

Questions (in reverse chronological order)	Up to: 27/11/09
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### Voluntary Sector

**Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what organisations have applied for funding from the Third Sector Resilience Fund and how much has been sought in each case. (S3W-29338)

**Jim Mather:** As of 25 November 2009, five applications have been received for the Third Sector Resilience Fund, for a total of £196,463. It would not be normal to disclose the names of applicants to a fund.

This level of applications is what we would have anticipated at this point in time. The fund has only been open for just over three weeks and a considerable amount of supporting material is required for an application. We anticipate that there will be a sharp increase in applications from now on until the closing date of 4 December 2009.

### Concessionary Travel

**Johann Lamont (Glasgow Pollok) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the estimated cost is of extending the concessionary fares scheme to people on the lower rate of mobility benefit. (S3W-28981)

**Stewart Stevenson:** The review of the Scotland-wide free bus travel scheme for older and disabled people estimated the cost of extending the scheme to include people in receipt of the lower rate of disability living allowance at around £12 million.

### Voluntary Sector

**Rob Gibson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the criteria are for charities to receive funds from the £1.7 million Third Sector Resilience Fund. (S3W-28335)

**John Swinney:** The fund will be available to third sector organisations which can demonstrate that they provide essential front-line services which, as a result of the recession, require short-term financial support to maintain these services. Examples of the how the recession has affected organisations can include the loss or withdrawal of income from trusts and investments or the extraordinarily increased demand for services.

Full details of the application process and further guidance are available at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300/funding/ResilienceFundStrategy1>

**Rob Gibson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive who will be responsible for the dispersal of funds from the Third Sector Resilience Fund. (S3W-28336)

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government has worked closely with third sector partners in developing the Third Sector Resilience Fund. The fund will be administered by the Scottish Government and all eligible applications will be considered by a panel which includes representatives from the third sector.

**Rob Gibson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether applications to the Third Sector Resilience Fund from organisations that have been affected by the collapse of the Kaupthing Bank will be given special consideration. (S3W-28337)

**John Swinney:** All applicants to the Third Sector Resilience Fund must demonstrate that they are suffering financial hardship, and describe how the recession has significantly undermined or adversely affected their services. This can include circumstances where income from trusts or investments has been lost or withdrawn.

All eligible applications will be considered by a panel which includes representatives from the third sector.

## Mental Health

**Jackson Carlaw (West of Scotland) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many people were on waiting lists and what the waiting times were for child and adolescent mental health services in each year since 1999, also broken down by NHS board. (S3W-28834)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Historically this information was not recorded centrally, but we are currently working with NHS boards to put in place by April 2010 a referral to treatment waiting time target for specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

This waiting time target means that by March 2013 no one will wait longer than 26 weeks from referral to treatment for specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

The work with NHS boards includes ensuring that appropriate systems are in place to properly monitor their performance. Data definitions and systems will be piloted from January to March next year to give a final baseline for setting the trajectories to be achieved from April 2010.

## Gaelic Language

**Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will clarify the status of its Gaelic language plan. (S3W-28657)

**Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what action it has taken to keep the Gaelic community, interested members of the public and the Parliament informed of developments and decisions relating to its draft Gaelic language plan. (S3W-28658)

**Ken Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what responses it received to the consultation on its draft Gaelic language plan; what analysis it has undertaken of those responses; what changes it has made to the draft plan in light of the consultation responses and whether it plans to publish information in relation to the responses, its own analysis or changes made to the draft plan. (S3W-28659)

**Michael Russell:** The Scottish Government Gaelic language plan was approved in principal by Bòrd na Gàidhlig on the 25 August. The bòrd have asked for some clarity on a few points and work is ongoing to address these issues. During the consultation period on the draft plan a total of 48 responses were received. These were, in the main, greatly supportive of the work that was being undertaken by the Scottish Government and other public bodies on behalf of Gaelic. These respondents were pleased with the lay-out, contents and the general level of commitment expressed across the main areas of the Gaelic plan relating to corporate identity, communications, publications and staffing. All responses were analysed separately by officials from the Analysis and Evaluation Support Unit and are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/ArtsCultureSport/arts/gaelic/gaelic-English/Consultation>

In addition, the analysis and copies of the responses from those consultees who wished their responses to be made public are available at the Scottish Government Library, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh. There were a number of consultation suggestions accepted which strengthened the Gaelic plan, highlighted work that was ongoing across Directorates that had not

been included previously and also tightened the language in parts to focus on delivery and timescales. Once the Scottish Government Gaelic language plan has been finalised and approved by Bòrd na Gàidhlig it will be available on our website.

