

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON COVID-19 AND ANSWERS BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Monday 11 May 2020

Written questions lodged on 11 May 2020 can be found on page 13 of this document.

There were no Oral Questions sessions on 11 May.

### ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS (Received on 11 May)

#### Ministerial portfolio: Communities and Local Government

**Graham Simpson (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support the Ready Scotland volunteer scheme has received.

(S5W-28470)

**Aileen Campbell:** The Scotland Cares marketing campaign directs potential volunteers to the Ready Scotland website to sign-up to volunteer in a number of ways. The scheme used existing systems and resources and received no additional financial support.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it expects local authorities to follow and enforce its decision to mandate the closure of non-essential retail premises, cancellation or postponement of large-scale events and for people to work from home as much as possible.

(S5W-28802)

**Aileen Campbell:** Yes. It is critical that we prevent the spread of coronavirus and save lives, and therefore adherence to the restrictions in the emergency regulations is an important component in achieving this.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether local authority advice on the closure of local retail premises, banning of large-scale events and recommendation to work from home due to COVID-19 is the same as its advice.

(S5W-28803)

**Aileen Campbell:** The Scottish Government published its Coronavirus (COVID-19): business and social distancing guidance on 21 April 2020. This was updated from original guidance published on 23 March.

The Society of Chief Officers of Environmental Health Scotland and Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards Scotland in local authorities have established an Expert Group, working with Police Scotland to support a consistent approach to enforcement of the emergency regulations.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether all local authorities have undertaken to follow and enforce its guidance on the closure of retail premises, banning of large-scale events and recommendation to work from home as much as possible due to COVID-19.

**(S5W-28804)**

**Aileen Campbell:** We understand that all local authorities have undertaken to adhere to the guidance where this applies to their responsibilities. The indications are that compliance with the restrictions across Scotland is high.

**Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether glazing companies can continue to operate if they are making products for essential infrastructure, and, if so, whether they are able to make limited products for non-essential work at the same time to keep the company viable.

**(S5W-28808)**

**Kevin Stewart:** Scottish Government guidance for the construction sector is clear and construction work, unless for or in support of essential projects, should not be continuing.

It is for businesses to determine for themselves if they are supplying a business which is undertaking essential work within the terms of this guidance. However, even where a business judges itself to be able to continue works, it is imperative that they apply social distancing requirements and keep open only those premises, or parts of premises, that are truly critical or essential to the national and international COVID-19 effort.

**Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how much each local authority will be allocated from the £30 million Food Fund that it has announced in response to the COVID-19 outbreak; how many people have so far received cash-first grants from the fund, and what criteria are in place for people to receive cash from the fund to do their own shopping.

**(S5W-28676)**

**Aileen Campbell:** The Scottish Government published information on the allocation each local authority would receive through the Food Fund on 5 April 2020. This is available on the Scottish Government website: <https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-food-fund/>

Local authorities have been given flexibility in how to deploy the £30 million allocated to them through this funding, meaning that they are able to consider what measures would be best implemented locally. The guidance shared encourages a cash first approach where practical.

This investment is supporting over 150,000 children to access Free School Meals - a direct financial transfer approach is being taken to this provision in 12 local authorities.

We have agreed light-touch monthly reporting from local authorities in relation to wider support offered, including key activities delivered, estimated reach and challenges faced.

Our cash first approach is supported by more than doubling investment in the Scottish Welfare Fund, committing an additional £45 million on top of the £35.5m set out for the Fund in the Scottish Budget. This approach will help to relieve pressures on the rest of the system, ensuring people are able to buy the food they need where it is possible for them to safely do so.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government who is eligible to apply for funding from the Supporting Communities Fund.

**(S5W-28795)**

**Aileen Campbell:** The Supporting Communities Fund has been established with an initial £20m investment and is being targeted through community anchor organisations (CAO). Currently organisations eligible to apply will be charities, voluntary organisations, community controlled housing associations or social enterprises based in Scotland delivering services/activities in Scottish communities. Organisations must be incorporated bodies, legally constituted and have a UK bank account.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government which organisations have been approved for funding from the Supporting Communities Fund.

