

Questions and Answers

City of Edinburgh Council

10.05 am Thursday, 27th June, 2024

Main Council Chamber - City Chambers

Questions and Answers

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Agenda Annex

Item no 10.1

QUESTION NO 1

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Leader of the Council at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

Can the Leader outline how decisions on how to spend the Lord Provost's budget are made?

Answer

The Council sets a budget for the Lord Provost's Office which meets pre-determined Staffing and Member costs.

Expenditure on civic hospitality is approved under a scheme of delegated authority, in accordance with the Council's Civic Hospitality Policy (last approved by Council on 22 June 2023) and Congratulatory Motions approved at Full Council.

Any discretionary spend is approved by the Budget Manager (Executive Assistant to the Lord Provost) and Head of Service as per the Council's approved scheme of delegation.

Item no 10.2

QUESTION NO 2

By Councillor Heap for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

Noting the recent decision of the Culture and Communities to express, on environmental and welfare grounds, regret at military jet flypasts during the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo, what routes the Council can take to reduce or end the use of these flypasts?

Answer

The Council has limited powers in relation to this area.

A public entertainment licence is required for the event, and standard conditions are attached.

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24539/public-entertainment-licence-standard-conditions>

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 allows local authorities to act should there a statutory nuisance be determined. Categories of statutory nuisance are laid out in Section 79 and noise is noted as:

- (g) noise emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance;
- (ga) noise that is prejudicial to health or a nuisance and is emitted from or caused by a vehicle, machinery or equipment in a street or in Scotland, road.

However, the section then goes on to note:

- (6) Subsection (1)(g) above does not apply to noise caused by aircraft other than model aircraft.
- (6A) Subsection (1)(ga) above does not apply to noise made—
 - (a) by traffic,

(b) by any naval, military or air force of the Crown or by a visiting force (as defined in subsection (2) above), or

(c) by a political demonstration or a demonstration supporting or opposing a cause or campaign.

[Environmental Protection Act 1990 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

I would also note that the Council Leader has answered questions at Full Council Meetings, most recently on 31st August 2023, regarding this matter and has written to both the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo and the Royal Air Force to raise concerns.

Item no 10.3

QUESTION NO 3

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question (1) How many garden waste have not been automatically renewed this year despite there being the agreement of the licence payer?

Answer (1) The Garden Waste payment date for 2024/25 is 1 August 2024. No payments have been taken for this year yet.

Question (2) Why has this happened?

Answer (2) N/A

Question (3) What loss of revenue has occurred this year as a result?

Answer (3) N/A

Item no 10.4

QUESTION NO 4

By Councillor Nicolson for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question (1) Please can a progress update be given about the Blackhall Library Options Appraisal reported on the CEC website to be completed by end May 2024?

Answer (1) The following update on the Blackhall Library options appraisal has been provided to local members, to the Friends of Blackhall Library Group and the council website has been updated.

The options which have been considered are as follows:

- Replacing all the RAAC.
- Replacement of all the RAAC and retrofit of the building to reduce energy use.
- A new library on the existing site.
- A new library on the Davidson's Mains Primary School site.

Every option will take some time to provide and therefore also recommend a temporary library facility is provided as a stand-alone facility. Following consideration of possible locations for the temporary facility it was determined that the most suitable would be the area to the front of Davidson's Mains Primary School.

A full update report will be presented to the Finance and Resources Committee on 19 September 2024.

Question (2) As yet, there has been no engagement with the Friends of Blackhall Library which is a constituted group, regarding the closure and the future of the library. Please can a guarantee be given that the Friends of Blackhall Library will be included in relevant conversations?

Answer

- (2)** The Friends of Blackhall Library Group have been kept updated on progress by the Library Development Leader via written communications and occasional meetings to date. Engagement with the Group on the options appraisal will be carried out at an appropriate time during the project.

Item no 10.5

QUESTION NO 5

**By Councillor Davidson for answer
by the Convener of the Education,
Children and Families Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 27 June
2024**

Question (1) To ask the Convener why City of Edinburgh Council has the second highest pupil to teacher ratios in Scotland?

Answer (1) It should be noted that the Scottish Government has ceased to require adherence to a pupil:teacher ratio, and now sets out a minimum FTE commitment, which for Edinburgh relates to 3725 FTE

That said, in City of Edinburgh we have been committed to maintaining our pupil-teacher ratio to the same level as 2014-15 levels. This represents a pupil:teacher ratio at 14.9 (or below). We have continued to meet or exceed this level.

Our most recent ratio of 14.5 for the current session (2023-24) represents an increase in registered teachers (3,762 FTE) from the previous session (3,736 FTE). This is 37 FTE higher than our minimum commitment.

This is alongside what is currently a fairly stable school aged population in the city which has grown by 0.6% since session 2022-23.

Question (2) To ask what steps the council is taking to reduce the pupil teacher ratio to a figure closer to the national average.

Answer (2) As this is no longer a national directive, we strive to adhere instead to the national minimum set by SG (3725 FTE). Should we be required to further reduce the pupil/teacher ratio, we would need to employ more teachers. As stated, our numbers are already 37 FTE higher than our minimum commitment, at a cost of £2.59 million. Sourcing additional appropriately qualified staff would require both significant funding, and workforce planning.

Item no 10.6

QUESTION NO 6

By Councillor Lang for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

To ask the Convener of Transport and Environment, how many fixed penalty notices have been issued for public littering, in each of the last 10 years?

