

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

Friday 29 May 2020

Written questions lodged on 29 May can be found on page 18 of this document.

There were no oral questions on 29 May.

### ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS (Received on 29 May)

#### Ministerial portfolio: Communities and Local Government

**Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28956**

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28954 on 27 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>

**Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28955**

**Aileen Campbell:** I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-28954 on 27 May 2020 and S5W-28953 on 29 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>.

**Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28953**

**Aileen Campbell:** The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 require that places of worship are closed during this emergency period, except for specific purposes as provided by the Regulations.

The Regulations set out that a place of worship may be used for a funeral service during this emergency period. This is subject to a requirement that a distance of 2 metres is maintained between every person on the premises during a funeral service (except between two members of the same household, or a carer and the person is being assisted by a carer). Wider guidance on funeral services at this time also requests that numbers attending a funeral service in person are kept to the minimum number of people possible.

We issued a letter on 20 March to all faith communities advising that congregational acts of worship should be suspended, as a result of the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection at that time. In response to this, wider public health advice and a strong commitment to keep their communities as safe as possible from potential infection, the Roman Catholic church, working with the Church of Scotland and Scottish Episcopal Church, closed their places of worship to all services, including funeral services. Similar action has been taken by Scotland's other major faith communities.

We will continue to closely engage with our faith communities as we support them to consider re-opening places of worship for services in the coming period, including how this can be done as safely as possible.

**Elaine Smith (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28950**

**Aileen Campbell:** I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Scotland as they celebrate their 175th anniversary. I was looking forward to attending their celebrations later this month, which have now unfortunately been cancelled.

I deeply value the significant contributions made by our Christian communities in Scotland, including the Society of St Vincent de Paul, as they work to support many of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

We continue to engage with Scotland's faith communities, including our Christian communities, in order to understand their concerns and how we can better support them during these unprecedented times.

On 18 March I also announced a £350 million package of support to help communities during this period. A number of funds have been created including the Third Sector Resilience Fund, the Wellbeing Fund, the Food Fund and the

Supporting Communities Fund. These funds have been designed to be flexible, to enable organisations – including churches and religious groups – to respond swiftly and according to support those that are most vulnerable, including people impacted economically or through reduced contact with society, including anyone struggling to access food.

### Ministerial portfolio: Constitution, Europe and External Affairs

**Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** 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-29187**

**Graeme Dey:** The Scottish Government has been working in partnership with Legion Scotland and Poppyscotland to arrange events to mark the 75th Anniversaries of both VE and VJ Day. We have provided funding to Legion Scotland so that they may lead the nation and local communities in commemorating and celebrating our Second World War generation.

We had intended to mark VJ Day with a Service of Remembrance, Parade and reception for our Second World War Veterans. However, the importance of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our elderly veterans during the pandemic means that this is no longer possible and has had to be postponed.

Instead the Scottish Government will support Legion Scotland to mark the anniversary online. The full programme of events is still undergoing preparation and will be announced in due course. Additionally, we have been working with Poppyscotland to produce a range of freely available online activity and educational resources for both VE and VJ Day so that communities across Scotland can mark these anniversaries safely at home.

Whilst we appreciate that many communities across Scotland will wish to mark the anniversaries through local commemorative ceremonies, we have taken the difficult decision to ask them not to. We do not expect that mass gatherings will be able to resume until we are in phase 4 of the Scottish Government's transition out of the lockdown and the virus is contained and/or a vaccine developed. Mass gatherings will then be able to resume in line with public health advice, though at this stage we cannot give a specific date as to when this will be.

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

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** 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-29147**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government in collaboration with Creative Scotland have acted very swiftly in putting measures in place to support the sector and we are looking ahead to its safe restart.

The arts and culture sector is exploring ways to bring people together whilst ensuring safety, artistic integrity and economic viability. Many things need to be considered – particularly how physical distancing can be accommodated by performing arts organisations and within venues. We will continue to discuss with the sector looking ahead to guidance on re-opening and will consider potential support measures. As I mentioned to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee on 21 May I cannot yet comment on what the measures and resources could be, but these will be kept under consideration.