**(S5W-28797)**

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28796 on 11 May 2020. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available

on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide a list of the community anchor organisations that are approved to distribute the Supporting Communities Fund.

**(S5W-28796)**

**Aileen Campbell:** The Supporting Communities Fund has, as of 6 May 2020, approved funding for 258 organisations. A list of those organisations is available on the SCVO Coronavirus Third Sector Information Hub at: <https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/supporting-communities-fund>

### Ministerial portfolio: Economy, Fair Work and Culture

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide details of the correspondence that it has received from manufacturers to deliver (a) ventilators, (b) personal protective equipment (PPE) and (c) other items to assist in the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and how many of these offers have been (i) accepted and (ii) rejected, broken down by the reason for rejection.

**(S5W-28691)**

**Ivan McKee:** To support NHS National Procurement during the Covid pandemic, a working group has been established under direct Ministerial control. The priority focus of the group is to identify quickly those offers that can supply the largest volumes at the correct quality specifications, and only the best qualified suppliers are passed through to National Procurement specialists for decision.

The Government has received over 2000 pieces of correspondence containing offers to supply NHS Scotland in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Many suppliers offered to supply more than one type of product and suppliers often submitted multiple offers.

Removing duplicate offers the total number of offers received by 30 April 2020 was 1,347: (a) 186 relating primarily to ventilators, (b) 670 relating primarily to personal protective equipment and (c) 491 other offers.

Supplier offers recorded in the Scottish Government database are not categorised by the terms "accepted" or "rejected". At 30 April 2020, 413 offers had been closed or placed on hold and the remaining cases were in progress.

## Ministerial portfolio: Education and Skills

**Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what assurances it can provide that colleges will not be financially penalised through Skills Development Scotland if they are not able to meet all of their outcome targets on apprentices and the Flexible Workforce Development Fund.

**(S5W-28780)**

**Jamie Hepburn:** Skills Development Scotland has been regularly updating training and learning providers and recently issued guidance to all training providers, including Colleges and Colleges Scotland. This guidance outlined Skills Development Scotland's focus on four key areas;

- Providing flexibility in service delivery evidence requirements
- Enabling contract suspension without penalty to allow provider uptake of Government support measures (e.g. Job retention scheme)
- Providing guidance and support materials
- Ensuring consistent communications and up-to-date, online information

As part of Skills Development Scotland's response to Covid-19 they have allowed apprentices and their employers to suspend their learning while they are unable to work or learn. Once restrictions are lifted and it is safe for apprentices to return to work and undertake their training then their apprenticeship can resume from the same point.

Skills Development Scotland are continuing to update their FAQs section on their website which provides up to date information for apprentices, employers and learning providers. This includes responses to questions submitted by Colleges via Colleges Scotland. Skills Development Scotland acknowledges within the FAQs that the effects of Covid-19 will mean that the Key Performance Levels for 2020-21 will be very challenging to achieve. Skills Development Scotland will review the situation over the forthcoming months and will issue further guidance.

Regarding the administration of the Flexible Workforce Development Fund it is the Scottish Funding Council that administers this fund not Skills Development Scotland. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) currently have no plans to financially penalise Colleges if they are unable to meet all of their outcome targets. Scottish Government officials are currently working collaboratively with Colleges and Scottish Funding Council to assess the position and consider alternative methods of delivering training.

**Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what work it has carried to implement the recommendations of the Independent Care Review for children and young people in care.

**(S5W-28813)**

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government remains fully committed to deliver on its pledge to care experienced people in Scotland by accepting and responding to the Care Review conclusions and to put into place the infrastructure to develop and deliver an Action Plan to implement the outcomes reached and '#KeepThePromise'.

The COVID-19 emergency response has undoubtedly impacted upon the ability of the Scottish Government and key partners' ability to progress what had been 'business as usual'. Indeed, the Independent Care Review itself has been impacted and we have granted additional time in order that it may conclude its work as a result of the impact of COVID-19 and that is being kept under review.

The First Minister has committed the Scottish Government to work with all of our energy and focus, along with local authorities, care providers and all relevant stakeholders, to make the changes to the system that the Care Review considers necessary and to deliver that change as quickly and as safely as possible. Whilst we have not been able to move as quickly on implementation as we originally aimed to, it remains a key priority and the Scottish Government has been working hard to ensure that the principles of the Care Review's "Promise" are reflected in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including in practice guidance and policies underpinning emergency legislation.