Answer

2014 /15	2015 /16	2016 /17	2017 /18	2018 /19	2019 /20	2020 /21	2021 /22	2022 /23	2023 /24
630	613	114	20	15	42	2	2	1	1

Item no 10.7

QUESTION NO 7

By Councillor Thornley for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Last year, utility works in Clermiston Park left an unfilled trench running across the park. In over twelve months, this has still not been restored. Therefore, to ask the Convener:

- Question** (1) What does the Council currently expect of contractors undertaking utility works in parks in regard to restoration?
- Answer** (1) The Council expects the utility companies to fully restore the park to its original condition prior to commencement of any works
- Question** (2) What timescales does the Council currently require for restoration works?
- Answer** (2) This is variable and is dependant on the nature and extent of works required.
- Question** (3) What tools does the Council currently have to ensure restoration works are completed promptly and to an adequate standard?
- Answer** (3) Advice would be sought from Estates or Legal colleagues on a case by case basis. Utility works on Roads is managed through the New Roads and Streetworks Act however this does not extend to parks and therefore powers are significantly limited. In some cases, bonds might be applied or works might be subject to a procurement exercise and have defined terms and conditions.

Item no 10.8

QUESTION NO 8

By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

- (1) At the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee meeting on 14th May 2024 under report 8.1 Cyclical Assurance on Service Performance, it was noted that:
- Since 2016-2017, there has been a 58.4% reduction in the number of major adaptations completed in Council homes (209 were completed in 16-17; 87 were completed in 23-24)
 - Since 2016-2017, there has been a 42.1% reduction in spending on major adaptations in Council homes (£933,142 (16-17) vs £540,000 (23-24))

What are the reasons for this reduction?

Answer

- (1) Adaptations is a demand led service; it is based on referrals from Occupational Therapists. There are a variety of steps in the process, which can lead to elongated timescales which could account for the fluctuations in outputs. The impact of the pandemic (with projects being paused due to social distancing and taking longer to complete due to additional health and safety measures), the reliance on existing staff resources and expertise (Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) and Housing), contractor capacity and an increase in more complex projects requiring increased number of planning and building warrant applications can all contribute.

Question

- (2) What existing processes are in place for Council tenants to request (major and minor) adaptations?

Answer (2) The approach for requesting an adaptation is the same for households across all housing tenures. For major adaptations, customers will have their adaptation request assessed by an Occupational Therapist (OT) within the H&SCP. The assessment takes account of the person's situation including personal safety, personal care and domestic tasks, family and social responsibilities, carer needs and long-term suitability of the property to meet future needs. Tenants can be made aware of the process by their Housing Officer or other people they have contact with, or by getting information online.

The process for minor adaptations is separate. Minor adaptations are dealt with through the E&SCP Community Equipment Service (part of the ATEC24 service). Minor adaptation assessments are carried out by an Occupational Therapist or Community Care Assistant. Requests can come through Social Work Direct, but customers can also request a minor adaptation using an online form. Minor adaptations include things like grab rails, bath rails, re-hanging doors or removing/replacing thresholds.

For Council tenants, the Housing Service is notified of the adaptation required and the minor adaptation is dealt with through the repairs system (with a specific code used to denote that it is an adaptation). Priority can be requested e.g. if it is to assist with a hospital discharge. Adaptations costing more than £1,000 or where more major work is required are dealt with through the major adaptations route.

Question (3) Given the data from Q1, what assurances can be given that the processes listed in Q2 are robust and sufficiently capture demand for works?

Answer (3) The Housing Service arrange for major adaptation work to be carried for Council tenants when referrals are received from OT colleagues. The data in Q1 shows the number of adaptations completed but may not be fully reflective of demand as this is only part of the process.

Question (4) When was the Council / HSCP's adaptations policy last reviewed?

Answer (4) The end-to-end adaptations process has not been fully reviewed for a number of years. However, elements of the process have been reviewed. For example, there have been some changes to the way work is procured for adaptations in Council homes; work is now being ordered in larger batches to generate cost and time efficiencies with a single contractor rather than several contractors. Monthly meetings take place between Senior OT colleagues in the H&SCP, Children's Services and Housing and Homelessness to discuss current cases, priorities and identify any issues. These regular meetings also give an opportunity to review feedback from customers and improve wording on referral forms for example.

Question (5) Are there plans to review the Council's adaptations policy / processes in light of the Scottish Government consultation on Part 1 of the Housing for Varying Needs (HfVN) design guide and introduction of a Scottish Accessible Homes Standard (SAHS)?

Answer (5) The consultation would not be a key driver for a review of adaptations as it relates to standards for new build homes (although in terms of design guidance some of it could be relevant for adapting homes).

As the Housing and Homelessness organisational review is entering the implementation phase, the intention is to look at a more comprehensive, data driven review, working with Health and Social Care partners and other stakeholders. The Accessible Housing Sounding Board identified this as a key area of work that would benefit from a review, with input from officers across different service areas. In the meantime, the Housing and Homelessness Service will review budget requirements for 2024/25, taking account of demand and resourcing.

Question (6) What work has the Council done to engage with disabled tenants and Disabled People's Organisations to capture their experience of the adaptations process, and what learning (if any) has been applied from this?

Answer

- (6) Council tenants who have their home adapted are asked to complete a customer feedback form. General feedback from customers, given to Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Housing staff involved in adaptations, is used to try to improve the service e.g. Capital Investment Team (Housing) providing regular updates to OT colleagues on timescales for installation of adaptations by contractors so this can be passed on to customers. This type of information is discussed at the monthly meetings between Housing Surveyors and OT colleagues. Triparty sign offs are sought at the end of an adaptation project which should be signed off by Capital Investment Team officers (Housing), the contractor and the Client (but not always received). Housing colleagues are also investigating software which will assist in automating and gathering information from tenants after work has been carried out, including major adaptations.

QUESTION NO 9

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

At the Transport and Environment Committee on the 23rd May, Labour, SNP and Greens agreed to a Workshop

” to investigate if a workable way to consider residential amenity as part of the review framework can be found”

Can the Convenor please tell me

Question

(1) Out of the following list who has been invited to attend this workshop –

- Officers
- Members of the Committee
- Impacted Ward Councillors
- Related Stakeholder Groups
- Community Councils
- Resident Groups
- Other Members of the Public

Answer

(1) Officers

- Communal Bin Review (CBR) project team
- Neighbourhood Environmental Services
- Waste Operations

Members of the Committee

All 11 members of the Transport and Environment Committee.

