

Thursday 26 September 2013

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise and Environment

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to promote tourism in the north east.

**Holding answer issued: 9 September 2013**

**(S4W-16692)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government is determined to maximise tourism growth and draw more visitors to Scotland.

The north east is marketed by VisitScotland using the fantastic assets which it can offer its visitors. These great assets are promoted across the UK and overseas by VisitScotland in a number of ways, such as websites, print, direct mail and public relations activity. Some of this focuses entirely on the north east, e.g. the relevant Visitor Guides and dedicated regional micro-sites, while others campaigns feature the north east as part of the wider promotion of Scotland.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent to promote tourism in the north east in each of the last five years.

**Holding answer issued: 9 September 2013**

**(S4W-16693)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The north east is marketed by VisitScotland using the fantastic assets which it can offer its visitors. These great assets are promoted across the UK and overseas by VisitScotland in a number of ways, such as websites, print, direct mail and public relations activity. The resource for this type of marketing activity is not hypothecated to specific areas.

Other Scottish Government public bodies (e.g. Scottish Enterprise) also provide funding to support enterprises across Scotland, many of whom are involved in tourism activities.

**Colin Beattie (Midlothian North and Musselburgh) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the hydraulic fracturing process (fracking).

**Holding answer issued: 19 September 2013**

**(S4W-16813)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The UK Department of Energy and Climate Change are in the process of developing a regulatory roadmap for the extraction of unconventional gas which will cover hydraulic fracturing as one of many regulated processes involved in the future extraction of unconventional gas. The Scottish Government and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency have been involved in the development processes of that document.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the average price per acre is of farmland.

**(S4W-16907)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Scottish Government is not aware of any complete data sources for land values in Scotland. There are some private sources, such as Savills and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, but the diverse nature of land in Scotland and the low number of sales means that these data cannot provide meaningful averages for land value.

However, rental price offers another way of measuring the value of land. The Scottish Government carries out an annual survey of annual rent figures from a sample of holdings. The results for 2012 are published on the government website at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00425434.pdf>

The results from the survey showed that the overall average was £32 per hectare (£13 per acre), but this was heavily weighted by large areas of Less Favoured Area (LFA) land. The average for non-

LFA land was £200 per hectare and the overall average has gone up by an estimated 15% between 2008 and 2011.

**Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the Independent Expert Commission on Oil and Gas will publish a report prior to publication of the white paper on independence.

**Holding answer issued: 17 September 2013** (S4W-16954)

**Fergus Ewing:** The commissioners will feed views directly into the white paper.

**Willie Rennie (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government how long it estimates it will take for the Independent Expert Commission on Oil and Gas to provide initial conclusions that can inform the white paper on independence.

**Holding answer issued: 17 September 2013** (S4W-16965)

**Fergus Ewing:** The Independent Expert Commission will feed views directly into the white paper prior to its publication.

**Alex Fergusson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many licences for the spreading of human sewage sludge on agricultural land have been issued in the last 18 months and for what locations.

(S4W-17088)

**Richard Lochhead:** Sewage sludge can be used as soil fertiliser and also for ecological benefit on both agricultural land and on land being restored. The use of sewage sludge on farmland is controlled by the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 which control the build-up of potentially toxic elements (PTEs) in soil and restricts the planting, grazing and harvesting of certain crops following the application of sludge. The statutory controls on the application must be complied with and failure to do so could result in a cross compliance penalty on individual land managers. The Safe Sludge Matrix, developed by Water UK, water and sewerage operators across the UK and also the British Retail Consortium in 1998 resulted in the phasing out of the use of untreated sludge in agriculture. This matrix is still in force and goes beyond the statutory cropping and grazing restrictions of the *Department of Environment Code of Practice* published in 1996.

Sludge producers, like Scottish Water, are required to analyse field soils and sewage sludge prior to application and maintain detailed records when used in agriculture. There are specific annual limits which cannot be exceeded; limits for individual applications rates to farm land is based on PTE levels and soil pH, thus the tonnage of sewage sludge applied per hectare can range from around 20 to 50 tonnes depending on PTE levels in the soil after application. These records are made available annually to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), who are the regulatory authority. SEPA also carries out soil monitoring on a number of sites where sewage sludge has been applied.

Furthermore, the application of sewage sludge to farmland should also follow the Scottish Government's *Code of Good Practice for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution From Agricultural Activity* for the protection of water, soil and air. This document identifies good practices of applying sludge to land, and also summarises the Sludge Regulations and the Safe Sludge Matrix requirements, and is available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37428/0014235.pdf>.

Treated sewage sludge is currently applied to both grass and arable land and, based on the Sludge Register for 2012, a total of 230 farms received sewage sludge in Scotland during that year.

**Alex Fergusson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether a maximum limit applies to the amount of human sewage sludge that can be spread per hectare of agricultural land under licence per (a) application and (b) annum and, if so, how this is monitored.

(S4W-17089)

**Richard Lochhead:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17088 on 26 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>.

**Alex Fergusson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what (a) restrictions and (b) criteria apply when a licence is granted for the spreading of human sewage sludge on agricultural land.

**(S4W-17090)**

**Richard Lochhead:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17088 on 26 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>.

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on the cost of negotiating and implementing voluntary control agreements in each year since 1993.

**(S4W-17129)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The costs to Deer Commission Scotland (DCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) of implementing Section 7 agreements since 2006 are shown in the following table. Data for 2003-05 could only be recovered at disproportionate cost.

The financial costs incurred by SNH, and previously the DCS, in implementing Section 7 control agreements have been broken down into four elements. These are: assessing habitats to determine extent of impact by deer within proposed control agreement area; assessing deer populations over defined areas of control; DCS/SNH staff time in negotiating and administering the control agreement; and direct culling support by DCS/SNH through Section 10 or Section 12 of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996:

	Habitat Assessment Costs (£)	Deer Census (£)	Direct Assistance (£)	Staff Costs (£)	Total (£)
2006	18,000	33,000	160,000 (1)	104,459	315,459
2007	71,030	35,800		104,459	211,289
2008	126,725	78,944		104,459	310,128
2009	74,000	76,000		104,459	254,459
2010	25,500	76,000		104,459	205,959
2011	39,483	34,327		97,770	171,580
2012	69,088	64,393		97,770	231,251
2013	45,115	32,439		97,770	175,324 (2)

(1) Assistance provided by DCS in 2005-06 and 2006-07 to estates in the Caenlochan area to reduce deer numbers in order to prevent damage to designated habitats.

(2) Projected expenditure.

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the percentage participation is of eligible proprietors in each deer management group.

**(S4W-17131)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** This information is not currently collected by the Scottish Government or its agencies.

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what the gross cost has been to Forestry Commission Scotland of deer culling in each of the last 10 years.

