

Monday 9 December 2013

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Enterprise and Environment

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the (a) capital and (b) running costs of setting up a pensions regulator in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17819)

John Swinney: At present, the UK Pensions Regulator and the Financial Conduct Authority share responsibility for regulating pensions in Scotland. Our paper on *Pensions in an Independent Scotland* and the White Paper *Scotland's Future: your guide to an Independent Scotland* considered the creation of a Scottish pensions regulator within the context of the wider financial and consumer landscape. There are opportunities for more effective regulation in an independent Scotland and for realising synergies and efficiencies within this landscape.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the (a) capital and (b) running costs of setting up a Scottish Ombudsman service in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17821)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government has published a paper on *Consumer Protection and Representation in an Independent Scotland: Options* which considers two options for setting up an efficient and effective Scottish Ombudsman service in an independent Scotland: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/08/2253>. We are continuing to develop our proposals in full consultation with stakeholders.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the (a) capital and (b) running costs of setting up a body to replicate the National Employment Savings Trust in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17823)

John Swinney: As stated in our paper on *Pensions in an Independent Scotland*, it would be for a future Scottish Government to work with the pensions industry in Scotland, and all other stakeholders on the design of a Scottish equivalent of the National Employment Savings Trust.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the UK Government on how the Financial Assistance Scheme would operate in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17831)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government has consistently identified the need for detailed discussions on pensions issues with the UK Government. We are keen for these discussions to start as soon as possible.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with organisations that operate pension funds that would be considered cross-border in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17834)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government has had discussions with a range of organisations on this issue. These discussions have informed our position on cross-border pension schemes.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has sought legal advice on the operation of cross-border pension schemes in an independent Scotland and, if so, what advice it has received.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17835)

John Swinney: It is the long-standing practice, followed by both the Scottish Government and the UK Government that, the fact and content of any legal advice is not released outwith Government.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the comments in its paper, *Pensions in an Independent Scotland*, that it “would continue with the roll-out of automatic enrolment” in an independent Scotland, (a) whether it will provide details of what body would be set up to administer this and (b) how it would mitigate issues that arise from the need to determine residency.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17849)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government would work with the UK Government on appropriate transitional arrangements to ensure the continued roll-out of automatic enrolment in an independent Scotland.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-18159 by John Swinney on 19 November 2013, if Scotland decides to separate from the rest of the UK and no agreement can be reached with the UK Government on the use of sterling, whether it will (a) continue to use sterling, (b) adopt the euro or (c) issue its own currency.

(S4W-18543)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18159 on 19 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government on what dates it met the (a) UK Government and (b) Bank of England and discussed the continued use of sterling if Scotland decides to separate from the rest of the UK.

(S4W-18544)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government has proposed discussions with the UK Government to explore a joint approach to issues to be resolved after the referendum, in line with the clear recommendation of the Electoral Commission and with the spirit of the Edinburgh Agreement. The Fiscal Commission Working Group has published a set of proposals to deliver a stable and robust macroeconomic framework post-independence, including a formal monetary union. We look forward to the UK Government agreeing to discuss the proposed set up of a formal monetary union, and indeed other matters of importance for the people of Scotland as they prepare for their decision in the referendum.

To inform the work of the Fiscal Commission Working Group, technical and factual discussions took place with the Bank of England. The recommendations of the Fiscal Commission Working Group are reflected in the publication of *Scotland’s Future*. The Governor of the Bank of England recently noted that he welcomes the opportunity to have technical discussions with the Scottish Government.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-18160 by John Swinney on 19 November 2013, if Scotland decides to separate from the rest of the UK and no agreement is reached on the use of sterling, whether the Bank of England will remain as lender of last resort.

(S4W-18545)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18160 on 19 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government on what dates it met the (a) UK Government and (b) Bank of England and discussed the issue of lender of last resort.

(S4W-18546)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18544 on 9 December 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-18161 by John Swinney on 19 November 2013, what its position is in the event that no agreement on the use of sterling can be reached.

(S4W-18547)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18159 on 19 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4W-18162 by John Swinney on 19 November 2013, what discussions it has had with the (a) UK Government and (b) Bank of England on establishing a formal monetary union.

(S4W-18548)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18544 on 9 December 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland decides to separate from the rest of the UK, whether a formal monetary union can be established without the agreement of the rest of the UK.

(S4W-18549)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18159 on 19 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland decides to separate from the rest of the UK, who will establish a formal monetary union.

(S4W-18550)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18159 on 19 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>.

Hugh Henry (Renfrewshire South) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, if Scotland decides to separate from the rest of the UK, who will (a) define and (b) establish a sterling zone.

(S4W-18551)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18159 on 19 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>.

