

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

Tuesday 19 May 2020

Written questions lodged on 19 May can be found on page 16 of this document.

Links to Topical Questions relating to COVID-19 on 19 May, are included at page 15.

ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS (Received on 19 May)

Ministerial portfolio: Communities and Local Government

Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it is ensuring the provision of free period products to people in (a) school, college and university and (b) community settings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

S5W-28856

Aileen Campbell: The Scottish Government is continuing to fund access to free period products during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Local authority policy leads for both education and community provision are making reasonable adjustments to ensure products can continue to be accessed by those most in need. In wider community settings products have been redistributed to, for example, places that remain open, including community hubs. For school pupils products were made available to take home in the last few days of school, in some places there is provision of products in food boxes, and products continue to be accessible via those schools that remain open. Some local authorities have put in place home delivery options via Hey Girls and in one area products can be collected for free from a number of local convenience stores.

For college and university students, the Scottish Funding Council has liaised with Hey Girls to offer home delivery kits and redeemable online codes and a number of institutions have taken this up. Those that do not wish to take up this offer have been asked to consider alternative arrangements but students can of course also access free products via their local community hubs.

FareShare continue to provide period products to a significant number of community groups across the country.

Ministerial portfolio: Constitution, Europe and External Affairs

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether non face-to-face communications should be excluded from the Lobbying Register (a) during the COVID-19 outbreak and

(b) at any other time, and what action it will take to amend the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016 in light of COVID-19.

S5W-28842

Graeme Dey: The operation of the statutory framework for lobbying is a matter for the Scottish Parliament.

Ministerial portfolio: Economy, Fair Work and Culture

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how its economic recovery plan in response to the COVID-19 outbreak will gather input on issues related to biodiversity.

S5W-28926

Fiona Hyslop: Safeguarding and enhancing Scotland's biodiversity is key to the Scottish Government's green agenda and will form an important part of our economic recovery plans.

Through supporting a green recovery we can drive progress towards the vision and outcomes of Scotland's Environmental Strategy including the outcome that our thriving, sustainable economy conserves and grows our natural assets.

The Advisory Group on Economic Recovery's remit includes making recommendations to the Scottish Government on how it supports a green economic recovery. The Chair of the Advisory Group, Benny Higgins, has already written to organisations including Scottish Environment Link, the Woodland Trust and the Scottish Woodland Trust to seek their insights and knowledge to inform its recommendations. This is part of a wider programme of engagement being undertaken by the Advisory Group which include an open call for views which will be advertised widely to ensure that environmental groups have the opportunity to share their views with the Group.

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether the remit for the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery, which has been set up in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, includes advising on biodiversity.

S5W-28925

Fiona Hyslop: The remit of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery is to advise on the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, including:

- measures to support different sectoral and regional challenges the economy will face in recovery; and
- how business practice will change as a result of Covid, including opportunities to operate differently and how Government policy can help the transition towards a greener, net zero and wellbeing economy.

Biodiversity is a key pillar of the Scottish Government's green agenda and will therefore be vital to our economic recovery plans. As such the Scottish Government expects the Advisory Group to give full consideration to biodiversity when determining its recommendations.

Ministerial portfolio: Finance

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide rates relief to general dental practitioners that are unable to see patients due to the COVID-19 crisis.

S5W-28843

Kate Forbes: Dentists working wholly or partially in the public sector already have their non-domestic rates (and rent) reimbursed pro rata on the amount of work undertaken for NHS Scotland.

Some dentistry work of course continues, we have put in place 56 Urgent Dental Care Centres in each NHS Board area across Scotland so people can still be seen if they require urgent dental care.

In general terms we are determined to help keep companies in business and our financial support now exceeds the £2.3 billion passed on from the UK Government. In designing the relief and grant system we had to balance helping as many businesses as possible against what was affordable.

This extends to a universal 1.6% relief available to all non-domestic properties including dental practices. Non-domestic rates are administered by local authorities, and they will apply this relief automatically. As with all non-domestic rate policies, we will keep our reliefs under review and consider any further changes on the basis of need and affordability.

