

Thursday 12 September 2013

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Crown Office

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people had (a) brain, (b) tissue and (c) other body parts removed after death without the consent or knowledge of their next-of-kin or family in each year since 2007.

(S4W-16723)

**Frank Mulholland:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) deals with the investigation of around 12000 deaths every year and instructs post mortem examinations in respect of some cases.

Since 2007, in six instances nearest relatives were not made aware that organs had been retained for further examination after an initial post mortem examination instructed by the Procurator Fiscal concluded. Of these instances, there was one occurrence in each year of, 2007, 2008, and 2010, there were two occurrences in 2011, and one further occurrence in 2012.

While the consent of the nearest relative is not required to remove or retain organs or tissue from post mortem examinations instructed in the public interest by the Procurator Fiscal, COPFS practice requires that the nearest relative should be made aware of any retention of organs which may be required and consulted regarding their wishes in respect of any further steps once retention is no longer required.

Under section 38 of the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006, tissue samples taken during a post mortem examination become part of the medical records. As such, nearest relatives will not routinely be asked about their preferences for disposal of tissue.

The Scottish Fatalities Investigation Unit (SFIU) was launched in its initial form in September 2010. In April 2012, SFIU assumed national responsibility for matters related to deaths and post mortems, which previously would have been the responsibility of the local Procurator Fiscal offices. Since SFIU has assumed national responsibility for these matters, there have been no instances where families have not been made aware that organs have been retained for further examination after a post mortem examination has concluded.

Additionally, some post-mortems are instructed by the NHS rather than the Procurator Fiscal. Information related to the NHS is not held centrally. Individual health boards may hold the information related to their responsible area.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps the Crown Office is taking to (a) identify and (b) contact the next-of-kin or families of deceased people who have not been given the opportunity to arrange for disposal of (i) brain, (ii) tissue and (iii) other body parts that were removed after the person's death.

(S4W-16724)

**Frank Mulholland:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) deals with the investigation of around 12000 deaths every year and instructs post mortem examinations in respect of some cases.

Under section 38 of the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006, tissue samples taken during a post mortem examination become part of the medical records. As such, nearest relatives will not routinely be asked about their preferences for disposal of tissue.

COPFS has identified six instances in which the nearest relatives were not afforded the opportunity at the time of the retention to express their wishes in respect of any further steps once retention was no longer required. These related to one case in 2007, one case in 2008, one case in 2010, two cases in 2011 and one case in 2012. Arrangements were made to contact these relatives to ascertain their wishes on disposal.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on reports of people having (a) brain, (b) tissue and (c) other body parts removed after death without the consent or knowledge of their next-of-kin or family; whether it considers this to be a failure in procedure and, if so, what (i) the reason was for this and (ii) action it is taking to address it.

**(S4W-16726)**

**Frank Mulholland:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) cannot comment in respect of post mortem examinations carried out at the instance of the NHS or other medical practitioners.

COPFS deals with the investigation of around 12000 deaths every year and instructs post mortem examinations in respect of some cases.

Consent does not need to be obtained in relation to the removal or retention of organs or tissue in respect of post mortems instructed by the Procurator Fiscal, families should be informed about the retention of organs unless they have indicated a wish not to be told, and should be given the opportunity to express their wishes in respect of next steps once retention is no longer required.

It is regrettable that in six such cases since 2007 (one in 2007, one in 2008, one in 2010, two in 2011 and one in 2012), the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service's usual procedures were not followed. The procedures and internal guidance have been reviewed to ensure that they are robust and to further minimise the scope for human error.

COPFS will continue to work closely with mortuaries to regularly reconcile the data held in this respect. This is done in order to ensure that the small number of families who require to be consulted regarding retention of an organ are made aware of the reason for that as soon as there is any organ retention and consulted on the steps they wish to be taken once such retention is no longer required.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many next-of-kin or families have been contacted regarding (a) brain, (b) tissue and (c) other body parts that have been removed from people after death in each of the last 10 years.