Discussions are currently ongoing with relevant partners to agree the best approach to take to ensure implementation of the conclusions of the Care Review and Scottish Ministers will seek to update Parliament about future plans in due course.

### Ministerial portfolio: Finance

**Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what the cost is of each business support scheme introduced in Scotland to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, broken down by funding (a) directly to businesses from the UK Government, (b) from the Scottish Government from additional Barnett consequential and (c) from existing Scottish Government budgets.

**(S5W-28696)**

**Kate Forbes:** I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

**Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made of the cost to it of continuing business support schemes that are directly funded by the UK Government to businesses in Scotland.

(S5W-28697)

**Kate Forbes:** I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

**Ministerial portfolio: Health and Sport**

**Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many requests for personal protective equipment (PPE) in response to the COVID-19 outbreak have been sent to its dedicated PPE email address.

(S5W-28301)

**Jeane Freeman:** As of 3 May 2020 there were 1991 registered enquiries into the [covid-19-health-PPE@gov.scot](mailto:covid-19-health-PPE@gov.scot) mailbox.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many requests for clarification regarding COVID-19 the Death Certification Review Service has received each month from GPs, broken down by NHS board area.

(S5W-28816)

**Joe FitzPatrick:**

Covid-19 related enquiry calls to DCRS	13 - 31 March 2020	1 - 30 April 2020	1 - 3 May 2020	Total	GP Clinical Advice	GP Processes	Hospital/Hospice Clinical Advice	Hospital/Hospice Process Advice	Other *
Total number of COVID-19 related enquiries	66	118	3	187	128	19	24	4	12
By Health Board									
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	8	11	-	19	13	2	4	-	-
NHS Borders	0	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	-	3	2	-	1	-	-
NHS Fife	7	13	-	20	16	3	-	-	1

NHS Forth Valley	2	6	-	8	6	-	1	1
NHS Grampian	3	6	-	9	8	1	-	-
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	16	46	3	65	47	7	10	1
NHS Highland	5	4	-	9	6	1	2	-
NHS Lanarkshire	4	3	-	7	5	-	2	-
NHS Lothian	6	16	-	22	16	4	1	1
NHS Orkney	-	3	-	3	1	1	1	-
NHS Tayside	3	4	-	7	5	-	2	-
Other (public/registrar s/ police/funeral directors)		12	-	12		-	-	- 12
Totals	55	129	3	187	128	19	24	4 12

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many patients have been registered in hospital on each day since 1 February 2020, and how this compares with the figures on these dates in each of the last five years.

**(S5W-28756)**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Public Health Scotland has recently started to publish weekly data on the wider impact COVID 19 is having on the healthcare system, comparing recent trends in activity with historic norms. There is a section on Hospital Admissions in their publication, which can be found at the following link.

<https://beta.isdscotland.org/find-publications-and-data/population-health/covid-19/covid-19-statistical-report/>

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many hospital patients who had been categorised as a delayed discharge case but were subsequently discharged since 1 March 2020 have died each day.

**(S5W-28698)**

**Jeane Freeman:** I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

### Ministerial portfolio: Justice and the Law Officers

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the construction of the new women's prison estate will be considered essential to allow it to proceed under the current restrictions, and whether any delays to its completion are expected as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**(S5W-28699)**

**Humza Yousaf:** Consistent with all major infrastructure projects across Scotland and in line with Scottish Government guidance, work on the construction of the new Women's National Facility and the Community Custody Units has been temporarily ceased due to COVID-19. All capital prison projects apart from those which are assessed as being essential for the safety of Scottish Prison Service (SPS) establishments have also been paused and delays on construction timetables are inevitable.

The Scottish Government and SPS remain committed to the delivery of a new female custodial estate. SPS is in regular dialogue with the current contractors and work will be undertaken to assess the impact on construction timetables in due course.

### Ministerial portfolio: Transport and Infrastructure

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the downturn in the oil and gas industry and the COVID-19 crisis, what discussions it has had with trade unions regarding support for the sector.