Governance and Communities

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what contingencies it has put in place in the event that no agreement with the UK Government can be reached on the use of (a) Department of Work and Pensions and (b) Treasury infrastructure in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17808)

Nicola Sturgeon: The Scottish Government will enter negotiations with the UK Government following a vote in favour of independence to agree arrangements for the transition to independence, including shared service arrangements where appropriate. The First Minister and Prime Minister signed the Edinburgh Agreement in October 2012, in which the Scottish and UK Governments agree to work constructively together in light of the outcome of the referendum. We expect negotiations on transition to be entered into in the spirit of the Edinburgh Agreement and it will be in the interest of both countries to reach agreement quickly and constructively.

The Expert Working Group on welfare's first report confirms the Scottish Government's view that Scotland is well positioned to deliver benefit payments, including pensions, to people living in Scotland following independence. It also finds that all delivery options are possible in an independent Scotland.

Further Information can be found in the Scottish Government's white paper *Scotland's Future: your guide to an Independent Scotland*.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what procedures underpin the guarantee that pensions will be paid "on time and in full" in an independent Scotland if no agreement can be reached with the UK Government.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17810)

John Swinney: Scotland already has the people and infrastructure in place to manage and to pay pensions and pension scheme administrators across the UK will continue to pay pensions on time and in full during any transitional period leading up to a move to independence. Indeed, existing safeguards for scheme members are being further strengthened by the introduction of the governance provisions of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

In addition section 30 of the Edinburgh Agreement committed the UK and Scottish Governments 'to continue to work together constructively in the light of the outcome, whatever it is, in the best interests of the people of Scotland and of the rest of the United Kingdom.'

During the transitional period, pensions will continue to be paid as currently and will continue to benefit from legislative protections under the continuity of law principle. Article 1 of Protocol 1 of the European Convention of Human Rights also means that pension rights are property rights under the Convention which governments must respect.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the (a) technological requirements and (b) costs to separate Scottish pensions and benefit records from the existing UK infrastructure.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17811)

Nicola Sturgeon: The arrangements for moving from a transitional period of shared delivery to a completely independent Scottish delivery system would be the subject of negotiation between the government of an independent Scotland and the government representing the rest of the UK.

The Expert Working Group report gives good basis for those negotiations and any further work that the Scottish Government would want to do in advance of those negotiations.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the (a) capital and (b) running costs of setting up a national insurance system in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17813)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answers provided on page 386 of the Scottish Government's White Paper *Scotland's Future: your guide to an Independent Scotland* and in particular the answer provided to question 30.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the (a) capital and (b) running costs of setting up a tax collection body in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17815)

John Swinney: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17813 on 9 December 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>.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the (a) capital and (b) running costs of setting up a benefits payment body in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17817)

Nicola Sturgeon: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17811 on 9 December 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>.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the cost in an independent Scotland of a new single tier state pension (a) without the scheduled rise in pension age to 67 and (b) being initially set at a higher rate than the UK state pension.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17825)

Nicola Sturgeon: We intend if in government, to appoint an independent commission on the state pension age within the first year of independence. The commission will have a remit to investigate and make recommendations on the appropriate rate of increase of the state pension age, beyond 66, that would suit Scottish circumstances. The commission will take into account life expectancy, fairness and affordability, including implications for increased public sector pension costs.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what contingencies it has made to deliver commitments in relation to the (a) state pension age and (b) level of the basic state pension in an independent Scotland if these cannot be delivered using the UK Government IT systems.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17827)

Nicola Sturgeon: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17808 on 9 December 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>.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what technological requirements have been identified as necessary to deliver a different state pension in an independent Scotland using UK Government IT systems.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17828)

Nicola Sturgeon: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17808 on 9 December 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>.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that there would be additional administration costs arising from policy divergences on the payment of pensions and benefits in an independent Scotland using UK Government infrastructure.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17829)

Nicola Sturgeon: We are clear that transitional arrangements must not prevent the Scottish Government from having the policy flexibility to make any immediate changes to welfare (including pensions) policy, and we welcome the Expert Group on Welfare's acknowledgement of this.

In Chapter 4 of the Scottish Government's White Paper *Scotland's Future: your guide to an Independent Scotland* we set out our priorities for action, including halting the further rollout of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment in Scotland, allowing the first government of an independent Scotland to take forward reforms to the welfare system that meet Scotland's needs and reflect our priorities. The costs and savings would be subject to negotiations.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of any additional administration costs arising from changes to the basic state pension in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17830)

Nicola Sturgeon: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17829 on 9 December 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>.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the cost of retaining the savings credit for all pensioners in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17832)

Nicola Sturgeon: Annex B of the report reads: "The estimated cost is £8.5 million in 2016-17, relative to a baseline where Savings Credit is abolished. Total costs will increase over time."

