

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

Thursday 28 May 2020

Written questions lodged on 28 May can be found on page 13 of this document.

Links to Portfolio Questions relating to COVID-19 on 28 May, are included at page 12.

### ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS (Received on 28 May)

#### Government Initiated Question

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will publish further details on Scotland's approach to reviewing the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place.

**S5W-29473**

**Michael Russell:** The First Minister has today announced that, as a result of the efforts of the public in sticking with the restrictions of lockdown, sufficient progress has been made in suppressing the virus to enable us to move to Phase 1 of COVID-19: *Framework for Decision Making – Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis*.

The Scottish Government has also reviewed the regulations and guidance which underpin the current lockdown and have concluded these must remain in place for now, with the exception of those being adjusted through the Phase 1 changes.

We will publish an update to the route map on Friday, showing the move to Phase 1.

#### Ministerial portfolio: Communities and Local Government

**Gordon Lindhurst (Lothian) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making on developing a safe operating protocol that would allow the recommencement of the property transaction process, in light of the resumption of this in England.

**S5W-29126**

**Kevin Stewart:** The health and safety of the people of Scotland is our top priority. The Scottish Government published guidance on moving home during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak on 31 March: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-moving-home/>. This guidance permits only home moves that are reasonably necessary.

A relaxation of restrictions on home moves is anticipated in phase 2 of the recovery plan, as set out in Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis, published on 21 May. A specific date is not given for the start of phase 2. If the virus remains suppressed, and the evidence allows us to do so, then gradually, more restrictions will be removed.

During phase 1, preparations can be made for the safe reopening of the housing market.

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

**Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it is giving to prioritising the reopening of stores that specialise in selling items for babies, in light of expectant parents seeking to purchase essential items such as car seats, prams and cots, which cannot be tested when purchased online.

**S5W-29037**

**Jamie Hepburn:** We recognise that this is a difficult time for parents and expectant parents.

On 21 May, the First Minister set out the steps and phases by which the Scottish Government will aim to ease current lockdown measures. As detailed in the route map published, our actions will be gradual and incremental and will be matched with careful monitoring of the virus.

Phase 2 of the route map will permit many previously closed retail units to reopen in line with guidance for the retail sector published on 26 May.

We are committed to ensuring a safe and sustainable restart of the economy.

### Ministerial portfolio: Education and Skills

**Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Scottish Green Party):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22108 by John Swinney on 20 March 2019, for what reason teachers in special schools with their main subject recorded as primary teaching were not included in the table provided.

**S5W-29029**

**John Swinney:** The basis for classifying teachers as additional support for learning teachers ensured consistency across all school sectors (Primary, Secondary, Special and Centrally Employed). Special school teachers with main subject recorded as Primary were not included in the table in the same way that special

school teachers with main subject recorded as a secondary specialist subject (e.g. Mathematics or English) were not included.

### Ministerial portfolio: Finance

**Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether there are plans to extend 100% rates relief to estate agents, to match that given to letting agents in March 2020.

**S5W-29025**

**Kate Forbes:** The Scottish Government has introduced a package of support measures to limit the impact of COVID-19 on the business community, this includes a 100 per cent rate relief for non-domestic properties in the Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Airport (RHLA) sectors. Estate Agents functions in Scotland are typically undertaken by solicitors alongside a wider variety of service activity such as conveyancing, mortgage services and private client legal services. Therefore they are not considered to be part of the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and are not eligible for this relief. In designing the support package, we had to balance helping as many businesses as possible against affordability. As it is not possible to help everyone we would want to, some sectors are excluded from the RHLA relief.

The new measures also include a universal 1.6 per cent rates relief, which is available for all non-domestic properties across Scotland. Estate agents will be able to benefit from the 1.6% universal rates relief in 2020-21, which will apply automatically to their non-domestic rates bills.

Estate agents may also be eligible for the Small Business Grant scheme for premises in receipt of the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS), or eligible for the SBBS but in receipt of a range of other reliefs.

**Daniel Johnson (Edinburgh Southern) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what programmes it has in place, and what further measures it plans, to provide free internet devices to low-income and digitally-excluded people.

**S5W-29270**

**Ben Macpherson:** The Connecting Scotland project was announced on 7 May and will support 9,000 low income individuals across Scotland that are clinically at risk.

