

Friday 13 September 2013

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Governance and Communities

**Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on the average reduction in income per (a) household and (b) person in Scotland as a result of the UK Government's welfare reforms.

(S4W-16924)

**Margaret Burgess:** The Scottish Government will publish indicative case studies of the financial impacts of welfare reform on example households shortly.

**Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to tackle evictions resulting from non-payment of the so-called bedroom tax.

(S4W-16926)

**Margaret Burgess:** I refer the member to the answer to questions S4W-12541 on 25 February 2013, S4W-13016 on 5 March 2013, S4O-01947 on 21 March 2013, S4W-14223 on 08 May 2013 and Bedroom Tax (Emergency Legislation) on 27 March 2013 and Bedroom Tax (Emergency Legislation) on 27 March 2013. All answers to parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website. The search facility for written questions can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

The search for oral questions can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/OfficialReport.aspx>

The emergency question can be found at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7893&mode=html#job\\_71862](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=7893&mode=html#job_71862).

**Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) the UK Government and (b) COSLA regarding the implementation of universal credit.

(S4W-16927)

**Margaret Burgess:** Scottish Government Ministers have regular discussions with UK Government Ministers about implementation of the various welfare reforms including the implementation of universal credit. Scottish Government officials are working with COSLA officials to influence the implementation plans for Scotland and develop local support services.

*The Joint Statement* published by the Scottish Government and COSLA on 20 November 2012 established a regular joint political meeting between Scottish Government Ministers and council leaders to jointly oversee a coordinated programme of work. Senior COSLA and Scottish Government officials meet regularly to monitor progress and report to ministers and council leaders.

### Learning and Justice

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) whole-time equivalent and (b) headcount places were available in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects at each college in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13.

(S4W-16933)

**Michael Russell:** The latest data on students in colleges in Scotland are Scottish Funding Council data for 2011-12. Data for 2012-13 will be published in January 2014.

Table 1 contains student numbers expressed as headcount and full-time equivalent (FTE).

Table 1 – Number of students studying on STEM courses at colleges in Scotland, 2011-12

College	Headcount	FTE
Aberdeen College	3,572	2,312
Adam Smith College	4,575	1,522
Angus College	1,669	524
Anniesland College	1,206	649
Ayr College	1,090	577
Banff and Buchan College of Further Education	3,157	827
Barony College	12	0*
Borders College	389	119
Cardonald College	1,358	717
Carnegie College	1,887	1,054
Clydebank College	1,586	569
Coatbridge College	622	423
Cumbernauld College	735	416
Dumfries and Galloway College	1,251	415
Dundee College	2,070	1,139
Edinburgh's Telford College	789	627
Elmwood College	247	23
Forth Valley College	2,502	1,507
Glasgow Metropolitan	3,048	1,943
Inverness College	963	476
James Watt College of Further & Higher Education	2,457	1,341
Jewel and Esk College	1,483	826
John Wheatley College	5,918	471
Kilmarnock College	1,057	502
Langside College	1,019	628
Lews Castle College	371	93
Moray College	819	293
Motherwell College	2,693	1,547
North Glasgow College	539	446
North Highland College	1,135	241
Oatridge College	26	0*
Orkney College	131	27
Perth College	898	343
Reid Kerr College	3,358	931
Shetland College of Further Education	648	90
South Lanarkshire College	184	71
Stevenson College Edinburgh	1,416	825
Stow College	1,427	893
West Lothian College	718	409
Total	59,025	25,819

Source: Scottish Funding Council

Notes: \* at some specialist colleges, general STEM subjects are not part of the core range of subject areas. However, these colleges do offer specialist courses in subjects which are classified as STEM

(e.g. welding). Such courses are often very short in duration. For some colleges in the table above this gives rise to a relatively small headcount and a FTE of less than 0.5 which is rounded to 0.