**Claire Baker (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Labour):** 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-29146**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Scottish Government is currently working closely with partners, agencies and stakeholders to understand the long term impact of the pandemic on the sector, and to prepare guidance to support safe working when it is possible for the sector to reopen.

Creative Scotland is collating information on an ongoing basis on the potential implications of the pandemic. It is gathering data from funded organisations and drawing on consultation and research undertaken by sector partners with a more detailed analysis currently being compiled for the Scottish Government. It has also undertaken data modelling to help assess the risk and resource requirements for Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) and organisations consistently supported through Open Project Funding (OPF) or Targeted routes.

Furthermore, Creative Scotland will undertake research through 2020 to look at audience intentions to return to cultural activities, as well as monitoring the ongoing impact. This will seek to understand the demand to return to performance venues and events, and will explore the barriers and enablers to audiences returning including their expectations of hygiene, social distancing measures and transport.

The Scottish Government is also monitoring the Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre's research into understanding the changes to the way we consume culture at home during Covid-19.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund has been awarded funding that is less than the amount applied for.

**S5W-29110**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund (NSEHF) provides support to people who became self-employed since 6 April 2019 and who were therefore not eligible for the UK Government Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. The fund provides support to people in hardship through a one-off, flat-rate £2,000 grant.

All successful applicants have been and will be awarded the full amount of £2,000.

Local Authorities are responsible for assessing claims and paying grants and the fund remains open to new applications. Data are still being collected from across the 32 Local Authorities and I shall write to you next week when we will have a better picture of the data and be able to provide up-to-date figures on the number and percentage of successful applications.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund has been awarded the full amount applied for.

**S5W-29109**

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**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many grants from the Pivotal Economic Resilience Fund have been awarded that are less than the amount applied for, also broken down by where the award was (a) 75%, (b) 50%, (c) 25% and (d) 10% of the amount applied for.

**S5W-29105**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF) provides grants for businesses which:

- support Scotland's productive capacity,
- are of local or national economic importance,
- impact the wider business community,
- are a supplier or potential supplier to NHS or other COVID-19 vital services,
- are a supplier to other essential businesses, or
- demonstrate a need to rapidly scale up or diversify due to COVID-19.

Due to significant demand we doubled the PERF to £90m and have further increased it to £120m. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund's performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Pivotal Economic Resilience Fund has been awarded funding that is less than the amount applied for.

**S5W-29104**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF) provides grants for businesses which:

- support Scotland's productive capacity,
- are of local or national economic importance,
- impact the wider business community,
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**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Pivotal Economic Resilience Fund has been awarded the full amount applied for.

**S5W-29103**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (PERF) provides grants for businesses which:

- support Scotland's productive capacity,
- are of local or national economic importance,
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- are a supplier or potential supplier to NHS or other COVID-19 vital services,
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**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many grants from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund have been awarded that are less than the amount applied for, also broken down by where the award was (a) 75%, (b) 50%, (c) 25% and (d) 10% of the value of the amount applied for.

**S5W-29102**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund (NSEHF) provides support to people who became self-employed since 6 April 2019 and who were therefore not eligible for the UK Government Self-Employment Income Support Scheme. The fund provides support to people in hardship through a one-off, flat-rate £2,000 grant.

All successful applicants have been and will be awarded the full amount of £2,000.

Local Authorities are responsible for assessing claims and paying grants and the fund remains open to new applications. Data are still being collected from across the 32 Local Authorities and I shall write to you next week when we will have a better picture of the data and be able to provide up-to-date figures on the number and percentage of successful applications

### Ministerial portfolio: Education and Skills

**Oliver Mundell (Dumfriesshire) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the reported ongoing parental concerns regarding the safety of the schools' intranet service, GLOW.

**S5W-29032**

**John Swinney:** As the national online service for learners, Glow is subject to rigorous assessment of the balance of benefits and risks. Education Scotland are acutely aware of the dangers of the online world and Glow seeks to provide all learners with a safer environment in which to develop their digital skills. This will help them to learn how to navigate and manage the online world which will be such a vital part of their future learning, work and social lives.

