

**Motion S4M-10541 Jackie Baillie**  
**Loo Tour de Britain**

That the Parliament welcomes the Loo tour de Britain, which will visit the Parliament on 10 July 2014 at 6.30pm; notes that this cycle tour has been organised to raise awareness of the need for changing place toilets for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and to raise money for the installation of a changing place toilet in Arbroath; understands that the cycle tour will begin on 7 July in Leeds with Grant Speed; commends the cyclists who will then join the tour on 11 July at Murrayfield in Edinburgh, including the mother of the family that organised this event; believes that there is a clear need for more changing place toilets to be introduced as a priority in Scotland, and wishes all those involved with the Loo tour de Britain the best of luck.

Supported by: Patricia Ferguson, Graeme Dey, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Margaret McCulloch, Anne McTaggart, Kevin Stewart, Jayne Baxter, Dennis Robertson, Hanzala Malik

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/79157.aspx>

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**Motion S4M-10530 Kevin Stewart**  
**Leaked Documents Highlight DWP Failure**

That the Parliament understands that leaked UK Government documents show that the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is struggling to deliver the new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) system; believes that memos between senior government civil servants air concerns that the system is not meeting expectations, saying that ESA "is not delivering more positive outcomes for claimants" than incapacity benefit did; further believes that the memos state that the cost of delivering the benefits is expected to rise by almost £13 billion by 2018-19 and warn that it has become "one of the largest fiscal risks currently facing the government"; believes that this once again highlights that the UK Government's welfare reform policies are a complete shambles, and concludes that the people of Scotland would be better served if the Scottish Parliament had control over social security policy.

Supported by: George Adam, Joan McAlpine, Roderick Campbell, Dennis Robertson, Jean Urquhart, Christina McKelvie, Adam Ingram, David Torrance, Rob Gibson, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Stuart McMillan, Christian Allard, Colin Keir.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/79157.aspx>

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**Motion S4M-10527 Christina McKelvie**  
**Citizens Advice Scotland Report, Sanctioned: what benefit?**

That the Parliament notes Citizens Advice Scotland's report, *Sanctioned: what benefit?*, which is a detailed examination of the impact of sanctions on the people of Scotland; understands that being sanctioned means benefit money being stopped for a minimum period of a week to as long as three years; acknowledges that the publication provides an analysis of the current system, its impact on Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) clients, real case evidence and the findings of a survey of Scottish CAB advisers; understands that this comprehensive report shows that many people are forced into poverty and ill-health, often having to rely on foodbanks, as their benefit payments are stopped and that many people who are hit by a sanction are not told the reason for it or how to appeal against it; notes that this report is published at the same time as 22 CABs across Scotland are running the Challenge It sanctions campaign, which shows people how to prevent being sanctioned and what action they can take if they are, and considers that the report represents a stark warning about the changes that urgently need to be made to the sanctions regime.

Supported by: Jean Urquhart, Stuart McMillan, Bill Kidd, Roderick Campbell, Fiona McLeod, Christian Allard, Adam Ingram, Aileen McLeod, Joan McAlpine, Annabelle Ewing, Neil Findlay, Rob

Gibson, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, John Mason, John Finnie, Jackie Baillie, Angus MacDonald, Colin Beattie, Dennis Robertson, Kevin Stewart, David Torrance, Hanzala Malik, Colin Keir.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/79157.aspx>

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**Question S4W 21809 Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to review the children's hearings system.**

**Aileen Campbell:** The introduction of the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, which came into force on 24 June 2013, involved a full review of the children's hearings system. The Scottish Government intends to build on the improvements already introduced by continuing to work with all partners, including children, young people and their families, and by measuring the success of the modernisation programme.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140707.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140707.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21851 Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether and, if so, what provisions in the proposed carers legislation will involve carers in the discharge process of patients and whether there will be a specific duty on NHS boards and local authorities.**

**Michael Matheson:** It is very important to fully involve carers in the discharge planning of the people they care for who are patients. The good practice which exists needs to be spread across Scotland and we will make sure that this happens.

The consultation on the carers' legislation sets out our proposals to help ensure more consistent and sustainable support to improve outcomes for carers and young carers across Scotland. One of the key principles of the legislation, and of the regulations underpinning the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, is to ensure greater carer involvement in the shaping, planning, and delivery of services that carers and the people they care for use.

We are currently analysing the consultation responses to the carers' legislation and will publish our response in Autumn 2014.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140710.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140710.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21815 Margaret Mitchell (Central Scotland) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):**

**To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S4O-03329 by Alex Neil on 11 June 2014 (Official Report, c. 32073), whether older people being discharged from hospital are screened for malnutrition.**

**Alex Neil:** All patients are screened throughout their hospital stay through the use of the Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool, and if a patient is identified as being malnourished staff should undertake appropriate referrals and assessments through to the patient's discharge. Patients receive a discharge summary when they leave hospital in which any concerns about their nutritional status are highlighted.