STEM courses include superclass groups:  
 C - Information Technology and Information  
 R - Science and Mathematics  
 X - Engineering

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) drink and (b) dangerous driving convictions there have been in the Grampian region in each of the last five years.

(S4W-16979)

**Kenny MacAskill:** Statistics relating to persons convicted for drink/drug driving and dangerous driving in the Grampian police force area, in each of the last five years, are available in table 4a of the additional data to the Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2011-12 statistical bulletin. This is available via the following web link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/Datasets/DatasetsCrimProc/procpfa1112>

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) academic, (b) non-academic managerial and (c) other non-academic staff were employed in each (i) college and (ii) university in (A) Aberdeen and (B) Aberdeenshire in each of the last five years.

(S4W-16981)

**Michael Russell:** Information on the number of staff employed in colleges is held by the Scottish Funding Council. For colleges the latest information available is for 2010-11. It is not possible to provide the staff breakdown requested. Tables 1 and 2 contains a headcount and full time equivalent information for, teaching and non-teaching staff at Aberdeen and Banff and Buchan College.

Table 1: Aberdeen College: headcount and full-time equivalent staff employed by staff group:

	Staff Group	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Headcount	Teaching	551	561	581	524	487
Headcount	Non-Teaching	428	409	360	369	309
Full-time equivalents	Teaching	251	249	256	246	244
Full-time equivalents	Non-Teaching	320	320	274	275	246

Source: Scottish Funding Council

Table 2: Banff and Buchan College: headcount and full-time equivalent staff employed by staff group:

	Staff Group	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Headcount	Teaching	271	262	274	288	271
Headcount	Non-Teaching	187	186	171	133	131
Full-time equivalents	Teaching	134	145	150	157	152
Full-time equivalents	Non-Teaching	102	109	90	86	86

Source: Scottish Funding Council

For universities the number of academic and non-academic staff is published on Higher Education Statistics Agency web site. It is not possible to provide the staff breakdowns you requested:

[http://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/option,com\\_datatables/Itemid,121/task,show\\_category/catdex,2/#inst\\_level\\_staff](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/component/option,com_datatables/Itemid,121/task,show_category/catdex,2/#inst_level_staff)

### Strategy and External Affairs

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many meetings ministers have had with representatives of Commonwealth nations in each year since 2007 and, in light of the assertion in *Scotland's International Framework* that it "will have ongoing dialogue with states at Ministerial and official level, raising human rights where appropriate in a diplomatic and

culturally sensitive fashion”, at which meetings were the rights of LGBT people in these countries discussed, broken down by country.

(S4W-16768)

**Humza Yousaf:** The Scottish Government publishes information on ministerial engagements which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/People/14944/Events-Engagements/MinisterialEngagements>

The International Framework was indeed updated in October 2012 to include our commitment to raising human rights where appropriate. In meetings which ministers have had with representatives of commonwealth partners since, we have always sought to promote the values that underpin public life in Scotland. Commonwealth countries will be in no doubt about these values when we welcome them to Scotland next year for the Commonwealth Games.

You will also be aware of the Charter of the Commonwealth and that there was some disappointment at the lack of specific reference to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the charter. I wrote to the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Culture, Media and Sport in April 2013 to make this point, whilst also recognising my hope that the charter will prove a useful tool to reduce all forms of discrimination across the Commonwealth, including LGBT discrimination.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many visits ministers have made to Commonwealth nations in each year since 2007 and, in light of the assertion in *Scotland's International Framework* that “...Scotland has a strong and enduring commitment to securing democracy, the rule of law and fundamental human rights across the world. We would expect all states to comply with international and human rights law, and condemn human rights abuses wherever they occur”, on which visits it held meetings with groups that represent LGBT people, broken down by country.