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is working with local authorities and other voluntary sector organisations to identify and reach people who are clinically at risk and on a low income, and to provide support. SCVO will also provide training to staff and volunteers working for organisations to be able to support individuals to use the internet safely, confidently and effectively.

We are continuing to work in partnership across all sectors to identify fresh opportunities where we can build sustainable programs that will support even more people to gain or improve their digital skills. As more organisations become involved we will signpost opportunities to funding, support and access as they arise.

We also recognise that digital exclusion is an issue for some of our most disadvantaged learners. To help ensure as many children and young people as possible are able to connect with their schools, continue their learning, access support and engage with their peers, we are investing an initial £9 million which will provide devices and connectivity for 25,000 learners across Scotland.

### Ministerial portfolio: Health and Sport

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what meetings, discussions or correspondence there have been between the (a) Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, (b) Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing and (c) Minister for Mental Health and the Care Inspectorate in 2020, and what was discussed.

**S5W-28986**

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

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many COVID-19-related deaths in each NHS board area have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences regulations.

**S5W-28992**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it, any of its agencies or the NHS has contracted with Amazon to deliver and/or collect COVID-19 tests.

**S5W-29010**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has contracted with a private laboratory in Northern Ireland to have COVID-19 tests processed.

**S5W-29011**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how long it takes for the current COVID-19 testing process to process and communicate results to the testee.

**S5W-29012**

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

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many care homes there are in (a) Aberdeenshire and (b) Aberdeen City; how many of these have reported at least one case of COVID-19 among either staff or residents, and, for each of those care homes, how many residents have died with COVID-19 being either the cause or present in the person.

**S5W-29014**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it was first informed of a case of COVID-19 in Scotland; what it did to alert the public to the case, and what public health message it put out following the case.

**S5W-29015**

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

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance will be issued to healthcare workers with severe asthma and other respiratory conditions in light of the COVID-19 outbreak and when will this become available.

**S5W-29018**

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

**Alex Neil (Airdrie and Shotts) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will, at an appropriate time, hold national remembrance events for those who have lost their lives as a result of COVID-19.

**S5W-29024**

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

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance has been issued on the use of tactile markers to make it easier for people with sight loss maintaining two metres social distancing while queuing to access buildings.

**S5W-29048**

**Clare Haughey:** Guidance has been issued to public service providers and retailers that remain open, that they must ensure a distance of two metres between customers, and between customers and shop assistants, letting people enter the shop only in small numbers, to ensure that spaces are not crowded and to ensure queue control is consistent with social distancing advice. The guidance does not specifically refer to supporting people with sight loss or to the use of tactile markers, however, the Scottish Government would expect staff to be vigilant and assist any individuals who may face difficulty in maintaining a two metre social distance.

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on service providers to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that a disabled person has, as far as is reasonable, the same access as a non-disabled person. The Scottish Government expects service providers to adapt these adjustments in light of the current COVID-19 situation and it is up to individual service providers to determine what these adjustments are.

We would also ask that the general public is similarly supportive and, in particular, that care is taken to give anyone with a visual impairment or other disability, sufficient space and time so that they can access supermarkets and other facilities safely, in line with the current Covid-19 guidance.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance has been provided to public service providers and retailers to support people with sight loss maintaining two metres' social distancing (a) when queuing to access buildings and (b) once they enter a building.

**S5W-29046**

**Clare Haughey:** Guidance has been issued to public service providers and retailers that remain open, that they must ensure a distance of two metres between customers, and between customers and shop assistants, letting people enter the shop only in small numbers, to ensure that spaces are not crowded and to ensure queue control is consistent with social distancing advice. The guidance does not specifically refer to supporting people with sight loss or to the use of tactile markers, however, the Scottish Government would expect staff to be vigilant and assist any individuals who may face difficulty in maintaining a two metre social distance.

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providers to adapt these adjustments in light of the current COVID-19 situation and it is up to individual service providers to determine what these adjustments are.

We would also ask that the general public is similarly supportive and, in particular, that care is taken to give anyone with a visual impairment or other disability, sufficient space and time so that they can access supermarkets and other facilities safely, in line with the current Covid-19 guidance.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it reached the decision to contact all people in COVID-19 shielded groups and notify them with advice; when the first contacts were made, and whether every person initially identified as being in these groups has now been contacted.