The Scottish Government has also delivered a fund to provide grant support for small businesses experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19. This includes a £10,000 grant which is available to a range of small businesses in receipt of the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS) or Rural Relief on 17 March 2020; or properties eligible for SBBS and in receipt of either Nursery Relief, Business Growth Accelerator, Fresh Start, Sports Club Relief, Charity Relief or Disabled Relief on 17 March 2020.

On 5 May the Scottish Government commenced Phase 2 of the Business Grants Funding Scheme. This included the expansion of support for ratepayers with more than one property. In addition to a 100% grant on their first eligible property, ratepayers with additional qualifying properties will be eligible to apply for a 75% grant on each additional property. This will make available Small Business Grants of £7,500 and any additional properties that

qualify for the Small Business Grant, that a ratepayer may have, subject to compliance with EU State Aid Rules.

Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many Aberdeen-based businesses qualify for business grants because of the COVID-19 response, and how many would have done so prior to the rates revaluation.

S5W-28833

Kate Forbes: Eligibility for the grant scheme is based on the local authority records for property use and rateable value as at 17 March 2020, and the Scottish Government estimates that there are around 2,600 ratepayers in Aberdeen city that may be eligible for either the Small Business Grant, and/or the Retail, Hospitality, and Leisure Grant.

The grant support scheme available to businesses suffering hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic reflects relief eligibility and property valuations in 2020-21 and no hypothetical analysis has been performed for other years.

Ministerial portfolio: Health and Sport

Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what support it has offered to third sector and voluntary organisations dealing with the mental health of children and young people during the COVID-19 outbreak, and what further support it can offer.

S5W-28850

Clare Haughey: We have committed £350 million of additional funding to support councils, charities and others that help people most at risk during the pandemic, this includes those organisations who provide mental health support to children, young people and their families. Fifty million pounds has been allocated directly to local authorities and an additional £30 million has been provided to councils for locally coordinated responses to food insecurity including supporting over 150,000 children to access Free School Meals.

In addition to this, On 3 May, we announced a new funding package to support the population's mental health, with a focus on children, young people and families. This investment included:

- £768,000 for a relationships helpline to be delivered by The Spark counselling service
- £105,000 to support Young Scot to develop enhanced digital content and resources on mental health for children and young people
- £205,000 to support 47,000 autistic people across Scotland. This consists of funding to increase capacity at the Scottish Autism Helpline and

help for the National Autistic Society to keep people in touch online during lockdown.

Furthermore, we are providing up to £1 million through The Perinatal and Infant Mental Health fund which opened on the 5 May to support third sector organisations that support new parents and families with services such as peer support, parenting support and perinatal counselling services.

Mary Fee (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to support the mental health of children and young people during the COVID-19 outbreak, and what plans it has to further support the mental health of children and young people (a) during and (b) after the current lock-down.

S5W-28847

Clare Haughey: We have recently announced we are providing £105,000 to support Young Scot to develop enhanced digital content and resources on mental wellbeing. This will ensure that children and young people have a central place which will provide them with information, advice and signposting to support their mental health and wellbeing during, and after, the current lockdown.

We want to make sure anyone who has been identified as needing support can get services that are appropriate to their needs. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) continue to support children and young people in need of specialist support, although there will be adjustments in how that is delivered to accommodate coronavirus restrictions.

We have established regular contact and communication with all NHS Boards and are speaking to them on a weekly basis. On 1 May, a set of principles to guide the delivery of mental health services throughout this period were issued to all NHS Boards. The principles answer some key questions that have been raised by mental health service leads around referral processes, collecting data and managing existing waiting lists.

We will continue to monitor surveys and research that provide us with an understanding of how children and young people are feeling during the coronavirus pandemic to ensure that the right help and support is available.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many times its COVID-19 advisory has met and what it has discussed.

S5W-28601

Jeane Freeman: The group was first convened on 26 March 2020 and has met every Monday and Thursday since then. Further information about the group, including notes of the discussions which have taken place, is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/groups/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group/>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many COVID-19 tests have been carried out on care home (a) staff and (b) residents, broken down by NHS board.