The circumstances in which we are now living and working are not normal and we are adapting and adjusting to those. Children and young people have transitioned to learning from home and they are often working in an environment that is not as controlled as their school network. Recognising this, Education Scotland have implemented increased monitoring and expedited planned security enhancements to reduce the overall risk that the COVID 19 crisis poses to the Glow environment.

In addition, guidance has been produced in collaboration by Education Scotland and National Parent Forum Scotland to support parents/carers in creating a safer online environment for learning at home.

Education Scotland continue to work with local authorities to ensure parents are more fully informed and will continue to monitor the Glow environment to ensure the appropriate level of benefit and risk is maintained.

#### Ministerial portfolio: Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its response to the stakeholders that were consulted by the Water Industry Commission on a temporary relief scheme for business water charges in response to the COVID-19 emergency who claim that the actions were not consistent with the commission's own ethical business principles.

**S5W-29430**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This is a matter for the Water Industry Commission for Scotland and I have asked them to respond directly.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether licensed providers are required by the Water Industry Commission as part of their license to abide by its ethical business principles and, if so, whether imposing such a requirement is of itself consistent with these principles in securing the confidence and trust of stakeholders.

**S5W-29429**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This is a matter for the Water Industry Commission for Scotland and I have asked them to respond directly.



**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish the Water Industry Commission's ethical business principles referred to in the paper, COVID-19 Response and Decision on Measures in Support of Non-household Customers and to protect Household Customers.

**S5W-29428**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This is a matter for the Water Industry Commission for Scotland and I have asked them to respond directly.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the granting of temporary vacant status to businesses in England affected by the COVID-19 lockdown is more immediately beneficial to the cash demands on those businesses than firms similarly affected by lockdown in Scotland, and what steps it will take to ensure that businesses in Scotland can have the same financial benefits on water charges as all those in England.

**S5W-29423**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The retail market structures in Scotland and in England are very different. The Scottish Government considers the overall package of support available to Licensed Providers and customers to be appropriate for the market structure in Scotland.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what consultation the Water Industry Commission had with business organisations prior to implementing temporary changes to water charges for businesses in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

**S5W-29425**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This is a matter for the independent economic regulator, the Water Industry Commission for Scotland, and I have asked them to respond directly in writing to your question.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much of the £60 million in support for meeting business water bills that it announced on 23 March 2020 will be paid for by (a) businesses and (b) licensed providers.

**S5W-29421**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** This measure supports the liquidity of license providers, allowing them to assist customers through deferred payment terms. Businesses will need to pay their Licensed Provider back over time and Licensed Providers will need to pay Scottish Water for wholesale costs again over time.

## Ministerial portfolio: Health and Sport

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the finding by Epilepsy Scotland that over a third of respondents to its questionnaire stated that they have had their specialist appointment cancelled, how it will ensure that epilepsy patients receive the treatment they require.

**S5W-29245**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-29244 on 29 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>.

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Edinburgh Western) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the finding by Epilepsy Scotland that 40% of respondents to its questionnaire stated that their seizures had increased as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, what action is being taken to tackle this increase.

**S5W-29244**

**Joe FitzPatrick:** We welcome the report facilitated by Epilepsy Scotland on the impact of Covid-19 on people with epilepsy in Scotland.

We recognise this is a worrying and distressing time for everyone, including those with specific health and social care needs. In order to assist people with long-term conditions to understand the risks of Covid-19 and to signpost them to resources that can provide support, we have published guidance available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-tailored-advice-for-those-who-live-withspecific-medical-conditions/>. This includes information about the national helpline (0800 111 4000) that enables people to access wider support such as food and medicine deliveries, and emotional wellbeing.

We remain committed to improving neurological care and support in Scotland, as set out in the National Framework published at the end of last year. Over the past few months we have kept in regular contact with stakeholders including the many third sector neurological organisations that represent the neurological community in Scotland, and a newly established clinical network across all Health Boards. This has helped us monitor activity and understand the priorities and challenges. While non-urgent elective appointments have been postponed, services have dramatically increased the use of telephone and/or Near Me video consultations to ensure people continue to be able to access care throughout the pandemic. Other digital healthcare innovations have included the use of the vCreate cloud-based service, which enables transfer of short recorded video in healthcare settings. This new service was deployed to all Scottish intensive care units during Covid-19 and has been adapted to enable patients and carers to share seizure videos for remote clinical

interpretation and management advice. The Chief Nursing Officer also asked Nursing Directors to ensure they prioritise community support for the most vulnerable. We are now working with Health Boards as they consider how all services can be safely and incrementally re-mobilised.