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of how it would meet the estimated additional £6 billion in extra benefit expenditure in an independent Scotland between 2026-27 and 2035-36 as a result of not increasing the state pension age to 67 in 2028.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17833)

Nicola Sturgeon: I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-17825 on 9 December 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>.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the liability that it would inherit arising from the protection of all rights and entitlements to public service pensions in an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17837)

John Swinney: The Scottish Government has set out in its paper '*Pensions in an independent Scotland*' a clear and unambiguous commitment on the pension responsibilities it will take on under independence. It also recognises that there would be a need for negotiation with the UK Government as part of the associated transfer of assets and liabilities.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that the Deputy First Minister's statement that it is a "myth that Scotland's population is somehow uniquely ageing or ageing faster than that of the rest of the UK" (Official Report, c. 22775) is consistent with the statement in the Scottish Government report, Demographic Change in Scotland, that "Scotland's population is ageing, and ageing somewhat more rapidly than the other UK countries."

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17838)

Nicola Sturgeon: Scotland and the UK both face ageing populations, as do all developed countries. However, the position facing each country is different.

Updated population projections (2012 based) were released on 6th November 2013. These suggest that the gap between Scotland and the UK, in terms of the projected increase in the pensioner population, is wider than that cited in *Pensions in an Independent Scotland*. Scotland faces an increase in pensioners of 27% between 2012 and 2037, compared to the UK's 31%. At the same time, Scotland faces lower projected growth in the working age population than the UK (4% compared with 12%) and this affects the respective dependency ratios.

Both the UK and Scotland need to address these challenges in ways that best suit the context each faces. The pensions paper sets out why independence offers the optimal route to a successful resolution for Scotland.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it considers that the use of statistics in Pensions in an Independent Scotland was consistent with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17839)

Nicola Sturgeon: Yes. While the statistics code of practice specifically covers the production of official statistics, *Pensions in an Independent Scotland* was produced using the principles contained in the code. It was led by Scottish Government analysts who produced the document in an impartial and objective way, ensuring the accuracy of its statistics and their presentation.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government on what date it will publish comprehensive costings of the proposals in *Pensions in an Independent Scotland* in addition to those contained in annex B of the document.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17840)

Nicola Sturgeon: There are no current plans for a further publication on pensions and independence.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of whether there would be differences in the levels of spending on state and public sector pensions between an independent Scotland and the UK.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17842)

Nicola Sturgeon: Annex B of *Pensions in an Independent Scotland* explains that the Scottish Government would require access to DWP models to enable production of full costings.

However in terms of current spending and affordability of pensions, expenditure on social protection as a share of GDP has been lower in Scotland than in the UK in each of the past five years, in 2011-12 social protection expenditure accounted for 14.4% of GDP in Scotland and 15.9% in the UK.

A smaller percentage of Scotland's tax revenues are spent on social protection compared to the UK. Figures from 2011-12 (GERS report) show that 38% of Scottish tax revenues were spent on social protection, compared with 42% for the UK.

As the recent White Paper *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland* points out, Scotland's stewardship of public sector pensions can in some areas already be argued to have delivered more sustainable schemes than their counterparts in England and Wales.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has asked the Fiscal Commission to consider the affordability of state pensions in an independent Scotland and, if so, whether it will publish the commission's findings.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17843)

Nicola Sturgeon: *Pensions in an Independent Scotland* makes clear that expenditure on social protection is currently lower in Scotland as a share of GDP than in the UK as a whole.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Fiscal Commission's comment that "Scotland's dependency ratio will increase more rapidly compared to the UK – reflecting the particularly sharp increase in Scotland's pension age population."

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17846)

Nicola Sturgeon: *Pensions in an Independent Scotland* sets out clearly that under 2010-based Office of National Statistics/National Records of Scotland population projections, and without further action being taken, the total dependency ratio in Scotland will rise slightly above the dependency ratio in the UK in the early 2030s, although this picture has improved slightly following updated 2012-based projections. As the paper also points out, the UK pensioner population is projected to rise more quickly than the Scottish pensioner population over the long term.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the Institute for Fiscal Studies comment that "funding the benefits system in the decades ahead may prove somewhat more burdensome for an independent Scotland."

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17847)

Nicola Sturgeon: Social Protection is currently more affordable in Scotland than the rest of the UK as a proportion of tax revenues and GDP. For example, figures from 2011-12 show that 38% of Scottish tax revenues were spent on social protection, compared with 42% for the UK as a whole.