S5W-28582

Jeane Freeman: The COVID-19 data and trend charts for Scotland are published daily and provide a range of information, including the number of care homes notifying cases of COVID-19 and the number of suspected cases of COVID-19 in care homes. These data are available from 11 April 2020 and are updated daily. There are also data on the number of people that have been tested for COVID-19 in Scotland, these are available from 2 March 2020 and provide a cumulative number. There is no breakdown of how many of these tests were for care home staff or residents.

Data are broken down by NHS board for:

- the cumulative number of cases that have tested positive for COVID-19;
- the number of patients in intensive care with confirmed or suspected COVID-19; and
- the number of patients in hospital with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

The link to the daily data update is:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trends-in-number-of-people-in-hospital-with-confirmed-or-suspected-covid-19/>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the GMC regarding relaxing restrictions on retired medics being able to return to practice in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-28586

Jeane Freeman: From the outset of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Scottish Government has maintained frequent contact with the General Medical Council, as well as the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Health and Care Professions Council and General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), to discuss and agree the phased roll-out of their Covid-19 temporary registers in exercise of their emergency powers.

In respect of the GMC, whose Registrar already had powers to temporarily register anyone deemed to be a "fit, proper and suitably experienced" person, the Covid-19 temporary register was established on 27 March 2020 for doctors who gave up registration or licence to practise in the previous 3 years. It was expanded on 2 April 2020 to include those who gave up registration in the previous 3-6 years and those who are registered but do not currently have a licence to practise. On 7 April 2020 it was further expanded to include final year medical students by accelerating the annual provisional registration process.

All cohorts have automatically been granted temporary registration on an opt-out basis. All doctors are registered on the Covid-19 register on the basis that there are no open fitness-to-practise investigations, sanctions or conditions on their practice.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government how many times its COVID-19 advisory has met and what it has discussed.

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Jeane Freeman: The group was first convened on 26 March 2020 and has met every Monday and Thursday since then. Further information about the group, including notes of the discussions which have taken place, is available here: <https://www.gov.scot/groups/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group/>

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many care home residents have been hospitalised with suspected COVID-19 in each week since 23 March 2020.

S5W-28542

Jeane Freeman: The COVID-19 data and trend charts for Scotland are published daily and provide a range of information, including the number of care homes notifying cases of COVID-19 and the number of suspected cases of COVID-19 in care homes. The data also includes the daily number of people in hospital with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 but does not include details on how many of these are care home residents.

The link to the daily data update is:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trends-in-number-of-people-in-hospital-with-confirmed-or-suspected-covid-19/>

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many care home residents have been tested for COVID-19 in each week since 23 March 2020.

S5W-28541

Jeane Freeman: The COVID-19 data and trend charts for Scotland are published daily and provide a range of information, including the number of care homes notifying cases of COVID-19 and the number of suspected cases of COVID-19 in care homes. These data are available from 11 April 2020 and are updated daily. There are also data on the number of people that have been tested for COVID-19 in Scotland, these are available from 2 March 2020 and provide a cumulative number. There is no breakdown of how many of these tests were for care home residents.

The link to the daily data update is:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trends-in-number-of-people-in-hospital-with-confirmed-or-suspected-covid-19/>

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many care home staff have tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the lockdown measures.

S5W-28492

Jeane Freeman: The COVID-19 data and trend charts for Scotland are published daily and provide a range of information, including the number of care homes notifying cases of COVID-19 and the number of suspected cases of COVID-19 in care homes. The data also includes the daily number of people in hospital with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 but does not include details on how many of these are care home staff.

The link to the daily data update is:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/trends-in-number-of-people-in-hospital-with-confirmed-or-suspected-covid-19/>

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it is procuring COVID-19 tests, and what action it is taking to prevent interruptions to supplies.

S5W-28491

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government is co-ordinating and sharing intelligence with UK Government colleagues including, where necessary, to agree on allocation of certain chemical reagents that have a limited global supply. In the case of swabs and other consumables, the Scottish Government is coordinating efforts with NHS Supply Chain and continue to purchase on behalf of NHS Scotland. The Scottish Government is also working with the public and private sector on offers of laboratory facilities and

has harnessed the successful approach used to improve PPE supply chain to work on testing supply chain led by the Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government which NHS boards, local authorities and care providers have access to the Glasgow Airport COVID-19 testing facility, and when access will be extended.

