

Wednesday 18 December 2013

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

### Enterprise and Environment

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what Forestry Commission Scotland's forecast is of the annual spruce timber production from the crops planted over the last five years on the public forest estate.

(S4W-18700)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Forestry Commission's 25 year forecast of maximum potential softwood availability was published in 2012 and covers both the national forest estate and the private sector. The reports, which set out availability in five, five year periods to 2036, can be found at the following website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8rce2q>

The forecast suggests that over the next 25 years there is potentially significantly greater availability of softwood compared to current production levels of 7.8 million cubic metres. This potential increase will be in the private sector, which already provides the majority of the Scottish timber harvest. Forestry Commission Scotland is committed to maintaining annual production on the national forest estate at 3.2 million cubic metres (+/-5% and excluding diseased timber) in the short and medium term. The Forestry Commission will publish a 50 year forecast of potential softwood availability for both the private sector and national forest estate in 2014.

Forestry Commission Scotland does not separately forecast timber production from crops less than five years old because their very young age would make any forecast inaccurate. Sitka spruce represents 65% of the total softwood standing volume on the national forest estate in Scotland.

The current 25 year forecast for Scotland predicts that current levels of planting and replanting can sustain timber production at current levels (and above) over 25 years. The 50 year forecast will identify if this is the case beyond 25 years.

The Forestry Commission has confirmed the reliability of statistics used to inform the softwood forecast. The forecast figures are based on information from the National Forest Inventory for private sector woodlands and the Forestry Commission's database for the national forest estate. These figures are subject to rigorous quality assurance processes and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and in due course will be put forward for assessment by the UK Statistics Authority, with the aim that subsequent outputs will be designated as 'National Statistics'.

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what annual production Forestry Commission Scotland considers can be sustained in (a) 25 and (b) 50 years' time.

(S4W-18701)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18700 on 18 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>.

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the level of conifer planting on the public forest estate over the last five years is capable of maintaining the current level of sawmilling.

(S4W-18702)

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18700 on 18 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>.

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what annual area of planting or replanting of spruce tree crops Forestry Commission Scotland estimates is required to maintain the timber processing industry.

**(S4W-18703)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18700 on 18 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>.

**Jamie McGrigor (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether Forestry Commission Scotland considers that its timber production forecast is based on reliable statistics.

**(S4W-18704)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18700 on 18 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>.

### **Governance and Communities**

**Sarah Boyack (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it is supporting the building of new affordable housing in Edinburgh.

**(S4O-2736)**

**Margaret Burgess:** In Edinburgh, we have allocated £81 million of grant for the building of affordable housing up to March 2015, and in October 2013 announced a further £88 million, which is a minimum allocation, for the period to March 2019.

We also support affordable housing in the city through the National Housing Trust, Open Market Shared Equity, Help to Buy (Scotland) and other initiatives.

**Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to increase the availability of emergency accommodation for homeless people.

**(S4W-18737)**

**Margaret Burgess:** It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure there is adequate provision of temporary accommodation to meet the demands of homelessness applications. The Scottish Government is providing over £10.3 billion to local government in 2013-14, which includes funding for homelessness services.

The Scottish Government and local authorities are also focused on preventing homelessness. As a result of this approach, the demand for temporary accommodation has been falling.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many boilers were replaced in (a) Aberdeen and (b) Aberdeenshire under the boiler scrappage scheme in (i) 2011-12 and (ii) 2012-13.

**(S4W-18769)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The numbers of boilers replaced under the boiler scrappage scheme are as follows:

	2011-12	2012-13	Total
Aberdeen	581	845	1,426
Aberdeenshire	541	789	1,330

The year refers to the financial year in which the voucher was issued.

## Learning and Justice

**Alison McInnes (North East Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government how many formerly-retired police officers have been recruited as Police Scotland officers.

(S4W-18754)

**Kenny MacAskill:** This information is not held centrally by the Scottish Government. This is an operational matter for Police Scotland.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many officers Police Scotland has recruited in the former Grampian police area.

(S4W-18772)

**Kenny MacAskill:** This information is not held centrally by the Scottish Government. This is an operational matter for Police Scotland.

**Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in (a) Aberdeen and (b) Aberdeenshire in each of the last five years.

(S4W-18773)

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This information is not held centrally.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it monitors how many welfare guardianship orders are granted to each local authority.