We are listening to experiences such as those highlighted by Epilepsy Scotland and using these views to inform ongoing decisions about our response to the current public health emergency, as set out through the Framework for Decision Making and more recently Scotland's Route Map through and out of the crisis. This includes understanding more about the harms from Covid-19, harms from disruption to non-Covid-19 health and social care, and harms from the introduction of physical distancing and impact of loss of wider freedoms on wellbeing and lifestyles.

We are therefore working with partners across the UK, through the National Institute for Health Research, and also through investment in 55 rapid research projects via our Chief Scientist Office in Scotland, to better understand the impact of Covid-19. Further information is available at <https://www.cso.scot.nhs.uk/rapid-research-in-covid-19-programme/>.

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many COVID-19 outbreaks/cases it has not made public due to patient confidentiality or for any other reason.

**S5W-29045**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government for what reason it did not support the testing of asymptomatic NHS, care home and home care staff, given that this policy was adopted prior to the establishment of its COVID-19 advisory committee, and on whose advice its policy was based.

**S5W-29044**

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

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many care home residents have been tested for COVID-19, and what percentage of the care homes population this represents.

**S5W-29043**

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

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether every person discharged from hospital to a residential care setting is tested

twice for COVID-19 and is only transferred if both tests are negative, and whether the care home is advised.

**S5W-29041**

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

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether care homes are notified of people who are discharged from hospital into their care who have tested positive for COVID-19.

**S5W-29040**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many people in each week since 1 February 2020 have been discharged from hospital to care homes; of those, how many were (a) tested and (b) not tested for COVID-19, also broken down by how many tested (i) positive and (ii) negative.

**S5W-29039**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when its policy on the testing of asymptomatic people changed from not testing to testing.

**S5W-29038**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to the Urgent Question by Jeane Freeman on 12 May 2020 regarding the identification of COVID-19 cases (Official Report, c, 14), in light of the outbreak at the February 2020 Nike conference in Edinburgh, how many (a) hotel (i) staff and (ii) residents who were not attendees at the conference and (b) shop workers, bar workers, taxi drivers and others whom the delegates might have been in contact with, were contact-tested; for what reason testing was limited to people who were suspected of being within two metres of delegates for more than 15 minutes, and who gave this advice.

**S5W-29035**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to the Urgent Question by Jeane Freeman on 12 May 2020 regarding the identification of COVID-19 cases (Official Report, c, 14), who carried out the contact testing following the outbreak at the February 2020 Nike conference in Edinburgh; what role NHS Lothian played in this; how many people in the (a) NHS Lothian area and (b) rest of the country were tested, broken down by each organisation responsible for testing, and what information it has regarding the number of people from outwith Scotland who were tested.

**S5W-29034**

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

**Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to the Urgent Question by Jeane Freeman on 12 May 2020 regarding the identification of COVID-19 cases (Official Report, c, 14), on what date it was made aware of the outbreak at the February 2020 Nike conference in Edinburgh, and what advice or guidance it gave to NHS Lothian regarding making the public aware of the outbreak.

**S5W-29033**

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

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government when it will be making the first payments to hospices in the Central Scotland region from the £19 million that it announced on 28 April 2020 to support such facilities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including Kilbryde Hospice in East Kilbride, which is reportedly at risk of closure.

**S5W-29031**

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

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government what it considers the maximum waiting time should be for a person with lung cancer to be notified that they are in the COVID-19 shielded group, and what its response is to reports of this taking up to seven weeks in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area.

**S5W-29028**

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

## Ministerial portfolio: Rural Economy and Tourism

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government how many grants from the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund have been awarded that are less than the amount applied for, also broken down by where the award was (a) 75%, (b) 50%, (c) 25% and (d) 10% of the amount applied for.