S5W-28489

Jeane Freeman: The Regional Test Centre at Glasgow Airport is part of the UK Testing Programme and provides testing for symptomatic key workers, those with symptoms who are unable to work from home, and those over 65 with symptoms, or their symptomatic household members. On 18 May the First Minister announced a further expansion of those eligible for testing by this route to cover all those over 5 with symptoms. Drive-through testing is only available for those within 90 minute drive from Glasgow Airport. Testing for Health and Social Care Workers is primarily carried out through NHS testing at local NHS facilities.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many tests for COVID-19 have been done at the Glasgow Airport testing facility on each day since it became operational, and how many of these were for (a) NHS staff, (b) local authority care staff and (c) staff of independent care providers.

S5W-28486

Jeane Freeman: The Glasgow Regional Test Centre, located at Glasgow Airport is one of the five regional testing centres which are now operational in Scotland as part of the UK Testing Programme.

Testing information for Scotland is published daily which reports the total numbers of tests carried out by the Regional Testing Centres in Scotland and the tests carried out by NHS labs. This data is not broken down by individual test centres.

Testing data is not currently broken down by employment groups. Testing for Health and Social Care Workers is primarily carried out through NHS testing at local NHS facilities.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government when the first (a) residential care home, (b) home care and (c) local government workers were tested for COVID-19 at the Glasgow Airport testing facility.

S5W-28483

Jeane Freeman: This information is not held by the Scottish Government.

Neil Bibby (West Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether doctors will attend non-COVID-19 medical cases that arise in care homes.

S5W-28423

Jeane Freeman: The Chief Medical Officer and Chairs of both the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association wrote to all GP practices to emphasise that general practice should continue to be fully accessible to care home staff and residents. We expect health and care professionals to continue to enter care settings such as care homes to provide care and support which is required, when there is a clinical need to do so, after taking appropriate precautions (PPE).

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what targets it has set for testing for COVID-19 each week since 1 February 2020, and how it has performed against each target.

S5W-28422

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government set a target to have the daily lab capacity for 3500 tests by the end of April 2020. Maximum NHS testing capacity as of 1 May was 4,350 tests a day and has increased since that date.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what correspondence the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has had with representatives of independent care homes since the COVID-19 outbreak began.

S5W-28417

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government is in regular written and phone contact with Scottish Care, who are the representative body of most care home providers in Scotland, on a range of matters relating to Covid-19 and I regularly speak to their CEO, Dr Donald Macaskill.

Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the advice it received from the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Scientific Officer and National Clinical Director that supports its policy not to carry out widespread community testing for COVID-19.

S5W-28385

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government does not routinely publish advice to Ministers of this kind. The remit, membership and minutes of the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group, which considers the scientific and technical concepts and processes that are key to understanding the evolving COVID-19 situation and potential impacts in Scotland, can be found at the following link.

<https://www.gov.scot/groups/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group/>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, whether it will reconsider the closure of any NHS laundry facilities.

S5W-28381

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government has made no decision on NHS laundry services and will not make a decision until we have addressed the current Covid-19 situation.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many people have been discharged from hospital to a care home in (a) March and (b) April 2020 and, of that number, how many were tested for COVID-19.

S5W-28728

Jeane Freeman: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28665 on 18 May 2020.

Current guidance, issued by Public Health Scotland on 29 April 2020, advises that new admissions to care homes should be tested and isolated for 14 days on entering the home. Furthermore, any patients who may be showing symptoms of Covid-19 should have two negative tests before being discharged to a care home.

All care home residents showing symptoms will also now be tested for Coronavirus, a move from previously only testing the first residents to show symptoms to establish the presence of the virus.

Public Health Scotland's guidance is available at <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-residential-settings/>.

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>

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to train COVID-19 contact tracers.

S5W-28606

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government set out our approach to contact tracing on 4 May in the Test, Trace Isolate, Support Strategy. We will establish an enhanced COVID-19 contact tracing service in every Board.

