

Thursday 19 September 2013

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise and Environment

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the findings of the report by the universities of Bristol and Lincoln, *Studies to assess the effect of pet training aids, specifically remote static pulse systems, on the welfare of domestic dogs.*

**Holding answer issued: 17 September 2013**

**(S4W-16776)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government has carefully considered this research. Although the research found some adverse effects in some dogs studied, as previously indicated in the answer to question S4W-11777 on 18 December 2012, it did not provide adequate evidence of long-term or significant damage to the welfare of dogs that would justify a ban on these training aids.

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that e-collars are used responsibly, so will co-operate with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to draw up guidance regarding how e-collars should be used.

All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

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

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on the percentage of Scottish salmon farming production that is controlled by (a) Scottish, (b) UK and (c) Norwegian-owned companies.

**(S4W-16820)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government does not record this information but industry sources (Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation) suggest that Norwegian-owned companies are responsible for around 66 per cent of farmed salmon production in Scotland.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when and under what circumstances it is considered necessary to slaughter healthy cattle due to irregularities in, or non-availability of, cattle passports.

**(S4W-16826)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government is required to ensure EU Law, which places responsibilities for cattle identification and tracing on all keepers, is met. This is vital in terms of disease control and public health. The British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) administer the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) on behalf of Ministers in Scotland, England and Wales.

There are various circumstances which mean an animal may be considered for destruction if its identification and traceability cannot be proved, which could be in relation to passport issues. BCMS deal with these on a case by case basis with input from a number of professional bodies. Where a cattle keeper cannot prove an animal's identity then the animal may be destroyed after a thorough assessment of the animal health and food safety risks posed by allowing the animal to live. However, in most cases animals will be registered on CTS and restricted to holding. These animals can be bred from but are not allowed to enter the food chain.

To date there have been no cases that have required the Scottish Government to authorise the compulsory destruction of cattle in Scotland.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to promote food recycling.

**(S4W-17006)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government is taking action on a number of fronts.

Our waste regulations, approved by the Scottish Parliament last year, include measures that will ensure most households in Scotland receive a food waste collection by the end of 2015. All businesses producing significant quantities of food waste, except those in rural areas, will also need to present that waste separately for collection by the end of 2015.

Through Zero Waste Scotland we are providing significant additional funding to local authorities to support the roll-out of household food waste collections. As a direct result of this support around 1.2 million households will have access to a food waste collection service by February 2014. We have also provided around £7 million to help expand the network of anaerobic digestion and composting facilities across Scotland. This has led to a three-fold increase in processing capacity since 2008.

Early next year we will launch a national campaign to promote household food waste collections and encourage uptake of this new service. This campaign will build on our 2012 food waste prevention campaign.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what role food recycling will play in its zero waste strategy.

**(S4W-17007)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The capture and recycling of food waste from both households and businesses is key to achieving our 2025 recycling target for all waste. Historically, most of the food waste produced in Scotland was sent to landfill where it breaks down producing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The measures introduced last year in our waste regulations will ensure that this is no longer the case.

Instead, collected food waste will now be sent for processing at anaerobic digestion or composting facilities allowing us to not only reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions but also produce outputs that can be used in agricultural applications. Where food waste is processed in anaerobic digestion plants we can also produce energy, thereby contributing to our renewable energy targets.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding it has allocated to the promotion of food recycling initiatives in each year since 2007.

**(S4W-17008)**

**Richard Lochhead:** To promote the recycling of food waste we have provided additional funding for a number of initiatives.

In 2011 Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) launched its Food Waste Support Programme. This runs through to 2014-15 and will see councils receive in the region of £20 million of additional support to help with the roll-out of household food waste collection and recycling services.

In 2012 the Scottish Government ran a national food waste prevention campaign. The cost of this was £0.58 million.

From 2007-08 to 2010-11 we provided funding of £3.49 million for home composting initiatives. From 2011-12, home composting initiatives have been funded under ZWS's food waste programme. Breakdown as follows:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
£0.51 million	£1.80 million	Nil	£1.18 million

Since 2007-08 we have provided around £7 million to support the development of anaerobic digestion and composting facilities, thereby helping the growth of this sector in Scotland. Breakdown is as follows:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
£0.53 million	£0.38 million	£1.431 million	£4.091 million	Nil	£0.81 million

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its (a) current and (b) planned spend is on food recycling initiatives.