**(S5W-28786)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government is engaging regularly with the trade unions to understand the challenges and gaps in the support for business announced to date, including the Job Retention Scheme. The Oil & Gas and Energy Transition Strategic Leadership Group, of which the trade unions are members, met on 2 April and 7 May to understand and respond to the key challenges facing the sector.

The Strategic Leadership Group will meet with an increased regularity during the crisis currently being experienced by the sector and further engagement with the sector is planned to identify any measures that can be facilitated by both governments, regulators, our agencies or the industry to respond to the current challenges in light of the downturn in the oil and gas industry and the COVID-19 crisis.

I have also had a number of direct discussions with key trade unions to inform our work in support of the Oil and Gas sector, including a pre-meeting with

STUC, RMT and Unite in advance of the 7th May Strategic Leadership Meeting and I greatly value the input we have had from union colleagues in helping us shape our response.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the downturn in the oil and gas industry and the COVID-19 crisis, what discussions it has had with Oil and Gas UK regarding support for the sector.

**(S5W-28785)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government is engaging regularly with Oil and Gas UK to understand the challenges and gaps in the support for business announced to date. I recently attended virtual meetings of Oil and Gas UK's Operator and Contractor Councils, which have been helpful in understanding the immediate impacts of the crisis, and we will continue proactive engagement with the sector. The Oil & Gas and Energy Transition Strategic Leadership Group, of which Oil and Gas UK are a member, met on 2 April and 7 May to understand and respond to the key challenges facing the sector. This group will meet with an increased regularity during the crisis, and further engagement with the sector is planned to identify any measures that can be facilitated by both governments, regulators, our agencies or the industry to respond to the current challenges in light of the downturn in the oil and gas industry and the COVID-19 crisis.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether companies in the oil and gas industry can use staff furlough schemes for employees who might face redundancy as a result of the (a) downturn in the oil and gas industry and/or (b) COVID-19 crisis.

**(S5W-28787)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (JRS) is a scheme operated by UK Ministers and is open to all UK employers, including companies in the oil and gas industry, whose business or operations have been severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. A number of oil and gas operators in the UK have already announced their intention to utilise the scheme to furlough workers, although I understand that the JRS may not suit all employers' circumstances .

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Cabinet Secretary for Economy wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 17 April to raise issues in relation to the UK Government Job Retention Scheme, and to ask the UK Government to consider requests to extend the scheme, define a clear end date and confirm the eligibility of oil and gas operators and service companies to access it. The Scottish Government continues to pursue emerging queries not addressed by the guidance with the UK Government in relation to the

scheme. These issues were discussed as part of the meeting I chaired of the Oil and Gas Energy Transition Strategic Leadership Group on 7 May 2020.

**Liam McArthur (Orkney Islands) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government whether the business case for the Air Traffic Management Strategy will be reappraised in light of the current and anticipated future impact on air travel of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**(S5W-28800)**

**Michael Matheson:** Good air connectivity will continue to be essential to support economic recovery in all parts of Scotland. That recovery will benefit from having more reliable and sustainable air services. The COVID-19 outbreak has not changed the fundamental reasons for modernising Air Traffic Management or the business case for the option being implemented by Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will issue sector-specific guidance for the oil and gas sector on COVID-19.

**(S5W-28447)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** I recognise the challenges for the oil and gas sector and their key workers where ongoing activity on our critical national infrastructure is required to protect security of energy supply. This is why we are continuing to engage constructively with Oil & Gas UK and Step Change in Safety, and held meetings of the Oil and Gas Energy Transition Strategic Leadership Group on 2 April and 7 May, with the second meeting taking up a taskforce approach.

The Scottish Government has published guidance for employers and recognises the very acute challenges faced by businesses operating with the oil and gas sector during this time. However, we have also been clear that it is for employers to make decisions about what is essential work. The Scottish Government will not be providing individual businesses with specific advice as to whether they should remain open, or to determine how companies should interpret or if they are adhering to that guidance.

The Scottish Government's established priority is to prevent the spread of the virus, protect our NHS and save lives. Workplaces that do not follow the Chief Medical Officer's clear and consistent precautionary advice may be putting their employees, the wider public and our NHS at risk. It is essential that all businesses act responsibly to safeguard the nation's health, well-being and economic future.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether approved testing for COVID-19 is available for the oil and gas sector to purchase on a commercial basis.