Recruitment and training of new staff will be managed by existing health protection teams who have high quality skills and experience in delivering contact tracing, and of which some are already undertaking COVID-19 contact tracing work. Recruitment has commenced in a phased approach, to introduce as necessary a national contract tracing team managing routine work and supporting local contact tracing teams. Initial workforce education resources for staff supporting the contact tracing programme have been developed in partnership with Health Boards and made available to all Health Boards before 25th May. All staff who will be recruited to undertake Contact Tracing activity either at a national level or local level, will use these core materials to help ensure consistency across Health Boards in Scotland. As of 18 May 2020, c 680 staff have been identified locally and over 8000 notes of interest have been received nationally, in addition to those NHS returners who are being considered for deployment.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the BMA, GMC and RCGP regarding the provision of exams for trainee GPs during the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-28604

Jeane Freeman: There have been no discussions between the Scottish Government and these organisations on the provision of exams for GP trainees, which are primarily issues for the statutory medical education bodies, the GMC and the Royal College to resolve.

On the recommendation from NHS Education for Scotland, the Scottish Government has however approved interim arrangements to enable those impacted to remain in their training posts in Scotland until solutions are agreed, including providing the estimated costs of £1.1m. There are ongoing discussions between these organisations, including participation from the BMA Junior Doctor Committee, to ensure all trainee GPs in their final year of training can complete their exams as soon as practically possible.

Miles Briggs (Lothian) (Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government what research its COVID-19 advisory group has carried out or plans on rates of infection and death from the virus among black and minority ethnic (BAME) people.

S5W-28602

Jeane Freeman: The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group has discussed this issue and is following the research being carried out on a UK-wide basis by SAGE. Further to this, discussions are ongoing with Public Health Scotland on understanding variance in rates of infection and death from Covid-19 by a range of factors, including ethnic minority status. The four CMOs across the UK are also working with Public Health England to explore the impact of COVID-19 on people from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many intensive care beds there will be per million people to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak at full capacity; how this compares with the number of such beds (a) on 1 January 2020, (b) when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed and (c) on 13 April 2020, and what information it has regarding the figures for (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland.

S5W-28366

Jeane Freeman: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28361 on 19 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>.

Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many ventilators there will be per million people to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak at full capacity; how this compares with the number of such equipment (a) on 1 January 2020, (b) when the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed and (c) on 13 April 2020, and what information it has regarding the figures for (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland.

S5W-28361

Jeane Freeman: NHS Scotland has more than trebled its adult ICU capacity from a base of 173 beds to a surge capacity of 585 and, further, Health Boards are preparing to quadruple the base ICU capacity, bringing the total number of adult beds to over 700.

To deliver that increase, we have ordered ventilators from a range of manufacturers. They have begun to arrive and we expect more deliveries in the coming weeks. To bridge any gaps between now and the delivery of new ventilators, Health Boards have worked to repurpose operating theatre anaesthetic machines for use as ventilators. That is not a long-term solution, but it is allowing us to rapidly increase our capacity of intensive care beds.

Questions around non-Scotland data and associated publication regimes are matters for each relevant Government.

Ministerial portfolio: Rural Economy and Tourism

Colin Smyth (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what impact the COVID-19 outbreak has had on the (a) establishment and (b) governance arrangements of South of Scotland Enterprise.

S5W-28836

Fergus Ewing: South of Scotland Enterprise was established and came into operation on 1 April 2020 in line with existing plans. To support robust governance arrangements the agency has an established Board; an Interim CEO who is their Accountable Officer, and a Leadership team in place which includes a Chief Financial Officer.

ORAL QUESTIONS ON 19 MAY 2020

Topical Questions

The following questions were asked:

- 1. Willie Rennie:** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the reported concerns regarding the Nike conference in Edinburgh, how the contact-tracing process that is being piloted will balance patient confidentiality and the need to alert people of public health threats. ([S5T-02184](#))
- 2. Gordon MacDonald:** To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to ensure that any COVID-19 related information that UK-wide companies and organisations are issuing to employees, customers and the public in Scotland is reflective of the guidelines from devolved administrations. ([S5T-02182](#))
- 3. Jamie Greene:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has taken a decision regarding reopening schools in the current academic year, in light of the plans in other parts of the UK. ([S5T-02181](#))
- 4. Mark Ruskell:** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it has not yet published guidance on allowing recycling centres to reopen. ([S5T-02183](#))

Answers to all of the above questions can be found in the Official Report of proceedings [here](#).