**(S4W-17009)**

**Richard Lochhead:** Under the Food Waste Support Programme, delivered by Zero Waste Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, we have allocated £5 million for the 2013-14 financial year. A further £5 million has been allocated for 2014-15 for food waste recycling initiatives.

Early next year we will run a national campaign to promote household food waste collections and encourage uptake of this new service. This campaign is expected to cost around £0.6 million.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what dialogue it has had with local authorities on food recycling initiatives in each year since 2007.

**(S4W-17010)**

**Richard Lochhead:** There has been extensive dialogue with both COSLA and individual local authorities on food waste initiatives and on the development of our wider waste policy. This engagement continues both directly and through Zero Waste Scotland.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has set targets for an increase in food waste recycling.

**(S4W-17011)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government has a target to recycle at least 70% of Scotland's waste by 2025. No specific target for food waste has been set, but the capture and recycling of food waste is recognised as being key to the achievement of our 70% target.

The measures included in the waste regulations, approved by Parliament last year, will ensure that the majority of food waste produced by businesses and households in Scotland is captured for recycling.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what role it considers food recycling can play in the rural economy.

**(S4W-17012)**

**Richard Lochhead:** Food waste recycling in rural areas has a number of roles to play and can bring significant benefits.

Local community composting groups for example can bring a number of benefits including much needed employment opportunities and enhanced community cohesion. Community composting also ensures that there are local outlets for compostable wastes with the end products also used locally in gardens, parks and small scale agricultural type holdings.

Food waste recycling in rural areas may provide business opportunities for private sector service providers looking to offer a collection service to rural businesses with the material collected being processed in either local anaerobic digestion (AD) or composting facilities. Where food waste is processed in AD facilities there will be scope to produce energy that can be utilised locally to the benefit of the community.

Local solutions for food waste also have the potential to reduce costs as it removes the need to transport food waste, as part of the mixed waste stream, over long distances for processing elsewhere.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it is considering trials of recording sheep and goat movements by the Scottish livestock traceability research team (ScotEID) and, if so, for what reason.

**(S4W-17039)**

**Richard Lochhead:** It was agreed at the joint Scottish Government/Industry Group meeting on 2 July 2013 to complete the sheep and goat part of the ScotEID database system. This will involve a stepped and controlled move across from the Scottish Animal Movement System which was set up in 2002 to the new ScotEID database system which became operational during 2010.

It will allow all sheep and goat movement reporting to be recorded on a single system which is visible to the keeper, movements can be recorded and reported in real-time, at individual animal identity level, leading to improved traceability in the event of a disease outbreak.

The ScotEID system will enable keepers to report and record movements electronically as well as via paper, operate an online holding register, view all their movement data and if necessary refine any anomalies in their movement data.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what (a) will happen to staff in the Scottish Animal Movement Unit and (b) safeguards will be put in place if monitoring of sheep and goat movements is transferred to the Scottish livestock traceability research team (ScotEID).

**(S4W-17040)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The staff within the Scottish Animal Movement Unit will record sheep and goat movements on the ScotEID database system in the same way they currently enter them on the Scottish Animal Movement System.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the status is of the Scottish livestock traceability research team (ScotEID).

**(S4W-17042)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The team are part of the ScotEID research project which is governed by the joint Scottish Government/Industry Working Group, whose aim is to deliver workable and practical solutions for the implementation of EU legislation on the identification and traceability of livestock in Scotland.

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answers to questions S4W-03974, S4W-10157 and S4W-11225 by Richard Lochhead on 21 November 2011, 12 November 2012 and 28 November 2012 respectively, whether it plans to introduce secondary legislation under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 regarding the (a) sale of pets, including internet sales, (b) use of animal sanctuaries, (c) use of wild animals in circuses, (d) regulation of equine establishments, (e) use of electronic shock collars for dog training and (f) breeding and sale of dogs and, if so what the timetable is.

**(S4W-17063)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government met with stakeholders on 22 March 2013 to discuss the sale of pets, including internet sales, and we are currently considering what further action might be taken.

A consultation regarding a possible ban on the use of wild animals in circuses has been drafted; we are currently awaiting clarification of the legal position of any ban before issuing. An informal survey on the matter of equine establishments was carried out in 2012. A number of options are currently under consideration.