Impacted Ward Councillors

Councillors from the following 12 Wards where the CBR project has installed (or is due to install) bin hubs:

- Ward 4 Forth
- Ward 5 Inverleith
- Ward 6 Corstorphine / Murrayfield
- Ward 7 Sighthill / Gorgie
- Ward 9 Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart
- Ward 10 Morningside
- Ward 11 City Centre
- Ward 12 Leith Walk
- Ward 13 Leith
- Ward 14 Craightinny / Duddingston
- Ward 15 Southside / Newington
- Ward 17 Portobello / Craigmillar

Related stakeholder groups

- Cockburn Association
- Edinburgh Access Panel
- Edinburgh World Heritage
- Essential Edinburgh
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Federation of Small Business
- Grassmarket Residents' Association
- Living Streets Edinburgh
- And others TBC

Community Councils

- Corstorphine Community Council
- Craigentinny/Meadowbank Community Council
- Gorgie/Dalry Community Council
- Grange / Prestonfield Community Council
- Granton and District Community Council
- Hutchison / Chesser Community Council
- Leith Central Community Council
- Leith Harbour and Newhaven Community Council
- Leith Links Community Council

Question (2) What is the date of the Workshop?

Answer (2) Officers are working to get this date in the Council diary with an aim of notifying the relevant members of this date before summer recess commences.

Item no 10.10

QUESTION NO 10

By Councillor Osler for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

On the 16th May the Culture and Communities Committee agreed that there would be a public consultation on the proposed future uses of West Princes Street Gardens and the Ross Bandstand.

Can the Convener please confirm when this consultation will be launched?

Answer

We aim to prepare a consultation to be published before the end of this calendar year

Item no 10.11

QUESTION NO 11

By Councillor Mumford for answer by the Convener of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

- Question** (1) Is the Council currently in contract, contract discussions, or any other financial agreement with any of the following companies:
- a) Hewlett Packard
 - b) Intel
 - c) Siemens
 - d) THK Security
 - e) Leonardo
 - f) ELBIT
 - g) JCB
 - h) Opodo
 - i) Booking.com
 - j) Airbnb
 - k) Tripadvisor
 - l) Expedia
 - m) AXA insurance
 - n) Barclays bank
- Answer** (1) a) Hewlett Packard – On a Scottish Gov Framework that CGI call off as an agent of the Council.
- b) Intel – No
 - c) Siemens – Yes with Brightly Software Ltd.
(Maintenance contract previously novated to Edinburgh Trams)
 - d) THK Security – No
 - e) Leonardo – No
 - f) ELBIT – No
 - g) JCB – Scot JCB – Franchise in Scotland. On SXL framework. We use for spare parts. Very low spend circa £6k in 2023/24.

- h) Opodo – No
- i) Booking.com – No contract, last spend via Purchase Card in 22/23 Financial Year (FY)
- j) Airbnb - Purchase Card in FYs 22/23 & 23/24
- k) Tripadvisor - Purchase Card spend in FY 22/23
- l) Expedia – No
- m) AXA insurance – No
- n) Barclays bank – Yes -Provision of Merchant Services (Facilitating the acceptance of card payments - Direct award using Lot 1: Face to face and Card Not Present (CNP) card acquiring, Gateway and APM Services).

Question (2) If yes, when are the renewal dates for these contracts?

Answer (2) Barclays Bank - Call Off Direct Award CCS RM6118 Expires 30.01.26

Hewlett Packard – SG Framework is due to end 15/8/24

Siemens/Brightly Software Ltd – Council contract ends Sept.24.

JCB Scot – SXL Grounds & Plant Equipment Framework ends March 2028

- Question** **(3)** Do the following companies appear in Council procurement frameworks:
- a) Hewlett Packard
 - b) Intel
 - c) Siemens
 - d) THK Security
 - e) Leonardo
 - f) ELBIT
 - g) JCB
 - h) Opodo
 - i) Booking.com
 - j) Airbnb
 - k) Tripadvisor
 - l) Expedia
 - m) AXA insurance
 - n) Barclays bank

Answer **(3)** No

Item no 10.12

QUESTION NO 12

By Councillor Mumford for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question (1) Were the council aware of the planned visit to Edinburgh on June 4th by the Israeli Ambassador?

Answer (1) No. The Council was not aware of the planned visit, beyond details reported in the media.

Question (2) Were the council involved in facilitating the planned visit to Edinburgh on June 4th by the Israeli Ambassador?

Answer (2) No. No Council teams were contacted by the Israeli Ambassador or any partners to help facilitate the planned visit.

Question (3) If so, what conversations were conducted with the Jewish community in advance to understand their objections to the visit?

Answer (3) Not applicable.

Item no 10.13

QUESTION NO 13

By Councillor Parker for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question (1) Following the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee meeting on 14th May it was agreed that officers would explore options for sending information about the MTIS works to private tenants. What information will be sent to private tenants, in what form will the information be sent and when can tenants expect to receive this?

Answer (1) Officers are unable to provide the information at this time, due to the large quantity of officer work required in a short space of time.

Question (2) At the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work meeting on 14th May it was agreed that officers would update the MTIS webpage to reflect works happening in Lochend / Restalrig. Can the Convener confirm when the MTIS webpage will be updated to reference this?

Answer (2) As above

Question (3) For the Lochend / Restalrig scheme of works, how many letters have been issued to residents so far? Additionally, of the letters sent, how many have not responded to that communication or first survey vote? Please provide a breakdown of this by the number of flats per block and associated phase of the works.

Answer (3) As above

Question (4) A response to an FOI request for information about the number of households affected by MTIS work in Lochend / Restalrig cited 1274 households of which 243 were private rentals. The dashboard contained in Appendix 3 of the 8.1 Cyclical Assurance report at the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee meeting on 14th May 2024 cited 1075 households with just 28 private rentals (cited as 5% of the total 556 privately owned flats). What is the correct figure and what is the reason for the difference in figures?

