

Monday 2 December 2013

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how much ancestral tourism (a) has contributed to the Scottish economy in each of the last five years and (b) is projected to contribute in (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15.

(S4W-18443)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government does not hold information on the economic impact of ancestral tourism in each of the last five years or how much ancestral tourism is projected to contribute to the economy in 2013-14 and 2014-15. VisitScotland conducted research in 2012 which estimated the value of ancestral tourism to Scotland's economy. A copy of this research is available at: http://www.visitscotland.org/pdf/Ancestral%20Research%2016%20Jan%20vs.org_pptx.pdf.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how it promotes (a) innovation and (b) invention in the (i) engineering, (ii) science and (iii) business sector.

(S4W-18446)

Fergus Ewing: On 13 November 2013 *Scotland CAN DO: Becoming a World-leading Entrepreneurial and Innovative Nation*, was published. The framework builds on the Government Economic Strategy and details the Scottish Government's current approach to, and future plans for, supporting entrepreneurship and innovation.

Scotland CAN DO can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/7675a>, and is also registered with the Scottish Parliament Information Reference Centre (Bib. number 55456).

Governance and Communities

Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it held prior to the recent Ajax v Celtic football match in Amsterdam to ensure the safety of travelling fans.

Holding answer issued: 22 November 2013

(S4W-18215)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18213 on 29 November 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>.

Health and Social Care

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many patients had their appointments postponed as a result of the IT failure at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; how many have now had their appointments, and how many subsequently failed to be treated within the 12-week treatment time guarantee period.

(S4W-18381)

Alex Neil: NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde advised that the number of postponed episodes were: 599 outpatient appointments, 62 planned in-patient procedures and day cases and 48 chemotherapy treatments. Over this period approximately 10,000 procedures and appointments were unaffected and went ahead as planned.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has assured the Scottish Government that all patients who had in-patient/day case procedures or outpatient appointments affected by the IT issues were re-booked by the end of October 2013; and that no patients failed to be treated within the 12 week treatment time guarantee period.

Learning and Justice

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the spend per head is in each of the sectors involved in the delivery of post-16 education.

Holding answer issued: 4 October 2013

(S4W-17311)

Michael Russell: A number of organisations are involved in delivering post-16 education. I have asked the chief executives of both the Scottish Funding Council and Skills Development Scotland to write to the member.

Local authorities also deliver post-16 education to S5 and S6 pupils in secondary schools. Information on local authorities' spend per secondary school stage is not held centrally.

Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the evidence given at the Public Audit Committee on 6 November 2013 that there are 14,700 fewer college places in the Glasgow region this year compared with three years previously and that the biggest reduction is in the 25 and over age group.

Holding answer issued: 22 November 2013

(S4W-18183)

Michael Russell: Colleges are delivering our commitment to maintain full-time equivalent (FTE) student places, exceeding our target by 3% in 2011-12. Moreover, the number of FTE funded places in the Glasgow region in 2011-12 was 25,940, an increase of 1,188 on three years previously (2008-09)

Consistent with the aims of priorities for reform, colleges are focussing on full-time courses for young people that deliver skills for employment and economic growth. That policy is working, only 10 of 28 EU countries have a lower youth unemployment rate than Scotland. Moreover, college principals made clear in their evidence to the Public Audit Committee on 6 November 2013 that regionalisation is delivering benefits, such as improved quality learning.

Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether any Football Co-ordination Unit Scotland officers travelled to Amsterdam for the recent Ajax v Celtic football match and, if so, whether these officers were (a) uniformed or (b) plain clothed; whether they made any arrests, and what discussions it has had with the Dutch authorities regarding allegations of excessive policing.

Holding answer issued: 22 November 2013

(S4W-18213)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Scottish Government has had no discussions with the Dutch authorities following the game in Amsterdam.

For any international football fixture, the standard protocol is for the police force hosting the fixture to make a request via the UK Football Policing Unit for any assistance they may require from another force. In Scotland these requests are administered through the Football Coordination Unit for Scotland (FoCUS).

For the Ajax v Celtic fixture played on Wednesday 6 November 2013, the request from the Dutch authorities was for six officers to assist with their policing operation. The officers who travelled to Amsterdam were not members of FoCUS but were supplied by Greater Glasgow Division ('G' Division) of Police Scotland, which is responsible for day to day liaison with Celtic FC and the policing of fixtures at Celtic Park.