(S4W-16770)

**Humza Yousaf:** Scottish Government Ministerial visits overseas are published on the Scottish Government's website and you can access those by using the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/People/14944/travel/visitoverseas>

No meetings took place during these visits with groups that exclusively represent LGBT people. However, during a visit to Malawi in 2010 Fiona Hyslop, the then Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, raised human rights issues and met with charities working on raising HIV awareness, especially among the gay community.

You will be aware of the Charter of the Commonwealth and that there was some disappointment at the lack of specific reference to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the charter. I wrote to the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Culture, Media and Sport in April 2013 to make this point, whilst also recognising my hope that the charter will prove a useful tool to reduce all forms of discrimination across the Commonwealth, including LGBT discrimination.

We are fully committed to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in Scotland and across the world. The Scottish Government works very closely with a wide range of partners to promote equality of opportunity and inclusion, including the four national LGBT organisations: Equality Network, LGBT Youth Scotland, the Scottish Transgender Alliance and Stonewall Scotland. The Scottish Government has provided funding of over £2.3 million between 2012-15 to LGBT organisations to take forward LGBT equality work.

Ministers have always sought to promote the values that underpin public life in Scotland when travelling overseas. Commonwealth countries will be in no doubt about those values when we welcome them to Scotland next year for the Commonwealth Games.

### Transport Scotland

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what role Transport Scotland had in drawing up the 15-year financial projection for the Edinburgh tram project that was published by City of Edinburgh Council on 16 August 2013.

(S4W-16763)

**Keith Brown:** This is the responsibility of the City of Edinburgh Council. Transport Scotland was not involved in the drawing up of the 15-year financial projection for the Edinburgh tram project.

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the Edinburgh tram project should continue to have a positive benefit-to-cost ratio.

**(S4W-16764)**

**Keith Brown:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-16765 on 13 September 2013. All answers to written 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>

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of it being one of the conditions that it set in order to provide funding for it, how it will monitor the benefit-to-cost ratio of the Edinburgh tram project.

**(S4W-16765)**

**Keith Brown:** The benefit-to-cost ratio was used as a conditions precedent for the approval of the Scottish Government grant. In order to qualify for the grant funding the business case had to demonstrate a benefit-to-cost ratio of greater than one. This conditions precedent was fulfilled.

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) will continue to monitor the performance of the tram system set out in the operating agreements between CEC and Edinburgh trams to ensure the benefits of the project are realised to the optimum level.

**Marco Biagi (Edinburgh Central) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what role Transport Scotland will have with the operation of the proposed Transport for Edinburgh arms-length company

**(S4W-16766)**

**Keith Brown MSP:** The new arms-length company will be wholly owned by the City of Edinburgh Council and Transport Scotland will have no direct involvement in its operation. Transport Scotland will however work with it as it carries out its functions on behalf of the council, as it already does with the council itself and with Lothian Buses.

**Kenneth Gibson (Cunninghame North) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the publication of a recent report by the Institute of Economic Affairs suggesting that the High Speed Rail 2 network from London to Birmingham and Manchester could cost £80 billion, what benefits it expects that this investment will bring to Scotland's (a) people and (b) economy and what estimate it has made of what share of the cost will be met by Scotland's taxpayers.

**(S4W-16767)**

**Keith Brown:** We are aware of the claims of the Institute of Economic Affairs, although the UK Government's position remains that the budget for High Speed 2 is still at £42.6 billion, including a contingency fund of some £14 billion.

By any measure, High Speed 2 will require significant expenditure. However, it remains unclear how the project as currently reported will deliver benefit to Scotland, either in terms of rail capacity and journey time improvements, or in terms of economic benefit.

High Speed 2 will extend from London to Birmingham and then to Manchester and Leeds. However, like London Crossrail, the scheme is to be funded from taxpayers from across all areas of the UK. For all to benefit, it is our view that the line must extend further. That is why the Scottish Government is working with the UK Government to establish a joint study on options for high speed rail northwards to Scotland.

The Scottish Government is also investigating options for the development of high speed lines in Scotland, as an early contribution to a UK network.