**S5W-29027**

**John Swinney:** The First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport informed Parliament on 17 March 2020 that the National Health Service would contact people who are most vulnerable to Covid-19. The first letters with advice to people in the shielded groups were issued on 26 March 2020. Every person who was initially identified has been sent a letter of advice.

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many mental health patients have died in hospital from COVID-19.

**S5W-28990**

**Clare Haughey:** This information is not held centrally. It may be available on request from individual health boards.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what public awareness information has been provided to support people with sight loss to safely maintain two metres social distancing.

**S5W-29049**

**Clare Haughey:** Physical distancing measures are steps everyone should take to reduce social interaction between people. This will help reduce the spread of coronavirus. Guidance on physical distancing is available on the Scottish Government website physical (social) distancing guide and although this is not specific to those with sight loss, the Scottish Government has worked with NHS Inform to ensure that all Covid-19 guidance, as well as that on physical distancing, is available in accessible formats, including audio. Audio files can be found here - <https://www.nhsinform.scot/translations/formats/audio/coronavirus-covid-19>

Additionally, vision impairment charities have produced some top tips on physical distancing, for those that are blind or visually impaired. Examples can be found here:

- <https://www.rnib.org.uk/campaigning/campaigning-news/rnib-sends-supermarkets-guidance>
- <https://www.henshaws.org.uk/top-tips-for-social-distancing-if-you-are-blind-or-visually-impaired/>
- <https://www.sightadvicefaq.org.uk/coronavirus-information/Getting-out-and-about/social-dist-CV>

Where keeping a two metre distance is difficult or not possible, the message remains the same for us all, stay at home wherever possible, except for essential trips. For those who do not have someone in their household to accompany them and cannot safely make essential trips on their own and need urgent supplies, including; essential food and medication or local social work services or emotional support or to contact local volunteer group, a National Assistance Helpline has been set up to provide assistance. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-help-for-vulnerable-people/>.

**Liam Kerr (North East Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether all prisoners are tested for COVID-19 prior to release and, if so, at what point.

**S5W-29136**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** Prisoners are not routinely tested for COVID-19 prior to liberation.

In line with existing guidance, prison healthcare staff should inform their local health protection team if they suspect that they have cases of COVID-19 in the prison and health protection teams can arrange testing if required.

### Ministerial portfolio: Justice and the Law Officers

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28958**

**Ash Denham:** COVID-19 is affecting all our daily lives including our workplaces, and the Scottish Government recognises the very challenging position that many employers and workers are now facing. The health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and the economy is our priority, and the Scottish Government is actively looking at what it needs to do to secure safe workplaces across a whole range of sectors, including the private hire and taxi sector.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28957**

**Ash Denham:** The Scottish Government takes the issues with taxis very seriously and is reviewing the published guidance daily to ensure that spread of the virus is contained while balancing the needs of NHS staff to get to work, many of whom use taxis. For the current position on staff and passenger safety in taxi and private hire vehicles I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28129 on 22 April 2020. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

**Keith Brown (Clackmannanshire and Dunblane) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what support and guidance it is providing to ensure that contact between children and any parent they are not resident with is being maintained throughout the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure relationships are sustained and nurtured.

**S5W-29068**

**Ash Denham:** The Scottish Government appreciates that it can be difficult during the current situation for a child to maintain contact with both parents if they do not live in the same household.

SSI 2020/103 (The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020) lists continuing existing arrangements for contact between parents and children as one of the reasonable excuses for people being outside their home.

The Scottish Government maintains the view that both parents should be fully involved in their child's upbringing as long as it is in the best interests of the child. If face to face contact cannot be maintained then the Scottish Government would expect parents to encourage contact through technology such as Skype, face time, Whatsapp or by phone.

The Lord President has issued guidance on compliance with contact orders during the Coronavirus crisis. The Scottish Government has also published information on the parent club website on shared parenting at this time.

#### [Ministerial portfolio: Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity](#)

**Gillian Martin (Aberdeenshire East) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will delay the publication of the Heat

Decarbonisation Policy Statement and Energy Efficient Scotland Routemap update and the launch of its Heat Transition Deal in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

**S5W-29445**

**Paul Wheelhouse:** The Scottish Government is fully committed to reducing emissions from Scotland's buildings in order to respond to the global climate emergency.

