

# SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

## WRITTEN ANSWER

25 November 2005

Index Heading: Finance and Central Services Department

**Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what action it is taking to promote information literacy.

(S2W-20606)

**George Lyon:**

The Scottish Executive contributed funding for 2000 learners to pursue an Information Handling Skills course in conjunction with Scottish Libraries Information Council (SLIC), Learndirect Scotland and Scottish Enterprise Glasgow. This course was developed on behalf of these partners by the Scottish Further Education Unit.

This interactive course aimed at post 16 year olds, contains 23 standalone learning modules and demonstrates how to plan an information task and use, retrieve and evaluate information from a variety of sources including books, newspapers, CD-ROMs and the web. Work is underway to produce 6 additional learning bites including subject gateways and portals, asking the right question, copying/plagiarism, referencing, note taking and communicating and presenting information.

There is also scope in the school curriculum to address the issues of information literacy within the context of the National 5-14 Guidelines, principally in the guidance on Information and Communication Technology. This guidance is designed to provide a framework for the integration of ICT into existing classroom practice so that all pupils become skilled, confident and informed users. Decisions on what and how to teach rest with education authorities and schools in response to local circumstances.

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## WRITTEN ANSWER

25 November 2005

Index Heading: Finance and Central Services Department

**Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether strong information literacy programmes can help close the digital divide and build a more effective civil society and a competitive workforce.

(S2W-20607)

**George Lyon:**

Yes. The ability to analyse the quality of available information is a necessary skill when accessing material from the web. Citizens can be empowered by their ability to access and use information appropriately and in this respect, work to reduce the digital divide and work to promote information handling skills complement each other.

Media literacy, demonstrated by the confidence with which individuals can manage, exchange and use information from a variety of sources, particularly the web, is important for the economic wellbeing of our country and plays a part in the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. It is important for the maintenance of successful and vibrant local communities. For the individual who through their ability to use technology can learn, work, play, entertain, inform and discover, we are increasing opportunities to fulfil their potential.

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## WRITTEN ANSWER

21 November 2005

Index Heading: Education Department

**Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will identify and define information literacy as a core skill set within educational curricula distinct from ICT to encourage the development of information handling skills.

(S2W-20608)

**Peter Peacock:**

The curriculum is non-statutory. Responsibility for effective teaching rests with authorities and schools. *A Curriculum for Excellence* will provide a framework for young people's learning which will enable them to develop as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, effective contributors who are confident in the handling of information. Information literacy is unlikely to be a discipline in its own right; however literacy and communication skills are important elements in the four capacities underpinning *A Curriculum for Excellence*.

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## WRITTEN ANSWER

1 December 2005 (Holding reply issued 25 November 2005)

Index Heading: Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department

**Mr Kenneth Macintosh (Eastwood) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it will measure improvements in information literacy.

(S2W-20609)

**George Lyon:**

Information about ICT training and the use of ICT in learning, teaching and community development in Scotland is published in the *National Grid for Learning* progress reports. The most recent report was published in December 2003.

The annual *Learning for Life and Leisure Survey* (formerly known as the *National Adult Learners Survey*) includes information on attitudes towards and the use of ICT. The survey previously covered only England and Wales but will, for the current survey, to be published in 2006, also cover Scotland.

Further sources of information are available about access to and use of ICT, for example from the *Digital Inclusion Audit* of public access to and use of the internet in Social Inclusion Partnership areas, most recently published in May 2004.

Links to the *National Grid for Learning* third progress report and *Digital Inclusion Audit 2004* are provided as follows.

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/ngflscotland/>

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/communities/digitalinclusion/audit.asp>

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