(S4W-17134)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The estimated gross cost of culling deer on the National Forest estate from 2003-04 to 2012-13 is shown in the following table. The figures include all deer management costs, other than deer fence costs. The culling costs include the deer shooting activity itself, salaries, the cost of equipment, the supporting infrastructure, such as deer larders and access tracks, deer surveys and contributions to partnership work with the deer and venison industries:

Year	Estimated Gross Cost of Culling £ million
2003-04	5.6
2004-05	5.4
2005-06	5.2
2006-07	5.1
2007-08	5.1
2008-09	4.7
2009-10	4.8
2010-11	5.7
2011-12	5.5
2012-13	5.6

**Rob Gibson (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what income has been derived by Forestry Commission Scotland from (a) deer carcasses and (b) stalking lets in each of the last 10 years.

(S4W-17135)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The income derived by Forestry Commission Scotland from its deer management activities during the 10 year period 2003-04 to 2012-13 is shown in the following table. The income breakdown by carcasses or stalking lets is not available from 1 April 2008 due to change in the Forestry Commission Scotland accounts structure:

Year	Deer Carcasses (Venison Income) (a) £ million	Stalking, Leases and Permissions Income (b) £ million	Total Income £ million
2003-04	0.5	0.3	0.8
2004-05	0.4	0.3	0.7
2005-06	0.5	0.3	0.8
2006-07	0.5	0.3	0.8
2007-08	0.5	0.3	0.8
2008-09			1.1
2009-10			1.3
2010-11			1.5
2011-12			1.4
2012-13			1.8

**John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what progress it has made on examining the benefits of a national park strategy.

(S4W-17143)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** Scotland's national parks are two of our greatest national assets and the Scottish Government fully recognises the valuable contribution they make to our tourism industry and wider Scottish economy. Our national park authorities, working closely with a range of partners, play a vital role in managing the parks, in supporting sustainable rural development, in promoting and enhancing the visitor experience and ensuring that the parks' landscapes and special qualities are conserved and enhanced for future generations.

The Scottish Government's priority, at a time of a 10.9% real terms reduction by the UK Government in the Scottish Government's Fiscal Department Expenditure Limit (DEL) over 2010-11

to 2015-16, which includes a 26.6% capital budget reduction, has been to focus support on Scotland's existing national parks. This includes supporting their five-year partnership plans and investing substantial capital in visitor infrastructure and facilities, rather than on the development of a separate national park strategy.

The Scottish Government has noted the recommendations made by the Scottish Campaign for National Parks (SCNP) and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland in their report, *Unfinished Business*, and the welcome commitment to national parks in Scotland that this represents. However, the report's recommendations, including the call for new national parks and the development of a national park strategy, must be viewed in the context of the current financial climate and the government's focus on supporting our existing national parks. This matter was discussed with representatives of SCNP and the Association for Protection of Rural Scotland when we met on 5 September 2013.

**John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the report, *Unfinished Business: A National Parks Strategy for Scotland*.

(S4W-17144)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17143 on 26 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/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

**John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to explore the creation of a new national parks strategy.

(S4W-17145)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17143 on 26 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/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

**Alex Fergusson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what support is available for private waste management companies that will need to make changes to their equipment in order to comply with the zero-waste regulations that will be introduced in 2014.

(S4W-17166)

**Richard Lochhead:** Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS) ran a capital grant programme earlier this year, and in 2012-13, for waste management companies operating a collection service to the commercial and industrial sectors. Total funding available under this programme over the two years is £1.75 million.

The capital funding was open to private and the third sector waste management operators as well as local authority trade waste services. Funding was available for collections infrastructure that sought to capture paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, metals and food waste from the commercial and industrial sector.

This year available funding of £750,000 has been allocated to nine recipients, with final contracts due to be signed this week. On-going business development support is also available from ZWS, although this does not include capital support.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much has been collected by Quality Meat Scotland in red meat levy in each of the last five years.

(S4W-17170)

**Richard Lochhead:** Quality Meat Scotland collected red meat levy income totalling £4.43 million in 2012-13, £4.85 million in both 2011-12 and 2010-11, £3.85 million in 2009-10 and £3.93 million in 2008-09.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much of the reported £13 billion turnover for food and drink in 2011 came from (a) Scottish meat and (b) British meat sold in the (i) UK, (ii) rest of the EU and (iii) rest of the world.

**(S4W-17171)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The food and drink turnover figure of £13 billion was sourced from *Scottish Annual Business Statistics 2011*, which does not disaggregate the data down to this level of detail.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government under what national label livestock born and reared in Scotland and slaughtered in England is marketed.

**(S4W-17173)**

**Richard Lochhead:** Quality Meat Scotland advise that livestock born and reared in Scotland which are slaughtered in England would be marketed under either the red tractor scheme or the Quality Standard Mark, which is administered by EBLEX.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government which levy board will promote and sell livestock born and reared in Scotland and slaughtered in England.

**(S4W-17174)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The English Beef and Lamb Executive and the British Pig Association respectively are responsible for the promotion of livestock processed in England.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many abattoirs there are in Scotland.

**(S4W-17175)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Food Standards Agency Scotland (FSA/S) is responsible for ensuring that abattoirs in Scotland meet the required regulatory requirements.

FSA/S have advised that there are currently 30 approved red meat slaughterhouses and six poultry meat slaughterhouses in Scotland. There are also 20 approved establishments that handle wild game, and 14 authorised on-farm slaughter facilities for farmed game.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, whether it has sought assurances from the UK Government that (a) employers and (b) licensed operators in the North Sea will not seek to blacklist or discriminate against offshore workers who refuse to board Super Puma helicopters in light of their safety record.

**(S4W-17183)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government continues to work with unions, operators, Oil and Gas UK and the UK Government to ensure the continuation and safety of offshore operations in the North Sea, and to ensure that support is given to build confidence in helicopter travel based on a dialogue and quality information.

**Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish the feature activity sensitivity tool to assist people who want to respond to the consultation, Planning Scotland's Seas.

**(S4W-17240)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The feature activity sensitivity tool, known as FEAST, is available online. FEAST enables users to explore what is known about the proposed protected features of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and their sensitivity to pressures, and the marine activities that can cause pressures.

The information within FEAST is also provided as generic guidance regarding matters which are capable of affecting the protected feature(s) of a MPA as described in s81(1) as read with s80(1)(a) of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, as well as s127(1)(a) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This will help future developments to be planned in a sustainable manner when proposed in, or adjacent to, a nature conservation MPA.

Please see the following web page for details of how to access the system:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/FEAST-Intro>

**Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will provide information on fisheries activity that is needed for decision making in the proposed marine protected areas but is not given by the ScotMap project.