**(S4W-16728)**

**Frank Mulholland:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) is unable to provide this information for the last ten years as it is not easily accessible (it would require 10 years worth of case papers relating to criminal and non criminal cases to be examined manually) and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

COPFS can confirm that between 1 January 2013 and 3 September 2013, 41 organs were retained by pathologists after post mortem examinations instructed by the Procurator Fiscal. As at 3 September 2013, only two of these organs remained with pathologists for further investigation. All nearest relatives have been contacted regarding these retentions.

The information about the brain and body parts related to the NHS is not held centrally. Individual health boards may have the information related to their responsible area. Under section 38 of the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006, tissue samples (including blocks and slides) taken during a post mortem examination become part of the medical records and as such, nearest relatives will not routinely be asked about their preferences for disposal of tissue.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the procedure is for informing next-of-kin or families regarding the granting of consent for the removal of (a) brain, (b) tissue and (c) other body parts after death.

**(S4W-16729)**

**Frank Mulholland:** The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) deals with the investigation of around 12000 deaths every year and instructs post mortem examinations in respect of some cases.

Where a post mortem required in the public interest is instructed by the Procurator Fiscal and the pathologist determines that an organ should be retained for further examination after the conclusion of the initial post mortem examination, the Procurator Fiscal will rely upon the pathologist's expertise and

the organ will generally be retained until such time as the organ is no longer required for the purposes of the Procurator Fiscal's investigation. The nearest relative will be advised of the organ retention. The consent of the nearest relative is not required to remove or retain organs or tissue following a post mortem examination instructed by the Procurator Fiscal.

In respect of any organ which may not have been returned, the nearest relative will be made aware of the retention and consulted regarding their wishes in respect of any further steps once retention is no longer required.

In the case of NHS hospital instructed post-mortems, authorisation has to be given before the examination can take place, and authorisation forms should take account of the wishes of the deceased (if known) and where appropriate, the wishes of the next of kin/relatives. The standards for health boards include that the relatives need to be informed immediately after the post-mortem if some organs are unable to be returned before the funeral, and have their wishes taken into account when the examination is complete and the organs are able to be disposed. The standards also include that the relatives and funeral directors are informed if the deceased or their organs taken for diagnosis need to be moved to another hospital. Organs taken for diagnostic purposes can only be retained or additional tissue slides or blocks taken for research if the appropriate authorisation is obtained. Authorisation obtained can be withdrawn at any time.

Under section 38 of the Human Tissue (Scotland) Act 2006, tissue samples taken during a post mortem examination become part of the medical records. As such, nearest relatives will not routinely be asked about their preferences for disposal of tissue.

### **Enterprise and Environment**

**Dennis Robertson (Aberdeenshire West) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the UK Government's programme for privatisation of the Royal Mail will have on blind and visually impaired people in Scotland and their free access to the Articles for the Blind Service, and whether an independent Scotland will uphold the right to free access delivered by a public mail service.

**Holding answer issued: 30 August 2013**

**(S4W-16579)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The provision of free postal services to blind or partially sighted people forms part of the current UK Universal Service Obligation. It is the responsibility of the UK Government to ensure that provision continues to operate under a privatised Royal Mail. We have made a clear commitment that with independence, Scotland will match, as a minimum standard, the Universal Service Obligation inherited from the UK Government, ensuring people across Scotland continue to receive the postal service they expect. Therefore the Articles for the Blind scheme will continue to be available in an independent Scotland.

**Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government when its next trade mission to (a) Japan, (b) Brazil and (c) Russia is planned.

**Holding answer issued: 6 September 2013**

**(S4W-16686)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Trade missions for the Scottish Government are planned and managed by Scottish Development International (SDI). SDI is a partnership between the Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. SDI's next trade mission to Japan is planned for September 2013. SDI's next trade mission to Brazil is planned for March 2014. SDI currently has no trade missions to Russia planned. Please note that these are subject to change or cancellation and SDI may also plan additional missions.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-11225 by Richard Lochhead on 28 November 2012, whether it will provide an update on what (a) discussions it has had and (b) further action it plans.