### Speech and Language Therapy

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many children and young people have a (a) speech, (b) language and (c) communication impairment. (S3W-28424)

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many children and young people have a speech, language or communication impairment associated with (a) dyspraxia, (b) dyslexia, (c) stammer, (d) learning disabilities, (e) cerebral palsy, (f) autistic spectrum disorder and (g) mental illness. (S3W-28425)

**Adam Ingram:** There is no central register of children and young people with speech, language or communication impairments. However, the number of school pupils receiving additional support due to a language or speech disorder is reported annually in Pupils in Scotland and the Independent School Census. Pupils in Scotland is available on the government website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/04/20113524/7>

The Independent School Census can be located at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/04/20113524/7>

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will develop a national plan for services for children and young people with communication support needs. (S3W-28426)

**Adam Ingram:** I do not currently propose to develop a separate national plan for services for children and young people with communication support needs in Scotland.

Scottish Government policy and legislation, including Curriculum for Excellence, the Early Years Framework, Getting it Right for Every Child and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Acts 2004 and 2009, focus on the need to identify and meet the individual needs of all children and young people, including those with communication support needs.

### Mental Health

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it will ensure that GPs and practice nurses are supported in identifying and managing depression in older people, including psychological and pharmacological approaches. (S3W-28584)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** Improvements to the detection and treatment of depression, and consequent care, have been aided by the recently enhanced GP contract. This contract provides additional resources for practices to make objective assessments to address the severity of depression and provide appropriate information on interventions, such as self help and life style advice.

We are working with NHS Education for Scotland and NHS boards to improve availability of psychological therapies for all patient groups, including older people.

Activity on clinical identification, diagnosis and treatment across age ranges includes ensuring care pathway standards, increasing access to psychological therapies and reducing reliance on antidepressants.

Furthermore, the Scottish Government has funded NHS Health Scotland to work with partners – namely Age Concern Scotland and the Mental Health Foundation – to address mental health in later

life. The work involved focuses on mental health promotion and prevention of common mental health problems in older people, this including depression.

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it will ensure that people with dementia have access to psychological intervention where appropriate. (S3W-28585)

**Nicola Sturgeon:** The Scottish Government recognises the valuable contribution that psychological therapies can make to improve the quality of life for people with dementia. That is why we have a specific commitment to deliver on our commitment of increasing the availability of evidence-based psychological therapies for all ages to meet patients’ needs.

To achieve this we are working with NHS Scotland, NHS boards and their partners to improve and increase service capacity and have produced a tool which NHS boards can use to review the best available evidence-based psychological therapy when considering which psychological intervention is most appropriate. This includes dementia.

In addition, we have funded NES to support the training and development of staff in a range of evidence-based psychological therapy approaches.

**Blood Donors**

**Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what public authorities offer staff the opportunity to donate blood at organised group sessions and whether such staff continue to be paid while taking time to donate blood. (S3W-28606)

**Shona Robison:** The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS), which organises and collects blood donations, currently works with a number of, but not all, public authorities, including fire and police organisations, local councils, universities, colleges and hospitals.

Data on whether staff from the relevant organisations who give blood are paid is not collated centrally. However, SNBTS believes that this is the case.

The SNBTS Accessibility Group is expanding as much as possible the blood donation collections that take place with other NHS bodies.