These concerns are then discussed with the patient's GP or community nurses. Healthcare Improvement Scotland are currently consulting on revised Food, Fluid and Nutrition Standards which are likely to reinforce the importance of discharge planning, and the need to

develop that planning with the patient and, where appropriate, carers. The revised standards are due to be published in October 2014.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140715.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140715.pdf)

**Question S4W 21835 Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether letters of comfort have been provided to local authorities regarding discretionary housing payments to fully mitigate the so-called bedroom tax.**

**Margaret Burgess:** A letter to all local authorities was issued jointly from the UK and Scottish Governments on 25 June 2014.

A copy of that letter was shared with the Welfare Reform Committee and can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/67206.aspx>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/63916.aspx>

**Question S4W 21837 Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with (a) COSLA and (b) the UK Government about the power to vary the cap on discretionary housing payments.**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Deputy First Minister met with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland on 8 May 2014 to agree the plan for the Section 63 order that will transfer the power to vary the cap on Discretionary Housing Payments. They have subsequently discussed progress on a number of occasions. Scottish Government officials are engaged on an on-going basis with representatives of COSLA and the Scotland Office.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/63916.aspx>

**Question S4W 21838 Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether tenants are receiving a full discretionary housing payment to mitigate the so-called bedroom tax.**

**Margaret Burgess:** The administration of discretionary housing payments (DHPs) is the responsibility of individual local authorities. The Scottish Government expects everyone who is affected by the bedroom tax and who applies for a DHP, to receive one. Local authorities have been allocated sufficient funds for full bedroom tax mitigation in 2014-15, and the UK Government has confirmed that local authorities are able to incur expenditure in excess of the current cap in anticipation of the transfer of powers and the subsequent lifting of the cap by Scottish Ministers.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140717.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140717.pdf)

**Question S4W 22010 Fiona McLeod (Strathkelvin and Bearsden) (Scottish National Party):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to dyslexic (a) pupils and (b) students who are sitting exams.**

**Alasdair Allan:** With regards to pupils with dyslexia, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) operates a needs-based policy in relation to assessment. Schools identify any assessment arrangements a dyslexic candidate may require. Those most commonly provided for dyslexic candidates in SQA external examinations include extra time, a human reader/scribe, digital question papers or the use of appropriate information and communications technology equipment.

The Scottish Government funds CALL (Communication, Access, Literacy and Learning) Scotland at the University of Edinburgh to lead the development and provision of assistive and communication technology for pupils with disabilities and additional support needs in Scotland. As part of this work, CALL and SQA have developed digital question papers and these have been available for students with additional support needs, including dyslexia, since 2008.

In addition, the Scottish Government has funded the licensing and distribution of “Heather” and “Stuart” which are high quality computer voices with Scottish accents. These can be downloaded from CALL Scotland’s website and installed on school computers free of charge.

All Scottish Higher Education Institutions have specialist dyslexia or disability advisers who can organise individualised support for students with dyslexia, including assessment of their needs, provision of appropriate resources and examination arrangements.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140717.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140717.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21919 Siobhan McMahon (Central Scotland) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what mechanism it has in place to monitor whether individual NHS boards are complying with the (a) Patient Rights (Treatment Time Guarantee) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and (b) Patient Rights (Treatment Time Guarantee) (Scotland) Directions 2012.**

**Alex Neil:** The Scottish Government receives regular information from all boards around the delivery of the treatment time guarantee. ISD Scotland also publish quarterly information, not only on the delivery of the guarantee but also on the number and reasons of why patients have been made unavailable for treatment. This data is closely scrutinised by the Scottish Government and any deviation in trends will be raised with the board concerned. In addition the Health Directorate’s Access Support Team meets regularly with boards both individually and through the Waiting Time Executive Leads Group to discuss compliance and how rules are being applied across NHS Scotland.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21973 Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) about the range of evidence it considers when developing clinical guidelines for the treatment of (a) mental health conditions, (b) depression and (c) anxiety.**

**Michael Matheson:** Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidelines are derived from a systematic review of the scientific literature and are designed to accelerate the translation of new knowledge into action to meet the aim of reducing variations in practice, and improving outcomes. The range of evidence considered in the production of any particular guideline is based on the scope of the guideline and discussions with the multidisciplinary guideline development group. There have been no discussions between the Scottish Government and SIGN on this matter.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21974 Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):**

**To ask the Scottish Government when the next review will take place of the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) clinical guidelines for the treatment of (a) depression and (b) anxiety.**