**Holding answer issued: 10 September 2013**

**(S4W-16708)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government has had recent discussions on the issue of internet pet sales with a variety of our stakeholders, including the Scottish SPCA, OneKind, Dog's Trust, the Kennel Club, Cats Protection and other members of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group.

It is clear from those discussions that there is a need for a better public understanding of the risks involved in purchasing pets online.

We strongly support the work of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group, in particular their minimum standards for online advertising of animals for sale that have recently been launched, and will continue to explore ways to help promote these standards to the public and to advertising websites.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many commercially-reared bumblebee colonies are imported annually and what steps are taken to prevent the spread of any disease from them to wild bumblebees and honeybees.

**(S4W-16743)**

**Richard Lochhead:** Information on the importation of bumblebees into Scotland is not held centrally, however recent changes to recording systems may allow us to gather this information in the future.

All beekeepers, both commercial and hobbyists are encouraged to control and manage their bees effectively through having a good knowledge of biosecurity, hygiene and the ability to recognise disease.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is regarding the use of electronic shock collars on (a) dogs and (b) other animals.

**(S4W-16775)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government is aware of concerns about the use of electronic shock collars on dogs and other animals and will work with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the industry to produce improved guidance on the proper use of these training aids. The misuse of shock collars or any other training aids in a way that causes unnecessary suffering would be an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of Scottish farmed salmon is exported to (a) China and (b) Japan.

**(S4W-16821)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government does not hold the information to answer this question precisely because data on salmon production and on exports are not on an equivalent basis, but we estimate that approximately four per cent of total Scottish farmed salmon production by weight is exported to China from the UK as fresh product and approximately 0.4% of total production by weight is exported to Japan from the UK as fresh product.

Of the total of all fresh Scottish salmon exported from the UK in 2012, 8 per cent of the total by value is to China and just over 1% is to Japan.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the composition is of the management group of the Barra Special Area of Conservation and how it will achieve balanced representation of the communities affected.

**(S4W-16946)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** No decisions have been made regarding the composition of the community-led management group. The establishment of a community led management group is an innovative step and Marine Scotland have therefore commenced discussions with community interests to listen to their views and these discussions will continue until an appropriate structure, that can deliver balanced representation, is developed.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many responses it received to its recent consultation on local air quality management and how many called for a Scottish air quality action plan.

(S4W-17016)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The three month consultation period was due to finish on 6 September 2013 but has been extended to 20 September 2013, following requests from stakeholders for further time. An analysis of responses will be undertaken and published on the Scottish Government website in due course.

### Finance

**Gil Paterson (Clydebank and Milngavie) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it last met representatives of the UK Government.

(S4O-2380)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Ministers and officials meet regularly with representatives from the UK Government to discuss matters of importance to the people of Scotland.

### Governance and Communities

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many households have received support under the energy efficient discount scheme set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, broken down by local authority.

(S4W-16953)

**John Swinney:** Under section 66 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, the Scottish Government has a duty to report to Parliament on the operation and uptake of energy efficiency discount schemes.

The following table has been taken from Annex A in the first annual report, BIB number SG/2012/240, laid in SPICe on 23 November 2012. Relief from Council Tax through Energy Efficiency Discount Schemes:

Scotland – 2011-12:

	Number of properties receiving relief from council tax through energy efficiency discount schemes	Total amount of relief from council tax through energy efficiency discount schemes in 2011-12 (£)	Projection over 25 yrs of CO <sup>2</sup> emission prevented		
			If Virgin loft insulation installed at 720kg/year (kg)	If Loft top up insulation installed at 110 kg/year(kg)	If Cavity wall insulation installed at 550 kg/year (kg)
Scotland	579	29,915	10,422,000	1,592,250	7,961,250
Aberdeen City					
Aberdeenshire					
Angus	5	250	90,000	13,750	68,750
Argyll and Bute	3	195	54,000	8,250	41,250
Clackmannanshire	2	120	36,000	5,500	27,500
Dumfries and Galloway					
Dundee City	1	60	18,000	2,750	13,750
East Ayrshire					
East Dunbartonshire	1	50	18,000	2,750	13,750
East Lothian	35	2,000	630,000	96,250	481,250
East Renfrewshire					
Edinburgh, City of	87	4,525	1,566,000	239,250	1,196,250
Eilean Siar					