(S4W-18797)

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The Scottish Government does not monitor welfare guardianship orders. Welfare guardianship orders under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 are registered by the Office of the Public Guardian, which is part of the Scottish Court Service, and notified to the Mental Welfare Commission, an independent organisation with a range of functions under mental health and incapacity law.

Both the Office of the Public Guardian and the Mental Welfare Commission publish statistics on their respective websites. The statistics are available on an annual basis.

**Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many welfare guardianship orders have been granted to Falkirk Council since 2007.

(S4W-18798)

**Roseanna Cunningham:** Information on the numbers of welfare guardianships granted to each local authority area is available on the website of the Mental Welfare Commission:  
<http://www.mwscot.org.uk/publications/statistical-monitoring-reports/>

From 2007-13 there were 113 cases where the Chief Social Work Officer of Falkirk Council was appointed as welfare guardian:

[http://www.mwscot.org.uk/media/138295/awi\\_2013\\_final\\_report\\_25\\_sept\\_2013.pdf](http://www.mwscot.org.uk/media/138295/awi_2013_final_report_25_sept_2013.pdf)

**Sandra White (Glasgow Kelvin) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what Scottish Resilience's role was in the tragic Police Scotland helicopter incident in Glasgow on 29 November 2013.

(S4W-18964)

**Kenny MacAskill:** The Scottish Government resilience arrangements were activated shortly after the incident occurred on the evening of Friday 29 November 2013 to offer support and assistance to

emergency responders and Glasgow City Council who worked tirelessly in support of the victims and their families and to ensure Scottish Ministers were fully briefed on the response and recovery arrangements following the incident. This included the activation of the Scottish Government Resilience Room and the multi-agency response arrangements through the West Regional Resilience Partnership.

Scottish Government Resilience officials met at 01:00 hours on Saturday 30 November. A further series of official and Ministerial meetings took place over the course of the weekend and the following week with the Cabinet Sub Committee for Resilience meeting twice a day from Saturday 30 November until Monday 2 December with further meetings on Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4, Tuesday 11 and Thursday 12 December 2013.

The First Minister, Deputy First Minister and other ministers have met with the various responders to the incident to offer their thanks and appreciation for their professionalism and sensitivity in dealing with a very challenging incident. The First Minister has also announced that the Scottish Government will match the £20,000 donation from Glasgow City Council to the Clutha welfare appeal fund.

The First Minister has written to the Prime Minister welcoming close relationships between the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Air Accident Investigation Branch which will assist in a thorough and timely conclusion to the investigations.

### Strategy and External Affairs

**Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how it will legislate to support fair trade.

(S4O-2717)

**Humza Yousaf:** The Scottish Government works in partnership with the Scottish Fair Trade Forum (SFTF) to drive forward policy on Fair Trade. A range of research and collaborative work will be undertaken between SFTF and the Scottish Government to develop the uptake of fair and ethically traded goods and services.

**Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government in what formats the white paper on independence will be published and how much it plans to spend on each, broken down by the nature of the expenditure.

**Holding answer issued: 22 November 2013**

(S4W-18194)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland* is a landmark publication, as such we are looking to ensure the public are as well informed as possible about its contents and the opportunities offered by independence. To enable this, the document has been produced in a wide range of formats.

A final figure for the cost of producing and distributing the document itself will not be available until we know the final demand for hard copies. I have already undertaken to update Parliament on that in due course.

As well as the hard copy document, *Scotland's Future* has been published online at: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk) and [www.scotreferendum.com](http://www.scotreferendum.com). A full-colour e-book edition is also available from e-stores such as Amazon.

A summary of *Scotland's Future* has also been produced and has been translated into 13 languages: Gaelic, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, French, Spanish, Polish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Russian, as well as British Sign Language. These are now available online at: [www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk) and [www.scotreferendum.com](http://www.scotreferendum.com).

The summary document is also available on request in braille and on audio disk and an easy read version is being produced.

**Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much it plans to spend on the launch of the white paper on independence and publicity in connection with this, broken down by the nature of expenditure.

**Holding answer issued: 22 November 2013**

(S4W-18195)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The launch of *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland* took place at the Science Centre in Glasgow on 26 November 2013. The cost of this event was £12,432.76, covering venue hire, set-up costs and transport.