- Answer** (4) As above
- Question** (5) Two rounds of voting are being conducted in the Lochend / Restalrig area on MTIS, one on whether to undertake the initial survey for MTIS works and one on whether to proceed with the recommended works. What are the results so far for each of these rounds of voting? In each instance, please provide the number of blocks that have voted to go ahead, the number of blocks that have voted not to go ahead and associated phase of works.
- Answer** (5) As above
- Question** (6) How many Council tenants in the Lochend / Restalrig MTIS area who are living in minority owned Council blocks have so far been outvoted for either the survey or scope of works?
- Answer** (6) As above
- Question** (7) What are the plans for Council minority blocks that vote no to MTIS works?
- Answer** (7) As above
- Question** (8) Over the course of the Wester Hailes MTIS works, how many flats were acquired by the Council? Of these flats, what percentage were owner-occupier vs rental properties?
- Answer** (8) As above
- Question** (9) To date, as part of the MTIS programme in Restalrig / Lochend, how many enquiries have been made to the Council regarding acquisitions, and what percentage of these are owner-occupiers vs rental properties?
- Answer** (9) As above
- Question** (10) What was the average (mean) bill for MTIS works in Wester Hailes and what was the range of costs? Please also provide a breakdown of costs.
- Answer** (10) As above
- Question** (11) Relating to the MTIS works in Wester Hailes, what works were included as “essential” repairs, as per the Tenement Act?

- Answer** (11) As above
- Question** (12) Of the costs incurred as part of MTIS works in Wester Hailes, how much has been covered by the base level ABS funding?
- Answer** (12) As above
- Question** (13) Does the building warrant "Value of Work" include the contingency, admin fees and VAT?
- Answer** (13) As above
- Question** (14) For the surveys already completed for MTIS works in Lochend / Restalrig, what is the average (mean) quote for works, and what is the range of quotes for the works?
- Answer** (14) As above
- Question** (15) Please can the Convener confirm a full list of surveys which are undertaken as part of MTIS works (e.g. ventilation and damp tests, roof surveys etc)
- Answer** (15) As above
- Question** (16) How are surveys results from pre/post MTIS works compared and how is success of the works evaluated?
- Answer** (16) As above

Item no 10.14

QUESTION NO 14

By Councillor Mumford for answer by the Convener of the Culture and Communities Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

When was the first request made to secure an accessible toilet unit for the temporary toilets in Portobello for summer 2024?

Answer

Verbal communication with the supplier started in early April 2024, this was to look at temporary toilets at Straiton Park Place and other park sites for the 2024 season. Written exchange of communication on 22 April 2024 asked the supplier to confirm availability of units including accessible and unisex toilets.

Item no 10.15

QUESTION NO 15

By Councillor Caldwell for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

- Question** (1) What percentage of school teachers (in both mainstream and special schools) are on fixed term contracts as opposed to permanent contracts? Can these please be broken down by;
- a) Primary Schools, by locality
 - b) Secondary schools, by locality

Answer (1)

Distinct Headcount of Teaching Staff (inc Heads, Deputes & Curriculum Leaders) at 16/06/24 by Contract Type %

Level 6	Level 7	Fixed Term	Permanent	Grand Total
CFCSSA ASL Team	ASL & Special Schools	18%	84%	100%
CFCSSS Special Schools	ASL & Special Schools	10%	91%	100%
CFSLEN Nursery Schools	CFSLEY Early Years and Childcare	0%	100%	100%
	CFSLEY Early Years and Childcare	0%	100%	100%
CFSLSP Primary Schools	CFSLEY Early Years and Childcare	0%	100%	100%
CFSLEY Early Years and Childcare	CFSLSPE Primary Schools - North East Locality	21%	80%	100%
	CFSLSPN Primary Schools - North West Locality	15%	85%	100%
	CFSLSPS Primary Schools - South East Locality	16%	84%	100%
	CFSLSPW Primary Schools - South West Locality	14%	87%	100%
CFSLSS Secondary Schools	CFSLSSE Secondary Schools - North East Locality	10%	91%	100%
	CFSLSSN Secondary Schools - North West Locality	12%	88%	100%
	CFSLSSS Secondary Schools - South East Locality	9%	91%	100%
	CFSLSSW Secondary Schools - South West Locality	8%	92%	100%
Grand Total		13%	87%	100%

- Question** (2) What is the average length of a fixed term contract in the City of Edinburgh Council and why?

Answer (2)

Distinct Headcount of Teaching Staff (inc Heads, Deputes & Curriculum Leaders) on Fixed Contracts at 16/06/24 & Ave Post Duration

Level 6	Level 7	Dist Head Count	Ave of Occup Duration (Ys)
CFCSSA ASL Team	ASL & Special Schools	20	1.4
CFCSSS Special Schools	ASL & Special Schools	17	0.8
CFLSP Primary Schools	CFLSPE Primary Schools - North East Locality	95	1.2
	CFLSPN Primary Schools - North West Locality	114	0.9
	CFLSPS Primary Schools - South East Locality	68	1.1
	CFLSPW Primary Schools - South West Locality	56	1.1
CFLSS Secondary Schools	CFLSSE Secondary Schools - North East Locality	36	0.8
	CFLSSN Secondary Schools - North West Locality	85	1.0
	CFLSSS Secondary Schools - South East Locality	38	0.8
	CFLSSW Secondary Schools - South West Locality	29	0.7
Grand Total		558	1.0

Question (3) What additional monies have been received from COSLA / the Scottish Government since 1st April 2022 for the recruitment of permanent teaching posts in Edinburgh and how has this funding been used?

Answer (3) City of Edinburgh Council receives funding of £10,658,000 which the Scottish Government aligns to a requirement to maintain Teacher numbers.

This funding has been used to recruit teaching and support staff to allow the establishment of wellbeing Hubs in all secondary schools, establish Transition Teachers in every learning community, provide additional Pupil Support Assistants in primary schools and provide for Communities of Practice funding to support curriculum development and learning for sustainability in every school.