The latest Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs funded research into the effect of electronic shock collars found no evidence of long-term or significant harm to dog welfare. Based on this evidence the Scottish Government do not believe that there are sufficient grounds for a ban.

**Christine Grahame (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Pet Advertising Advisory Group's suggested minimum standards for classified websites that advertise the sale of pet animals, and

whether it considers that introducing these would improve animal welfare standards among online advertisers and protect people from acquiring sick, dangerous or illegal animals.

**(S4W-17064)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government recognises that the sale of pets online is a growing animal welfare concern. We have met with stakeholders to discuss the issue of pet vending, including online pet sales. It is clear from those discussions that there is a need for a better public understanding of the risks involved in purchasing pets via the internet.

We therefore support the work of the Pet Advertising Advisory Group and fully endorse their recently launched minimum standards for the online advertisement of companion animals. Widespread uptake could have a significant positive impact on both animal welfare and customer satisfaction. We will endeavour wherever possible, to promote these standards to the general public and to advertising websites.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will legislate to make the use of CCTV mandatory in abattoirs for animal welfare purposes.

**(S4W-17079)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government position on CCTV is currently under review. Legislating to make the use of CCTV mandatory in abattoirs is one of a range of possible options being considered.

CCTV is already installed in many abattoirs voluntarily and welfare at slaughter in abattoirs is monitored by Food Services Agency Official Veterinarians. Before taking any action with regard to CCTV we would need to be satisfied that it would be a proportionate and effective additional measure to improve animal welfare. We are continuing to collect information from a number of sources. Once a clear picture has been reached, we will decide what further action is appropriate.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will issue a statutory code under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 to regulate the voluntary use of CCTV in abattoirs for animal welfare purposes.

**(S4W-17080)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government position on CCTV is currently under review. The issuing of a statutory code to regulate the voluntary use of CCTV in abattoirs is one of a range of possible options being considered.

CCTV is already installed in many abattoirs voluntarily and welfare at slaughter in abattoirs is monitored by Food Services Agency Official Veterinarians. Before taking any action with regard to CCTV we would need to be satisfied that it would be a proportionate and effective additional measure to improve animal welfare. We are continuing to collect information from a number of sources. Once a clear picture has been reached, we will decide what further action is appropriate.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will issue guidance on the voluntary use of CCTV in abattoirs for animal welfare purposes.

**(S4W-17081)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government position on CCTV is currently under review. The issuing of guidance on the voluntary use of CCTV in abattoirs is one of a range of possible options being considered.

CCTV is already installed in many abattoirs voluntarily and welfare at slaughter in abattoirs is monitored by Food Services Agency Official Veterinarians. Before taking any action with regard to CCTV we would need to be satisfied that it would be a proportionate and effective additional measure to improve animal welfare. We are continuing to collect information from a number of sources. Once a clear picture has been reached, we will decide what further action is appropriate.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on the Scottish economy, whether it will participate in the second round of talks on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in Brussels in October 2013.

**(S4W-17176)**

**John Swinney:** The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) taking place on 7 to 11 October 2013, is negotiated by EU Commission through the EU Trade Policy. The EU Commission has sole power to negotiate on behalf of all member states through close co-operation with the Foreign Affairs (Trade) Council and European Parliament.

The Scottish Government is maintaining close contact with the negotiations and ensuring that our views are fed into the UK Government Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which leads the UK input into the council. The European Trade Commissioner, Karel De Gucht will be briefing an audience of business leaders about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership at Gleneagles on 23 September prior to the second round of talks. The First Minister will meet the commissioner to discuss the TTIP and will take part in the briefing, emphasising the importance to Scotland of this deal.

EU Commission provide various reports on their website detailing the current position with the trade negotiations between EU and US which can be found at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>.

### **Finance**

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-16040 by Nicola Sturgeon on 6 August 2013, whether the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have won public procurement contracts from Scotland Excel in the last year is consistent with the Scottish Government's stated objective to assist SMEs.

**(S4W-17051)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Scotland Excel is independent of the Scottish Government. It was established by local government following the 2006 McClelland Report to act as the Centre of Procurement Expertise for the sector. Scotland Excel participates in Scotland's Public Procurement Reform Programme and work actively towards its common goals including improving suppliers access to public contracts.