**(S4W-17241)**

**Richard Lochhead:** A draft Business Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) is provided for each proposed marine protected area (MPA). Each BRIA contains the available fisheries data. For over 15 metres vessels, official landings data is spatially distributed using VMS pings. For fishing vessels under 15 metres, for which VMS data are not available, official landings data is used and ScotMap provides a qualitative assessment of the spatial distribution. In addition we are currently undertaking a series of public consultation events around Scotland which have been attended by local and national fishing interests. These events are serving to add context and knowledge of fishing activity in and around the possible MPAs. Marine Scotland will assess all responses to the consultation and we encourage the fisheries industry to supply additional information on their activities to get a better representation of where activities are taking place.

**Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will provide guidance on the coordinates of the explicit management zones in the proposed marine protected areas.

**(S4W-17242)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The boundaries of the marine protected area (MPAs) proposals currently out to public consultation are based on best available evidence on the distribution of habitats, species and geological features. The management options papers include information on activities that may need to be managed for particular features as well as best available information on the distribution of these features.

The proposed boundaries and information on the distribution of features will be assessed in light of consultation responses and any other new information that becomes available before final decisions are taken on the case for designation of nature conservation MPAs. Scottish Natural Heritage and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee are also currently completing a project which aims to improve the available information on the distribution of features within 13 of the 33 MPA proposals. The work will be completed later in 2013 and the results will be made publicly available.

We have a policy of protecting MPA features while supporting sustainable use. Therefore management zones for activities in relation to certain features may differ from the overall boundary of an MPA. For example, MPAs may be designated to protect several features but only one of those features may be sensitive to a particular activity and it may be preferable to only control that activity within part of the MPA boundary where that feature occurs.

We will provide guidance on how management boundaries will be created before the first designations occur in 2014. This will outline the types of data that can be used to delineate the distribution of features and management boundaries and will be based on advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and our statutory nature conservation advisers. Improvements to our knowledge of the distribution of features will be combined within revised

management options papers for discussion with stakeholders. Co-ordinates for management zones will be provided once finalized.

**Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, other than that provided on its website, what information has been shared with stakeholders with regard to the consultation, Planning Scotland's Seas.

**(S4W-17243)**

**Richard Lochhead:** The Planning Scotland's Seas consultation covers five distinct but linked sets of proposals, a) Draft national marine plan, b) Marine Protected Areas network; c) Draft sectoral plan for offshore renewables; d) Priority Marine Features; and e) Draft planning circular on terrestrial and marine planning and associated assessments. These proposals have each been subject to on-going discussion with stakeholders over a number of years and relevant information has been shared via a number of mechanisms. Most notably these include meetings of the Marine Strategy Forum; national level stakeholder workshops on the proposed marine protected areas; and stakeholder advisory groups established to contribute to relevant sustainability appraisals and impact assessments. The consultation process to date has also resulted in a number of additional requests for specific information which have been responded to as appropriate.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to help ensure that there is sufficient production of maize, wheat and barley to meet the reported increase in demand for whisky.

**(S4W-17298)**

**Richard Lochhead:** While it is the business of each individual producer to decide what crops to grow, the Scottish Government supports the cultivation of Scottish cereal crops through the provision of a range of services, knowledge, training and advice to growers.

Industry research on wheat and barley is funded at a range of institutes and universities through our Rural Affairs and Environment research portfolio. In addition, the Scottish Government science and inspection divisions ensure that any seed used for planting cereal crops in Scotland is of high quality and that crops are free from quarantine pests. The Scottish Government also funds staff at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) to monitor commercially representative crops for pests, weeds and diseases.

The Scottish Government also funds demonstration farms and grower events to ensure effective knowledge exchange by all organisations involved in cereal crop research and monitoring. This includes SRUC publishing its results in grower reports, informing arable consultants, and updating farmers at grower meetings, open days and online. SRUC staff also support farmers by advising on the use and timing of appropriate cereal crop treatments with the aim to safe guard both yield and quality and building more resilience into the crop.

As the demand for Scotch whisky increases, it is important Scottish farmers recognise the opportunities this could bring them. By being market focussed, and providing the right quality of grain that whisky producers need, our farmers should be well placed to take advantage.

### **Governance and Communities**

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-15294 by Shona Robinson on 11 June 2013, when work was undertaken with stakeholders to consider a refreshed race equality statement; who these stakeholders were, and when it will issue the statement for consultation.

**(S4W-17153)**

**Shona Robison:** In April 2013, we published our current thinking on how race equality should develop over the next three years. We will shortly begin work to develop the Scottish Government approach to race equality with communities and stakeholders with a view to publishing the statement in spring 2014. This will allow us to take into consideration information provided by the 2011 Census which will be available later this month.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it has decided to issue a race equality statement rather than a race equality strategy.

**(S4W-17155)**

**Shona Robison:** The *2008-11 Race Equality Statement* is still largely relevant and continues to inform the work we do today. The updated statement will be a refresh providing more detail on how we intend to take forward our plans in practice. The Scottish Government does not have strategies for individual protected equality characteristics.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what funding it provides for work on race equality.

**(S4W-17158)**

**Shona Robison:** We are committed to promoting equality across Scotland and working with others to do so. To help achieve that aim, we are providing significant funding (nearly £21 million) during 2012-15 to core organisations to help tackle inequality and discrimination. £5.3 million of this will support specific projects and initiatives in combating racist and religious bigotry and hatred.

### **Health and Social Care**

**Murdo Fraser (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what help it provides for people who have had a stroke.

**(S4O-2440)**

**Michael Matheson:** NHSScotland has made great progress in improving outcomes for people with stroke: over the last ten years mortality rates for stroke have reduced by over 41%. Between 2010 and 2011 mortality rates dropped by 5.7%.

Our Better Heart Disease and Stroke Action Plan, backed by over £1 million of funding each year, contains actions aimed at ensuring people with stroke get access to effective, safe and person-centred care, as quickly as possible. Full implementation will help ensure we maintain momentum and continue to improve the quality of care and support available to people with stroke.

**Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to deal with the reported increase in waiting times for neurological services in NHS Lanarkshire.

**(S4O-2441)**

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government remain committed to ensuring patients get swift access to treatment. Whilst some patients are waiting slightly over the 12 weeks first outpatient consultation standard, I can reassure the member that patients with an urgent clinical need will be seen within around six weeks in Lanarkshire.

Despite a shortage of trainees, Lanarkshire have been able to recruit an additional 0.8 whole time equivalent consultant who will take up post in February 2014. The board are also in the process of recruiting to a further consultant post. In addition they have also recruited an epilepsy specialist nurse will also take up post in December 2013.

Scottish Government officials continue to support the board to explore options for reducing waits for neurology patients to ensure that they are seen and treated within waiting time standards.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to encourage GPs to refer patients with (a) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, (b) diabetes and (c) asthma who smoke to smoking cessation services.

**(S4W-16883)**

**Michael Matheson:** The *Quality and Outcomes Framework* rewards GP contractors for the provision of quality care and helps to standardise improvements in the delivery of primary medical

services. There are four indicators specific to smoking cessation that reward practices for measuring smoking status for these high-risk patients and for offering smoking cessation advice.

