

Friday 27 September 2013

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Crown Office

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the holding of a fatal accident inquiry into the circumstances of a Super Puma helicopter crash in the North Sea on 1 April 2009 has not yet commenced, and on what date it will.

(S4W-17191)

Lesley Thomson: A timeline detailing the investigations which were conducted into the crash of the Super Puma helicopter on 1 April 2009, the decisions that were taken following these investigations and all the relevant dates has been published on the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) website and can be accessed here:

<http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/latest-news-from-copfs/531-super-puma-g-red-2009-investigation-timeline>.

The programming of fatal accident inquiries (FAI) is a matter for Scottish Court Service (SCS). Following the decision of Crown Counsel on 19 January 2013 that there should be no criminal proceedings and that a FAI should be held COPFS contacted the Sheriff Principal of Grampian Highland and Islands in February 2013 who identified the date of 28 October 2013 as suitable for holding the FAI. However, in June SCS advised they were unable to source suitable accommodation in Aberdeen for a FAI of this magnitude at that time.

A new date has now been scheduled for the FAI of 6 January 2014 and it will take place in Aberdeen.

Enterprise and Environment

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of red meat reared in Scotland is sold (a) in the UK, (b) in the rest of the EU and (c) outwith the EU labelled as British meat.

(S4W-17168)

Richard Lochhead: The Scottish Government does not collect such data. However, the labelling of red meat is determined by the customers specification and marketing strategy, and these are commercial issues.

Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what recent meetings it has had with (a) the UK Government, (b) Quality Meat Scotland, (c) the Agricultural and Horticulture Development Board and (d) EBLEX regarding the red meat levy and what was discussed.

(S4W-17169)

Richard Lochhead: I have discussed the red meat levy repatriation issue with Quality Meat Scotland and the UK Government on a number of occasions, most recently with David Mundell, Parliamentary under Secretary of State at the Scotland Office, on 12 September.

As Agricultural and Horticulture Development Board and EBLEX are accountable to ministers in England in relation to red meat the Scottish Government does not engage directly with them on this matter.

Finance

Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government when it will introduce the Procurement Reform Bill.

Holding answer issued: 24 September 2013

(S4W-17071)

Nicola Sturgeon: The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill will be introduced shortly. The First Minister confirmed to members during his appearance in front of the Scottish Parliament Conveners' Group on 12 September that the Bill had been submitted to the Parliament.

Governance and Communities

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to foodbanks.

(S4W-17280)

Margaret Burgess: I refer the member to the answer to the question S4T-00422 on 3 September 2013 which is available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/OfficialReport.aspx>.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it is aware of the location of foodbanks.

(S4W-17281)

Margaret Burgess: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-15751 on 27 June 2013. The member may wish to note that the Scottish Government recently commissioned a study exploring the provision of emergency food-aid in Scotland. 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>.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it is aware of the circumstances and nature of people using foodbanks.

(S4W-17282)

Margaret Burgess: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17281 on 27 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>.

Jim Eadie (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to make changes to the 20-year security rule in the Land Tenure Reform (Scotland) Act 1974.

(S4W-17480)

Nicola Sturgeon: The Scottish Government plans to make an amendment to the "20 year security rule" as part of the forthcoming Housing Bill. The amendment will aim to remove the right to redeem securities after 20 years for those participating in designated schemes, including the new Help to Buy (Scotland) Shared Equity scheme.

The following question received a holding answer:

S4W-17179