**Michael Matheson:** Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidelines are derived from a systematic review of the scientific literature and are designed to accelerate the translation of new knowledge into action to meet the aim of reducing variations in practice, and improving outcomes. The range of evidence considered in the production of any particular guideline is based on the scope of the guideline and discussions with the multidisciplinary guideline development group. Any group or individual may propose a guideline topic to SIGN. Guideline topics are selected on the basis of burden of disease, the existence of variation in practice, and the potential to improve outcome. There are currently no plans for a review of the SIGN clinical guidelines on the non-pharmacological management of depression. SIGN has not produced a guideline on the treatment of anxiety and currently has no plans to do so.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21975 Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) about the consideration of practice-based evidence for psychological therapies in the production of its clinical guidelines.**

**Michael Matheson:** Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) guidelines are derived from a systematic review of the scientific literature and are designed to accelerate the translation of new knowledge into action to meet the aim of reducing variations in practice, and improving outcomes. The range of evidence considered in the production of any particular guideline is based on the scope of the guideline and discussions with the multi-disciplinary guideline development group. SIGN would consider evidence for psychological therapies, where relevant, in the production of any particular guideline based on the scope of the guideline and discussions with the multi-disciplinary guideline development group. There have been no discussions between the Scottish Government and SIGN on this matter.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140721.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21996 Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to seek changes to the appeals process employed by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** There are no plans to seek changes to the appeals process employed by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). The SPSO has set up a new internal complaints process within the Complaints Standards Authority. A complaint about the service can be made to the head of complaints standards and if still unhappy a further complaint can be made to an independent reviewer. The head of complaints standards and the independent reviewer will only consider complaints about service and not about the decision made.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21997 Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the appeals process for complainants unhappy with initial decisions made by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) was set up as an independent body, not accountable to the Scottish Government, in order to maintain an independence from the public services which they could be investigating. Its decisions cannot be reviewed by ministers. If a complainant is unhappy with the initial decision by the SPSO and the

complainant has exhausted the SPSO's internal complaints procedure then further redress can be sought through the court.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21998 Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether it has discussed with any other body the possibility of changes to the appeals process for complainants unhappy with initial decisions made by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** There have been no discussions about changing the appeals process for complainants unhappy with the initial decisions made by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21999 Neil Findlay (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether it has considered alternative appeals process models employed by other ombudsmen with a view to seeking changes to the process for complainants unhappy with initial decisions made by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman.**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** There are no plans to consider alternative appeals processes adopted by other ombudsmen.

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman has recently set up a new internal complaints process within the Complaints Standards Authority with further redress to an independent reviewer.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140723.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140723.pdf)

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**Question S4W 21987 Liz Smith (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party):**

**To ask the Scottish Government which (a) NHS boards and (b) local authorities are operating a named person scheme.**

**Alex Neil:** Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland are currently implementing a non-statutory version of the named person role on a voluntary basis, with positive results and experiences.

Our understanding is that some of the local authorities and NHS boards who have committed to implementing the named person include Highland, Edinburgh, Angus, Stirling and Ayrshire. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which puts the named person role into statute, received royal assent on 27 March 2014. The named person provisions of the Act are likely to be commenced in August 2016.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf)

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**Question S4W 22019 John Finnie (Highlands and Islands) (Independent):**

**To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to report to the Parliament on the Highlands Empty Homes Initiative.**

**Margaret Burgess:** The Highlands Empty Homes Initiative brings together £400,000 from the Scottish Government Empty Homes Loan Fund with match funding from the council to allow flexible

grant and loan funding to help bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing. It is a 10 year programme prioritising areas of housing need in both urban and rural areas.

I am pleased to report that the initiative moved into its second year in 2014-15 with the first year focussing on set-up and targeting. In June the fund assisted in converting a vacant bank into three residential units for those who find themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Three further projects have been approved to date and when complete will provide a further nine residential units with further projects in the pipeline stage.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140728.pdf)

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**Question S4W 220u81 Michael McMahon (Uddingston and Bellshill) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government whether it is aware of delays in the registration of powers of attorney (a) generally and (b) with regard to the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.**

**Roseanna Cunningham:** Registration of powers of attorney under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 is a matter for the Office of the Public Guardian, part of the Scottish Court Service. There is no requirement to register a general power of attorney with the Office of the Public Guardian. The Scottish Government is aware that there are delays in registering manually submitted powers of attorney under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

The Office of the Public Guardian is taking action to address this and details are available from their website:

<http://www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk/news/index.asp>. Submissions made on the electronic registration system can be dealt with promptly.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140729.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140729.pdf)

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**Question S4W 22156 Kezia Dugdale (Lothian) (Scottish Labour):**

**To ask the Scottish Government how the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce recommends widening access for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.**

**Michael Russell:** The final report of the Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, Education Working For All! - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/06/4089> - was published on 3 June 2014. The report makes a number of recommendations designed to provide earlier opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to access vocational opportunities in the senior phase of curriculum for excellence.

The report contains a chapter on advancing equalities. This chapter makes a number of specific recommendations to improve educational and labour market outcomes for groups of young people who are currently disadvantaged in the labour market.

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_ChamberDesk/WA20140729.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_ChamberDesk/WA20140729.pdf)