**S5W-29108**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.

Each enterprise agency administers the fund in its respective area. The performance data are compiled by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of all three agencies. As applications are still being processed the fund's performance data are incomplete. I have asked the Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise to write to you as soon as the data you have requested can be reported.

**Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** 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-28993**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The Scottish Government is going to great lengths to support businesses and organisations, and in designing the relief and grant systems had to make difficult decisions to balance helping as many as possible against what was affordable.

The Scottish Government acknowledges the effect COVID-19 has had on the recreational fisheries sector. Whilst no specific support package is available to angling associations, the proposed resumption of local angling under Phase 1 of the route map announced by the First Minister on 21 May should see the welcome return of regular income.

**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund has been awarded funding that is less than the amount applied for.

**S5W-29107**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.

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**Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):** To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund has been awarded the full amount applied for.

**S5W-29106**

**Fiona Hyslop:** The Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (CTHEHF) provides support for small creative, tourism and hospitality companies who have experienced at least 50% loss of current or projected revenue as a result of COVID-19 and are experiencing hardship. Due to significant demand we have increased the fund from £20m to £30m. The fund is administered by our enterprise agencies, which are currently progressing applications. The fund closed to new applications on 18 May.

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#### Ministerial portfolio: Social Security and Older People

**Monica Lennon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how many unpaid carers it estimates will not receive the recently announced additional Carer's Allowance Supplement payment of £230.10, and for what reason they are not eligible.

**S5W-29116**

**Shirley-Anne Somerville:** According to the latest estimate around 690,000 people in Scotland are providing regular unpaid care to family members, friends, neighbours

or others, for one or more hours a week, and on a range of incomes. The Coronavirus Carer's Allowance Supplement will be paid automatically alongside the June Carer's Allowance Supplement to unpaid carers living in Scotland and receiving Carer's Allowance on the qualifying date of 13 April 2020. Carers who have applications for Carer's Allowance backdated to include the qualifying date of 13 April 2020 will also be eligible.

By investing £19.2 million, the Scottish Government will ensure that around 83,000 unpaid carers will receive the payment. We are taking receipt of Carer's Allowance as a proxy for those carers who have the most intensive caring roles and who have some of the lowest incomes. The majority of Carer's Allowance recipients will not benefit from the UK Government's increase to Universal Credit.

We considered a range of mechanisms to provide additional support for unpaid carers. An additional payment of Carer's Allowance Supplement was the only feasible option to deliver extra money to carers quickly. Creating a brand new benefit for carers or extending eligibility for Carer's Allowance Supplement would take several months as a minimum. It would require significant resources from Social Security Scotland, and Social Security staff within Scottish Government, to develop new processes and build new systems. It would also need to be supported by the Department for Work and Pensions. The Department for Work and Pensions and Social Security Scotland are prioritising frontline delivery of existing benefits to support people on low incomes at this time. Adding an additional benefit would place strain on these operations when they are needed most and we could not guarantee support would be available from the Department of Work and Pensions when we needed it.

**Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it has extended the eligibility criteria for the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) fund, in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

**S5W-29275**

**Shirley-Anne Somerville:** The power of the Scottish Ministers to make provision in relation to Discretionary Housing Payments is restricted by schedule 5 of the Scotland Act 1998. As a result, the Scottish Ministers have no power to extend eligibility for Discretionary Housing Payments beyond individuals who are in receipt of Housing Benefit, or another reserved benefit payable in respect of liability to make rent payments.

**Pauline McNeill (Glasgow) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government how much extra money it has put into the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) fund since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

**S5W-29274**

**Shirley-Anne Somerville:** On 20 May the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning announced in the Scottish Parliament an increase to the amount made



available for other DHPs - those that are available outside of our full mitigation of the bedroom tax - by a further £5 million to almost £16 million. This will support tenants where Universal Credit or Housing Benefit does not cover the cost of their rent.

We have budgeted £60 million for bedroom tax mitigation through DHPs in 2020-21 and expect the cost of mitigation to significantly increase over and above this due to the additional numbers of people moving on to Universal Credit and we remain committed to mitigating the cost in full.