	Number of properties receiving relief from council tax through energy efficiency discount schemes	Total amount of relief from council tax through energy efficiency discount schemes in 2011-12(£)	Projection over 25 yrs of CO <sup>2</sup> emission prevented		
			If Virgin loft insulation installed at 720kg/year (kg)	If Loft top up insulation installed at 110 kg/year(kg)	If Cavity wall insulation installed at 550 kg/year (kg)
Falkirk					
Fife	157	8,275	2,826,000	431,750	2,158,750
Glasgow City	10	665	180,000	27,500	137,500
Highland					
Inverclyde					
Midlothian					
Moray	2	100	36,000	5,500	27,500
North Ayrshire					
North Lanarkshire	4	200	72,000	11,000	55,000
Orkney Islands					
Perth and Kinross					
Renfrewshire					
Scottish Borders	150	8,100	2,700,000	412,500	2,062,500
Shetland Islands					
South Ayrshire					
South Lanarkshire	1	75	18,000	2,750	13,750
Stirling	1	50	18,000	2,750	13,750
West Dunbartonshire					
West Lothian	120	5,250	2,160,000	330,000	1,650,000

### Health and Social Care

**John Pentland (Motherwell and Wishaw) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it last reviewed the provision of orthotic treatments for plagiocephaly.

**(S4O-2381)**

**Michael Matheson:** In June 2007, NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland (formerly Quality Improvement Scotland-QIS) published *evidence note No 16 on the use of cranial orthosis treatment for infant deformational plagiocephaly*.

The QIS evidence note showed that there was no evidence that orthotics improved brain, cosmetic or development progress and paediatricians have not recommended any orthotic intervention for several years.

The consensus view from paediatric neurosurgeons in Scotland, is that the use of helmets for the treatment of this condition is not advised or necessary.

**Roderick Campbell (North East Fife) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-01162 by Michael Matheson on 21 June 2012, what further consideration it has given to the introduction of a chickenpox vaccine.

**(S4W-16972)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the independent expert body who advise all UK Health Departments on immunisation issues has considered this issue a number of times, most recently in 2010.

The JCVI did not recommend the introduction of a universal vaccination programme for children at that time.

The JCVI advised at that time that the recommendation would be kept under review in light of emerging data on herpes zoster epidemiology. This recommendation does not override the previous advice on the use of varicella vaccine in children as outlined in *Varicella: the green book chapter*, which recommends the use of chickenpox vaccine in certain individuals, namely, non-immune healthcare workers/laboratory workers, and healthy susceptible close household contacts of immunocompromised patients.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase awareness of men's health issues, and what specific programmes there are in (a) Aberdeen and (b) NHS Grampian.

**(S4W-16975)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government recognises the importance of raising awareness of health issues amongst men and is committed to providing the best possible advice and support through NHS Scotland.

Through the Keep Well programme men and women aged 40-64 living in the most deprived areas of Scotland are offered a free health check. Through the check awareness is raised on the prevention and treatment of conditions such as high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol. The check presents an opportunity for people to be referred onto support services such as smoking cessation and weight management classes. Over 180,000 Keep Well health checks have been delivered across Scotland so far (between March 2009 and end June 2012).

It is up to each individual NHS board to provide tailored services to meet the needs of their local population. NHS Grampian offer programmes of work such as Detect Cancer Early and the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening programme which help to tackle health issues amongst men. A weekly sexual health and HIV medicine clinic for males only is run to encourage easier access to services. In Aberdeenshire, health and wellbeing is the key focus of the Mensheds programme across the region.

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of eligible women has been screened for cervical cancer in each of the last 10 years, also broken down by (a) NHS board and (b) age group.