There was close liaison between 'G' Division and Celtic FC in the build-up to this fixture. This involved information sharing and the provision of guidance to visiting supporters, including providing details of offences in the Netherlands and public safety advice. The information was also shared with Ajax and the police in Amsterdam.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to ensure a sustainable approach to the training of educational psychologists.

Holding answer issued: 25 November 2013

(S4W-18250)

Michael Russell: The Scottish Government is working in partnership with the National Scottish Steering Group for Educational Psychologists to look at appropriate workforce planning at a national level.

The group consists of representation from Association of Directors of Education Scotland, Scottish Division of Educational Psychology, Strathclyde University, Dundee University, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Principal Educational Psychology, Educational Institute of Scotland, Education Scotland and relevant Scottish Government officials.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the impact of recent changes to postgraduate funding of educational psychology courses on the number of educational psychology students.

Holding answer issued: 25 November 2013

(S4W-18251)

Michael Russell: The Scottish Government is working in partnership with the National Scottish Steering Group for Educational Psychologists to look at appropriate workforce planning at a national level. The impact of funding arrangements has been considered by the steering group. Applications for the postgraduate course are lower and there has been a small reduction in those starting the course. However, we do not yet know what impact this will have in future years. This will be monitored by the National Scottish Steering Group for Educational Psychologists.

The group consists of representation from Association of Directors of Education Scotland, Scottish Division of Educational Psychology, Strathclyde University, Dundee University, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Principal Educational Psychology, Educational Institute of Scotland, Education Scotland and relevant Scottish Government officials.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what financial support in (a) loans and (b) bursaries is available for students studying a postgraduate course in educational psychology and how this compares with the support available in September 2011.

Holding answer issued: 25 November 2013

(S4W-18252)

Michael Russell: The Scottish Government previously paid each student a bursary of £49,000 (£18,350 direct to universities for tuition fees and a bursary direct to students of £30,650) over two years.

The new agreed funding position with the Student Awards Agency Scotland is that students will be eligible to apply for a £3,400 Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan for each of the two years (which they won't start repaying until they are in employment earning over the current £15,000 threshold).

In addition to this students may be eligible for a Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDL). A PCDL is a deferred payment bank loan to help pay for vocational training, leading to employment in the UK or the EU. The loan can cover up to two years of learning and can be between £300-£10,000.

As part of the recent announcement made by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning to increase bursaries and living costs, Scottish domiciled postgraduate students undertaking eligible supported courses, which are in demand from employers, will be able to apply for a loan of up to £4,500 a year to help with living costs from 2015-16, this currently includes the two year Master of Science Degree in Educational Psychology.

Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment the educational psychologists' workforce planning group has made of recent changes to postgraduate funding for educational psychology and their impact on the training of educational psychologists.

Holding answer issued: 25 November 2013

(S4W-18280)

Michael Russell: The initial assessment made to date of recent changes to postgraduate funding for educational psychology is the small reduction in numbers of students currently in training based on previous years. However, we do not yet know what impact this will have in future years. This will be

monitored by the National Scottish Steering Group for Educational Psychologists (NSSGEP). The group have set four initial priorities to take forward as follows:

It is recommended that the NSSGEP should explore effective models for psychological service structures including necessary management structures to address the question of appropriate supply and demand of educational psychologists across Scotland.

The NSSGEP should explore viable funding routes for a national training model to ensure that the most cost-effective mechanism for funding training is in place alongside the fulfilment of all professional accreditation criteria.

The NSSGEP should gather data regarding job vacancies including national and localised shortages of educational psychologists, destinations of psychologists leaving the profession and maternity demographics annually to inform planning.

The NSSGEP should gather data regarding salaries and conditions of service in order to support equitable remuneration and conditions with the closest comparators

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many recipients in 2012-13 of (a) young student, (b) independent student, (c) study outside Scotland and (d) health directorate bursaries administered by the Student Awards Agency for Scotland were from households with an income (i) below £17,000 and (ii) between £17,000 and £36,000 in £1,000 increments.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18319)

Michael Russell: These details are attached in the following table:

Income band	Number of students receiving each bursary								
	YSB	ISB	SOSB	SGHD	Income band	YSB	ISB	SOSB	SGHD
<17,000	17,815	14,330	860	625	26001-27000	820	75	20	25
17001-18000	1,185	180	45	30	27001-28000	850	55	25	30
18001-19000	1,135	130	30	25	28001-29000	775	40	25	35
19001-20000	1,025	110	25	35	29001-30000	805	45	30	25
20001-21000	1,070	115	30	30	30001-31000	720	35	25	25
21001-22000	1,020	95	25	30	31001-32000	790	30	25	25
22001-23000	930	100	45	25	32001-33000	695	20	20	20
23001-24000	855	75	40	20	33001-34000	575	30	15	20
24001-25000	860	85	35	25	34001-35000	175	5	5	25
25001-26000	830	70	30	15	35001-36000	30	<5	<5	20

(Source: The Students Awards Agency for Scotland)

YSB-Young Students' Bursary

ISB-Independent Students' Bursary

SOSB-Students' Outside Scotland Bursary

SGHD-Health Directorate Bursaries

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many full-time Scotland-domiciled undergraduate students receiving support from the Student Awards Agency for Scotland in 2012-13 were from households with an income (a) between £36,000 and £62,000 in £1,000 increments and (b) over £62,000, which was not declared.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18320)

Michael Russell: The attached table shows the number of full time Scottish domiciled undergraduate students receiving support in 2012-13 by household income. The Student Awards Agency for Scotland does not hold information on students with no income. As students do not have to declare income on their application form there is no information available on undeclared income:

Income band	Number of students receiving support	Income Band	Number of students receiving support
<17000	20,965	39001-40000	755

17001-18000	1,560	40001-41000	705
18001-19000	1,445	41001-42000	680
19001-20000	1,3053	42001-43000	660
20001-21000	1,325	43001-44000	670
21001-22000	1,285	44001-45000	565
22001-23000	1,185	45001-46000	595
23001-24000	1,075	46001-47000	620
24001-25000	1,100	47001-48000	530
25001-26000	1,050	48001-49000	545
26001-27000	1,030	49001-50000	535
27001-28000	1,090	50001-51000	535
28001-29000	975	51001-52000	540
29001-30000	1,045	52001-53000	500
30001-31000	910	53001-54000	455
31000-32000	1,030	54001-55000	465
32001-33000	935	55001-56000	430
33001-34000	855	56001-57000	390
34001-35000	935	57001-58000	380
35001-36000	780	58001-59000	330
36001-37000	785	59001-60000	315
37001-38000	695	60001-61000	310
38001-39000	695	61001-62000	310
		> 62000	4,930

Source: The Students Awards Agency for Scotland

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many claims there have been for disabled students allowance (DSA) in each year since 2000-01 and what its position is on the reasons for changes in the pattern of uptake.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18325)

Michael Russell: The number of claims for DSA, in each academic year since 2001-02 are as follows:

Year	Number of Students claiming DSA
2001-02	1,645
2002-03	2,040
2003-04	2,410
2004-05	2,775
2005-06	3,165
2006-07	3,385
2007-08	3,625
2008-09	4,065
2009-10	4,275
2010-11	4,435
2011-12	4,495
2012-13	4,045

Source: Higher Education Student Support in Scotland 2010-11; Higher Education Student Support in Scotland 2012-13, Scottish Government

DSA is paid out in response to demand so claims are only made by students where there are justified needs, and those needs are not already being met by the student's own equipment or institutional support. Initial discussions with the Disabled Student Advisers Group have suggested that

the reduction in the number of claimants between 2011-12 and 2012-13 may be due to institutions being in a better state of readiness in terms of the reasonable adjustments expected of them by the Equality Act, along with technological improvements which mean that the functionality of equipment being used by students today lends itself much more easily to supporting those students with disabilities.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish its plans to reform disabled students allowance.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18326)

Michael Russell: The Scottish Government launched a consultation on the Review of Disabled Students' Allowance which closed on 30 September 2013. It is currently considering the responses and will publish its response imminently.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assumptions were made regarding all tuition fee support in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14 and (c) 2014-15 in the "Student support and tuition fee payments" line in Table 5.07 of the draft Scottish budget 2013-14.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18330)

Michael Russell: The budget assumes that the student population is maintained at current levels.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assumptions were made regarding the total value of full-time undergraduate tuition fee support in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14 and (c) 2014-15 in the "Student support and tuition fee payments" line in Table 5.07 of the draft Scottish budget 2013-14.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18331)

Michael Russell: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18330 on 28 November 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>.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assumptions were made regarding the total value of (a) bursaries and (b) all other non-repayable grants in (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14 and (iii) 2014-15 in the "Student support and tuition fee payments" line in Table 5.07 of the draft Scottish budget 2013-14.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18332)

Michael Russell: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18330 on 28 November 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>.