Our latest Tobacco Control Strategy, *Creating a Generation Free from Tobacco*, published in March 2013, also includes an action for all NHS boards to ensure healthcare professionals address smoking in all care settings and provide effective and person-centred referral pathways to appropriate smoking cessation support. The strategy is available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/03/3766>.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what recent assessment it has made of how many people with (a) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, (b) diabetes and (c) asthma smoke.

**(S4W-16884)**

**Michael Matheson:** Responses to the *Scottish Health Survey* (combined data for 2010 and 2011) suggest that smoking prevalence for people aged over 16 with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is 48.2%. Page 52 of the 2012 *Scottish Diabetes Survey* indicated that the percentage of people with diabetes (type 1 and type 2 combined) who were recorded as current smokers is 19.3%. The survey can be found at: <http://www.diabetesinscotland.org.uk/Publications/SDS%202012.pdf>.

Responses to the *Scottish Health Survey* (combined data for 2008 and 2010) suggest that smoking prevalence for people aged over 16 with Asthma is 25.3%. Further information on the Scottish Health Survey can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Health/scottish-health-survey>

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the cost was of hospital admissions related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the last year for which information is available.

**(S4W-16885)**

**Michael Matheson:** Information on the cost of hospital admissions related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is not available centrally.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the impact of smoking is on NHS services.

**(S4W-16886)**

**Michael Matheson:** The 2012 *Scottish Public Health Observatory Smoking Ready Reckoner* suggests that costs to the NHS in Scotland from smoking could range from around £320 million to £510 million per annum. The ready reckoner is available at:

<http://www.scotpho.org.uk/publications/reports-and-papers/868-smoking-ready-reckoner>.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to encourage people with long-term conditions to quit smoking.

**(S4W-16887)**

**Michael Matheson:** We recognise that smoking increases the risk of serious clinical complications for people with long term conditions.

General practices are incentivised through the Quality Outcomes Framework to record the smoking status and offer treatment and support to people with the most common long term conditions. This facilitates the targeting of NHS Scotland's smoking cessation programmes.

Our latest Tobacco Control Strategy, *Creating a Generation Free from Tobacco*, published in March 2013, also includes an action for all NHS boards to ensure healthcare professionals address smoking in all care settings and provide effective and person-centred referral pathways to appropriate smoking cessation support.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many deaths have been related to smoking in each of the last five years.

(S4W-16888)

**Michael Matheson:** Smoking status is not recorded on death certificates. The most recent Scottish Public Health Observatory Tobacco Profiles, *ScotPHO Tobacco Profiles 2013 NHS Board & CHP Overview* suggests that over the period 2001-03 to 2009-11, around 24% deaths in Scotland can be attributed to smoking. *ScotPHO Tobacco Profiles 2013 NHS Board & CHP Overview* can be found at: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/opt/Reports/ScotPHO%20Tobacco%20Profiles%202013%20-%20NHS%20Board%20&%20CHP%20Overview%20Report.pdf>.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many pre-operative patients have been referred to smoking cessation services in each of the last five years.

(S4W-16889)

**Michael Matheson:** The number of pre-operative patients who have been referred to smoking cessation services is not recorded nationally.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with NHS Health Scotland regarding its review of smoking cessation services.

(S4W-16890)

**Michael Matheson:** Our latest Tobacco Control Strategy, *Creating a Tobacco-Free Generation*, includes a commitment to commission a review of smoking cessation services. NHS Health Scotland is leading this and work is well underway. The review will inform recommendations to improve the effectiveness of service provision and service outcomes.

The Scottish Government has met regularly with NHS Health Scotland, as part of the smoking cessation services review national advisory group, to approve the project proposal and research specification and to receive progress updates.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what data it (a) collects and (b) plans to collect on the effectiveness of smoking cessation services.

(S4W-16891)

**Michael Matheson:** NHS Information Services Division (ISD) produces smoking cessation monitoring analysis which is used to provide evidence of the reach and success of NHS smoking cessation services at both national and NHS board level. These statistics allow progress towards the current smoking cessation HEAT target achievement to be monitored.

The latest annual national statistics are available within ISD's *NHS Smoking Cessation Service Statistics (Scotland) 1st January to 31st December 2012* at: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/publications/reports-and-papers/1022-nhs-smoking-cessation-service-statistics-scotland-1st-january-to-31st-december-2012>.

Scottish Public Health Observatory *Tobacco Profiles*/ISD also recently published a *Local Tobacco Online Profiles* tool which contains information relating to quit rates at 1, 3 and 12 months along with quit rates in the most deprived areas. The profiles are available at: <https://scotpho.nhsnss.scot.nhs.uk/scotpho/profileSelectAction.do>.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the number of repeated attendances at smoking cessation services.

(S4W-16892)

**Michael Matheson:** No assessment is made of the numbers of repeat attendances at smoking cessation services at a national level.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the (a) impact and (b) effectiveness of smoking cessation services.

**(S4W-16893)**

**Michael Matheson:** Numbers of smokers attempting to quit using NHS Scotland smoking cessation services has risen from 46,466 in 2006 to 116,198 in 2012. The number of smokers who are recorded as having quit successfully at one month has risen from 15,471 in 2006 to 44,261 in 2012. Nationally, in 2012 the 75.2% of quit attempts were made in pharmacies and 24.8% in non-pharmacy services.

NHS Smoking Cessation Service Statistics (Scotland) reports from 2006 to 2012 are available at: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/publications/reports-and-papers>.

The review of the *community pharmacy public health service for smoking cessation* published in 2011 recommended improvements to the smoking cessation service. A national advisory group on pharmacy smoking cessation is working to implement the key recommendations of the review.

Our latest Tobacco Control Strategy, *Creating a Tobacco-Free Generation*, also includes a commitment to commission a review of smoking cessation services. The review will inform recommendations to improve the effectiveness of service provision and service outcomes.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the relative efficacy of using a (a) four and (b) 12 week quit rate as a smoking cessation metric.

**(S4W-16894)**

**Michael Matheson:** The schedule of client follow-up is based on the internationally recognised Russell Standard, a standard for collection of data on the clinical effectiveness of smoking cessation interventions. Further information on the Russell Standard is available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15733243>.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many people who quit for four weeks remain smoke free for one year.

**(S4W-16895)**

**Michael Matheson:** The latest national statistics are available within the ISD Scotland *NHS Smoking Cessation Service Statistics (Scotland) 1st January to 31st December 2012* at: <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/publications/reports-and-papers/1022-nhs-smoking-cessation-service-statistics-scotland-1st-january-to-31st-december-2012>.

The latest full annual statistics relate to 2011. Based on data for the 2011 calendar year, quit rates at one, three and 12 months were 37.6%, 15.8% and 5.5% respectively. The denominator for the percentages remains total quit attempts made in the year.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the reasons are for a reported rise in accident and emergency attendances from 1.6 million in 2008-09 to 1.65 million in 2012-13.