**Deaf and Hearing Impaired People**

**Ross Finnie (West of Scotland) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many individuals aged (a) under 18, (b) 18 to 29, (c) 30 to 49 and (d) 50 and over have been diagnosed with permanent tinnitus in each of the last five years, broken down by NHS board. (S3W-28363)

**Shona Robison:** Information on the number of people who have been diagnosed with permanent tinnitus is not available.

However, we can provide estimates for Scotland of the number of patients consulting at general practices for tinnitus symptoms. It is not possible to say whether these symptoms are permanent, and people with longer term symptoms may not necessarily have consulted their GP recently.

The estimates given in the table are based on PTI (Practice Team Information) data, which are obtained from a representative sample of Scottish general practices. Figures show the estimated number of patients who have seen a GP or practice-employed nurse for tinnitus symptoms during each year. The PTI does not provide estimates for individual NHS boards.

Estimated number of patients (with 95% confidence intervals) who have consulted a GP practice at least once in the year for tinnitus symptoms, by age group: Scotland, financial year 2003-04 to 2007-08

Age Group	Year				
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08

Under 18	92	264	388	84	123
Confidence Interval*	(32-151)	(42-487)	(163-613)	(8-159)	(0-280)
18 - 29 years	723	706	689	745	536
Confidence Interval*	(455-990)	(131-1,281)	(508-870)	(398-1,092)	(342-731)
30 - 49 years	2,831	2,494	2,788	2,873	3,680
Confidence Interval*	(2,063-3,600)	(1,985-3,002)	(2,214-3,362)	(2,351-3,396)	(1,856-5,504)
50 years & over	6,845	7,562	6,858	6,540	6,232
Confidence Interval*	(5,890-7,800)	(5,096-10,028)	(5,681-8,035)	(5,618-7,462)	(5,280-7,183)
All ages	10,535	10,953	10,682	10,392	10,709
Confidence Interval*	(9,181-11,888)	(8,479-13,428)	(9,260-12,104)	(9,234-11,550)	(8,464-12,954)

Source: ISD Scotland, Practice Team Information.

Note: \*As the estimates are based on data from a sample of practices, 95% confidence intervals are included to indicate the accuracy of these estimates. For further information see [www.isdscotland.org/isd/3729.html](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/3729.html).

### Scots Language

**Dave Thompson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether, in order to fulfil its responsibilities under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, it requires accurate information on the status of the Scots language and, if so, whether the census will include adequate questions on Scots. **(S3W-28520)**

**Michael Russell:** Accurate information on the numbers of Scots speakers would contribute to the Scottish Government making progress with other Scots undertakings in Part II of the Council of Europe’s Charter for Regional and Minority languages. In relation to the census, Parliament will be asked later this year to approve the final choice of questions.

### Speech and Language Therapy

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the cost is to the economy of adults with a speech, language or communication impairment. **(S3W-28428)**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Information on what the cost is to the economy of adults with a speech, language or communication impairment is not held centrally.

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive what proportion of (a) adult male prisoners, (b) adult female prisoners and (c) young offenders has been assessed as having (i) clinically significant communication impairment or (ii) difficulties with literacy and numeracy. **(S3W-28429)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** I have asked Mike Ewart, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

The Scottish Prison Service does not assess every prisoner for communication impairment or difficulties with literacy and numeracy and therefore do not hold the information requested.

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive what provision is made for speech and language therapy in each prison establishment. **(S3W-28430)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** I have asked Mike Ewart, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

A speech and language therapist is contracted from Forth Valley Health Board to work 14 hours in HMYOI Polmont. There is no provision in any other prison.

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the expenditure on speech and language therapy has been in each year since 1999, broken down by NHS board. **(S3W-28431)**

**Shona Robison:** The expenditure on speech and language therapy in each year since 1999, broken down by NHS board is shown in the following tables.