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assumptions were made regarding the percentage take-up of student loans in (a) 2013-14 and (b) 2014-15 in the "Net Student Loans Advanced" line in Table 5.07 of the draft Scottish budget 2013-14 and on what basis.

Holding answer issued: 27 November 2013

(S4W-18333)

Michael Russell: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18330 on 28 November 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>.

Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government how many further education colleges offer maritime (a) ratings and (b) officer apprenticeship courses.

(S4W-18395)

Angela Constance: Once approved by Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Accreditation to deliver the core qualification, Orkney and Shetland Colleges will be the only colleges to deliver the approved Scottish Modern Apprenticeship (MA) pathway for Seafarer/Tug Rating (Deck) within the Maritime Occupations Framework. More colleges may seek approval to deliver the qualification and the MA Framework in the future. Indeed, a meeting is being facilitated in December 2013 by the Maritime Skills Alliance and SQA attended by all five of the Scottish Maritime colleges, Banff and Buchan, City of Glasgow, Lews Castle, Orkney and Shetland to discuss the existing and planned MA frameworks and qualifications, to try to agree a shared plan to market frameworks and explore collaboration between the colleges.

There are however, other Maritime-related courses available at colleges which are not part of an MA framework. Nautical education and training is specialised and limited to a small group of experienced providers in Scotland who are also members of the International Association of Maritime Institutions. The college providers of Maritime/ Nautical related training in Scotland at present are:

North East Scotland College:

<http://www.banff-buchan.ac.uk/courses/listing/engineering/S26/Nautical>

City of Glasgow College: <http://www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk/courses/nautical-studies>.

Lews Castle College UHI:

<http://www.lews.uhi.ac.uk/courses/course-a-z-and-filter?search=Search+by+keyword...&area=mari&level=+&mode=+&submit=submit>.

Mallaig Marine Training Centre (West Highland College UHI):

<http://www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/certificate-maritime-skills>.

North Atlantic Fisheries College (Shetland UHI): <http://www.nafc.ac.uk/ssns.aspx>

Orkney College UHI: <http://www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk/studying-at-oc/departments/maritime-studies>.

Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to promote Skills Development Scotland's maritime ratings apprenticeship framework among (a) employers and (b) colleges.

(S4W-18397)

Angela Constance: Skills Development Scotland administers the public funding contribution for all MA frameworks; it does not however own the framework. It is the responsibility of the Sector Skills Council or equivalent, in this case, the Maritime Skills Alliance, to consult with employers during the development of the framework, and to promote the framework to employers and training providers, including colleges, following approval.

The next step is for training providers to seek approval from the relevant awarding body to deliver the core qualification. It is a commercial decision for training providers and colleges to decide what qualifications and frameworks they want to deliver.

Jean Urquhart (Highlands and Islands) (Independent): To ask the Scottish Government which sector skills councils (a) are responsible for or (b) have worked on the modern apprenticeship frameworks for the maritime industry.

(S4W-18399)

Angela Constance: The Maritime Skills Alliance (MSA) developed and has responsibility for the Maritime Occupations framework. The MSA is however not a licensed Sector Skills Council, but it is the standard setting body for the UK's maritime sector. The MSA works through Skills for Logistics, the licensed Sector Skills Council for the Freight Logistics Sector.

Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 is effective and what the reasons are for its position on this matter.

(S4W-18428)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 provides measures available to people who require protection from other people who are harassing them. The legislation enables any person to apply to a court for a Non-Harassment Order (NHO), which is a civil order which prohibits someone upon whom it was imposed from undertaking particular conduct which constitutes harassment towards another specified person. Breach of the terms of an NHO is a criminal offence.

The Scottish Government monitors the effectiveness of legislation to address harassment on an on-going basis through contact with stakeholders in the police, COPFS, victims' groups and others. That is why, for example, we legislated through the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 to make it easier for a court to grant an NHO against a person who has been convicted of an offence involving harassment, by removing the need for the convicted person to have engaged in a "course of conduct" constituting harassment, and enabling the court to take account of any previous convictions.

We have also reformed the criminal law to improve how it addresses behaviour constituting harassment. The offences of "stalking" and "threatening and abusive behaviour", contained in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 provide police and prosecutors with additional tools to deal with criminal behaviour constituting harassment.

