

Friday 20 September 2013

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Crown Office

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many reports alleging domestic assault to injury were received by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in (a) 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13, also broken down by the number of cases (i) prosecuted on indictment, (ii) prosecuted on complaint, (iii) made subject to a direct measure as an alternative to prosecution and (iv) where no other proceedings were taken.

(S4W-16856)

Lesley Thomson: The following tables show the number of charges alleging assault to injury with a domestic aggravator for each year in 2011-12 and 2012-13. The tables have been broken down into those prosecuted on Indictment, on complaint, subject to a direct measure and where no proceedings were taken.

The database is charge-based. The figures quoted therefore relate to the number of charges rather than the number of individuals charged or the number of incidents that gave rise to such charges.

The main reason for no proceedings being taken is insufficient admissible available evidence.

2011–12 Number of Charges: 4,006

Prosecuted on Indictment	121
Prosecuted on Complaint	3,413
Direct Measure	64
No Proceedings taken	376

2012–13 Number of charges: 4,118

Prosecuted on Indictment	182
Prosecuted on Complaint	3,347
Direct Measure	33
No Proceedings taken	430

Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government whether the Lord Advocate will publish his policy and guidance for prosecuting domestic violence.

(S4W-16857)

Lesley Thomson: Policy and guidance to prosecutors for offences involving domestic abuse is published and is contained within the joint protocol between the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland: *"In partnership, challenging domestic abuse"* which is available on the COPFS website. The protocol is kept under review and the current version has been in force since 2008.

Governance and Communities

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what criteria it uses to classify a family as living in poverty.

(S4W-17001)

Margaret Burgess: The Scottish Government currently uses two main indicators of low income poverty, both of which reveal slightly different information about changes in poverty over time. These indicators are relative and absolute poverty.

Relative poverty is measured as the percentage and number of individuals living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of UK median income in the same year. This is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the population as a whole. In 2011-12 the relative poverty threshold for a couple with no children was an

income of £256 per week (before housing costs) from all sources. For a couple with children the threshold would be higher and for a single person (without children) the threshold would be lower.

Absolute poverty is measured as the percentage and number of individuals living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of the (inflation adjusted) median income in 2010-11. This is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are seeing their incomes rise in real terms. In 2011-12 the absolute poverty threshold for a couple with no children was an income of £264 per week (before housing costs) from all sources.

The absolute poverty threshold is higher than the relative poverty threshold in 2011-12 as inflation increased at a faster rate than average earnings in 2011-12. This means households need to earn more, in real terms, to maintain their incomes compared with 2010-11 (the reference year for absolute poverty).

The relative and absolute poverty indicators are presented on two bases: Before Housing Costs and After Housing Costs. This is principally to take into account variations in housing costs that themselves do not correspond to comparable variations in the quality of housing.

An additional measure for children is the combined low income and material deprivation indicator. This indicator aims to provide a measure of children's living standards which, unlike relative and absolute poverty, is not solely based on income.

Relative and absolute poverty indicators are estimated for all individuals, children, working age adults, and pensioners. The Child Poverty Act 2010 sets out four income related targets that the UK Government must meet by 2020. These are targets on relative child poverty, absolute child poverty, children in combined low income and material deprivation and children in persistent poverty.

These indicators are used to measure two of Scotland's national indicators: reduce the proportion of individuals living in poverty, and reduce children's deprivation.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the budget will be for the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund.

(S4W-17030)

Margaret Burgess: The draft budget allocation for 2014-15 for the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund is £25 million.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many stage 1 applications for support from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund have been (a) accepted and (b) not accepted, broken down by local authority.

(S4W-17031)

Margaret Burgess: There were 147 stage 1 applications to the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund. The Investment Panel invited 41 projects to submit stage 2 applications. A list of the projects successful at stage 1 is on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/regeneration/investment/capitalgrants/rcgf/invited-to-stage-2>.

A summary of the decisions of the Investment Panel, broken down by local authority, is provided in the following table.

Local Authority	Total Number of Applications	Successful in being Invited to Stage 2	Unsuccessful
Aberdeen City Council	6	0	6
Aberdeenshire Council	1	0	1
Angus Council	2	1	1
Argyll and Bute Council	2	2	0
City of Edinburgh Council	11	1	10
Clackmannanshire Council	1	0	1

Local Authority	Total Number of Applications	Successful in being Invited to Stage 2	Unsuccessful
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar	3	2	1
Dumfries and Galloway Council	2	0	2
Dundee City Council	5	0	5
East Ayrshire Council	2	0	2
East Dunbartonshire Council	1	1	0
East Lothian Council	1	0	1
East Renfrewshire Council	2	1	1
Falkirk Council	5	0	5
Fife Council	16	4	12
Glasgow City Council	8	3	5
Inverclyde Council	1	1	0
Midlothian Council	2	1	1
North Ayrshire Council	2	1	1
North Lanarkshire Council	2	2	0
Orkney Islands Council	2	2	0
Perth & Kinross Council	3	1	2
Renfrewshire Council	3	1	2
Scottish Borders Council	4	2	2
South Ayrshire Council	2	0	2
South Lanarkshire Council	4	0	4
Stirling Council	2	0	2
The Highland Council	1	1	0
The Moray Council	3	2	1
West Dunbartonshire Council	8	1	7
West Lothian Council	6	1	5
Total For LA Applications	113	31	82
Other organisations SPV, URC etc.	34	10	24

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the stage 1 application for support from the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund submitted by (a) Aberdeen City Council for all-weather pitches for Riverbank Primary School and (b) Tillydrone Community Trust for the Wallace Tower was not accepted.

(S4W-17032)

Margaret Burgess: The Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Investment Panel considered all applications submitted at stage 1. The panel's view was that these projects did not meet all the criteria or the wider aims of the fund.

Scottish Government officials met with officials from Aberdeen City Council on 9 September 2013 and provided specific feedback on each of Aberdeen City Council's applications.

Health and Social Care

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its response to *The review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community*.

Holding answer issued: 17 September 2013

(S4W-16951)

Alex Neil: I refer the member to the answer to questions S4W-16800, S4W-16801 and S4W-16806 on 19 September 2013. 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>.

Strategy and External Affairs

Roderick Campbell (North East Fife) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what the current status is of discussions between the Scottish Government and the UK Government regarding press regulation in Scotland.

(S4W-17043)

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government continues to liaise with the UK Government on press regulation in the context of the Privy Council's consideration of these matters.

Roderick Campbell (North East Fife) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the newspaper industry regarding press regulation.

(S4W-17044)

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government has met the Scottish Newspaper Society on four occasions since the publication of Lord Justice Leveson's *An inquiry into the culture, practices and ethics of the press: report*.

Jackson Carlaw (West Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how much it spent on press cutting services in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12 and (c) 2012-13.

(S4W-17055)

Fiona Hyslop: The Scottish Government figures are set out in the following table

Year	Expenditure
2010-11	£70,496
2011-12	£55,849
2012-13	£58,243

The 2011-12 costs are slightly lower than usual because the volume of press cuttings reduced during the pre-election period.