However, in face of the unprecedented health and economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and following the decision to pause our original intention to produce an update to the Climate Change Plan which we will now recast to support a green recovery, there is a consequential need to pause the launch of our Heat Transition Deal, Heat Decarbonisation Policy Statement, Hydrogen Policy Statement and Action Plan and Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map update so they are underpinned by a framework for a green recovery.

It is important that we consider how best the Heat Transition Deal and wider supporting policy framework can support our national response given the changed landscape, including how it can play a strong part in a green recovery. The Heat Transition Deal will come online in phases over the coming months to support recovery. Work to develop the Heat Decarbonisation Policy Statement, Hydrogen Policy Statement and Action Plan and Energy Efficient Scotland Route Map update will continue and we will look to publish them alongside the Climate Change Plan Update from the end of this year.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance has been issued to public transport providers to support people with sight loss maintain two metres social distancing before and during travel.

**S5W-29050**

**Michael Matheson:** The Transport Transition Plan was recently launched and guidance has been issued to public transport providers. Further information can be found at: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/transport-transition-plan/guidance-for-transport-operators/>

**Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government which local authorities have used the Spaces for People initiative, and whether it will provide a breakdown of the funding that each has received.

**S5W-29101**

**Michael Matheson:** A breakdown of the local authorities that have received funding from the Spaces for People fund and the amount allocated to each is provided in the following table.

Local Authority	Amount awarded
Aberdeen City Council	£1,760,000
Angus Council	£50,000
Dumfries and Galloway Council	£95,000
Dundee City Council	£460,000
Edinburgh Council, City of	£5,000,000
Glasgow City Council	£3,500,000
Highland Council	£752,954
North Lanarkshire Council	£158,107
Renfrewshire Council	£37,225
Total	£11,813,286

## ORAL QUESTIONS ON 28 MAY 2020

### Portfolio Questions

There were Portfolio Questions on *Education and Skills, Health and Sport and Communities and Local Government*, many relating to COVID-19. The questions and answers can be found in the Official Report of proceedings [here](#).

Below is a written answer to a Health and Sport portfolio question that was not taken during the virtual proceedings due to time constraints:

**Emma Harper (South Scotland) (Scottish National Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to maintain the delivery of drug and alcohol recovery services, in light of the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**S5O-04353**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** In these unprecedented circumstances we expect Alcohol and Drug Partnerships to do all they can to keep the people who rely on their services as safe as is possible.

Options for online and phone support for people in recovery have been developed during the current pandemic. Fellowship and SMART recovery meetings are being offered online. Many ADPs are reporting locally-based recovery support provision through WhatsApp, phone and online groups.

Scotland's Interim Chief Medical Officer Dr Gregor Smith and I wrote to health boards and Integration Joint Boards on 16 April to ensure the need for continuation of care for this vulnerable group of people is prioritised.

I also wrote a letter with the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and the Chair of the Drug Death Taskforce, which issued on 12 May to all Directors of Pharmacy and Community Pharmacy Scotland to emphasise the importance of the continued delivery of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) during the current period.

I announced on 1 May, a package of 3 measures to provide new support and treatment for those affected by drug use during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- £1.9 million to support people in prison on prescribed Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) to switch to a new longer-acting form called Buprenorphine;
- £150,000 for residential rehab to people leaving prison to support their recovery and reduce pressure on local services.
- Widening the availability of overdose reversal drug naloxone.

**Written questions lodged on 28 May 2020**  
**(Expected answer date 11 June 2020)**

**[S5W-29190](#) Colin Smyth:** To ask the Scottish Government whether equality impact assessments will be carried out on traffic layouts established under the initiative introduced in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Spaces for People.

**[S5W-29191](#) Colin Smyth:** To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it has given to local authorities to ensure that active travel infrastructure established under the initiative introduced in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Spaces for People, will be accessible to blind and partially-sighted people.

**[S5W-29193](#) Colin Smyth:** To ask the Scottish Government what work it has been carrying out with train operators regarding how passenger assist will be adapted as the COVID-19 lockdown eases, and how this will ensure that disabled passengers can continue to be assisted with boarding and leaving trains.