**(S5W-28448)**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** There is currently no NHS approved testing for COVID-19 available for purchase on a commercial basis.

Health and social care workers in Scotland continue to be the top priority for testing and will continue to access testing through the NHS and through the UK programme if necessary.

Through the UK wide testing programme announced on 25 April eligible employers in these additional sectors will be able to register their employees for a test and key workers will then be able to book a test for themselves or members of their household if they are symptomatic.

The additional key workers eligible for testing include those in critical national infrastructure which is fundamental for safety and security and lifeline services, staff in other essential services, and volunteers in areas important to economic sustainability and growth.

## Written questions lodged on 11 May 2020

(Expected answer date: 26 May)

**[S5W-28950](#) Elaine Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the work and projects of individual Roman Catholic churches and religious groups, including the Society of St Vincent de Paul, in its endeavours to help the most vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**[S5W-28951](#) Elaine Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government how it will engage with the Roman Catholic church's newly established working group, chaired by Sir Harry Burns, which will create an infection control protocol that will guide the phased reopening of Roman Catholic churches, and what its involvement was in establishing the group.

**[S5W-28953](#) Elaine Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on Roman Catholic churches reopening to conduct funerals to allow higher numbers of socially-distanced attendees to attend, in light of reports of there being up to 20 such attendees at services held in smaller crematoria.

**[S5W-28954](#) Elaine Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has in place for allowing Roman Catholic churches to re-open to the public, respecting social-distancing guidance.

**[S5W-28955](#) Elaine Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it agrees that the reopening of churches will allow more people to pay their last respects to loved ones, while keeping within social distancing.

**[S5W-28956](#) Elaine Smith:** To ask the Scottish Government what reassurance it can give Roman Catholic Bishops in Scotland that it is committed to ensuring that communal worship and religious activities can be resumed as promptly as possible.

**[S5W-28957](#) Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to help protect taxi drivers and private hire drivers who are transporting key workers to and from work.

**[S5W-28958](#) Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will help private hire and taxi drivers with the provision of (a) personal protective equipment (PPE) and (b) a safety screen or shield to ensure they are protected as much as possible from COVID-19 when transporting key workers and others.

**[S5W-28959](#) Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government how much has been spent on NHS operations and procedures undertaken in the private healthcare sector during the COVID-19 outbreak, broken down by NHS board.

**[S5W-28960](#) Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) NHS cancer operations and (b) other NHS procedures have taken place in private healthcare facilities during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-28961](#) Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what arrangements have been made with private healthcare providers regarding the provision of services to the NHS during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-28962](#) David Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to source masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) that are designed for female sizes.

**[S5W-28963](#) David Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government what proportion it is supplying of the personal protective equipment (PPE) being used in care homes.

**[S5W-28964](#) David Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of NHS staff had been fit-tested for respirators by the end of (a) December 2019, (b) January 2020 and (c) February 2020.

**[S5W-28965](#) David Stewart:** To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) gowns and (b) visors were added to the national personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpile in February 2020 following the guidance from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

**[S5W-28966](#) Maurice Golden:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that COVID-19 support measures are made available to estate agents that are not solicitors and whose firms do not meet rateable value criteria.

**[S5W-28968](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government (a) how many and (b) what proportion of referrals to mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic have been identified as needing prioritised assessment.

**[S5W-28969](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government how many times each NHS board has notified it of critical issues relating to mental health service continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**[S5W-28971](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government what additional resources have been made available to NHS boards to help them support the mental health of vulnerable people who are shielding or self-isolating in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-28973](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government what data is (a) available and (b) being collected regarding the number of people with (i) autism and (ii) learning disabilities who have died from COVID-19.

**[S5W-28974](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports that they might be at higher risk from the virus, what risk assessment has been carried out for the appropriate deployment of BAME workers in health and social care services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**[S5W-28975](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government (a) how many and (b) what proportion of the (i) NHS and (ii) social care workforce belong to BAME groups.

**[S5W-28978](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government how social distancing in response to the COVID-19 outbreak can be applied in dormitory hospital wards, and what plans are in place to ensure an adequate supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to staff in these settings.