There were no additional costs for publicity in relation to the launch event.

**Gavin Brown (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much it plans to spend on advertising the white paper on independence, broken down by the nature of expenditure.

**Holding answer issued: 22 November 2013**

**(S4W-18196)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** I refer the member to the Official Report of the Meeting of the Parliament on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at column 24856. The official report is available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/OfficialReport.aspx>.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the cost was of (a) producing and (b) distributing 20,000 paper copies of *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

**(S4W-18705)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18194 on 18 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>.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many fliers it has distributed to households and businesses promoting *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*, and at what cost.

**(S4W-18706)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** A postcard was distributed to every residential property in Scotland as part of the public information made available for *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*. The total cost of the public information campaign will be £450,000.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the budget is for advertising *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland* on (a) billboards, (b) radio stations and (c) television.

**(S4W-18707)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** I refer the member to the Official Report of the Meeting of the Parliament on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at column 24856. The official report is available at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/OfficialReport.aspx>.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has for promotional material relating to *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland* in addition to fliers, billboards and radio and television advertisements, and at what cost.

**(S4W-18708)**

**Nicola Sturgeon:** There are no current plans for further public information material relating to *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it used the Royal Mail to deliver copies of its leaflet regarding the white paper on independence and, if not, which service it used.

(S4W-18742)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Royal Mail was used to distribute the postcard as part of public information activity in support of *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*.

**Tavish Scott (Shetland Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a breakdown of the cost of producing the white paper on independence and of the paper's launch and subsequent advertising campaign.

(S4W-18743)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** I refer the member to the Official Report of the Meeting of the Parliament on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at column 24856. The official report is available at:  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/OfficialReport.aspx>

I also refer the member to the answer to question S4W-18194 on 18 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>.

**Clare Adamson (Central Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when the Registrar General will publish the 2011 Census results relating to living arrangements.

(S4W-18965)

**Fiona Hyslop:** National Records of Scotland has today published *Scotland's Census 2011: Release 2C*. (Laying number: SG/2013/258). This report presents the third part of the second release of results from the 2011 Census in Scotland, which was held on 27 March 2011. Release 2C consists of the key and quick statistics tables for the living arrangements and travel to work/study topics at all levels of census geography.

### Transport Scotland

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the A82 will be subject to further upgrading following the completion of the Crianlarich bypass and, if so, (a) where and (b) when.

(S4W-18760)

**Keith Brown:** The £500,000 package of environmental and engineering surveys between Tarbet and Inverarnan as announced in June 2011 is now complete. A £2 million feasibility study of the 17km section of the A82 from Tarbet to Inverarnan started this summer and is programmed to take around two years to complete. The Crianlarich bypass itself is programmed to open by late Summer 2014.

Further measures between Glasgow and Fort William including climbing lanes; overtaking lay-bys and junction improvements are identified in the Strategic Transport Projects Review. The detail of these will be delivered as funding allows.

Transport Scotland will also continue to work closely with The Highland Council on the Inverness West Link Road where it joins the A82 at Tomnahurich Bridge.

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has carried out of whether the trunk road network in Argyll and the West Highlands inhibits the development of sustainable communities.

(S4W-18761)

**Keith Brown:** No such assessment has been carried out.

However, Transport Scotland has carried out evaluation work which emphasises that this Government's investment in Scotland's transport network is providing economic benefits, including in the Argyll and the West Highlands area.

Further information on this evaluation work is available at:

<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/project-evaluation>.

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it will make of whether each stage of the upgrade of the A9 will result in a modal shift of use of the (a) A82 and (b) Highland mainline.

**(S4W-18763)**

**Keith Brown:** An assessment of the modal shift impacts of the A9 dualling programme and the A82 and Highland mainline is an integral part of the A9 dualling programme outline business case that Transport Scotland is currently undertaking. This assessment work will continue to be refined as the details of both the A9 dualling programme and the upgrade to the Highland mainline continue to evolve.

**John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it will make of whether each stage of the upgrade of the A96 will result in a modal shift of use of the Inverness to Aberdeen railway line.

**(S4W-18764)**

**Keith Brown:** Transport Scotland will use the multi-modal transport model for Scotland to assess the impact of the A96 Inverness to Aberdeen dualling programme on the mode share in this corridor.