Question (4) What engagement has been undertaken with headteachers, teachers, parent forums, the Scottish Government's Education & Justice directorates, and education-based trade unions regarding the challenges that fixed term contracts can pose to staff wellbeing and retention?

Answer (4) City of Edinburgh Council aims to maximise the highest number of permanent contracts we can. Fixed term contracts arise due to maternity/paternity Leaves, Employment breaks, Secondments and other absences. We are also required to hold back our allocated number of probationer posts annually for newly qualified teachers.

Headteachers and their Business Managers complete an annual staffing exercise to review their current staffing and identify any available vacancies for the following August. This is supported by the Education Operations Team. The number of vacancies can be dictated by the number of pupils in a year group in primary, and the subject choices of young people in the senior phase.

Liaison is undertaken via ADES to feedback to the Scottish Government. Members of the Trade Unions are on the Staffing Board. We are also liaising with the CEC Lead HR Consultant for Workforce Planning and Information, in the work he is undertaking.

Item no 10.16

QUESTION NO 16

By Councillor Cowdy for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Following:

- a) the acknowledgement in the report at item 7.5 of April's Education Committee - Learning Estate Update, point 4.8 - that increases in Council's school capacity may be required if VAT is added to school fees in the independent sector.
- b) the response to Question 15 at 21st March Full Council meeting that a steering group has been set up to explore and scope short term solutions.

Can the Convener confirm:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Question | (1) How many times has the steering group met and when was its last meeting? |
| Answer | (1) The steering group referred to has met informally to discuss a range of mutual issues including the potential changes to VAT: 11/12/20; 22/1/21; 12/1/23; 2/2/24; 15/4/24 |
| Question | (2) Which of the Council's schools are most at risk? |
| Answer | (2) No schools have been identified as at risk at this time |
| Question | (3) What actions are planned to accommodate additional pupils? |
| Answer | (3) As circa 10k places are available across all schools, no additional actions have been planned |
| Question | (4) What communications are planned to schools and parents of pupils about the impacts and solutions before the start of the next academic year? |
| Answer | (4) No communications are planned at this time |

Item no 10.17

QUESTION NO 17

By Councillor Whyte for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question (1) Can the Convener please provide a breakdown of the sums spent, or expected to be spent, on temporary public toilets in each of the last five years and over the lifetime of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy broken down by location?

Answer (1) It is not possible to provide the costs by location. The following costs are associated with the supply and installation of temporary toilets in Parks and open spaces across Edinburgh.

2024/25 – £160,258

2023/24 – £141,913

2022/23 – £141,416

2021/22 – £122,245

2020/21 – £0

Each year includes costs for Inverleith Park, Meadows, and Leith Links. Figures from 2023/24 onwards include Straiton Place Park. Additionally, in 2024/25, temporary toilets have also been provided at Hawes Pier in South Queensferry.

The costs do not include staff time from Public Conveniences or ancillary costs associated with providing toilet rolls, soap, etc.

Future costs will be determined by budget decisions.

Question (2) Can the Convener provide the current estimated capital cost of providing permanent public toilets in each of the locations above?

Answer (2) £600k in capital was set aside from the approved 2024/25 budget towards permanent toilet provision in Inverleith Park, Meadows, and Leith Links (c.£200k at each location).

Question (3) Can the Convener explain why the temporary public toilets have been provided so late this year that they have missed the start of the busy summer period in our Premier Parks and, in the case of Leith Links, major local events like the Leith Gala?

Answer (3) The priority for delivery of permanent toilets is at Inverleith Park, Meadows, and Leith Links. Initial plans suggested these permanent facilities might be in place by summer. Following the procurement process it was clear that permanent facilities would not be in place for summer 2024.

Therefore, the decision was made in April 2024 to provide temporary toilets for the summer until the permanent toilets are available. Temporary toilets will all be in place by 20 June with plans to have them operational before the school holidays.

Leith Gala provided their own toilet facilities. It is the event organiser's responsibility to provide necessary facilities for those attending.

Question (4) Can the Convener provide an update on any further partnership with local organisations at or adjacent to the locations of temporary public toilets, that are in receipt of public funds, over the future public use of toilets in their buildings during opening hours?

Answer (4) There are ongoing discussions with organisations over proposals for toilets (e.g. Edinburgh Leisure re Portobello Swim Centre). There is agreement for public toilet provision at Joppa Rocks restaurant at Portobello. We have considered whether public toilets could be incorporated in park buildings when leases expire (e.g. the bowling pavilion at Inverleith Park).

Question (5) Can the Convener confirm whether there have been any discussions with firms offering to install permanent public toilets which would be paid for by users but installed at no cost to the Council?

Answer

- (5)** There has not been any detailed discussions on this topic. The contractor appointed to deliver the permanent parks toilets has some examples of having worked with Councils on similar initiatives and some outline information has been provided.

A report is due to be considered by the Transport and Environment Committee on 14 November 2024 regarding public toilets in Town Centres.

Item no 10.18

QUESTION NO 18

By Councillor Work for answer by the Convener of the Development Management Sub-Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

With reference to Question No 8 asked by Councillor Lang at the Council meeting on 9 May 2024 regarding planning applications in Queensferry with Section 75 agreement for Health provision, can the Convener advise when this funding will be allocated?

Answer

The funding levels as advised on 9 May 2024 have been paid by the developer. To date no funding has been drawn down by the NHS for the delivery of the Health Care Provision

Item no 10.19

QUESTION NO 19

By Councillor Aston for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Many members rely on what was formally the Members Waste, Now Members NES, mailbox for support with waste related casework and are used to receiving swift and helpful responses which officers should be commended for. Members of the public are able to report bins online. Can the convener confirm:

- Question** (1) Has the volume of emails into the Members Waste mailbox been monitored?
- Answer** (1) Yes, monthly stats are provided to Neighbourhood Environmental Services (NES) Managers who can monitor volume of enquiries and see trends via these stats.
- Question** (2) Has the volume of online missed bin requests been monitored?
- Answer** (2) Yes, weekly stats are provided to Managers and Supervisors within Neighbourhood Environmental Services (NES).
- Question** (3) What is the current volume of correspondence compared to the same time period last year for both Members NES and for missed bin reports?