**(S4W-16896)**

**Alex Neil:** The increase in total new and unplanned accident and emergency attendances has mainly been at Minor Injury Units. In part this could be accounted for by the rise in Scotland's population over this time of 2.81%. Older people over 75, who are the services greatest users, have grown at a faster rate of 6.4% over this same time period.

The Scottish Government, through the Unscheduled Care Expert Group, are working with clinicians to address this issue.

**Margaret McCulloch (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when each (a) NHS board and (b) hospital will achieve the (i) target of 95% and (ii) national waiting time standard of 98% of people attending accident and emergency being admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours.

**(S4W-16897)**

**Alex Neil:** Targets are set at NHS board level. Monitoring of performance is undertaken at board and hospital level and ISD:Scotland publish statistics at both NHS board and hospital level.

The 98% four hour accident and emergency treatment HEAT standard is being continued and the latest published statistics for June 2013 show that NHS Borders, NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Orkney, NHS Shetland, NHS Tayside and NHS Western Isles are meeting this standard. We expect these boards to sustain this performance going forward.

To improve current delivery, an interim additional HEAT target was introduced to support sustainable all year round delivery, with a first milestone of 95% performance to be delivered in the year ending September 2014. This should be seen as a minimum and NHS boards will pursue further sustainable improvement towards the 98% four hour accident and emergency standard. We are working closely with NHS boards to support their accident and emergency improvement activity within their local unscheduled care action plans to achieve this.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to mitigate any adverse effects of capping the General Dental Practice Allowance for practice owners who employ general dental practitioners as associates.

**(S4W-17091)**

**Michael Matheson:** The cap on the General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA) is one element of a wider settlement for independent dentists providing NHS dental services.

Dental practices that are affected by the cap will also benefit from a 2.51 per cent increase on item-of-service fees. This award is worth around £4.9 million (in terms of net fees), substantially more than the value of the GDPA cap.

Associates are not employed by the practice owner. Both practice owner and associate are independent contractors. Associates receive a percentage of gross fees that will vary between dental practices.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how the proposed cap on GP allowances paid to general dental practitioners who provide NHS general dental services will impact on the rates of pay of associates employed by practice owners.

**(S4W-17092)**

**Michael Matheson:** Associates are not employed by the practice owner. Both practice owner and associate are independent contractors. Associates receive a percentage of gross fees that will vary between dental practices. These arrangements are particular to the practice owner and associate, and are affected by many factors.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many practices will be affected by the proposed cap on GP allowances paid to general dental practitioners who provide NHS general dental services.

**(S4W-17093)**

**Michael Matheson:** On the basis of data from 2012-13, we estimate the number of practices that could be affected by the cap on General Dental Practice Allowance at 57 practices.

Source: Practitioner Services Division

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it had prior to setting the proposed cap on GP allowances paid to general dental practitioners who provide NHS general dental services at £80,000.

**(S4W-17094)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government had a number of discussions at different levels. As well as a number of meetings between officials (including the Chief Dental Officer) and the Scottish Dental Practice Committee and British Dental Association Scotland, the Minister for Public Health met with representatives of independent dentists providing NHS general dental services on 19 June 2013.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how the proposed cap on GP allowances paid to general dental practitioners who provide NHS general dental services will impact on employment in larger practices.

**(S4W-17096)**

**Michael Matheson:** We anticipate that the impact on employment will be negligible. Those practices affected by the cap will also benefit from the increase in item-of-service fees.

The purpose of the General Dental Practice Allowance, as set down in the *Statement of Dental Remuneration*, is to ensure the practice has access to high quality premises, that the practice is compliant with health and safety standards, and that staff are able to access the requisite training and continuous professional development. It is not the specific purpose of this allowance to support a staffing complement within a practice.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many practices will be negatively affected by the proposed cap on GP allowances paid to general dental practitioners who provide NHS general dental services.

**(S4W-17097)**

**Michael Matheson:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17093 on 26 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>.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has made of whether the General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA) has (a) widened access to and (b) improved the professionalism and complexity of dentistry.

**(S4W-17098)**

**Michael Matheson:** The purpose of the GDPA is as outlined in the answer to question S4W-17096 on 26 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>.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact setting the General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA) payment for non-committed practices has had on increasing access to NHS dentistry.

**(S4W-17099)**

**Michael Matheson:** The GDPA was not introduced as a measure to impact on access to NHS general dental services.

The purpose of the GDPA is as outlined in the answer to question S4W-17096 on 26 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>.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact changes to the cost of precious metals has had on NHS dentistry provision since 2010.

**(S4W-17100)**

**Michael Matheson:** As the cost of precious metals have increased, there has been a shift towards increased usage of non-precious metals by dentists.

For example, published data by Information Services Division shows that between 2010-11 and 2012-13 the number of precious metals crowns has decreased whereas the number of non-precious metal crowns has increased. However the number of metal crowns and bonded metal crowns has increased overall.

Source: *ISD Dental Statistics – NHS Fees and Treatments*. (25th June 2013)

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the VAT rate being set at 20% has had on the dentistry sector.

**(S4W-17101)**

**Michael Matheson:** Dentists are not exempt from VAT and so their costs will reflect the increase in VAT.

We are currently working with the British Dental Association Scotland and the Scottish Dental Practitioner Committee on providing robust information on the earnings and expenses of independent dentists providing NHS services in Scotland.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the General Dental Practice Allowance has had on the number of practices, broken down by NHS board.

**(S4W-17103)**

**Michael Matheson:** It is not possible to establish what impact, if any, the General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA) has had on the number of dental practices.

The GDPA is one element in the overall funding package available to independent dentists providing NHS general dental services. For example dental practitioners receive fees for items of service (by far the largest funding stream), capitation and continuing care payments and a range of other allowances including reimbursement for rent and seniority payments.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the proposed cap on the General Dental Practice Allowance will have on practices that have NHS fees in excess of £670,000.

**(S4W-17105)**

**Michael Matheson:** I refer the member to the answers to questions S4W-17091, S4W-17096 and S4W-17106 on 26 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>.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the proposed cap on the General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA) will have on the amount of work carried out by dental practices, broken down by size of practice.

**(S4W-17106)**

**Michael Matheson:** We do not anticipate any significant adverse impact on workload.

The cap is one element in a funding package that will mean an increase of 2.51 per cent in item-of-service fees (by far the largest element of funding to dental practices) for independent dentists

providing NHS dental services. All practices will benefit from this increase, including those practices that would be affected by the GDPA cap.

The settlement for 2013-14 has increased the amount of resource for independent dentists providing NHS general dental services.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to increase the number of vocational trainees in dentistry.

**(S4W-17108)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government remains committed to matching the number of dental vocational training (DVT) places in Scotland to the expected graduate output of Scottish dental schools. Our commitment to provide 172 dental vocational places in 2013 was met.