**(S4W-16994)**

**Michael Matheson:** Eligible women are invited to attend cervical screening once every three years and by convention uptake rates are reported on the previous 3.5 years. The latest figures on the percentage of eligible women who have been screened for cervical cancer in each of the last 10 years broken down by (a) NHS board and (b) age group are available on ISD's Cervical Screening Annual Uptake Data webpage at:

[https://isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2013-08-27/Annual\\_uptake\\_data.xls](https://isdscotland.scot.nhs.uk/Health-Topics/Cancer/Publications/2013-08-27/Annual_uptake_data.xls)

#### **Learning and Justice**

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) average and (b) maximum time was between incident and trial, and how many specialist sheriffs were involved with cases, at the dedicated domestic violence court in (i) Glasgow and (ii) Edinburgh in each of the last 10 years.

**(S4W-16719)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government does not hold the information you request. You might wish to contact ASSIST (Advocacy, Support, Safety, Information Services Together) who in Glasgow, support victims from the point of contact. Notwithstanding the information sought is not available, the Chief Executive of the Scottish Court Service (SCS) has advised that some of the information may be available on the allocation of sheriffs and timeline from the point of case registration in court. If this information would be of assistance you may wish to contact SCS directly.

Domestic abuse is completely unacceptable and has no place in a modern Scotland. Supporting victims of such a traumatic crime requires help from the point they make contact with the police, through the courts and beyond. This network of support is available throughout the country. Additional

advocacy support is provided in Glasgow where, unfortunately, there is a high density of domestic abuse cases.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it has given to (a) Narcotics and (b) Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in prisons in each of the last five years and what information it has on how many (i) meetings have been held and (ii) prisoners attended, broken down by prison.

**(S4W-16730)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** I have asked Colin McConnell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

The Scottish Prison Service provides facilities for prisoner meetings of both Narcotics and Alcohol Anonymous when requested by both organisations and when it is practicable to do so.

The Scottish Prison Service does not routinely collect information on how many meetings are held or how many prisoners attend. We have, however, asked each establishment for information on when Narcotics and Alcohol Anonymous meetings are currently held on a regular basis and they have advised as follows:

Establishment	Narcotics Anonymous	Alcoholics Anonymous
Aberdeen	Yes (Weekly)	No
Barlinnie	Yes (Every 2 weeks)	Yes (3 times per week)
Castle Huntly	No	Yes (Weekly)
Cornton Vale	No	Yes (Weekly)
Dumfries	No	Yes (Ad Hoc)
Edinburgh	No	Yes (Twice weekly)
Glenochil	No	Yes (Ad Hoc)
Greenock	No	Yes (3 times per week)
Inverness	No	Yes (Twice weekly)
Low Moss	Yes (Every 2 weeks)	Yes (Every 2 weeks)
Perth	No	Yes (Weekly)
Peterhead	No	No
Polmont	No	Yes (Weekly)
Shotts	No	Yes (Twice weekly)

**Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many Higher Photography candidates there were in each year since 2010.

**(S4W-16744)**

**Alasdair Allan:** The number of Photography candidates has increased steadily since 2010. The following table provides Photography candidate figures from 2010-13:

Photography Higher	2010*	2011	2012	2013
Candidates	947	1,153	1,495	1,729

The Higher Photography course changed its title in 2011 from Higher Photography in the Media to Higher Photography.

Note: \*Photography in the Media qualification.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government (a) how many people were employed by and (b) what the backlog of cases was for police forensic services in each of the last five years.

**(S4W-16745)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government does not collect this information centrally. However, the Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services has provided the following details:

Year @	Forensic Services total staff in post (FTE)	Forensic Services caseload
March 2009	530	4359
March 2010	548	3429
March 2011	517	3807
March 2012	431	3981
March 2013	472	3436

The figures detail caseload from the following disciplines within forensic services, biology, chemistry, general chemistry, drugs, fingerprints, toxicology, firearms, documents and handwriting and relate to cases received by the forensic services which at the end of the financial year were either being examined or were awaiting examination.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services (a) can and (b) does carry out work that has originated from the rest of the UK.