Local Authorities may also top up their DHP budgets as they see fit from other sources of funding available to them, such as the £50 million COVID-19 Hardship Fund money announced as part of a £350 million package of support on 18 March 2020.

**Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of comments by Justin Tomlinson, Minister for Disabled People, at the Work and Pensions Select Committee on 23 April 2020, regarding a fall in the number of applications for Personal Independence Payments (PIP), whether there has been a fall in such claims from disabled people in Scotland.

**S5W-29230**

**Shirley-Anne Somerville:** The relevant regional statistics have not yet been published. Once published by the Department for Work and Pensions on 11 June 2020, the statistics will be available at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-independence-payment-statistics#latest-release>

**Written questions lodged on 29 May 2020  
(Expected answer date 12 June)**

**S5W-29493 Fulton MacGregor:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the football authorities regarding restarting training for the grassroots game in accordance with social distancing and other appropriate safety measures.

**S5W-29494 Miles Briggs:** To ask the Scottish Government what risk assessment it carried out after it became aware of the COVID-19 outbreak at the 2020 Nike conference regarding the possibility of the disease spreading (a) in Edinburgh and (b) across Scotland.

**S5W-29495 Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund (a) were (i) received, (ii) accepted and (iii) rejected and (b) are still awaiting processing, broken down by local authority area.

**S5W-29497 Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) average and (b) total amount of funding paid out to date is as part of the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund, broken down by local authority area.

**S5W-29499 Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund (a) were (i) received, (ii) accepted and (iii) rejected and (b) are still awaiting processing, broken down by local authority area.

**S5W-29501 Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) average and (b) total amount of funding paid out to date is as part of the Creative, Tourism and Hospitality Enterprises Hardship Fund, broken down by local authority area.

**S5W-29503 Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government how many applications to the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund (a) have been (i) received, (ii) accepted and (iii) rejected and (b) are still awaiting processing, broken down by local authority area.

**S5W-29504 Beatrice Wishart:** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the evidence given by Richard Lochhead to the Education and Skills Committee on 20 May 2020 regarding the take-up of student hardship funding following the COVID-19 outbreak (*Official Report*, c. 31), in light of the minister's comment that "I hope that, by the end of this week or early next week, we will have a report on the take-up so far of the hardship funds at institutional level, and on what the institutions are finding are the reasons why people are asking for hardship funding", whether this report has been received and, if so, whether it will publish the findings.

**S5W-29506 Liam Kerr:** To ask the Scottish Government what the (a) average and (b) total amount of funding paid out to date is as part of the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund, broken down by local authority area.

**S5W-29510 Neil Bibby:** To ask the Scottish Government how much it has received in Barnett consequential from the UK Government introducing a death in service benefit scheme for social care workers.

**S5W-29511 Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government what risk assessment it carried out before rolling out the policy of discharging hospital patients to care homes that were untested for COVID-19.

**S5W-29515 Neil Findlay:** To ask the Scottish Government how many people with suspected COVID-19 have been moved from care homes to hospital for

treatment in each month since January 2020 and, if it does not hold this information, whether it will request it from NHS boards.

**[S5W-29516](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government how many people in each local authority area it estimates are eligible for the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund; how many applications there have been from each area, and how many (a) have been approved, (b) are in process, (c) have been withdrawn and (d) have been unsuccessful, broken down by the reason for rejection.

**[S5W-29517](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government how many grants from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund in each local authority area have been paid out, also broken down by their total value.

**[S5W-29518](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it has given to widening the eligibility criteria for the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund to include people who have claimed Universal Credit.

**[S5W-29519](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it had with the UK Government regarding the potential interaction of grants made from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund and the Universal Credit taper rate.

**[S5W-29520](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government how much it has allocated to each local authority to pay grants from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund.

**[S5W-29521](#) Mark Griffin:** To ask the Scottish Government when it will close down the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund to new applicants.

**[S5W-29523](#) Daniel Johnson:** To ask the Scottish Government when it expects dental practices to reopen, in light of the target in England of 8 June 2020.

## **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](#).