It is NHS Education for Scotland (NES) which co-ordinates the recruitment of dental practices that offer DVT places to dental graduates and, with anticipated dental school graduate output in 2014 anticipated to be 193, Scottish Government officials have commenced discussions with NES to ensure appropriate steps are taken to meet this anticipated need.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it uses combined practice inspection to determine the effective use of the General Dental Practice Allowance.

**(S4W-17109)**

**Michael Matheson:** The combined practice inspection process does not specifically look at how a dental practice has used the General Dental Practice Allowance (GDPA).

However it does inspect the decontamination facilities, practice information systems, health and safety requirements and staff training and continuing professional development records. The GDPA is considered to fund improvement in these specific areas of NHS dental practice.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many NHS patients are registered with practices that will be negatively affected by the proposed cap to the General Dental Practice Allowance.

**(S4W-17110)**

**Michael Matheson:** On the basis of data from 2012-13, we estimate that approximately 600,000 people are registered with 46 general practices affected by the cap on GDPA. The remaining eleven specialist practices that are affected by the cap do not register patients.  
Source: Practitioner Services Division.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on reducing the General Dental Practice Allowance for non-committed practices.

**(S4W-17111)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government has no current plans to reduce the General Dental Practice Allowance for non-committed dental practices.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the effectiveness of the (a) Continuing Professional Development and (b) Clinical Audit Allowance in NHS dentistry.

**(S4W-17112)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Continuing Professional Development Allowance and Clinical Audit Allowance allow NHS dentists to take time away from clinical practice to undertake these tasks and is an effective use of these allowances.

Maintaining up to date knowledge and skills in dentists and encouraging reflective practice in order to improve patient care are key to delivering a high quality NHS dental service.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the level at which dentistry charges are split between the NHS and patients.

**(S4W-17114)**

**Michael Matheson:** Patients who are not exempt from dental charges are required to pay 80% of their treatment costs up to a maximum patient charge of £384. Any NHS dental charge above £384 is 100% funded by the NHS. The 80:20 split is believed to be set at an appropriate level.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether having salaried dentists (a) has led to an increase in access to NHS dentistry and (b) is cost effective.

**(S4W-17115)**

**Michael Matheson:** Salaried dental services have a significant role in remote and rural areas, and particularly in island communities. They also provide an effective solution in areas where there is a gap in NHS general dental services provided by independent dentists.

The Scottish Government currently has in train an annual process with NHS boards to ensure that salaried dental services provide a cost effective solution for the needs of the local population.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on raising the prior approval limit for NHS dentistry treatment.

**(S4W-17118)**

**Michael Matheson:** Strategic responsibility for this aspect of the management of general dental services lies in Scotland with the Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB). Practitioner Services Division acts as an agent on behalf of SDPB in operating the prior approval process.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has made of the effectiveness of the process for claims exceeding the prior approval limit for NHS dentistry treatment.

**(S4W-17121)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB) regularly receives reports from Practitioner Services Division on performance related to prior approval.

SDPB have recently undertaken a review of the current prior approval process with a view to improving effectiveness.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to introduce an online system for claims that exceed the prior approval limit for NHS dentistry treatment.

**(S4W-17123)**

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Dental Practice Board are considering alternatives to the existing paper-based system of prior approval and have commissioned Practitioner Services Division to investigate establishing an electronic system of prior approval.

**Helen Eadie (Cowdenbeath) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on reports that NHS boards have been purchasing private care following a reduction in the number of acute orthopaedic beds in 2012 and whether it considers that this is consistent with its reported position that all services should be provided outwith the private sector.

(S4W-17146)

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government policy on the use of the private sector is very clear in we expect the funding approved by the Scottish Parliament for the NHS is used to build sustainable capacity in NHS Scotland. NHS board have plans in place to increase their capacity. NHS boards are making available over £67 million to boost capacity across Scotland during 2013-14 to ensure patients get swift access to hospital treatment.

**Helen Eadie (Cowdenbeath) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that NHS boards deliver anthroplasty services locally and what its position is on the national contract for such services.

(S4W-17147)

**Alex Neil:** NHSScotland continue to effectively deliver waiting time standards for orthopaedic services with the vast majority of patients being treated locally. There is no national contract currently in place specifically for anthroplasty services.

**Helen Eadie (Cowdenbeath) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the recent announcement that it will provide additional support for the Golden Jubilee National Hospital, whether it plans to centralise routine orthopaedic procedures.

(S4W-17148)

**Alex Neil:** No. The Scottish Government has no plans to centralise routine orthopaedic procedures.

**Helen Eadie (Cowdenbeath) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports of significant reductions in waiting times for orthopaedic services, whether it will write to the staff who provide these services to thank them for their work.

(S4W-17149)

**Alex Neil:** The lowest waiting times ever in Scotland, including in orthopaedics, is clearly down to the dedication and commitment of staff across the NHS. I have on many occasions commended staff for their hard work and I am happy to reaffirm this.

**Elaine Murray (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the shingles vaccination is being made available only to people aged between 70 and 79.

(S4W-17161)

**Michael Matheson:** The Scottish Government and all other UK Health Departments take advice on immunisation issues from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Prior to the introduction of the shingles vaccination programme, the JCVI considered data from GP based studies which suggested that the severity of shingles increased with age, with the majority of shingles cases occurring in people aged 70 years and above.

Based on medical, epidemiological and economic evidence and vaccine safety and efficacy data, the JCVI recommended a shingles vaccination programme for adults aged 70 years with a catch-up programme up to and including 79 years, provided that a licensed vaccine was available at a cost effective price. The efficacy of the vaccine declines with age and it is therefore not recommended for people aged 80 years and older.

Following the JCVI recommendation, Scottish Ministers agreed that a routine shingles vaccination programme should be offered to 70 year olds from 1 September 2013, with the catch up programme directed at people aged 79 years old in the first year. The rest of the catch-up programme will be rolled out over the next few years.

**Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what representations it has received regarding the £384 maximum charge for patients using NHS dental services.

**(S4W-17181)**

**Michael Matheson:** We are unaware of any representations being made with regard to the £384 maximum patient charge for NHS dentistry.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what impact the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership talks will have on (a) public policy and (b) the NHS in Scotland; what its position is on the talks; whether it has discussed them with the UK Government, and, if so, what specific areas it has discussed.

**(S4W-17192)**

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government welcomes the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks and 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.

Negotiations are at an early stage and EU member states are still considering priorities. We have looked carefully at the initial assessments prepared by the European Commission and the UK Government, which show a considerable net economic benefit for the EU. As the negotiations continue it will be important to consider what benefits can be derived for Scotland.

In England the role of competition in the delivery of healthcare has increased with the private sector having a greater role in providing NHS-funded healthcare. Some commentators suggest that this may open up the NHS to further commercialisation under the TTIP. The position in Scotland is quite different. The Scottish Government has always protected, and will continue to protect, the NHS in Scotland from privatisation. The Scottish Government's commitment to the people of Scotland is for a publicly funded health service providing care free at the point of delivery.