Reporting from data held on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) does not enable us to provide information on an organisation or sector specific basis, but does provide information for all public sector bodies using PCS. Of the businesses winning contracts through PCS last calendar year: 82% were registered as SMEs; 80% were registered with a Scottish address and 68% were registered as being both Scottish and SMEs.

**Alison Johnstone (Lothian) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-16040 by Nicola Sturgeon on 6 August 2013, whether the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have won contracts from Scotland Excel for supplying educational goods in the last year is in line with the Scottish Government's stated objective to assist SMEs.

**(S4W-17052)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Scotland Excel is independent of Scottish Government. It was established by local government following the *2006 McClelland Report* to act as the Centre of Procurement Expertise for the sector.

Figures for contracts from Scotland Excel for supplying educational goods in the last year are not available from Scottish Government systems. Details of contracts let by Scotland Excel can be found on their [website](#).

Scotland Excel participates in Scotland's Public Procurement Reform Programme and actively work towards its common goals including improving suppliers access to public contracts.

**Jackson Carlaw (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the running costs for each of its directorates were in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13 and have been since April 2013.

**(S4W-17053)**

**John Swinney:** The running costs by Director General charged to the Scottish Government's administration budget for the financial years 2011-12 (April 2011 to March 2012) and 2012-13 (April 2012 to March 2013), and from April 2013 to July 2013 are set out in the following table:

Director General	Financial Year 2011-12 £000	Financial Year 2012-13 £000	Spend from April 2013 to end July 2013 £000
Enterprise, Environment and Digital	20,988	21,031	7,039
Finance	23,796	23,834	5,079
Governance and Communities	102,358	89,427	27,110
Health and Social Care	24,924	24,790	8,078
Learning and Justice	23,677	22,046	6,295
Strategy and External Affairs	23,739	23,238	7,505
Total	219,482	204,366	61,106

Notes:

1. Structural changes that have taken place over the period affect any year on year comparison.
2. Expenditure up to end July 2013 reflects provisional outturn.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the A801 River Avon gorge crossing is to be part-funded through Falkirk Council's £67 million tax incremental financing scheme.

**(S4W-17087)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Falkirk and West Lothian Councils are responsible for the delivery of the A801 Avon Gorge upgrade.

The Scottish Government has approved a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) business case from Falkirk Council. The business case envisages a £6.67 million contribution from the TIF towards the A801 Avon Gorge upgrade, with further contributions assumed from West Lothian Council and the Scottish Government.

The business case notes that in due course a review will be required to confirm that the upgrade is viable to commence. Any potential allocation of funding to this project by the Scottish Government will be determined by its fit with other ministerial priorities and the availability of resources in future spending reviews.

**Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it includes the local authority contribution to non-profit distributing or other privately financed projects when calculating the 5% cap on its revenue-funded investment programme.

**(S4W-17140)**

**John Swinney:** Annex A of the Draft Budget 2014-15 sets out how the Scottish Government is monitoring the long term investment commitments to manage within 5% of our expected future annual total DEL budget. As stated there, the assessment includes only those elements that impact on Scottish Government budgets, not those met from other public bodies' own resources. For local authority contracts, where the costs are shared between the Scottish Government and local authorities, only the Scottish Government share is included.

### Governance and Communities

**Sandra White (Glasgow Kelvin) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish the proposed National Planning Framework 3.

(S4O-02410)

**Derek Mackay:** The proposed framework will be published and laid in the Scottish Parliament by early 2014.

### Health and Social Care

**Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to warn parents and carers of the danger from children swallowing laundry or dishwasher tablets.

(S4O-02397)

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government provides funding to the Royal Society of the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) to promote and raise awareness of home safety issues across Scotland, including poisonings as a consequence of ingesting the contents of the laundry and dish washing products.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde with support from RoSPA has recently launched an initiative called "Not for play...keep them away". This is raising awareness to families in the Glasgow area with a three or four month old child in an effort to curb liquid poisonings. As part of the campaign, free cupboard locks are also being provided, which should help to make sure that laundry and dishwasher tablets are kept away from children.

It must be recognised however, that cupboard catches are child resistant, not child-proof so there is still a need for ongoing awareness and vigilance. Any accident is one too many and the Scottish Government will continue to work closely with RoSPA to promote home safety. I will instruct my officials to seek feedback on how this campaign is received and to continue to consider what more can be done on a national basis to support this issue.