All countries face long-term fiscal challenges associated with aging populations, Scotland wouldn't be immune to this. However, Scotland will face any long-term challenges from a starting point of having a relatively stronger fiscal position than the UK as a whole and, with the economic levers available under independence, there will be the opportunity to grow and diversify the Scottish economy.

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much each of the recommendations in its paper, *Pensions in an Independent Scotland*, would cost to implement in each of the first 10 years of an independent Scotland.

Holding answer issued: 15 November 2013

(S4W-17851)

John Swinney: Annex B notes that the Scottish Government would require access to Department for Work and Pensions models to produce full costings.

Learning and Justice

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much funding the areas formerly covered by Grampian Police receive from Police Scotland's budget; what proportion of the budget this represents, and how this compares with 2012-13.

(S4W-18512)

Kenny MacAskill: This is a matter for the chief constable who is responsible for the day to day operation of the police service, including the allocation and deployment of resources received from the Scottish Police Authority.

The establishment of a single service will safeguard local policing from Westminster budget cuts. It also ensures all parts of Scotland have access to specialist expertise and equipment whenever and wherever required.

The Scottish Government is fully committed to maintaining a strong visible police presence with 1,000 extra police officers compared to 2007. At 30 September 2013, there were 17,313 police officers in Scotland.

Strategy and External Affairs

Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it defines "any realistic scenario" in the context of the white paper on independence.

(S4W-18558)

Nicola Sturgeon: I refer the member to pages 348-349 of Scotland's Future.

Transport Scotland

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the status is of the Caledonian Sleeper Service franchise.

(S4W-18559)

Keith Brown: The new Caledonian Sleeper franchise is currently being procured with an anticipated start date of 1 April 2015. The franchise procurement programme that Transport Scotland is following is publicly available on Transport Scotland's website and shows bids are due from shortlisted bidders before the end of December 2013. I can advise that this is currently anticipated for the 16 December.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what pension scheme the staff of the Caledonian Sleeper Service will have access to.

(S4W-18560)

Keith Brown: Discussions are at an advanced stage regarding the details of the Railway Pension Scheme that staff of the (future) Caledonian Sleeper Franchisee will have access to.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what measures it is taking to ensure that the pension arrangements of staff on the Caledonian Sleeper Service are not adversely affected by the separation of the franchise from the ScotRail franchise.

(S4W-18561)

Keith Brown: Discussions are at an advanced stage regarding the details of the Railway Pension Scheme that staff of the (future) Caledonian Sleeper Franchisee will have access to. Scottish Ministers have committed to continue to ensure that franchisees will maintain pensions within the Railway Pensions Scheme for both franchises and to ensure that the pension arrangements for staff on the future Caledonian Sleeper Franchisee are not adversely affected by the separation of the Caledonian Sleeper franchise from the main ScotRail Franchise.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what capital investment it will make for (a) rolling stock refurbishment and (b) stations in relation to the Caledonian Sleeper Service.

(S4W-18562)

Keith Brown: At least £50 million of public money has been made available for rolling stock improvements. However, that is not fixed and we remain open to proposals of up to £60 million from bidders where the additional investment offers a financial return. Up to £6 million has been made available for investment in station facilities.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how the £100 million investment for improved service provision on the Caledonian Sleeper Service will be allocated.

(S4W-18563)

Keith Brown: The precise mix of investment that delivers a transformative whole-journey experience will be determined by the winning bidder. However, at least £50 million of public money has been made available for rolling stock improvements. However, that is not fixed and we remain open to proposals of up to £60 million from bidders where the additional investment offers a financial return. Up to a further £6 million has been made available for investment in station facilities.

Significant enhancements to the rail infrastructure, including improvements to the Highland Main Line, have already been committed for delivery from April 2014. Totalling over £100 million alone, this investment in the infrastructure will support improvements to the operation of Caledonian Sleeper services. In line with the Office of Rail Regulations's determination for CP5 the Scottish Government will also ensure payment of the proportion of track access cost charges allocated to the new, separate Caledonian Sleeper franchise.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government who, other than the franchisee, will receive Caledonian Sleeper Service investment funding and how much.

(S4W-18564)

Keith Brown: Network Rail will receive Caledonian Sleeper Service investment funding of £6 million to finance the stations enhancements that the future franchisee will apply to for Sleeper station enhancements in Scotland. Network Rail will also receive funding required to support their investment to enhance the rail infrastructure, including improvements specified for the Highland Main Line.

Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what the partnering relationship will be between Transport Scotland and the Caledonian Sleeper Service franchisee.

(S4W-18565)

Keith Brown: Transport Scotland will manage the future Caledonian Sleeper franchisee in accordance with the signed Caledonian Sleeper Franchise Agreement which embodies profit sharing mechanisms along with collaborative working obligations.