**(S4W-16746)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services has the ability to, and where appropriate does, provide services to other agencies. However their primary focus is to provide the Police Service of Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner with a forensic service.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the effectiveness of the Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services and what information it has on Police Scotland's view on this matter.

**(S4W-16747)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Forensic services are a critical part of the fight against crime in Scotland. The Scottish Government values the hard work and dedication of the forensic service and welcomes the recent advances in technology and other innovations which enable the service to function with even greater efficiency. The state-of-the-art laboratory in Dundee is one of the best in the world and the forthcoming move to the Scottish Crime Campus at Gartcosh will enhance the service even further.

Police Scotland's view is a matter for the Chief Constable.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the police performance measurements were for (a) driving while on a mobile phone, (b) not wearing a seatbelt, (c) dangerous driving, (d) stop and search and (e) drink driving in each of the last five years, also broken down by region.

**(S4W-16748)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Performance measurements on these offences and tactics are not held centrally by the Scottish Government; such performance measurements were instead a matter for the legacy police forces and are now a matter for Police Scotland.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people have been stopped by police for (a) driving while using a mobile phone, (b) not wearing a seatbelt, (c) dangerous driving and (d) drink driving in (i) April, (ii) May, (iii) June, (iv) July and (v) August (A) 2012 and (B) 2013, broken down by region.

**(S4W-16749)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Data on the number of people stopped by the police is not held centrally.

Recorded crime data is based on an aggregated count of the numbers of crimes and offences recorded, and cleared up, by the police in Scotland. It is not possible to provide figures by the calendar

month in which the crimes and offences were recorded. Figures are therefore provided for the financial year periods 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The following tables are based on selected crimes and offences recorded by the police in Scotland, by legacy police force area in i) 2011-12 and ii) 2012-13.

i) Selected Crimes and offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2011-12:

	Dangerous driving offences	Drunk Driving etc. <sup>1</sup>	Seat belt offences	Mobile Phone offences	Causing death by dangerous driving	Death by careless driving while unfit through drink/drugs
Central	148	434	1,649	1,172	1	0
Dumfries and Galloway	119	199	919	669	0	0
Fife	86	515	1,922	911	1	0
Grampian	341	882	1,111	1,175	2	0
Lothian and Borders	243	1,163	3,696	4,070	1	0
Northern	219	559	803	691	5	0
Strathclyde	1,149	3,170	21,357	20,012	5	0
Tayside	117	523	1,264	1,113	0	0
Scotland	2,422	7,445	32,721	29,813	15	0

1. This group includes offences where a vehicle was driven under the influence of drink/drugs. It is not possible to separate out those where alcohol was involved.

Source: Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government

ii) Selected Crimes and offences recorded by the police, Scotland, 2012-13:

	Dangerous driving offences	Drunk Driving etc. <sup>1</sup>	Seat belt offences	Mobile Phone offences	Causing death by dangerous driving	Death by careless driving while unfit through drink/drugs
Central	171	380	1,013	822	1	0
Dumfries and Galloway	107	179	806	756	0	0
Fife	114	420	1,546	932	0	0
Grampian	258	751	704	952	1	0
Lothian and Borders	237	951	2,906	2,951	1	2
Northern	194	530	740	582	1	0
Strathclyde	1,271	2,762	24,925	23,189	5	0
Tayside	124	460	1,069	1,173	0	0
Scotland	2,476	6,433	33,709	31,357	9	2

1. This group includes offences where a vehicle was driven under the influence of drink/drugs. It is not possible to separate out those where alcohol was involved.

Source: Justice Analytical Services, Scottish Government

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many stop and searches were carried out by police in (a) April, (b) May, (c) June, (d) July and (e) August (i) 2012 and (ii) 2013 and how many recovered (A) alcohol, (B) drugs and (C) knives.

**(S4W-16750)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** This is a matter for the Police Service of Scotland. The information requested is not held centrally.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what role the so-called Star Chamber plays in Police Scotland's analysis of the performance of divisional commands.