Linda Fabiani (East Kilbride) (Scottish National Party): To ask the Scottish Government how it monitors the effectiveness of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and whether it plans to review the legislation.

(S4W-18429)

Roseanna Cunningham: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18428 on 29 November 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>.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much it cost to install the Firelink communication system, also broken down by fire control room.

(S4W-18435)

Roseanna Cunningham: Scotland's share of the costs of installing the GB-wide Firelink communication system, including shared costs and management costs, totalled £35 million. These costs, which were not broken down by fire control room, were fully funded by the Scottish Government. In addition, the eight individual Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland were required to make staff available to assist with implementation of, and for training on, the system.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much of the (a) management and (b) maintenance costs of the Firelink communication system is met by (i) it and (ii) the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

(S4W-18436)

Roseanna Cunningham: With the exception of some ancillary and discretionary expenditure by the eight former Fire and Rescue Services and, since April 2013, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, the costs for Scotland of the GB-wide Firelink communication system, including management and maintenance costs, have been and continue to be fully funded by the Scottish Government.

In accordance with an arrangement reached in 2006 with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Government pays a proportion of overall GB-wide programme costs, including management and maintenance costs. Management costs and maintenance costs are not separately identified. It is estimated that total Scottish Government expenditure on Firelink in 2013-14 will be £4.5 million.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will increase the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's budget to cover the extra costs that the service will accrue when it assumes sole responsibility for the management and maintenance of the Firelink communication system.

(S4W-18437)

Roseanna Cunningham: As and when responsibilities for the management and maintenance of the Firelink communication system are taken up by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, appropriate funding provision will be made available.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that its current position on fire control rooms represents a change to that announced in the Draft Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2009 in which it stated that the "Scottish Ministers [had] decided not to take any central action to reduce the number of Fire Control Rooms", and the statement by the Minister for Community Safety on 10 September 2009 (Official Report, c.19437) with regard to the framework, and, if so, what the reasons for this are.

(S4W-18438)

Roseanna Cunningham: The Draft Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2009 related to the 8 pre-reform fire and rescue services in Scotland. Following the creation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in April 2013, decisions on the allocation of its resources, including the number and location of control rooms, is a matter for the SFRS Board and not Scottish Ministers.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what national guidance there is for education institutions regarding students who require a full-time carer; what regulations apply to such carers, and how many such students currently attend (a) school, (b) college and (c) university.

(S4W-18442)

Michael Russell: The Education (Additional Support for Learning) Act 2004 (as amended) provides the framework for the provision of support to overcome barriers to learning in schools. The Act is supported by a code of practice which guides education authorities and other agencies on the delivery of their duties to identify, provide and review the additional support needs of their pupils.

Partnership Matters, published by the Scottish Government, provides national guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies who may be involved in providing the required support for a student with additional support needs to attend college or university. This includes the provision of personal care.

The Scottish Government does not hold data on the numbers of students requiring full time carers at school, college and university.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government how many prosecutions in 2012-13 were related to fires that started because of (a) refuse and (b) flytipping, and how many led to a conviction.

(S4W-18452)

Roseanna Cunningham: The information requested is not held centrally.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will carry out a review of policing arrangements in April 2014, following the creation of Police Scotland.

(S4W-18456)

Kenny MacAskill: Police Scotland operates independently of ministers and the Scottish Government will not be carrying out a review of policing arrangements. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 clearly sets out how the single service will be kept under review by the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). The SPA has a statutory function to deliver continuous improvement of policing and to hold the chief constable to account.

At the end of each financial year the SPA will prepare an annual report an assessment of the Police Service's performance. In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland will report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the police service in Scotland.

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats): To ask the Scottish Government what considerations local authorities have to make regarding the length of journeys to school and how school journey times should be calculated.

(S4W-18488)

Michael Russell: Local authorities have a duty under the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to make such arrangements as they consider necessary for the transport between home and school of pupils residing and attending schools in their area. In considering these arrangements, authorities are required to have regard to the safety of the pupil.

Local authorities are best placed to decide what constitutes a reasonable travel time based on their knowledge of their area.

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many support staff in the Grampian Police area took (a) voluntary severance and (b) early retirement in 2012-13.

(S4W-18513)

Kenny MacAskill: This information is not held centrally, it is a matter for Police Scotland.