**[S5W-28979](#) Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government how many dormitory wards there are in each hospital.

**[S5W-28980](#) Alexander Burnett:** To ask the Scottish Government what reviews and updates are being made of the weekly grocery box provided to vulnerable people shielding from COVID-19.

**[S5W-28981](#) Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government on what basis the First Minister made the statement in the Parliament on 24 March 2020 that "To be blunt, based on what I have been told, the UK, and Scotland within it, probably has the greatest testing capacity of any country in the world proportionately, per head of population" (*Official Report*, c. 28).

**S5W-28982 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason people with untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia are not on the COVID-19 shielded list, and when they might be included.

**S5W-28983 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government Care who the members of the care home rapid action group that has been set up in response to the COVID-19 outbreak; when it has met, and what was discussed.

**S5W-28984 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has assessed the resilience plans of the health and social care partnerships in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**S5W-28988 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether communal activities in care homes that do not maintain two-metre physical distancing should be happening during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**S5W-28989 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government whether Tiger Eye protective goggles and frames form part of the country's pandemic personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies, and, if so, (a) how many items there are and (b), in light of the Health and Safety Executive's assessment, what action has been taken to review the supply chain and remove products that do not meet safety standards.

**S5W-28990 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government how many mental health patients have died in hospital from COVID-19.

**S5W-28991 Monica Lennon:** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has regarding staffing-to-patient ratios in intensive care unit settings during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**S5W-28993 Lewis Macdonald:** To ask the Scottish Government what support will be given to angling associations in respect of District Salmon Fishery Board levies, in light of lost fishing months as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown.

**S5W-28994 Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government who signed off the revised guidance to care homes regarding COVID-19 testing before it was published on the Scottish Government website on the weekend of 9-10 May 2020.

**S5W-28995 Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of its message continuing to be to stay at home to save lives, for what reason Transport Scotland is advising rail companies and staff that train services will increase from 18 May 2020.

**S5W-28997 Oliver Mundell:** To ask the Scottish Government what consideration has been given to extending the neighbour notification boundaries for planning applications in light of COVID-19, and what its response is to concerns that, in some rural areas, people are finding it more difficult to access and find out about new planning applications.

**S5W-28998 Oliver Mundell:** To ask the Scottish Government what specific action it is taking to support coach drivers and the coach holiday industry in Scotland during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**S5W-28999 Lewis Macdonald:** To ask the Scottish Government what agreement it reached with Macphie of Glenbervie for the production and delivery of hand sanitiser for the NHS.

**S5W-29000 Dean Lockhart:** To ask the Scottish Government how much it expects to receive in Barnett consequentials following the announcement by

the UK Government on 9 May 2020 of up to an additional £2 billion investment in active travel.

**S5W-29001 Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with independent performance venues across Scotland to ensure they have the capacity and cash flow to reopen when it is safe to do so.

**S5W-29002 Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what financial support it has made available to the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19; how many grants have been awarded, and how many applications were rejected.

**S5W-29003 Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government how many fewer tourists have visited Scotland from January to May 2020 compared with the same period in 2019.

**S5W-29004 Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what estimate it has made of the number of jobs lost in the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19, also broken down by the number that it estimates could be lost in these sectors in 2020.

**S5W-29005 Claire Baker:** To ask the Scottish Government what it estimates the financial loss will be to the arts, culture and tourism sectors as a result of COVID-19.

**S5W-29006 Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will expand its COVID-19 testing to include residents in sheltered accommodation.

**S5W-29007 Alexander Burnett:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-27798 by Joe Fitzpatrick on 18 March 2020, what social media campaigns have been run to raise awareness of Lyme disease since summer 2018.

**S5W-29008 Alexander Burnett:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-27798 by Joe FitzPatrick on 18 March 2020, what measures are being taken to raise awareness of Lyme disease to people who may be out walking more now due to a lift in restrictions due to COVID-19.

## **Searching for questions and motions**

While this report contains only questions and answers relating to COVID-19, answers to all parliamentary questions can be found in daily written answer reports, which are published [here](#).

All parliamentary questions and answers can also be searched for by keyword, MSP asking, Scottish Government Minister answering, as well as by date and other filters, through the advanced search function on the Parliament's website [here](#).