The UK will remain fully engaged in the negotiations and Scottish Ministers will take a close interest.

**Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it supports people with muscular dystrophy into work.

**(S4W-17199)**

**Michael Matheson:** We want to ensure that people living with neuromuscular conditions, including their families, get access to the best possible care and support.

We have funded three neuromuscular care advisor posts in the south east and Tayside, the North of Scotland, and the West of Scotland for two years. These regional care advisors will be able to signpost people living with neuromuscular conditions and their families to services and support in their local area.

We also fund the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives to provide advice to employers on supporting and promoting health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace. This includes offering advice on adjustments that can be made in the workplace to accommodate employees with limiting health conditions and guidance on employers' obligations under the Equality Act.

**Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people have (a) been hospitalised and (b) died from asbestos poisoning in each year since 2007, broken down by NHS board.

**(S4W-17200)**

**Michael Matheson:** The specific information requested is not available centrally as there are no exact ICD-10 diagnosis codes which solely relate to asbestos poisoning. It is also likely that acute asbestos poisoning is very rare. Information on the number of hospital admissions and deaths for asbestos-related conditions are available and provided in the following tables.

Table 1: shows the number hospital admissions for asbestos-related conditions for each of the last six financial years ending 31st of March, broken down by health board:

Health Board of Treatment	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Golden Jubilee National Hospital	3	21	84	109	97	85
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	50	45	81	81	92	69
NHS Borders	9	10	13	23	17	6
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	31	19	21	43	43	28
NHS Fife	192	158	181	141	172	259
NHS Forth Valley	25	31	31	28	37	28
NHS Grampian	101	179	226	216	241	214
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	532	496	603	627	711	656
NHS Highland	53	84	77	118	108	127
NHS Lanarkshire	100	115	98	91	72	76
NHS Lothian	282	290	293	319	261	281
NHS Orkney	-	3	5	7	1	2
NHS Shetland	-	-	2	-	10	2
NHS Tayside	96	74	85	84	130	109
NHS Western Isles	1	-	-	7	10	10
Totals	1,475	1,525	1,800	1,894	2,002	1,952

Table 2: shows the number of deaths caused by asbestos-related conditions for each of the last six financial years ending 31st of March, broken down by health board:

Health Board of Treatment	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Golden Jubilee National Hospital	-	-	-	1	-	1
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	9	4	9	11	11	9
NHS Borders	1	1	1	3	5	-
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	2	4	4	4	3	4
NHS Fife	20	21	25	13	11	19
NHS Forth Valley	6	4	2	6	5	3
NHS Grampian	11	9	16	19	18	15
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	35	44	31	44	49	43
NHS Highland	5	9	2	6	8	13
NHS Lanarkshire	16	10	15	19	13	13
NHS Lothian	24	27	22	24	23	16
NHS Orkney	-	-	1	1	-	1
NHS Shetland	-	-	1	-	-	1
NHS Tayside	10	10	10	8	18	14
NHS Western Isles	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	139	143	139	159	164	153

Source: ISD Scotland, SMR01.

**Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many fixed penalty notices have been issued under the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Act 2010 for (a) failing to comply with display restrictions and (b) selling tobacco from automatic vending machines.

(S4W-17202)

**Michael Matheson:** This information is not held centrally.

**Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it calculates budget allocations for NHS boards.

(S4W-17205)

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Resource Allocation formula is used in the allocation of around 70% of the total NHS budget between the 14 territorial NHS boards in Scotland. This provides funding to NHS boards for the provision of hospital and community health services and GP prescribing.

The formula calculates target shares (percentages) for each NHS board based on a weighted capitation approach that starts with the number of people resident in each NHS board area. The formula then makes adjustments for the age/sex profile of the NHS board population, their additional needs based on morbidity and life circumstances (including deprivation) and the excess costs of providing services in different geographical areas. Further details on the formula are available online: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Finance/Resource-Allocation-Formula/>.

**Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much it has allocated to each NHS board in each of the last three financial years.

(S4W-17206)

**Alex Neil:** Over the last three years, the baseline allocation of NHS boards has been:

NHS Board	Baseline Allocations		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
	£ millions	£ millions	£ millions
NHS Ayrshire and Arran	574.7	586.9	603.4
NHS Borders	167.3	170.7	175.4
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	241.7	246.4	253.3
NHS Fife	507.1	520.8	539.5
NHS Forth Valley	402.8	418.2	434.2
NHS Grampian	691.1	713.1	743.8
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde	1,895.6	1,937.9	1,995.1
NHS Highland	484.8	496.0	509.8
NHS Lanarkshire	815.6	837.9	865.1
NHS Lothian	1,054.4	1,092.7	1,141.2
NHS Orkney	31.5	32.8	34.3
NHS Shetland	36.7	37.6	38.7
NHS Tayside	596.4	611.2	629.1
NHS Western Isles	57.7	59.1	60.7
Unified Boards	7,557.4	7,761.3	8,023.6
National Waiting Times Centre	39.1	39.4	44.7
NHS 24	59.4	60.1	61.5
NHS Education	393.4	391.1	390.4
NHS Health Scotland	20.2	19.3	18.5
NHS NSS	266.0	277.3	281.7
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	17.2	16.6	15.9
Scottish Ambulance Service	197.7	203.8	207.6
State Hospital	33.2	33.2	33.6
Special Boards	1,026.2	1,040.8	1,053.9
Total	8,583.6	8,802.1	9,077.5

**Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of the NHS budget it has allocated to NHS Lanarkshire in 2013-14.

**(S4W-17207)**

**Alex Neil:** In 2013-14, NHS Lanarkshire's initial resource allocation was £865.1 million which was 10.78% of the total baseline budget allocated to NHS territorial boards.

**Elaine Smith (Coatbridge and Chryston) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it is giving to Lanarkshire hospitals following recent reports of increased mortality rates.

**(S4W-17208)**

**Alex Neil:** As announced on 27 August 2013, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has been commissioned by the Scottish Government to lead a review to look at the reasons and causes behind NHS Lanarkshire's pattern of Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios.

The Scottish Government, HIS and NHS Lanarkshire are committed to working together to ensure patient safety in each of these hospitals.

It is reassuring that NHS Lanarkshire already have a plan in place to make improvements. However, in light of the latest statistics it is the right time to offer more enhanced support. The review will identify whether any additional action needs to be taken, or whether any aspects of the action plan need to be strengthened or accelerated. The report of this review shall be published.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what procurement advice in relation to blacklisting it has given to (a) NHS boards and (b) the Scottish Futures Trust on new build projects.

**(S4W-17259)**

**Alex Neil:** NHS boards and the Scottish Futures Trust were made aware that ministers are opposed to blacklisting and will work with the Scottish Government to respond to the final report from the Scottish Affairs Committee's Inquiry on this matter.