**[S5W-29194](#) Colin Smyth:** To ask the Scottish Government what effect the initiative introduced in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Spaces for People, might have on bus routes, and what action it is taking to ensure that people with limited mobility who use these routes will still be able to access essential buildings, including shops and medical facilities.

**[S5W-29397](#) Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many people have been admitted to (a) local authority and (b) independent care homes in each week since January 2020.

**[S5W-29407](#) Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government how many people have had a DNACPR (do not attempt CPR) order put in place during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-29451](#) Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on whether air conditioning systems used in hospitals, care homes and domestic properties can spread COVID-19.

**[S5W-29452](#) Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government what research it is aware of regarding whether air conditioning systems that are used in hospitals, care homes and domestic properties can spread COVID-19, and whether it plans to undertake any research on this subject.

**[S5W-29453](#) Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it has not stated a timescale for reopening chronic pain clinics, in light of the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists recommending on 15 May 2020 the aim of “reverting to pre-COVID-19 capacity in the next six weeks”.

**[S5W-29454](#) Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government what action it plans to take in response to reports regarding chronic pain patients not being able to access their usual treatments, such as infusions, and of some patients considering travelling to England or raising funds to be treated at private clinics.

**[S5W-29460](#) Daniel Johnson:** To ask the Scottish Government at what phase of the current COVID-19 route map social distancing rules for non-cohabiting couples will no longer apply, in light of marriages and civil ceremonies being set to resume in some form in phase 2 of the plan.

**[S5W-29461](#) Jeremy Balfour:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the announcement by the First Minister on 19 May 2020 of £33 million of funding to help people get back into work, how much of this will be given to the Fair Start Scotland employment service, and where the remaining funding is being allocated.

**[S5W-29463](#) Mary Fee:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the ministerial statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 21 April 2020, when mobile phones will be distributed to those currently in the care of the Scottish Prison Service.

**[S5W-29464](#) Mary Fee:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has considered rolling out virtual prison visits in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, when it expects these to commence.

**[S5W-29465](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government how many of the 120 Funeral Support Payments that were rejected in March 2020 were denied (a) after lockdown and (b) due to failure to provide paperwork within a sufficient timescale.

**[S5W-29466](#) Maurice Golden:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish its plans to facilitate safe shopping across high streets, town centres and other retail locations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-29467](#) Maurice Golden:** To ask the Scottish Government whether the Barnett consequentials arising from the UK Government Re-opening High Streets Safely Fund in response to the COVID-19 outbreak will be ringfenced for measures to support high streets and town centres in introducing social distancing provisions.

**[S5W-29468](#) Maurice Golden:** To ask the Scottish Government what access business improvement districts will have to funding to help support and implement safe shopping practices across high streets and other retail locations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-29469](#) Oliver Mundell:** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the proposals from representatives of caravan park owners regarding the safe re-opening of sites, which have been closed because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-29470](#) Oliver Mundell:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on its plans to establish a hardship fund for dairy farmers in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**[S5W-29474](#) Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what (a) financial, (b) childminding and (c) other support will be made available to parents in Aberdeenshire and across the country who want to return to work in August 2020 but cannot as schooling is expected to be part-time.

**[S5W-29475](#) Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what compensation will be available to teachers in schools in Aberdeenshire and across the country who are concerned that they might lose a week's annual leave if the new term commences on 11 August 2020.

**[S5W-29476](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to safeguard (a) vulnerable and (b) autistic and other neurodivergent people from abuse and exploitation (i) during and (ii) following the COVID-19 lockdown.

**[S5W-29477](#) Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government how many people have died in care homes in each week since 1 February 2020.

**S5W-29478 Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government how many people in care homes have died from COVID-19 or had COVID-19 mentioned on their death certificate.

**S5W-29480 Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government when it will update its document, *Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on moving home*.

**S5W-29481 Beatrice Wishart:** To ask the Scottish Government whether the qualification pathways required to meet the national professional standard for school counsellors funded through its 2018-19 Programme for Government have been impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, in particular for (a) the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and (b) Counselling and Psychotherapy in Scotland (COSCA).

**S5W-29487 Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the British Association of Removers regarding its document, *Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on moving home*.

**S5W-29489 Liam McArthur:** To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to introduce so-called smarter shielding and, if so, how information regarding this will be communicated to the people affected.

## **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](#).