Answer

(3) Member NES Mailbox:

The mailbox name was changed from Members Waste to Members NES on 27/02/24

	Emails received into Members NES	
	2023	2024
01 – 31 May	455	679
01 – 13 June	168	310
Total	623	989

Missed Bin Complaints:

	Online Reported Missed Bins	
	2023	2024
01 – 31 May	2,386	6,721
01 – 13 June	656	4,491
Total	3,042	11,212

Note: The estimated number of collections relating to individual domestic waste properties for period between 01 May 2024 and 13 June 2024 is **460,000**

Question

(4) Has the convener asked for any additional resources to support staff at the front line dealing with waste complaints?

Answer

(4) Staffing this service is a delegated matter, and I would expect Council Officers to notify elected members if they had concerns about its operation

.

QUESTION NO 20

**By Councillor Campbell for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 27 June 2024**

Question

Residents across my ward have been in touch about a lack of in collections, but there have been concerns raised that some areas are being neglected more than others, and that the relative levels of wealth or poverty have impacted on choices that council have made about where additional collections are to be prioritised.

Can the convener please provide a breakdown of routes missed, the number of times routes have been missed and the SIMD level of those missed routes within Portobello Craigmillar ward?

Answer

Thank you for this question. I feel it would have been more helpful to your constituents if you had raised it with Council Officers (or myself) immediately rather using this formal and much slower approach.

A breakdown of routes/SIMD level is not available by ward. However, we can provide data on Missed and Full Bin reports for Ward 17. The data for the last 6 weeks is provided below.

Ward 17	1 – 31 May '24	1 – 16 June '24
No. of Missed Bin Service Requests	1,268	1,239

Note:** The estimated number of collections for individual domestic waste bins within Ward 17 for period 01 May 2024 to 16 June 2024 was **39,000

There has been no decision by Council Officers to prioritise any area for additional collections. Officers' efforts have been focussed on working with Collection Crews at Seafield Depot to bring all routes back up to date.

QUESTION NO 21

By Councillor Hyslop for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

Charities and third sector organisations are an integral part of our communities and systems. Can the convenor provide a detailed list of

- a) Organisations and funding that has been allocated under delegate authority
- b) Organisations and funding that has been allocated by ECF Committee
- c) List of twenty organisations that, on average, receive the highest amount of funding from the Council.

Questions can be partly answered in public and private should this be deemed necessary

Answer

City of Edinburgh Council publish the Contract Register on their public website ([here](#)). CEC Contract Standing Orders stipulate the financial thresholds for delegated authority and the requirement for Finance and Resources Committee approval ([here](#), Scheduled- Relevant Values and Associated Tendering Procedure).

City of Edinburgh Council publish the Grant Register on their public website ([here](#)). CEC Grant Standing Orders stipulate the financial threshold for delegated authority and the requirement for Committee approval ([here](#)). Filtered by Directorate, the Grant Register lists the grants awarded by Education Children and Families Committee.

The Contract Register and the Grant Register show the funding awarded by all Directorates and can be filtered by organisation and by value.

Item no 10.22

QUESTION NO 22

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

Across Leith, Leith Walk, Southside- Newington Craigentiny Duddingston, Portobello Craigmillar and Liberton Gilmerton residents have had many weeks of missed collections, waste piling up, inaccessible streets due to the number of uncollected bins left out and real concerns about increased vermin. Will the convener apologise to residents who have been so badly affected?

Answer

Thank you for this question. I feel it would have been more helpful to residents if you had raised the issues with Council Officers (or myself) immediately rather using this formal and much slower approach.

This has been an unfortunate situation; officers have been working very hard to return the service to its normal high standards.

The service does apologise for any inconvenience caused to residents during this time.

Item no 10.23

QUESTION NO 23

**By Councillor Macinnes for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 27 June 2024**

Question

The service failure in waste collection has had a significant impact with residents complaining of rotting bins and increased sightings of vermin. Has there been an increase in pest control call outs? Can the convener provide a breakdown of the number of pest control request every week over the last six weeks, and the same five weeks last year?

Answer

You will be pleased to hear that the number of pest control call outs has increased by just 4 for the corresponding period in 2023.

2023

Week Commencing	Number of Service Requests
8 May	21
15 May	18
22 May	13
29 May	13
5 June	17
12 June	14
Total	96

2024

Week Commencing	Number of Service Requests
6 May	11
13 May	14
20 May	20
27 May	20
3 June	17
10 June	18
Total	100

Item no 10.24

QUESTION NO 24

**By Councillor McFarlane for answer
by the Convener of the Culture and
Communities Committee at a
meeting of the Council on 27 June
2024**

Question

Charities and third sector organisations are an integral part of our communities and systems. Can the convener provide a detailed list of

- a) Organisations and funding that has been allocated under delegate authority
- b) Organisations and funding that has been allocated by Culture and Communities Committee
- c) List of twenty organisations that, on average, receive the highest amount of funding from the Council.

Questions can be partly answered in public and private should this be deemed necessary

Answer

See summary and breakdowns below:

Summary

Cultural Strategy

The service aligns all funding recommendations to the delivery of the Council's Culture Strategy.

The Cultural Strategic Partnerships funding programme and flexible funding/project development allocations were approved by Culture and Communities Committee on 29 February 2024.

The flexible and project funding budgets are agreed by Committee for purpose and amount. Detailed allocations of relevant budgets is managed via a funding application processes under delegated authority.

Guidelines for the 2024/25 Fund applications are planned to be published in July 2024.

Community Empowerment and Engagement Service

The Community Grants Fund is aimed at encouraging local people to get involved in their communities by providing funds to help start or develop local projects. Until April 2023 these funds were managed through four localities. Since April 2023 these funds are now managed by a central team in the Community Empowerment and Engagement Service.

Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services

Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services is currently working on a funding package for a project with The Conservation Volunteers. This is anticipated to be subject of a report to the Culture and Communities Committee.

Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network

The Third Sector Interface and Equality and Rights Network funding programme was approved by Culture and Communities Committee on 29 February 2024.

Edinburgh 900

The (Edinburgh 900) Programme Board will report developments and decisions on funding allocations for the Programme, including the Civic and Community strands to Committee.

(a) Organisations and funding that has been allocated under delegated authority

Recipient	2024/25 Value
Cultural Grants - Flexible Fund 2024/25 (note 1)	
Diversity and Inclusion	£120,000
Community Led Cultural Projects	£100,000
Total Flexible Funds 2024/25	£220,000
Cultural Grants - Cultural Plan (note 1)	
Cultural Partnerships and Strategy	£28,684
Edinburgh Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (partnership programme with Creative Scotland)	£19,750
Diversity Project	£33,600
Culture Map Partnership Fund	£3,545
Creative Carbon Scotland	£15,800
Community Cultural Estate Development	£9,000
Total Cultural Plan 2024/25	£110,379
Libraries Service	
Royal Voluntary Service (provision of Library volunteers)	£19,000 (estimate)
Sport and Wellbeing Service	
Sports Fund – applications being processed	£58,000
Sports Events Fund – applications being processed	£60,000
Parks, Openspace Development and Visitor Services	
Water of Leith Conservation Trust	£24,975
Community Empowerment and Engagement	
Community Grants - allocations to organisations to be agreed through a panel process	£405,000
Edinburgh 900	
Civic Fund - allocations being progressed by Programme Board	£100,000
Community Fund - allocations being progressed by Programme Board	£100,000

Note 1 - Cultural Grants – Fund allocations were approved by Culture and Communities Committee 29 February 2024

**(b) Organisations and funding that has been allocated by
Culture and Communities Committee**

Recipient	2024/25 Value
Edinburgh Leisure Limited	£11,150,286
Edinburgh International Festival	£1,926,000
Capital Theatres	£585,130
Royal Lyceum Theatre Company	£328,830
Edinburgh Science	£150,000
North Edinburgh Arts	£150,000
Artlink	£100,000
Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival (Edinburgh Festival Carnival)	£100,000
Imaginate	£100,000
WHALE Arts (Creative Community Hubs)	£100,000
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society	£75,000
Festivals Edinburgh	£75,000
Volunteer Edinburgh	£70,907
Queens Hall	£60,000
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council	£53,500
Dance Base	£50,000
Edinburgh International Book Festival	£50,000
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	£50,000
Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024	£50,000
Equality and Rights Network	£50,000
Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature	£47,700
African Connections CIC (Edinburgh Multicultural Festival)	£43,000
TRACS (Scottish Storytelling Forum)	£41,000
Traverse Theatre	£40,447
Edinburgh Performing Arts Development	£30,000
Filmhouse (Edinburgh) Ltd	£25,000
Edinburgh Art Festival	£20,000
Edinburgh Printmakers	£20,000
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop	£20,000
Stills Gallery	£20,000
Lung Ha Theatre Company	£15,593
Edinburgh International Film Festival Ltd	£15,000
Creative Edinburgh	£10,000
Scottish Poetry Library	£10,000
Edinburgh Social Enterprise Network	£10,000
Scottish Book Trust	£1,200
Total	£15,643,593

(c) List of twenty organisations that, on average, receive the highest amount of funding from the Council

The organisations listed below are the twenty organisations in receipt of the highest amount of funding approved by the Culture and Communities Committee for 2024/25.

Recipient	2024/25 Value
Edinburgh Leisure Limited	£11,150,286
Edinburgh International Festival	£1,926,000
Capital Theatres	£585,130
Royal Lyceum Theatre Company	£328,830
Edinburgh Science	£150,000
North Edinburgh Arts	£150,000
Artlink	£100,000
Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival (Edinburgh Festival Carnival)	£100,000
Imaginate	£100,000
WHALE Arts (Creative Community Hubs)	£100,000
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society	£75,000
Festivals Edinburgh	£75,000
Volunteer Edinburgh	£70,907
Queens Hall	£60,000
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation's Council	£53,500
Dance Base	£50,000
Edinburgh International Book Festival	£50,000
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	£50,000
Sprint World Orienteering Championships 2024	£50,000
Equality and Rights Network	£50,000

QUESTION NO 25

By Councillor McNeese-Mechan for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

The Edinburgh Trams are integral to transporting residents and visitors. This service has been advertised to run every 7-10 minutes. However, there is a huge discrepancy between actual running times.

On average, what is the percentage of Trams to Newhaven that run

- every 7-10 minutes
- every 10-20 minutes
- over 20 minutes

On average, what is the percentage of Trams to Airport that run

- every 7-10 minutes
- every 10-20 minutes
- over 20 minutes

Answer

Edinburgh Trams do not monitor headway as part of their performance monitoring or disaggregate data for the section of line from Picardy Place to Newhaven.

Services are run by Edinburgh Trams from Newhaven to the Airport every 7 minutes in peak times and every 10mins off peak. The Operator Control Centre (OCC) will use a variety of strategies to ensure those headways are managed to keep the service frequency as advertised. In practice this means if a tram is delayed the trams behind it will be managed accordingly to ensure they do not all bunch up together. For example, the OCC may tell them to reduce their line speed or increase their dwell times at stops.

QUESTION NO 26

By Councillor McNeese-Mechan for answer by the Convener of the Transport and Environment Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

The service failure in waste collection has had a terrible impact on residents across the north, east and south of the city. Despite officer reassurance that things would improve services have continued to fail our residents. Can the Convener provide the times and dates of any meetings held with service directors, managers, front line staff and trade union colleagues in order to resolve any staff dispute and get services back on track for residents?