**Gil Paterson (Clydebank and Milngavie) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the implications are of the proposals in the Draft Budget 2014-15 for the resource budget of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

(S4O-02398)

**Alex Neil:** It is planned to provide NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde with a resource funding uplift of 2.7 per cent in 2014-15, which represents 0.8 per cent in real terms.

In 2014-15 we are planning to adjust NHS boards baselines in respect of the Adult and Social Care Change fund, For NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde this has the presentational effect of reducing the headline uplift from 2.7 per cent to 2.6 per cent. It is also worth noting that the £842 million investment on the new South Glasgow Hospitals Project remains on time and on budget.

**Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the changes to the treatment room suite in Hamilton, what action it is taking to review the patient experience.

(S4O-02399)

**Alex Neil:** The operation of the treatment room suite in Hamilton is a matter for NHS Lanarkshire. We expect all NHS boards to regularly and rigorously review their service provision and to ensure that they are safe and sustainable and that patients are receiving the best quality healthcare. A patient experience survey into the treatment room service in Douglas Street, Hamilton, was carried out by the board in July 2013. The vast majority of the feedback received from patients was positive, with 98.5% of responses being either wholly or partly favourable.

Similar patient experience surveys have been undertaken by NHS Lanarkshire in the other treatment room areas. The board advises that the patient experience survey, which includes waiting times, attendance and access forms part of an ongoing review process, and will be repeated in the future.

**Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it gives to NHS Highland to assist the delivery of services in island communities.



(S4O-02400)

**Alex Neil:** NHS boards, including NHS Highland, receive annual allocations based on the National Resource Allocation Committee or NRAC formula, which takes account of remoteness and rurality. Within this funding allocation, it is for NHS Highland to plan and provide services to meet the needs of the communities it serves.

Additionally, the Minister for Public Health recently announced £1.5 million of funding for the launch of pilots by NHS Highland to develop and test new models of delivering sustainable healthcare in remote and rural areas, including island communities.

**Chic Brodie (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its investment in support of grassroots football, what recent discussions it has had with the football authorities regarding clubs being owned on a cooperative basis.

(S4O-02401)

**Shona Robison:** The Scottish Government continues to fund Supporters Direct Scotland, an organisation who works with the football authorities and supporters trusts to develop a community fans based ownership model.

Supporters Direct Scotland are actively supporting fans group including the foundation of Hearts and Dunfermline fans. Pars United secure a sustainable ownership model by providing expert advice and support.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the recommendation at paragraph 28 of the Review of *NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community in Scotland*, which stated “We believe that an important part of the relationship with patients is to ensure that their privacy and confidentiality is safeguarded, and that pharmacy owners should actively consider how this can be achieved in their premises.”

(S4W-16800)

**Alex Neil:** I am pleased to announce that the Scottish Government has published today its vision and work programme for NHS pharmaceutical care for the next 10 years in the document, *Prescription for Excellence: A Vision and Action Plan for the right pharmaceutical care through integrated partnerships and innovation*. A copy can be obtained from the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/09/3025>.

The vast majority of community pharmacies have a private consultation area and we actively encourage all pharmacy owners to strive to ensure that patients' privacy is a priority. This has been supported in the past through Scottish Government investment. The Vision and Action Plan published today will seek to develop new and innovative models of pharmaceutical care through NHS board pharmaceutical care services planning, underpinned with local needs assessment, driving a new approach to the provision of pharmaceutical care and the range of premises from which they are provided.

All pharmacy premises should already comply with *General Pharmaceutical Council Standards for registered pharmacies*, and in particular Standard 3.2, which requires that pharmacy premises protect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of patients and the public who receive pharmacy services. This is reinforced in NHSScotland planning guidelines for *Community Pharmacy Premises in Scotland* (Health Facilities Scotland, Scottish Health Planning Note 36, 2007).

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether, in light of the view expressed at paragraph 49 of the Review of *NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community in Scotland*, it will instigate an immediate moratorium on new community pharmacy licenses where there are existing dispensing practices.

(S4W-16801)

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government has today set out its vision and programme of work for NHS pharmaceutical care for the next 10 years in the document, *Prescription for Excellence: A Vision and*

*Action Plan for the right pharmaceutical care through integrated partnerships and innovation*. A copy can be obtained from the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/09/3025>.