Written questions lodged on 19 May 2020
(Expected answer date 4 June 2020)

[S5W-29131](#) Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government how many care homes have had their registration cancelled by the Care Inspectorate in each year since 2007 due to a failure to achieve standards, and how many such failures have been recorded since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak.

[S5W-29132](#) Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to review the quality indicators in the Care Inspectorate document, *A quality framework for care homes for older people*, to ensure there is appropriate emphasis on infection control, and what its position is on whether the comment in the paper that “the primary purpose of the quality framework is to support services to self evaluate”, is sufficient to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents.

[S5W-29134](#) Miles Briggs: To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to review its funding to (a) local authorities and (b) care home operators to ensure that residential and nursing care services fully meet infection control and hygiene standards.

[S5W-29145](#) Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government how much net income it estimates will be lost in the (a) arts and culture and (b) tourism sector in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and when it expects it to return to the 2019 level.

[S5W-29146](#) Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government what research it or its agencies have carried out into the potential change in audience behaviour in the arts and culture sector because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[S5W-29147](#) Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government what funding it will make available to the arts and culture sector to allow for adaptations to be implemented to allow social distancing to be observed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[S5W-29148](#) Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government what communications it has had with the National Trust of Scotland regarding potential redundancies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what action it is taking to help save these jobs.

[S5W-29149](#) Claire Baker: To ask the Scottish Government what financial support it has made available to the National Trust of Scotland in each of the last five years, and whether additional funding will be provided over the next 12 months in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to help protect (a) jobs and (b) venues.

[S5W-29151](#) Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, how it is working with (a) birth practitioners and (b) medical staff to ensure that people’s rights regarding how and where they give birth are upheld.

[S5W-29152](#) Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support homebirths during the COVID-19 outbreak.

[S5W-29154](#) Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on contracting and training independent midwives, maternity assistants and doulas or volunteers to help alleviate pressures on maternity units during the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29155 Jeremy Balfour: To ask the Scottish Government what advice it has given to NHS boards regarding the attendance of birthing partners in (a) labour, (b) antenatal and (c) postnatal wards during the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29157 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what contingency plans and support measures are in place for parents and pupils should school closures and lockdown measures remain in place, or be restarted, in September 2020.

S5W-29158 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what contingency plans are in place should universities be unable to open in September 2020.

S5W-29159 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what preparatory work it has undertaken on how schools could be reopened, and whether it envisages this would be done in different stages.

S5W-29160 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to ensure that qualifications obtained during the current academic year hold the same weight and status as those obtained in previous years, in light of changes in grading structures due to the cancellation of exams.

S5W-29161 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to issue further guidance to teachers on issuing grade bands.

S5W-29162 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government for what reasons it is expanding the predicted grade bands for teachers.

S5W-29163 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government for what reasons it is asking teachers to rank their pupils in order of attainment.

S5W-29164 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has done of the impact that alternative grading arrangements in schools will have on attainment gap.

S5W-29165 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government how its alternative grading arrangements will ensure fairness for every pupil.

S5W-29166 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government what weighting will be given to a learning centre's predictions for the grading of pupils.

S5W-29167 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish details of the appeals process in respect of pupil grades in the current academic year.

S5W-29168 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government whether schools that are currently open for children of key workers will remain open during the scheduled summer break.

S5W-29169 Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government how many children are still attending educational outlets during the lockdown, also broken down by local authority.

S5W-29170 Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government how much Pupil Equity Funding has been spent by each local authority during the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29171 Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has made of the number or proportion of school pupils in each local authority area in each month since February who have not had access to remote learning resources due to a lack of a suitable internet connection or IT equipment.

S5W-29172 Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what additional support and funding it has provided to ensure that all school pupils have access to remote learning resources and educational support during the

COVID-19 outbreak, and what the uptake of additional support has been, broken down by local authority area.

[S5W-29174](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government how many pupils have not engaged with remote learning and educational support since schools were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, broken down by local authority area.

