Forum" on 23 August 2013 which PACE representatives attended to deliver a presentation on PACE support and to provide support to attendees.

We have also offered to deliver PACE presentations and stand ready to provide support to remaining Railcare staff at Springburn in the unfortunate event of any further redundancies being made. We await a response to this offer from BDO.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether funding from the latest round of the CashBack for Communities programme has been fully committed and, if so, when this was announced and how much has been secured since then for the next round of payments.

(S4W-16642)

Kenny MacAskill: All funding available to the CashBack for Communities Programme has been fully committed. No specific announcement has been made.

Due to the way in which the CashBack Programme is funded, it is inherently difficult to forecast when new monies will become available. Money surrendered under the Proceeds of Crime legislation is paid into the Scottish Consolidated Fund on a monthly basis by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Scottish Court Service.

At spring budget review, based on the level of receipts that have been surrendered to the Scottish Consolidated Fund a budget is set to cover Cashback for Communities programme expenditure incurred within that financial year to date, along with a forecast of outstanding payments up to the end of the financial year. The information for the current financial year will be part of the 2013-14 spring budget revision and the relevant document is due for publication in early February 2014. Management is required throughout the year to match commitment made with recoveries.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government until when funding from the latest round of the CashBack for Communities programme is fully committed.

(S4W-16643)

Kenny MacAskill: A financial overview of investment in the CashBack for Communities Programme and future funding commitment to partners in the CashBack for Communities Programme is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/17141/cashback/CashBack-Finance>.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when the most recent criminal assets that funded the latest round of the CashBack for Communities programme were recovered.

(S4W-16644)

Kenny MacAskill: Money surrendered under Proceeds of Crime legislation is paid into the Scottish Consolidated Fund on a monthly basis by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Scottish Court Service.

At spring budget review, based on the level of receipts that have been surrendered to the Scottish Consolidated Fund a budget is set to cover CashBack for Communities programme expenditure to date, along with a forecast of outstanding payments up to the end of the financial year. The information for the current financial year will be part of the 2013-14 spring budget revision and the relevant document is due for publication in early February 2014.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government when the CashBack for Communities programme will next consider applications for funding.

(S4W-16645)

Kenny MacAskill: The Scottish Government allocates available funds to large national partner organisations, which are responsible for running projects across Scotland. All funding currently available to the programme has been committed. As part of this Government's commitment to develop the CashBack for Communities programme we will be discussing future CashBack funding opportunities with partner organisations and others in the autumn.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much has been recovered in Scotland under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and how much of this has been allocated to the CashBack for Communities programme in each year since 2007-08.

(S4W-16647)

Kenny MacAskill: The amount of cash and other assets recovered in Scotland under Proceeds of Crime legislation is available on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal website at: <http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/137-first-ten-years-of-proceeds-of-crime-act-nets-more-than-80-million>.

The CashBack from Communities programme is funded entirely from the proceeds of crime obtained under the Act. A breakdown of the monies invested through the programme is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/17141/cashback/CashBack-Finance>.

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much has been recovered in Scotland under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 following (a) drugs seizures, (b) fraud cases, (c) breaches of fishing quota regulations and (d) the sale of (i) counterfeit or stolen goods and (ii) contraband tobacco, and how much from each has been allocated to the CashBack for Communities programme in year since 2007-08.

(S4W-16648)

Kenny MacAskill: Information on the type of offence which money recovered under the Proceeds of Crime legislation relates to, is not held centrally. Information on the value and offence associated with confiscation orders is available on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service website at: <http://www.copfs.gov.uk/foi/responses-we-have-made-to-foi-requests/467-proceeds-of-crime-act-2002>.

A financial overview of investment in the CashBack for Communities programme is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/17141/cashback/CashBack-Finance>.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many questions there have been in each Higher Mathematics paper in each of the last three years.

(S4W-16657)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the pass mark was for each Higher Mathematics grade in (a) 2012 and (b) 2013.

(S4W-16658)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people marked the 2013 Higher Mathematics papers and when they were hired.

(S4W-16660)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether additional people were hired to ensure that the 2013 Higher Mathematics papers were marked on time.

(S4W-16661)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many times the 2013 Higher Mathematics papers were remarked and how this compares with each of the last three years.

(S4W-16662)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what criteria were used for any changes to the pass mark for the 2013 Higher Mathematics paper compared with 2012.

(S4W-16663)

Kenny MacAskill: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people failed to complete the 2013 Higher Mathematics exam.

(S4W-16664)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the pass mark was for each grade in Advanced Higher Mathematics in (a) 2011, (b) 2012 and (c) 2013.

(S4W-16665)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Institute of Engineering and Technology's comment in relation to the decline in the number of passes in Advanced Higher Mathematics in 2013 that "economic prosperity could be at risk if more students did not successfully complete maths."

(S4W-16666)

Alasdair Allan: The number of passes in Advanced Higher Mathematics actually increased this year from 2,156 in 2012 to 2,303 (pre-appeal figures).

The Scottish Government recognises the importance of science, technologies, engineering and maths (STEM) for the Scottish economy. Learning and skills development relating to STEM is an integral part of Curriculum for Excellence, and we continue to see good uptake of the relevant subjects at secondary, including mathematics qualifications.

Education Scotland has developed a range of resources to support teaching in STEM subjects, and build young people's awareness of careers in the sector and the relevant skills. This includes a range of learning journeys within the STEM Central online resource.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for which Higher grade subjects the pass mark at grades A, B or C were reduced in 2013 and what the reason was for each.

(S4W-16667)

Alasdair Allan: This is a matter for the Scottish Qualifications Authority. I have asked the chief executive to write to you.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the decline in the number of passes in Higher Mathematics in 2013, what its position is on statements suggesting that the 2013 Higher results are the "best ever".

(S4W-16668)

Alasdair Allan: There was a small decline in the number of passes in Higher Mathematics this year. The decline was entirely due to a decline in the pass rate. The Scottish Qualifications Authority advises that minor annual variations in pass rates are normal from year to year. The pass rate across all subjects at Higher reached a record high, making them the best ever overall results.

Transport Scotland

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much the Nice Way Code marketing campaign will cost and what budget this is drawn from.

(S4W-16828)

Keith Brown: Transport Scotland has provided £424,000 to Cycling Scotland to cover the costs of developing and running the Mutual Respect campaign, which features the "Nice Way Code". This funding was allocated as follows:

£260,000 from the Road Safety Framework Budget and £164,000 from the Support for Sustainable and Active Travel Budget.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government what evidence it has that the Nice Way Code campaign will result in behaviour change on Scotland's roads.

(S4W-16829)

Keith Brown: The campaign is based on the success of the "Give Me Cycle Space" campaign which has run for the last three years and complements continued infrastructure investment of £5.6 million for vulnerable road users through Cycling Walking and Safer Streets Funding to local authorities and over £10 million to Sustrans for projects including community links cycle paths. These campaigns are also supported by Police Scotland. It is recognised that such communication campaigns contribute to improved road safety when delivered with infrastructure improvements and enforcement. The ethos of mutual respect amongst road users fits with both the refreshed Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020.

Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party): To ask the Scottish Government how the impact of the Nice Way Code campaign will be evaluated.

(S4W-16830)

Keith Brown: As part of the funding agreement, an independent research study was commissioned by Cycling Scotland to evaluate the effect the Nice Way Code campaign has had on people's attitudes to their fellow road users and about key road behaviours. This will commence shortly, after the campaign has run its course.