Answer

Staff meetings have been held by Senior Managers within Seafield Depot on the following dates:

21st May 2024 (all staff, Trade Unions invited).

23rd May 2024 (Food Waste collection staff).

28th May 2024 (Driver Crew Leaders).

There has been no formal dispute in the service, and therefore it was not felt that there was a need for a dedicated meeting with Trade Union colleagues, however they were invited to the meeting on the 21st of May as a courtesy.

Supervisors and managers are having ongoing conversations with individual members of the collection crews within the depot and out on the collection routes. Senior Managers have received twice daily briefings from Supervisors.

Item no 10.27

QUESTION NO 27

**By Councillor Nols-McVey for answer
by the Convener of the Transport and
Environment Committee at a meeting
of the Council on 27 June 2024**

Question

Residents have complained to councillors that they have witnessed both the recycling and landfill bins being collected by the same van. Can the convener confirm if this has happened, and if so, how many times recycling bins have been emptied into general waste and ended up in landfill?

Answer

It is not normal practice to co-collect recycling and general waste together, however, in some instances recycling crews will report to supervisors that some bins have not been collected due to high levels of contamination. Supervisors will then make arrangements for a general waste vehicle to collect them at the same time as general waste bins.

Data is not held on the number of occasions because in some instances it can just be a conversation between the crew and the supervisor or noted down on a daily sheet

QUESTION NO 28

**By Councillor Work for answer by the
Convener of the Planning Committee
at a meeting of the Council on 27
June 2024**

Question

With reference to Question No 8 asked by Councillor Lang at the Council meeting on 9 May 2024 regarding planning applications in Queensferry with Section 75 agreement for Health provision, can the Convener advise when this funding will be allocated?

Answer

The funding levels as advised on 9 May 2024 have been paid by the developer. To date no funding has been drawn down by the NHS for the delivery of the Health Care Provision.

Item no 10.29

QUESTION NO 29

By Councillor Kumar for answer by the Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee at a meeting of the Council on 27 June 2024

Question

His Majesty's Inspectors found that the Council has failed in its governance and leadership. Can the convener provide:

- a) List of members in the Community Learning Development Partnership
- b) List of members in the Edinburgh Children's Partnership
- c) List of members who sit on Community Learning Development Partnership and Edinburgh Children's Partnership.

Answer

See table below

Answer

a)

Edinburgh Community and Learning and Development Partnership	
Name	
Laurene Edgar	Lothian Association of Youth Clubs (LAYC) - Chair
Kate Kelman	Capital City Partnership - Vice Chair
Linda Lees	City of Edinburgh Council - CLD Lead
Alan Stewart	City of Edinburgh Council
Andrew Field	City of Edinburgh Council
David Maguire	City of Edinburgh Council
Michele Mulvaney	City of Edinburgh Council
Vicky Petrie	City of Edinburgh Council
Heather MacPherson	City of Edinburgh Council
Paul Powrie	EHSCP
Michael Jeffrey	Edinburgh College
Tommy George	Edinburgh Leisure
Ian Brooke	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)
Murray Dalgleish	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Flora Ogilvie	NHS Lothian, Public Health
Murray Tait	Police Scotland
Neill Whiteside	Police Scotland
Emma Matthews	Skills Development Scotland
Laura Cattell	University of Edinburgh
Paul Wilson	Volunteer Edinburgh

b)

Edinburgh Children's Partnership	
Name	Role
Allister Short	Service Director Women's and Children's NHS Lothian
Amanda Hatton	Executive Director Children Education and Justice, City of Edinburgh Council
Angela Dixon	NHS Lothian
Anna Vogt	Edinburgh College
Avril Mackay	NHS Lothian
Bridie Ashrowan	EVOG
Carolyn Wyllie	NHS Lothian
Claire Gilliespie	Whole Family Wellbeing Lead
Claire Ryanheatley	Trauma Informed Lead
Clarie Veitch	Scottish Childrens Reporter Administration
Emma Matthews	Voluntary Sector
Colin Briggs	Co chair, Director of Strategic Planning, NHSL
Emily Dempsey	Corporate Parenting Lead
Ethelinda Lashley	Voluntary Sector
Flora Ogilvie	NHS Lothian
Gillian Barclay	Single Point of Access Lead
Janinie MCGowan	Head of Service Childrens Services
Jon Buglass	Edinburgh College
Kathy Henwood	Service Director Children and Justice Services
Karen Pedder	Head of Service Childrens Services
Keith Dyer	Quality and compliance Manager
Kenny Toshack	Commissioning manager
Laura Brown	Lead officer Child Protection committee
Laura Zanotti	Joint Commissioning Lead
Laurene Edgar	Youth Work Lead
Lisa Canale	NHS Lothian
Lorna French	Service Director Education and Chief Education Officer

Lynne Binnie	GIRFEC Lead
Lynn Paterson	Early Years
Mark Merrell	EVOG
Mercedes Perez Botella	Early Years Co-lead
Michelle LeBlanc	NHS Lothian
Murray Dalgleish	Fire Service
Murray Tait	Police
Neil Stewart	Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer, Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership
Pamela Murray	Pamela Murray, Child Health Commissioner, NHS Lothian, Public Health & Health Policy
Paula Sawnston	Early Years Co-lead
Rose Howley	Co-chair, Chief Social Work Officer and Service Director Performance, Quality, and Improvement, CEC
Sarah Clegg	NHS Lothian
Steve Harte	Head of Service Childrens Services
Tommy George	Edinburgh Leisure
Ulrike MauteBrown	Child Poverty Lead
Vicky Nyanga-Ndiaye	Project Esperanza/ EVOG
Yvonne Kerr	Healthy Places Lead
Wenyi Zhou	NHS Lothian

c)

Edinburgh Children's Partnership and Edinburgh Community and Learning Partnership	
Name	Role
Flora Ogilvie	NHS Lothian
Laurene Edgar	Youth Work Lead
Murray Dalgleish	Fire Service
Murray Tait	Police Scotland