The vision and action plan acknowledge that in some parts of rural Scotland where patients are unable to secure the dispensing services of a community pharmacy, the dispensing GP practice service plays a vital role in the provision of NHS medicines.

As the process for considering applications for new community pharmacies is laid down in legislation, it cannot be suspended without parliament making changes to that legislation. However, the vision and action plan published today contains a firm Scottish Government commitment to work with patients, dispensing doctors and appropriate stakeholders to explore how rural communities can be further supported in the delivery of pharmaceutical care.

As a first step towards meeting this commitment, I have decided to review immediately the relevant regulatory frameworks, and will consult with key stakeholders to bring forward amended legislation that best meets the needs of those rural communities. I will report on the outcome of this work and timetable for legislative amendments in due course.

The outcome of the longer term work, also announced in the action plan today, to explore new powers that will underpin NHS board pharmaceutical care services planning, will be crucial in driving new and innovative models of pharmaceutical care across all communities in Scotland.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when the review of the Scottish community pharmacy contract will be published.

**(S4W-16806)**

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government has not commissioned or undertaken a review of community pharmacy contract arrangements in Scotland.

I am, however, pleased to announce that the Scottish Government has published today our vision and work programme for NHS pharmaceutical care for the next 10 years in the document, *Prescription for Excellence: A Vision and Action Plan for the right pharmaceutical care through integrated partnerships and innovation*. A copy can be obtained from the Scottish Government website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/09/3025>.

The vision and action plan covers a wide range of issues and associated actions relating to NHS pharmaceutical care and will consider options to introduce new statutory powers to take forward NHS board pharmaceutical care services planning. This would be underpinned by local needs assessment to enhance local healthcare planning taking into account, for example, equitable access to services in deprived and remote and rural areas, as well as specific public health needs. It will also drive new and innovative models of pharmaceutical care, and service frameworks which prevent perverse incentives.

**Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding has been provided to the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and initiatives sponsored by the SFA in each year since May 2007.

**(S4W-16839)**

**Shona Robison:** sportscotland has provided significant funding for the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and initiatives sponsored by the SFA in each of the last five years to support the implementation of the sport's development plan. The level of investment is an operational matter and I have asked the Chief Executive of sportscotland to provide the detailed information requested.

The SFA has also been awarded the following direct funding from the Scottish Government to deliver a wide range of football opportunities as part of the Cashback for Communities programme:

2008-09 - £0.618 million  
2009-10 - £1.002 million  
2010-11 - £0.816 million  
2011-12 - £0.738 million  
2012-13 - £0.761 million

In addition to direct support to the SFA, Scottish football will benefit from £12.5 million of cashback for communities funding between 2008-09 and 2014. This will deliver a range of free football activities for young people and see the development of high quality 3G football facilities to benefit communities across Scotland, allowing people to access excellent quality facilities all year round.

The Scottish Government is also providing £25 million to deliver a new National Performance Centre for Sport, which will provide state of the art training and coaching facilities to support the high performance needs of sport in Scotland, with football at its heart. Heriot-Watt University and the City of Edinburgh Council was recently announced as the preferred bidder, and this fantastic new facility will be operational by 2016.

### **Learning and Justice**

**Roderick Campbell (North East Fife) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it plans to introduce a statutory aggravation to make it easier to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking.

**(S4W-16908)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The legislative provisions for a statutory aggravation are contained within the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, which was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2013.

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with Police Scotland regarding the use of the powers available under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and what information it has regarding how many people have been detained since 2010 at Scotland's airports under this legislation; how many were subsequently (a) charged and (b) convicted, and what the charges were.

**(S4W-16991)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** National security, including the powers available under the Terrorism Act 2000, is a reserved matter and a matter for the Home Office. The Scottish Government has engaged with both the police and local communities regarding the use of the powers available under Schedule 7 in Scottish airports and will continue to do so when concerns are raised with us.

The Scottish Government does not hold information on the number of people detained at Scottish airports, or any subsequent charges or convictions. You may wish to know that the Home Office released the annual statistics on the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 covering the period to 31 March 2013 on 12 September 2013.

This release includes the total number of people stopped under Schedule 7 in the UK and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-2012-to-2013>. The figures are not reported regionally.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what rights members of a child's extended family have in relation to concerns about the child's welfare.

**(S4W-17021)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government recognises and appreciates the role that the wider family can play in children's lives. The position on rights depends on the precise concerns the extended family have about the child's welfare.