We are committed to our pledge of no compulsory redundancies, and reductions in support staff are being delivered by not replacing people who leave, retirements and voluntary exit schemes.

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many support staff in the former Grampian Police area have taken (a) voluntary severance and (b) early retirement since April 2013.

(S4W-18514)

Kenny MacAskill: This information is not held centrally, it is a matter for Police Scotland.

We are committed to our pledge of no compulsory redundancies, and reductions in support staff are being delivered by not replacing people who leave, retirements and voluntary exit schemes.

Transport Scotland

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the timescale is for the completion of Dalcross railway station.

(S4W-18411)

Keith Brown: The reopening of Dalcross railway station currently forms part of phase one of the Aberdeen to Inverness rail improvements project, which will be delivered between 2014 and 2019.

To assist in the delivery of the new station, Network Rail will work with station promoters to ensure that the community's needs are met and that third-party funding for the station has been secured to complete phase one by 2019.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what budget has been set aside for the Freight Facilities Grant in each year since 2010, and how much of it was spent.

(S4W-18412)

Keith Brown: The information is given in the following table:

Year	Freight Facilities Grant budget (£)	Freight Facilities Grant expenditure (£)
2010-11	8,100,000	3,531,377.70
2011-12	3,000,000	1,067,843.40
2012-13 (1)	750,000	-7,334.71
2013-14	2,000,000	0

Note 1: The figure for 2012-13 is negative because the amount of expenditure accrued to 2011-12, in respect of the spend reported by one of the applicants in that year, was greater than the eventual amount of grant claimed.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of the Freight Facilities Grant has been spent on (a) rail and (b) sea projects in each year since 2010.

(S4W-18413)

Keith Brown: The information is provided in the following table:

Year	Freight Facilities Grant—percentage of expenditure on rail projects	Freight Facilities Grant—percentage of expenditure on sea projects
2010-11	3.2%	96.8%
2011-12	2.3%	97.7%
2012-13 (1)	0%	0%
2013-14 (2)	0%	0%

Notes:

1. There was no expenditure on Freight Facilities Grant in 2012-13.
2. There has been no expenditure on Freight Facilities Grant in 2013-14.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of the railway line between Inverness and (a) Perth and (b) Aberdeen is (i) single and (ii) double track.

(S4W-18414)

Keith Brown: The route between Perth and Inverness is 118 miles with double track sections between: Perth and Stanley Junction (7 miles), Blair Atholl and Dalwhinnie (24 miles) and Culloden and Inverness (7 miles). Therefore, 67.8% of the route is single track and 32.2% is double track.

The route between Aberdeen and Inverness is 108 miles with one double track section between Inch Station and Kennethmont signal box. The double tracked section is 5.3% of the route and the remaining 94.7% is single track.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had at (a) ministerial and (b) official level with the Department for Transport regarding the Regional Connectivity Fund.

(S4W-18415)

Keith Brown: There have been no discussions at ministerial level with the Department for Transport about the Regional Air Connectivity Fund. At official level, there have been discussions around the use of the fund to support air services from Inverness and Dundee.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its policy is regarding the development of catamarans

(S4W-18416)

Keith Brown: Work on the vessel replacement programme set out in the Scottish Government's Ferries Plan (2013-2022) is being taken forward by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd in partnership with CalMac Ferries Ltd. We are open-minded about any vessel design that meets the specifications developed for new vessels. These specifications will require vessels able to operate year-round in some rough seas and in and out of some challenging berths.

James Kelly (Rutherglen) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-10220 by Keith Brown on 26 October 2012, what percentage of contracts for the Queensferry Crossing has been allocated to (a) Scottish and (b) non-Scottish companies and how much these contracts are worth.

(S4W-18486)

Keith Brown: As of 30 June 2013, 216 out of 368 subcontracts (59%) for the Forth Replacement Crossing project have been awarded to Scottish firms and 152 (41%) to non-Scottish companies. The total value of Scottish subcontracts is approximately £82 million out of a total of approximately £284 million.

In addition, as at 30 June 2013, 9,732 out of 10,758 supply orders (90.5%) on the principal contract worth approximately £61 million out of a total of about £85 million, have been awarded to Scottish firms.

The following questions received holding answers:

S4W-18368
S4W-18369
S4W-18370
S4W-18371
S4W-18372
S4W-18373
S4W-18374
S4W-18375
S4W-18392
S4W-18394