NHS Board	1999-2000 £000	2000-01 £000	2001-02 £000	2002-03 £000	2003-04 £000	2004-05 £000	2005-06 £000	2006-07 £000	2007-08 £000
Argyll and Clyde	1,151	1,976	1,711	2,212	1,683	2,110	2,399		
Ayrshire and Arran	601	1,187	1,105	1,280	1,242	1,558	1,601	1,769	1,858
Borders	466	542	484	524	664	809	935	1,279	1,222
Dumfries and Galloway	533	693	755	856	1,086	472	862	653	662
Fife	1,092	1,367	1,338	1,297	1,377	1,624	2,237	2,318	2,060
Forth Valley	1,228	1,596	1,695	1,757	1,969	1,118	1,228	1,512	1,457
Grampian	1,437	1,820	1,960	2,279	2,063	2,413	2,564	2,554	2,930
Greater Glasgow	2,449	2,120	2,255	2,313	2,125	2,341	2,474		
Greater Glasgow and Clyde								4,117	4,176
Highland (old)	778	778	1,182	1,151	1,405	1,344	1,122		
Highland (new)								2,178	2,031
Lanarkshire	2,278	2,273	1,927	2,624	2,642	2,772	3,204	3,459	3,439
Lothian	1,329	2,417	1,069	1,206	1,027	1,087	783	893	1,229
Orkney	61	65	97	79	86	96	99	95	146
Shetland	71	80	104	79	60	50	138	105	124
Tayside	591	1,188	1,425	1,473	1,936	2,043	2,039	1,711	1,825
Western Isles	222	252	417	535	653	771	544	468	511
Total	14,287	18,354	17,524	19,665	20,018	20,608	22,229	23,111	23,670

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the expenditure has been on speech and language therapy by the Scottish Prison Service in each year since 1999. **(S3W-28432)**

**Kenny MacAskill:** I have asked Mike Ewart, Chief Executive of the Scottish Prison Service, to respond. His response is as follows:

The following table details the level of spend by the Scottish Prison Service for speech and language therapy services since 1999.

2000-01	£8,123
2001-02	£8,424
2002-03	£8,727
2003-04	£15,540
2004-05	£20,003
2005-06	£12,041
2006-07	£18,676
2007-08	£21,285

2008-09	£20,640
2009 - Year to date	£12,292
Total	£145,751

### Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000

Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con): To ask the Scottish Executive how it will ensure that people caring for older people in care homes are made aware of section 1 of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 with regard to the administration of antipsychotic drugs. **(S3W-28522)**

**Shona Robison:** Anyone authorised to make decisions on behalf of an adult with impaired capacity under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, as amended, must take account of the views of others with an interest in the person's welfare. The act lists those who should be consulted whenever practicable and reasonable. It includes the person's primary carer, nearest relative, named person, attorney or guardian (when in place).

This principle is set out in the revised Code of Practice for part 5 of the act (which deals with medical treatment and research). The code was first issued in March 2008, and again (to NHS Scotland, its affiliates and care homes) in September this year, following the publication of the joint report by the Care Commission and Mental Welfare Commission, Remember, I'm still me, on the quality of care for people with dementia living in care homes in Scotland.

The report highlighted the inappropriate use of medication, amongst other serious failings, in caring for older people with dementia. From this, we are developing a dementia strategy, to be published in April 2010, to ensure that the required improvements in dementia care are identified and addressed in a comprehensive way for the first time.

Dementia is a priority for the Scottish Government. In taking forward the strategy, the use of medication and its management, including the use of antipsychotic medication, is one of the issues being addressed. Through time, the strategy will make a real difference not just to those with dementia, but also to their carers and families.

Health Rights Information Scotland has recently published Caring and Consent which can be accessed at <http://www.hris.org.uk/index.aspx?o=5099>. This sets out, in plain English, carers' rights to be involved in decisions about the healthcare of the adult they care for, including those who lack capacity.

### Education

**Willie Coffey (Kilmarnock and Loudoun) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many adults are assessed as functionally illiterate and what this figure was (a) 10 and (b) 20 years ago. **(S3W-28427)**

**Fiona Hyslop:** Evidence from the 1996 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) suggested that around 800,000 (23%) working age adults in Scotland have low levels of literacy. The Scottish Government has set in hand a further wide ranging survey to update these findings. The results will be available in spring 2010. Currently, the Scotland Performs website measures literacy and numeracy through the use of a proxy indicator. That indicator has shown a steady decrease in the percentage of adults with SCQF Level 4 qualifications or below, to 15% in 2008.