New guidelines for purchasers on dealing with companies found to have been involved in blacklisting are being developed and will be published shortly.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many companies identified on the Consulting Association's database have been awarded NHS contracts in Scotland in the last 18 months.

**(S4W-17260)**

**Alex Neil:** A total of four companies that have been awarded contracts by the Scottish Government and its agencies since 2007 have been named, or associated with companies named by the Information Commissioner's Office, as companies which subscribed to the Consulting Association.

**Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the reported concerns that the minimum height for clearance of electricity cables over arable fields can be unsafe for large-scale farm machinery.

**(S4W-17395)**

**Michael Matheson:** We welcome the initiative from Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution in distributing stickers to the UK farming community warning of the risks from overhead power cables.

Employers and operators of industrial and agricultural machinery have statutory obligations under health and safety regulations. This is an issue reserved to the UK Government. The Health and Safety Executive have produced guidance for the operation of agricultural machinery in the presence of overhead power cables.

## Learning and Justice

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle revenge porn.

**The following answer was corrected on 26 September 2013**

**(S4W-17151)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** There are a range of laws that may be applicable in dealing with the issue of revenge porn, including both criminal laws and civil laws, depending on the specific circumstance of each incident.

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service officials met with representatives from Scottish Women's Aid, Rape Crisis Scotland, White Ribbon Scotland, Victim Support Scotland and Police Scotland on 5 September 2013 to discuss the issue of revenge porn and how best it could be dealt with. The Scottish Government will consider any issues or specific proposals arising from the event."

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the recent fatal helicopter accident in the North Sea and what the outcomes were.

**(S4W-17182)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government worked closely with the UK government on a range of issues in response to this tragic event. We will continue to do so until the causes are known and any safety recommendations are implemented to enhance the safety of those working offshore in the North Sea.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, whether it will discuss with the UK Government a formal agreement between employers' representatives and trade unions regarding trade union access to employees offshore, including the provision of regular berths on helicopters transporting workers offshore.

**(S4W-17184)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government will continue to work with industry, unions, the UK Government and the Helicopter Safety Steering Group to ensure that issues such as this are fully considered.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what its position is on calls for an independent public inquiry into the cause of the recent fatal helicopter accident in the North Sea.

**(S4W-17185)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Law officers will consider the result of all the investigations and whether any criminal proceedings or fatal accident inquiry is in the public interest. Ministers will then consider the need for further inquiries once the findings of the Air Accidents Investigation Branch investigation are known and considered by the Civil Aviation Authority. The Scottish Government would have to reach an agreement with the United Kingdom Government about the nature of any inquiry, as it would have to be undertaken under the Inquiries Act 2005, which is reserved legislation.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what its position is on the Helicopter Safety Steering Group (HSSG) commissioning an independent review of the safety of

helicopter operations in the UK Continental Shelf, and whether it has made recommendations to the HSSG on review membership.

**(S4W-17186)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government supports the review announced by the Helicopter Safety Steering Group. We have been working closely with the HSSG since the accident and we will continue to offer our assistance and support where appropriate. The Scottish Government has made no specific recommendations to the HSSG on review membership but has encouraged a wide workforce participation.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what representations it will make to the Helicopter Safety Steering Group regarding the appointment of a group to review the seating configuration on Super Puma helicopters, and to ensure that its terms of reference include seating configurations on all other helicopters operating offshore.

**(S4W-17187)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government will continue to work with industry, unions, the UK Government and the Helicopter Safety Steering Group to ensure that issues such as this are fully considered.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what its position is on the adoption of Norwegian standards of (a) safety, (b) inspection and (c) regulation of helicopter operations in the North Sea, and whether it will make representations to the UK Government in this regard.

**(S4W-17188)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government will support cross-industry discussions as part of the Helicopter Safety Steering Group (HSSG) review to see whether any lessons can be learned from Norwegian safety and maintenance regime. The Scottish Government will support the HSSG review with industry, unions and the UK Government.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what steps it has taken to reassure offshore workers about the safety of Super Puma helicopters following the recent fatal accident.

**(S4W-17189)**

**Fergus Ewing:** The Scottish Government has held a number of discussions with industry and unions, and will continue to do so. In addition, the Scottish Government is working with the Helicopter Safety Steering Group and will support the far reaching independent and strategic safety review of helicopter safety in the North Sea as a key starting point for rebuilding confidence of the workforce.

**David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the potential impact on employment in the oil and gas sector in Scotland, what discussions it has had on the safety of helicopters used offshore with (a) employers and (b) trade unions on the Helicopter Safety Steering Group, and what the outcomes of those discussions were.

**(S4W-17190)**

**Fergus Ewing:** Since the tragic accident, the Scottish Government has had numerous discussions directly with unions and Oil and Gas UK, and has worked closely with wider industry as part of the Helicopter Safety Steering Group. These discussions have covered a range of issues and the Scottish Government has sought to reassure that necessary investigations are underway and, once completed, that lessons must be learned to enhance the safety of the offshore oil and gas sector.

## Strategy and External Affairs

**Drew Smith (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its plans are for a provisional constitution should Scotland separate from the rest of the UK; who would (a) draft and (b) approve this; whether it would be in place on the day of secession, and how long it would take for the so-called people's constitution to come into force.

(S4W-16903)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The Scottish Government's plans for a constitutional platform to come into force from Scotland's independence day are set out in the Scottish Government publication *Scotland's Future: from the Referendum to Independence and a Written Constitution*: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00413757.pdf>.

Paragraphs 2.12 of the document states that the Scottish Government and Parliament will have the leading role in legislating for the creation of the constitutional platform, while paragraph 2.13 explains that part of the platform will involve Westminster passing legislation, for example to acknowledge the end of its power to legislate for Scotland.

Paragraph 1.8 of Scotland's Future states that the post-independence Scottish constitutional convention will convene under the auspices of the Scottish Parliament, that the remit and membership of the convention should be a matter for the parliament to determine and that the Parliament should also determine the process by which the constitution produced by the convention will become the constitution of Scotland.

**Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when the Registrar General will publish the second tranche of results from the 2011 Census and what topics will be included.

(S4W-17473)

**Fiona Hyslop:** National Records of Scotland has today published *2011 Census: Key results on Population, Ethnicity, Identity, Religion, Health, Housing and Accommodation in Scotland - Release 2A (Laying number: SG/2013/167)*. This report presents the first part of the second release of results from the 2011 Census in Scotland, which was held on 27 March 2011. Release 2A consists of the Key and Quick Statistics tables for the following topics: population, ethnicity, identity, language and religion, health and housing and accommodation

These topics are published at Scotland, council area and health board level. A copy of the report is available from the Scotland's Census website at: [www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk).

*The following questions received holding answers:*

S4W-16877  
S4W-17159  
S4W-17162  
S4W-17132