[S5W-29175](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what support it has given to local authorities to provide training for teachers on remote learning platforms since schools were closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

[S5W-29176](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the disparity of access to education resources such as IT equipment between households due to socioeconomic factors, what steps it is taking to ensure that the attainment gap is not exacerbated during the period of school closures.

[S5W-29177](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what guidance (a) Education Scotland and (b) the SQA has issued regarding the provision of home learning.

[S5W-29178](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government how many pupils who would normally access children's services have not been in contact with either any of its agencies' or the local authority since schools were closed due to COVID-19.

[S5W-29179](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what support it is providing to local authorities to contact pupils who are not taking part in remote learning or educational support while schools are closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

[S5W-29180](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government whether it monitors the provision of home learning, and whether educational outcomes have changed in light of home learning.

[S5W-29181](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government whether it expects remote learning to continue through the scheduled summer break and, if so, what resources it will be allocating to facilitate this.

[S5W-29182](#) Jamie Halcro Johnston: To ask the Scottish Government what analysis it has undertaken of the impact of home learning on pupils' mental health.

[S5W-29183](#) Jamie Greene: To ask the Scottish Government how many teachers are continuing to work in schools or nurseries during the lockdown, also broken down by local authority.

[S5W-29187](#) Finlay Carson: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day; what support it will offer to communities, including in the Galloway and West Dumfries constituency, seeking to organise their own commemorations, and what contingency plans in place for the potential impact of the COVID-19 on any events.

[S5W-29196](#) Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government what the monitoring and evaluation process is for monies allocated to support community projects from the Supporting Communities Fund.

[S5W-29197](#) Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government what criteria were used to allocate the first tranche of funding from the Supporting Communities Fund, and what criteria it will use to allocate the second tranche.

S5W-29199 Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish equality monitoring information on the grants allocated to date by the Supporting Communities Fund.

S5W-29200 Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government what involvement COSLA had in allocating the first tranche of funding, and will have in allocating the second tranche of funding, from the Supporting Communities Fund.

S5W-29201 Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government what role SCVO has in allocating grants from the Supporting Communities Fund.

S5W-29202 Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government how many community organisations made applications to the Supporting Communities Fund, and when the application process will open for the next £10 million available.

S5W-29203 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-28698 by Jeane Freeman on 18 May 2020, in which it confirmed that it does not hold information on the number of people who may have died after being discharged from hospital, whether it is able to obtain such information from other sources, and, if so, whether it will provide this information.

S5W-29204 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-28658 by Jeane Freeman on 18 May 2020, on what date it was advised by (a) its and (b) the UK advisory group on COVID-19 that there should be a lockdown in response to the outbreak.

S5W-29205 Neil Findlay: To ask the Scottish Government whose decision it was not to continue with its test, trace and isolate policy in mid-March 2020.

S5W-29209 Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-28539 by Joe FitzPatrick on 13 May 2020, how much additional funding it has provided the Scottish Ambulance Service in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29210 Jackie Baillie: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-28544 by Joe FitzPatrick on 13 May 2020, how many care homes (a) were issued with an improvement notice, (b) had conditions applied to their registration and (c) had their registration cancelled by the Care Inspectorate between 1 January and 31 December 2019.

S5W-29211 Neil Bibby: To ask the Scottish Government for what reason the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area is not part of the COVID-19 contact-tracing software pilot.

S5W-29212 Michelle Ballantyne: To ask the Scottish Government whether aquaculture companies are required to be part of the direct food supply chain to be eligible to apply to the Aquaculture Hardship Fund that has been set up in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29213 Alex Cole-Hamilton: To ask the Scottish Government how it determined the proportion of income made up by self-catered accommodation as the qualifying threshold for business support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

S5W-29214 Michelle Ballantyne: To ask the Scottish Government how many aquaculture businesses in the South Scotland region are in receipt of support from the Aquaculture Hardship Fund that has been set up in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, also broken down by home many do not (a) farm trout and (b) grow shellfish.

[S5W-29216](#) Lewis Macdonald: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the ministerial statement on finance on 5 May 2020, how much each local authority subsequently proposed they would need from the £155 million of Barnett consequentialia to meet their funding needs.

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](#).