

Questions (most recent first)

Concessionary Travel

Charlie Gordon (Glasgow Cathcart) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what the average cost of reimbursement to transport operators is per kilometre travelled for journeys made by passengers eligible under the national free bus travel scheme in each year since the scheme commenced. (S3W-35644)

Stewart Stevenson: The reimbursement paid to bus operators under the scheme is based on the revenue foregone for each journey, i.e. the fare that would have been paid in the absence of the scheme. Although these fares derive from fare tables submitted by the bus operators, journey distance is not recorded, and as such it is not possible to report on the average cost per kilometre travelled.

Disability Discrimination Act 2005

Jamie Hepburn (Central Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-32727 by Alex Neil on 24 March 2010, whether a local authority is not considered to be a relevant Scottish authority under the powers invested in the Scottish Ministers by section 49D(3) of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. (S3W-35492)

Nicola Sturgeon: A local authority is considered to be a relevant Scottish Authority under the powers invested in the Scottish Ministers by section 49D(3) of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. Scottish ministers have used their powers to impose specific duties on Scottish local authorities.

Jamie Hepburn (Central Scotland) (SNP): To ask the Scottish Executive what are considered to be relevant Scottish authorities as referred to in section 49D(3) of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (S3W-35493)

Nicola Sturgeon: For the purposes of section 49D(3) and as defined in section 49D(10) of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, a relevant Scottish authority means:

- (a) a member of the Scottish executive or a junior Scottish minister;
- (b) the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland, the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland or the Keeper of the Records of Scotland;
- (c) any office of a description specified in an Order in Council under section 126(8)(b) of the Scotland Act 1998 (other non-ministerial office in the Scottish Administration), or
- (d) a public body, public office or holder of a public office—
 - (i) which (or who) is not a cross-border authority or the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body;
 - (ii) whose functions are exercisable only in or as regards Scotland, and
 - (iii) some at least of whose functions do not (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998) relate to reserved matters;

"cross-border authority" means a cross-border public authority within the meaning given by section 88(5) of the Scotland Act 1998;

"Scottish functions" means functions which are exercisable in or as regards Scotland and which do not (within the meaning of the Scotland Act 1998) relate to reserved matters.

MOTION

S3M-6776 Helen Eadie: World Deaf Golf Championships 2010: That the Parliament welcomes the 8th annual World Deaf Golf Championships, a major event in the deaf sporting calendar, which will be held this year in Fife at the Fairmont, St Andrews, between 9 and 13 August; congratulates

the Scottish Deaf Golf Association, the President of which, David Wilson, hails from nearby Kelty in Fife, for the hard work that has gone into organising the event; notes the support that has been provided by the World Deaf Golf Association, the R&A, Event Scotland and Fife Council, as well as the further support that will be received from Fife Constabulary and other local organisations during the championships; welcomes the huge benefits that it considers hosting this competition will bring to Fife's businesses due to the number of UK and overseas visitors that will be attending; believes that hosting this event will strengthen Fife's golfing reputation and help showcase both its golfing heritage and the inclusive nature of its hospitality and facilities, and wishes the competition every success both in St Andrews and for future championships.

Supported by: Jamie Hepburn

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/motionsandamendments/motions.htm>

Questions (most recent first)

Charities

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what charities have deregistered in each local authority area since May 2007; which of these were deregistered by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, and how many deregistered on a voluntary basis. (S3W-35425)

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive which of those charities that have voluntarily deregistered since May 2007 were under notice to deregister. (S3W-35426)

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what the reasons are for voluntary deregistration of charities. (S3W-35427)

Fergus Ewing: This information is not held centrally. The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator is an independent body and the member should approach them directly.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive when it will carry out a review of the role of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. (S3W-35428)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government has made a commitment to carry out a fullscale review of the Charities and Trustee (Scotland) Act 2005 within ten years of its commencement date of April 2006. I anticipate this will include a review of the role of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it has taken to simplify charity regulation and registration. (S3W-35429)

Fergus Ewing: The Scottish Government and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulations under it.

We have recently taken forward, by means of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, a number of OSCR's recommendations for changes to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2010, which were laid before Parliament on 27 July 2010, amend the accounting rules for charities, including increasing the threshold for preparation of fully accrued accounts from £100,000 to £250,000. These changes aim to simplify or reduce charity regulation.

OSCR intends to introduce a new integrated reported regime which aims to simplify reporting processes for charities.

Mental Health

Margaret Curran (Glasgow Baillieston) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what resources have been lost to mental health services in the east end of Glasgow since May 2007; what savings target has been proposed for 2010-11, and what actual savings have been implemented.

Holding answer issued: 29 July 2010 (S3W-35060)

Nicola Sturgeon: NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has confirmed that the relevant budget has risen from £4,120,266 in 2007-08 to £4,382,921 in 2010-11; an increase of £262,655.

We understand that the board has a savings target of £100,000 in 2010-11 for this particular budget, and that £50,000 has been delivered to date as a consequence of reviewing and reducing agency staff costs, and non-pay expenditure.

Mental Health

Margaret Curran (Glasgow Baillieston) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive whether there are plans to close any of the three mental health resource centres operating in the east end of Glasgow.

Holding answer issued: 29 July 2010 (S3W-35061)

Nicola Sturgeon: NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has confirmed that the development plan for the east of Glasgow community health and care partnership (CHCP) identified the possibility of a move from three to two resource centres.

However, the board is clear that such an eventuality would be dependent on the outcome of a current review of local mental health services. The east CHCP committee has established a working group to consider how mental health services should be organised and delivered locally. The working group, which includes a range of local stakeholders, has only met once to date and no formal service proposals have been agreed.

Translation and Interpreting Services

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-30559 by Alex Neil on 22 January 2010, what further consideration it has given to how best to improve the quality and standards of interpretation services. (S3W-35316)

Richard Baker (North East Scotland) (Lab): To ask the Scottish Executive what action the Translating, Interpreting and Communication Support Group has taken to improve the standards of translation and interpreting services and how it will evaluate progress. (S3W-35317)

Alex Neil: The Scottish Government facilitated an event in June for stakeholders to discuss how translation and interpretation services might be improved across the public sector. Partners are now working collectively to look at the suggestions and how we may work together to improve the quality and standards of interpretation services.