(S4W-16753)

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Star Chamber process has been introduced by Police Scotland. The Chief Constable leads this process which involves senior members of Police Scotland and its aim is to regularly review and assess where savings and efficiencies can be made. This process has no role in analysing the performance of divisional commands.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the budget was for police forensic services in each of the last five years.

(S4W-16754)

**Kenny MacAskill:** The budget from Scottish Government for police forensic services, up to and including 2012-13, was included within the overall allocation made to the Scottish Police Services Agency (SPSA). The annual expenditure by the SPSA on police forensics services for years 2008-09 to 2011-12 is included within each published annual report and accounts for the SPSA. The SPSA annual report and accounts for 2012-13 is due to be published in the autumn of 2013.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many stop and searches were carried out by police in each of the last five years and how many recovered (a) alcohol, (b) drugs and (c) knives.

(S4W-16755)

**Kenny MacAskill:** This is a matter for the Police Service of Scotland. The information requested is not held centrally.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many police support staff there were in (a) each local division, (b) the Scottish Police Services Authority and (c) Police Scotland on 31 July 2013.

(S4W-16756)

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government does not hold data on police support staff by each local division, or hold breakdowns between police support staff employed by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) and Police Scotland. This is matter for Police Scotland and the SPA.

The Scottish Government continues to collect the total number of police support staff working within the SPA and Police Scotland each quarter but do not hold numbers as at 31 July 2013. The latest total number of police support staff, as at 30 June 2013, is available in the HR Paper presented to the 21 August 2013 SPA board meeting, available at:

<http://www.spa.police.uk/meetings-events/board-meetings/178259/>

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether school leavers who have been offered (a) higher and (b) further education places in 2013-14 are eligible for training opportunities through the Employability Fund before commencing their studies and, if so, whether the training providers can subsequently claim progression payments when the courses start.

(S4W-16780)

**Angela Constance:** Access to the Employability Fund is subject to an individual satisfying specific eligibility criteria. Referral organisations are responsible for undertaking an assessment of the needs of the individual to ensure that entry to the Employability Fund is appropriate and that support is provided at the correct stage of the strategic skills pipeline. In instances where it is known that an individual intends to take up a place of further or higher education, this would not fit with the eligibility criteria, spirit or agreed referral arrangements of the Employability Fund. Skills Development Scotland will investigate any allegations of misuse of the fund.

**Mark McDonald (Aberdeen Donside) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it provides to local authorities regarding the provision of support for parents with learning difficulties.

**(S4W-16792)**

**Aileen Campbell:** In 2009, the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability funded by the Scottish Government published the *Scottish Good Practice Guidelines for Supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities*. The good practice guidance assists social work practitioners to provide the information, arrangements and supports that parents with learning disabilities need to raise their children.

*The keys to life*, the new learning disability strategy in Scotland recommends that by 2014 parents with learning disabilities should have access to local supported parenting services based on the principles of supported parenting and that the *Scottish Good Practice Guidelines for Supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities* are being followed by professionals working with parents with learning disabilities, to ensure better outcomes for families.

**Mark McDonald (Aberdeen Donside) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether local authorities should seek the views of looked-after children regarding their ongoing care.

**(S4W-16793)**

**Aileen Campbell:** The Scottish Government is clear that children and young people should have their views listened to and should be involved in decisions that affect them.

The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009 state that local authorities must seek and take into account the views of a child to be, or being, looked after by them. They must also consult with the child before preparing and when reviewing the child's plan.

The Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2003 place a duty on local authorities to seek and take into account the views and wishes of young people leaving care, to determine what advice, assistance and support is needed.

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what recent assessment it has made of the road safety education provided by the police.

**(S4W-16982)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The police in Scotland operate independently of ministers and road safety is an operational matter for the Chief Constable and the Scottish Police Authority. However, I am aware that review of Police Road Safety Education was carried out in 2011 for the Scottish Policing Board as part of the Sustainable Policing Project.

**Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many police (a) visits to schools and (b) road safety education events there have been in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority.

**(S4W-16983)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government does not hold this information.

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the production or development of chemical incapacitants for policing purposes.