Under section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, a person with an interest in a child, including a family member, may apply to the courts for parental responsibilities and rights in respect of a child and for court orders on matters such as residence or contact with the child. When considering whether or not to make an order under section 11, the court must regard the welfare of the child as its paramount consideration.

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill, currently before the parliament, makes provision for additional support to be provided, by the local authority, to family members and others who apply for certain types of orders under section 11 of the 1995 Act.

We would urge anyone, including family members, who may have child protection concerns to raise these with the police or with social work departments.

Any person, including a family member, who has concerns about a child's welfare has the right to make a referral to the children's reporter.

Under the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, where members of a child's extended family have relevant person status, or deemed relevant person status, they are entitled to participate fully in any hearing held for the child. They also have a right of appeal where they disagree with the hearing's decision, and the right to ask for any order made to be reviewed after three months.

Additionally, a person who does not have relevant person status may be invited, at the discretion of the panel, to participate in a hearing.

Finally, section 126 of the 2011 Act also provides certain rights of participation at specified review hearings for individuals who are not relevant persons but who have rights of contact with the child under a contact or permanence order.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the most recent *Police Officer Quarterly Strength Statistics Scotland* does not provide a regional breakdown of the number of serving officers; who decided not to provide this, and whether this information will be included in the next edition.

**(S4W-17024)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** *The Police Officer Quarterly Strength Statistics Scotland* publication is used to report the government's on-going commitment to provide 1,000 additional police officers nationally. Prior to 1 April 2013, data were collected from each of the legacy forces and that breakdown published. Since 1 April 2013 data are collected from a national police service which employs all police officers and the national figure will be reported in future *Police Officer Quarterly Strength Statistics Scotland* publications.

The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for the Chief Constable of Police Scotland. Police Scotland is currently completing work to standardise data and HR systems across the former eight forces. Although this means that a further geographical breakdown of police officers is not available at this time, Police Scotland is currently developing this.

**Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides or is considering to assist students with the cost of travel at peak times.

**(S4W-17065)**

**Michael Russell:** The Scottish Funding Council's rules for further education student support allow eligibility for travel allowance when a student lives more than two miles from the college he/she attends. This allowance is dependent upon the student's personal circumstances.

Eligible students studying higher education level courses are awarded travel assistance as part of the overall higher education student support package, administered by the Students Awards Agency for Scotland.

**Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what powers it has to prevent adverts that might be considered offensive, misleading or liable to incite racial hatred being placed in public buildings.

**(S4W-17082)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** Under the Public Order Act 1986 and other legislation, it is a criminal offence for a person to display written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting if he or she intends thereby to stir up racial hatred or if, having regard to all the circumstances, racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby. Investigation of these issues is a matter for Police Scotland.

## Strategy and External Affairs

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether legislation that contains a requirement to meet the public interest specifies the matters to be considered in order to do so.

(S4W-16859)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** In relation to most exemptions used under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and all exceptions under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004, information can only be withheld if, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in disclosing the information is not outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption or exception.

This legislation does not specify the matters to be considered in carrying out the public interest test as the public interest arguments in favour of and against release of information will vary significantly depending on the specific information requested. If an applicant does not agree with the way in which the public interest test has been applied by a public authority they have a right to seek an internal review and then, if they are still not happy, to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that it complies with a requirement to meet the public interest when the matters to be considered in doing so are not laid out in the relevant legislation.

(S4W-16860)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The Scottish Government provides guidance for its staff on applying the public interest test in relation to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004. This is available on pages 44 and 45 at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00427777.pdf>.

Staff are also directed to the Scottish Information Commissioner's guidance for public authorities on how to apply the public interest test in relation to different exemptions and exceptions which is available at:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Law/FOISA-EIRsGuidance/Briefings.aspx>.

## Transport Scotland

**Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the disposal of land at 55 Clark Street, Paisley was subject to Crichel Down rules.

(S4O-02411)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The land at 57 Clark Street, Paisley was subject to the Crichel Down rules. Having been acquired from a company that was subsequently dissolved, it could not be offered back to the original owner in terms of those rules. It was disposed of on the open market, having regard to guidance set down in the *Scottish Public Finance Manual*.

*The following questions received holding answer:*

S4W-16809

S4W-16811

S4W-16812

S4W-16813