**(S4W-16990)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** We have not held any discussions on this issue with the UK Government. Chemical incapacitants such as CS spray are classed as prohibited weapons by virtue of section 5(1)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968. The majority of firearms legislation remains reserved to Westminster.

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many modern apprenticeships it is supporting in the renewable energy and low-carbon sector.

**(S4W-16995)**

**Angela Constance:** There are a number of modern apprenticeship frameworks relevant to the renewable energy and low carbon sector in Scotland. As at the 28 June 2013 there were 8,299 modern apprentices (MAs) being supported in engineering and related frameworks. Included in this is the wind turbine operation and maintenance framework, which is currently the only one relevant solely to renewable energy, and 37 MAs are being supported through this framework.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will consult on its proposals to introduce legislative reforms to end automatic early release for certain categories of offender at stage 2 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill.

**(S4W-16996)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The First Minister announced to parliament on 3 September 2013 in the Programme for Government statement that the Scottish Government will bring forward legislative provisions to end automatic early release for serious offenders. The announcement followed discussion with the Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Parole Board officials.

The Scottish Government will engage with other key stakeholders, including victims' organisations, over the coming months to discuss how the provisions will operate in practice before the legislative provisions are brought forward for consideration by parliament as part of stage 2 consideration of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill.

**Graeme Pearson (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to introduce price competitive tendering in the provision of legal aid.

**(S4W-16997)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** We have asked the Scottish Legal Aid Board to look at options for contracting for criminal legal assistance as set out in the paper *A Sustainable Future for Legal Aid*.

The board has been discussing this issue with the legal profession over the summer and I expect to receive proposals from the board in the near future.

### **Transport Scotland**

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its plans for improvements to Argyll Ferries.

**(S4W-16795)**

**Keith Brown:** The Scottish Government's objective is that there shall be a safe, reliable, frequent, commuter ferry service between Dunoon town centre and the rail terminal at Gourock.

Short term measures to improve the reliability of the current service over the coming winter are being investigated. We are working with the Gourock Dunoon Ferry Services Steering Group, which has representation from Argyll and Bute Council, Inverclyde Council and the Dunoon Gourock Ferry Action Group, to find long-term solutions for the town centre route.

Following the publication of the report into the feasibility of vehicles being carried on the route without subsidy, this government will engage with potential operators and with the European Commission, who maintain a keen interest in ensuring we continue to work within the parameters they have set. The Scottish Government will then be in a position to consider the way forward in the longer term and looks forward to further discussions with the Gourock Dunoon Ferry Services Steering Group.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) total investment was and (b) funding sources were for trunk road cycling facilities in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13.

**(S4W-16929)**

**Keith Brown:** Scottish Ministers take full account of cycling needs during investment in major trunk road projects. Although precise figures cannot be provided, the major trunk road projects together with an estimate of the value of any associated cycle infrastructure, are as follows:

(a) 2010-11:

A9 Moy 2+1 Scheme; £0.03 million

A75 Cairntop to Barlae; £0.12 million

(b) 2011-12:

M80 Stepps to Haggs; £0.03 million;

A9 Crubenmore Extension; £0.19 million

(c) 2012-13:

A96 Fochabers to Mosstodloch; £1.25 million

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the main trunk road cycling projects were in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12 and (c) 2012-13 and how much the projects cost.

**(S4W-16930)**

**Keith Brown:** Scottish Ministers take full account of cycling needs during investment in the trunk road network. For example, £2.7 million was invested on cycling facilities on the A828 between Oban and Fort William over four financial years, 2008-12.

Whilst precise figures for cycling provision within major projects cannot be provided, as the costs are included in the overall scheme costs, the major trunk road projects together with an estimate of the value of any associated cycle infrastructure, are as follows:

(a) 2010-11:

A9 Moy 2+1 Scheme; £0.03 million

A75 Cairntop to Barlae; £0.12 million

(b) 2011-12:

M80 Stepps to Haggs; £0.03 million;

A9 Crubenmore Extension; £0.19 million

(c) 2012-13:

A96 Fochabers to Mosstodloch; £1.25 million